

## **UPR SUBMISSION**

### **Children's Rights**

#### **Georgia**

**2015**

### **SUMMARY**

1. The Government of Georgia has accepted recommendations received in the field of children's rights, among them: implementation of the deinstitutionalization process; full and effective social integration of children living and working on the streets; prohibition of child labor and realization of appropriate measures; prohibition of corporal punishment of children and getting effective measures against sexual abuse and domestic violence.

2. Despite the important measures undertaken in Georgia for the protection of the rights of children, there are still serious challenges in different fields:

- Deinstitutionalization process was implemented in Georgia without making any effect on children with disabilities, with majority of them still living in big institutions;
- The children living and working on the streets with the majority of them left outside the system remain to be problematic. The state is not maintaining statistical database of this group of children that makes impossible to identify and implement relevant measures;
- There are problems in relation the juvenile justice, especially relatively to underage persons, taken to the preliminary custody whose communication with the outer world is actually limited;
- There are not enough services needed for children with mental health problems; the availability of the services is also problematic in some areas in the country;
- There are no sufficient rehabilitation services for child victims of sexual abuse; also the availability of the state support alternative forms is problematic;
- Despite the general provision on prohibition of violence against children in Georgian legislation, it doesn't prohibit corporal punishment of children as provided in international standard that results in the absence of exact written provision for the prohibition of the corporal punishment and the fact that corporal punishment is not considered to be a criminal crime despite the degree of its severity;
- There are serious challenges in attitudes toward LGBT children in the educational area. Violent treatment of LGBT children is quite often practiced.

### **GAPS IN CHILD WELFARE REFORM**

3. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations:<sup>1</sup> 'Ensure the rights of the child, with attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' and 'Strengthen support to children with disabilities'.

4. There are no standards and licensing system of the foster care functioning at the present moment. Only based on the assessment, made by the social worker, the individuals are registered as foster parents<sup>ii</sup>; No specific Knowledge of child development and other important issues is required from the applicants of foster care.

5. Children staying under the state welfare system are deprived of quality, comprehensive and adequate psychological support<sup>iii</sup>. State Agency of Social Services has only 11 psychologists throughout the country, while there are about 45 small family type houses for children with about 450 beneficiaries<sup>iv</sup>. These resources are not enough for provision of psychological services to all the children.

6. The sum, allocated by the state for children living in the small family type houses is not enough to cover the actual needs of children. Service-provider NGOs (providers) has to mobilize additional resources to meet the needs of children; therefore the houses (providers) failing to mobilize such funding, are not able to provide children with adequate meals, clothes, heating and other conditions and everyday items needed by children<sup>v</sup>.

7. Education of children being under the state welfare system for independent life is not systemic and sufficient to ensure their independent life after reaching 18 years; therefore after reaching this age young people are left without any state assistance<sup>vi</sup>.

## **DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION**

8. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations<sup>vii</sup>: ‘Increase the support to children with disabilities so that they can live in the community and avoid their institutionalization’ and ‘Increase support to children with disabilities to live in the community to avoid institutionalization’.

9. A new wave of Child Welfare Reform has been launched in 2009 in Georgia. The reform was successfully implemented and all big institutions have been closed by the end of 2012, though two institutions for children with disabilities still continue functioning (Tbilisi Infants’ House and Kojori House for Children with Disabilities). It should be noted here, that Senaki institution closed in 2015 and children were transferred to Kojori institution. That means that children still continue living in big institutions. According to the official statistics, currently there are 76 children (among them 56 with the status of disability) in Tbilisi Infant’s House<sup>viii</sup>, and 27 children in Kojori. <sup>ix</sup>

10. In addition, there are non-legalized institutions in Georgia, actively functioning by different religious organizations. There are not even any child care standard or legislation that would regulates these big institutions (boarding schools). So these institutions were operated without any license or appropriate permit issued by the state. There is no official database concerning the real situation and the number of their beneficiaries. Though as reported by some informal sources, the boarding houses run by Muslim community are widely spread in Adjara region: 5 boarding houses are in Batumi with 231 children and 3 boarding houses with 45 children are in Khelvachauri region. There are 2 boarding houses with 90 children in Khulo region, 1 house with 16 children in Keda and 1 house with 19 children in Kobuleti. It should be noted, that in 10 out of these 12 boarding houses children stay overnight.

11. About 3 big institutions (boarding schools) for children are functioning within the framework of Georgian Orthodox Church where 525 children are permanently living in.

## **SEXUAL ABUSE**

12. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendation:<sup>x</sup> ‘Develop and implement a comprehensive set of measures to fight discrimination and protect the rights of women and children, adopt a comprehensive legislation to fight the sexual exploitation of children as well as corporal punishment, adopt a plan of action to combat domestic violence and create a mechanism to protect the rights of a child’.

13. State services available in Georgia in relation to a sexual abuse are mainly linked to the LEPL ‘State Fund for Protection of Assistance (of statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking’ functioning on a base of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Welfare” and providing services only in four cities (Tbilisi, Gori, Kutaisi, Batumi)<sup>xi</sup>. These services are not specifically for the victims of sexual violence.

14. There are few organizations in Georgia, applying multidisciplinary team approach and providing psycho-social rehabilitation to children/youth victims of the violence. Considering that the state has no adequate services for children victims of sexual abuse, the Center for Psycho-social and Medical Rehabilitation.<sup>xii</sup> Therefore, state fulfills only the function of identification and referral of these children<sup>xiii</sup>; Often the school teachers and policemen has no idea about this document, on own duties in case of identification of violence cases and even more, the school itself, its administration and teachers are in the role of the perpetrator<sup>xiv</sup>.

15. The questioning of a sexual abuse victim implies a serious risk of re-traumatizing. Experience with beneficiaries of the Center for Psycho-social and Medical Rehabilitation shows, that the police is not able to provide engagement of a qualified specialist (psychologist) and doesn’t /can’t keep the confidentiality of a victim. Beneficiaries often complain because of the cynical, rude and non-qualified attitude of the police towards the victims.

16. The level of family awareness in case of a sexual abuse is very low. The families have no information on what is “abuse”, how to recognize a victim of abuse and what services are available in Georgia<sup>xv</sup>.

## **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN**

17. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations:<sup>xvi</sup> ‘Develop and implement a comprehensive set of measures to fight discrimination and protect the rights of women and children, adopt a comprehensive legislation to fight the sexual exploitation of children as well as corporal punishment, adopt a plan of action to combat domestic violence and create a mechanism’ and ‘Develop legislation to explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child’.

18. In Georgia, corporal punishment of children is lawful, despite the recommendations to prohibit it by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Committee and during the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle UPR of Georgia (rejected by the Government).

19. Despite the general provision on prohibition of violence against children in Georgian legislation, it doesn’t prohibit corporal punishment of children as provided in international

standard, that results in the absence of exact written provision for the prohibition of corporal punishment and the fact that corporal punishment is not considered to be a criminal crime despite the degree of its severity.

20. Corporal punishment of children is not directly prohibited in any of the legislative norms ('Law of Georgia on Education', Criminal Code of Georgia, Law of Georgia on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of Victims of Domestic Violence, Law of Georgia 'Code of Custody')

21. Corporal punishment is considered to be the acceptable form /method of child upbringing and discipline by the society as well.<sup>xvii</sup>

## **CHILDREN LIVING AND WORKING ON THE STREETS**

22. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations<sup>xviii</sup>: 'Adopt specific measures to improve effectively the situation of children living in the streets of big cities and children with disabilities', 'Provide children who work or live in the streets with recovery and social reintegration services' and 'Take steps to prevent child labor by formulating a strategy to eliminate the worst forms of child labor'.

23. There is no latest database on children living and working on the streets that prevents the realization of effective measures for eradication of the problem. Only the data available for 2007, estimates the number of children living and working on the streets in 4 cities (Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Telavi) as 1049<sup>xix</sup>.

24. Unfortunately, children living and working on the streets often become the victim of labor exploitation that is mostly caused by parents' coercion<sup>xx</sup>.

25. There is no mechanism for the identification and reaction on cases of labor exploitation of children living and working on the streets. The mechanism developed for protection of children from the violence<sup>xxi</sup> is not effective and practically fails to identify the labor exploitation of children living and working on the streets. These children are not mentioned in the document at all<sup>xxii</sup>.

26. The police make no relevant reaction in the case of identification of labor exploitation of children living and working on the streets.<sup>xxiii</sup>

27. The majority of children living and working on the streets has no identification cards.

28. As reported by the service providers, the voucher (amount of money) allocated for funding of children living and working on the streets is not enough<sup>xxiv</sup>. Often, more children require the day care service compared to the number of provided vouchers. It is crucial to note that the financial resources allocated for 24 hour transit center are not adequate and the service providers (World Vision and Caritas) have to use their own financial resources to cover all the costs.

29. Non-discrimination, guaranteed by the law, is not fulfilled in terms of the children living and working on the streets. Elaboration of additional mechanisms and the action plan, directed at the practical eradication of discrimination against these children is needed.

30. The Articles 1198 and 1198<sup>1</sup> of the Civil Code of Georgia, defining the duties of parents towards their children and the right to the protection of the juvenile's rights are not fulfilled.

31. Article 171 of the Georgian Criminal Code<sup>xxv</sup> regulates 'Involving Minor into Anti-Public Activities' is not adequately enforced. In practice, Street children frequently become involved in anti-social activities and are under constant risk of becoming victims of abuse.

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

32. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations:<sup>xxvi</sup> 'Ensure the rights of the child, with attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' and 'Strengthen support to children with disabilities'.

33. Mental health services, financed within the framework of the State programs, mainly cover the assessment of health condition, diagnostics, and inpatient service for acute and long-term treatment. Psycho-social rehabilitation is available only in case of a long-term inpatient treatment<sup>xxvii</sup>. Therefore the significant part of children and youth with mental health problems remain without rehabilitation services.

34. State funding is not provided for conditions not requiring inpatient treatment: such as ADHD, behavior disorders, specific developmental impairments, etc. <sup>xxviii</sup>

35. One of the serious gaps in mental health services are the lack of qualified professionals. According to the data of 2011, the number of psychiatrists engaged in this field is 242 <sup>xxix</sup> (15 out of them are psychiatrists for childhood and youth), that is two times less compared to the European countries. There is a serious gap in an actual and recommended number of mental health nurses<sup>xxx</sup>.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

36. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendations<sup>xxxi</sup> : 'Continue measures in the field of women and child's rights protection' and 'incorporate the principle of the best interest of the child in all programs and policies'.

37. Pursuant to the legislation<sup>xxxii</sup>, realization of a right to communicate with the outer world (make a rendezvous, phone call, correspondence) for children, taken into preliminary custody depends on a permit issued by the prosecutor or investigator that significantly prevents communication with the outer world.

## **RIGHTS TO EDUCATION OF LGBT CHILDREN**

38. During the previous UPR in 2011, Georgia accepted the recommendation<sup>xxxiii</sup>: 'Effectively address the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies and special procedures with respect to its human rights legislation, particularly on minorities, women and children, in order to bring them in line with international human rights law'.

39. Bullying generally and especially towards LGBT youth at school remains a problem in Georgia. Attitudes towards LGBT persons and issues at schools and universities echo general

societal patterns and are under strong influence from traditional stigmas, taboo and values promoted by the Georgian Orthodox Church.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

40. Teachers' attitude and knowledge regarding gender equality, their awareness of LGBT issues is extremely low.<sup>xxxv</sup> Considering the above mentioned attitudes from the teachers, it is not surprising that according to the study conducted by Women's Initiatives Supporting Group in 2014, the group that the LGBT community trusts the least and comes out to very rarely be teachers and professors (11%)<sup>xxxvi</sup>. In another study, all the participants (in the age group 16-18) of WISG's research on LGBT discrimination and indicated to have experienced bullying at school.

41. No special programs (awareness, psychological counseling, etc.) are run at schools or in higher education institution to meet the needs of LGBT pupils/students. The demand of diversity-oriented and intercultural teaching is addressed to publishers of school textbooks and those wanting to obtain a textbook license: "The textbook will not be evaluated and will be cancelled from the licensing process if its content, design or any other feature includes discriminatory or/and discrediting elements (language, nationality, sex, membership ethnic and social groups etc.)"<sup>xxxvii</sup>. State reports say that school textbooks are free from stereotypes. It is not enough that the textbooks are not discriminatory; they must actively promote tolerance and broad-mindedness, including non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **GAPS IN CHILD WELFARE REFORM**

- Establish the foster care regulating standards and licensing system;
- Establish a special mechanism for the assessment of foster parents' classification, based on the child's interests;
- Establish enough number of qualified psychological support services for children being under the state welfare system;
- Provide children residing in small family type houses with a voucher system, fully satisfying the needs of these children and preventing unequal living conditions for children residing in different institutions;
- Establish the services for the provision of independent life for children above 18 years.

### **DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION**

- Close up Tbilisi Infants' house and Kojori Children's house, with placement of children from these institutions in small family type houses;
- Urgently close up big child institutions (boarding schools) run by the religious institutions.

### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

- Establish the services for the victims of sexual abuse in all regional centers;
- Create the unified standard of services provided to child victims of sexual abuse, with a focus on multidisciplinary team functioning;
- Retrain the law enforcement staff in standards and strategies of communication with victims of sexual abuse;

- Implement the awareness raising campaigns, directed at dissemination of information on types of sexual abuse among the population.

## **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN**

- Criminalize all kinds (despite the degree of its severity or physical damage ) of corporal punishment;
- Implement the awareness raising campaigns in order to increase the knowledge of society about the harmful effect of corporal punishment.

## **CHILDREN LIVING AND WORKING ON THE STREETS**

- Establish the effective system for data collection on children living and working on the streets and ensure the permanent update of the database;
- Establish the effective system of investigation for fighting against the problem;
- Make the amendments to the referral document, for strengthening the system and its development as a guarantee against the labor exploitation of children living and working on the streets;
- Oblige law enforcement staff to work effectively on issues of children living and working on the streets;
- Undertake effective measures for provision of children living and working on the streets with identification cards;
- Improve the voucher system allocated to service providers, so to ensure that the needs of all children living and working on the streets are satisfied;
- Develop the effective action plan for fighting against discrimination against children living and working on the streets;
- Put into operation the articles 1198, 1198<sup>1</sup> of the Civil Code of Georgia and the Article 171 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- Extend the mental health state funded programs for outpatient and rehabilitation services;
- Ensure accessibility of rehabilitation centers throughout the country;
- Ensure state funding for persons with ADHD, behavior disorders and specific developmental impairments;
- Educate the appropriate number of mental health service provider specialists.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

- Abolish the unreasonable, disproportional regulations for ensuring effective communication with the outer world for the underage persons taken to the preliminary custody.

## **RIGHTS TO EDUCATION OF LGBT CHILDREN**

- The Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with relevant state agencies and civil society, must introduce programs to ensure a truly inclusive educational system and will aim at overcoming bullying in schools e.g., Consider inclusion of topics of sexual orientation and gender identity in the school curriculum and initial and in-service training programs for educational staff, provision of physiological counseling for LGBT pupils.
- The Ministry of Education and Science must conduct a study in cooperation with civil society and in particular those working on LGBT rights specifically and relevant issues, to see whether textbooks promote tolerance and broad-mindedness or homophobia among the pupils. If the latter is the case, the Ministry must address this issue in close cooperation with civil society representatives, particularly those working on LGBT rights and related issues.



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- <sup>i</sup> 106.22.
- <sup>ii</sup> Ordinance # 291 Annex 1.9. (April 14, 2014) on ‘Approval of the State Policy on Social Rehabilitation and Child Care for 2014’. <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2322406> visited on 14.03.2015; Order №51/N (February 26, 2010) of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia on ‘Approval of Foster Care Procedures and Format’, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1008793> visited on 14.03.2015
- <sup>iii</sup> Ordinance # 291 Annex 1.9. (April 14, 2014) on ‘Approval of the State Policy on Social Rehabilitation and Child Care for 2014’. <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2322406> visited on 14.03.2015;
- <sup>iv</sup> Special Report of the Public Defender of Georgia ‘Monitoring of Small Family Type Institutions’, March 6, 2015. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7joh\[VjupxNX05yaGITVjZxZlk/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7joh[VjupxNX05yaGITVjZxZlk/view) visited on: 20.03.2015
- <sup>v</sup> Special Report of the Public Defender of Georgia ‘Report on Monitoring of Child Care Institutions’ (big institutions for children and small family type houses for children), 2011, pg. 13 <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/0/98.pdf> ; Ordinance №22 (January 27, 2010) of the Government of Georgia ‘Approval of the Rules and Conditions for funding (co-funding) of Placement in Special Institutions’ <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4780> visited on: 20.03.2015
- <sup>vi</sup> Ordinance # 291 Annex 1.9. (April 14, 2014) on ‘Approval of the State Policy on Social Rehabilitation and Child Care for 2014’. <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2322406> visited on 14.03.2015;
- <sup>vii</sup> 105.18. 105.19.
- <sup>viii</sup> Tbilisi Infants’ House, <http://bit.ly/1FEDm3A> visited on: 10.03.2015;
- <sup>ix</sup> Kojori Children’s House, <http://bit.ly/1GAOtOA>: 10.03.2015;
- <sup>x</sup> 106.26.
- <sup>xi</sup> Official web-page of the LEPL State Fund for Protection of Assistance (of statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking <http://atipfund.gov.ge/index.php/en/about-us/branches-and-shelters>, visited on 19.03.2015;
- <sup>xii</sup> Official web-page of The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims <http://www.gcrt.ge/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Joint Order №152/N-№496-№45/N (2010) of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, on ‘Approval of the Child Protection Referral Procedure’, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1021481> visited on: 19.03.2015
- <sup>xiv</sup> Annual Parliamentary Report of the Public Defender of Georgia pg. 246 2013 <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1934.pdf>
- <sup>xv</sup> UNICEF Study – Violence Against Children in Georgia [http://unicef.ge/uploads/Unicef\\_VAC\\_GEO\\_Final3\\_02\\_09.pdf](http://unicef.ge/uploads/Unicef_VAC_GEO_Final3_02_09.pdf)
- <sup>xvi</sup> 106.26. 106.36.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Violence Against Children in Georgia 2013, [http://unicef.ge/uploads/Unicef\\_VAC\\_GEO\\_Final3\\_02\\_09.pdf](http://unicef.ge/uploads/Unicef_VAC_GEO_Final3_02_09.pdf)
- <sup>xviii</sup> 105.45. 106.37. 105.44.
- <sup>xix</sup> Wargan, K. and Dershem, L. (2009) Don’t Call Me a Street Child: Estimation and Characteristics of Urban Street Children in Georgia, UNICEF, p. 4 [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADO657.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADO657.pdf) visited on 19.03.2015; Street Children Study Report „Chance for a better life”, Save the Children, 2014, pg. 41
- <sup>xx</sup> Georgian Coalition for Children and Youth Welfare ; Research report ‘Evaluation of Child Welfare reform and Child Care System’ 2014, pg. 35; [http://gccy.ge/files/Report\\_Child\\_Welfare\\_Reform\\_GEO.pdf](http://gccy.ge/files/Report_Child_Welfare_Reform_GEO.pdf), (17.03.2015) , Street Children Study Report ‘Chance for a better life’, Save the Children, 2014, pg. 42
- <sup>xxi</sup> Joint Order №152/N-№496-№45/N, of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, on ‘Approval of the Child Protection Referral Procedure’, 2010, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1021481> visited on: 19.03.2015
- <sup>xxii</sup> Report of the Public Defender of Georgia on Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, Rights of Children. (2011); <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1152.pdf>, (17.03.2015)
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Street Children Study Report ‘Chance for a better Life’, Save the children, 2014, p. 42, 55; Georgian Coalition for Children and Youth Welfare; Research report ‘Evaluation of Child Welfare reform and Child Care System’2014, pg. 35; [http://gccy.ge/files/Report\\_Child\\_Welfare\\_Reform\\_GEO.pdf](http://gccy.ge/files/Report_Child_Welfare_Reform_GEO.pdf), (17.03.2015), p. 71

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<sup>xxiv</sup> Interviews Conducted with World Vision, Caritas and Child and Environment; Decree of the Government of Georgia (2014), No. 291 on Social Rehabilitation and Child Care, 14 April 2014.

<sup>xxv</sup> Criminal code of Georgia, Article 171: ‘1. Involving a minor into prostitution or other sexual perversion or persuading thereof into any other anti-public action, - shall be punishable by socially useful labor for the term of one hundred and seventy to two hundred and forty hours or by corrective labor for the term not in excess of two years or by detention for three-month term or by imprisonment for up to two years in length. 2. Involving a minor into abuse of intoxicant or any other medical substance, - shall be punishable by restriction of freedom for up to three years in length or by detention for the term not in excess of four months or by imprisonment for up to three years in length.’ <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/16426>

<sup>xxvi</sup> 105.20. 106.22.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Ordinance #279 (October 31, 2013) of the Government of Georgia on ‘Approval of the State Health Care Program for 2013’, Annex # 11, Article 3, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2066026>, visited on: 19.03.2015;

<sup>xxviii</sup> Ordinance #279 (October 31, 2013) of the Government of Georgia on ‘Approval of the State Health Care Program for 2013’, Annex # 1, Annex # 11; <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2066026>, visited on: 19.03.2015;

<sup>xxix</sup> Mental Health Reform in Georgia: Brief description Nino Makhashvili, Global Initiative on Psychiatry, [http://www.mls.ge/hrh/pictures/dfltcontent/gallery/108\\_1.pdf](http://www.mls.ge/hrh/pictures/dfltcontent/gallery/108_1.pdf); visited on 19.03.2015;

<sup>xxx</sup> Mental health Reform in Georgia: Brief description Nino Makhashvili, Global Initiative on Psychiatry, [http://www.mls.ge/hrh/pictures/dfltcontent/gallery/108\\_1.pdf](http://www.mls.ge/hrh/pictures/dfltcontent/gallery/108_1.pdf); visited on 19.03.2015;

<sup>xxxi</sup> 105.14. 105.15

<sup>xxxi</sup> Georgian Code ‘Custody code’ Articles: 123, 124, 124<sup>1</sup>. <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/91612> 19.03.2015,

<sup>xxxiii</sup> 105.21.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Study on Homophobia, Transphobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Sociological Report: Georgia, COWI.2010. Paragraph 67.

<sup>xxxv</sup> They believe that hatred and violence towards ‘this kind of people’ is unacceptable because homosexuality is ‘an abnormality, a deviation’ and it is not acceptable to ‘oppress those who are sick’. At the same time, the study revealed that teachers do not see the marginalization and isolation that LGBT teens face in school as bullying or violence. Exploring knowledge and attitude of teachers towards gender equality, Gvianishvili N., Training and Research Group, 2013

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Aghdgomelashvili E., Needs of LGBT people in Health Care. Technical analysis. WISG 2015.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Situation of LGBT Persons in Georgia. WISG. Tbilisi, 2012. [http://women.ge/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/WISG\\_situation-of-lgbt-persons-in-Georgia\\_ENG-www.pdf](http://women.ge/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/WISG_situation-of-lgbt-persons-in-Georgia_ENG-www.pdf)

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Materials for preparation of CEDAW shadow report concerning LBT women’s situation in Georgia. WISG. 2012.