

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GEORGIA (FIRST BATCH)**

### **LIECHTENSTEIN**

- What steps has Georgia taken to ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

- What steps has the Government of Georgia taken to address pre-election day and election-day problems, such as voter intimidation and election-related intimidation and violence against election observers and journalists?
- What steps does the Government of Georgia plan to dismantle the influential group of judges known as the clan and to empower individual judges, including enabling judges to appoint court chairs?
- With the March 2020 release of Afgan Mukhtarli from prison in Azerbaijan, what is the status of the Government of Georgia's investigation into his abduction and rendition to Azerbaijan?
- In the Public Defender's UPR submission, she states that effective investigation into alleged mistreatment by law enforcement officials remains a systemic problem, noting that the Prosecutor's Office did not identify the responsible person in any of the 107 cases submitted by the Public Defender from 2013-2019. What steps does the Government of Georgia plan to address this problem?
- The Government of Georgia is prosecuting three law enforcement officials in connection with abuses against protesters the night of June 20-21 2019. In contrast, as of June 2020, Georgian authorities had charged 17 activists with engaging in violence during the protests. As a substantially higher number of activists than police officers were reportedly injured that night, how does the government explain the disparity in prosecutions?
- As discrimination, harassment, and violence against members of minority groups, women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, and other members of vulnerable communities continue, what measures are in place to ensure access to justice for affected individuals? What is the Government of Georgia doing to ensure equality for all?
- What steps is the Government of Georgia taking to implement the newly passed Law on Persons with Disabilities and mitigate the discrimination, harassment, and violence faced by persons with disabilities?

- Georgia's minimum age for work does not meet international standards, because the law only includes formal working relationships, not informal work. What steps will the Government of Georgia take to bring its legal framework on the minimum age for work in the informal sector into line with international labor standards?
- What steps has the Government of Georgia taken, and what additional steps does it plan to take, to ensure that individuals of all faiths, including those belonging to religious minority groups and those of no faith, are able to fully exercise their freedom of religion or belief in Georgia?
- UNHCR reported concerns regarding asylum applications being rejected automatically on national security grounds based on country of origin. What steps will the Government of Georgia take to address international protection considerations and enforce fair and efficient asylum procedures?

## SWEDEN

- Fundamental obstacles persist to the active participation of ethnic minorities in social, economic and political life in Georgia. The language barrier is a severe challenge and diminishes persons belonging to ethnic minorities' access to services and support. Persons belonging to ethnic minorities are also poorly represented at all levels of the public administration.<sup>1</sup> *What actions does the government plan to take to significantly increase the representation of ethnic minorities in central and local government administration?*
- Surrogacy, which is legal in Georgia, carries with it several ethical as well as legal concerns.<sup>2</sup> *Has the government investigated the impact of surrogacy on the human rights of women and children in order to ensure that abuses and violations of human rights are prevented?*
- According to international as well as national observers, lack of independence of the media remains one of the greatest obstacles to media freedom in Georgia. *In what way does the government plan to strengthen media independence in Georgia in order to ensure non-interference, including within public service broadcasting?*<sup>3</sup>

## BELGIUM

- What is the state of play of the ratification process of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance?

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<sup>1</sup> p. 22-23: [http://www.equality.ge/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CSO-Report\\_UPR37\\_Georgia\\_UPR.pdf](http://www.equality.ge/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CSO-Report_UPR37_Georgia_UPR.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Surrogacy.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> p. 4: <https://www.accessnow.org/cms/assets/uploads/2020/09/Georgia-UPR-Submission-July-9-2020-1.pdf>

- What is the state of play of the reforms to reinforce the independence of the judiciary and the transparency of judicial procedures, specifically with regard to the opinions of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe in this area?
- Which concrete measures is the government of Georgia envisaging in order to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value? Is the government of Georgia planning to intensify its efforts to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence?
- How does the government of Georgia intend to effectively ensure an equitable and non-discriminatory formula for the restitution of all religious organizations' property confiscated during the USSR era?
- Which measures has the government of Georgia taken to improve the access to education for children from vulnerable groups, such as children in situations of poverty, those from ethnic minorities and those with disabilities as well as young mothers after childbirth?

## **CANADA**

- What concrete steps have been taken by Georgia since its last UPR to improve the implementation and enforcement of the Law on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination, and ensure the protection of individuals against violence on the basis of gender or sexual orientation?
- What specific mechanisms have been put in place by Georgia since its last UPR to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and law enforcement?
- How are ongoing challenges to the protection of economic and social rights of Internally-Displaced Persons (IDPs) and asylum-seekers being addressed?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- What steps will the Government of Georgia take to address the concerns raised in the recent OSCE/ODHIR Interim report and by NGOs and opposition parties following the recent parliamentary elections, and what steps will the government take to ensure there is a robust democratic election process in place?
- Can the Government of Georgia set out what steps it will take to implement the recommendations made by the Venice Commission on the draft Organic Law amending the Organic Law on Common Courts, issued on 9 October 2020?
- How will the government support and monitor the work of the newly created labour inspectorate to ensure it can carry out its mandate effectively?
- What steps is the Government of Georgia taking to ensure religious establishments are treated equally under law and that individuals are free to practice and express their religious faith or non-belief in public and private, without facing any discrimination?

- What further steps will the government take to investigate allegations of violence and discrimination and to ensure LGBT persons are able to exercise their human rights, and express their identities without risk or fear?

## **NETHERLANDS**

- The Netherlands would like to ask Georgia what efforts Georgia will undertake to ensure the safety of journalists, including in the context of manifestations.
- The Netherlands would like to ask Georgia what plans the government will undertake to guarantee free and equal access of women and girls to rights and justice as well as their protection against all forms of violence;
- Considering the Georgian government, during the last cycle, accepted a number of recommendations that focus on the social inclusion of minorities, tolerance, acceptance of dissenting voices, as well as the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, the Netherlands would like to ask what steps the Georgian government is planning to undertake in the coming years to promote these important issues.

## **NORWAY**

- Does the Government of Georgia plan to fundamentally reform the Administrative Offences Code?