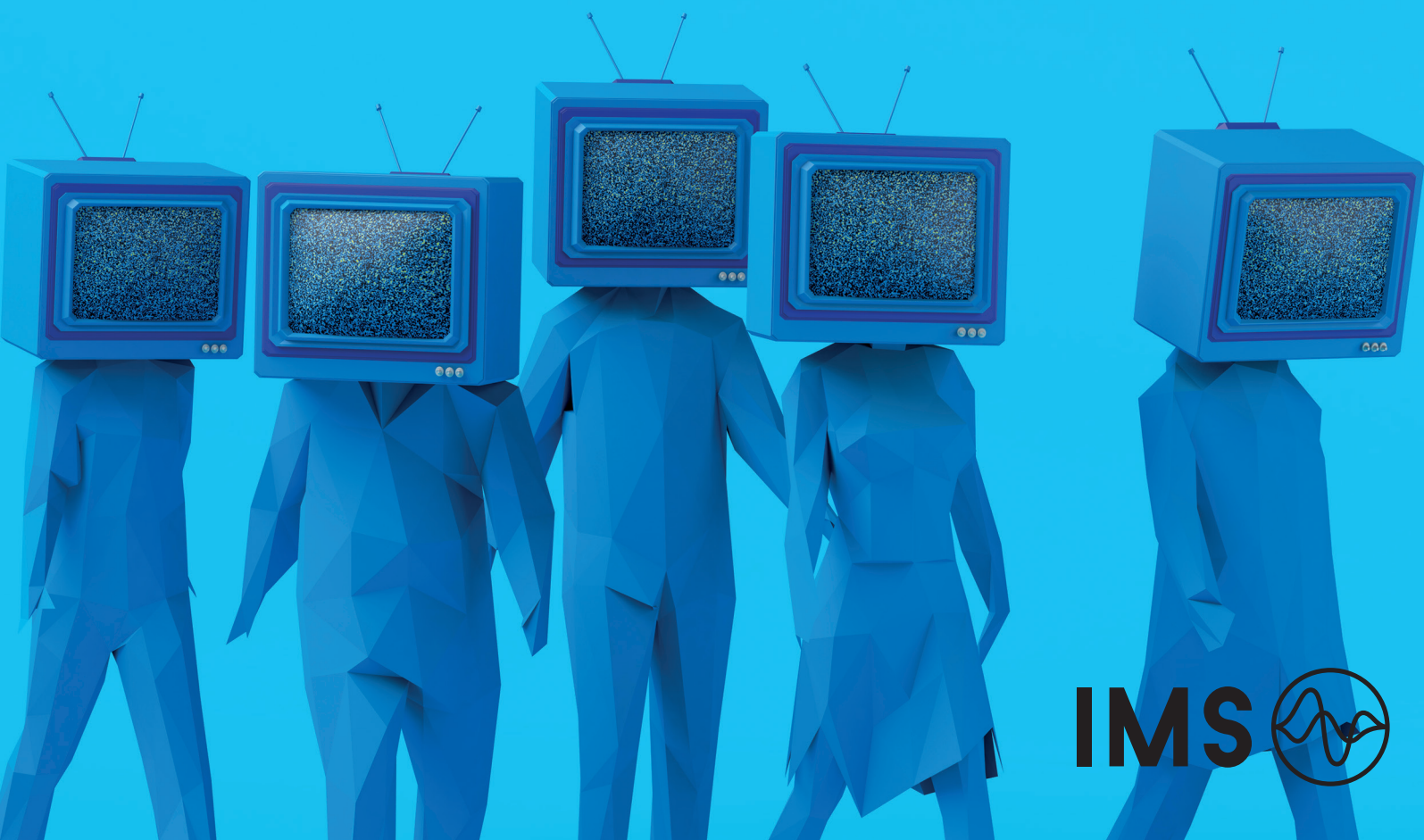


GENDERED DISINFORMATION

2023



GENDERED

DISINFORMATION

2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Media Development Foundation (MDF) launched a study on gendered disinformation in 2022 and, given the urgency of the problem, has continued to study the media ecosystem in this respect in 2023 as well. As the analysis of the collected data shows, these topics involve issues concerning the infringement on individual rights, are linked to local political processes, and also have a global dimension as they are often used to incite anti-Western sentiments.

This is an interim report of the results of the study, and it only deals with false information and manipulative content, including visual content, that relate to gender identity and are disseminated deliberately. A separate report will focus on sexist hate speech, which may not always be factual but is a manifestation of attacks on women's rights, stigmatization of women, and discrimination against them.

The report provides an overview of cases of gender-based disinformation/manipulation identified in Georgia and Russia by the Myth Detector fact-checking platform over the period from January 1 to June 30, 2023, an analysis of targets and sources of the disinformation, as well as tactics used by malicious actors. The report consists of two chapters: the first chapter presents total quantitative data, while the second chapter analyzes gendered disinformation by its targets.

The MDF has used Facebook analytics tool CrowdTangle to monitor social media, as well as false information identified in Georgia and Russia within the framework of Meta's third-party fact-checking program.

METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study is to identify gendered disinformation and examine its sources and tactics. In this study, the Media Development Foundation (MDF) uses the term gender-based disinformation in its meaning as defined by the EU Disinfo Lab:

“GENDER-BASED DISINFORMATION (GBD) – also called gendered disinformation – focuses on the intersection between disinformation and gender, where women, gender non-conforming people, and marginalized groups such as LGBTQIA+ individuals are disproportionately targeted and harassed by spreading deceptive or inaccurate content about them. The techniques for diffusing gendered disinformation are diverse, and can comprise misogynist comments that reinforce gender stereotypes, the sexualization and diffusion of graphic content, online harassment including threats of violence, and even cyber-attacks, etc.”¹

In addition, examples with factual inaccuracies discussed in the report are evaluated using indicators such as slut-shaming and attacks based on moral criteria².

Slut-shaming is the practice of criticizing people, especially women and girls, who are perceived to violate expectations of behavior and appearance regarding issues related to sexuality. Examples of slut-shaming include being criticized or punished for violating dress code policies by dressing in perceived sexually provocative ways, requesting access to birth control, or having premarital, casual, or promiscuous sex. It can also include being victim-blamed for being raped or otherwise sexually assaulted. Slut-shaming is used to shame and stigmatize women.

ATTACKS BASED ON MORAL CRITERIA – attacking on the ground of moral values.

1 EU DisinfoLab & #ShePersisted, 12 October, 2022. Gender-Based Disinformation 101: Theory, Examples, and Need for Regulation <https://bit.ly/3JZmtLn>

2 Giorgi Urchukhishvili, Safari, Georgian Indicators of Sexist Hate Speech Report on Focus Groups <https://genderbarometer.ge/en/gender-barometer-indicators/>

The monitoring is carried out using the analytics tool Facebook CrowdTangle, where more than 150 Facebook accounts are regularly monitored. Traditional media are also monitored for false information, including 10 media outlets (five TV channels, three print publications, and two online publications). Cases identified as a result of cooperation between Myth Detector and Facebook under the fact-checking program are also presented in the report.

The entire list of monitored Facebook accounts, which is periodically updated, is available on the Gender Barometer webpage.³

Once verifiable information is identified through monitoring, the information is verified and the material is rated using the fact-checking methodology⁴ of Myth Detector.

³ Social media monitoring methodology <https://genderbarometer.ge/methodology/>

⁴ Fact-checking methodology <https://mythdetector.ge/en/methodology/>

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KEY FINDINGS

During the six months of the gender-based disinformation study (January 1 – June 30, 2023), the following trends were revealed:

- A total of 42 cases of gendered disinformation were identified, of which 24 were homophobic and 18 were sexist or attacked women based on moral criteria.
- In most cases, the target of homophobic or gendered disinformation was the West, while false content related to Ukraine was predominantly homophobic.
- In connection with internal socio-political processes in Georgia, disinformation was directed against politicians, persons associated with them, journalists, and civic activists, who, in addition to disinformation, were targeted in discrediting campaigns.

THE WEST AND UKRAINE

- Identical disinformation against the West and Ukraine was often disseminated simultaneously through Russian and Georgian communication channels, and the primary sources of this disinformation were mostly Russian-language sources, evidencing that anti-Western and anti-Ukrainian propaganda disinformation is generated from Russia.
- Much of the anti-Western disinformation concerned children and their sex education, alleging that the West legitimizes pedophilia, that school-based sex education contributes to the perversion of adolescents, that gender identity is changed in the West without parental consent, and that children are being removed from conservative families that consider homosexuality unacceptable.
- Topics of pedophilia legalization were linked to the Pope, the UN, and various Western countries and often originated from Russian propaganda media outlets (Известия, Экспресс газета).
- Russian content was replicated in Georgia by the pro-Kremlin media outlets such as Alt-Info, Georgia and World, Sezoni TV, and others. In parallel with the growing criticism of the West by the ruling Georgian Dream party, the pro-government TV channel Imedi sometimes tried to capitalize on homophobic topics, using the same methods as media outlets pursuing the Kremlin's editorial policy.
- Among cases of disinformation against individual Western politicians, one was aimed at slut-shaming German Foreign Affairs Minister Annalena Baerbock and originated from Russian media; oth-

ers concerned Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin, Estonian Prime Minister Kaija Kallas, and MEP Viola von Cramon, chastising them on moral grounds.

- Homophobic disinformation on the topic of loss of identity was most often directed against the EU/Europe, and, along with it, indirectly, in two cases, against Ukraine.
- Disinformation against Ukraine had predominantly homophobic content. On the one hand, Ukraine's fight against the Russian invasion was manipulatively presented as a fight for homosexual rights; on the other hand, disinformation on the introduction of LGBTQI education in schools was disseminated in an anti-American context.
- In addition to Царьград, a media outlet affiliated with Eurasianist Aleksandr Dugin, the disinformation about the teaching of LGBTQI topics in Ukrainian schools was disseminated by Russian media platforms affiliated with the Church.
- One case of slut-shaming concerned the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, who was also the target of altered images edited using similar methods in 2022.

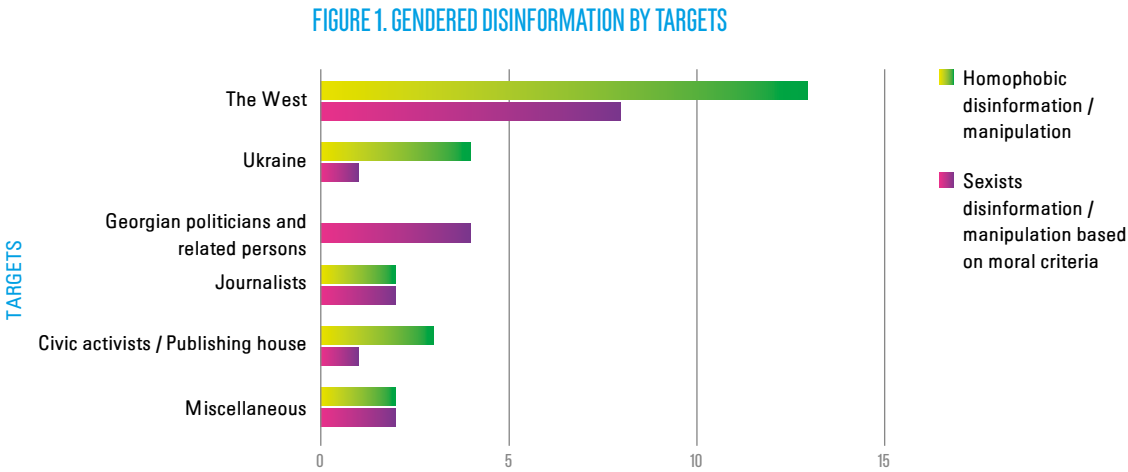
GEORGIA AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESS

- The cases that involved only Georgian-language sources concerned spreading false information against local actors – journalists, politicians, civic activists, and other individuals.
- Georgian female politicians and persons associated with them were mainly slut-shamed and attacked based on moral criteria.
- A fabricated photo of President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili, appeared after her pardon of Nika Gvaramia, founder of the pro-opposition TV company Mtavari Arkhi. Anonymous pro-government and pro-Kremlin Facebook accounts fabricated an image available on pornographic dating sites and disseminated it with sexist comments against the President.
- A slut-shaming case also concerned the mother of the imprisoned third President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili.
- Journalists were attacked with homophobic posts, and female journalists were subjected to slut-shaming. The targets were media outlets with an editorial policy critical of the government.
- Cases were identified in which specific journalists were labelled as lesbians or gays, including using sexist, offensive language in connection with their professional or civic and political activities. The most frequent targets were the pro-opposition Mtavari Arkhi and the Public Broadcaster.
- Sexual identity attribution, as well as homophobic judgments were made with regard to the release of Nika Gvaramia as well as the editorial policies of TV channels; a similar trend was observed in relation to the Public Broadcaster, whose General Director was targeted because of a lesbian character in a TV series.
- Predominantly homophobic disinformation was disseminated to discredit the civic protest; in addition to activists, fake news of the same nature was also circulated against a publishing house because of the content of the books it published and was accompanied by a discrediting campaign and allegations of its involvement in “LGBT propaganda,” including by the Prime Minister.

1. TOTAL QUANTITATIVE DATA

In the reporting period (January 1 – June 30, 2023), the fact-checking platform Myth Detector revealed 42 cases of gendered disinformation, of which 24 had homophobic content and 18 were sexist or entailed attacks on women based on moral criteria.







As shown in the figure below, in the majority of cases (21), identified as homophobic (13) or related to gender identity (8), the target of disinformation was the West; Ukraine was mainly targeted with homophobic disinformation (4); one case of slut-shaming concerned First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska (1) who was the target of such faked visual content in 2022 too; Georgian female politicians and persons associated with them were mainly slut-shamed and chastised based on moral criteria (4); disinformation with homophobic content (2) was posted about journalists while women journalists were slut-shamed (2); civic activists and a publishing house were targets of homophobic disinformation (3); and one manipulated video was disseminated with the aim to morally discredit Gen-Z.



The table below shows that disinformation/manipulation with identical content against the West and Ukraine was often disseminated simultaneously by Russian and Georgian communication channels, while the primary sources of it were mostly Russian-language sources. This indicates that an-

ti-Western and anti-Ukrainian propaganda and disinformation in the Georgian information space, primarily in social networks, is generated from Russia, whereas false information against local actors – journalists, politicians, civic activists, and other individuals – is disseminated by Georgian-language sources alone.

TABLE 1. SOURCES OF GENDERED DISINFORMATION BY COUNTRIES

TARGETS / SOURCE	HOMOPHOBIC DISINFORMATION / MANIPULATION			SEXIST DISINFORMATION / MANIPULATION BASED ON MORAL CRITERIA		
	GEORGIAN SOURCE 	RUSSIAN SOURCE 	BOTH 	GEORGIAN SOURCE 	RUSSIAN SOURCE 	BOTH 
The West	5	2	6	5	1	2
Ukraine	1		3			1
Georgian politicians and related persons				4		
Journalists	2			2		
Civic activists / Publishing house	3					1
Miscellaneous	2			2		

As regards the typology of violations, the most frequently employed technique was photofabrication or manipulation (16), which was followed by non-visual disinformation forms (13). Video manipulation/fabrication was used in eight cases, while fake quotes were disseminated in two cases.

2. GENDERED DISINFORMATION AGAINST THE WEST

Gendered disinformation/manipulation disseminated against the West (21) includes homophobic content (13) as well as examples of sexism/attacks based on moral criteria (8).

Most of the anti-Western content concerned children and their sex education (7), followed by false information about Western politicians (6); some of the anti-Western disinformation dealt with issues of identity loss (6) and justice (2).

2.1. CHILDREN AND SEX EDUCATION

Disinformation/manipulative content regarding children and their sex education promoted the following claims:

- Pedophilia is legitimized in the West;
- Sex education in Western schools = depravity;
- Gender identity can be changed in the West without parental consent;
- In the West, children are removed from those conservative families that consider homosexuality unacceptable.

One of the cases of disinformation⁵ was related to European integration, in which a frame from a pornographic film was presented as a lesson of sex education in Germany, and, using a **false dilemma technique**, the opinion was propagated that if “association” with Europe meant the introduction of sex education in schools, then Europe of this kind was unacceptable for Georgia.

5 SEXOLOGY LESSON IN GERMANY OR A SCENE FROM A PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO? February 1, 2023
<https://mythdetector.ge/en/sexology-lesson-in-germany-or-a-scene-from-a-pornographic-video/>



A false dilemma or black-and-white thinking technique implies presenting two options as the only options available and giving preference to one of them.

The targets of pedophilia-related disinformation were the Pope in two cases and the UN in one case. Other disinformation content regarding children and sex education was directed, in addition to the Vatican, against Germany, Great Britain, the United States, and Belgium.

It should be emphasized that Russian media were often the primary sources of disinformation on topics related to children and sex education, especially on issues of pedophilia, which, in addition to social networks, was disseminated through Russian propaganda channels such as the *Известия* newspaper, the TV program of the Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov,⁶ and others. In addition, some of the materials on these topics circulating on Georgian social networks repeated the content of older Russian publications (*Экспресс* газета, 2020).

Russian-language materials with anti-Western content were published with the following headlines:

- **ИЗВЕСТИЯ:** “Parade of perverts: Europe shows leniency towards rapists and pedophiles”⁷.
- **ЭКСПРЕСС ГАЗЕТА:** “Pope in pedophile uniform”⁸.

6 Вечер с Владимиром Соловьевым, April 30, 2023

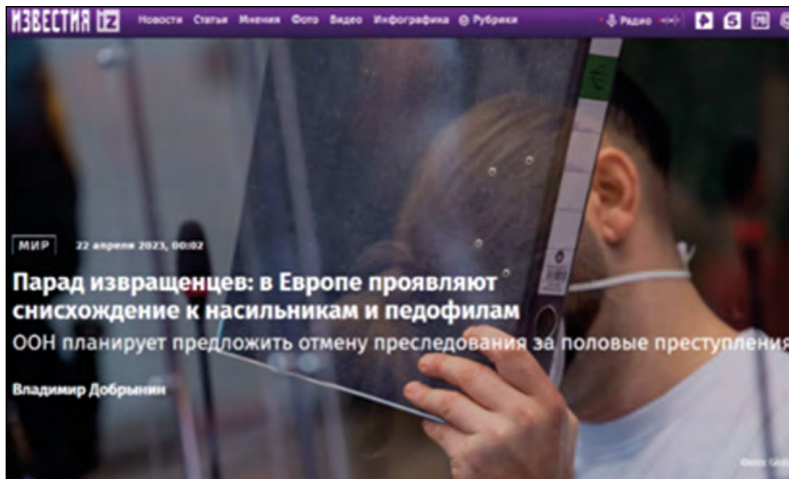
https://smotrim.ru/video/2607464?fbclid=IwAR0BiRlhZpbvH4cEbN5nUk_XZJWZjdQhmE6JQJj4qGFVe8iAEzUza_jU2FQ

7 Известия, Парад извращенцев: в Европе проявляют снисхождение к насильникам и педофилам, April 22, 2023

<https://iz.ru/1501143/vladimir-dobrynin/parad-izvrashchentcev-v-evrope-proiavlaiut-sniskhozhdenie-k-nasilnikam-i-pedofilam>

8 Экспресс газета, Папа римский в униформе педофилов, July 31, 2020

<https://www.eg.ru/society/928951-papa-rimskiy-v-uniforme-pedofilov/>



In addition to personal social media accounts, Russian content was replicated in Georgia by pro-Kremlin media outlets such as Alt-Info, Georgia and World, Sezoni TV, and others. In parallel with the growing criticism of the West by the ruling Georgian Dream party, the pro-government Imedi TV channel sometimes tried to capitalize on homophobic topics, using the same methods as media outlets pursuing the Kremlin’s editorial policy. For example, the claim that in California children can change their gender identity without parental consent was equally disseminated by the pro-Kremlin Alt-Info, Georgia and World, and the pro-government Imedi TV (see Table 2).



ALT-NEWS: “In the West, intensive work on normalizing pedophilia has begun.”



SEZONI TV: “Naked teachers in Georgian schools.”

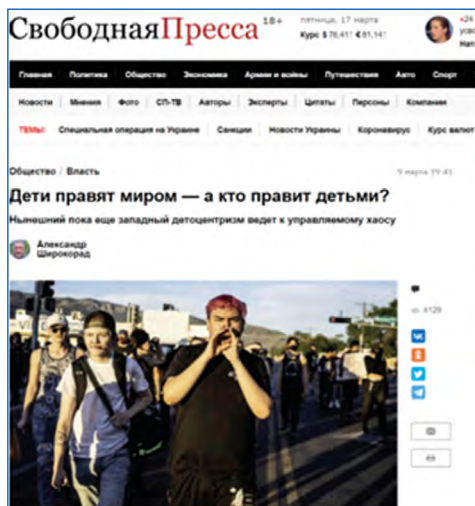


IMEDI'S SUNDAY: "LGBTQ kindergarten to open in Berlin."



ALT-NOVELTY: Congressman Troy Nehls – doctors in California can now perform "gender transition" surgeries on children from other states without parental consent. Welcome to the Liberal World Order.

It should be noted that the article⁹ in the online publication, Georgia and World, which contained a claim that children in the United States can change their sex without parental consent, was a direct translation of an article from the Russian publication Свободная Пресса.¹⁰



СВОБОДНАЯ ПРЕССА: Дети правят миром — а кто правит детьми?



GEORGIA AND WORLD: Children rule the world, and who rules the children?

⁹ Georgia and World, Children rule the world, and who rules the children? March 11, 2023. <https://bit.ly/44JBAjr>

¹⁰ Александр Широкопад, Свободная Пресса. Дети правят миром — а кто правит детьми? March 9, 2023 <https://svpressa.ru/society/article/364805/>

TABLE 2. DISINFORMATION/MANIPULATIVE CONTENT RELATED TO CHILDREN AND THEIR SEX EDUCATION

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES	RUSSIAN SOURCES
MESSAGE: PEDOPHILIA IS LEGITIMIZED IN THE WEST				
The UN intends to decriminalize sexual relationships with minors if the minor consents, which is a prerequisite for the normalization of pedophilia. ¹¹	The UN	Manipulation	Pro-Kremlin: Shota Martinenko, Alt-Info/ Conservative Movement	Известия
The cloak of Pope Francis bears a boylover pedophile symbol. ¹²	Pope	Conspiracy	Singer Eka Kvliashvili, personal FB account (2)	Экспресс Газета, dzen.ru
The Pope said that pedophilia is a mysterious disease and that God loves pedophiles. ¹³	Pope	Fake quote		Russian FB accounts (7)
MESSAGE: SEX EDUCATION IN WESTERN SCHOOLS = DEPRAVITY				
The photo featuring nude people depicts a Belgium-style sex education lesson in Germany. ¹⁴	Germany, Belgium	Photomanipulation / disinformation	Pro-Kremlin Alt-Info's supporting anonymous FB account Soso Severa	
Nude men and women are introduced in schools in Great Britain. ¹⁵	Great Britain	Video manipulation	Pro-Kremlin: Sezoni TV, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, FB accounts: World Politics, Wrath of Liberasts, Back Home to Europe, etc. (7)	

11 Ani Kistauri, Myth Detector, DOES THE UN DEMAND THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH MINORS? April 25, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/does-the-un-demand-the-decriminalization-of-sexual-relations-with-minors/>

12 Myth Detector, Conspiracy disseminated about Pope Francis' cloak, March 17, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/papi-prantsiskes-mosaskhamze-shethqmulebis-theoria-vrtseldeba/>

13 Davit Robakidze, Myth Detector, FABRICATED QUOTE ABOUT PEDOPHILIA DISSEMINATED IN THE NAME OF THE POPE, March 6, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/fabricated-quote-about-pedophilia-disseminated-in-the-name-of-the-pope/>

14 Myth Detector, SEXOLOGY LESSON IN GERMANY OR A SCENE FROM A PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO? February 1, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/sexology-lesson-in-germany-or-a-scene-from-a-pornographic-video/>

15 Myth Detector, VIDEOMANIPULATION, AS IF NAKED MEN ARE BEING INTRODUCED TO STUDENTS IN UK SCHOOLS, April 24, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/videmanipulation-as-if-naked-men-are-being-introduced-to-students-in-uk-schools/>

MESSAGE: GENDER IDENTITY IS BEING CHANGED IN THE WEST WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT				
In California, gender transition surgeries can be performed on children without parental consent. ¹⁶	The USA	Disinformation	Pro-government: Imedi TV; Pro-Kremlin: Alt-Info, Georgia and World Emigrants' publication: nostal.ge (the material was based on the report aired on Imedi TV)	Свободная пресса
MESSAGE: IN THE WEST, CHILDREN ARE REMOVED FROM CONSERVATIVE FAMILIES BECAUSE THEY DEEM HOMOSEXUALITY UNACCEPTABLE				
Police in Germany removed a child from his family because the family taught him, on religious ground, the unacceptability of homosexuality and transgenderism. ¹⁷	Germany	Video manipulation / disinformation	Pro-Kremlin: FB page Gala, personal FB accounts (16)	Вечер с Владимиром Соловьевым, ТРК "Путь" им. А-Х. Кадырова, ТРТ на русском (50)

2.2. WESTERN POLITICIANS

The gendered disinformation against Western politicians involved five female politicians and one male politician, the latter being targeted with homophobic content. Of the cases of disinformation directed against the women, one was related to slut-shaming, and the other four were attacks based on moral criteria.

A case of slut-shaming involving photomanipulation concerned Annalena Baerbock, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany. Russian propaganda editions, including Eurasia Daily,¹⁸ as well as various social media accounts, disseminated a photograph that they claimed showed Annalena Baerbock from a time when she was a professional prostitute. The verification of the photo revealed that it actually depicted Russian porn model Martina Mink. In Georgia, this disinformation was spread after

¹⁶ Myth Detector, DISINFORMATION BY "IMEDI TV" AND "ALT-INFO," AS IF IN CALIFORNIA GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY ON CHILDREN CAN BE PERFORMED WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT, January 26, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/disinformation-by-imesdi-tv-and-alt-info-as-if-in-california-gender-affirming-surgery-on-children-can-be-performed-without-parental-consent/>

Nutsa Dzandzava, Three cases of disinformation on issues related to children by СВОБОДНАЯ ПРЕССА, March 17, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/svobodnaya-pressa-s-3-dezinformatsia-bavshvebthan-dakavshirebul-sakithkhebbe/>

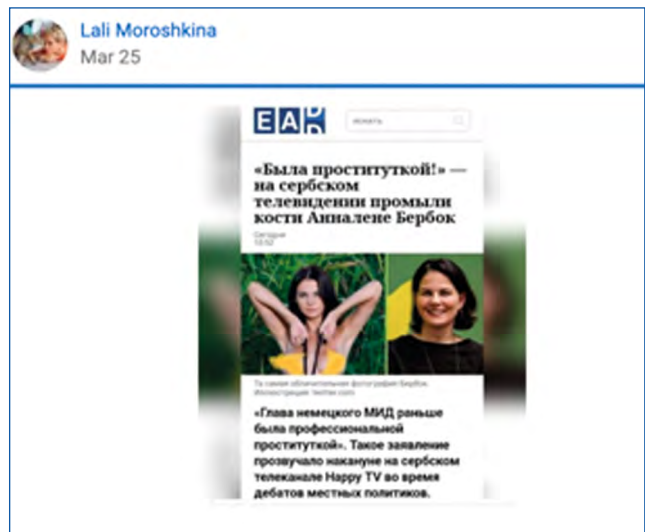
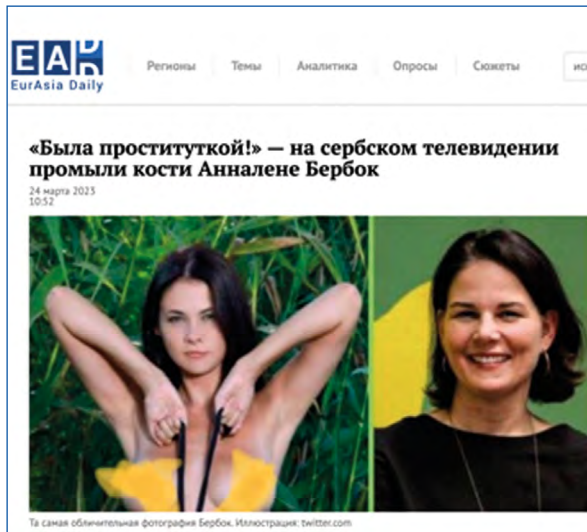
¹⁷ Keti Khutsishvili, Myth Detector, DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE REASONS WHY THE GERMAN POLICE REMOVED A CHILD FROM A FAMILY, May 1, 2023.

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/disinformation-about-the-reasons-why-the-german-police-removed-a-child-from-a-family/>

¹⁸ Eurasia Daily, «Была проституткой!» — на сербском телевидении промили кости Аннелене Бербок, March 24, 2023

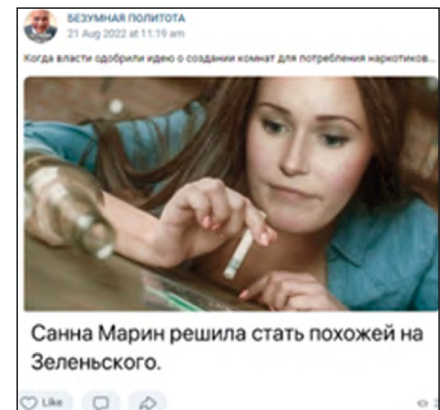
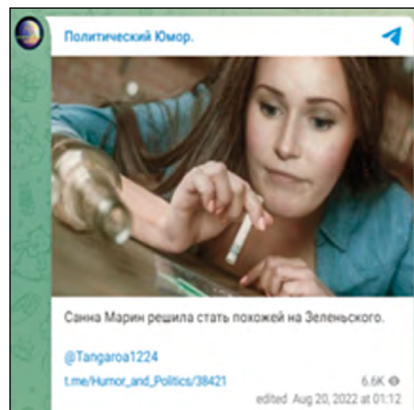
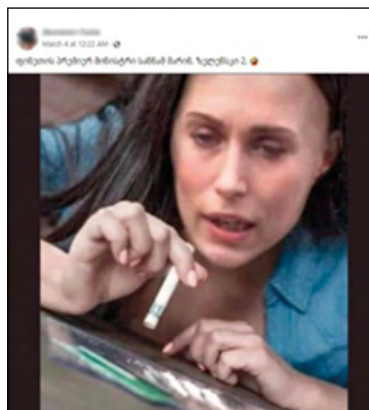
<https://bit.ly/450cAEr>

Baerbock’s visit to Tbilisi through individual Facebook accounts, including that of Lali Moroshkina, a government supporter who also chairs the women’s organization, Strong Woman – Strong State.



The naked woman in the photo is not Annalena Baerbock but the Russian porn model Martina Mink.

A software-edited image allegedly showing Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin consuming drugs was posted on Georgian- and Russian-language social networks. The caption to the image, “Sanna Marin decided to become like Zelensky,” was meant to condemn the politician on moral criteria. The original source of the information was the Russian satirical Telegram channel Политический Юмор.



The disinformation about the Nazi past of Estonian Prime Minister Kaija Kallas’s grandfather was first spread by the Russian Channel One¹⁹ and various Russian-language social networks, while the disinformation that Member of European Parliament Viola von Cramon is a descendant of Nazis was spread by the Georgian pro-Kremlin TV channel Sezoni. The latter claimed that the MEP had come to Georgia to fulfill what her ancestors had committed against humanity.

¹⁹ Первый канал: Куклы наследника Тутти, May 17, 2023 <https://www.1tv.ru/shows/kukly-naslednika-tutti>



Channel One aired a photograph that a guest on the program claimed showed Kaja Kallas's maternal grandfather, who had collaborated with the Nazis. In reality, the photograph did not show Kaja Kallas's maternal grandfather, but the grandfather of her father, Siim Kallas, Eduard Alver, who was the commander of the Estonian Defense League during the Estonian War of Independence and died in 1939, i.e., two years before the Nazi occupation.

It should be noted that Viola von Cramon was targeted on moral grounds after she participated in a rally in support of the political opposition and criticized the backsliding on democracy in the country. A second case of disinformation against her, posted on Facebook by various Georgian-language accounts, was a software-edited video featuring a drunken woman with Viola von Cramon's face inserted. Later, the same account posted a photo of a bottle of vodka with a fabricated image of Cramon on it and the caption: "Famous drunkard Viola von Cramon plans to release her own brand of vodka".



The video clip of the drunk woman is edited using computer software with Viola von Cramon's face inserted. The woman in the original video is Nicole, who is at her wedding party.

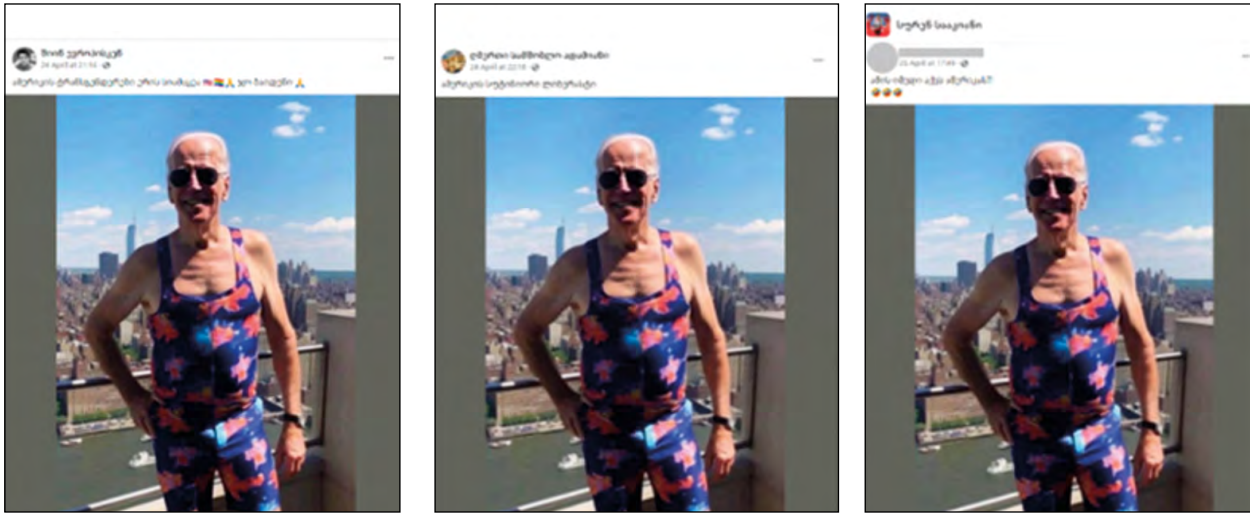
As can be seen from the table below, Russian-language sources mainly targeted high-ranking female politicians in Germany, Finland, and Estonia, and the same disinformation was spread by Georgian-language Facebook accounts. In the case of MEP Viola von Cramon, who was critical of democratic processes in Georgia, the sources of false information and visual fabrication were a Georgian pro-Kremlin TV channel and far-right Facebook accounts.

TABLE 3. GENDERED DISINFORMATION AGAINST WESTERN FEMALE POLITICIANS

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES	RUSSIAN SOURCES
AGAINST WESTERN FEMALE POLITICIANS				
German Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock was a professional prostitute in the past. ²⁰	German Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock	Photomanipulation / slut-shaming	Government supporter: Lali Moroshkina, Woman and Society, personal FB accounts (5)	eadaily.com; rf-smi.ru FB groups: “Вагончик тронется, вагончик тронется... перрон останется...” personal FB, VK, Telegram accounts (20)
Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin consumes drugs. ²¹	Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin	Photofabrication / moral condemnation	Personal FB account	Telegram channel: Политический Юмор, fishki.net, vk (2)
Estonian Prime Minister Kaija Kallas’s grandfather helped Hitler’s supporters exterminate Jews and others in concentration camps. ²²	Estonian Prime Minister Kaija Kallas	Disinformation / moral condemnation		Russia’s Channel One program КУКЛЫ НАСЛЕДНИКА ТУТТИ, FB, Telegram and VK accounts (6)
MEP Viola von Cramon is a descendant of Luftwaffe Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring. ²³	MEP Viola von Cramon	Disinformation / moral condemnation		Pro-Kremlin: Sezoni TV, Dito Chubinidze (3)
Video/photo features a famous drunkard Viola von Cramon. ²⁴	MEP Viola von Cramon	Video fabrication / moral condemnation	Georgian Georgian, Giorgi Iberieli (3)	

- 20 Myth Detector, WHO DOES THE PHOTO DEPICT? – GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER OR RUSSIAN PORN MODEL? March 28, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/who-does-the-photo-depict-german-foreign-minister-or-russian-porn-model/>
- 21 Myth Detector, A software-edited photo of Sanna Marin is disseminated on Facebook, March 7, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/ka/pheisbuqze-sana-marinis-programulad-damushavebuli-photo-vrtseldeba/>
- 22 Keti Khutsishvili, Myth detector, KREMLIN PROPAGANDISTS VOICE DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE ANCESTORS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA, May 23, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/kremlin-propagandists-voice-disinformation-about-the-ancestors-of-the-prime-minister-of-estonia/>
- 23 Myth Detector, DISINFORMATION, AS IF VIOLA VON CRAMON IS THE DESCENDANT OF HERMANN GÖRING, April 13, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/disinformation-as-if-viola-von-cramon-is-the-descendant-of-hermann-goring/>
- 24 Davit Robakidze, Myth Detector, FABRICATED VIDEO OF MEP VIOLA VON CRAMON DISSEMINATED ON FACEBOOK, April 4, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/fabricated-video-of-mep-viola-von-cramon-disseminated-on-facebook/>

A visual manipulation with homophobic content, generated by artificial intelligence, depicted US President Joe Biden in a colorful swimsuit. The photofabrication was posted with a sarcastic comment: “American transgenders are the pride of the nation.”



AI-generated photo

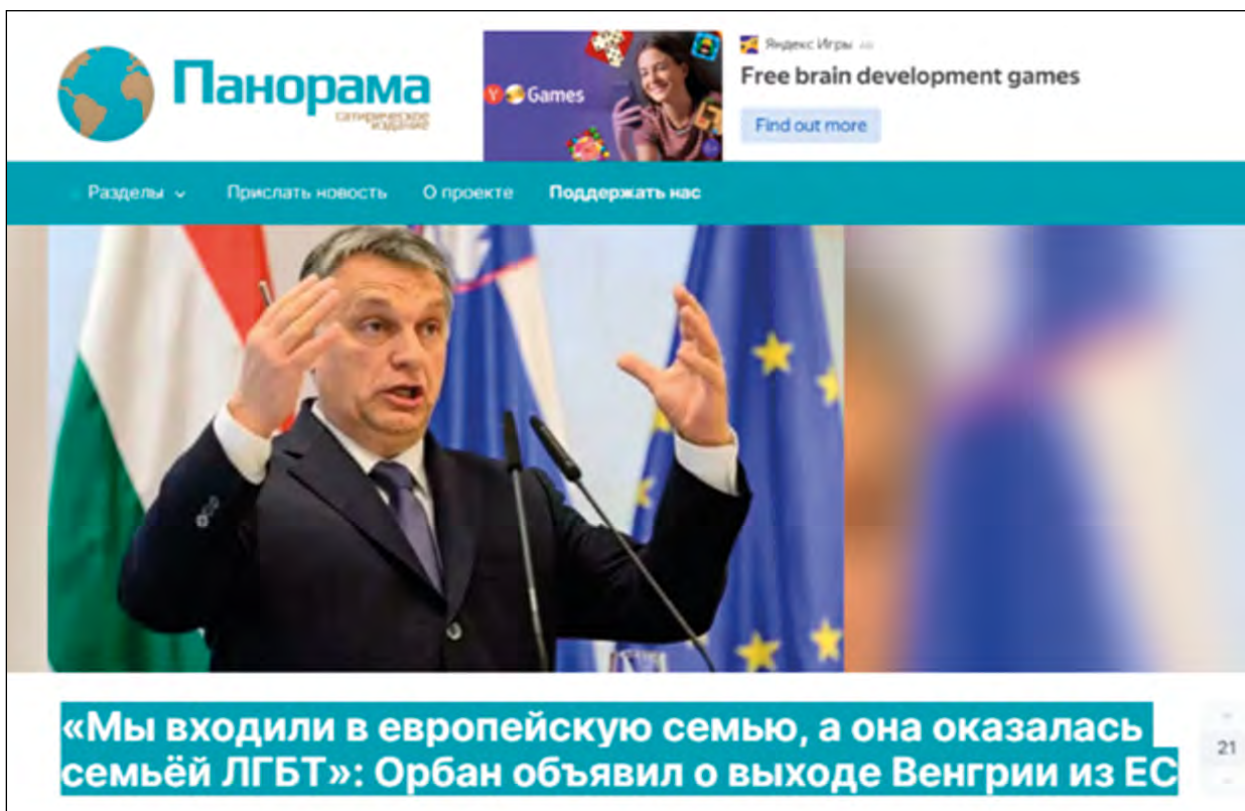
TABLE 4. HOMOPHOBIC DISINFORMATION AGAINST THE US PRESIDENT

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES
AGAINST WESTERN MALE POLITICIAN			
The US President in a swimming suit supporting transgenders. ²⁵	Joe Biden	AI-generated photo	Pro-Kremlin: Back Home to Europe, personal FB accounts (5)

2.3. LOSS OF IDENTITY

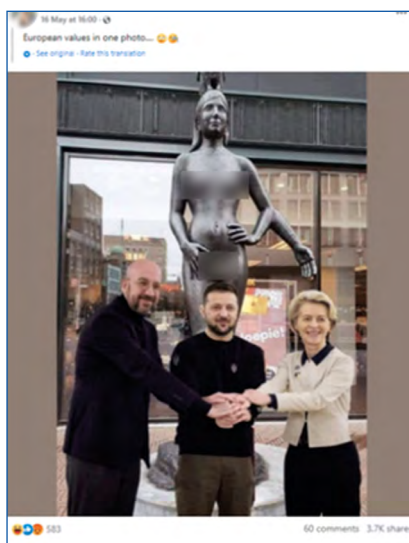
As can be seen from the table below, disinformation on the loss of traditional identity was predominantly homophobic and directed against the European Union. In one case of disinformation, the homophobic attitudes of the Hungarian Prime Minister were used. According to that disinformation, Hungary was going to leave the EU because of the loss of traditional identity in Europe. This statement attributed to him was invented by a satirical publication, but Georgian-language pro-Kremlin Facebook accounts, as well as Russian and Moldovan platforms, disseminated it as a real story.

²⁵ Myth Detector, AI-GENERATED PHOTO OF JOE BIDEN DISSEMINATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA, April 27, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/ai-generated-photo-of-joe-biden-disseminated-on-social-media/>



Satirical primary source: panorama.pub

A photo circulated on Georgian Facebook accounts with the caption “European values in one photo,” showing President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of the European Council Charles Michel, and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen shaking hands against a female statue with three arms and male genitals, was a result of photoshopping.



Fabricated photo



Authentic photo

Russian-language Facebook accounts posted a fake cover of the German magazine Eulenspiegel, claiming that the pulling of Olympic rings by homosexuals on the one side and Azov and Ukrainian fighters on the other side depicted two modern European trends.



The fake cover of Eulenspiegel

In Georgia, an AI-generated photo was posted as a genuine photo by the Orthodox Page, claiming that it depicted an Orthodox church abroad, and if Georgia accepted LGBT propaganda, it would suffer the fate depicted in the photo (fire and LGBTQI flags outside the church).



AI-generated photo

Most often, homophobic disinformation on the topic of loss of identity was directed against the EU/Europe and, along with it, indirectly, in two cases, against Ukraine. Sources were mainly Georgian-language pro-Kremlin publications and Facebook accounts; Russian-language sources were various media platforms in Donetsk, Gagauzia, Moldova, and Krasnoyarsk.

TABLE 5. DISINFORMATION REGARDING THE THREAT OF LOSING IDENTITY

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES	RUSSIAN AND OTHER SOURCES
THREAT OF LOSING IDENTITY				
Viktor Orbán said that Hungary was part of the European family, but it turned out to be an LGBT family, and that is why it is leaving the European Union. ²⁶	EU	Fabricated quote / satire	FB pages supporting pro-Kremlin Alliance of Patriots: publicist.ge, Patriots, Conservative Movement Zugdidi, personal FB accounts (17)	youtube сббо – Чистый Лист TV, Донецкое общественно-политическое сетевое издание trmkz.ru, Moldova Chişinău, Независимый Красноярск 24rus.ru, Новости Гагаузии vatan.md, personal FB accounts (39)
The photo of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen against a female statue with male genitals. ²⁷	EU / Ukraine	Photofabrication	Pro-Kremlin: ru.gruzinform.ge, personal FB accounts (3)	personal FB accounts (3)
The fake cover of the German satirical magazine Eulenspiegel, showing five Olympic rings being pulled on one side by men with the LGBTQ+ flag and on the opposite side by people dressed in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, as well as a soldier with the symbol of the Azov Battalion. ²⁸	Europe / Ukraine	Altered cover		Злой Ёжик – anonymous FB account, other FB accounts (7)
The church in the photo, with a fire burning in front of it and people holding LGBTQI flags, is, according to the author, an Orthodox church abroad, and Georgia will suffer the same fate. ²⁹	The West	AI-generated photo	Orthodox Page	
The German legislature is considering replacing the word “mother” with “person who gives birth to a child,” while the German media has banned the use of the word “mother.” ³⁰	Germany	Disinformation	Pro-Kremlin FB accounts: Ermile Nem-sadze, Irakli Zakareishvili (2)	

26 Ani Kistaury, Myth Detector, DID ORBAN ANNOUNCE THAT HUNGARY IS LEAVING THE EU? January 9, 2023. <https://mythdetector.ge/en/did-orban-announce-that-hungary-is-leaving-the-eu/>

27 Polina Kulish, Myth Detector, ALTERED PHOTO FEATURING ZELENSKY, CHARLES MICHEL AND URSULA VON DER LEYEN DISSEMINATED ON FACEBOOK, May 30, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/altered-photo-featuring-zelenskyy-charles-michel-and-ursula-von-der-leyen-disseminated-on-facebook/>

28 Davit Robakidze, Myth Detector, FABRICATED COVERS DISSEMINATED IN THE NAME OF POLISH AND GERMAN OUTLETS, February 8, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/fabricated-covers-disseminated-in-the-name-of-polish-and-german-outlets/>

29 Mariam Talakhadze, Myth Detector, AN ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD OR A PHOTO GENERATED BY AI? April 18, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/an-orthodox-church-abroad-or-a-photo-generated-by-ai/>

30 Tina Tvauri, Myth Detector, DID GERMANY REPLACE THE WORD “MOTHER” WITH “PERSON GIVING BIRTH”? April 10, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/did-germany-replace-the-word-mother-with-person-giving-birth/>

A video clip featuring an American sheriff wearing rainbow-colored boots reflects, as the author claims, American reality. ³¹	The USA	Video manipulation	Pro-Kremlin: Sezoni TV, personal FB accounts (3)
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2.4. JUSTICE

Disinformation against Western justice, as can be seen in the table below, concerned, in one case, Andrew Tate, when it was claimed that the athlete had been arrested because of his fight with feminism and his masculinity; in another case, false news was spread that a transgender prisoner with a history of violence against women had been transferred into a women’s prison in Scotland at the prisoner’s request. The first case was aimed at creating the perception that men are deliberately presented as offenders and that the issue of their criminal liability is not determined by the offence but by the gender conjuncture. This trend was also evident in the 2022 report.³²

Both cases of disinformation about Western justice were disseminated by the Alt-Info/Conservative Movement and their media platforms.

TABLE 6. GENDERED DISINFORMATION REGARDING JUSTICE

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES
GENDER-BASED DISINFORMATION REGARDING JUSTICE			
A transgender prisoner, biologically male, with a history of violence against female prison staff, was transferred into a women’s prison. ³³	Great Britain	Disinformation	Pro-Kremlin: Alt-Info, source: American far-right publication Breitbart
Andrew Tate was arrested for fighting against feminism and for his masculinity. ³⁴	Romania	Disinformation	Giorgi Kardava, Alt-Info / Conservative Movement

31 Myth Detector, VIDEO MANIPULATION AS IF AN AMERICAN SHERIFF IS WEARING SHORTS AND RAINBOW-COLORED SHOES, June 26, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/video-manipulation-as-if-an-american-sheriff-is-wearing-shorts-and-rainbow-colored-shoes/>

32 Tamar Kintsurashvili, Tina Gogoladze, Media Development Foundation (2023) Anti-gender and Anti-LGBTQI Mobilization in Georgia. <https://mdfgeorgia.ge/eng/view-library/239/>

33 Tina Tvauri, Myth Detector, Alt-Info Spreads Disinformation about Transfer of Transgender Prisoner into Women’s Prison, February 3, 2023

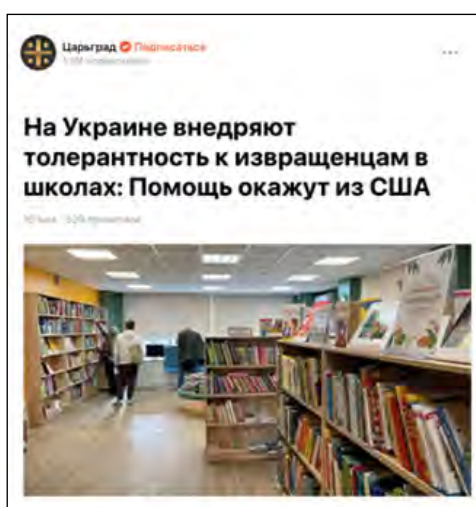
<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/alt-inpho-transgenderi-patimiris-qaltha-tsikheshi-gadaqhvanis-sheesakheb-dezinhformatsias-avrtselebs/>

34 Mariam Talakhadze, Myth Detector, EXCESSIVE MASCULINITY OR RAPE AND TRAFFICKING – THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE ARREST OF ANDREW TATE January 18, 2023

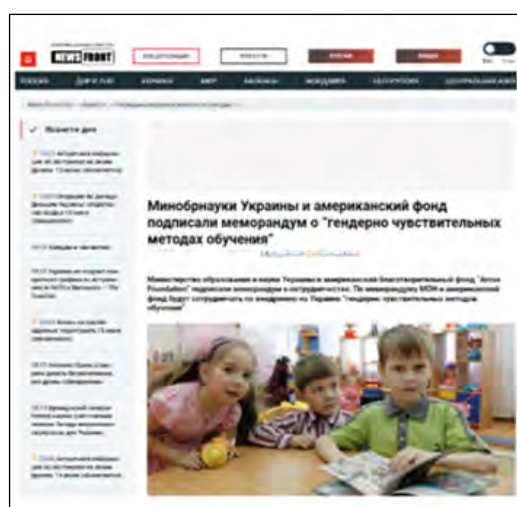
<https://mythdetector.ge/en/excessive-masculinity-or-rape-and-trafficking-the-real-reason-behind-the-arrest-of-andrew-tate/>

3. AGAINST UKRAINE

Disinformation/manipulation against Ukraine had a predominantly homophobic content. On the one hand, Ukraine’s fight against the Russian invasion was manipulatively presented as a fight for the right to be homosexual; on the other hand, the disinformation on the introduction of LGBTQI education at school was disseminated in an anti-American context. Both Russian and Georgian sources claimed that the USA was providing assistance to Ukraine on this issue. The source of disinformation in this case, along with News-Front, a Kremlin propaganda platform whose accounts were removed from Facebook by Meta, was the social media account of Царьград TV,³⁵ a TV channel associated with Konstantin Malofeev and Aleksandr Dugin.



ЦАРЬГРАД: Ukraine introduces tolerance for perverts in schools: Help will be provided from the USA.³⁶



NEWSFRONT: The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the American Foundation signed a memorandum on “gender-sensitive teaching methods.”³⁷

³⁵ Myth Detector, profile of Царьград <https://mythdetector.ge/en/profiles/tsargrad-2/>

³⁶ Царьград, На Украине внедряют толерантность к извращенцам в школах: Помощь окажут из США, May 10, 2023 <https://bit.ly/47iFIT7>

³⁷ NewsFront, Минобрнауки Украины и американский фонд подписали меморандум о “гендерно чувствительных методах обучения”, May 11, 2023 <https://bit.ly/30yjLOT>

In addition to the Russian conservative Царьград, such disinformation was also disseminated by Russian sites associated with the Russian Church, such as the Union of Orthodox Journalists (in Russian³⁸ and Georgian³⁹ languages), the Church Research Center “Orthodox Encyclopedia” (Седмица.RU)⁴⁰ and others.



Two cases of visual manipulation were disseminated in a homophobic context: a video clip of a gay pride march in Ukraine and a photo of a pink tank sent to Ukraine by European feminists, which was disseminated with an incorrect description.



A video clip purportedly showing a gay pride march in Ukraine in reality shows a carnival held in the Spanish town of Santiago de la Ribera in 2022.



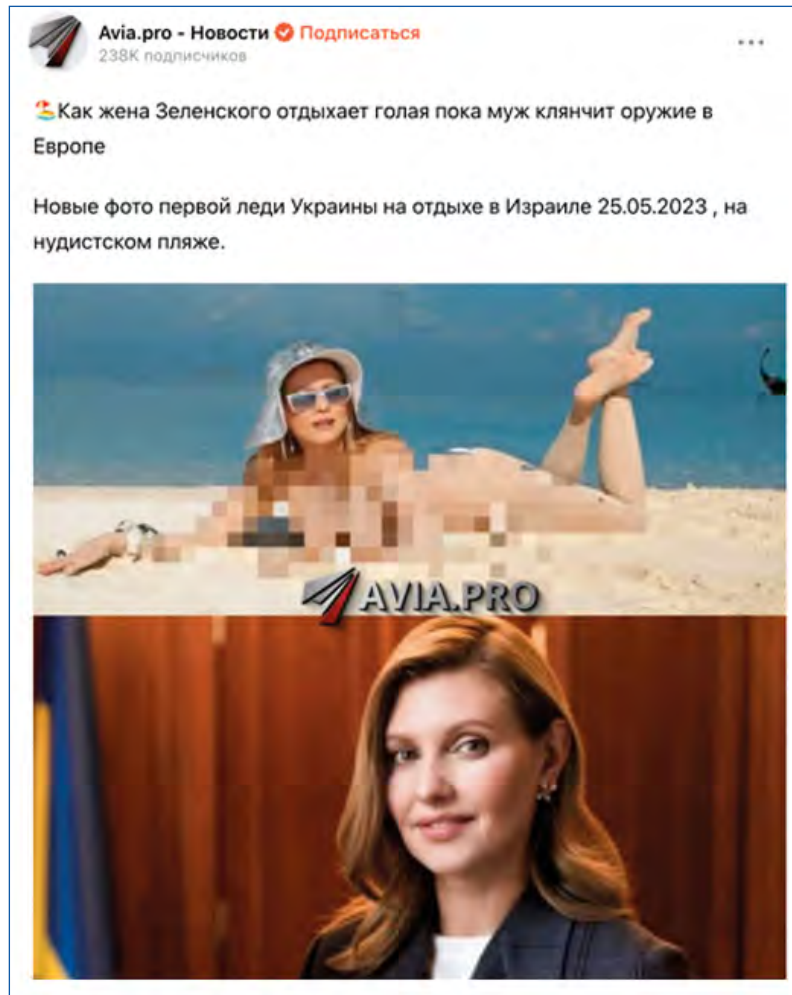
A PHOTO WITH THE TEXT: “Feminists in Europe raised money for a tank for Ukraine. It was painted pink because green was too abusive, and the tank’s barrel was cut off because it looked too sexist.” In reality, the photo of the pink tank was taken at Manchester Pride in 2007 and has nothing to do with Ukraine.

³⁸ Ярослав Нивкин, Союз православных журналистов, МОН и фонд США договорились о внедрении гендера в школы и сады, – источник, 11 მაისი <https://bit.ly/3Q1K81>

³⁹ Yaroslav Nivkin, The Union of Orthodox Journalists, MES and the US Foundation have agreed to introduce gender into schools and kindergartens, – source, May 11, 2023 <https://bit.ly/3Q1K81>

⁴⁰ Седмица.RU, МОН Украины и фонд США договорились о внедрении гендера в школы и сады, May 12, 2023 https://www.sedmitza.ru/text/10254279.html?fbclid=IwAR130J8TfRikeoEILE5ZccYtBFZ0cGRmHO_pjNjc8qvmfAx8WFW9ZkhcUQ

One case of slut-shaming spreading from Russian social media concerned the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska. The author of the post claimed that the photo proved that while Zelenskyy was “begging for weapons in Europe,” his wife was holidaying naked on a nude beach in Israel. In reality, the photo showed Russian TV presenter Elena Lenina.



AVIA.PRO: How Zelenskyy’s wife is holidaying naked while her husband begs for weapons in Europe.
New photos of the First Lady of Ukraine holidaying on a nude beach in Israel 05/25/2023.
The photo does not show Olena Zelenska, but Russian TV presenter Elena Lenina.

It should be noted that photos of the First Lady of Ukraine with incorrect descriptions⁴¹ claiming that she was depicted naked without a swimsuit and that the photos were obtained by hackers were circulated by Russian and Georgian social network users in 2022 as well. Another fabricated photo

⁴¹ Myth Detector, DISINFORMATION AS IF HACKERS LEAKED A PRIVATE PHOTO OF OLENA ZELENKA, December 12, 2022 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/disinformation-as-if-hackers-leaked-a-private-photo-of-olena-zelenska/>

showing Olena Zelenska in expensive clothes and accessories was circulated in 2022 to condemn her on moral grounds and to illustrate that the Zelenskyy family was enriching itself at the expense of donors amid the war.⁴²

TABLE 7. DISINFORMATION AGAINST UKRAINE

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES	RUSSIAN AND OTHER SOURCES
DISINFORMATION AGAINST UKRAINE				
According to the vice-speaker of the Senate of Poland, Ukrainians die for the right to be homosexuals. ⁴³	Ukraine	Missing context	Personal FB account	Ukraina.ru, argumenti.ru, personal FB accounts (7)
The Ministry of Education of Ukraine and the Arcus Foundation signed a memorandum on teaching LGBTQI topics. ⁴⁴	Ukraine	Disinformation	Sezoni TV, Orthodox Page, Union of Orthodox journalists, geworld.ge (6)	News-Front, Союз православных журналистов, Царьград, Седмица.RU, rusk.ru, dzen.ru, mriya.news, qna.center-Telegram: MediaKiller (8)
Feminists in Europe raised money for a tank for Ukraine and painted it pink. ⁴⁵	Ukraine / Europe	Photomanipulation	Personal FB accounts	Russian FB accounts, VK, Telegram (5)
Olena Zelenska is holidaying on a nude beach. ⁴⁶	Ukraine	Photomanipulation	Personal FB account	ДОНЕЦК – ВЕСТИ ДНР, dzen.ru, Avia.pro, telegram, twitter accounts (5)
A video clip claiming to feature a gay pride march in Ukraine. ⁴⁷	Ukraine	Video manipulation	Back Home to Europe	

42 Myth Detector, OLENA ZELENKA OR MILLIONAIRE RICHARD HEART – WHO IS ACTUALLY DEPICTED ON THE FABRICATED PHOTO? January 9, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/olena-zelenska-or-millionaire-richard-heart-who-is-actually-depicted-on-the-fabricated-photo/>

43 Arabela Kordzakhia, Myth Detector, The Kremlin Media Disseminates a Polish Politician’s Quote with Missing Context, February 20, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/ka/kremlis-media-poloneli-politikosis-tsitatas-arasruli-konteqstith-avrtselebs/>

44 Myth Detector, Disinformation as if Ukraine Signed a Memorandum on Introducing Teaching LGBTQI Topics in Schools, June 15, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/ka/dezinhormatsia-thithqos-ukrainam-skolebshi-lgbt-sakithkhebis-stsavlebis-danergvaze-memorandums-moatsera-kheli/>

45 Myth Detector, TANK FOR UKRAINE IN 2023 OR FOR THE 2007 MANCHESTER PRIDE? February 1, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/tank-for-ukraine-in-2023-or-for-the-2007-manchester-pride/>

46 Myth Detector, PHOTOMANIPULATION AS IF OLENA ZELENKA IS RELAXING ON A NUDIST BEACH IN ISRAEL, June 6, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/photomanipulation-as-if-olena-zelenska-is-relaxing-on-a-nudist-beach-in-israel/>

47 Myth Detector, PRIDE IN UKRAINE OR A CARNIVAL IN SPAIN – WHAT DOES THE VIDEO DEPICT? April 26, <https://mythdetector.ge/en/pride-in-ukraine-or-a-carnival-in-spain-what-does-the-video-depict/>

4. AGAINST GEORGIAN POLITICIANS AND RELATED PERSONS

Disinformation targeting Georgian politicians and persons related to them was mainly spread to slut-shame them through visual manipulation; one case of attack based on moral criteria was recorded.

Of three cases of slut-shaming, one concerned the President of Georgia; the second involved President Saakashvili's mother; and the third concerned the former Economy Minister in Saakashvili's government, Vera Kobalia.

The fabricated photo of President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili was disseminated after she pardoned Nika Gvaramia, the founder and former Director General of the private TV company Mtavari Arkhi.⁴⁸ Anonymous pro-government and pro-Kremlin Facebook accounts circulated a software-edited photo taken from dating porn sites, in which Zourabichvili's face was pasted on someone else's body. This photofabrication was distributed with the following sexist comments:

- **BLACK MEDIA:** “Christian’ Georgia elected as its president an old prostitute expelled from a Parisian cabaret,”
- **TERENTI GLDANELI:** “Salome (Roena) Zourabichvili,”
- **INDIVIDUAL FB ACCOUNT:** “This whore was forced on us as the Commander-in-Chief of my country,” etc.

⁴⁸ Radio Liberty, President Pardons Nika Gvaramia, June 22, 2023
<https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/32471204.html>



President Zourabichvili's photo is inserted into a photo posted on porn and dating sites.

Two more cases of slut-shaming were related to the imprisoned third President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili. One of them was directed against his mother, Giuli Alasania: anonymous pro-government sources and accounts circulated an altered photo in which Giuli Alasania and Giorgi Chaladze, a member of the United National Movement, were depicted on the air of the Mtavari TV channel sitting against a wall to which drawings from the Kama Sutra had been added using a computer program, with the caption “Giuli and Chaladze are considering poses.” A sexist campaign to discredit Saakashvili’s mother was also carried out in 2022, accompanied by the claim that Saakashvili’s mother married a member of the United National Movement, Giorgi Chaladze.⁴⁹



Kama Sutra drawings have been added to the software-edited photos. In reality, there are documents on the wall, not drawings of an intimate nature.

The third case of slut-shaming involved Vera Kobalia, the Minister of Economy in the United National Movement government, whose face was pasted on a nude body smeared with cream using software.



The altered photo with Vera Kobalia’s face inserted using a computer program.



The genuine photo has been circulating on the Internet since 2008.

⁴⁹ Tamar Kintsurashvili, Tina Gogoladze, Media Development Foundation (2023) Anti-gender and Anti-LGBTQI Mobilization in Georgia. <https://mdfgeorgia.ge/eng/view-library/239/>

The target of the attack based on moral criteria was Helen Khoshtaria, the leader of the Droa political party, against whom a 2014 video was circulated with an incorrect description, claiming that she was singing the Russian song “Katyusha” while being on an excursion from the Moscow State University in 1999.



The video shows the Pyatnitsky Choir performing the song “Katyusha,” filmed on board an airplane in 2014. The video was disseminated with an incorrect description, claiming that it showed Helen Khoshtaria singing the Russian song while on an excursion from the Moscow State University in 1999.

It should be noted that the leader of Droa is the target of systematic campaign attacks aimed at presenting her as a person pursuing Russian interests. For such campaigns, the facts that Helen Khoshtaria received higher education in Moscow and one of her family members receives royalties from Russia are used.⁵⁰

Disinformation against Georgian politicians was spread mainly by pro-government anonymous pages and other accounts, and in the case of Droa, also by pro-Kremlin actors.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

TABLE 8. GENDERED DISINFORMATION AGAINST GEORGIAN POLITICIANS AND PERSONS RELATED TO THEM

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES
DISINFORMATION AGAINST GEORGIAN POLITICIANS AND PERSONS RELATED TO THEM			
A photo from dating porn sites that depicted Salome Zourabichvili as a result of alteration by means of computer software. ⁵¹	President Salome Zourabichvili	Photofabrication / slut-shaming	Anonymous pro-government FB accounts: Terenti Gldaneli, pro-Kremlin: Black Media, personal FB accounts (6)
President Saakashvili’s mother and UNM member, Giorgi Chaladze, against Kama Sutra drawings with the inscription “Giuli and Chaladze are considering poses.” ⁵²	Giuli Alasania, President Mikheil Saakashvili’s mother	Photofabrication / slut-shaming	Anonymous pro-government FB page and personal account Terenti Gldaneli, other FB accounts (6)
The woman with the cream-smeared body shown in the photo is Vera Kobalia. ⁵³	Former Economy Minister	Photomanipulation / slut-shaming	Personal FB accounts (2)
The founder of Droa, Helen Khoshtaria, sings the Russian song Katyusha on an excursion from the Moscow State University in 1999. ⁵⁴	Helen Khoshtaria, the leader of political party Droa	Video manipulation / shaming based on moral criteria	Anonymous pro-government FB page: Terenti Gldaneli, progovernment expert Ghia Abashidze, personal FB accounts; Pro-Kremlin FB page: Significant Changes and individual supporters of Alt-Info (18)

51 Myth Detector, MANIPULATED PHOTOS DEPICTING SALOME ZOURABICHVILI HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ON FACEBOOK, June 27, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/manipulated-photos-depicting-salome-zourabichvili-have-been-circulating-on-facebook/>

52 Myth Detector, Fabricated Photo of Giuli Alasania and Giorgi Chaladze Circulating on Social Network, February 16, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/sotsialur-qselshi-giuli-alasaniasa-da-giorgi-chaladzis-programulad-damushavebuli-photo-vrtseldeba/>

53 Myth Detector, Fabricated Photo of Vera Kobalia Circulating on Social Network, January 11, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/sotsialur-qselshi-vera-qobalias-programulad-damushavebuli-photo-vrtseldeba/>

54 Myth Detector, Disseminated Video Does Not Feature Helen Khoshtaria, April 11, 2023

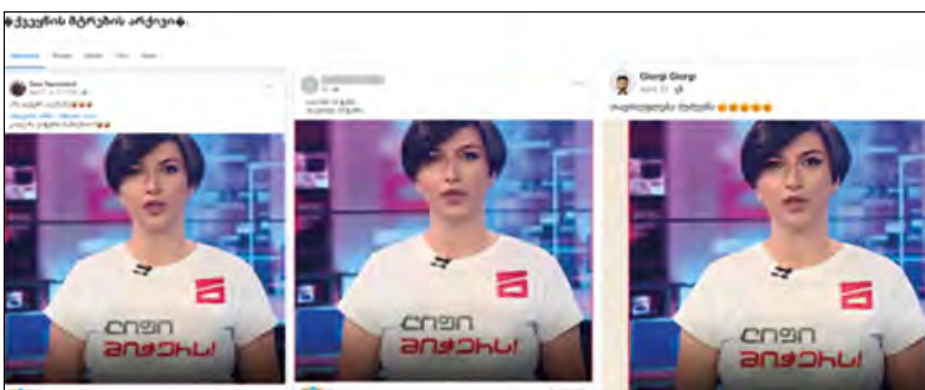
<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/gavrtsebuli-video-elene-khoshtarias-ar-asakhavs/>

5. AGAINST JOURNALISTS

During the six months of monitoring, four cases of gendered disinformation were identified, accompanied by campaigns aimed at discrediting specific journalists and media outlets.

Two cases of slut-shaming were directed against female journalists working for Mtavari Arkhi and TV Pirveli, the media outlets critical of the government.

A photo of Mtavari Arkhi journalist Dea Mamiseishvili wearing a T-shirt with the inscription “Irakli! Nika is not a criminal” in support of the imprisoned founder of the same TV channel, Nika Gvaramia, was changed using a computer program. Instead of appealing to the Prime Minister (Irakli Gharibashvili), the altered photo had the inscription, “My bra is too tight.” The photofabrication with sexist comments (“Free your boobs”, “They won’t believe you if you don’t show them”, “Hello, boys! My bra is too tight!”) was posted in the Facebook group “Archive of the Country’s Enemies,” and in personal Facebook accounts.



A software-edited photo with the inscription
“My bra is too tight!”



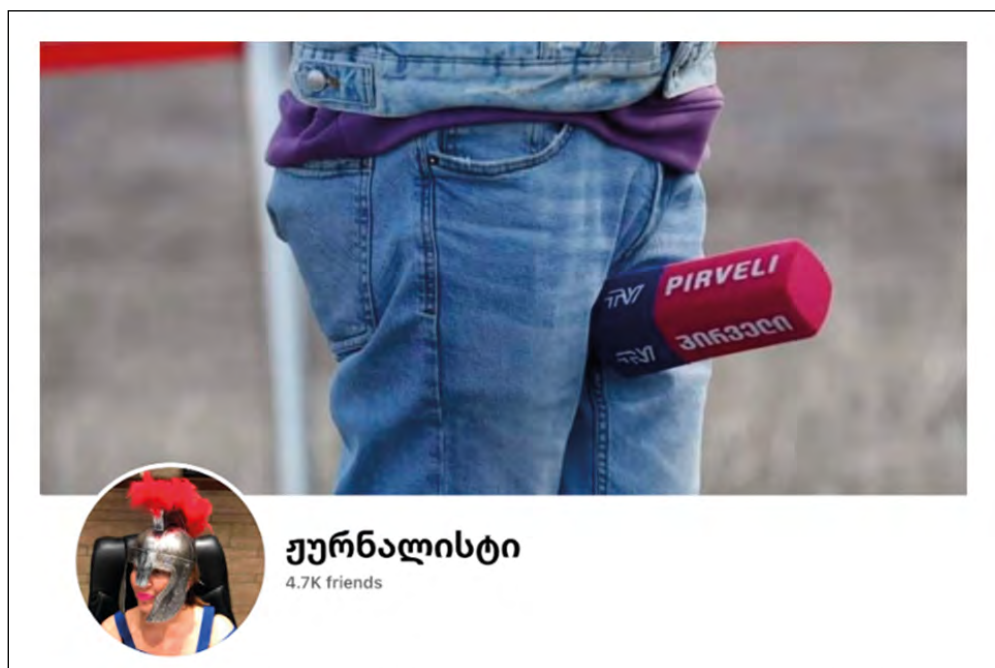
An original photo with the inscription
“Irakli! Nika is not a criminal!”

The video fabrication against TV Pirveli journalist Inga Grigolia, revealed last year, was used this time too. The edited video clip in which the words of Lisa Yasko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament and Saakashvili’s partner, “My beloved man, Mikheil Saakashvili, is a political prisoner,” were attributed to Inga Grigolia, was included in a new video distributed by accounts supporting the government and discrediting the opponents.



A video fabrication in which Lisa Yasko’s words were attributed to Inga Grigolia.

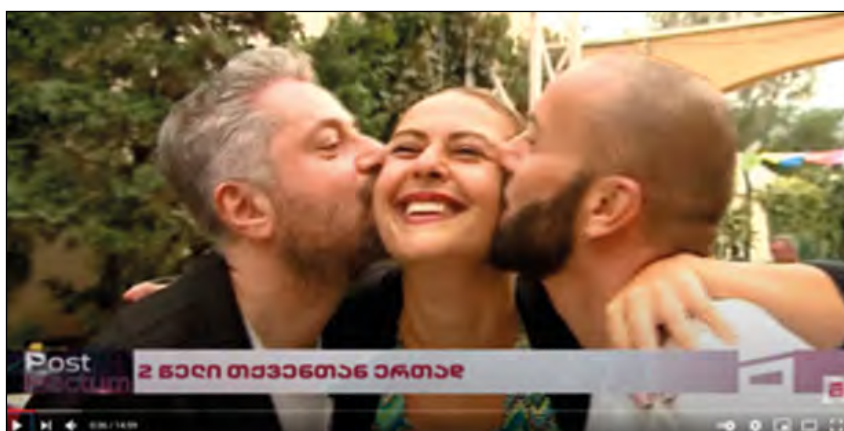
It should also be noted that the Facebook account “Journalist” has a photo of Inga Grigolia wearing a Roman helmet as the profile picture and a photo of TV Pirveli’s microphone clamped between the legs as the cover photo.



The use of old fake images was also practiced by other accounts; for example, an account affiliated with the pro-Kremlin Alt-Info/Conservative Movement, shared an old fake image of a kiss between imprisoned Mtavari Arkhi founder, Nika Gvaramia, and the channel's General Director, Giorgi Gabunia, that the Myth Detector revealed back in 2021,⁵⁵ in 2023 too.



An altered photo showing Nika Gvaramia and Giorgi Gabunia kissing each other.



An original photo, showing Nika Gvaramia and Giorgi Gabunia kissing journalist Ana Asatiani.

Homophobic posts targeted individual female and male journalists from Formula TV and Netgazeti, labelling them as lesbians and gays and accompanied by comments presenting them as anti-Georgians and enemies of the people:

⁵⁵ Ani Kistauri, Myth Detector, HOW DID JOURNALIST ANA ASATIANI DISAPPEAR FROM THE SHOT OF "MTAVARI ARKHI"? September 14, 2021 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/how-did-journalist-ana-asatiani-disappear-from-the-shot-of-mtavari-arkhi/>

- ANONYMOUS FB ACCOUNT “JOURNALIST PEARLS:” “In this photo, you see a lesbian journalist from media X, LGBTQ activists from media Y, and his lover. Remember that propagandists of UNM-supporting channels are all anti-Georgians with a non-traditional orientation!”
- ANONYMOUS FB ACCOUNT “JOURNALIST PEARLS:” “Meet a journalist from media X... Every Georgian should know LGBTQ+ enemies of our country.”

These posts are no longer available due to a violation of Facebook’s community standards, namely the use of hate speech. Both posts were published by a pro-government anonymous Facebook account (“Journalist Pearls”⁵⁶), but there is an identical Facebook page with almost the same title (ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails⁵⁷) and an identical appearance. Both accounts publish posts discrediting the political opposition and the media.



⁵⁶ Individual Facebook account “Journalist Pearls” <https://www.facebook.com/jurna.listi1>

⁵⁷ Facebook page „ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails“, ID 110044894712197 <https://www.facebook.com/journalistfails>

The Facebook page „ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები/journalist fails,“ run by four administrators, often publishes sponsored posts that discredit journalists.

Page information for ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails

ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails

History

Created - ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails
July 21, 2021

People who manage this Page

Primary country/region location for people who manage this Page includes:
Georgia (4)

Categories

- Estimated Audience Size: >1M
- Amount spent (USD): <\$100
- Impressions: 20K - 25K
- ID: 645647546668646

See ad details

ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails

Sponsored · Paid for by Ramaz Beridze
ID: 820752382476876

ბიზნის გაცდობები უნდა...

ნანუკა შორჟოლიანმა დუნდულაბი გაიდიდა



Categories

- Estimated Audience Size: >1M
- Amount spent (USD): <\$100
- Impressions: 15K - 20K
- ID: 666210374655181

See ad details

ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails

Sponsored · Paid for by Natela Kiladze

გაავრცელეთ! ცილისწამება დასჯადი უნდა იყოს.



Amount spent (USD): <\$100

Impressions: 35K - 40K

ID: 451816866553761

See ad details

ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები / journalist fails

Sponsored · Paid for by Natela Kiladze

ჟურნალისტიკის შემარცხვენლები



Amount spent (USD): <\$100

Impressions: 20K - 25K

ID: 1646443865739340

See ad details



Posts against journalists sponsored by the Facebook page „ქართული ჟურნალისტიკის მარგალიტები/journalist fails.“

TABLE 9. GENDER-BASED DISINFORMATION AGAINST JOURNALISTS

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES
AGAINST JOURNALISTS			
A photo of Mtavari Arkhi journalist Dea Mamiseishvili wearing a T-shirt with the inscription “My bra is too tight.” ⁵⁸	Mtavari Arkhi journalist	Photofabrication / slut-shaming	FB group: “Archive of people’s enemies,” personal FB accounts (3)
In the video clip, Inga Grigolia says the following words: “My beloved man, Mikheil Saakashvili, is a political prisoner.” ⁵⁹	TV Pirveli journalist Inga Grigolia	Video manipulation / slut-shaming	Anonymous pro-government FB pages: Ar Agarevinebt [“Won’t let you make a mess of things”]; Political Grave N5; Group Journalist; FB account: Journalist, personal accounts (8)

58 Myth Detector, ALTERED PHOTO OF “MTAVARI ARKHI” JOURNALIST DISSEMINATED ON FACEBOOK, April 26, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/altered-photo-of-mtavari-arkhi-journalist-disseminated-on-facebook/>

59 Myth Detector, LISA YASKO OR INGA GRIGOLIA – WHO CALLED SAAKASHVILI “MY BELOVED MAN?” February 8, 2023 <https://mythdetector.ge/en/lisa-yasko-or-inga-grigolia-who-called-saakashvili-my-beloved-man/>

X journalist is a lesbian. Journalists from pro-opposition channels are all anti-Georgians of non-traditional orientation.	Formula	Disinformation	Anonymous pro-government FB account: "Journalist Pearls"
Journalist X has an LGBTQI identity and is an enemy of the people.	Netgazeti	Disinformation / slut-shaming	Anonymous pro-government FB account: "Journalist Pearls"

In addition to two Facebook posts concerning the sexual identity of specific journalists, there were identified cases in which individual journalists were labelled as lesbians or gays, including using sexist, offensive language in connection with their professional or civic and political activities. In addition to total statistics, we separately analyzed the frequency of alluding to the sexual identity of journalists in such cases and identified two media outlets that were most often targeted. These are the pro-opposition Mtavari Arkhi (19) and the Public Broadcaster (16). It should also be noted that journalists were attacked regardless of whether they openly declared their sexual identity.

In the case of Mtavari Arkhi, the most frequent target was its founder, Nika Gvaramia, and in the case of the Public Broadcaster, its General Director, Tiko Berdzenishvili. While Berdzenishvili was mainly attacked by presenters of the pro-Kremlin Sezoni TV, Gvaramia was additionally attacked by the pro-Kremlin political party Alt-Info/Conservative Movement and its TV channel.



CONSERVATIVE FLANK: "Zourabichvili pardoned onanist chicken."



ALEKSANDRE PALAVANDISHVILI: "Gay activist and General Director of the Public Broadcaster reports to the Ambassador of Israel."

As far as Mtavari Arkhi is concerned, references to sexual identity were related to Nika Gvaramia as well as individual cases of critical materials and their authors. As can be seen from the table below, these attacks were mainly related to the pardon of Nika Gvaramia by President Salome Zourabichvili as well as to Nika Gvaramia's criticism of the pro-Kremlin Alt-Info/Conservative Movement politi-

cal party. Mtavari Arkhi has been targeted on two occasions: because of Beka Korshia’s report⁶⁰ in which he exposed the President of the Academy of Sciences, and on the pretext that journalist Giorgi Gabunia swore at Putin on the air in 2019.⁶¹

TABLE 10. ATTRIBUTION TO SEXUAL IDENTITY (MTAVARI ARKHI)

MEDIA OUTLET / JOURNALIST	GROUND OF ATTACK	ALLUDING TO SEXUAL IDENTITY	SOURCE
MTAVARI ARKHI			
Nika Gvaramia, co-founder	President Salome Zourabichvili pardoned Nika Gvaramia, the incarcerated founder of the TV channel critical of the government. (5)	Conchita Nika Gvaramia, the president of Conchitas, this empress of faggots, gay manager, Nikdick Gvaramia, the president of pederasts, Conchita Nikdick Gvaramia	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali / Sezoni TV
		Onanist chicken, outcome of romantic love between Temur and Elton	FB page: Conservative flank
		Pederast	Shota Martinenko, Alt-Info / Conservative Movement
	In response to the criticism of Alt-Info. (5)	The fella is a chicken	Zura Makharadze, Alt-Info / Conservative Movement
		Fighting pederasts	Shota Martinenko, Alt-Info / Conservative Movement
		An ordinary chicken, a chicken	Giorgi Kardava, Alt-Info / Conservative Movement
		Transgender	Aleksandre Palavandishvili, Alt-Info presenter
	Possible entry of Nika Gvaramia into politics. (2)	Leader of gay pride, manager of chickens	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali / Sezoni TV
		Conchita Nika Gvaramia	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali / Sezoni TV
	Invitation of Nika Gvaramia to a reception at the US Embassy. (1)	Queen of Conchitas, princess, Ms. Nikdick Gvaramia	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV

⁶⁰ Mtavari Arkhi, How Irakli Gharibashvili Became an Academician... | Beka Korshia’s report. June 11, 2023. <https://mtavari.tv/news/126231-rogor-gakhda-irakli-gharibashvili-akademikosi>

⁶¹ Netgazeti, Gabuani Swears at Putin in Russian on the Air, Gvaramia Deems it Unacceptable. July 7, 2019 <https://netgazeti.ge/news/378630/>

	Demonstrations against the Foreign Agents Law in March. (1)	That queen of chickens	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV
Beka Korshia	A report on Mtavari Arkhi, in which Beka Korshia exposed the President of the Academy of Sciences. (4)	Gay Conchita, Korshia with earrings, Conchita with an earring	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali / Sezoni TV
		Korshia with an earring, “Let him hang two locks – one on his mouth, another on his buttocks”	Elizbar Javelidze, People’s Front
Giorgi Gabunia	In 2019, Giorgi Gabunia swore at Putin on the air. (1)	President of Conchitas, who swore at Putin	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali/Sezoni TV

As for the Public Broadcaster, the most frequent target (13) was the General Director of the broadcaster, Tiko Berdzenishvili, mainly because of a Georgian TV series,⁶² in one of the episodes of which the character confesses her lesbian identity to her family. The attacks on Tiko Berdzenishvili came mainly from the Sezoni TV host, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, and the co-host of his program, Dito Chubinidze, who is also a journalist for the newspaper Asaval-Dasavali, notorious for its hate speech. They lambasted the Public Broadcaster for other aspects of its editorial policy too, including the allocation of airtime for statements “directed against the state.” The host of the broadcaster’s author program, Paata Kurdadze, was attacked by Nikoloz Mzhavanadze and the “Stalin” organization because of his criticism of Stalin.

TABLE 11. ATTRIBUTION TO SEXUAL IDENTITY (PUBLIC BROADCASTER)

MEDIA OUTLET / JOURNALIST	GROUND OF ATTACK	GENDER IDENTITY AFFILIATION	SOURCE
PUBLIC BROADCASTER			
Tiko Berdzenishvili, General Director (13)	TV series on Channel 1 with one of its characters being a lesbian. (7)	A lesbian, a lesbian lady runs it, that lesbian Berdzenishvili must be kicked out of it, rogue lesbian woman, a lady with a different sexual orientation	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV
		Latent lesbian	Dito Chubinidze, Asaval-Dasavali / Sezoni TV
	The state channel allocates airtime for statements directed against the state. (2)	Lesbian director... must be put on the list of those to be arrested, lesbian lady	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV

62 Public Broadcaster, “Beyond Love” <https://1tv.ge/show/siyvaruls-mighma/>

	Demanding that she be dismissed from her position because of editorial policy. (2)	Lesbian lady, lesbian manager	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV
	The Public Broadcaster does not cover how America blocks the country's territorial unification and how it staged the revolution in 2003. (1)	Lesbian woman	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV
	Meeting with the Ambassador of Israel. (1)	Gay activist General Director	Aleksandre Palavandishvili, Alt-Info presenter
Paata Kurdadze	Criticism of Stalin (3)	He wears an LGBT T-shirt, it seems he really coughs, latent gay	Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, Sezoni TV
		You non-Frenchman and non-Georgian, you faggot	Grisha Oniani, the society "Stalin"

In addition to manipulating the topics of sexual identity of individual journalists, part of the discrediting campaign also included the labelling of journalists as gay propagandists and liberasts (the term is formed from two words: liberal and pederast), although no examples of this are given in this report.

6. AGAINST CIVIC ACTIVISTS / PUBLISHING HOUSE

To discredit the civic protest, anonymous accounts, both pro-government and pro-Kremlin, disseminated false news with a variety of content. In one case, the targets were feminist Baia Patariaia and the former Public Defender Nino Lomjaria, who were alleged to have initiated the same-sex marriage bill; in another case, the photos of a Belgian Pride member and drag queens were edited so as to portray them as supporters of Lazare Grigoriadisi, who was arrested during the March protests.



Software-edited photo with the caption #FreedomLazare



Genuine photos where the individuals depicted are not holding posters.

Visual manipulation was also used against the Sulakauri Publishing House to create a homophobic context: an LGBT acronym was inserted into the logo of the company using software editing and disseminated on social networks with the call “Boycott the Publishing House.”



The altered logo with the text “Sulakauri no longer hides gayism! Boycott his publishing house!”



The original logo.

It should be noted that the campaign against the Sulakauri Publishing House was launched by pro-Kremlin groups, and then the same message that the publishing house was conducting “LGBT propaganda” was repeated by Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili.⁶³ The campaign against the publishing house was linked to two books. One is “Bedtime Stories for Rebel Girls,” which tells the story of a transgender woman, and the other is “The Donkeyskin,” a fairy tale by 17th century writer Charles Perrault.

Following the March protests that forced the government to withdraw the Russian-style law on Foreign Agents after it passed its first reading, members of Gen Z, who played a crucial role in this protest, became the target of a discrediting campaign. A video manipulation, presented as a Gen Z school prom but in reality, depicting a show by the American band Body War, aimed to condemn them based on moral criteria. In 2022, the same video was distributed to a Russian-language audience in a completely different, anti-European context, claiming to be about an exhibition of contemporary avant-garde art in Norway.

⁶³ Tabula. Pen Center: We Condemn the Appalling Russian Campaign against Sulakauri Publishing House, July 3, 2023 <https://tabula.ge/ge/news/703689-pentsentri-vgmobt-sulakauris-gamomtsemlobis>



The misdescribed video actually depicts a show by the American band, Body War.

It should be emphasized that the post against Baia Pataraiia and Nino Lomjaria, spread by anonymous pro-government accounts, was sponsored.

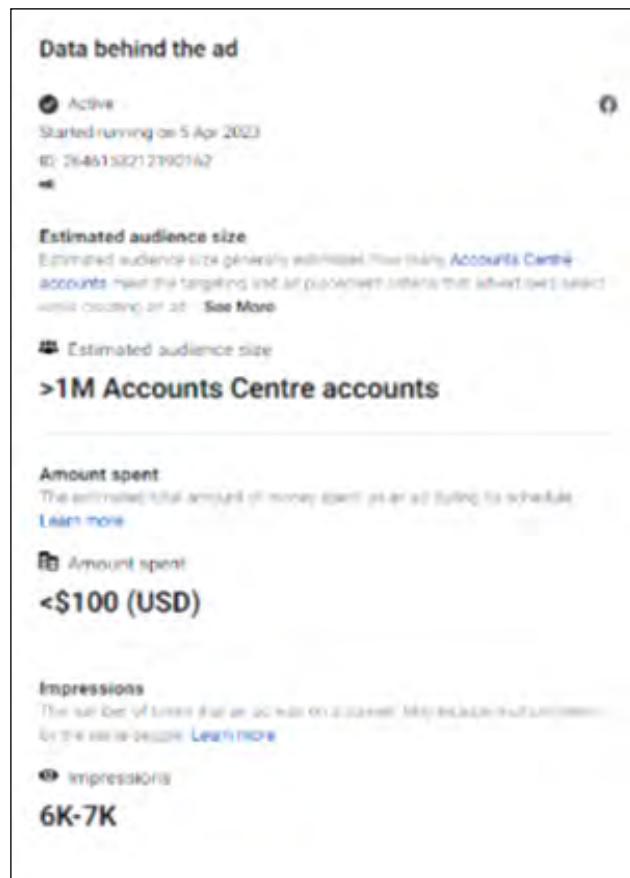


TABLE 12. DISINFORMATION AGAINST CIVIC ACTIVISTS AND THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN SOURCES	RUSSIAN SOURCES
DISINFORMATION AGAINST CIVIC ACTIVISTS AND THE PUBLISHING HOUSE				
Nongovernmental organizations intend to initiate a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. ⁶⁴	Baia Pataraja, Nino Lomjaria	Disinformation	Anonymous pro-government FB pages: პოლიტიკური რენტგენი / Political X-ray, ანტირუსული პლატფორმა – Anti-Russian Platform	
Lazare Grigoriadisi is supported by a Belgian Pride member and drag queens. ⁶⁵	Lazare Grigoriadisi	Photomanipulation	Pro-Kremlin FB accounts: Back Home to Europe	
The logo of Sulakauri Publishing House with LGBT acronym inserted into it. ⁶⁶	Sulakauri Publishing	Photofabrication	Personal FB accounts	
The video, which shows a young man hitting a dustbin with a baseball bat and a woman rolling on the ground and singing, was circulated in Georgia with the caption “the Gen-Z school graduation”, and in Russia as an illustration for an avant-garde art exhibition in Norway. ⁶⁷	Gen-z / Europe	Video manipulation / shaming based on moral criteria	Anonymous pro-government FB account: FB page “This Is Where My Georgia is “	rnk-concept.ru; Россия Новей Ковчег (3)

64 Myth Detector, Who Disseminates Sponsored Disinformation that NGOs Intend to Initiate a Draft-law on Same-sex Marriage? April 6, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/vin-avrtselebs-dasponsorebul-dezinhformatsias-thithqos-arasamthavroebbi-erthsqesiani-qortsinebis-kanonproeqtis-initsirebas-gegmaven/>

65 Myth Detector, Photos Alleging that Belgium Pride Member and Drag Queens Support Grigoriadisi are Fake, April 6, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/photoebi-thithqos-belgiis-praidis-tsevri-da-dreg-qvinebi-grigoriadiss-mkhardatcheras-utskhadeben-qhalbia/>

66 Myth Detector, Altered Logo of Sulakauri Publishing Circulating on Social Network, June23, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/sotsialur-qselshi-bakur-sulakauris-gamomtsemlobis-logos-damushavebuli-versia-vrtseldeba/>

67 Davit Robakidze, Myth Detector, What Does Video Show - GEN-Z School Graduation or American Band?

<https://mythdetector.ge/ka/gen-z-thaobis-bolo-zari-thu-amerikuli-bendi-ras-asakhavs-video/>

7. MISCELLANEOUS

One of the two cases of homophobic disinformation in the miscellaneous category concerned the homosexuality of the son of Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov; in the other case, Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, the leader of the pro-Kremlin political party the Alliance of Patriots, claimed that nanorobots were being used to edit the genome for sexual orientation and gender identity. Another example from this category was the information disseminated by Zneoba.ge about contraception and artificial insemination methods, which had no scientific evidence. The information attributed to Tbilisi City Hall and Channel 1 of the Public Broadcaster about awarding girls who do not wear bras was satirical in nature, but was perceived by many in the social network as a real story.

It should be noted that the information about the marriage of the son of Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov was shared on social networks in different contexts by Georgian, Ukrainian, and Russian users. Some of them shared that the post was an illustration of double standards and a hint at the key message of Kremlin propaganda, which presents Europe as a den of iniquity and Russia as the center of spirituality. After the Myth Detector marked this post on Facebook as false, many users deleted it; however, some posts had clear homophobic overtones.





Images showing the wedding of Vladimir Solovyov’s son. In reality, the photos were taken on a beach in Mexico in October 2017 and feature American models Thad Nelson and Aren Muse.

TABLE 13. GENDER-BASED DISINFORMATION ON VARIOUS TOPICS

CLAIM	TARGET	TYPE OF VIOLATION	GEORGIAN AND OTHER SOURCES	RUSSIAN SOURCES
A son of Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov is homosexual, and he got married. ⁶⁸	Vladimir Solovyov	Disinformation / photomanipulation	Personal Georgian, Ukrainian FB accounts (15)	Personal FB accounts 7
The work is underway on gene editing of sexual orientation and gender identity using nanorobots. ⁶⁹	LGBTQI people	Disinformation	Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, pro-Kremlin party, Alliance of Patriots	
Conception rates are higher among those women who use a spiral; “most viable” embryos are selected for artificial insemination while others are “killed.”	Contraception, artificial dissemination	False information	Zneoba.ge, source: Serb gynecologist Stojan Adasevic	
Tbilisi City Hall will reward every hundredth girl walking without a bra to create a positive mood. ⁷⁰	Tbilisi City Hall	Satire	Personal FB accounts (7)	

⁶⁸ Myth Detector, WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE MODELLING CAREER OF DANIIL SOLOVYOV, AND WHO IS DEPICTED ON THE VIRAL PICTURES? February 20, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/what-do-we-know-about-the-modelling-career-of-daniil-solovyov-and-who-is-depicted-on-the-viral-pictures/>

⁶⁹ Mariam Ramazashvili, DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLEGED NANOTECHNOLOGY-BASED GENOME EDITING OF LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS, June 22, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/disinformation-about-the-alleged-nanotechnology-based-genome-editing-of-lgbtq-individuals/>

⁷⁰ Myth Detector, SATIRICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLEGED TBILISI CITY HALL AWARD FOR WOMEN, June 1, 2023

<https://mythdetector.ge/en/satirical-information-about-the-alleged-tbilisi-city-hall-award-for-women/>

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