

**HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATIVE EXPRESSIONS IN  
GEORGIAN POLITICAL DISCOURSE**

**Media Monitoring Findings**

**17 February -17 May, 2014**

**MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**



The report is prepared by Media Development Foundation within the framework of the project "Advancing National Integration in Georgia" implemented by United Nations Association of Georgia with the support of the United States Agency for International Development. The content of the report is responsibility of Media Development Foundation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID and UNAG.



## Introduction

Media development foundation conducts the media monitoring within the frame of the program "Advancing the National Integration in Georgia" aimed at revealing the xenophobic and discriminative facts in Georgian politics and media and responding to them.

The presented midterm report for the three months (February 17 to May 17) reflects the discriminative statements of representatives political parties and their affiliated organizations, current and former officials, politically active persons who were released from prison with a status of political prisoners. In particular:

- Hate speech,
- Incitement to violence,
- Turkophobia,
- Discrimination on ethnic grounds,
- Discrimination on religious grounds,
- Homophobia,
- Discrimination of persons with disability,
- Anti-Western sentiments.

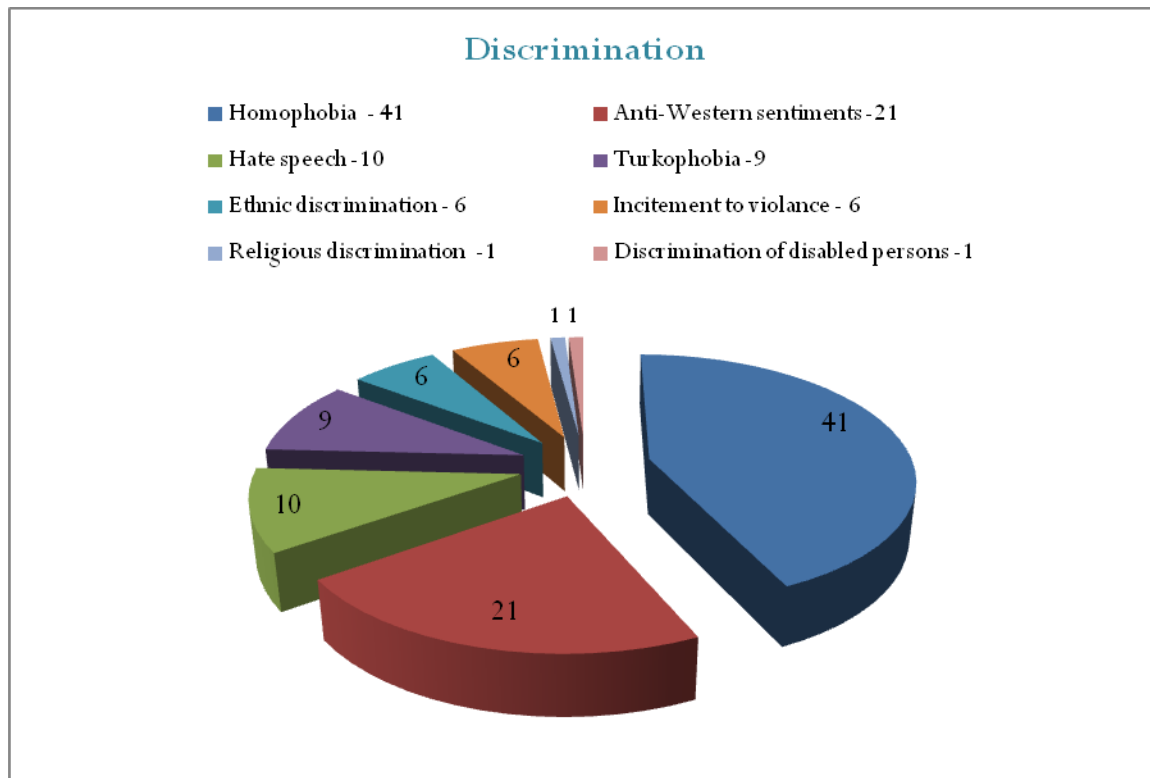
The following media outlets are subject to monitoring: six newspapers (Asaval-Dasavali, Rezonansi, Prime-Time, Qronika, Alia, Kviris Palitra), evening news programs and talk shows of five TV channels (Georgian Public Broadcaster, or GPB, Imedi, Rustavi 2, Kavkasia and Maestro), as well as an evening talk show of Media Union Obiektivi and Tabula TV. Monitoring also involves online media and covers 6 web-portal (Saqinformi, Interpressnews, Netgazeti, Pirveli, Reportioti, Georgia and World - Geworld.ge).

In addition to above listed media outlets, the presented report includes findings of the monitoring of randomly selected other media sources (newspaper "Versia", facebook [source youtube]) which reflect homophobic statements from political officials as well as xenophobic views expressed by Majoritarian Candidate of the oppositional party.

## MAIN FINDINGS OF MONITORING

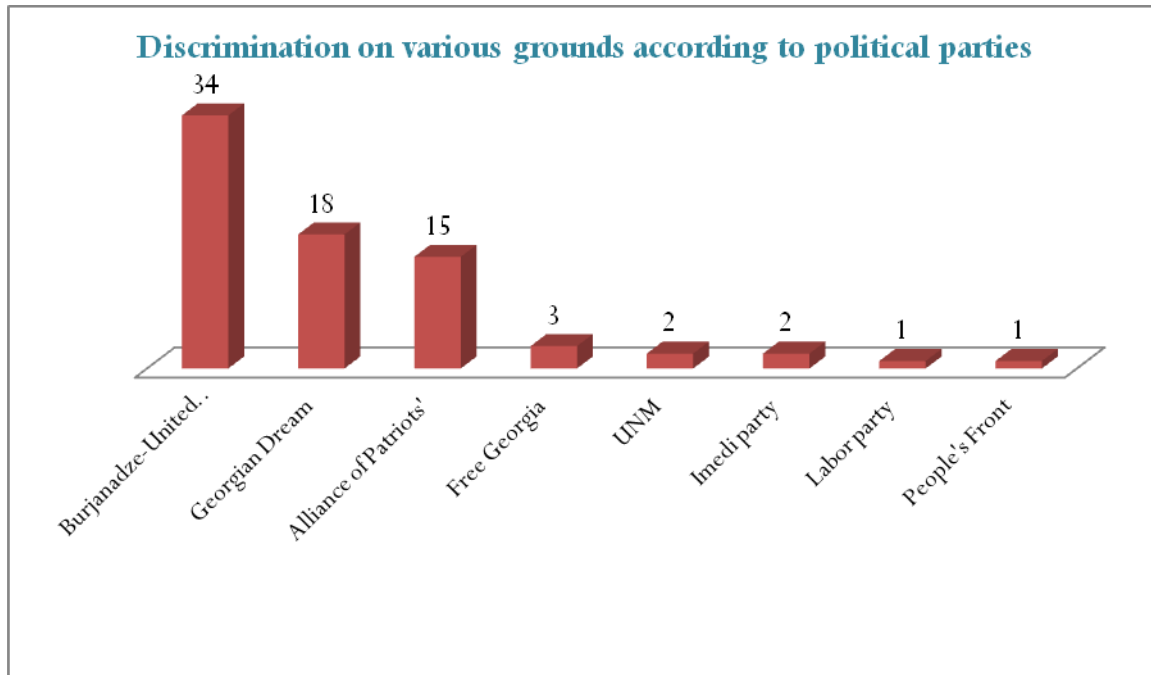
The results of three-month monitoring are as following:

- Most frequently respondents use homophobic statements - 41 cases,
- Followed by anti-Western sentiment - 21,
- Hate speech -10,
- Turkophobia - 9;
- Discrimination on ethnic grounds- 6,
- Incitement to violence - 6,
- Discrimination on religious grounds -1,
- Discrimination of persons with disability - 1.



## Discrimination on various grounds according to political parties

Burjanadze - United Opposition (23) and the People's Assembly (11) are presented jointly - 34; Georgian Dream - 18; Alliance of Patriots -15; Free Georgia - 3; National Movement - 2; Imedi party - 2; Labor Party -1; People's Front -1.



## Persons using discriminative language most frequently



Elizbar Javelidze - People's Assembly-10



Jondi Bagaturia - Burjanadze - United Opposition [Georgian Troup] -9



David Tarkhan-Mouravi- Alliance of Patriots'- 6



Nino Burjanadze - Burjanadze - United Opposition -5



Guram Palavandishvili - Majoritarian candidate from Burjanadze - United Opposition in Tbilisi - 4



Gogi Topadze - Coalition Georgian Dream - 4



Nukri Kantaria - Coalition Georgian Dream - 4



Dima Jaiani - Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia - 4



A top **political official**, who made the homophobic statement during the reporting period was Davit Darakhvelidze, Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.

## Responses

Media Development Foundation in cooperation with partner non-governmental organizations applied various forms of responses to the most severe manifestations of discriminatory expressions.

17 nongovernmental organizations issued a joint statement on the homophobic assessments of Minister Davit Darakhvelidze<sup>1</sup> which was followed by Minister's public explanation claiming that journalist misinterpreted his original statement.

**Close Letter Practice.** Media Development Foundation along with the Georgian Democracy Initiative addressed various parties and institutions through close letters regarding six cases of discriminatory rhetoric revealed during the monitoring:

- Secretary General of Georgian Dream and Speaker of the Parliament - cases related to members of GD (4);
- Chairperson of the Abkhazian Autonomous Government - case linked with the Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia;
- Secretary General of National Movement Party (1).

Letters were intended to force political parties and other institutions to use internal mechanisms to respond on the particular cases of discrimination.

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<sup>1</sup> Media Development Foundation, MDF; Georgian Democracy Initiative, GDI; Tolerance and Diversity Institute, TDI; Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center, EMC; Georgia's Reforms Associates, GRASS; Identoba; Sapari; Article 42 of the Constitution; European Centre for Minority Issues, ECMI; Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, GYLA; Transparency International Georgia, TI; Women's Initiative Support Group, WISG; Association LGBT Georgia; Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies, GISS; Georgian Institute of European Values, GIEV; Media Club "Frontline Georgia"; Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, CENN. May 10 <http://mdfgeorgia.ge/index.php?menuid=4&lang=1&id=228>; Rustavi2 Kurieri May 13, [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2332840%20rustavi](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2332840%20rustavi)

Only National Movement responded to the letter. In response the General Secretary of the UNM states that party has reprimanded the member of Kutaisi organization for using the term "Down syndrom" in the discriminatory context.

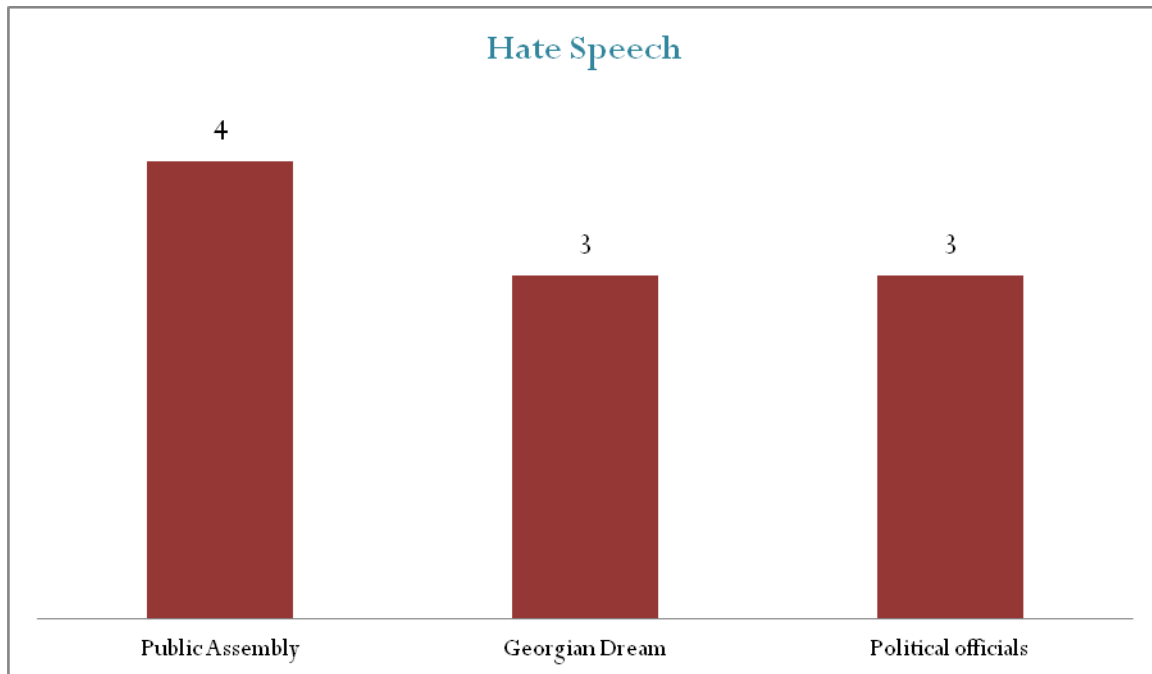
We have also received a response from the administration of Abkhazian Autonomous Government stating that during the interview Dima Jaiani "has expressed his opinion and views not as a Minister of Education and Culture, but as a private person." Moreover, the administration does not share the opinion that Minister's statement was homophobic.

**Response to the videos released in social networks.** The video reflecting the xenophobic views of Ozurgeti Majoritarian candidate from National Movement Party at the local self-governance elections was released in social networks. On the same day the representative of UNM stated that party had decided to withdraw his candidacy, however the UNM was explained that appealing to the Central Election Commission for the removal of candidacy was technically late.



## HATE SPEECH

Most frequently hate speech was used by the Public Assembly, organization associated with the Burjanadze - United Opposition Party (4) and the representatives of Georgian Dream (3). The following political appointees used hate speech: Dima Jaiani, the Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia - (2), who was member of the Public Assembly before assuming the Minister's post; Sandro Bregadze (1), representative of the movement "Nationals" who made hate speech statement before he assumed the post of the Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.



**Public Assembly.** Elizbar Javelidze, representative of Public Assembly used hate speech most frequently towards:

- "those who attack the Church and Georgian traditions, all must be stripped and kicked until they come to their senses", *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 17-23 February);
- United National Movement and its members ["While these criminals [Saakashvili and National Movement members] must be rotten in jail"... *Asaval-Dasavali*, 10-16 March; "Vano Merabishvili must be punished as a cannibal for 26 May," *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 24 February - 2 March);

- Writers for their literary work ("...This sick Karumidze... And I don't believe that Irakli Garibashvili – this truly Georgian man, will agree that this nonentity is going to be ambassador of Georgia!" Asaval-Dasavali, 31 March -6 April).

**Georgian Dream.** Ruling political parliamentary coalition representatives used hate speech:

- **David Lortkipanidze** towards United National Movement ("Unfortunately we cannot sew mouths of the Nationals ... Justice must be restored to such level that their information output gets shut. I want to tell these walking corpses..." Asaval-Dasavali, 17-23 February).
- **Gogi Topadze** towards Fadi Asli, chairman of the Internation Chamber of Commerce ("That someone... who have arrived from somewhere... He turned us into a country of bananas... Had you been impaled when you deserved it, you would not have talked so much now... Why this infidel did not speak up back then," Kavkasia TV, 27 March)<sup>2</sup>.

**Soso Jachvliani** towards Georgian writers ("This nonentity who is enemy of holiness [Lasha Bugadze]... These scoundrels get money for fighting against Georgian holy things, spirituality, Orthodox religion, mother-Church! They are ideological bastards of Allen Dulles and executors of his dirty doctrine!" Asaval-Dasavali, 31 March - 6 April).

### Political appointees

Dima Jainia, Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia used hate speech towards:

- UNM and its General secretary ("there is a huge line of people ready to slaughter him!.. The people will not forgive this gang anything! When the court does not do its job, people themselves take its functions in their hands, and take the swords of justice in their hands too! And woe to those, who will get under this sword!" Asaval-Dasavali, 3-6 March);

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<sup>22</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2294841](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2294841)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2294839](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2294839)

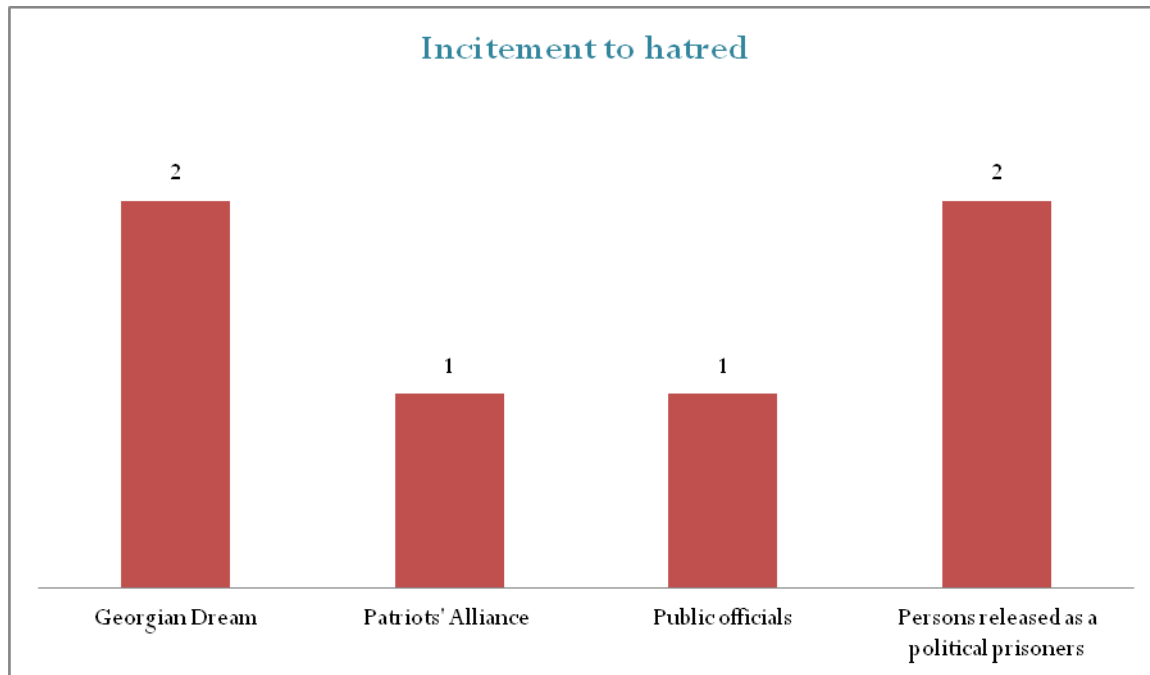
- LGBT groups ("You non-men! Don't madden the people or the last year's 17 May will be a cakewalk! The government must do everything for the Rustaveli cinema... not to be defiled by apology of buggery!", Asaval-Dasavali, 21-27 April).

Sandro Bregadze, leader of "Nationals" who was appointed as a Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia on June 1, used hate speech towards:

- Supporter of the UNM ("Gia Nodia – an animal resembling human being, who hates Georgian Church and shows open aggression towards it. The enemy of our Mother Church Gia Nodia...") and UNM members ("This is the enemy of Georgia and Georgians. The force that must be removed from the political arena as quickly as possible", Asaval-Dasavali, 24 February - 2 March).

## Incitement to hatred

Hatred was incited by representatives of Georgian Dream (2), Patriots' Alliance (10), public official (1) and persons released as a political prisoner (2).



### Georgian Dream

- Vice-speaker of the Parliament Murman Dumbadze applied discriminative expressions and incitement to physical violence towards the head of Khelvachauri organization of the Free Georgia Party Merab Ghoghoberidze (He is insane... I will name the people who have beaten this man during the last three days... When someone insults your mother, you must respond... I don't prohibit my son, or brother, or friend, or supporter, or any citizen from beating a person who insults a mother, such man must be beaten", Rustavi 2, Kurieri, 10 March)<sup>3</sup>.
- Georgian Dream member Zaza Papuashvili was justifying physical violence against UNM member Nugzar Tsiklauri ("Slapping Nugzar Tsiklauri should not cause such uproar"...) and encouraging violent retribution ("Parliament is not a place for skirmish

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2282168](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2282168)

but outside it one can engage in fistfight with these people... “If a conflict erupts, believe me, everything will end up in battering them.” Kviris Palitra, 7-13 April).

### Alliance of Patriots

- Incitement to violence was observed towards the members of UNM by representative of Alliance of Patriots ("Stay in your holes and keep thanking God every second that a father of some raped prisoner did not meet you near your home and break your head," Reportiori, 24 February).

### Public Official

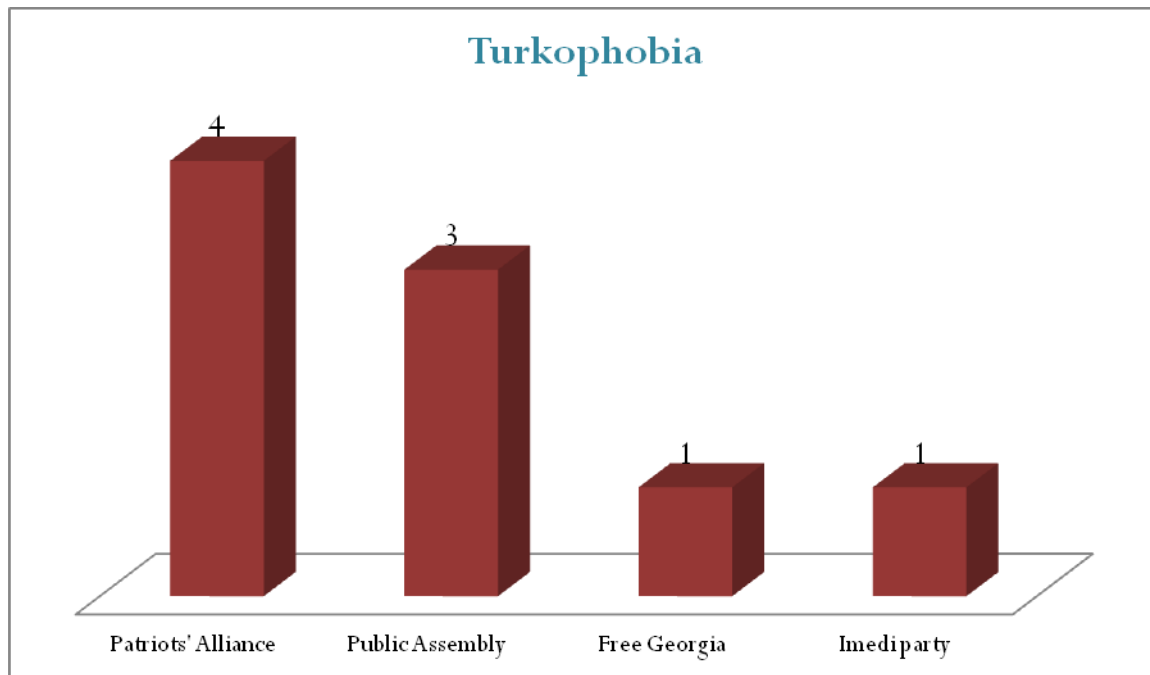
- Calls for violence against the former President of Georgia and UNM members came from Luka Kurtanidze, the deputy rector of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Police Academy ("If Saakashvili gets hit by 10 bullets, one of these bullets will certainly be from Luka Kurtanidze... This does not concern Saakashvili only. There are many Saakashvilis in this country in the persons of Minashvili, Gabashvili, Ugulava, Taktakishvili... Let no one think that the fight is over, " newspaper *Alia*, 15 April).

### Persons discharged as a political prisoners

- Lavan Chachua imprisoned with a members of "Orthodox Parents Union" in 2010 for violent incident during live broadcasting of TV company Kavkasia and discharged in 2013 as a political prisoner, was inciting violence against Georgian Dream ruling coalition (“Government is pre-occupied by protecting the rights of gays and lesbians... I can assure you that, people who are furies with injustice, that they may tearing into bits those liar ministers of *Georgian Dream*, with the same “enthusiasm” as it happened to the *National Movement* killer representatives!” Asaval-Dasavali, 12-18 May).
- Revaz Kldiashvili, released as a political prisoner was calling for violent retribution against UNM ("We'll set our scores with the Nationals ourselves. If we have to take up weapons, we'll do just that." Asaval-Dasavali, 14-20 April).

## Turkophobia

Turkophobic statements were made by representatives of following parties: Alliance of Patriots (4), Public Assembly (3), Free Georgia (1), Imedi party (1). Turkey was portrayed as main cause of Georgia's economic failure and an occupant force of Georgia.



### Patriots' Alliance:

- **David Tarkhan-Mouravi:** "Georgian pheasants no longer exist, the country have been destroyed... We pay money and they bring in rubbish... It is a strategic vampire rather than a strategic partner, which takes out money earned through labor of Georgian people" (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 21 March).

"It has been 95 or 96 years now that Turkey has had 30 percent of our territory occupied"(Obiektivi, Night Studio, 26 March)<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2290232](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2290232); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2290948](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2290948)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2293431](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293431); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2293441](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293441)

“Lots of Turks have arrived in Ajara, their government financed them to rent real estate property... They create an illusion of creating jobs... As a result 37 000 Turks are residing in Batumi today. I suppose it is an occupation of a country and when government encourages this kind of actions, it is already a disgrace of your country” (Imedi, Reakcia, 16 May).<sup>5</sup>;

- **Soso Manjavidze:** “It is Turkey here, which is so dangerous.” (Kavkasia TV, Bariერი, 1 April)<sup>6</sup>.

### Public Assembly:

- **Gia Burjanadze:** "Does not Turkey occupy Georgia?.. Your government [National Movement] helped Turkish expansion in Georgia" (Imedi Tv, Reaktsia, 21 February).
- **Elizbar Javidze:** "If Russia disintegrates, we will have problems besides Abkhazia and Samachablo! First the hordes of North Caucasians will roll over Georgia to get access to sea! Then Turkey will do something to us!" (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 10-16 March).

“Quite a serious threat will come from Turkey... Turkey has not yet got used to the idea that it lost Adjara... Bad processes are under way in Adjara.” (Kviris Qronika, 17-23 March).

### Free Georgia

- **Merab Gogoberidze:** “...when Dumbadze supported the construction of a mosque, I took a maquette of the mosque to his three-story house and told him ‘why should a mosque be built in the center of Batumi, let you give your house to Turks’...” (*Kviris Qronika* newspaper, 17-23 March).

### Imedi party

- **Irina Sarishvili:** "Turkey will rule in Crimea... no one will remember Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region then, there will be new problems, especially since our homeland is already filled with the Turkish “businesses” and serials!!! Maybe someone thinks it is support of Ukraine that they will give out Turkish passports there?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" (Geworld.ge, 4 March).

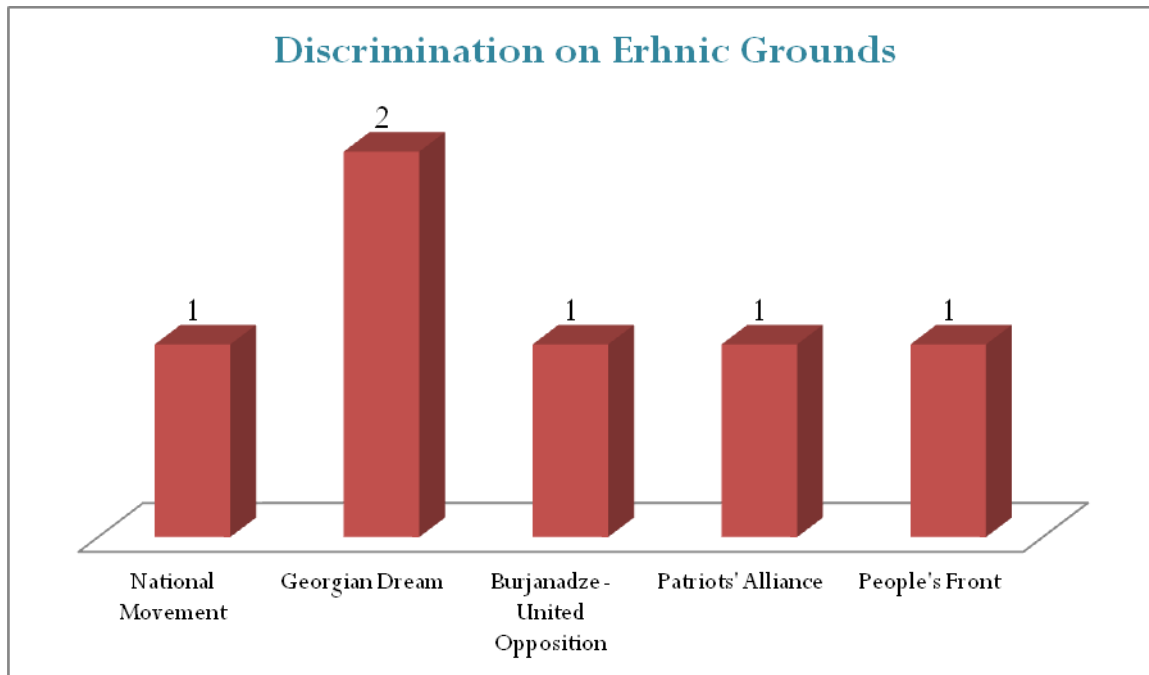
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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2338245](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2338245)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2338245](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2338245)

## Discrimination on Ethnic Grounds

Discrimination on ethnic grounds was applied by representatives of the United National Movement (1), Georgian Dream (2), Burjanadze - United Opposition (Georgian Troup) (1), Patriots' Alliance (1) and People's Fron (1). UNM stated that party had decided to withdraw his candidacy for local self-government elections.



### United National Movement

- On 1 June video depicting statement of Ilia Malazonia, one of participants of the protest rally organized against Turkish and Iranian restaurants in 2013, was disseminated in social media ("Georgia without Turks. Georgia is not a place for Iranians")<sup>7</sup>. Information was also spread that Ilia Malazonia was majoritarian candidate of UNM in Ozurgeti for local self-government elections of 2014. Zurab Japaridze, UNM MP responded in social media on the same day that the party made decision to withdraw his candidacy, however as it was later explained by UNM there was insufficient time left for CEC to accomplish their request.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDPZ8jWpUCY&feature=youtu.be&t=2m34>



## Georgian Dream

- **Tamaz Avdaliani, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee:** "The goal of this bill [amendments to law on citizenship] is for the people born in Georgia and their descendants to get citizenship without problems, and for the others, who have no relation to Georgia, for instance those who have come from Africa, to have other criteria... given that we are developing, we don't really need extra spongers" (Alia newspaper, 12 March).
- **Gogi Topadze:** "It was unpleasant to see so many Arabs in Paris, France. Paris had lost its charm with so many foreigners there" (Netgazeti, 15 May)<sup>8</sup>.

## Georgian Troupe (Burjanadze -United Opposition)

- **Jondi Bagaturia:** "Georgia is where they pray and write in Georgian, and if we let Turkish and Arabian and Mongolian banners on Plekhanov Ave., we'll get a small Turkey or Mongolia in the middle of Tbilisi " (Kavkasia TV, Today, 14 April)<sup>9</sup>.

## Patriots' Alliance

- **Vazha Otarashvili:** „I don't remember that during history of Georgia any of our neighboring countries sent us an army of help... So we must be ready for everything – we are threatened from Russia, Armenia, as well as from Turkey and Azerbaijan“ (*Rezonansi* newspaper, 4 April).

## People's Front

- **Nodar Natadze:** „It is also a treason... that they settled Turks in Batumi, tried to create Chinese towns in Tbilisi and Anaklia" (*Rezonansi* newspaper, 3 March).

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/31453/.htm>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2309520](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2309520)

### Person discharged as a political prisoner

Discrimination on religious grounds have been applied by Shota Apkhaidze, a person released from jail with the status of political prisoner, in relation to the award given by US State Department to the Bishop of Evangelical-Baptist Church Rusudan Gotsiridze.

- **Shota Apkhaidze:** "By this step America has shown us... that it prefers Evangelical-Baptist Church over the Orthodox one... We must establish that activities of the sects are anti-constitutional, threaten the citizens and Georgia, which must be prohibited by law... Activities of all suspicious organizations must be investigated, their finances must be controlled" (Geworld.ge, 12 March)<sup>10</sup>.

Shota Apkhaidze was imprisoned in 2010 for storming Kavkasia TV channel during a live broadcast and was released as a political prisoner in 2013.

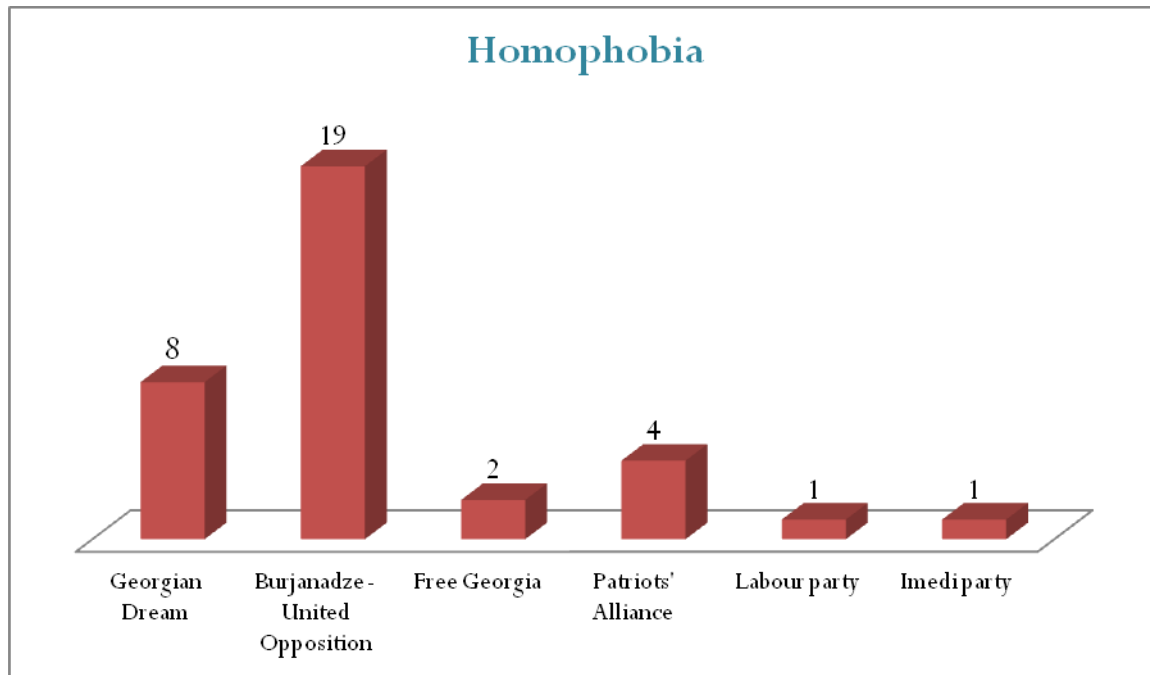
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<sup>10</sup> <http://geworld.net/View.php?ArtId=5714&Title=miSel+obama+qarTvel+baptistebs+lobirebs&lang=ge>

## Homophobia

Homophobic statements were most frequently made in the context of anti-discrimination law by members of Nino Burjanadze - United Opposition coalition (19) followed by Georgian Dream (8), Free Georgia (2), Patriots' Alliance (4), Labour party (1), Imedi party (1).

### Political party



### Georgian Dream

- **Nukri Kantaria:** “Except propaganda, let anyone do whatever they like. Prides and something like that are not needed” (Netgazeti, 28 March)<sup>11</sup>.

“...of course it [homosexuality] is perversion, pathology” (Maestro TV, Subjective Opinion, 2 May)<sup>12</sup>.

“For me, personally, this is obviously abnormal. It is definitely a sin from religious point of view, but it is also perversion...” (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 5 May)<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/29743/>

<sup>12</sup> [http://maestro.ge/menu\\_id/47/id/273/lang/1](http://maestro.ge/menu_id/47/id/273/lang/1)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2328210](https://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2328210)

- **Zaza Papuashvili:** „... if healthy men decide to walk on Rustaveli with sexual act, where will it lead us? Then someone will have problem of mumps, so they will gather and there will be no end of these parades... That people should not insult the public opinion, should not swear“ (Public Broadcaster, Moambe, 29 April)<sup>14</sup>.
- "They can do anything they want at home. I call on the people of untraditional sexual orientation to defend interests of the country where they live" (Interpressnews, 29 April)<sup>15</sup>.  
  
"I have other things to do instead of following some homosexuals and beating them... I will never support its legalization and propaganda" (Kavkasia TV, Today, 29 April)<sup>16</sup>.
- **Gogi Topadze:** "Would you be pleased to see two men on the wedding, coming out of the registry office and hugging each other?.. Yet, if you want democracy and freedom, you will have to endure them. Nevertheless loud publicity of this lifestyle is unacceptable".  
(Netgazeti, 15 May)<sup>17</sup>.
- **Omar Nishninidze:** "This can definitely be named as intrusion, that's what it is. When you dear to come and hold demonstration on the central street, right in front of the majority and general society, I call it violence against the majority... don't you see the difference between faggots and respect of parents? I am sorry, but this is something different, but that is horridness" (Netgazeti, 16 May)<sup>18</sup>.

### Nino Burjanadze - United Opposition

- **Nino Burjanadze:** "I will never accept legalization of homosexuality, incest... I will move to progress by the road of tradition, but to the progress that is in accordance with normal, healthy human psychics" (Pirveli, 2 May)<sup>19</sup>.
- „This law in fact establishes untraditional sexual relations as a norm...If a person does not advertise this and lives his own life, nobody will interfere in his life, but if a

<sup>14</sup> <http://1tv.ge/news-view/68325>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/politika/279687-zaza-papuashvili-mivmarthav-aratradiციული-სეკსუალური-ორიენტაციის-ადამიანებს-დაიკვან-იმ-ყვეყნის-ინტერესები-სადაც-ckhovroben.html?ar=A](http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/politika/279687-zaza-papuashvili-mivmarthav-aratradiციuli-seqsualური-orientაციის-ადამიანებს-დაიკვან-იმ-ყვეყნის-ინტერესები-სადაც-ckhovroben.html?ar=A)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2323430](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2323430)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/31453/.htm>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/31473/.htm>

<sup>19</sup> [http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=12733&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=12733&lang=geo)

person tells children that untraditional sexual relationship is a norm, then of course such a person must not work here“ (Imedi TV, Rektsia, 2 May)<sup>20</sup>.

“As concerend to the propaganda of something unacceptable for us, Georgian people and the country itself should not allow anyone to advocate it” (*Rezonansi* newspaper, 7 May).

"It is quite possible, that we have people working at schools and kindergartens, who openly state their sexual orientation. They may start assuring children that there is nothing wrong in being a sexual minority. This is something that I will oppose“ (*Rezonansi* newspaper, 12 May).

"Yes, I am objecting to what is happening in the country, in fact it is propaganda [of homosexuality] and we are told that it is normal, that its is possible to tell a child in kindergarten that you are neither girl nor a boy and you can decide 20 years later who you are“ (Maestro TV, Subjective Opinion, 15 May)<sup>21</sup>.

- **Dimitri Lortkipanidze, Tbilisi mayoral candidate from ‘Nino Burjanadze-United Opposition’:** „The issue of sexual discrimination is direct propaganda, legalization, which causes major threat to the moral interests of the society “ (Maestro TV, Subjective Opinion, 28 April)<sup>22</sup>.

"I totally disapprove the definition of homophobia- the way it is adopted in some of the member states... the imposition of wrong sexual lifestyle has to be definitely condemned. We have to ban propaganda with gay parades and performances in the name of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I will safeguard the rights of Georgian citizen!" (Rustavi 2, Theme of the Week, 18 May)<sup>23</sup>.

- **Paata Jibladze:** “I am a father of three children, I will not bear, if my sons have a teacher in unisex marriage, delivering lessons about brave Georgian Kings, and about our saints! “(*Asaval-Dasavali* Newspaper, 12-18 May)<sup>24</sup>.
- **Irakli Batiashvili:** “This is a fundamentally wrong philosophy. It is wrong to put sexual minorities in the same category as people who are different based on their skin-color, belief, race or the way of thinking... Government should protect everyone, including murderers, prisoners; they should be punished in the name of

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<sup>20</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2329603](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2329603)

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2333777](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2333777)

<sup>22</sup> [http://maestro.ge/menu\\_id/47/id/204/lang/1](http://maestro.ge/menu_id/47/id/204/lang/1)

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2338159](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2338159)

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2014/1020.html>

law. It doesn't matter if he is a pederast or anybody else, he is a human... if we follow the same logic and group of Satanists start requesting the same, I am curious to know, will they also be called as a discriminated group?" (Kavkasia, Barieri, 14 May)<sup>25</sup>.

- **Giorgi Akhvlediani, Christian-Democratic Movement:** "I will never go to a wedding of Giorgi and Levani!" (Maestro, Subjective Opinion, 28 March)<sup>26</sup>.

„We have seen that the current government with its pseudo-liberal ideas is legalizing immorality as a norm"(Interpressnews, 29 April)<sup>27</sup>.

- **Jondi Bagaturia, Georgian Troupe:** "This law legalizes the pervert sexual orientation of a homosexual as a moral norm... By this norm not just same-sex marriage is legalized, but employment of gays and lesbians in kindergartens, or how do you imagine an army where commander is a homosexual? Or work of a homosexual in the penitentiary system? Remember, when they showed us the prison videos where employees of penitentiary are raping prisoners... all these crimes were committed by homosexuals... This law will attach people to this perversion" (*Alia* newspaper, 16 April).

“According to the moral norms widely recognized by the society, homosexuality, for me, is an anomaly... Sodomites, drug addicts and ones with other such identities must not have a right to work as teachers in kindergartens and schools, must not have a right to work in the penitentiary system, or national defense system" (Kavkasia TV, Barieri, 22 April)<sup>28</sup>.

„There should be at least one vote against establishment of gay dictatorship, Georgia is not like its Parliament " (Reportiori, 28 April)<sup>29</sup>.

„As to homosexuality, this is a deviation from the norm. A deviation and anomaly" (Imedi, Reaktsia, 2 May)<sup>30</sup>.

„Massive rapes and tortures of prisoners – all who took part in it were homosexuals. A different kind of man just does not do it..." (Public Broadcaster, Moambe, 30 April)<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2339077](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2339077)

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2295612](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2295612)

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/politika/279618-giorgi-akhvlediani-khelisufleba-gvikanonebs-sodomisa-da-gomoris-aghiaebas.html?ar=A>

<sup>28</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2318602](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2318602)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=24574>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2329388](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2329388)

„Is incest a norm? Is pedophilia or necrophilia a norm? This is a deviation from the norm, right? So let us say that people who deviate from the norm, like a drug addicts or the sexual deviation that a person has..." (Kavkasia TV, Today, 29 April)<sup>32</sup>.

“According to the first article of anti-discrimination law, the way our parliamentarians adopted it, sexual orientation is legal, it is a norm and it is not abnormal or pathology. The parliamentarians do state, that those people are not ill and they are normal! What happens next is, that homosexual or lesbian will request gay marriage. If they are rightful by the law, they will request to be married”(Asaval-Dasavali, 12-18 May)<sup>33</sup>.

- **Guram Palavandishvili, majoritarian candidate of Mtatsminda district [was penalized for an incident in which he, alongside other extremists, tore down the posters and damaged the rostrum that had been prepared for celebrating the Jewish holiday Hanukkah and called on President not to light the candle]:**“We can do it, we will unite in the parliament... the propaganda of homosexuals, gay parades, disgusting images, and photographs and so on will be forbidden.” (Public Broadcaster, First Studio, 16 May)<sup>34</sup>.

“It is also obvious for you that the foreign value which we are afraid to adopt is homosexuality... it is proclaimed as a natural norm already and their discrimination is viewed as equal with the rights of other natural minorities (race, sex, ethnicity)” (Geworld.ge, 3 April)<sup>35</sup>.

“...if we want to build a state which is based on true, Georgian, national values and which respects Christian values, we must speak up against legalizing homosexuality as a norm!.... Otherwise, we will soon find ourselves in a similar situation with Europe and America where sexual minorities dictate the agenda!” (Asaval-Dasavali, 7-13 April).

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<sup>31</sup> <http://1tv.ge/news-view/68392>

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2323430](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2323430)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2014/1020.html>

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2336310](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2336310)

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5787>

## Non-Parliamentary Opposition (Kakha Kukava, Fikria Chikradze)

### Free Georgia

- **Alexander Shalamberidze:** "This is absurd and serves not protection of the sexual minority's rights, but legalization of the filth of the same-sex people" (Interpressnews, 29 April)<sup>36</sup>.
- **Kakha Kukava:** "Sexual orientation means a million of other monstrosities besides homosexuality, like for example necrophilia, pedophilia, etc. This is not specified in the law. It just says "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" (Rezonansi newspaper, 3 May).

### Alliance of Patriots

- **David Tarkhan-Mouravi:** "I do approve one thing though, in France there is a special place for this type of people in the woods of Boulogne. We can also place them [LGBT] somewhere in the Khudadov woods, they can walk around there and express their protest"(Obiketivi, Night Studio, 13 May)<sup>37</sup>.
- **Vaja Otarashvili:** "If he needs it so badly, let Usupashvili give us an example publicly by marrying his boy to a boy and marrying his daughter to a girl. All 112 members of parliament, who vote for the law, could do the same" (geworld.ge, 8 May)<sup>38</sup>.
- **Irma Inashvili, Tbilisi mayoral candidate:** "Those groups try to impose the mentality that is intolerable for Georgians... Every day we see propaganda over something that is inexistent in reality, for example, abuse of LGBT rights. Will anyone object if they abuse the rights of the Orthodox" (Imedi TV, Reaktsia, 16 May)<sup>39</sup>.
- **Giorgi Lomia:** "Existence of a third gender is intolerable. I know about transsexuals, transvestites, bisexuals....this is a psychological perversion" (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 12 May)<sup>40</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/politika/279631-aleqsandre-shalamberidze-patriarqis-thkhovna-ignorirebulia.html?ar=A>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=16935>

<sup>38</sup> <http://geworld.net/View.php?ArtId=5870&lang=ge&Title=vaja+oTaraSvili+:+%C2%ABdidma+reJisorma%C2%BB+biZina+ivaniSvilma+xalxs+pirSi+Cala+gamoavlo!>

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2338131](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2338131)

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2335045](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2335045)



## Labour Party

- **Giorgi Khorghanashvili:** "I will not allow those LGBTs to hang out here, I will manage somehow, and I think I will succeed, to completely disallow them in Tbilisi" (Public Broadcaster, 15 May)<sup>41</sup>.

## Imedi Party

- **Irina Sarishvili:** "Who is Matthew Bryza? The first experimental example of LGBT in Georgia" (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 24 February - 2 March).

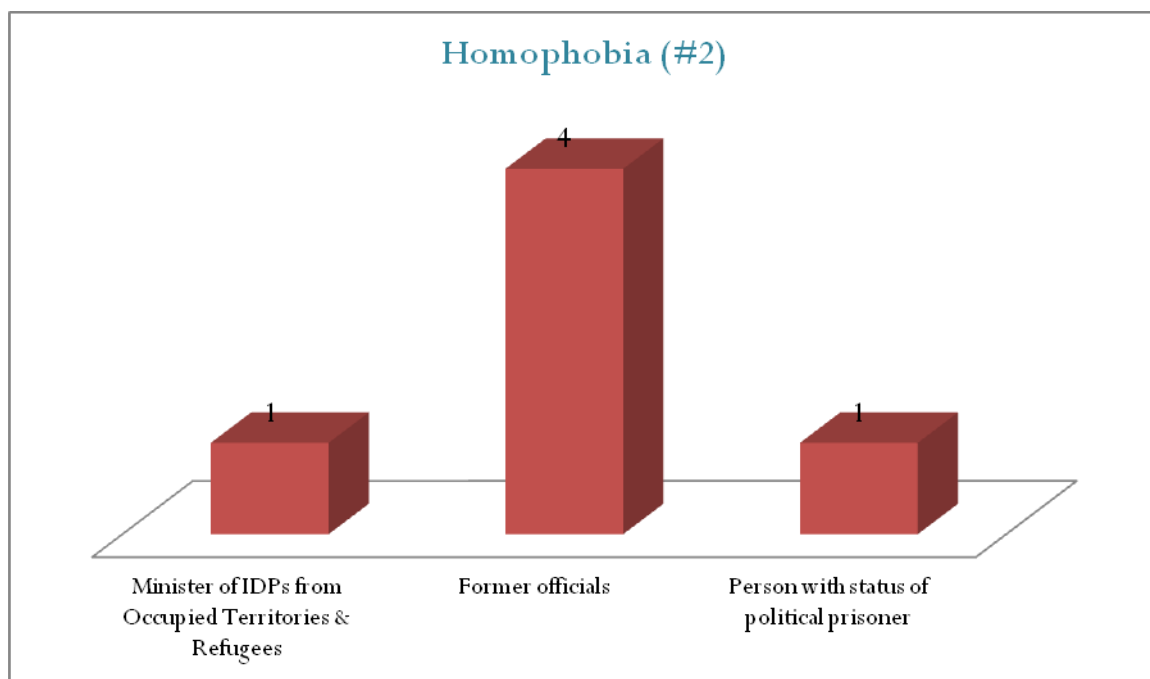
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<sup>41</sup> <http://1tv.ge/news-view/69248>

## Acting and former public officials, persons discharged as a political prisoners

David Darakhvelidze, the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia was a high ranking political official who made homophobic assessment (1). Due to racist statements which he made during the election campaign in the run up to 2012 parliamentary elections, the civil sector addressed the candidate for the position of Prime minister to revise his decision about appointing Darakhvelidze as the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.

Homophobic statements were also made by former officials (4) and a person released as a political prisoner(1).



### Political Officials

- David Darakhvelidze, the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees: "Homosexuals are diseased people and should only be pitied. These people, however, organize rallies whilst those people who support them and are of absolutely normal sexual orientation, earn living by means of these rallies. We are not even able to promote the job we are doing and fully inform society about it and why should a person with sexual deviation publicize this?!" (*Vesria* newspaper, 9 May).

## Former Officials

- **Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, former Vice-speaker of the Parliament:** “Do you like their perverts, homosexuality, that immorality? Who will like that?! Am I mad to like that?” (*Kavkasia* TV, Spektri, 17 March)<sup>42</sup>.
- **Valery Khaburdzania, former security minister:** " dirty people impose their way of life on the society... if you are genetically and hormonally such, then you must get treatment, and if you cannot then at least don't make your private life public and don't impose this on society" (Geworld.ge, 6 March)<sup>43</sup>.
- **Koba Narchemashvili, former MIA Minister:** "Human beings, with their empirical experience and life, have differentiated between evil and good, beautiful and ugly... This fact [homosexuality] was called bad thing before“ (*Alia* newspaper, 17 April).
- **Valeri Gelbakhiani, former member of Parliament:** „If the rest of the issue is discriminatory, then hell with the sexual orientation as the main value“ (*Alia* newspaper, 1 May).

## Person discharges as a political prisoner

- **Levan Chachua:** „Now the Georgian society can imagine how people of such orientation will protect internal or external security of the state, imagine homosexual prison official or guard or homosexual police or army officer!" (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 21-27 April).

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<sup>42</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2286290](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2286290)

<sup>43</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5698>

### United National Movement

Discriminating statement about disabled persons in the context of a political argument was expressed by the representative of the National Movement. MDF in partnership with Georgian Democracy Initiative addressed the UNM with close letter to discuss the case by internal party mechanisms. We received response from UNM according to which Giorgi Ukleba has been reprimanded.

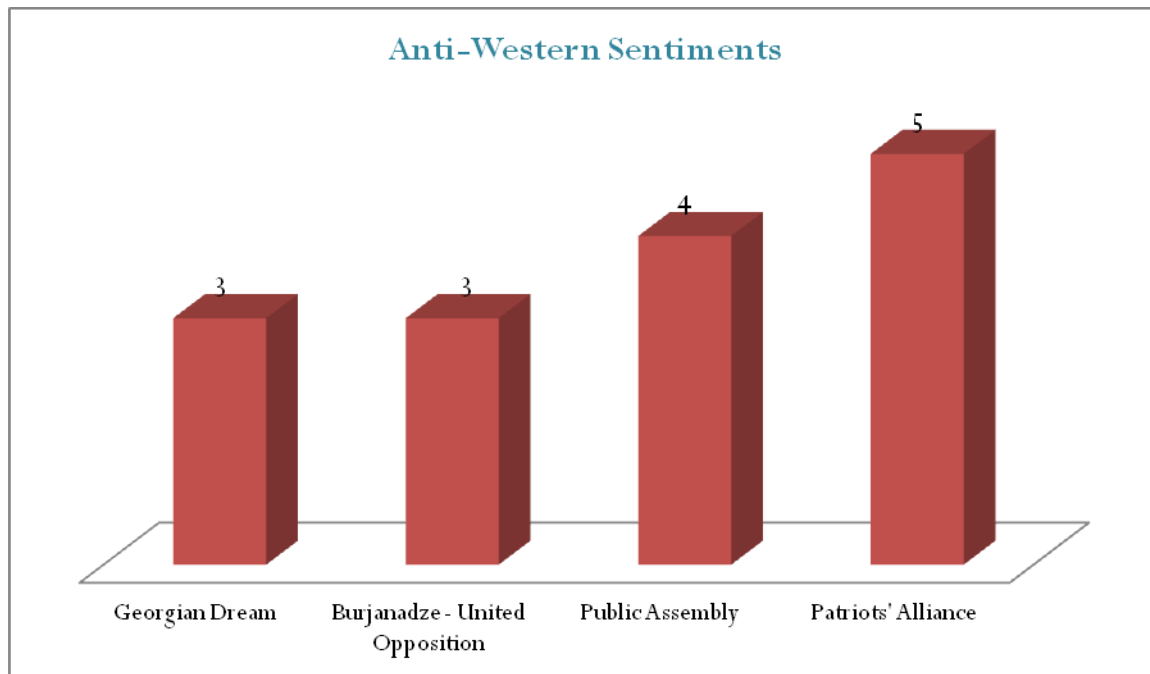
- **Giorgi Ukleba, Chairman of the National Movement fraction in Kutaisi City Council:** „It was a total Downism to appoint a Mayoral candidate going to turn Kutaisi into a warehouse city – Khatia Vedmedeva as manager of the opera house, now we have to listen to this foolishness about Nationals being active about budget transactions and using this to fight against the opera house manager, this is even worse than Downism“ (Pirveli, 14 March)<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> [http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=7459&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7459&lang=geo)

## Anti-Western Sentiments

Anti-Western sentiments were incited by representatives of Georgian Dream (3), Burjanadze - United Opposition (3), Public Assembly (4), Alliance of Patriots (5).



### Georgian Dream

- **Soso Jachvliani, Georgian Dream:** "There[in Ukraine] great interests have Russia, also Europe and America... When you go there and clearly take sides, it should point that you are not right."

**Journalist:** "Whom do you mean?"

**Soso Jachvliani:** "That American diplomats who go there and give out biscuits and something. If someone supports me in such a way, I will overthrow any government " (Prime-Time, 24 February).

- **Nukri Kantaria, Georgian Dream MP:** "There is already a shortage of British in London and they are gradually decreasing and now they try as much as they can [to reverse the process], because it became overcrowded with immigrants, mainly Afro-Americans, Arabs, Turks and other people. Locals are becoming a minority and they start to panic. This is not the case only with Britain.... That [Anders] Breivick is ill, but why he became ill? There are certain bacilli and you see that. When we arrived in

London, it happened there too – someone killed people in a street and then he was liquidated too. Things are in disorder in this regard” (Netgazeti, 28 March).

- "They are set in their own ways [in Europe]... there are some topics that cannot be appreciated by everyone ... they impose the laws about: gay marriage, gender relations, sexual, I don't even know how to put it delicately; if two men get married, they adopt a child, it means that this child will also grow up in misunderstanding... This is what Europe demands. Of course it is not as categorical as the initially proposed law; we have made several amendments to make it more dissent, but in my opinion this is not going to be acceptable for Caucasians” (Netgazeti, 15 May)<sup>45</sup>.

### Burjanadze - United Opposition

- **Dimitry Lortkipanidze, mayoral candidate:** „This rubbish claim that our main goal today is Euro-Atlantic structures must end once and for all“ (Geworld.ge, 3 April).
- **Jondi Bagaturia, Georgian Troupe:** „Those who, say, will be against their parades will break the law, according to this anti-discriminatory law. If some same sex people want to wed in a church and a priest tries to stop them, then this priest also becomes a law breaker, because he violates their rights... Is this our European choice?!“ (Reportiori, 14 April)<sup>46</sup>.
- **Guram Palavandishvili:** “Then, we must say no to such EU which disregards thousand-year-old Georgia traditions and belief!” (Asaval-dasavali, 7-13 April).

### Public Assembly

- **Elizbar Javelidze, People' Assembly:** "Absolute majority of the Ukrainian people don't want to get into this perverted and depraved European family!" (Asaval-Dasavali, 24 February - 2 March).

"This not “heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people”, but the West's dirty battle against Russia, in which Ukrainians are being used as cannon fodder!" (Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 March).

“Now the question arises: are gay prides, same sex marriage our historical choice?! Or is it the offense of religion and church, which is an ordinary phenomenon in Europe?!” (Geworld.ge, 20 March)<sup>47</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/31453/.htm>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=23226>

<sup>47</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5737>

"Just like America and NATO dismembered Georgia on purpose, they are doing same thing to Ukraine!.. We Georgians could not be made into Romans, Persians, Greeks, Arabs, Turks, Russians, and I am sure they won't be able to make us into Americans and Europeans either!" (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, 14-20 April).

### Alliance of Patriots

- **Soso Manjavidze:** "It was directly said that if such rough pressure continued and we were made to make a choice between same-sex marriages and other "fascinating" things or EU membership, the Georgian people would say no to EU and Europe in general and choose directly northern vector of political orientations... Do we want a male to marry other male and the state to be obliged to register this? And even more, right? Adopting children and thousand other things of this type?" (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 4 March)<sup>48</sup>.

"There is a very strong lobby from the West that forces Georgian law makers to make the most unpopular decisions." (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 5 May).

**Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance:** "Europe actually destroyed Greece, erased its economy, trampled upon its culture, morals, orthodox Christianity... They [Europe] even demand that women be allowed to the Mount Athos, et cetera... There is a fight against Greek culture and actually against Greek conscious, I mean Orthodox conscious... Greece with its territory and buildings now actually belongs to Europe."

**Bondo Mdzinarishvili, presenter:** "In other words, this is the fight for Orthodox Christianity."

**Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi:** "Of course and seeing that, pro-Russian sentiments have been on the rise there because Russia is the Orthodox Christian country too..." (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 21 March)<sup>49</sup>.

"We must demand that a prohibition be written [in the Association Agreement] that no regional status be granted to Armenian language, Azerbaijani language.... We must write down that no Meskhetian Turks be accepted save Georgians. Those who are ethnic Georgians are welcome, those who are not – no... No same-sex marriage..." (Obiektivi, Night Studio, 26 March)<sup>50</sup>.

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<sup>48</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2277168](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2277168); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2277188](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2277188)

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2290993](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2290993)

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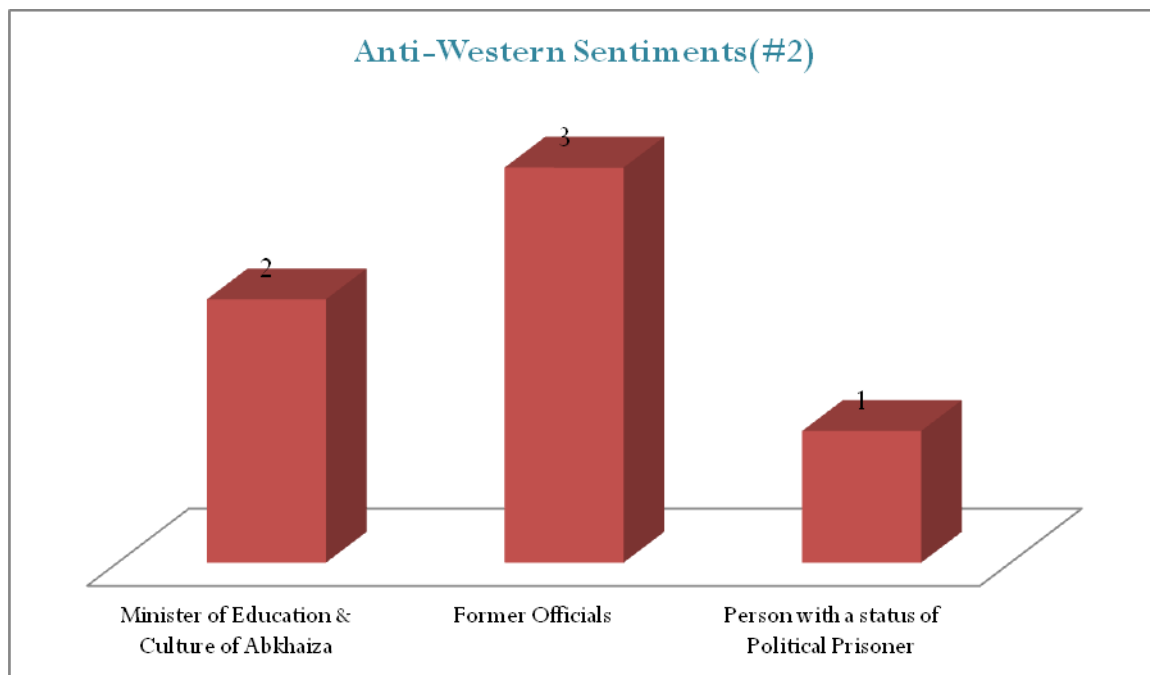
<sup>50</sup> [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2293418](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293418)

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2293441](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293441)

- **Vaja Otarashvili:** “We don’t need Europe that promotes the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. I prefer to let the country be destroyed to the ground zero, rather than hand it to lesbians and pederasts” (GEWORLD.GE, 8 May)<sup>51</sup>.

### Current and former public officials, persons, released as a political prisoners

Anti-western sentiments were incited by an incumbent political official - Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia (2), by former public officials (3) and a person released as a political prisoner (1).



### Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia

- **Dima Jaiani:** “Vazha Pshavela wrote about love between man and woman and Beethoven created music about this. Why do I need NATO and road to Europe if the country loses this?” (*Rezonansi* newspaper, 3 May).

“When they tell me Zhvania was a pederast, let them prove this... I have said and say it again – if pederasty is needed for Georgia to join EU and NATO, then I, Dima Jaiani, will never want to join NATO. I am a son of Vazha-Pshavela’s country. If we have to step on the road to degradation then I don’t want either NATO or EU ” (*Prime-Time* newspaper, 31 March).

<sup>51</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5870>



## Former Officials

- **Jumber Patiashvili, former Secretary of the Central Committee of the USSR Communist Party:** "There are people and regions in Georgia who want to live with us, but don't want to bring European principle in their families. They say that Ukraine's Prime Minister is of suspicious orientation. Nobody wants a country lead by a person with untraditional orientation. Nobody wants Western values in the form that we are offered" (Geworld.ge, 5 March)<sup>52</sup>.
- **Nana Devdariani, former Public Defender:** "In 2006 European Parliament adopted a resolution named "Homophobia in Europe"... This resolution obliges us to respect what is considered sin by the dogmas of the Orthodox and other religions... You must accept that your children will be taught to respect sins at schools and by TV... If Georgia ever becomes a member of EU, this resolution will be obligatory, just like another 2010 year Resolution 1728 (2010), which includes the following passage: "The Assembly is especially concerned about violation of the rights of free gathering and expression of LGBT persons in certain EU countries, since these rights constitute the basis of democracy..."

It is especially interesting that the European Commissioner, whose direct boss - President of EU Herman van Rompuy - supports doing away with the notions of nation and homeland, meets the head of the Orthodox Church" (Geworld.ge, 12 March)<sup>53</sup>.

- **Keti Khomeriki, journalist:** "Do you agree with the idea that USA is the land of sin, gays and thousand dirty things?..

**Valery Khaburdzania, former security minister:** "This is liberalism... They don't have ethnic basis and the idea, but the state needs the idea. So, America is looking for ideas and unfortunately it has found the idea that is called hemophilia versus homophobia. This means that immoral people impose their way of life on the society" (Geworld.ge, 6 March)<sup>54</sup>.

## Person discharged as a political prisoner

- **Levan Chachua, person freed from prison with the status of political prisoner:** "This European integration process in Georgia is going on as a silent sabotage... The government is signing it while avoiding society. Therefore, I say it directly: this agreement is illegitimate" (Geworld.ge, 3 April)<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>52</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5696>

<sup>53</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5709>

<sup>54</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5698>

<sup>55</sup> <http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5784>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Political parties should work on the development of self-regulation mechanisms in order to respond to hate speech, xenophobia and other discriminative expressions by members of their party, political appointees;
- Political parties should draw up and sign joint declaration condemning manifestation of hate speech, xenophobia and other forms of discriminative rhetorics in public discourse.