

# NO TO PHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

Following tendencies have been found in the period of 28 April to 4 May:

- Main issue of the week again was the anti-discrimination law, with discriminatory statements against LGBT coming from the clergymen, including the Patriarch, also non-parliamentary opposition, journalists and other respondents; in the context critique of Georgian Dream, especially Republican party and former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, surged.

The non-parliamentary opposition (Nino Burjanadze, Democratic Movement) was unfoundedly identifying adoption of the law and homosexuality with legalization of incest;

- Hate speech has been noted against National Movement and Georgian Dream (Elizbar Dikoniadze, deacon), as well as against Mikhael Saakashvili (Asaval-Dasavali);

Continued on p. 2

## # 11, 28 APRIL - 4 MAY



## RESPONSE

1 MAY

### Joint Statement of Media Development Foundation, Georgian Democratic Initiative and Tolerance and Diversity Institute on the Coverage of a Crime in the Context of Xenophobia



We want to express our concern regarding a report on the arrest of an Iraqi citizen suspected of sexual offence, which was aired in the Moambe news program of Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) at 20:00 on 29 April.

We believe that associating a crime committed by an individual with the entire group and, even more so, with minorities in general, is absolutely unacceptable and breaches Article 33(1) of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters, which says: "Broadcasters should avoid drawing unjustified parallels between ethnic or religious origin and negative events, including associating activities of specific individuals with the entire group." A similar requirement is set forth in Article 15.1 of the in-house Code of Conduct of GPB, which sets a standard to GPB employees to "differentiate activities of an individual representative of minority from those of the minority in general; not identify an individual with a minority as a whole."

Continued on p.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Anti-discrimination law	3
Hate speech	6
Ethnic discrimination	7
Turkophobia	7
Anti-Western sentiment	8
Religious discrimination	8
Discrimination by sexual orientation	9

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The newsletter was made possible by the generous support of the American people rendered through the USA Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of the newsletter are the responsibility of Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Georgian Democracy Initiative do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID or the USA.

## MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

### Continued from p. 1

- Crime and various social problems were unfoundedly identified with ethnicity and minorities in general. In the main news program of the Public Broadcaster (28 April) a case of sexual assault was connected in the negative context not only with an ethnic group, but minorities in general; while in the Rezonansi newspaper (30 April) the problem of beggar was connected to the Azeris and immigrants in general. Despite the fact that it was justly noted in the article that because of social problems locals beg too, the article's headline "Georgia has become a refuge for immigrant beggars" identified the problem with immigrants only;
- A clergyman (David Kvlividze) attempted to present Turkey and Azerbaijan as occupier states;
- Anti-Western sentiments were expressed by an official (Dima Jaiani, Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia) and other respondents; the West was characterized as an entity fighting against the Orthodox Christianity (Saqinform; Elizbar Diakonidze, deacon);
- A clergyman (Vakhtang Davitashvili) characterized the Catholics as inquisitors, while an Obiektivi anchor called NGOs sect members; Alia newspaper discussed registration of religious organizations and the right of financing by the state in discriminatory context;
- Discrimination by sexual orientation came from clergymen, non-parliamentary opposition, representatives of society and media, as well as a representative of the ruling party (Zaza Papuashvili, Georgian Dream).

### Examples of positive reporting:

- Public Broadcaster publishes special blog post about foreign students living in Georgia (4 May);
- Netgazeti and Interpressnews covered the presentation of the bilingual bulletin about Georgian-Jewish relations (28 April);
- Netgazeti analyzed the facts from recent past concerning active interference in the lawmaking process by the Patriarchy (29 April).

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

KAVKASIA, TODAY, 28 April

**ILIA II, Patriarch:** "According to the God's commandments, religious society justly considers non-traditional sexual relationships to me mortal sin. And considers the anti-discriminatory law in the presented form to be propaganda and legalization of this law."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2321308](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2321308)

NETGAZETI, 29 April

**DAVID KVLIVIDZE, archpriest:** "By the hurried, unthought steps we shall go not to Europe but to disintegration. We may finally lose Abkhazs and Ossetians through this law."

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/30862/.htm>

PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE, 30 April

**DAVID KVLIVIDZE:** „Do you imagine that when you speak against a sodomite kindergarten teacher caressing your child you will be arrested.“

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

REPORTIORI, 29 April

**DAVID ISAKADZE, archpriest:** „The Church demands that such issues that legalize the sin of Sodom and Gomorra are agreed with it... We are the majority and this is discrimination against the majority.“

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=24721>

ALIA, 1 May

**ELIZBAR DEKANOIDZE, deacon:** „This country has the parliament of twisted orientation and if someone is insulted by these words, let him come out and meet me bravely.“

PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE, 30 April

**DAVID LASU-RASHVILI, archpriest:**

„Members of the Church have a right to ask their own bishops and Synod to use other forms of bringing these people to their senses, to press with anathematizing, if their sign up on legalizing filth.“



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

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 April

**DAVID ISAKADZE, archpriest:** „These are new terms introduced to turn into norm that dirty immoral way of life which is called homosexuality. Same with gender identity, etc.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2323705](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2323705)

NETGAZETI, 30 April

**ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, deacon:**

“How could 109 parliament members support this law, I condemn this with the sword in my hand”.

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/30900/.htm>

**KONSTANTINE TSAGAREISHVILI, priest:** "Clergy and laymen must unite and stand against this immorality.“

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/30910/>

PIRVELI, 3 May

**THEODORE GIGNADZE, archpriest:**

„If prostitution is prohibited, how do we call this law which promotes marriage of two men?!”

[http://pia.ge/show\\_internet\\_dajjest\\_news.php?id=1161&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_internet_dajjest_news.php?id=1161&lang=geo)

Continued on p. 4

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Continued from p. 3

### REZONANSI, 30 April

**GIORGI RAZMADZE, archpriest:** “This is immorality and those who sign this law should know that they will be all immoral people... Go to Sodom and Gomorra, see what’s going on there – that land is still on fire even today... Because all this started due to the sins of people like you, this is written in the Bible, and you should think again.”

[http://www.resonancedaily.com/index.php?id\\_rub=7&id\\_artc=20097](http://www.resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=20097)

### KAVKASIA, TODAY, 1 May

**BASIL ANTADZE, monk:** „By the anti-discrimination law the Parliament is preparing its people to be burnt in the fire of the sin of Sodom and Gomorra. Three elements are there: defilement of children and youth, degradation of the Georgian people, persecution of the Church and all those real honest men and women who will stand against this terrible sin.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2327359](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2327359) ; [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2327363](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2327363)

### OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 April

**AVTANDIL UNGIADZE, Orthodox Parents Union:** „Now is the dictatorship of gay commissioners, and that’s EU commissioners, the gay commissioners, it is their dictatorship when such laws are adopted.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2324586](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2324586)

### MAESTRO, SUBJECTIVE OPINION, 2 May

#### NUKRI KANTARIA, Georgian

**Dream:** „We have supported rejection of violence, so that sinful people are not hit, but this does not mean that we believe that these last 4 words that have caused some controversy, that this is normal, of course it is perversion, pathology“.

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



**IVANE KIGHURADZE, Chairman of the parliamentary Committee of Education and Science:** “If I suspected for 1 minute that here is propaganda of homosexuality or anything like this, I surely would not have support it.“

[http://www.resonancedaily.com/index.php?id\\_rub=7&id\\_artc=20097](http://www.resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=20097)

### PIRVELI, 2 May

#### NINO BURJANADZE, Democratic Movement:

“I will never accept legalization of homosexuality, incest, in our country this is unacceptable, and if the choice is: legalizing incest or staying where we are, and I am not in Russia, I am in Georgia, then I would like to stay in my country. I will move to progress by the road of tradition, but to the progress that is in accordance with normal, healthy human psychics“.

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

### IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 2 May

**NINO BURJANADZE:** „This law in fact establishes untraditional sexual relations as a norm...“



If a person does not advertise this and lives his own life,

Continued on p. 5

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Continued from p. 4

nobody will interfere in his life, but if a person tells children that untraditional sexual relationship is a norm, then of course such a person must not work here.

While I was Speaker of Parliament there were no so called gay parades.“

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

**MAESTRO, SUBJECTIVE OPINION, 28 April**

**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 “.

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

„Do we pay tribute to Europe, or do we pay it to the devil, explain to me.“

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

**IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 2 May**

**GIORGI AKHVLEDIANI, Nino Burjanadze-United Opposition:**

“Representative of sexual minority by his expressed behavior in this case may, with high probability, influence a youth in his teens.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2329390](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2329390)

**INTERPRESSNEWS, 29 April**

**GIORGI AKHVLEDIANI:** „We have seen that the current government with its pseudo-liberal ideas is legalizing immorality as a norm“.

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

**ALIA, 1 May**

**VALERI GELBAKHIANI, former member of Parliament:** „If the rest of the issue is discriminatory, then hell with the sexual orientation as the main value.“

**REZONANSI, 28 April**

**JONDI BAGATURIA, Georgian Troupe:**

„There should be at least one vote against establishment of gay dictatorship, Georgia is not like its Parliament “.

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

**INTERPRESSNEWS, 29 April**

**ALEXANDER SHALAMBERIDZE, Free Georgia:** "This is absurd and serves not protection of the sexual minority’s rights, but legalization of the filth of the same-sex people."

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

**PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE, 30 April**

**SHALVA NATELASHVILI, Labor Party:**

„The millionaire dictator fulfilled the dream not of the people, but that of the gays. I call on the representatives of the majority, if they have any honor and morals left, to block this law and leave the ranks of this shameful majority.“

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

**MAESTRO, NEWS AT 9, 1 May**

**LEVAN VASADZE, businessman:** „This is a document that promotes snitching and peaching... This law strikes the basics of morality in our country. It says that now everything must be decided in courts...“

Identifying perverted people, sodomites with other sorts of minorities is the newest tactics of aggressive Western liberalism... Untraditional orientation is a conscious choice of sin..“

[www.maestro.ge/menu\\_id/67/id/434/lang/1](http://www.maestro.ge/menu_id/67/id/434/lang/1)



**LEVAN VASADZE,**

**businessman:** *“Identifying perverted people, sodomites with other sorts of minorities is the newest tactics of aggressive Western liberalism... Untraditional orientation is a conscious choice of sin..“*

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Continued from p. 5

REZONANSI, 3 May

**VAZHA OTARASHVILI:** “This is an action against the Georgian identity and will remain as a shameful page in the history of Georgian Parliament.”

**NUGZAR KVASHALI, actor:** “If they want to protect homosexuals’ rights by this law, then they violate my rights.”

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 2 May

**DEMUR GIORKHELIDZE, expert:** „... When a person is a pederast in his soul, he can’t be helped... If the government does not have discriminatory policy, then why are these laws needed, what is the logic?“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2325621](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2325621)

PIRVELI, 2 May

**GELA NIKOLAISHVILI, lawyer:** “This law means that if we don’t grant this community the right of same-sex marriage, they will be discriminated against”.

[http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=12645&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=12645&lang=geo)

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 2 May

**Respondent:** „And if Association Agreement is the main force that has brought this law, then

maybe we should reject this Association after all.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2329596](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2329596)

RUSTAVI 2, POST SCRIPTUM, 4 May

**EVSTATE ABRAMISHVILI, Orthodox Parents Union:** „This is capitulation by the Georgian Dream that had come in the people’s name, where Republican Party is very active, and today we actually see an attempt to legalize sodomy.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2328136](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2328136)

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 2 May

**Viewer [telephone call]:** „We have seen clearly how by the anti-discrimination law the population of Georgia has been discriminated against by LGBT and the world’s homosexuals. How is this law anti-discrimination, when it discriminates against the population of Georgia?“

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=16780>

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 30 April

**VAZHA ABAKELIA, law professor:** „US Ambassador is saying you must support this... Yes, but who asks American Ambassador what I must support, which legal norm... is he Kolbin or Central Committee’s Second Secretary?“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2325293](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2325293)

## HATE SPEECH

ALIA, 29 April

**ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, deacon:** "...I will always criticize that brain-frozen corpse that is called Dream and Nationals together, you don’t deserve anything else, because you want my country to fall”.

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 28 April

**JABA KUBUA, journalist:** „Yes, now if someone kills Saakashvili it would be a holiday! If someone kills him now, this will wash down all his sins and crimes!“

## UNJUSTIFIED IDENTIFICATION OF ETHNIC ORIGIN

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 28 April - 4 May

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** „Yes, he is Kvitsiani, and you – Saakashvili! He is a Georgian man, and you are neither Georgian nor Armenian!“

## ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION

PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE, 29 April

**MARINA MARKOZISHVILI, citizen:** „They feel very protected in my country, more than myself, and I think so many foreigners enter the country uncontrolled, and what they do afterwards...“

<http://1tv.ge/news-view/68324>

REZONANSI, 30 April

**Headline:** "Georgia has turned into a refuge for immigrant beggars"

**Respondent:** "Both Georgians and Roma are begging, and lately there are many Azeris too... They come here from Azerbaijan to beg ..."

**ELZA TSIKLARI, journalist:** Thus, Georgia has gradually become a refuge for immigrant beggars. The state has not taken any counter-measures against them so far.“



**ELZA TSIKLARI,**

**journalist:** “Thus, Georgia has gradually become a refuge for immigrant beggars. The state has not taken any counter-measures against them so far.“

## TURKOPHOBIA

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 April

**GIORGI RAZMADZE, archpriest:** „Now they have begun showing Turkish serials and there godless people, the Turks address us Christians. Godless, they are making us forget God.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2324612](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2324612)



## PRESENTING TURKEY AND AZERBAIJAN AS OCCUPIERS

NETGAZETI, 29 April

**DAVID KVLIVIDZE, archpriest:** "Tao-Klarjeti, where they won't allow us Georgian liturgy, is occupied. Not only Abkhazia is occupied and not only Russians are the occupiers. Tao-Klarjeti was Georgia. We can't have a liturgy in Kakhi and Belakani. This is because of our weakness and because we have forgotten God. "

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/30862/.htm>

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

REZONANSI, 3 May

**DIMA JAANI, Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhaza:**



“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?”

SAQINFORMI, 28 April

„In Bildt’s opinion Orthodox Christianity is worth than Islamic fundamentalism, it is the main threat to the Western civilization because it is trying to regulate family relations and does not support gays and transgender.“

[http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=18669:2014-04-28-14-52-58&catid=101:ucxoeti&Itemid=385#ixzz30GYpd5Nj](http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18669:2014-04-28-14-52-58&catid=101:ucxoeti&Itemid=385#ixzz30GYpd5Nj)

ALIA, 1 May

**ELIZBAR DEKANOIDZE, deacon:** „Yes, he said that Orthodox Christianity is more dangerous than Islamic fundamentalism, and this is the Europe they want to lead us to?“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 28 April

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:** "Just like George Bush (father), James Baker and Hans Dietrich Genscher threw Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was deceived and abandoned by the West, and throw free Georgia for wrenching to Russia, so 700 years ago king Giorgi was afraid of the Europeans’ double-dealing and was suspicious – “Did you leave me alone in the terrible war?!”

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 30 April

**VAZHA ABAKELIA, law professor:**

„Now it seems that among these European values counts this something (homosexuality) that is non-Georgian and unbecoming a man.“

## RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 April

**VAKHTANG DAVITASHVILI, priest:** „The Church never persecutes anyone they should look for this in the Catholic Church, where the fires of inquisition were lit.“

[www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2324577](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2324577)

**DAVID ISAKADZE, archpriest:** „No NGO has ever supported Georgian Orthodox Church, they all are against it. Because there is money invested to...“

**BONDO MDZINARISHVILI, anchor:** “To support the sects”...

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2324605](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2324605)

ALIA, 30 April

**ZHANA ASANIDZE, journalist:** „2-3 years ago when they were adopting the Law on Religion, they were saying it was not dangerous, and now, since all religions are equal to the Orthodox religion, they must be financed from our budget, so tomorrow or day after tomorrow we may owe something to these sexual minorities?“

## DISCRIMINATION ON SEXUAL GROUNDS

PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE  
29 April



**ZAZA PAPUASHVILI, Georgian Dream:**

„...When these people demand to hold something, parades or something, I was even joking that 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 be violent “.

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

INTERPRESSNEWS, 29 April

**ZAZA PAPUASHVILI:** "They can do all they want at home. I call on the people of un-traditional sexual orientation to defend interests of the country where they live".

<http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/politika/279687-zaza-papuashvili-mivmarthav-aratradiciuli-seqsualuri-orientaciis-adamianebs-daicvan-im-qveynis-interesebi-sadac-ckhovroben.html?ar=A>

KAVKASIA, TODAY, 29 April

**ZAZA PAPUASHVILI:** "I have other things to do instead of following some homosexuals and beating them... I will never support its legalization and propaganda, but we must see the reality, such people exist around us, but on the issues like same-sex marriage or adoption of children, I will die before supporting propaganda of this"...

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

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 2 May

**JONDI BAGATURIA, Georgian Troupe:** „As to homosexuality, this is a deviation from the norm. A deviation and anomaly."

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

PUBLIC BROADCASTER, MOAMBE, 30 April

**JONDI BAGATURIA, Georgian Troupe:**

„Massive rapes and tortures of prisoners – all who took part in it were homosexuals. A different kind of man just does not do it..."

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

KAVKASIA, TODAY, 29 April

**JONDI BAGATURIA, Georgian Troupe:**

„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."

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

REZONANSI, 3 May

**KAKHA KUKAVA, Free Georgia:** "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".

ALIA, 29 April

**ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, deacon:** „Can the parliament members tell me, who are the sexual minorities – only lesbians and sodomites? How about pedophiles? Zoophyte? Necrophilia? Gerontophilia? So all "philiias" are there, and when I fight by Constitution against pedophilia, which is punishable by laws of all countries, why do you let such person to schools and small children? What made them love these pederasts, someone explain to me? And should not people protest this in the streets?"

"Why should I be grateful to him [Bidzina Ivanishvili], because he built Trinity Cathedral? Why does he destroy my soul? Can a sodomite enter cathedral? Who did he build Trinity for?"

Continued on p. 10

## DISCRIMINATION ON SEXUAL GROUNDS

Continued from p. 9

IMEDI, PANORAMA, 4 May

**MONK NIKOLOZ:** „That sodomy and lesbian love in Georgia, this LGBT community, that their rights are separately mentioned... The rights are first of all ours, and then of other people. Last year people expressed their position on 17 May.“

[http://www.imesdi.ge/index.php?pg=prs&id\\_pr=1](http://www.imesdi.ge/index.php?pg=prs&id_pr=1)

REZONANSI, 1 May

**GIORGI SHENGELAIA, director:**

“Human is a biological creature, some are born with this flaw, some ill and some healthy.“

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 April

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** „Is someone with lipstick shows me his tongue in the street, I won't have patience for this, because of my past...“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2324588](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2324588)

ALIA, 30 April

**ROBERT STURUA, director:** „Do you want the Church to let a one-sex creature marry?“

KAVKASIA, TODAY, 1 May

**Rally participant:** „We must raise our children in Orthodox religion, not in the sin of Sodom-Gomorra. We don't need these people.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2327368](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2327368)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 28 April - 4 May

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** „The main thing from this Bezhitashvili is that the film characters are not just Georgian pederasts, but very specifically Kakhetian and Megrelian ones!.. By this they want to insult these two ancient Georgian regions!...“

Neither on 17 May nor afterwards pederasty must be allowed to flourish in Georgia!.. Showing this film in Rustaveli cinema on 17 May is a provocation, just like the gay parade attempt on Rustaveli Avenue last year!“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 28 April - 4 May

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** „Notably, the Patriarch says all this on the eve of 17 May – this holiday of international pederasty! Because Ilia II perfectly knows expression of which devilish consciousness are these dirty Satanist passions of 17 May!“

## RESPONSE

1 MAY

Continued from p. 1

Article 15.2 of the GPB's code also requires from employees to avoid the coverage of wrongdoings or violence committed by minority representatives in a manner that is known under the name of “media panic”.

Based on comments of local residents, an author of the report associated this particular

incident with minorities in general, thereby portraying people of different ethnicities as offenders. This assessment of the journalist was further dramatized by video footage depicting dark skinned people, thus associating these incidentally filmed people with violent actions.

**NIKA MOLODINASHVILI, journalist:** “As

local residents say, fearing of not to violate the rights of minorities, they cannot even reproach foreign citizens gathered in their courtyard who are often inebriated and breach public order. Local residents contend that in often cases their rights are infringed, not those of minorities”

Article 33(2) of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters, also Article 15(1) of GPB’s Code of Conduct oblige broadcasters to identify an individual’s ethnic origin only in the event when it is relevant to the issue covered, and thus avoid establishing a wrong stereotype that a crime has anything to do with either ethnic origin and geographic belonging. In this regard, the coverage of the same fact as offered by Imedi TV’s news program Chronika (29 April) is exemplary because the incident was reported without identifying either ethnicity or citizenship of the offender.

Moreover, we are also concerned about a

report of the Internet portal, Guria News. This media outlet released information based on a comment made by Shota Aphkhaidze, a former inmate released under a status of a political prisoner, in social networks. The report of Guria News, titled “An Iraqi who raped an under age is free?!” (30 April), alleged that the Iraqi citizen who is suspected of sexual offence, was released upon the demand of the US Embassy’s military attaché. Even though the Interior Ministry of Georgia did not confirm a fact of arresting the suspect, this media outlet still published the information without double checking it and thus violated the principle of fairness and objectivity of media coverage requiring that the accuracy of facts is ensured and the spread of wrong and misleading information is avoided.

We believe that the media must treat the coverage of such topics with a higher degree of responsibility and must avoid the reporting of unbalanced and unconfirmed information, spread by interested parties, which fan hatred towards foreign citizens.

## DISCUSSION AT “DIVERSITY SCHOOL”

On 3 May students of “Diversity School” met Hellen Khoshtaria, founder of the Georgia’s Reforms’ Associates (GRASS). The discussion theme was Georgia’s integration in the Euro-Atlantic institutions.



