

MONITORING
Hate Speech
and Discrimination
IN GEORGIAN MEDIA



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15 APRIL-15 AUGUST, 2013

ABOUT PROJECT

The Media Development Foundation (MDF) implements a project Monitoring Hate Speech and Discrimination in Georgian Media within the framework of program, Project Advancing National Integration in Georgia, carried out by the United Nations Association of Georgia (UNAG) and the Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF) with the financial assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project is aimed at encouraging professional coverage of minorities in Georgian media through public discussions of problems identified during the monitoring.

Before releasing the final report and recommendations envisaged by the project, the MDF was providing media outlets, civil society and other interested parties with weekly electronic bulletins of monitoring results.

The project involves the monitoring of six newspapers (Asaval-Dasavali, Rezonansi, 24 Saati, Chronika, Alia, Kviris Palitra), evening news programs and talk shows of six TV channels (Georgian Public Broadcaster, or GPB, Imedi, Rustavi 2, Kavkasia, Maestro and Channel 9), as well as an evening talk show of Media Union Obiektivi.

The project also envisages monitoring of reaction of non-governmental organizations and other institutions to intolerance and hate speech in the public domain, as well as their responses on particular discrimination cases.

The report covers key findings of monitoring for the time span from April 15 to August 15.

REGULATIONS

An overall document on professional standards which would be treated as a guiding manual by all types of media – print and electronic, does not exist in Georgia at present. Nor has the tradition of considering complaints been developed in the country, which took decades all traditional democracies to form.

For broadcast media, the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters was drawn up, which, among other issues, regulate the coverage of minorities as well. The Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) has its own in-house Code of Conduct, whilst members of the Charter of Journalistic Ethics must abide to provisions of the Charter of Journalistic Ethics (see, Appendix No 1)

It must be noted that both the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters and that of the GPB include detailed regulations regarding the coverage of minorities, which reflect the experience of the democratic media. Therefore, it is desirable that they are applied as a professional and civil principle not only by electronic media representatives but those of print and online media too.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology is based on separate indicators of the Media Diversity Institute (MDI), Code of Conduct for Broadcasters and international standards, concerning the unacceptability of discrimination and hate

speech on ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, gender or any other grounds; observation of principles of accuracy and impartiality.

The study was conducted using both quantitative and qualitative analysis. A distinguished approach was applied towards TV news bulletins and reports and print articles. In this case, those materials which essentially violated the principle of accuracy or facts and context were not fully reported; also in which discrimination on the part of journalists was observed or in case of discrimination on the part of respondents, journalists failed to react to it, i.e. did not follow the relevant professional standard were assessed as negative coverage. In contrast, those materials which were essentially accurate in terms of factual data and anti-discriminatory standards were observed; as well as materials reporting ethnic or religious holidays of minorities, problems of minorities, were evaluated as a positive coverage. The neutral coverage included those materials which more or less fully provide the essence of an issue, journalists are not sources of discrimination themselves and they only cover public attitudes.

In case of interviews published in print media as well as TV talk shows, instances of discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender and hate speech were identified and typology of violations were defined. It was also observed how journalists react to expressions of such discrimination and hate speech – whether they express such a position or challenge the respondents.

The study separated unsubstantiated parallels often drawn by journalists or respondents with the minorities, thereby facilitating the spread of incorrect facts and various speculations about minorities.

The aim of the study also was to detect sources of hate speech and discrimination on various grounds – the media itself or respondents. Consequently, the report separated such expressions made by the media from those of respondents and classified respondents by groups.

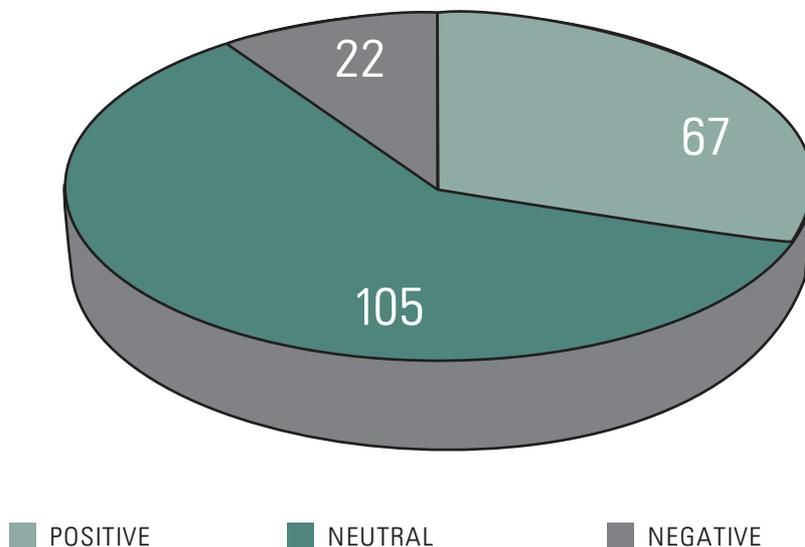
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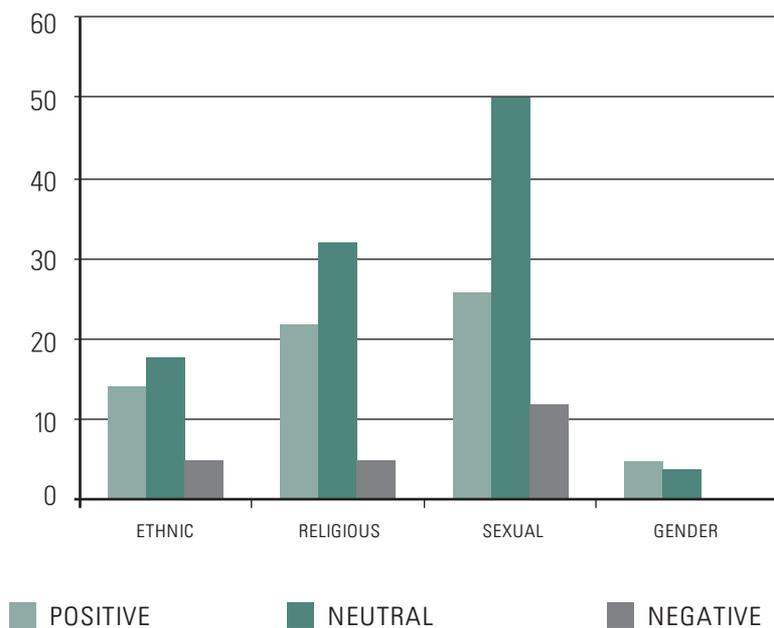
1. TV News Programs

In the reporting period, 194 reports of the news programs under monitoring were analyzed. Of these 67 reports were examples of positive coverage, 105 – of neutral coverage and the remaining 22 of negative coverage.

PRIME-TIME TV NEWS BULLETINS



By topics, the data has been distributed in the following way:



The highest number of reports on minority topics was produced by the prime time news program of the GPB, Moambe. By the production of reports on independent topics, the GPB and TV company Maestro were in the lead.

1.1. ETHNIC MINORITIES

Property Disputes

- The ethnic discrimination in TV news and current affairs programs has been mostly coupled with the issues related to social problems concerning the land property rights. It is worth noting that these topics were covered in light of dissatisfaction of local population with foreign land owners and the government and lacked proper balance in terms of providing foreign investors' positions or the position of a relevant state entity (Ministry of Economy). Such incidents require comprehensive journalistic investigation, which was not carried out by any of media outlets to shed more light on the issue, during the monitoring period.
- Conflict of the population of the Artsevi village in the region of Gori with the Indian investors has been covered in a considerably balanced manner by *TV Imedi* (Oronika, April 26)¹. Although the report does not reflect comprehensive picture, it presents position of all sides including the foreign investor, the positive message of the Prime Minister and underlines that the representatives of the Ministry of Economy declined to provide the on-camera comment.
- *Rustavi 2* (June 22)² violated Article 31 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters when it used a quote of one of the respondent³ in the report about land ownership, containing hate speech. The media outlet could have refrained from using that comments it did not represent a necessity for describing the essence of the social problem covered in the report. The report itself incorrectly conveys the essence of the problem and contains factual inaccuracies. The journalist cites other examples of similar conflict and in the case of Samtaskaro says that this village "is the last Georgian settlement at the border with Azerbaijan," thereby dramatizing the situation.
- In spite of containing the positions of different sides, the stories of the weekly program *Post Scriptum*, *Rustavi 2* (April 28)⁴ are blended with the xenophobic, discriminatory expressions of the local residents towards the foreigners⁵, and contain groundless comparisons⁶ as well.
- The report of *Imedi TV* (June 22)⁷ on the same subject – property dispute in the village of Karaleti – provides neutral comments of respondents, in which the emphasis is placed on social issues and not on the origin of the investor.
- The report of *Maestro TV* news program (19 April)⁸ on a conflict between locals and a foreign investor in the Kvemo Artsevi village was one sided, covered from the perspective of locals alone. It contained four comments of which two were made by local residents, one by local governor and the remaining one by a machine operator hired by the investor to perform works. A position of the Indian investor was not represented at all in the report. The journalists did not even note whether she undertake any attempt to contact the investor and why his position was not represented in the report. Nor had the journalist double checked the factual data with official agencies (Public Registry) to find out what size of land

¹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2021782

² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2079309

³ **Anzor Chukhrukidze, a resident of the Shindisi village:** "In the past, those Muslims waged war against us, invading and killing Georgians with swords. Who are they now? Do they not have seniors or juniors, or do we not have the government? On which government should one hope for getting rid of those Muslims?"

⁴ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022953

⁵ **Giorgi Mdzinarishvili, resident of the village of Ditsi:** "Tatars, those infidels were here. They captured our lands."

Resident of Ditsi village (no title): "Georgians died in Tskhinvali for these lands. Every gauge of this land is precious for us. Indians are coming. Oh man, what do they want here?!"

⁶ **Shota Vazarashvili, resident of Ditsi:** "These Indians will get the Russian passports, since they have good relations. Then Russians will grant them the Russian citizenship and tanks will come to Georgia and stay here and there is no one seen to counter them."

⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2077056

⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2025355

was allocated for local residents as pastures, what size of land was privatized and how sufficient was the remaining size of land for locals. Even a representative of Gori municipality, Giorgi Khidasheli, spoke by assumptions: “It is leased but I have a feeling that it is sold.” The problem was reported through emotional assessments of respondents which added to aggressive sentiments of locals.

- The most qualified coverage of the moratorium on sale of lands introduced by the Parliament was presented by the Georgian Public Broadcaster – *GPB* (July 22)⁹ and TV company *Maestro* (July 19)¹⁰.

Topic of Chinese

- The story by *Post Scriptum*, Rustavi 2 (28 April) is positive in terms of echoing the widely spread rumors that there is a plan to resettle 126 000 Chinese to Tbilisi, Vazisubani. The story explains the commercial aspect of the project aimed at building a new district and Olympic village for the 2015 Youth Olympic Games. At the same time, report reflects the phobias and in certain cases the hatred of the locals¹¹ towards the Chinese.

Teaching state language to minorities

- It might be considered as positive that the TV Company Maestro news service (July 7) produced a story about the teaching process at public schools of ethnic minorities and the issue of translation of the textbooks. As a rule, media mainly covers ongoing issues which are largely of negative nature, or covers official events. The above mentioned report is thus important because the TV channel showed interest towards this issue itself and produced an independent report on that.

1.2. RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

- Save for few exceptions, the religious topic was basically topical in relations to negative events.

Tsikhisdziri Incident

- All media outlets reported a legal assessment of the Incident of April 14 in the village Tsikhisdziri, Kobuleti district, in which Senaki police officer, on religious grounds, manhandled local residents and threatened them with weapons, based solely on an official qualification given by the investigation (premeditated injury to a person).
- The exception in this regard was the GPB (Moambe, 15 and 19 April), which emphasized the necessity of qualifying the crime as an offense committed on religious grounds¹².
- Even though TV company Imedi, in its report on 18 April, did not qualify the incident as a religious crime, it was the only TV channel which covered the incident in the context of religious intolerance and contained comments of representatives of religious minorities¹³.

⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2099443

¹⁰ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2097801

¹¹ **Local residents:** “Nobody wants these Chinese here. If one speaks out the others follow, even with sticks or whatever.”
“We should kick them away, all of them! How can be compared the work done by a Georgian for his homeland to that of some Chinese, of course Georgians will do better.”

¹² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2013161

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2016950

¹³ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2016917

- It should be noted that by indicating religious denominations of victims of this crime media outlets did not violate professional standards as the crime was committed on religious grounds and therefore religious denominations were relevant to the topic covered.

Samtatskaro incident

- The TV media extensively covered separate incidents of infringing the right to pray to local Muslims of the village of Samtatskaro, Dedoplistskaro district. Save few exceptions, the most professional and consistent coverage of these incidents were provided by the GPB, while Rustavi 2 and Maestro TV companies most comprehensively reported certain incidents.
- Factual inaccuracies were observed in reports produced by Imedi TV (31 May, 29 June)¹⁴ and Rustavi 2 (29 June)¹⁵ in which they cited the construction of a mosque as a main reason of the conflict instead of the infringement on the right to pray in a praying house, which is a misleading information and violates Articles 12 and 13 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters (Due Accuracy).
- Reports of the TV company Channel 9 included editorial interpretation and instead of reporting factual circumstances, the emphasis was placed on provoking the conflict by outside forces, although the reports did not specify who these forces were and nature of their provocative action. Based on a general, unspecified opinion of a single expert, the reporter makes unjustified assessment which does not match even the statement of the mentioned expert (May 30)¹⁶.
- An emphasis on artificial incitement of the conflict was also made in 7 June¹⁷ report of the Channel 9. It was indicated that actual reason of the disruption of the prayer was the absence of parish and the stranger's pressure on cleric rather than the fact that the police took away the Muslim cleric for several hours, as reported by other news bulletins. Comparison of this report with the reports of other TV companies provides the ground to assume that the report manipulated with video shots. The report violates Articles 12 and 13 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters (Due Accuracy), also Article 18(2) (Impartiality) and Article 14(9) of the same Code. According to the Article 14 (9), "When editing interviews, recorded material, including an archive material, broadcasters should not distort a respondent's words or mislead the audience in any other way by video or audio manipulations, by changing the meaning of the questions asked, or using shots out of context."
- Public Broadcaster and *Rustavi 2* offered the most comprehensive coverage of the incident when the Muslim cleric was taken away by the police for several hours during the prayer¹⁸.
- Among media outlets monitored within the framework of the project *Rustavi 2* was the only TV company showing how governor of Samtatskaro village Gulo Nadirashvili did not allow representatives of the Muslim Administration to enter the village. The footage of *Rustavi 2* (*Kurieri*, May 31)¹⁹ report clearly shows how the representative of village self-government tells representatives of Muslim Administration sitting in a mini-bus that "the village is against" and "go away," whilst the addressee of these words says that a physical violence and threats were also used against him. Contrary to *Rustavi 2*,

¹⁴ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2054852
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2054847
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2084000

¹⁵ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081995

¹⁶ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2055869

¹⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2061561

¹⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2061464

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2061703

¹⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2055852

GPB (May 27) presented the discriminative position of local self-government representatives²⁰ as an attempt to regulate the situation between two conflicting sides.

- TV Company *Maestro* (June 29)²¹ provided the most professional coverage of the incident, when about 200 local residents invaded the house of Khoja Suliko Khozrevanidze, basing mainly on the report of the Information Center of Kakheti and presenting the case in terms of legal responsibility.
- Journalist in the story of *Imedi* (July 5)²² paraphrases the position of Dedoplistskaro Governor Irakli Shiolashvili stating that speculations with religious issues have become frequent in the village lately. Following this assessment concerning speculations, there is a comment by Tsiuri Takidze accusing Irakli Shiolashvili in firing her husband on religious grounds. Such order of the soundbites in the story and the entire context create perception that Takidze's accusations in certain ways are also speculative.
- There is an irrelevant generalization on the part of the journalist (Moambe, GPB, July 5)²³ interpreting one of the comments of the village resident as the position of the entire population of the village. Namely, as an evidence of the fact that the population of the village firmly retains its position, the journalist brings the soundbite of Samtatskaro resident²⁴ who, on his part, speaks about the compromise, which makes the journalist's assessment irrelevant.
- Thought the report of P.S., Rustavi 2 (July 7)²⁵ is positive in general since it explains essence of the conflict, however xenophobic quote²⁶ of one of the local resident having negative conotation was not necessary and journalist could avoided it.
- Media outlets²⁷ covered the meeting of the Patriarch with representatives of Samtaskaro more extensively than the Muslim cleric's exit from the village in the same period.
- It is important that *Maestro* followed the topic of Muslims' prayer in Samtatskaro not only during the incidents but thereafter too. It produced a short actuality (August 10)²⁸, based on the Kakheti Information Center, about the fact that after 9 August the prayers were not conducted in the village. In the actuality a deputy mufti of the Muslim Administration, Adam Shantadzem says that because of pressure and threats Samtatskaro Muslims no longer go to the praying house to pray.

Conflict in the Village of Chela

- The GPB was the only broadcaster which showed the interest towards the confrontation over the minaret in the village fo Chela, Adigeni district, earlier (*Moambe*, 26 July)²⁹ than any other TV company which covered the topic only after the minaret was dismantled by state authorities.

²⁰ **Gulo Nadirashvili, Governor of Samtaskaro:** "We offered them, if the local population agrees to the praying house, no one will impede them... Their mufti, Jemal Adadze, entered that building without the consent of the population and started a prayer."

Avto Shanidze, member of local council: „People are very aggressive for one thing: officially, a mosque must not be built; there is one common opinion that it must not be officially.”

²¹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2084020

²² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2087819

²³ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2088101

²⁴ "One cannot prevent this. However, it is better for all sides to negotiate, and for all forces to back down. We should do whatever is necessary for the village."

²⁵ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2089113

²⁶ **Resident of Samtatskaro (no title):** "Wouldn't they tell to my grandson, fuck your Tatar mother [when they learn that he is from Samtatskaro]? That's what we are trying to avoid, that's why we do not want this."

²⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091981

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091185

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091983

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091141

²⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2111043

²⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2101376

Disputable Cult Buildings

- A positive example is GPB's interest towards the restoration works of Norasheni cathedral and the topic of disputable cult buildings between Armenian and Georgian Orthodox Churches, which was provided in the report in a balanced way (*Moambe*, 3 June).³⁰

Unsubstantiated reference to a religious motive

- TV story aired on August 1 by the *Imedi TV*³¹ concerning the murder of Mariam Kochalidze in Batumi presents religious ground as a motivation of this murder. Without verifying the information, the editorial aired the statement of victim's mother made on emotional background and stating that the alleged Iranian murderer conducted the ritual of sacrifice. In the brief news of *Qronika* the anchor of the news program announced without indicating the source: "*The ritual of sacrifices and conflict on religious background. New details in the crime story from Batumi*". By this statement, the editorial assessed the incident which is being investigated, as a religious conflict and offered sacrifice as a confirmed fact. TV company violated the regulations of the articles 13 (1,2) and 14 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasting obliging broadcasters to ensure the reliability of sources and accuracy of facts, to prevent airing of incorrect or misleading information; Also there was the violation of the regulation 2 of Article 18, which states: "The program or report will be considered biased if it lacks comprehensive information on important facts, is based on minor facts, misleads the audience intentionally or unintentionally, or conveys biased views of a person in a hidden form." The editorial did not take reasonable steps to verify the accuracy of the facts reported. The crime committed on religious backgrounds is an aggravating circumstance by the Georgian legislation, however the journalist had not rechecked with official investigation the version provided by the victim's parent and addressed for the comment the victim's godmother. The Code of Conduct for Broadcasters obliges a broadcaster to recheck information with at least two separate sources: "Broadcasters, as far as practicable, should rely on first hand sources and gather information themselves. As a rule, broadcasters should not rely on a single source but seek to obtain information from other sources." In addition the news program of TV Imedi violated Article 31 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters, stating that "Broadcasters shall refrain from publishing any material likely to incite hatred or intolerance" on the grounds of religious convictions, as well as the Article 33. According to the regulation 1 of Article 33, "Broadcasters should avoid drawing unjustified parallels between ethnic or religious origin and negative events, including associating activities of specific individuals with the entire group." In case of Imedi TV the incident was qualified as a religious conflict in a completely unjustified manner.

Patriarch Ilia II's initiative to ban abortion

- Reports on an initiative of the Patriarch Ilia II to ban abortion did not reflect full diversity of opinions, since journalists failed to provide approaches of different religious minorities of the country on the same subject.

Religious Holidays

- Examples of positive coverage were the materials about a religious holiday of Muslims, Ramadan (*Georgian Public Broadcaster*, GPB July 10³²; *Maestro TV*, July 21³³).

³⁰ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2056619

³¹ http://imedi.ge/index.php?pg=prs&id_pr=619&id=20; http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2106416

³² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091146

³³ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2098247

1.3. SEXUAL MINORITIES

Events of May 17

- TV media news programs on raiding of the rally against homophobia and transphobia on May 17 were generally more balanced than the print press.
- Even though the prime time news broadly covered the post May 17 developments such as citizens' protest statement, legal proceedings on the case, protest rally "No to Theocracy", and certain violent incidents following the raiding of May 17 rally, TV media failed to provide the audiences with the thorough and in-depth analysis;
- Terminological inaccuracy was one of the main problems revealed during the May 17 events. Throughout the day³⁴, the majority of TV Companies including *Rustavi 2*, *Imedi TV*, and *Channel 9* referred to the organizers of the rally against homophobia as representatives of sexual minorities. Later, the host of the *Rustavi 2* apologized. However, in some cases journalists in their live reports continued to describe the participants of the rally as LGBT representatives. The same could be said concerning *Imedi TV*. The hosts of the *Channel 9* news program at 9 continued referring to the organizers of the demonstration as the representatives of sexual minorities while one of the journalist's report described them as gays³⁵. *Imedi TV* identified LGBT rights defenders as LGBT representatives, in the news program at 8, on May 18. In this regard, TV Company *Kavkasia*, *Maestro*, and *Rustavi 2* prime-time news programs, P.S. were exceptional, against the general background.

It should be noted here that the sexual orientation, as well as the religious faith, ethnic and political identity etc. represent the sphere of a person's self-identification. Therefore, describing organizers of the demonstration as sexual minorities if they themselves do not identify their sexual orientation is wrong and constitutes the violation of the professional standard of media.

- The host of the TV Company *Imedi* has also made a terminological mistake, saying that the rally was sanctioned, as the Georgian law on assembly and manifestation does not require any official sanction. In this case, we are dealing with the violation of the norm requiring accuracy and preventing the spread of misleading information.
- In *Moambe* at 8 on GPB³⁶, the balance in the selection of respondents has been violated in favor of the counter demonstration participants. Though interviewing participants of the rally against homophobia was rather difficult due to their safety reasons, but in the evening news, the TV Company could have equally presented the position of the human rights defenders talking about the constitutional rights of the victims of the violence.
- *Channel 9* and *Imedi TV* were in breach of the Broadcasters' Code of Conduct (Article 12-13), requiring the accuracy of facts in reporting. Namely, *Channel 9* aired the information at 13.00 that the police used the tear gas to break up the demonstration. The information was refuted at 14.00, however, there was no apology offered by editorial staff. The story aired by the TV *Imedi*³⁷, on May 17 was notable in terms of inaccuracy – it was related to the gay parade of May 17, 2012 in Batumi, and even though the conduct of the parade has never been confirmed, the story presented it as an objective fact.

³⁴ Since media outlets provided live coverage of May 17 events, as an exception MDF was monitoring not only prime-time news programs during this day.

³⁵ <http://tv9.ge/?l=G&m=3&sm=17&id=2175>

³⁶ <http://1tv.ge/video/18156>

³⁷ <http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=imedi&seekTime=17-05-2013%2020:30>

The story contained an entirely unjustifiable generalization that the clergy, members of the orthodox congregation, and non-governmental organizations usually unite annually, on May 17, and therefore, the violence against LGBT rights defenders on that day is regular and customary.

- The cases of respondents describing homosexuality as a disease were revealed. Only *Maestro TV*, on May 17 noted that the homosexuality has been removed from the list of diseases.
- The identification of the persons targeted by the counter demonstration participants was made possible in some cases. For instance, (*Rustavi 2*) aired the video recorded from inside the bus full of participants of the rally against homophobia, evacuated by the police from the scene of the violence. The destination of the bus was openly noted, which could not be justified, especially against the background of the counter rally participants still chasing the members and organizers of the rally, all over the city.
- News story by *Qronika* (May 10)³⁸ focusing on the preparation for the rally to mark the Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, though presents the positions of all sides, however, the journalist's phrase – “large part of the society agrees, and almost all of them states that marking May 17 in front of the parliament building is unacceptable” – promotes the negative social attitudes. The vox pop conducted in the street neither methodologically nor professionally allows the journalist to extrapolate from and present the results of survey, as a position of the majority of the society.
- Reporting on after May 17th development media was less focused on the adequacy of the legal charges presented and the penalty for the alleged criminal actions. Only *Rustavi 2* noted that the charges were presented based on article that belongs to the category of the minor – crime. Furthermore, the host of the *Channel 9* news at 9 (May 23)³⁹ framed the question in a way implying that the state had to choose between theocracy and the secular approach: “*Who is supposed to make a final decision on the punishment – the court or the church?*”
- *TV Imedi* dedicated three stories to the statements of the Archimandrite Antimoz Bichinashvili, claiming that the video reflecting him swearing (“*I’ll kill you all, fuck your mothers...*”) was edited and falsified. Respondent’s denial of the fact of using a bad language was accentuated rather than his call for violence (“*I’ll kill you*”). On their side, none of the media outlets attempted to provide audiences with information on how and to what extent the video could have been edited, and what exactly proved the falsification of the sound. Furthermore, *Channel 9* has not shown the above-mentioned video, and *Imedi TV* aired the shots partly (swearing was aired, but call for violence – omitted). Showing the full video could have given the viewers possibility to independently assess the adequacy of charges presented. *TV Imedi* aired the interview (May 20)⁴⁰ with Archimandrite stating that the sound of him swearing was heard in the shot where he was standing with his back to the camera. *Rustavi 2* (May 23)⁴¹, instead of showing the back to the camera shots, aired the front and profile shots, evidently showing that Archimandrite uses the curse language and calls for a violence. It should be noted that TV channels except for *Rustavi 2* did not prepare reports reflecting comprehensive picture on the incident which is the violation of articles 12 and 13 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters obliging them to provide audiences with unbiased and accurate information.
- Two petitions were presented as equal ones by the TV Companies *Imedi* and *Maestro*: first the petition of the members of the society demanding the government to adequately punish participants of a violent raiding of May 17 action (12 000 signatures as of April 22), and the second – an alternative petition demanding

³⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2034738

³⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2049220

⁴⁰ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2044942

⁴¹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2049188

the legal ban of propaganda of homosexuality. Despite noting that the signatories of the second petition were unknown (Imedi TV, *Qronika*, May 20), the host of Qronika directly quoted the text of the petition (“*The other petition published today demands the legal prohibition of propaganda of perverse sexual life*”)⁴²;

- It should be noted that media outlets paid less attention initially to the content of the review of the draft opinion of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and Civil Integration regarding the 17 May events that unfolded on the International Day of Fight against Homophobia and Transphobia and only in the light of protest voiced by the civil society journalist focused more on the wording of that document; A positive fact was that in its prime-time news program, Maestro TV (June 21)⁴³ offered a position of a representative of religious minority on that draft opinion;
- Homophobic statement⁴⁴ made by a representative of the ruling party (Tamaz Mechiauri of the Georgian Dream) at the committee meeting was reported by Rustavi 2 alone;
- Media coverage of the trial of clerics involved in the break up of the May 17 rally was one-sided in presenting the position just of the defense side and clergymen’s supporters, while comments of the prosecutor have not been represented at all. To some extent this position was balanced by several media outlets (*Public Broadcaster, Moambe; Rustavi 2, Kurieri*)⁴⁵ by presenting background of the events of May 17. However, during the coverage of following events (29 July, 1 August), the prehistory of the happening was not reported by the above mentioned TV companies either. None of media outlets have provided footage featuring the episode of acquittal of one of religious servants, whilst some media outlets (*Channel 9, Kavkasia TV*, August 1)⁴⁶ described this episode in a text incompletely, focusing on swearing by the priest alone and not threats made by him (“*I will kill you...*”) which was featured in a video released via social networks.

Video featuring sexual scenes on social networks

- Media covered the surreptitious video featuring sexual scenes of a human rights defender Girogi Paresishvili aimed to compromise him and depicting homosexual scenes as delicately as possible, in the context of a protest rally staged to demand the protection of privacy, and basically avoided directly identifying that the video contained homosexual scenes.
- The most balanced report on the mentioned topic was produced by the *Kavkasia TV* (May 4)⁴⁷ channel. It only reported that the video of sexual intercourse among three persons was released against Paresishvili, without identifying the gender of persons concerned, which would have hinted about the type of sexual relationship. The source of that footage – www.kvercxebi.com, which was blocked some time later of the release of the video, was identified visually in the report. The report did not contain that episode of the incident that occurred during the protest rally, in which several citizens verbally abused participants in the rally demanding the protection of privacy, by calling them “pederasts.” The fact of verbal abuse was only mentioned in the text of the author of the report.
- The report of news program of *Channel 9* (May 3)⁴⁸ almost entirely beeped swear words of several citizens abusing human rights defenders during the protest rally on privacy, except one episode in which one of the citizens inquired about a religious belief of one of participants in the rally: “*Are you Christian? Go and at least read treatises of John Chrysostomto. You...*”

⁴² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2044942; http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2044634

⁴³ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2076977

⁴⁴ **Tamaz Mechiauri, Georgian Dream:** “*I think, we will be wrong if we are supposed to protect the rights of only those in Georgia, who want to boast about a bit widened functions of one part of their body and propagate that for others too.*”

⁴⁵ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2094673

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2119379

⁴⁶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWdjeVMHwWk>

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2109723

⁴⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029313

⁴⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029299

It should be noted that this episode in which Christianity is pitted against the right to protect sexual life of a person was not broadcast by any other TV channel. It is desirable for media to avoid establishing such stereotypes.

- *Imedi's* news (May 4)⁴⁹ program unjustifiably linked the rally protesting against surreptitious filming of private to a religious topic. The presenter of the news program explained the dissatisfaction of several citizens with the rally of human rights defenders in the following way: “*The dissatisfaction was caused by the fact that the rally was held just days before the Easter.*” It is worth noting that none of respondents in the report made such a comment and even if they did, it would have been irrelevant and speculative in light of the main topic which concerned the protection of privacy, on the one hand, and blackmailing of that person who accused senior officials for corruption, on the other.

The report of *Imedi* news program also included the episode where rally participants were called “pederasts.”

Legal dispute

- It was positive that *Moambe* news program (GPB, June 25)⁵⁰ covered the Constitutional suit of the organization *Identoba* demanding the acknowledgement of two orders of the Ministry of Health as anti-Constitutional. According to these orders, homosexuality is included in the list of the risk-groups for blood donation along with the drug addiction, persons infected with AIDS and other categories.

Topic of sexual minorities in the discourse of elections

- Despite the fact that Tamar Kordzaia, majoritarian candidate of the Georgian Dream at midterm Parliamentary elections expressed her negative position on the same sex marriage on *Imedi TV*, April 27, a day later in *Qronika* news program at 8, while covering the results of the midterm elections, journalist of the same TV *Imedi* aired the quote by Shalva Natelashvili claiming that Kordzaia was planning to legalize same-sex marriage⁵¹, without even noting the actual position of the Georgian Dream candidate Tamar Kordzaia. Thus news program contributed to dissemination of inaccurate information.
- An initiative of the leader of Christian-Democratic Movement, Giorgi Targamadze, to collect signatures for a constitutional amendment for legalizing traditional marriages and, as Targamadze declared, preventing same-sex marriages, was covered by news programs in an identical manner. The only exception was a report in the *Imedi TV* news program on 6 August⁵², which along with the positions of the initiator of the issue and politicians, provided the positions of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and the defender of LGBT rights, the *Identoba* NGO.

None of media outlets has noted in the background information that the legalization of same-sex marriage has never been put on the agenda in Georgia and no group has ever made such a demand. Journalists have not even put a question on this hypothetical issues to initiators of the prohibition of same-sex marriage either, which is an example illustrating that media spreads information on any issue which it is offered without any criticism.

⁴⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029320

⁵⁰ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2079445

⁵¹ Shalva Natelashvili: “*I congratulate Nakhalovka, in the supreme legislature you will be represented by Ivanishvili's candidate - the defender of homosexuals.*” http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2023407

⁵² http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2109043

1.4. GENDER ISSUES

- TV news programs covered Gender topic mainly as part of reporting official events and events of various non-governmental organizations. However, in terms of reporting independent stories, the GPB as well as Imedi TV could be distinguished.
- A positive example was the report of *Maombe* (GPB, August 6)⁵³ about problems faced by women living on occupied territories, produced in the villages of Ergneti and Khurcha.
- The story (July 23)⁵⁴ on women's participation into politics of *Public Broadcaster* was positive itself, however scenes of make-up in the report dedicated to overcoming of stereotypes promotes deeper clichés.
- The story of *Imedi* news program (July 22)⁵⁵ covers the discriminative action itself when future husbands and mothers-in-laws take young ladies to the experts to exercise their virginity. Such acts are assessed as negative and insulting by NGOs as well as by those questioned during street Vox-pop.
- A protest of an independent feminists group against the issuance of certificates by Levan Samkharauli Bureau of Expertise for the aim of detecting a virginity of a woman, was covered in news programs of *Maestro*, *Imedi* and *Channel 9* widely (July 30)⁵⁶. The group was voicing its protest against the institutionalization of the breach of women's right. Reports aired by *Imedi* TV and *Channel 9*, included, among others, a comment by the chairman of the Georgian Dream parliamentary faction which is discriminatory in terms of gender.

⁵³ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2109025

⁵⁴ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2099258&rc=1

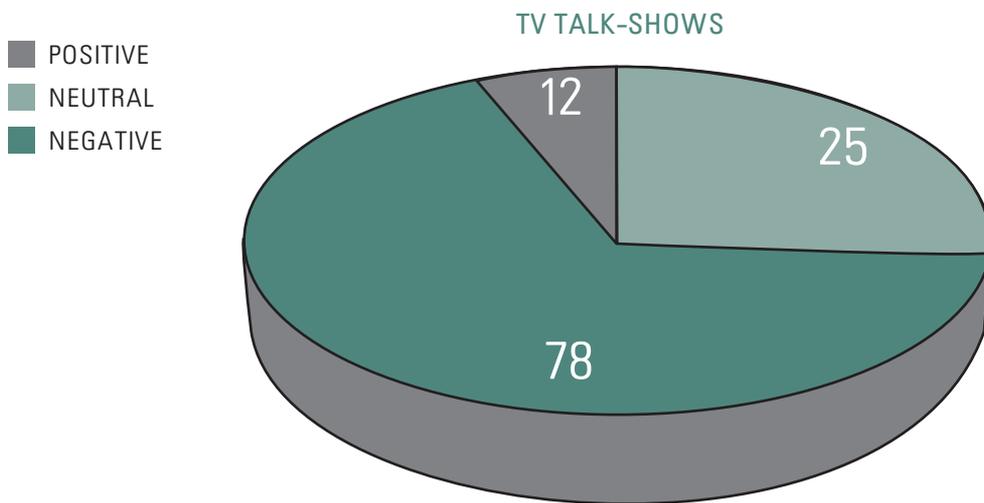
⁵⁵ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2099465

⁵⁶ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2106419
<http://www.tv9.ge/?l=G&m=1&sid=0&id=5370>
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2104161

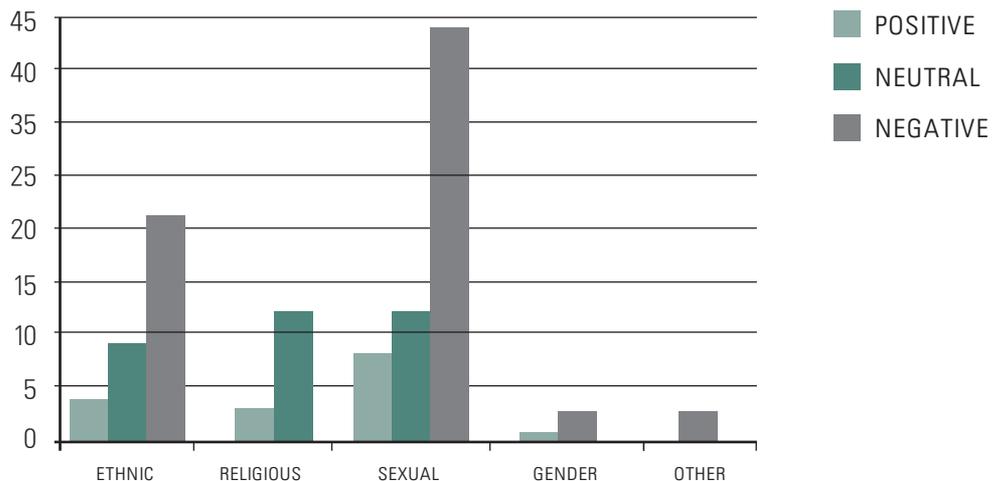
2. TV Talk-Shows

Talk shows in which presenters discussed the topic of minorities and covered it in a professional manner, as well as when presenters challenged respondents for their discriminatory statements, were evaluated as a positive coverage. The coverage in which presenters moderated in a more or less neutral manner was evaluated as neutral; whereas instances in which journalists themselves were sources of discrimination or shared discriminatory positions of respondents and did not challenge their respondents for spreading misleading information and discriminatory statements, were qualified as negative coverage.

A general picture, in which the largest share of negative coverage accounts for the media union Obiektivi whereas the largest share of positive coverage accounts for the GPB looks as follows:



By topics, the picture is the following: **Ethnic minorities** – positive – 4, neutral – 9, negative – 21; **Religious minorities** – neutral – 3, negative – 12; **Sexual minorities** – positive – 8, neutral – 12, negative – 39; **Gender topics** – negative – 3.



2.1. ETHNIC MINORITIES

Armenophobia

- Armenophobic statements made in regard with the 19 April rally became a topic of discussion of TV talk shows too.
- When Nino Shervashidze, a guest to *Maestro TV* channel's a talk show *Kviris Argumentebi*, on 19 April⁵⁷, raised the issue of Jansug Charkviani's Armenophobic poem, the host of the talk show declared that the program was dedicated to the opposition rally (abovementioned poem was dedicated to the rally) and not creative works of the poet and changed the topic of discussion on the premises that Jansug Charkviani was not among guests of the talks show. Thus she has avoided to discuss a problem of xenophobia in political discourse.
- A problem of xenophobia was widely discussed by talk show *Aktsentebi*, GPB (April 19)⁵⁸ in context of the opposition rally. At the same time, however, when one of the guests, Natia Megrelishvili, started speaking about the threat of Armenian separatism and mentioned Vahagn Chakhalyan as a leader of that separatism, the host of the talk show mistakenly announced that Vahagn Chakhalyan died. However, minutes later she corrected the mistake, based on the information provided by the producer. Information about the death of Vahagn Chakhalyan was released by news agencies but the information proved to be wrong. The host of the talk show should not have repeated unverified information.

Anti-Chinese Sentiments

- Anti-Chinese attitudes which was expressed both by media and respondents, were mainly expressed with relation to social and economic situation and the issue of ownership.
- In this regard a topic of much speculation was construction works performed by a Chinese company in the territory adjacent to Tbilisi Sea, which some media outlets described to society as the construction of China Town and a Chinese settlement.
- Anti-Chinese campaign was also topical in a discussions during the interim parliamentary elections too. The only case when host of the program adequately responded to the Labour's majoritarian candidate's remark on resettlement of Chinese in Tbilisi was talk show *Dialogue* (April 24). The host clarified that the construction ongoing at Tbilisi Sea does not imply the resettlement of Chinese to Georgia and called on the respondent to focus on the problems of the voters living in *Nadzaladevi* district⁵⁹.

Examples:

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, 3 May

Davit Akubardia: *"If we do not assist one another, a foreign force will indeed seize Georgia; I often go to the Tbilisi sea and seeing an intensive construction works breaks my heart – what on earth we need Chinese here, the entire city is full of unemployed."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2028612

⁵⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2015160

⁵⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2015031

⁵⁹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2019977

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 2, 10 May

Nino Ratishvili: *“The issue of Adjara, the issue of lands, very many problems are accumulated. It may be too late then. If the Chinatown is built”...*

“Soon, there will be no place for us here.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11794>

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11855>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 13 May

Irma Inashvili, Founder of Obiektivi: *“Here everyone goes into that Chinese shop and all Georgians buy their products. In Armenia, Yerevan, no one goes there as far as I know... They [Chinese] were actually unable to get a foothold there [in Armenia].”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11903>

Anti-Turkish Sentiments

- Anti-Turkish attitudes in talk shows were mainly fanned by the media union *Obiektivi* which, considering the selection of respondent as well as expressed positions of journalists, pursued a clear cut anti-Turkish editorial policy.
- Presenters and respondents of Obiektivi constantly tried to show Turkey “as occupant” drawing unsubstantiated parallels with the Russian current occupation.
- The only exception when a journalist reacted to a respondent spreading misinformation on the above topic happened in the GPB’s talk show Dialogue (24 April)⁶⁰.

Examples:

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, 30 April

Davit Akubardia: *“The key of this left-wing ideology is social justice. If this does not become dominant either Turks will swallow us up or Pakistanis and the country will merely demise.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2058759

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 17 April

Bondo Mdzinarishvili: *“Then the interest of Turkey towards Georgian territories was also great because they think even today that they have lost Adjara’s territory temporarily and that Adjara must be reintegrated with Turkey.”*

“...Adjara’s population is best of all aware of that threat, as well as Batumi residents where very many Turks have appeared after Saakashvili said „Aslan [Aslan Abashidze, former Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria] has fled, Batumi is free. It is precisely after Aslan fled that Turks came there and we may soon face yet another threat.”

“The Davit Aghmashenebeli Avenue houses very many bars, restaurants, hotels, etcetera, belonging to Turks and this is not incidental.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11610>

⁶⁰ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020638

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 22 April

Ilia Chacibaia: “The Foreign Minister of Turkey stated that they are going to seize Batumi, though, peacefully.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11704>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 22 April

Irma Inashvili: “When we raised this question, you know what we have been told in response? That Russia took away our lands but, God bless you, didn’t Turkey do the same?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

Charter of Regional Languages

- An obligation of the state assumed to the European Council on the ratification of the charter on minority languages, which implies the protection of languages of minorities, was topical during the period of interim parliamentary elections as well as in relation to Prime Minister’s statements on 23 April in the European Council.
- Media union Obiektivi was distinguished for xenophobic statements on this topic.

Example:

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 25 April

Bondo Mdzinarishvili: “*There are no regional languages in Georgia. There are only two state languages and this is – Georgian on the territory of Georgia and Abkhazian on the territory of Abkhazia. Those, with their languages have their own homelands... We are not responsible for saving Armenian, Azeri, Russian and Greek...*

There are some Africans nowadays here, should they be asking us to save the language they speak? The whole Africa speaks that language, and they should stay there and speak their language. Why should I be saving their mother tongue over there? Let them leave for where their mothers are and save their native languages there.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11733>

Racist Expression

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 21 April

Bondo Mdzinarishvili: “As if we did not have our white beggars, now black, sorry, Afro-American beggars have appeared in the city. It is a shame indeed, why should they arrive in Georgia, who brought them here and how dare they live here and moreover, beg in streets.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11675>

Deported Mesketians

- The topic of repatriation of Meskhetians whom the Soviet regime forcefully resettled from Georgia in the 1940s was covered in the media only in the context of political speculations on this issue. The

exception was Maestro's talks show Politmetri which dedicated a special program to the topic of repatriation. However, none of media outlets showed consistency in covering this process.

- Often journalists are not well informed on the issue, including the lack of information on the process of repatriation. Consequently, media reproduces incorrect facts circulated by the respondents.
- The use of term “Meskhetian Turks” by journalists and respondents is controversial because ethnic belonging is a sphere of self-identification. Incomparably more acceptable term to be used is “Meskhetians” or “deported Meskhetians”. The presenter of GPB's talk show Aktsentebi (19 April)⁶¹ correctly reacted to the respondent's assessment who portrayed Meskhetians as the threat to the country and refers to them as Meskhetian Turks, thereby identifying their ethnicity incorrectly.
- The presenter of Politmetri (Maestro, April 29) correctly argues with the opponent of repatriation, Jondi Baghaturia, about the injustice conducted against Meskhetians though, at the same time, identifying human rights defenders by their ethnic origin (Georgian), also referring to ethnic origin of Stalin⁶² is problematic.

2.2. DISCRIMINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUND

- There was discrimination on religious ground revealed during monitoring by the presenter of *Spektri*, TV Kavkasia. In one case the presenter names criteria for testing judges' trustworthiness, such as their level of religiosity and their attitudes towards Jehovah's witnesses, thereby establishing a stereotype that judges must necessarily be a congregation of Orthodox Christian Church and have established attitudes towards religious minorities. In another case anchor of the program unjustifiably linked social problems with religious issues.
- Media union *Obiektivi* was distinguished for its anti-campaign against the construction of the mosque in Batumi.
- Phone call of TV viewer expressing a critical point of view towards some clergyman and the events of May 17, was quite unusual for Media-union Obiektivi (July 18)⁶³. Usually, most of the phone calls of audience are similar, that makes impression of manipulation with public opinion and represents violation of the article 18.4 of the Code of Conduct. It should be also noted that the anchor tried to interrupt viewer to express his opinion.

Examples:

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, 8 July

Davit Akubardia: *“The office of Kublashvili [Supreme Court] should permit the GPB to introduce judges of every district to the society: what kind of relationship they have with their wives and children, how many times they visit their mothers, whether they attend church or not, what is their attitude towards Jehovah's witnesses. This will help recover the trust [towards judges].”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2091039

⁶¹ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2015031

⁶² **Nino Zhizhilashvili:** *“That is why, human rights defenders in this country, ethnically Georgian human rights defenders say that the stopping of this process will be unfair towards concrete persons... ethnic Georgians also contributed to this process.”*

⁶³ **TV viewer, phone call in Live:** *“Today, when 85% of the population states that they are Orthodox Christians, not only an ordinary part of the population, but majority of religious servants don't understand deeply and conceptually what Christianity is... I'm sorry, but bishops like Jacob and Iobi”...*

Bondo Mdzinarishvili, Anchor: (tries to interrupt) *“I have to apologize, now we address Mr. Gela...”*

TV viewer: *“People are beating others with crosses, rushing into TV stations, who organized May 17... How do you want to announce Orthodoxy as the state religion in these circumstances?”* <http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12918>

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, 31 May

Davit Akubardia: *“There are no factories in Georgia any longer. A pity people. If this continues for another 15 or 20 years, we will have a Muslim country. Look to the East, more and more are coming.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2055882

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2055888

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 15 April

Irma Inashvili, founder of Obiektivi: *“First and foremost, they (local Muslims) realize that threat which the construction of a new mosque, or to be more precise, erecting a symbol of might of Turkey in the center of Batumi can cause. And they, the Muslims with common sense, are against that.”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11581>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 2 May

Nino Ratishvili: *“I want to congratulate once again; this poll [against construction of mosque] has been completed in Batumi and I do hope that this will not become yet another watershed between people and the new government.”*

<http://www.obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11794>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, June 6

Soso Zaalishvili: *“This [results of the survey conducted in Batumi concerning the construction of a Mosque] was the failure of the Turkish policy of expansion in Adjara, because Muslim Georgians, Christian Georgians, as well as representatives of other congregations said “No” to the construction of a Mosque.”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12280>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, May 21

Irma Inashvili: *“Is this Iliia’s way [reference made to the new slogan of the National Movement – New National Movement], selling your soul to Jehovah’s Witnesses for a bagful of flour?”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12031>

2.3. SEXUAL MINORITIES

- Among TV talk shows, media union Obiektivi was distinguished for its clear cut homophobic and discriminatory editorial policy which largely coincided with and shared political speculations on the topic of minorities.
- Media union Obiektivi constantly manipulated with public opinion and violated paragraph 2 of Article 17 and paragraph 4 of Article 18 of the Code of Conduct of Broadcasters. Article 18 (4) requires that *“Phone-ins during live broadcasts should be screened in a fair manner; the prominence of only one particular view should not be allowed to avoid the manipulation of public opinion by phone calls.”*
- *Night Studio* (Obiektivi) allows not only the phone calls of listeners with similar opinions but also these opinions, which are discriminatory towards various minority groups, are always in full conformity with the positions of respondents as well as the presenters. In this respect, Obiektivi breaches paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the same Code, which reads that *“If broadcasters choose to invite a single concerned party to a programme to explore its particular view, the invitee should not be allowed to use its own*

position for attacking other parties not participating in the programme.” It also breaches paragraph 2 of Article 17 which requires that “Presenters of authored programmes should not use their position to report opinions in a way that may violate the impartiality of the programme.”

- In assessments of 17 May events, both presenters of *Obiektivi* and phone-in viewers expressed anti-Western attitudes and spread misleading facts.
- On certain occasions it was difficult to draw a clear line between the discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.
- Except for media union *Obiektivi*, other TV talk shows being monitored covered this topic in a neutral manner, whilst the GPB (*Aktsentebi, Dialogue*) – in a positive manner. In certain instances, presenters (Channel 9’s *Pirdapiri Saubari*, Maestro’s *Politmetri*) were opposing the respondents’ discriminatory statements in a professional manner, while in another instances (*Imedi, Gia Eteri; Rustavi 2, Posicia*) presenters left unchallenged spread of such misinformation and discriminative statements by respondents, as portraying homosexuality as a disease.
- The presenter of the talk show *Barieri* aired by Kavkasia TV (21 May) agreed to President Saakashvili’s speculative statement concerning the 17 May events in which he questioned the righteousness of staging this rally during the days of mourning in Georgia⁶⁴.
- Sexual minorities was one the most topical issue in election discourse framed as an allegation against opponents and having the negative context: Media showed no effort to clarify position of Tamar Kordzaia, Georgian Dream’s majoritarian candidate at midterm Parliamentary elections whether information spread that she was in favour of legalization of same sex marriage regarding was correct. The host of the *Imedi TV* program *Gia Eteri* (April 26)⁶⁵ was the only one to ask Tamar Kordzaia about her position on the issue. However Journalist does not elaborate on the topic and fails to ask other candidates’ opinions towards the discussed issue. The fact that the host discusses the sensitive topic with the one respondent only and does not address others is the violation of the professional standard of media. The only program in which the journalist refuted the incorrect information concerning the Tamar Kordzaia’s attitude towards the same sex marriage was the Public Broadcasting’s *Dialogue* (April 24)⁶⁶, while host of *Position* (Rustavi2, April 23)⁶⁷ failed to respond adequately on false accusation of Labour Party candidate against Tamar Kordzaia.
- Similar allegation that the Georgian Dream presidential candidate, Giorgi Margvelashvili was planning to legalize same sex marriage after presidential elections was made by Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia. The presenter of *Subiekturi Azri* (Maestro, May 28)⁶⁸ argues with the guest on this subject quite rightly, however she refers not over the factual circumstances (whether Margvelashvili made such a statement), but cites MP Zviad Dzidziguri as saying that Kakha Kukava, in contrast to Margvelashvili, is not a religious person. This is discriminatory towards Kakha Kukava because no one, especially journalist has the right to judge the degree of religiousness of this or that person.

Examples:

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 20 April

Nino Jgarkava: “We have not demised the homeland, nation and language as you [*Giga Bokeria*,

⁶⁴ Aleko Elisashvili, host: “I agreed with Saakashvili on a single thing: he said, it would have been good to respect the soldiers killed in Afghanistan and not to gather at the same place the next day.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046410

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046410

⁶⁵ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022467

⁶⁶ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020663

⁶⁷ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020663

⁶⁸ http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2052359

Secretary of the National Security Council] did... Nor are we as happy as you are about marriage between women or about marriage between men”.

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11673>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, May 7

Nino Ratishvili: “...for us it [homosexuality] is perversion. Prostitution has already become a healthy sin... Of course, this is unacceptable for me personally, and I do not want to have a relative or a friend of such orientation...”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11815>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 10 May

Nino Ratishvili: “Interests of minorities , interests of criminals... Then I am just wondering if we are supposed to forgive Saakashvili, why we should not forgive those in prison?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11856>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 17 May

Nino Ratishvili: “For somebody, this is a choice, for others – the biological problem and a disease. I understand that, but it does not necessarily mean encouraging it.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11971>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, June 4

Nino Ratishvili: “Problem of sexual minorities – is this democracy?! Is the same sex marriage a European democracy for Georgia? Why does European democracy offer us things that are not in line with our traditions?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12250>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 21 May

Irma Inashvili: “We know what Europe and US require from Georgia. One of the key demands to Georgia – Georgians, be aware that you should use your ass as genitals! This is first, and second, Georgians, you should grant the status of regional languages to these, these, and these... You should teach your children English first, and then Armenian, Azeri and other languages. Finally, you may teach them Georgian or not, as you wish.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12031>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, June 3

Iliia Chachibaia: “How Americans can criticize [re: May 17 events] us when just a few decades ago they used to kill Afro-Americans right in the streets, horrible things were happening there.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12235>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 6 June

Soso Zaalishvili: “The public opinion survey will be hold all over Georgia in order to legally ban the LGBT propaganda. Thank you very much for your support [addresses guest] of the Georgian people’s position against this parade.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12280>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 10 June

Iliia Chachibaia: “Generally, how detrimental this way of life is for our future, for our children?”

“Do you think that international organizations take into account the scarce food and water resources around the world? If a man does not marry a woman, i.e. the same sex marriage is legalized, this means that they won’t have children, and therefore the world society will shrink.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12341>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 26 July

Ilia Chachibaia: *“We all remember Thomas Fletcher, homosexual teacher invited by them from Britain and he was teaching children in Zugdidi School #4... They [National Movement] wanted to bring up a new man by inviting Fletcher and people like him from different countries. “Teach and Learn with Georgia” – was such a program and namely in regions this phenomenon had been met negatively, because we – Georgians are traditional people. We can’t stand if someone comes and teaches us that it’s good to color your hair five times in a day... This is exactly what was doing male teacher Thomas Fletcher... the fact of hair coloring implies that he was homosexual.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12944>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 3 July

Bondo Mdzinarishvili: *“What an irony, Hitler used to execute drug addicts, homosexuals and people of different category, used to exile them and sent to the concentration camps, and finally Germans came to the point at the end of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century that in Berlin – the city where Hitler has been bitterly fighting this – they elected homosexual to the position of a Mayor.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12693>

Viewers Phone-in Calls

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 21 April

“Why should we, Georgians, go (to Europe) if it demands that we strip off or become homosexual?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11675>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 26 April

“I hate them [National Movement] so much because they wanted to invalidate the main purpose of a man in Georgia – being a head of the family, tradition. We are not exactly Asian nation, but we are not Europeans either.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11748>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 7 May

“It is Sodomy according to the Holy Bible, and one should exile them to some island in the middle of nowhere, rather than protecting their rights and fondling them. Moreover, you should lock them in a prison cell, give them the life-long sentence, and hand over the Bible to read.”

“I don’t like things like this happening in Georgia, I won’t shake their hand, won’t allow them into my house, I will never be friends with people like that, not a chance!”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11815>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 26 May

“Democracy is not consent to the anal sex. Sorry for the expression, I would give you one more hint

– the first Satanic Church was established in America in 1925. Now, let the people make their own conclusions on the rest.”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12114>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 27 May

“It appears that our Europeization will be that we become “successful” LGBT promoters, which is something shameful in the Caucasus. And how then we will talk to Abkhazia and South Ossetia on reconciliation and to Russia on the return of territories? This would be a total absurd. When before 2012, Russia’s head postponed this problem for 100 years and said that he was not interested in that. That was a manly move.”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12131>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 12 June

“... the whole world, EU, and European Parliament tell Georgia: “defend gay, LGBT, and whoever’s rights!” Defending Georgia has nothing to do with defending LGBT and how European Parliament can teach us. We are rushing toward the country – US – in which immorality rules. Aren’t we?”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12373>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 20 June

“That has resulted from the reality that they preach godlessness. Every day, they show homosexuals or transsexuals, or perverts.”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12496>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 28 June

“If Ivanishvili does not take care of people’s welfare and adopts that gay law, entire Georgia will be alarmed. Be aware, he will leave the same way he came and no one will help him, neither Putin nor...”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12616>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 21 July

“This is, my friend Iliia, [about violence during the National Movement Primaries and further actions] like the recent gay parades and current priests arrests... You might have seen how homosexuals are kissing each other... and now, this cohabitation reminds me the kisses of those pederasts.”

“You’ve seen a kiss of two homosexuals, right? Is anything more disgusting than this? This cohabitation reminds me right a kiss of homosexuals.”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12960>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 22 July

“For example, I prefer my son to be a drug addict rather than gay... but, for instance, Americans are allowed to have a soldier, being a blue [gay].”

<http://obietivi.net/tv1.php?id=12975>

Obietivi, *Night Studio*, 1 August

“I cannot understand Western values. In Europe children at the age of nine are explained how to do love with a representative of same sex... When Switzerland, the West accepts incest... Georgia cannot

live with these values and in general, a political party which says that our path is towards the West, is doomed to failure.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=13110>

Obieqtivi, *Night Studio*, 12 August

“If we look at America’s history, they massacred locals and then resettled there from Europe and brought there negroes from Africa; if memory serves me well, local Indians remain only in several states... We have a great history and no one can blind us by any means. They dare to tell us such things, let them take Akhalaia... also Vano Merabishvili with them and we will send brooms to them along with these people.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2115104

2.4. SEXISM, DISCRIMINATION ON GENDER GROUND

- There were instances of sexism, gender discrimination by the presenters of talk shows.
- The host of the talk-show *Postion* (May 10)⁶⁹ discriminated on the basis of gender, while announcing the guests of the talk-show in Kurieri at 9, referring to the studio guests as the representatives of the “weak sex.” This is a clear demonstration of sexism by journalist and reproduction of certain stereotypes as well.
- The presenter of *Spekrti* (Kavkasia, June 27) shared sexist expressions of the respondent (Koki Ionatamashvili) with regard to the head of the press-service of the investigative agency of the Ministry of Finance⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ Nino Shubladze: “Today, the representative of the “weak sex” [i.e. females] will face each other – our guests will be Eliso Chapidze from the majority and Irma Nadirashvili from the minority.”
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2035273

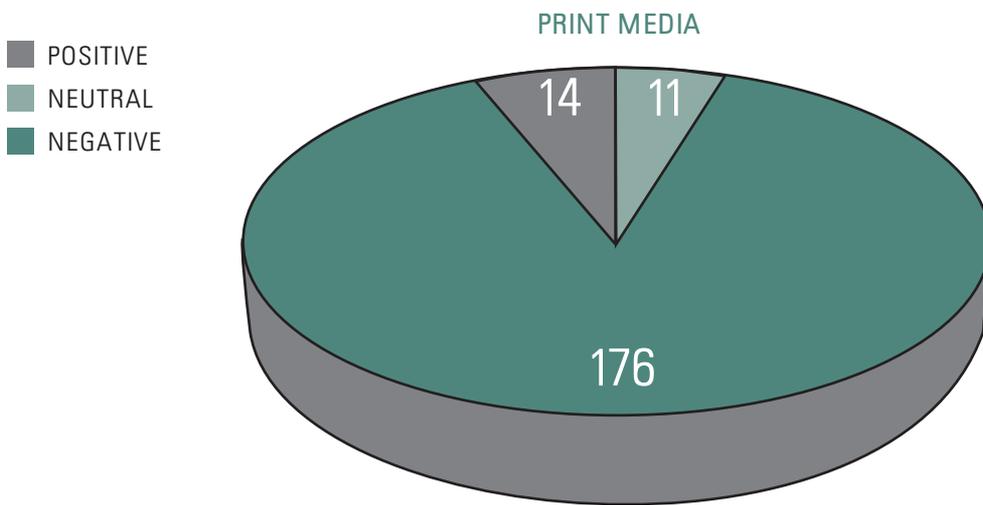
⁷⁰ David Akubardia: “As you said rightly, beautiful girl from the Ministry of Finance. You could have also assigned such a beautiful girl.”

3. Print Media

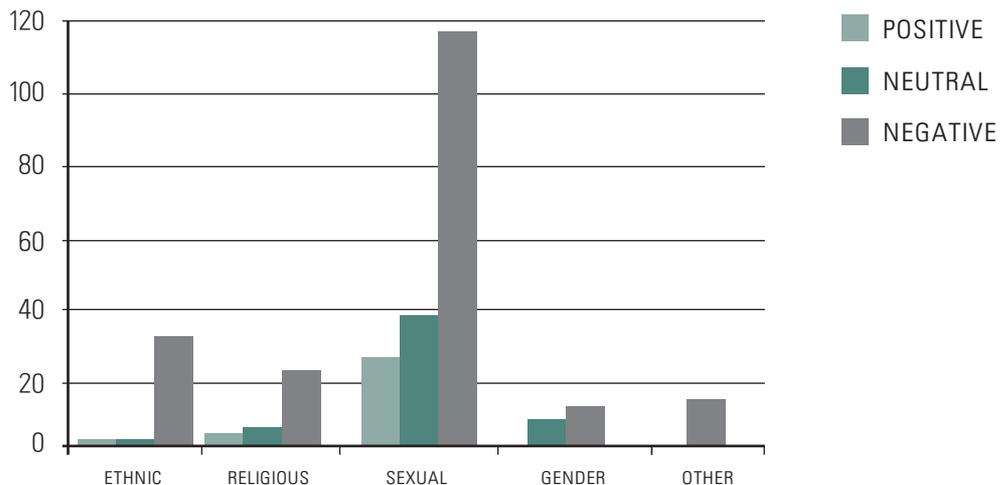
Materials in print media were evaluated not by space allocated to topics but by instances of violations/ observance of standards, which implies discrimination on various grounds as well as spread of wrong and misleading information about minorities and also such instances when journalists share discriminative opinions of respondents or are source of discrimination themselves.

A share of negative coverage in print media sharply exceeded those of neutral and positive coverage. Negative coverage was abundant in Asaval-Dasavali, followed by Alia and Kviris Palitra newspapers. In 24 Saati and Rezonansi, the topic of minorities was mainly covered in a positive or neutral manner. In the case of Rezonansi, the exception from this general trend was the topic of land ownership which was mainly reported discriminatively.

A general picture looks like this:



By topics, the largest share of negative reporting accounts for the topic of sexual minorities (98), followed by ethnic minorities (37), religious minorities (22); hate speech on various grounds (12) and gender discrimination (7):



3.1. ETHNIC MINORITIES

Armenophobia

- Armenophobic statements were mainly used in political context in relation to the former government and current opposition [UNM], also in regards of President Saakashvili. Naming addresses as “Armenians” and people with “changed surnames” usually had negative connotation;
- In an article of Zaza Davitaia (*Asaval-Dasavali*, May 13-19), “*Saakov, do not bite off anyone’s nipple!*”, the surname of the President of Georgia is transformed so that to hint as if he is not Georgian by origin and is Armenian in a negative sense;
- Topic of representatives of the government with “changed names” was further extended by journalis of Alia (April 19)⁷¹ as well.
- Journalist Dali Barabadze in an interview with *Kviris Qronika* (June 24-30)⁷² discriminates Mitropolit of Kutaisi, Kalistrate on ethnic grounds and segregates human beings on the basis of biological Georgians and non-Georgians. The journalist, basing on the facts stated by her, offers entirely personal interpretation of the canonical law. As a rule, reference to the opponents as “*Armenians with changed surnames*” in a negative context takes place despite whether or not the person openly declares his/her ethnicity, which is a matter of a self-identification;
- Journalist of *Kviris Qronika* (April 22-28) shares the spirit of the respondent’s (Jansug Charkviani) Armenophobic approaches⁷³;
- Newspepr Rezonansi (May 7) published the information by the news agency Interpressnews concerning the accident in Batumi. Identification of ethnicity of the person who died in an accident as “Armenian” was entirely irrelevant; There was irrelevant identification of ethnicity in the article “*Brave Armenian of Tbilisi, who refused to put up with the regime of Saakashvili and Akhalaia*” of *Asaval-Dasavali* (June 17-23) as well.

Anti-Chinese Stance

- Anti-Chinese topic in print media was also covered in relations to social problems and misinformation was spread about ongoing construction works in the territory adjacent to the Tbilisi Sea, which is conducted with Chinese investments.
- In one case, a journalist openly expressed his readiness to join an anti-Chinese rally with the respondent (*Kviris Qhronika* newspaper, 3-12 May)⁷⁴. In another case, migration of Chinese to Georgia was portrayed as a threat to the country⁷⁵.

⁷¹ Gela Zedelashvili: “*I wish the problem of those with changed surnames were the only one.*”

⁷² Dali Barabadze: “*My surname is purely Georgian, while Mitropolit Kalistrate has a changed last name. Even though he is Margaritashvili, he is Margaritov – he has a changed surname. The root of his last name is not Georgian. According to a Canonical Law, a person with a non-Georgian surname by no means can be a Mitropolit, but unfortunately everything is allowed here. Father Giorgi, as well as other holly clergy, used to say about priests with changed surnames – stay away from people like this, they declined their own surnames, what kind of good will they do for you.*”

<http://www.alia.ge/com/news/view/1423>

⁷³ “*They want a lot of things that we don’t want, that’s why we are the way we are.*”

⁷⁴ Journalist Gela Zedelashvili about an anti-Chinese rally to be staged by the respondent: “*We will go together to that rally.*”

⁷⁵ Gela Zedelashvili: “*Mr. Temur what our ancestors fought for if one fine day we would waste everything?*”

Examples:

Asavali-Dasavali, 15-21 April

Anonymous worker: *“I was told personally – this is China and there is no place for Georgians here. I took off my helmet and hit that Chinese in the face. That’s why I was fired from the job.”*

Jaba Khubua: *“What can be better than a healthy way of living, Mr. Bidzina, but I do not think that a compact settlement of 126,000 Chinese in Tbilisi poses any lesser threat to Georgian demography than tobacco and alcohol consumption”.*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/965/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Sale of land to foreigners

- In discussing the issue of sale of lands to foreign citizens, xenophobic attitudes, along with respondents, were displayed by journalists too.
- In contrast to other materials published in *Alia* when a respondent and a journalist share common positions, interview with the Minister of Agriculture by that time [David Kirvalidze] was exception in this regard. In this particular case discriminative attitudes are manifested by the journalist is not shared by respondent. A discriminative spirit of the interview, manifested in the editorial position of the journalist, is reinforced by photos featuring two men of Asian appearance, including one wearing turban.
- A clear cut editorial stance in regard of sale of lands to foreigners was revealed by *Rezonansi* newspaper in which the vision favoring the restriction of the sale of lands to foreign citizens dominated the materials published on this topic – be they articles, columns or comments of separate persons, with the opposing view rarely provided. Disputes over land ownership was reported in an unbalanced way, based on emotional assessments and political speculations of only one side, without double-checking the facts and thorough study of the issue, thus whipping up negative sentiments towards foreign investors.
- Besides *Rezonansi*, xenophobic approaches and unjustified parallels were observed in editorial article of Kviris Palitra, titled *“Indians are taking over the scorched Ditsi”*.

Examples:

Kviris Qronika, April 22-28

Gela Zedelashvili: *“Manana [Khobakhidze, Vice Speaker of the Parliament], you said that our lands are in the hands of aliens. Not only in Kartli but also in Kakheti and in the rest of Georgia we have a similar situation, we are being washed away by Chinese and Indians.”*

Alia, 2-7 May

Gela Zedelashvili: *“We must speak about Indians and Chinese. Bidzina Ivanishvili himself tries to avoid this topic. However, these foreigners have inundated Georgia... “Stop that, pal. On the very day they arrive in Georgia they can buy land, is that fair?”*

Rezonansi, July 17

There are a number of professional standards violated in the article on the land alienation topic prepared by *“Rezonansi”*.

First of all, it concerns the results of the survey on this topic and entire article is dedicated to it. Such essential elements of a survey methodology is omitted in the report, as criteria of selection of respondents, geographical area where the survey was conducted, what type of research is presented, etc. Without telling audience all these details of methodology, journalist's generalization in the headline "100% of interviewers are against of land alienation to foreigners" might be misleading.

As it evident from the headline, the article presents just one side position that creates the opportunity for manipulation with public opinion.

It's also problematic that the journalist in the editorial text speaks about groundless risks concerning land alienation to foreigners in the same manner as it's done by the respondents.

Mariam Aptsiauri: *"Georgia is a small country, where approximately 4 million people are living. The intensive migration of foreigners and alienation of lands to them might create threat for Georgians to be divided as an ethnic group, to become the ethnic minority."*

Rezonansi, 5 August

Under the title *"Land is the property of the Georgian nation"* the newspaper published an address of the chairperson of the Foundation for the Revival of Georgian Village, Elene Kakhniashvili, to the government, in which she demands that the land be nationalized and draws unjustified parallels between the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the sale of land to foreigners.

http://resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=16671

Kviris Palitra, 15 April

The title of an article, *"Indians are taking over the scorched Ditsi,"* is already loaded with negative connotation. The article contains the stereotypes: *"Which Indians? Those who are black and bearded"* as well as hate speech: *"Even if they fight to death we will not allow them to use that land"* (a resident of the Ditsi village).

Resident of the Ditsi: *"They sold everything whatever had been saved from Ossetians to Indians but I did not leave the village during the war with Ossetians and I will also not leave this land now. Our blood was spilt to maintain these lands!"*

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/mmanager.html?view=edition&id=205>

Racist Expressions

Kviris Qronika, 12-18 August

Tamar Okruashvili: *"At that moment a nigger passed by and told us hello in Georgian!.. "F..ck. your hello!" – calmly responds an old person as if guessing what I have in heart. – Who brought them here? Misha and his people, didn't they? That [UNM MP Giorgi] Kandelaki again. Our country has become their homeland."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 12-18 August

Giorgi Gigauri: *"Saakashvili's regime has unjustly tried even a nigger."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/982/982.pdf>

3.2. RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

- Discrimination for religious minorities by journalists, referring to them as torturers and sectants, mainly took place in the context of unacceptability of Saakashvili and the politics pursued by his government.
- An article in *Kviris Qhronika* (13-19 May) is the example of how a journalist can engage in developing a conspiracy theory, without providing any substantiation and citing facts, about the plans of US special services to fight against the Christian Orthodox Church and incite religious conflict, which instills anti-American attitudes.
- An article in *Kviris Palitra* newspaper about an allegation that an Azerbaijani employer fired an employee on religious grounds lacks balance. The allegation is provided as an undeniable fact on the basis of which an experts engages in unsubstantiated generalizations.
- In an article on the topic of Norasheni church, published in *Rezonansi* newspaper, positions of both sides are provided but the publication contained unverified facts and the essence of the dispute over the cult building was not provided comprehensively.
- The topic of dispute over cult buildings between Armenia and Georgia was covered in an unbalanced ways by the *Kviris palitra* newspaper.
- An article in *Kviris Palitra* about a religious motive in a killing was based on an emotional statement of a respondent, which was not double checked, and incited hatred towards Iranians.
- Among the monitored media outlets Newspaper *Rezonansi* offered the most comprehensive and qualified coverage of a traditional Muslim Friday prayer of June 14. Events which unfolded in Samtastkaro were most consistently covered by *Rezonansi* and *24 Saati* newspapers.
- Notably, newspaper *24 Hours* published the academic analytical article concerning the church in the context of May 17 events;
- Example of positive coverage was the materials about a religious holiday of Muslims, Ramadan (24 Saati, July 9);
- The only positive assessment on the essence of a secular state and the equality of rights of believers in the *Kviris Kronika* newspaper was published in the form of paid advertisement alone.

Examples:

Kviris Qronika, 15 April

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“The UNM allowed Jehovah’s witnesses and other godless sects to mushroom and strengthen and in such a way that these Jehovah’s witnesses overstep any limits”...*

Kviris Qronika, 13-19 May

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“They were tasked to protect aggressive sectarians... to infringe on sacred traditions of Georgia, incite religious conflict between Christian and Muslim Georgians in Adjara, to buy poor people for 30 silver pieces in return for rejecting their true faith and adopting the “belief” of Jehovah’s Witnesses or any other sect of sinners.”*

“The US government, if it deems necessary for its country, will not shun from provoking even a civil conflict in Georgia. Have they not already done so?”

<http://www.geworld.ge/ViewGE.php?G=3588&Title=rogor-gadaibires-amerikis-specsamsaxurebma-saqarTvelos-aTi-aTasobiT-moqalqe&lang=ge>

Kviris Qronika, 20-26 May

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“For obvious reasons, it was very important for them to imprison priest Basil [radical*

Orthodox priest sentences for pogroms of religious minorities], destroy the churches and terrorize the Orthodox perish. However, there is nothing surprising here – Witnesses of Jehovah went beyond any bounds since then in Georgia. Pentecostals, other sectants and Giga Bokeria, within a month after that, managed that Tbilisi City Court registered Jehovah’s sect as a religion and a legal entity.”

http://www.alia.ge/com/news/view/927?fb_action_ids=447590392001527&fb_action_types=og.likes

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Giorgi Gigauri: *“It was Saakashvili who caused his humble parliament to adopt the law which trampled upon the constitutional concordat signed with thousand-year-old Georgian Church and equalized the rights of our church with sects of torturers!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 24-30 June

Jaba Khubua: *“For a long time already, David Paichadze in terms of ideas, politically and spiritually is “married” to Giga Bokeria – affirmed enemy of Georgian national values, Orthodoxy and Mother Church. The Georgian society remembers Bokeria-Paichadze couple holding the stones, chasing Georgian Orthodox Christians, and trying to smash their head”⁷⁶.*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *“These people do not want to turn their villages into mini-Meccas and mini-Medinas, and why is that so surprising?! However, the devil is not in Muslim rituals, but in the anti-state minded heads of Saakashvili and his gang! These provocative movements started after the disastrous defeat of Saakashvili in October elections, when “rose men” started thinking about perverse plans aimed at discrediting the new government of Georgia and destabilizing the country! Yes, the acts of sabotage of confrontation on religious grounds among the population of Tsintskaro, Nigvziani, and Samtatskaro are planned by Saakashvili, Bokeria and their gang! It is not a mere coincidence that notorious jackals of the Liberty Institute such as Beka Mindiashvili and their brothers were snooping around there at the time of the incidents!”*

“This is the same gang that equaled the rights of Georgian Orthodox Church of thousand years with the sects of various kinds.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 8-14 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Saakashvili was spiritually impoverishing us when for the aim of defending Jehovah’s witnesses, he caused the special forces to storm the Gldani church and his henchmen to befoul the holy altar!... whilst actually handing over Adjara and Batumi to Turks!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/977/977.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 12-18 August

The article, titled *“Assemblage of 24-meter-high minaret rapidly and cheaply, or who incites religious conflict in Adigeni?!”* describes a confrontation caused by the installation of minaret to the mosque in the village of Chela, Adigeni district.

⁷⁶ Author incorrectly describes incident when supporters of radical Orthodox priest Basil Mkalavishvili physically assaulted journalist David Paichadze and former human rights defender Giga Bokeria.

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Nor should we turn a blind eye to the fact that our neighbor Turkey does not spare power or money for a religious expansion in Georgia. As you see our neighbors have already started up a rather useful and profitable business of “portable minarets”!*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/982/982.pdf>

***Kviris Palitra*, 29 April-5 May**

In an interview, *“You are a good man but are you Christian?!”*, Giorgi Okruashvili asserts that he was dismissed from the Azerbaijani limited liability company, Kavkaskabel, because of being an Orthodox Christian. Such an action is punishable under the Georgian legislation; however, the author of the publication, journalist Mari Zandukeli, has not undertaken relevant measures to verify the fact.

First, the journalist should have waited for a promised extensive comment from Elchin Humatov, allowing the journalist to double check the fact, and to publish the material only after that. The journalist should have also learned from other company employees whether they encountered any problems in their jobs on religious, ethnic or other grounds.

In addition, the article offers assessments of the expert Mamuka Areshidze in which the expert engages in generalization and draws unjustified parallels not only on religious but also on ethnic ground, thereby portraying investors as oppressors of Georgians.

Mamuka Areshidze: *“It is also noteworthy that the former government allowed the domination of financial and business groups of several neighboring countries over Georgia... The result of unfavorable conditions for Georgians in Georgia is that the entire Europe is full of Georgians. They have to tolerate myriad humiliations there, however, that can be tolerated abroad, not in own homeland! I can understand when a Georgian is required to change his/her religion in an Islamic country but when he/she is required the same in his/her homeland, that is something unacceptable and very irritating.*

As far as I know, our citizens working for Chinese company constructing the Olympic village are also put in unfavorable conditions... I will not tolerate the oppression of Georgians no matter where the investor is from.”

***Kviris Palitra*, July 22-28**

The article under the headline *“What do Armenian scientists accuse Georgians of”* concerns the etymology of the religious building located on the territory of Armenia. The position of the Armenian side is not presented in the article and no source is identified where claims of Armenians are stated. The journalist shows her biased approach by questioning the representative of the National Heritage Agency – George Gagoshidze on the contentious temples located on the territory of Georgia.

Eka Lomidze: *“The part of the Armenian scientists considers not only Lore-tashiri as an Armenian monument located on the territory of Georgia, but also the majority of the Georgian monuments as well. What are the protection mechanisms to avoid appropriation of these temples, as a historical and cultural heritage of Georgia, by others?”*

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/17975-ras-edavebian-somekhi-mecnierebi-qarthvelebs.html>

***Kviris Palitra* newspaper, 29 July-4 August**

Alike *Imedi TV*, a material published by the newspaper regarding the killing of Mariam Kochaladze, in committing which an Iranian citizen is accused, names a religious sacrifice as one of the motives of the crime. It is noteworthy that this theory, which belongs to a godmother of the deceased person

who speaks about that being under emotional stress, also includes a xenophobic statement towards Iranians in general.

Nato Kvintradze, Mariam Kochaladze's godmother: *"We demand that no Iranian enter Georgia... Mariam was a pure Christian. I think the murdered sacrificed her."*

Journalist took no reasonable precautions to verify such emotional assumptions, including, by approaching investigative bodies.

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/justice/18103-mariam-kochalidze-mkvlels-icnobda.html>

Rezonansi, June 3

Newspaper's interest to cover property dispute between Georgian and Armenian Orthodox Churches is positive. Even though the formal balance is observed, journalist word-by-word transcripts the positions of the sides and does not even try to inform readers on the accuracy of facts and arguments, and verify the information spread by the sides. For instance, representative of the Georgian Patriarchy states that Armenians claim the ownership of 600 churches in Georgia. The journalist could have checked this information with the Armenian side. Information concerning the 6 disputed religious buildings was given by the Public Broadcaster as a backgrounder of the same story. On his part, Mikael Botkoveli makes incorrect generalization basing on the inaccurate information and promotes stereotypes.

Mikael Botkoveli, Georgian Patriarchy: *"According to Armenians, they have 600 churches in Georgia, this is not serious. It turns out to be Armenia rather than Georgia then. They make so many unserious statements, that one doubts even when they speak truth."*

Naturally, in given circumstances journalist's function goes beyond the mere reflection of the hearsay, and implies providing the readers with the exact number of the disputed cult buildings, which could have shed light to the issue.

At the same time, there are other factual inaccuracies in the information provided by the sides. Namely, Levon Isakhanian says that the church was built in the 15th century, while Mikael Botkoveli ascribes it to the period of Armenization of the Georgian churches in the 17th and 18th centuries. The journalist could have clarified the origins of the architecture with an independent expert, could have checked the information concerning the erasure of the inscriptions on the graves and frescos, and then basing on that information she could raise relevant questions with the representative of the Patriarchy.

http://rezonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=15829

Rezonansi, June 15

Journalist Eka Basilaia comprehensively reported that Muslims were able to conduct a prayer on June 14 following the arrival in the village of the State Minister for Reintegration Paata Zakareishvili. In addition, she offered the readers the complete background of the emerged problem including the earlier developments in Nigvziani and Tsintskaro.

The journalist also accentuated that the prayer was held but most likely, due to the immense psychological pressure and that local Muslims did not take part.

On the one hand, the editorial reflected the position of the village Governor Gulo Nadirashvili stating that Muslims have a guaranteed right to pray and nobody can hinder it, while on the other, in difference with the rest of media outlets, basing on Kakheti Information center, the journalist recalled the earlier position of the local authorities. By bringing up the previous statements of Dedoplistskaro Governor Irakli Shiolashvili and village Governor Gulo Nadirashvili (stating that they were committed to protect

the interests of majority which is against the opening of the Muslim prayer chapel), newspaper provided readers with the opportunity to assess the shift in the point of view of one of the local authorities (Gulo Nadirashvili), following the arrival of the State Minister to Samtatskaro.

Prejudices

Asaval-dasavali, 15-21 July

Following prejudices are contained in the article where journalist labels “*Spiderman*”, “*Batman*” as well as the advertisement clip of the company “Natakhtari” as Satanic:

Giorgi Gigauri: “*When the fuehrer of the National Movement [Michael Saakashvili] and the real owner of “Rustavi 2” joins baby finger and forefinger and configures the rest three fingers in the air, all should know that he depicts “666” – the Devil’s sign!*”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/978/978.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, July 1-7

Journalist Giorgi Gigauri dedicates an extensive article to superstitions, namely to the number of the beast on the US one dollar bills and other symbols, presence of the Satanist and Masonic symbols in the logo of the kids’ network Nickelodeon, statues and photos of the US presidents.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 29 April-5 May

Entire article by journalist depicting his visit to the clergyman based on prejudices.

3.3. SEXUAL MINORITIES

- A clear line between discriminations on the grounds of ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation was often difficult to draw as all these forms of discrimination were mainly applied intermittently, by respondents and sometimes journalists, in a political discourse;
- The editorial policies of newspaper *Asaval-Dasavali*, *Kviris Qhronika* and *Alia* is explicitly homophobic and contain discriminatory statements and hate speech as well as various political speculations with regard to sexual minorities, denigrating terminology and unsubstantiated parallels. These media outlets portray minorities as objects of publications and not subjects, because opinions of sexual minorities are totally ignored.
- Homosexuality was presented as being artificially imposed by the West; anti-Western attitudes were incited, the United National Movement was linked to sexual minorities and new government was portrayed as anti-National force.
- Journalists often express theocratic approaches while reporting on rights of sexual minorities (*Kviris Qronika*, May 20-26)⁷⁷. For example, journalist from *Alia* (May 17-20) tries to shift the emphasis from a legal context and to view the issue from the angle of moral esteem of the religious leader while posing a question⁷⁸ to the organizers of May 17 rally against homophobia and transphobia.

⁷⁷ Khatuna Elbakidze: “*Policeman is a Christian first, and only then a policeman.*”

⁷⁸ Shorena Gogoladze: “*Only police? Is the Patriarch’s call not important for you?*”

- *Asaval-Dasavali* discusses the issue of sexual orientation of a concrete person, the leader of the organization, Patriots, Giorgi Mazmaniania in the context of a rally held by the United National movement and pejoratively refers to him as a “hen” and a female name Anjela.
- *Asaval-Dasavali* links the law against discrimination drafted by the government and the introduction of the institution of inspector for equality only with the protection of sexual minorities (“Gay-Ombudsman”) and as an initiative imposed by the West.
- *Kviris Qronika* was permanently drawing unjustified parallels between either the April 19 rally organized by the United National Movement with sexual minorities or May 17 rally against homophobia and transphobia with the UNM.
- Newspaper *Kviris Palitra*, without any editorial comment, reprinted from the facebook page Tamar Ivleri’s statement containing hate speech. The newspaper also incompletely covered the developments following the statement made.
- Only positive column of *Kviris Palitra*’s journalist, Merab Metreveli, touching upon the 17 May events, does not condone the violence and stresses the importance of peacefully expressing different opinions. However, a passage in the column – “*Does anyone prohibit you to voice protest against propaganda of homosexuality?*” – introduces an absolutely vague notion – “*propaganda of homosexuality,*” which the journalist does not try to explain and specify.
- Newspapers *24 Hours* and *Rezonansi* dedicated substantial space to the coverage of May 17 events.

Examples:

ASAVAL-DASAVALI

22-28 April

Giorgi Gigauri: *“The true national movement has nothing to do with somebody coquettishly standing next to Saakov at the disgraceful show of April 19, with Giorgi (Anjela)” Mazmaniani known as a pederast-chicken brigadier of the prison!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/966/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

29 April-12 May

Tea Asatiani: *“It is an old and popular anecdote... If you have an aquarium at home... you love nature, picnic and like to drink, this means that you also like women and you are not a pederast. Consequently, if you do not have an aquarium at home it logically means that you are a pederast... I cannot say exactly why was aquarium replaced by the ABC, but if we consider that the main criterion in education today is skills and also recall that with the help of Saakashvili’s government, people with non-traditional sexual orientation conducted “gay parties” right in front of schools, some logical conclusion may be drawn.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

29 April-12 May

Zaza Davitaia: *“Saakov-Mazmanian’s National Movement with its non-traditional orientation takes the country towards the abyss!”*

“People with non-traditional sexual orientation conduct demonstrations, under the veil of democracy and human rights in Georgia, in the country of real men” ...

“Such rumors circulate about Anjelika that a decent person would find it shameful to repeat... Upon entering the prison he settled not in an ordinary ward but in a ‘henhouse’ because he is a representative

of non-traditional orientation... 'Hen' is also a person and has rights too, but he was called that name in due time because he turned his back to the society, traditions and revealed his non-traditional sexual orientation.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

13-19 May

Zaza Davitaia: *“Georgia is a paradoxical country in which a rally of representatives of non-traditional sexual orientation may be joined by EU ambassadors who protect them as shields whereas a fair protest of former political prisoners against the regime, which killed own citizens and committed numerous crimes, can be qualified as hooliganism and crime...”*

The material also notes that the newspaper has got blessing from Father Job.

27 May-2 June

Tea Asatiani: *“One cannot exclude that the Georgian LGBT intended to repeat the action of Pussy Riot and thanks god that the rally planned on Rustaveli avenue on 17 May was thwarted or had this herd of sexual perverts stormed into Kashueti Church and started their antics there, neither the clergy nor the police would have been able to do anything and the blood would have been spilt...”*

[Addresses human rights defenders]: Leave alone those diseased persons in their sin and do not encourage them towards blasphemy and perversion... Especially today, when Saakashvili and the UNM have turned into political corpses, they are left with this crowd of mutants alone and now use them for staging provocations, stirring up disorder and conflict.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971.html>

27 May-2 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“The conflict which broke out between the Orthodox Christian Georgians and the promoters of sexual perverts on the Rustaveli Avenue on 17 May, has once again gave an opportunity to a hollow person called Lasha Bakradze to resurface! Yes, Lasha Bakradze has emerged as one of the leaders of that movement which can be openly called an anti-Georgian, anti-Orthodox and anti-clerical front!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971.html>

27 May-2 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“And how dare those scoundrels speak to me about hate speech and homophobia, who are fed for years by those who killed tens of thousands of civilians, including thousands of children, in Iraq and Afghanistan?!”*

“They say either become sexual perverts or forget NATO!.. If our degree of democracy is gauged by the number of gay prides conducted and the number of sexual perverts getting married to “a man of his dream,” then Georgians will say out loud that they do not want such democracy!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971.html>

27 May-2 June

Salome Gogiashvili, presenter: *“If democracy means having many sexual perverts around, men not desiring women, Georgian nation degrading and men wearing skirts, I do not want such a democracy.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971.html>

27 May-2 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Thus, this means that this disease is really “contagious!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971.html>

3-9 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Lasha, my friend, we can go and consider “pidarmon” as a pet name of “pederast”. If you ask me, it better suits you than the rude and blatant “pederast” or “sodomite”!.. this degenerate Lasha Bugadze (a “clinical case”, really) feels great affection to pederasts and pidarmons and hates our Mother Church, Catholicos-Patriarch and hundred thousands of believers.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

3-9 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“So, if a fly lands on some pederast’s butt without warning the US State Department glaring angrily is almost ready to declare the high alert of its nuclear forces” ...*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

10-16 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Of course, the liberast elite of the civilized world would have loved Maia Panjikidze’s barren historic education and her squint-eyed political world – view, but this lady is a Foreign Minister of Georgia and not of Germany, for instance! This country already has Guido Westerwelle as a chief diplomat and openly gay who just two years ago married a man like him and now has a happy LGBT family.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

17-23 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *“I will say outright; those who planned 17 May rally in Georgia and staged a huge provocation, are sexual perverts! They are even worse – spiritual perverts and ideological homosexuals!..*

Thus, the den of uncle Soros is the headquarter of LGBT propaganda in Georgia and anti-Georgian, pervert subversive activity!..

Indeed, this is the dirtiest, the most wicked ideology which will stealthily start with gay prides, then will legalize same sex marriages and thereafter, demand the adoption of children and if they achieve all that, then, like it is in Holland, will make us write in the law that the age of sexual life of children shall be 12 years (i.e. legalize pedophilia!) and that such perversions as incest, zoophilia, necrophilia, etcetera, become an ordinary and harmless thing!..

Those are blatant liars who claim from actually every TV that homosexuality is an ordinary phenomenon and we must put up with that!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/974/974.pdf>

1-7 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *“It seems that for the representatives of Appathurai’s country rape of men and kids does not count as a crime!*

Now, dear reader, tell me what is the difference between being raped and being “Appathuraid?” Yes, rape of people, with arms and legs tied, by the Saakashvili regime is equal to being “Appathuraid!” “

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

15-21 July

George Gigauri: *“Liberal government of Moldova had been directly opposed by the Orthodox church of the country, considering the anti-discriminative law as “a perverted western order and the attempt of establishment of sexual minority’s dictate on majority!.. Moldova is being tested like Georgia: If you wish closer integration with the west, take special care of sexual minorities!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/978/978.pdf>

15-21 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *“In America gays beaten up Christians who came to protest gay parades! In short, in very civilized and democratic America gays and their supporters represent majority and Christians – minority!*

Thus we have to do with purposeful and well planned scheme as a result of which... Orthodox people may be announced to be mentally diseased and those come to protest gay parades are going to be well beaten up as minorities by our muscled pederasts!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/978/978.pdf>

22-28 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Does it mean, that besides the Ombudsman protecting sexual minorities, we will have a specialized “Gay-Ombudsman” [meaning equality inspector] as well?”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

22-28 July

Aleko Aslanishvili, editor of newspaper “Saqartvelos Respublica”: *“I don’t know how many pederasts are there in Georgia today, but it’s clear, there are much more than in the times when I was younger... there is at least one non-governmental organization assigned for protection and patronage of each of them. Ass of each pederast has given the national value, watching its pulse soberly and carefully.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

29 July-4 August

Arno Khidirbegishvili, editor-in-chief of Sakinformi: *“All these [re:the translation of the MTV’s program Room Riders broadcast by Rustavi 2] was accompanied with their [homosexuals] appalling naturalistic gestures.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/980/980.pdf>

29 July-4 August

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Yes, It was exactly Saakashvili’s UNM that organized the 17 May provocation which was designed so that to have indignant and offended Georgians kill a homosexual and then the UNM would shout loud for the entire world to hear that a homophobic government came to power in the country!..*

“I hope Lesbians will not feel offended if a letter in the acronym denominating them will be replaced by National Movement and will be read as Naitonals, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/980/980.pdf>

29 July-4 August

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Up to 100,000 Georgians that took to the Rustaveli avenue on 17 May to protest against homosexuality and at least 20 times as many Georgians who remained at home, await a response*

from Bidzina Ivanishvili to one simple question: How will he make the Georgian Dream come true alongside with anti-Georgian Republican Party which hates Georgians?!”

“Every patriot of Georgia must principally stand up to a targeted and well-organized campaign pursuing the aim of transforming our country into homosexuals!... If we allow and put up with the wanton march of homosexuals and lesbians on the Rustaveli avenue; if we turn a blind eye to an open propagation of homosexuality then we will be “promoted” to an upper step of legalizing same-sex marriages and allowing gay families to adopt children!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/980/980.pdf>

KVIRIS QRONIKA

15 April

Gela Zedelashvili: *“A large segment of people supports me saying we must jointly fight against an aggressive campaign of gays and lesbians, otherwise we do not know what kind of persons our children will become... According to them, homosexuality is not a perverted life but a political fight. I have always wondered why there were so many gays in various governments.”*

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“Support of 19 April rally means that you support the UNM and the policy of their American partners – the legalization of rights of gays, lesbians, transsexuals and other similar cursed people.”*

13-19 May

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“Does one necessarily have to be a pederast or a lesbian [meaning release of hidden video tapes against Giorgi Paresishvili] in order to demand the guaranteed protection of the right to privacy and gain the Nationals [National Movement] support?”*

<http://www.alia.ge/com/news/view/908#prettyPhoto>

20-26 May

Khatuna Elbakidze: *“Non-governmental organizations enthused by the National Movement and with their efforts financed by the foreign grants mobilized the “sexual minorities of all Georgia” and aspired to hold a parade on the Rustaveli Avenue. Those, against the gay parade, moral people planned the counter demonstration against this perverse, immoral rally... Giga Bokeria and other members of this caste of the faithless aspire for the bloodshed, at any demonstration, whether political or apolitical.”*

http://www.alia.ge/com/news/view/927?fb_action_ids=447590392001527&fb_action_types=og.likes

20-26 May

Nino Samkharadze: *“Why did the protection of a homosexuals butt become a national tragedy, or why did the world and the civilized Europe go blind and unjust failing to see the interests of the majority and elite corruption of the previous government, defending the rights of minorities while ignoring the will of the majority? Sorry, but if the asses of these tenish pederasts are so important, we don’t need either NATO or EU.”*

27 May-2 June

Nino Samkharadze: *“The Georgian Church showed strength [on May 17 events], defended Christian traditions but many people wonder where were you when Saakashvili’s regime was spilling blood, killing people? Why did the Church not show such a unanimous protest back then?”*

10-16 June

Nino Samkharadze: *“Are the sexual minorities more important for them [the West] than the lives of soldiers fighting against terrorism who, by the way, sacrifice their lives to their operations?”*

17-23 June

Neli Vardiashvili: *“In case of developed perversion [homosexuality], people are inclined towards an opposite sex as well, do they not? I have heard that a certain segment of men with such sexual orientation are even married; should such people be still considered as diseased people?..*

“And still, what should pregnant women do in order to prevent fetuses from developing such a disease? Let us not scare women with this article and provide them with some advice.”

12-18 August

Giorgi Korkotashvili, radio anchor: *“I can’t understand why they deal with LGBT?! The law must prohibit them from conducting a parade. How is it possible that members of the government promote them?!... If you allow me, I will go to the Mayor’s office and ask Gigi Ugulava to allocate a territory for LGBT on the Gladi waste dumping ground, where they can conduct their parades...”*

12-18 August

Gela Zedelashvili’s article *“Why LGBT defenders sue the minister of health care?”* is about a claim filed with the constitutional court, in which they demand the annulment of the order of the health minister which restricts the blood donation from homosexuals. The article is entirely homophobic and portrays homosexuals as diseased people.

ALIA

16 May

Nino Samkharadze: *“Mr. Elizbar, the new government came into conflict with the national and religious lines. There is a gay parade planned on May 17 and the Prime Minister fails to avert it. How do you think, are we going to have a civil confrontation on that day?”*

4 July

Nino Samkharadze: *“Taking some iodine would not be bad for the NATO secretary General Rasmussen... For Rasmussen protecting the butts of LGBT persons turned out to be more important than the army of victims of the violent government. When in the 21st century you show the facts of torture of people, rape and murder to the Secretary General and he continues referring to chief Jako as a democrat, then you are a cretin or simply, bribed!”*

18 July

Journalist Nino Samkharadze presents unconfirmed information, spread by lawyer Shalva Khachapuridze as a real fact, that the First Lady Sandra Roelofs is involved in withdrawal and adoption of children by homosexuals who were born by artificial insemination.

Nino Samkharadze: *“Well done, Sandra! You are not betraying traditions of your home country [Netherlands] and help homosexual couples, while thousands of families in Georgia are suffering from infertility and the adoption procedure is so complicated and expensive, that people are aging childless and you are taking care so hardly about homosexual and lesbian couples, about adoption of Georgian children abroad.”*

<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1584>

24 July

Nino Samkharadze: *“It turned out that security of Georgian pederasts’ buttocks and pink sex of lesbians was as important for Rasmussen as antiterrorist missions for NATO. One part of Rasmussen visit in July was dedicated to the security of those engaged in immoral sex and he shook his fingers pointing out to be careful... If your NATO means protecting pederasts and lesbians, many will refuse such alliance.”*

<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1625>

31 July

Gela Zedelashvili: *“The May 17th rally had been really planned in his [Giga Bokeria, Secretary of the Security Council] office. It’s well known even in the Prime Minister’s circle that he [Bidzina Ivanishvili] can’t stand pederasts and it should be so, but the official status forces him to take a balanced position.”*

<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1679>

KVIRIS PALITRA

3-9 June

Newspaper Kviris Palitra fully and without editorial comment published the appeal to the President of the renowned Georgian singer Tamar Iveri performing in leading European opera theatres, initially published in the social network. The article titled with the quote by Iveri, *“Mr. Ambassador [US Ambassador in Georgia], this way you cannot make the whole nation bend over for the accession to NATO”* reflects the editorial position of the newspaper. It should be noted that the editorial of the newspaper does not present singer’s such expressions as problematic, neither offers apology for her homophobic expressions and hate speech as internet portal Netgazeti did earlier because of the similar expressions made by the majority leader David Saganelidze. Netgazeti then explained the fact of publication of Saganelidze’s expressions by high social interest toward the position of the public figure. Instead, Kviris Palitra peremptorily replicated such expression.

The only valuable information is given in the end of the article as a post-scriptum, which notes that following the publication of Iveri’s appeal Paris National Opera announced on its website that Tamar Iveri’s concert planned for June 1 was cancelled due to her health condition, as officially stated. Journalist also notes that according to the information spread, the actual reason of the cancellation of the concert was the appeal translated by the organization Identoba into French and sent to the partner organizations in Paris. Journalist in her post-scriptum notes that they have tried to contact Tamar Iveri in order to verify the information, however they could not reach her. It should be noted that the newspaper did not try to contact organization Identity. Therefore, the article does not mention the information published on Identity’s website concerning the apologies offered by the singer on June 1, and received by the organization via e-mail.

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/17399-qbatono-elcho-mthel-ers-am-gzith-natoshi-misaghebad-ver-tsakzavthq.html>

3.4. DISCRIMINATION ON GENDER GROUND

Kviris Palitra, 29 July–4 August

A journalist's formulation of a question regarding the issuance of a certificate of virginity by the expertise bureau is discriminatory when she uses a phrase such as "girls with suspicious past."

Manana Bochoidze: "It also happened that girls with suspicious past managed to cheat their future husbands who are obsessed about innocence of their future wives. What do you think, is a certificate not needed in such cases either?"

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/18030-givi-sikharulidze-qme-thu-mkithkhavth-vazhishvilobis-motsmobac-unda-shemoighon-pederastebith-gaivso-qveyanaq.html>

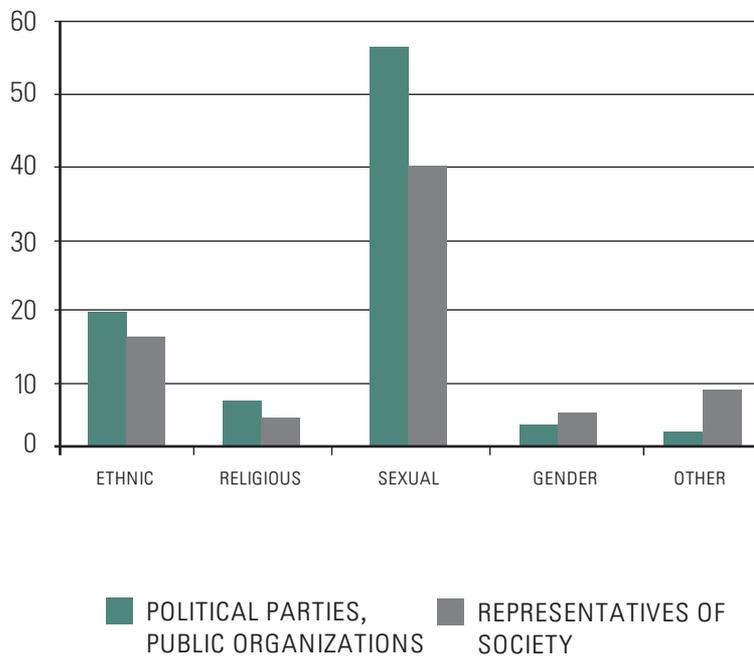
Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April–12 May

Zaza Davitaia: "*Women lay in bed with Misha to arrange their lives... Rumors also have that some women even ensured thus the mandates of deputies.*"

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

4. Respondents

In case of respondents discrimination was most often observed with regard to sexual minorities (political parties and public organizations – 56; representatives of society of various fields – 41); Data on discrimination by topics looks as follows: ethnic minorities – 20/15; religious minorities – 8/3; gender, sexism – 2/3; hate speech – 2/9.



4.1. ETHNIC MINORITIES

- Discrimination on the ground of ethnicity, especially, anti-Chinese statements as well as racist expressions were basically used by respondents (alike journalists) in connection with social problems and liberal immigration and investment policy pursued by the United National Movement .
- Anti-Turkish sentiments were incited through drawing unsubstantiated parallels between historic facts and present reality, thereby misleadingly linking it to officially declared current position of the Turkish state. Turkey was portrayed as a threat tantamount to Russian occupation.
- Like in case of journalists, Armenophobic statements were mainly used in political context in relation to the former government and current opposition [UNM], also in regards of President Saakashvili. Naming addresses as “Armenians” and people with “changed surnames” usually had negative connotation;
- The topic of deported Meskhetians by the Soviet regime in the 1940s of XX century was discussed by respondents in the context of genetic origin, whether they are Georgians or non-Georgians, rather than in the context of the right to restoration of justice. The process of repatriation was considered as threat of ethnoconflict;
- The issue of ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Georgia, which is aimed at protecting languages of minorities was a matter of political speculation in lecture discourse. Without any grounds, this topic was linked with threats, the infringement of the country’s territorial integrity, release of Russian spies from the prison.

Examples:

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 24 April

Dima Jaiani, actor⁷⁹: “...Families of other ethnicities sometimes have twenty children, while Georgians may have only two... They should not reproduce at the expense of Georgia and Georgians. God help them, but only in their own countries. There are countries where they belong. May God give them children, but...”

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11718>

***Kviris Qronika*, April 22-28**

Manana Kobakidze, vice speaker of the Parliament: “It was their homeland and look what they (UNM) have done with it. We all know that whatever the enemy failed to take away they gave it to the aliens. Today, peasants in Shida Kartli and Gori are left without pastures.”

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, May 6

Giorgi Gachechiladze, Georgian Dream: “The National Movement introduced unilaterally the visa-free regime with 56 countries, and Mr. David, you should see what kind of countries are those - mostly of African and Asian states... They intentionally deprived them of pastures, to drive them out forcing the peasants to leave the village... and then you would arrive, for instance to the region of Kakheti, and even though still being called Kakheti, it would be mostly populated by Indians.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030612

⁷⁹ At present the Minister of Culture and Education of Abkhazia

Asaval-Dasavali, 15-21 April

Aleko Shalamberidze, Free Georgia: *“Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan plan to seize Georgia’s territories. Why should one care about the prohibition of condoms when Georgians in Georgia are being left without land?!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/965/965.pdf>

Channel 9, Main Question, 19 April

Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia: *“Or should hundreds of thousands of hectares of land be taken over by Pakistani, Indian or Arab farmers?.. What is happening today is directed against the country – whenever you enter the house of justice, you see more Pakistanis and Indians with Georgian passports standing in the queue than Georgians.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2016830

Alia, 19 June

Temur Shashiahvili, Tetrebi party: *“The United National Movement took native population of Georgia out and brought in instead people from Arab countries, Iran, China, India and Turkey. This is the change of Georgian mentality. Million and a half people have now left the country and live in indigence! A lot of Georgians are in mad-houses and prisons of Europe...”*

<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1379>

Kviris Qronika, 3-12 May

Temur Shashiashvili: *“Go to the Public Register, 80% of people standing in a queue there are Arabs, Indians, Chinese. A ruinous system of awarding citizenship must be abolished... In Kharagauli there are Chinese with Georgian surnames – Chkheide and Tsereteli. Soon we will probably have Chinese Bagrationis.”*

Gia Kruashvili: *“Look, Chinese have enclosed the entire Varketili district, the entire Tbilisi sea, who will be left in Georgia?”*

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 7 August

Gia Maisashvili: *“There is a home of Georgians which they looted and a nation [meaning Russia-Georgia war] oriented on looting and theft”..*

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=13201>

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-12 May

Koba Arabuli, writer: *“Centuries ago, Shah Abbas displaced us, now Saakashvili allowed Chinese, Indians and Arabs in.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

GPB, Dialogue, 24 April

Giorgi Gugava, Labour Party: *“The Chinese town is being built in the surroundings of the Tbilisi Sea... they turned operating schools into hotels for Chinese, and very soon we’ll have a small China-town... The time comes of Indian, Sikh or Arab to be the ruler of Georgia.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2019977

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-12 May

Asmat Tkabladze, Actress: *“Dear Prime Minister, task someone to find out what is happening in the middle of Tbilisi, why should naked Chinese run around here.”*

Dima Jaiani: *"...thousands of hectares of Georgian land was sold to Indians and Chinese! This is the democracy or the hostility of the country?!"*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Sandro Bregadze, Nationals: *"Several days ago I saw myself a bus crowded with Africans. Criminal syndicate of Chinese also operates in Tbilisi, which is engaged in prostitution..."*

None of occupiers has done anything like that to Georgia. This is a targeted genocide and if we fail to timely prevent that and to adopt an immigration law of European type, future generations will announce us as traitors."

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 13 May

Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance: *"Neither Chinese or Indians swarm that country nor territories are fragmented there; nor do they grant regional status to the Georgian language or build mosques or go to Afghanistan. It would be good if we take after our brotherly nation, Armenians."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11903>

Kavkasia, Spektri, July 24

David Chichinadze: *"There won't be reproduction of Georgians and who will work then, Chinese, Turkish people, or who?"*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2101186

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 24 April

Akia Barbakadze: *"Of course we have a problem when there is only one Georgian in the national team, while the rest of them are Negros."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11718>

Alia, June 6

Khatuna Bokuchava, actor: *"Stop granting the lands to Negroes, Chinese, Arabs, and Hindu. They should let us live where our fathers shed their blood so the Georgian nation could survive until today... If we shave their [supporters of the former government] heads, I am sure we'll see the sign of "666" on their skulls, because they deprived us, Christians of the right to live in our motherland."*

Anti-Turkish Sentiments

GPB, Dialogue, April 24

Soso Manjavidze: *"The Georgian media pays less attention to what is going on in Adjara and South Georgia while Turkey publishes official maps not only of ancient Georgia but maps based on the idea of the restoration of the former Ottoman Empire."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020638

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 22 April

David Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance: *"But 95 years later, Turkey is no longer an occupant? They cut off 30% of our territory..."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 15 June

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *“Obviously, in Georgia and especially in Adjara, Adjarians should be appointed to high positions and not Turks... The Georgian should be masters in Georgia, while the rest should remain guests, and not vice versa... Adjarians have suffered enough from these Turks.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12420>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 22 April

Gulbaat Rtskhiladze, Eurasia Institute: *“The term peaceful penetration comes from the colonial times. This is what happens now in Adjara-economic take-over instead of the intervention with arms and ammunition... Since Russian military bases left Batumi and Akhalkalaki, Turks are unrestrained. They felt like at home in Adjara and Akhaltsikhe region, and they will advance further.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11704>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 23 May

Viewer: *“I was there on May 26. I was raided and beaten up brutally. Can you imagine my bewilderment seeing that not only your mankurts were against us but Turks were also fighting us? Turkish conversations were heard all around.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12065>

***Asaval-Dasavali*, 15-21 April**

Elizbar Javeldize, Public Assembly: *“No one can blame me of hating Turkey but that does not mean at all turning a blind eye to Turkish expansion and applauding the fact that Adjara’s is becoming Turkish... A great monument to the dominance of Ottoman Empire in Georgia has been erected in Akhaltsikhe and now they mull over the color of the dome of the mosque with busy expression, meanwhile our great friend Turkey carried out “reconstruction” of Iskhani with bulldozers; what can this be called?!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/965/965.pdf>

***Asaval-Dasavali*, 29 April-5 May**

Elizbar Javelidze: *“As I know almost 27,000 Turks, already Armenians have also settled in Adjara. All this means that Adjara is no longer ours... Turkish TV channel refers to Batumi as to a Turkish city...”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

***Asaval-Dasavali*, 12-18 August**

Elizbar Javelidze: *“Saakashvili opened up a door of Adjara to Turks and allowed them to inundate it!.. Saakashvili is so much skilled in steering the Turkish expansion in Georgia that Adjara seemed not sufficient for him and with the active leadership of his mother, Giuli Alasania, allowed to open Turkish kindergartens, schools or universities across Georgia!”*

“Yes, indeed, Turkey dreams not only of getting a foothold in Ajara but also in the entire Southern Georgia too [meaning construction of minaret in village of Chela].”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/982/982.pdf>

***Asaval-Dasavali*, 29 July-4 August**

Jondi Bagaturia, Georgian Troup: *“Moreover, Georgian children from the educational institution owned by Giuli Alasania and Putulah Gulen are taken to Turkey where they are taught that Georgia is merely part of Turkey... Those children were educated at madrasahs and then brought back. Thus, in reality, a*

caste raised by Turkish ideology, carriers of Turkish interests, was trained in Georgia!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/980/980.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, May 20–26

Temur Shashiashvili, Whites: *“We have turned ourselves into the slaves of Turks in Georgia, and served as their slaves in their country as well.”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 July–4 August

Giorgi Burjanadze, anticorruption union: *“Prostitutes have done their job in Turkey, now it is time for free slaves. There is a serious hunt for Georgian males, as cheap workforce, in Turkey.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/980/980.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 17–23 June

Tamaz Bakuridze, human rights defender: *“...there is not a single Georgian in those houses, Turks and Chinese occupy each meter of them. Within several years Batumi will be a non-Georgian city... You must remember a birch tower erected in the center of Batumi, as it transpired, that was a memorial to the glory of the Ottoman Empire... The Ottoman influence and glory will soon be restored there. This is not a fruit of my fantasy either.”*

Alia, 21–24 June

Soso Tsintsadze, political scientist: *“...They [Turks] behave in Batumi just like they did in the 1920s. This must come to the end.”*

Armenophobia

Asaval-Dasavali, 15–21 April

Jansug Charkviani, poet: *“Unfortunately, I am sitting in despair, so far I have always blessed Georgia. Are you Georgian? – Do not come on the 19th! Are you Armenian? – Fine, then, come.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/965/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 22–28 April

Jansug Charkviani: *“There were 60% of Armenians in the previous Parliament and in the entire government. They have changed their surnames. So, do I have to do anything with that?.. I did not want Georgians to attend that protest rally, but Armenians are welcome. Armenians would not have even noticed it, if the Nationals had not kicked up a row.”*

Alia, 19 April

Temur Shashiashvili, Tetrebi party: *“Take a look, 80 percent of people in the Georgian government are those who have changed surnames. I am not against Armenians, they are our brothers, but will Armenians allow their country to be run by people with changed surnames?”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April–5 May

Dima Jaiani, actor: *“Vakhtang Kolbaia is a man, a Georgian man and how dare non-Georgian Saakashvili accuses him of treason of Georgia!.. Let Armenian president be president in Armenia! Georgia must have a Georgian president! Can you imagine Armenia having a Georgian president?! Is Georgia short of Georgians in order not to have the Armenian president?!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 8-14 July

Kakha Targamadze, former Interior Minister of Shevardnadze government: Do you know why I beat up Givi Targamadze? He is of Armenian descent, his real surname is Osipov and when I learned that he changed his name, it made me angry.”

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/15171-qaseti-qbanbanerkaq-qarthvelebis-arasodes-mesmodaq.html>

Deported Mesketians

Asaval-Dasavali, 15-21 April

Aghas Arabyan, Javakhi in Russia: “Georgia is not obliged to take responsibility for the fate of offspring of Meskhetians deported by the Soviet regime... Moreover, this is an attempt to encourage Islamic expansion which equally contradicts the interests of local Armenians and the entire Georgian nation and Christian world.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/965/965.pdf>

GPB, Aktsentebi, 19 April

Natia Megrelishvili: “This is a similar topic to that [resettlement of Abkhaz to Abkhazia from Syria and Turkey], when the issue of Meskhetian Turks, was imposed on us [against our will].”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2015031

Rustavi 2, Position, April 23 G

Giorgi Gugava, Labour party: “Those from the Georgian Dream, especially Republicans raised the issue in accordance with the National Movement’s orders and the course initiated by them... We have to block the obligation undertaken by Ivanishvili concerning the resettlement of 80 000 Turks to Georgia, sales of Georgian lands to foreigners should be also blocked.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2018957

Maestro, Politmeter, 25 April

Giorgi Gugava: “Now, when we have 300 000 IDPs, when more than 70 000 bank debtors diddled by the mortgagers facing the threat of eviction, it turns out that our main problem is to fulfill the obligation of resettlement of 80 000 Meskhetian Turks to Georgia.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020629

Maestro, Politmeter, 29 April

Goga Khaindrava, film director: “95% of those who were exiled from Georgia at that time, are pure Georgians, Meskhetians... The only thing they have [different from Georgians] is the religion, they are followers of Islam and that because of their unfortunate fate and not because they so wished.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036388

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036401

Jondi Baghaturia, Georgian Troup: “The main reason of their resettlement from here was their anti-Georgian sentiments, pro-Turkish sentiments, let’s say so... I do not know whether they are Georgians genetically, at least 80% of them are Turks because the Turkish occupational regime, in due time, resettled ethnic Turks from the middle of Turkey to Meskheti in order to upset a demographic balance.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029394

Manana Nachkebia, New Rights: “Muslim Meskhetians who are indeed of Georgian origin genetically and for whom this is a historic homeland, and people who were very well used by the Soviet KGB against Georgia.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036367

Maestro, *Politmeter*, April 25

Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia: *“There are problems deriving from the status of the state language, problems that we have now in Abkhazia and Samachablo. The Georgian language has been replaced there, and the separatism developed after that... This is a step towards the disintegration of Georgia.”*

Mirza Davitaia, United National Movement: *“We have a suspicious coincidence of several steps taken earlier in this regard. There were talks about the release of the Russian spies, Chakhaliani, and the Law on Occupation – all these coincided in time.”*

Tamar Kordzaia, Georgian Dream: *“I agree with you, absolutely, the issue of a territorial integrity is a threat in this context.”*

Soso Manjavidze, the Alliance of Patriots: *“The law initiated by the Republicans implies the separation of each municipal entity into five self-governing units, plus joining the Charter for Regional languages. This was the plan of Georgia’s partition. Imagine for example, we have Sagarejo Municipality in some ways ethnically balanced. If we divide it to five parts we get ethnically entirely non-Georgian regions as self-governing bodies at the level of municipalities.”*

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 23 May

Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots’ Alliance: *“We will not allow Armenian language or Azerbaijani language or any other language been granted this status.”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11903>

4.2. RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

- Vice Speaker of the Parliament from the Georgian Dream refers to the members of the National Movement as demolishers of churches and links the arrest of the radical Orthodox group members for the physical assault of the guests and associates of the TV Company *Kavkasia* to their Orthodox Christian faith.
- Discriminative approach (Zaza Papuashvili, Georgian Dream) that the rights of ethnic Georgians are more important than those of religious minorities was revealed;
- Political opponents (Shalva Natelashvili of the Labor Party, Temur Shashiashvili from the political movement *Tetrebi*) tried to portray the new ruling force, the Georgian Dream, its leader and the presidential candidate as forces fighting against orthodox Christianity.

Examples:

***Kviris Qronika*, April 22–28**

Manana Kobakhidze, Vice Speaker of the Parliament: *“Concerning the faith, who sued or sentenced our Orthodox Christian boys? We freed them as illegal prisoners and politically persecuted... Sergo Ratiani used to make very aggressive statements at their court hearings [MDF: the guest of the TV show, who was questioned in court as a witness], he was acting on purpose in order to send these people to prison.”*

Maestro, Politmeter, May 10

Zaza Papuashvili, Georgian Dream: *“...Where on earth is the country they [UNM] do care for? You come about pretending to protect other congregations’ rights [Georgian Muslims facing problems to pray in Samtaskaro, Tsintkaro, Nigvziani]. You slam your own [country], tearing it down and spitting on it while claiming to care about others’ prayers. How come their prayer was impeded? Let’s help them promptly, or otherwise they won’t be able to perform prayers. You mind your own affairs, and they will take care of themselves.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2035323

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

Deacon Grigol Gogichadze: *“I called the United National Movement a Satanist sect. This dirty force has almost led to the rift inside the Church.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

Alia, 26 June

Zaza Nanobashvili, Orthodox Christians’ Assembly: *“As you are aware, the previous government opened up an era of building up Mosques in Georgia. In essence it was propaganda of Islam rather than the response to the violation of religious minorities’ rights. The state does not take into account the rights of indigenous population of the state and cares more for the interests of minority...”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 24-30 June

Temur Shashiashvili, Whites: *“I am deeply sorry that Mr. Bidzina supports the representative of Soros as a candidate for Presidency... This is a tragedy of Georgia – the members of foreign sects, Masonic sects still maintaining leadership here.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

Imedi, Gia Eteri, 12 July

Shalva Natelashvili, Labor Party’s Presidential candidate: *“Actually, Ivanishvili is the leader of the Republican rather than of the Georgian Dream. He is the man of that understanding, that philosophy which they [Republican Party] did for years – the fight against Church, encouragement of various sects, directly allowing sexual minorities to show off in the Rustaveli avenue.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2092258

GPB, Dialogue, July 17

Shalva Natelashvili: *“If Georgian legislation does not recognize [sects], look at the neighboring Armenia, Jehovah’s Witnesses are officially prohibited there... because they don’t allow blood transfusion... If you are not a sect, do not fight against a human life...”*

Mitt Romney is a highly honorable politician... Why did not they elect him?.. He is a Mormon and that’s why he had not been elected.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2097241

Asaval-Dasavali, 27 May-2 June

Elizbar Javelidze, People’s Assembly: *“Let anybody explain to me why should Orthodox Christian Georgia have a Baptist public defender?! No wonder that this Ucha Nanuashvili is an enemy of Orthodox Church because his wife, Maia Mamasakhlisi, is a member of the congregation of Malkhaz Songulashvili’s Baptist church...”*

“How dare this torturer speak about Georgian ethnicity? Malkhaz Songulashvili [Archbishop of the The Evangelical Baptist Church] is as much Georgian as I am a native of Burkina Faso!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971/971.pdf>

Alia, 31 May–3 June

Mamuka Areshidze, expert: *“I am not and will not be against the construction of a mosque, in general, but this particular mosque contains threats. The point is that that conflict which exists between local Shia and Wahhabites may break out in our territory. If Wahhabites turn the house of Islam into their stronghold tomorrow – today it will be an educational center, tomorrow a venue for political debates, the day after tomorrow a place for keeping arms. Chechnya and Dagestan have already gone through that.”*

Alia, 21–24 June

Father Elizbar (Diakonidze): *“This [on migration of Egyptian Christians to Georgia] seems rather an effort by some forces to besiege the Georgian Orthodox Church with people of various ethnicities rather than to clean Egypt of non-Christians.”*

Obieqtivi, Night Studio, 22 April

David Tarkhan–Mouravi, Alliance of Patriots: *“The term national implies loyalty to faith. When you bring Witnesses of Jehovah distributing huge bagfuls of flour, people become the followers of Jehovah, and you support this, is this loyalty to faith? They are total infidels.”*

Obieqtivi, Night Studio, July 22

Davit Tarkhan–Mouravi: *“Sometimes one sect and sometimes another... let them read about Jehovah’s Witnesses, man... let them read what are an American authors write about them... that they are declared as a criminal organization, but we’ve gave them all possible means... now they want to equal to the Orthodox Church and the government closes its eyes on everything... We’ll be soon told that it’s a crime to be Georgian and not vice versa.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12975>

Asaval–Dasavali, 12–18 August

Nikoloz Getsadze, clergyman of the Zarzma Monastery: *“Is it Iran here to hear in Zarzma Monastery call from minaret?! Our cathedrals are in Turkey and our Catholicos Patriarch has yet failed to achieve agreement on a number of issues and now they want us to applaud and to turn a blind eye to their behavior?!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/982/982.pdf>

Obieqtivi, Night Studio, July 15

Gia Tabliashvili, lawyer of clergyman [Iotam Basilaia]: *“A clergyman can’t be equal to the law as an ordinary offender.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12869>

Construction of Mosque in Batumi

- Anti-Turkish attitudes are, inter alia, connected with the issue of construction of a mosque in Batumi, which was discussed by respondents not as a cult building intended for Muslim citizens of Georgia but as an element of Turkish expansion.
- Construction of a Mosque in Batumi was discussed in the light of the survey conducted by the Alliance of Patriots and will of majority.

Examples:

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 26 April

Mirian Karaulashvili: *“We will not allow preaching Hussein in Batumi. This means that everything Christian ends here, the influence of the Orthodox Christianity is exhausted and Batumi becomes the absolute outpost of the Muslim religion, the aggressive branch of this religion.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11748>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 28 May

Soso Manjavidze, Patriots’ Alliance: *“We want our cities to look in a way it looked before and to develop our tradition in order to be a Georgian country and not to allow Turkish.”*

“If we see that 99% or 98% or 97% of the population is against that and some 2% or 1% imposes that on us, who will be then the one speaking totalitarian language and hate speech – we or they?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12147>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 7 May

Irina Sarishvili, Imedi: *“The stated position of the absolute majority of the population that they do not want this, by no means implies violation of anybody’s religious rights...”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11815>

Prejudices

Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 June

Tea Tsulukiani, Minister of Justice: *“I do not want to frighten believers, but tens of thousands of ID numbers contain consequently placed three numbers “six”. There will be no such numerical combination in new electronic ID cards.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

Imedi, *Qronika*, 12 July

Mikheil-Gela Saluashvili, a presidential candidate: *“This very marking is anti-Christian decision which according to the Bible, is a sign made on a thumb of a right hand. The marking is exactly the same.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2092904

Asaval-Dasavali, 27 May-2 June

Davit Giorgobiani, actor: *“By prayer of Father Paysse, an Amercian ran out of the church and a Georgian entered it. This is also a sign that our salvation is not in American orientation but in embarking the path of God. We must be afraid of not the West but the God.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971/971.pdf>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 2 July

Viewer phone-in call: *“Nobody takes into account that people are very religious... for instance, concerning the marking procedure. There was a big stir over the inking of the right hand. People were saying that according to the Bible it could be a mark of the Satan and many voters refuse to participate in elections because they do not want such stamp on their right hands. They did not change the rule, what difference does it make whether it’s the right hand or...”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12675>

4.3. SEXUAL MINORITIES

- It is significant that positive statements were made by high level officials – Prime-Minister⁸⁰, Minister of Justice⁸¹ and some representatives of majority in media re: equal rights of sexual minorities in light of May 17 events. However, messages of other representatives of the Georgian Dream were complicated and were in line with the position of radical extremist groups.
- There was a cultivation of the opinion by representatives of the Georgian Dream, other political groups and society representatives that the freedom of expression of sexual minorities and their rights’ defenders is nothing but the propaganda of homosexuality and it should be legally regulated.
- In line with some politicians and representatives of society, President Saakashvili also speculatively linked the appropriateness of holding the rally against homophobia to the funeral ceremony of the soldiers killed in Afghanistan.
- Monitoring of the media coverage of May 17 events reveals that neither journalists nor the members of the ruling party understand the core essence of a secular state⁸².
- Political speculations on provocative nature of May 17 events was expressed by representatives of the Government (Prime-Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs, leader of the Parliament majority and members of fraction Georgian Dream), non-parliamentary opposition, as well as representatives of society⁸³.
- Along with the National Movement the Republican Party became a target for criticism and hatred for defending the rights of minorities.
- Homosexuality was portrayed as imposed by the West and anti-Western sentiments were incited⁸⁴.
- Many respondents unjustifiably linked the topic of sexual minorities with the destruction of the archive of surreptitious recordings discovered in the Interior Ministry. In one particular case (Alia, May 14)

⁸⁰ **Bidzina Ivanishvili:** *“Sexual minorities enjoy equal rights with other citizens and the society will gradually get used to that... I know that a segment of society cannot accept that. Therefore, the law enforcement bodies operate in the state and we will do everything for the protection of any minority. The police will stand in between them and protect the rights of every person.”* <http://j24saati.ge/index.php/category/news/2013-05-15/37967.html>

⁸¹ **Tea Tsulukiani:** *“Civilized people should not snoop each others’ private lives and who sleeps with whom. This is the foundation of a civilized society. Things like this do exist and these people does not make this up. When a person wakes up with a thought and acknowledgement that ok, I am a minority, he/she should not be beaten up or attacked for this. This is Barbaric... Concerning the rally, right of assembly is guranteed for everybody, unless they violate the law.”* http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2034178

⁸² **David Saganelidze, GD:** *“The church has its own laws and makes decisions, who am I to judge the laws of the church. If one is to be judged by the church, the church will judge him... Concerning the violent offenders, let the prosecutor use this term, I would use the term rebels, in this case.”* (TV 9, Main Question, May 20).

⁸³ **Kakhi Kakhishvili:** *“Aggression toward the people of non-traditional orientation is especially strong, because at some point they are associated with the National Movement which for years has been defending its own and their rights only...”*

⁸⁴ **Valeri Chkheidze, Lieutenant-General of the Security Services:** *“Why do they impose gay parades on us saying that if gays are not allowed to stroll down the Rustaveli Avenue, they will not accept us to NATO. Fine, don’t accept us. I personally do not need such NATO... NATO is a terrorist organization that breaks all UN resolutions and makes arbitrary decisions.”*

respondent's hint regarding footage featuring scenes of torture and LGBT rights defender organization "Identoba", go beyond any boundaries of ethics⁸⁶.

- Unsubstantiated facts were unjustifiably linked with the topic of sexual minorities⁸⁷.

UNITED NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Political speculation

GPB, *Moambe*, 3 June

Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia: *"Naturally, everybody has the right to rally. However, whether it is appropriate holding the rally in a close proximity to the place where the funeral ceremony of soldiers killed in Afghanistan was being held is a different issue and a separate topic, as far as I know... and I am not touching upon it."* (May 24)

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046206

GEORGIAN DREAM

Alia, 3 June

Soso Jachvliani: *"Let's raise a very simple question: will we tolerate the propaganda of homosexuality? During the Soviet times, when homosexuals were being imprisoned, one renowned director whom I do not identify [here journalist clarifies that the respondent is talking about Sergo Parajanov convicted for homosexuality during the Soviet times] used to work at one of the studios... However, they did not use to organize gay parades and ask for recognition either. Whatever happened on May 17 stinks like 30 silver coins."*

Asaval-Dasavali, May 20-26

Soso Jachvliani: *"They come out demanding recognition from us whether we want it or not. Organizers of the gay parade make a lot of money and they are the most sinful, spoiled people."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/970/970.pdf>

Maestro, Politmeter, 17 May

Zakaria Kutsnashvili: *"...They could have held that rally in a closed building... They have chosen provocative form, which naturally caused irritation in large part of our society, because their Georgian identity historically developed as an ethnos, one of characteristics of which is its religiousness, Orthodox Christian religiousness"...*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-4VVb0krls&list=HL1369472894>

Rustavi 2, Kurieri, 17 May

David Saganelidze: *"...but, on the other hand, the violence originating from such organizations [«identoba»], when they are trying to impose their way of life on the whole society, is also not acceptable."*

⁸⁶ Tamar Okurashvili, journalist: *"But, let's say, what a scene they will see?"*

Soso Tsiskarishvili, expert: *"Yes, indeed! As if that is not Pleasing for someone! (laughing). The truth is that the organization „Identuroba' would watch that footage with pleasure. They may even request the broadcast of those scenes by TV (laughing); if that is so than it is better to burn the entire archive."*

⁸⁷ Shalva Khachapuridze, lawyer: *"This clinic is engaged in artificial insemination of women and thereafter taking infants born as a result of this insemination abroad and selling them to homosexual couples. I have actually collected the documentation proving that. As the case reveals, Sandra Roelofs had a very close ties with that clinic. Now it is being studied whether Sanrda Roelofs was engaged in this business, namely, in selling Georgian infants to homosexual couples."*

"It is understandable that the society could not accept the ideology of this small group and was outraged... I do not even want to mention the name of this organization since its members have not done anything good for the country, for the family, for the future, for the traditions or for anything good in this world. Obviously, these people are not for good, rather to make money. That's why they will try to escalate the situation."

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=rustavi2&seekTime=17-05-2013%2015:46>

Channel 9, Mtavari Kitkhva, May 20

David Saganelidze: *"Their movies, video clips, photos... Would they put it on the walls in our entrance halls and elevators? This should be banned."*

Rustavi 2, Curieri, 17 May

Zviad Dzidziguri: *"My view is that everyone has the right to privacy, but one cannot simply demonstrate [one's sexual orientation]... I have children and the rights of the majority are seriously violated, when they come out and start to demonstrate that they are gays and thus, cool."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2041518

Maestro, Press-Press, 18 May

Manana Kobakhidze: *"Let the people of this orientation come and say where are their rights violated?... Tell me where it is, maybe some things are overstated?"*

"...Do you think members of "Identoba" are free from responsibility? When you plan such a rally, you must take everything into account. They should have considered that it was day of mourning, the previous day."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_HuHP4bsGg&feature=player_embedded

Channel 9, May 17

Eka Beselia: *"Nobody has absolute freedom... We must also consider that it was the day of mourning yesterday. The Patriarchy made a statement, there was the Patriarch's statement... But if the task is to create a provocative environment and to have injured people, bloodied police officers, etc. as a result..."*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9y-d6gTv_I

Imedi, May 17

Giorgi Tsagareishvili: *"They started marching towards the place of the mass gathering from Kolmeur-neobis Moedani [square of collective farming]; among them were organizers of the rally who acted rather provocatively. There were provocative actions on the side of minorities and we should acknowledge it. By the way, this was followed with the reaction of the society gathered there."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045633

Kavkasia, Spektri, May 22

Koba Davitashvili: *"I do not want my kids being raised with the idea that sodomy is normal, ordinary, acceptable and even likable. I do not want such propaganda. Democracy is the rule of majority. Let's draft a law and discuss the issue."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2048976

Maestro, Politmeter, May 24

Gubaz Sanikidze: *"Propaganda of homosexuality carried out by mass media in Georgia should be restricted, necessarily. Very often you see man wearing a dress on TV. This is propaganda. This*

happens in comedy shows, entertainment programs. Laughing and smiling they make us get used to coexisting with the filth.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2048812

Asaval-dasavali, 15-21 July

Gubaz Sanikidze: *“Let consider we’ve allowed LGBT propaganda, next step is same-sex marriages and right of children adoption... Let’s refrain from injection of the disease that will never slam, because it may cause bad remission.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/978/978.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 8-14 July

Zaza papuashvili: *“Was it only 17 May that made you indignant? When one knows what such a rally will cause among the society, is it not an organizer of it an offender?... One cannot ban homosexuality, prostitution or murders. These are vices of humanity... Let anyone do whatever they want at home but I do not like when one dares to walk in front of Kashveti Church and to impose his/her whim or disease as a norm... If they declare fight to us we will also be allowed to step into the battle field.”*

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/15171-qasethi-qbanbanerkaq-qarthvelebis-arasodes-mesmodaq.html>

Asaval-Dasavali, 15-21 April

Gogi Topadze: *“The recommendations of the European Union should be considered, but it is also a fact that the EU is very much first willing to see two males coming out of a wedding house together and only after that to admit us as a member. No way, because it is possible to become an EU member without encouraging homosexuality and lesbianism!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/965/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 4 June

Ani Mirotadze: *“Institution that has the highest public trust [church] has many instruments to confront such propaganda without violence. This is not the problem of Georgia only...”*

“We may discuss these issues... where it may be allowed, where – not... it is possible, and we should think about legal regulation, in order to prevent the recurrence, to prevent things like this in future.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12251>

Rustavi 2, Kurieri, 17 June

Tamaz Mechiauri: *“I think, we will be wrong if we are supposed to protect the rights of only those in Georgia, who want to boast about a bit widened functions of one part of their body and propagate that for others too.”*

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=rustavi2&seekTime=17-06-2013%2021:14>

Political speculation

Rustavi 2, Kurieri, 21 May

Bidzina Ivanishvili, Prime Minister: *“I think that the Minister of Interior has a grounded doubt that this was orches- trated from outside. There were forces encouraging and even financing this.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2049142

Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 June

Irakli Garibashvili, Minister of Internal Affairs: *“I guess, representatives of the National Movement” were dreaming of police breaking up the counter demonstration. Who should we raid? 300 priests,*

perish, and 40 thousand of our citizens?.. I cannot say with confidence, since it is not confirmed by the investigation, but I know who was behind the planned provocation on May 17. It is very easy to deduce, you and the readers will guess simply.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

TV9, Mtavari Kitkhva, 20 May

David Saganelidze: *“I have information that certain forces and even finances backed them (organizers of the rally against homophobia). The number one task was to somehow drive police into making a mistake and confronting the people...At the same time, I demanded and still keep demanding to punish inspirators as well.”*

DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 11 June

Nino Burjanadze, Presidential candidate of Public Assembly: *“It turns out that our problem is that LGBT persons used to show our children that mother may be called mother and father – father... What I can do, I might lose some votes, but I cannot act in a way to attract LGBT votes. The single thing I promise is that I will do my best to prevent violence and abuse against them, but they should stay in their rooms doing whatever they wish and behave like ordinary people, like me and you, when they come out. Let’s not shout, “I am a woman, or I am a man” – that’s obvious, any – way.”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12356>

Asaval-Dasavali, 17-23 June

Nino Burjanadze: *“Guess what I am surprised about? The Georgian Dream treats everyone softly – the United National Movement, criminals, sexual minorities, and god know who else, but mocks at the majority of the Georgian population.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/974/974.pdf>

Channel 9, Mtavari Kitkhva, 26 June

Nino Burjanadze: *“Today I was absolutely shocked and, directly speaking, even insulted when I heard statement [SG of NATO on May 17 events] that the main problem in Georgia’s democratic development and on its path towards the NATO membership is the respect of LGBT rights...”*

Protection of LGBT rights is not the main priority of Georgia’s population...

In this case, we talk about the defense of “propaganda of inclinations” by these people, which is unacceptable for our society. I am saying that this cannot be a number one priority for the country that does not have a control of 2/3 of its territory; 2/3 of the population of which lives below the poverty level and where men are massively raped in prisons.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080244

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080247

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080253

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Elizbar Javelidze: *“As soon as we bow our head to those gays and lesbians and put up with that as if civilization, they will immediately behave in a wanton manner and start putting forwards their*

demands! Homosexuality is a sodomite sin! As simple as that! Let no one ask me to love them!”
<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 27 May-2 May

Elizbar Javelidze: *“World preachers of sexual pervers try to persuade us that people must become monkeys and beasts instead of image of God...”*

As I was told, LGBT rally was also conducted in Yerevan and Armenians have beaten pervers up!...”

Who the hell the ambassador of the US or Holland is to criticize us for defending our Georgian morals and spirituality and to lecture us... If so far they claimed that Georgia’s integration into NATO hinged on blood spilt by our soldiers in Afghanistan, now it turns out that this hinges upon the respect of buttocks of sexual pervers!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971/971.pdf>

Asaval-dasavali, 22-28 July

Elizbar Javelidze: *“Here comes this Rasmussen – Head of the American Gendarmerie of so called NATO and shakes his fingers at us – you, non-democrats, you violated the rights of pederasts on May 17! On May 17 not a single pederast’s anal was even scratched, while on May 26, 2011 people were beaten to death and crippled on Rustaveli Avenue!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Asaval-dasavali, July 22-28

Elizbar Javelidze: *“... Yes, this “gay-ombudsman” will fine our citizens for “violation of pederast’s rights” to please America and Europe and prove them how devotedly they protect sexual minorities in Georgia! I’ll say openly – hell with Georgia where just pederast’s and lesbian’s dreams come true!*

If the way to NATO passes through the asses of our pederasts, I’ll curse such NATO, as well as such way and such country! I don’t want our children to be brought up from childhood with respect and love of pederasts, and to be bathing in a massive phallus shape bathtub as it’s in America!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Gia Burjanadze: *“I as a citizen may tolerate the existence of homosexuals in my native country, let them be quiet, but an aggressive propaganda of untraditional sexual orientation is unacceptable for me! Even more: propaganda of homosexuality in Georgia must be prohibited by the law... For Georgia, which faces a demographic catastrophe, the spread of homosexuality means demise!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

LABOUR PARTY

GPB, Dialogue, July 13

Shalva Natelashvili, Presidential Candidate of Labor Party: *“They [Davit Usupashvili, Speaker of the Parliament; Tina Khidasheli, MP] have done so much wrong, they have defended so many homosexuals, lesbians and sects. They’ve sold everything...”*

They should not start to engage on Rustaveli avenue [about May 17th rally] knowing what reaction will be followed ...”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2097236

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2097241

Imedi TV, May 17

Shalva Natelashvili: *“The yesterday’s rally was provoked and organized by the Prime Minister Ivanishvili, candidate for Presidency Margvelashvili, and Speaker of the Parliament Usupashvili, in concert with the National Movement. Moreover, according to Prime Minister’s statement it turns out that we should be getting ready for the same-sex marriage.”*

<http://imedi.ge/index.php?pg=nws&id=4483>

ALLIANCE OF PATRIOTS

Kavkasia, Barrier, 21 May

Soso Manjavidze: *“Our entire historical narrative is against this [homosexuality]. Saint Nikolas hit Urikine (Heretic Arius) at the Nicaea Church Council, but he remained being Saint Nikolas. That’s why the Parliament exists – to reflect the opinion and attitudes of majority in the laws, so we will not get such provocations in future.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046410

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 28 May

Soso Manjavidze: *“I am categorically against of the spread of this [homosexuality], even more so, of describing it in a positive light, which were are forced to do by the West...”*

In a secular state the state justice drifts towards... no one knows why, the same- sex marriage and further to more perverted forms such as, for example, pedophilia or zoophilia.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12147>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 20 July

Soso Manjavidze: *“By the way, David Mkheidze made a very good comparison on cohabitation. He said, it looks very much like caress of two gays, which is disgusting for normal people”...*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=13032>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 3 June

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *“We should strive for a legal ban of the propaganda of the sodomy. If we fail to ban this, our state will face a serious threat.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12235>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 22 April

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *“When a man marries a man... a woman has a woman as a husband, and if you don’t like this leading ideology, they label you as a homophobic... these national Nazis, is this Ilia’s way... as their main slogan is “the way of Ilia,” does it mean man marrying a man, and a woman having a woman as a husband...”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11689>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, June 3

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *“The whole mankind knows for sure that homosexuality is not normal. It has been considered as a disease until the 70’s of the 20th century and many scientists stand by this until today. My position is that homosexuality is a disease. Medicine transformed the term homo sapiens i.e. “a man thinking” into homosexual by replacing the word “thinking” with the word “sexual”,*

actually cutting off “thinking” from the term.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12235>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, June 15

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: “...why a man saying he is a woman is normal? I believe homosexuality is a disease... Whatever two homosexuals do at their homes is nobody’s business, but propaganda is unacceptable for the society”.

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12419>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 1 August

Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi: “Certain groups of people try to impose on the world this new ambiguous moral... people who are trying to establish this vice and absolutely harmful moral norm and ideology in Georgia. The United National Movement is a pro-Turkish organization.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=13110>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 1 June

Manuchar Machaidze: “Nine years of the rule of United National Movement showed us that during those nine years the violence on sexual majority on the part of sexual minority took place, unfortunately...”

I would cause them to adopt a law that would require that in such organizations which are masculine [gender discrimination]... that representatives of sexual minorities are not admitted to such organizations... When in a prison, where prisoners are there, the head of the prison is homosexual, a representative of sexual minority, who can abuse his official power, just like it happened in prisons and even in the army during nine years?! This is incorrect; this is already a violation of the rights of sexual majority...”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12207>

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, 1 June

Manuchar Machaidze: *We are confident that propaganda carried out by sexual minorities in Georgia is wrong and we know that the large part of the population being an Orthodox Parish is against it.”*

... This was intentional rape of sexual majority, straight, ordinary people by the sexual minorities.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12341>

FREE GEORGIA

***Kviris Qronika*, 3-12 May**

Gia Kruashvili: “I do not see in Georgia a Georgian walking proudly, only pederasts walk proudly here. They promote those pederasts so that I am nearly to change sex, f..ck them! I do not want them die or be killed by the firing squads. Let them be for themselves, why are they talking to me about them on TV daily?”

***Kviris Qronika*, 20-26 May**

Gia Kruashvili: “Law should regulate this, otherwise stopping them will be impossible. Let them use certain places for the gay parades.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/970/970.pdf>

Imedi, 17 May

Kakha Kukava: *“The entire responsibility for the violence rests with the LGBT activists, who sought to hold their rally exactly in three meters from the place where 20 thousand believers were gathered. I will tell you about the responsibility of the government and particularly of Bidzina Ivanishvili – as far as I know, Irakli Garibashvili yesterday night has been begging Bidzina Ivanishvili to allow him to arrange the second safety cordon near the Pushkin Square.”*

<http://imedi.ge/index.php?pg=nws&id=4483>

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia: *“Rasmussen visiting Tbilisi directly insulted Georgians, while calling Saakashvili a “beacon of Democracy” and recommending Ivanishvili’s government to better protect the rights of sexual minorities!*

... American empire only defends its own interests in Georgia, and whoever was tortured, beaten up and raped in our country is beyond its interests...Georgia will never become a member of NATO!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Maestro, May 17

Dimitri Lortkipanidze: *“An attempt of establishing immorality should not be tolerated, and above all if it has a concrete patrons and subsidizers.”*

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=maestro&seekTime=17-05-2013%2015:13>

CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATS

Rezonansi, May 22

Giorgi Targamadze: *“Perverse sexual way of life is abnormal. We are talking about the propaganda in public spaces only as no one breaks into their houses. Therefore, we should fight against this by all means, if we do not want gay parades being held in the center of Tbilisi.”*

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 6 August

Giorgi Targamadze: *“Why has the Georgian clergy assumed this difficult mission [May 17 rally]?.. Because some subconsciously and the majority of them absolutely consciously discern, see and evaluate this threat.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2110071

Maestro, Politmetri, 27 May

Levan Vepkhvadze: *“If certain restrictions are imposed in this respect, including a constitutional ban on the same-sex marriage, about which we also talked a year ago, I think many problems that preceded 17 May and also, related to this day, will be eliminated.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2051329

GEORGIAN TROUP

Kviris Qronika, 20-26 May

Jondi Bagaturia: *“However, publicity and propaganda of your abnormal private life is an entirely different issue.”*

Asaval-dasavali, 22-28 July

Jondi Bagaturia: *“Of course we should not throw stones at them, but I don’t understand, why they are trying to impose their perverted sexual relations to others, why propaganda of the lifestyle of a sinful man is needed? It’s really disgraceful to bring the innocent cleric to the court to prosecute them for hooliganism”...*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Obieqtivi, Night Studio, July 23

Jondi Bagaturia: *“The nation had been fighting against Saakavshvili and that LGBT... These liberasts [compilation of liberal and pederast] and Saakashvili and this regime represented were on a one side and they were in power. The nation was fighting against this regime and these liberasts under the commandment of Ivanishvili. Now it comes out that we’ve won under Ivanishvili and our commander is on their side and accuses us.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2101034

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2101030

NATIONALS

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Sandro Bregadze: *“... no one has the right to propagate perversion... Why should lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals hold a rally in front of Kashueti Church here?! If such a rally must be held, let them go and hold it in the suburbs, assemble in such a place which is far from sacred place.”*

Sandro Bregadze: *“... No one ahs the right to propagate perversion... Why should a rally of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals be held here in front of Kashveti Church?! If it is necessary to conduct such a rally, let them conduct it in the outskirts of the city.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

IMEDI

Obiektivi, Night Studio, May 7

Irina Sarishvili: *“A person taking this step [about release of the illegal video reflecting journalist Giorgi Paresishvili’s intimate life] not only takes revenge on his personal enemy, but rather helps to create a compulsory mechanism for the society obliging it to defend those who do not need to be defended. In given circumstances, there was no need to protect them – people of such orientation. We all know where the entire world headed due to this problem.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11815>

PEOPLE'S PARTY

Obiektivi, *Nights Studio*, May 10

Mamuka Giorgadze: *"It is much simpler to me, for a person of a normal orientation, to just make use of my fist rather than to think about the solution of the problem. That's why when the nastiest human instincts are being promoted in the country the first natural reaction of a normal person is to do whatever he can to prevent this."*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11856>

WHITES

Alia, 19 June

Temur Shashiashvili: *"17 May was a serious watershed for Georgia. I was warned from the outside to be aware of huge flows of money that have been directed towards us. Yes, money and propaganda of perversion have been directed towards us!.. I cannot understand, is it that they want our mentality to be changed? Is it how they want to undermine Orthodox Christianity?"*

<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1379>

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Obieqtivi, *Night studio*, July 24

Avtandil Ioseliani: *"We will probably initiate legislative amendments prohibiting propaganda to ensure restriction of propaganda of any kind of immorality in the country."*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=13004>

EXPRESIDENT

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Eduard Shevardnadze: *"Are they gays or whoever, we know that the attitude towards them has changed in the world but this is Georgia and I as an ordinary Georgian do not want to see a gay pride on Rustaveli Avenues! That is a disaster, one cannot tell a man from a woman. Gay prides cannot be hold in Georgia!"*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

FORMER MP-s

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, May 17

Tamaz Daushvili: *"Most of all, I was amazed and happy to see on TV the broken windows of those buses..."*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11971>

Asaval-Dasavali, 27 May-2 June

Petre Mamradze: *"During the Saakashvili rule, many entities, ministries, higher educational institutions or media were deliberately infected with the virus of homosexuality!.."*

Homosexuals are gravest patients and they need to be treated and not promoted.... Homosexuality is like a cancer – when cancer cells penetrate into a healthy organ, if not treated timely, they will spread all over the body, first, and then kill! The same holds true for a virus of homosexuality – if it finds a stronghold in the society, it will then infect the entire society and this will end in the death of the society!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/971/971.pdf>

CLERGY

Kviris Palitra, 22-28 April

Grigol Gogichadze, Deacon: *“They [UNM] introduced homosexuality in every sphere. Nationals did all the dirty things to the Church that Communists failed to do and way more nastily.”*

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/16729-sandro-girgvlianis-dedis-modzghvars-gaupatiurebith-emuqrebodnen.html>

Alia, 14 May

Elizbar Diakonidze, Deacon: *“One should not come close to homosexuals but should not give way to them either!.. I will quote words of John Chrysostom in which he says that when your lord is offended and cursed, you must beat those who do that. It means that you must bring them to their senses with even by a slap in the face and point them towards the correct path.”*

Alia, 17-20 May

Elizbar Diakonidze: *“What does that mean, when, in spite of the Patriarch’s request, the parade and the public appearance of those perverted spiritually and bodily is not postponed? Why do both the old and the new governments try to spoil our children’s souls? Will they stand this sort of people living next to them, in their homes?”*

“Let him [MDF: Prime Minister] take them home instead of penguins – it is better to have three pederasts tied somewhere in the backyard. If anybody regards them as citizens, I am fine with that, they are citizens of the country, but let them get together somewhere else. The President has a great palace here and let him keep them there. He loves hugging people like that, remember, he used to hold “Anjela” in his arms?”

Kviris Qronika, 27 May 2 June

Elizbar Diakonidze: *“In Spain, when bull sees a red cloth in front of his eyes, it rips toreador apart if the toreador is not skilled and quick witted. Sorry, but when men start flashing his buttocks around in front of clergy... while we preach that male must be male and female must be female... and a man comes to me and says that he has sex with a man. Tell me, how should I tolerate that? Do we need a same-sex marriage?”*

Alia, 11 July

Elizbar Diakonidze: *“What does this Rasmussen want? What do we want in that organization where homosexuals are respected more? This new government has time for that because it does not care for my country....”*

Alia, July 24

Elizbar Diakonidze: *“The church says that existence of faith degenerated and sexually perverted persons is unacceptable in Georgian Orthodox world. Imagine, the testament law prohibits sitting together*

with them at lunch, their communion is prohibited, because they desecrate same vessels, where Christ's flesh and blood is... The Patriarch performed one cleaning in church and had excommunicated diseased with this Sodom sin. Unfortunately, the increase of their number within the church is vivid..."
<http://alia.ge/com/news/view/1625>

Rustavi 2, Kurieri, May 17

Father Jacob: *"The time of their domination should end. None of the foreign countries can patronize us and force us to watch things like that. What they were doing with people, raping in prisons, and now, whom do they call offenders? They were seizing businesses, changing the law daily; if they want a courageous resistance, we will meet them as men do. Let them behave, otherwise the nation will not forgive them!"*
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2041501

Kavkasia, Dges, May 17

Father Jacob: *"Although, it is not fair either when several bastards try to stir up a situation just to receive grants. People's anger is justified, but aggression is bad... Look at this ocean of people - if the government fails to solve this, we will do."*
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2041486

Maestro, 14 July

Archbishop Jacob: *"You are lucky that we, Orthodox Christians, are tolerant. You would never dare to do that in case of other religions... You are our flesh and blood and that's why we forgive you hoping that you would indeed think over it. And I ask you very much to start doing good and make a single concrete benefit for the country and you may like it then and change to become like people."*
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2093840

Asaval-dasavali, 22-28 July

Monk lotham: *"Those MPs who will vote for the legalization of same-sex marriage will be excommunicated from the church!"*
<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Asaval-dasavali, 13-19 May

Davit Isakadze, Deacon: *"Why do people equipped with European or American grants preach that perversion in Georgia? By the way, they are quite aggressive. Their manifest reads that they must break into every family! That means that they perceive heterosexuals as their potential enemies! In fact, this is a fight, war in which diplomatic circles are also engaged..."*

A position and a demand have already emerged in the Georgian society that those diplomats who preach perversion in Georgia and encourage conflicts be declared personas non grata and popular protests be staged in front of their embassies."

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 5-11 August

Davit Isakadze: *"We have already started collecting signatures to outlaw marches which demonstrate perversion... Such marches, which they wanted to organize on 17 May in Tbilisi, is a prelude to then demanding the legalization of same-sex marriage and incest!"*
<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/981/981.pdf>

Asaval-dasavali, 13-19 May

Rezo Amashukeli, poet: “... the marriage of same sex will never be legalized in Georgia. I declare outright – I loath homosexuals because they are dirty and spread disease ...”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Kavkasia, Spektri, 21 May

Rezo Amashukeli: “This is a clear provocation planned by the Liberty Institute, by Mrs. Mongoose, our Bokeria’s wife, same as Merabishvili. Do you really think that such rage and exaltation was directed toward these people who allegedly are not sick anymore? This was letting out the anger accumulated over the last nine years.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045881

Alia, May 23

Rezo Amashukeli: “The Russian never demanded from me to marry my nephew, or any other man. Hell with both Russia and America if my country is not doing well!”

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Rezo Amashukeli: “His Excellency Rasmussen talked about May 17, but why not about May 26?.. they want to spoil and degenerate Georgians This is a direct call and directive that we should reject our Georgian identity.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 22-28 July

Rezo Amashukeli: “American marriage of Bakradze and Usupashvili will take place soon, but I don’t know yet, which one will be a husband and which – a wife!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 22-28 April

Tamaz Tsivtsivadze, writer: “Cohabitation of a man with a man, i.e. current cohabitation is a “basis” of a national degradation, rather than that of reproduction.”

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-12 May

Koba Arabuli, writer: “It is unacceptable for me to cohabit with the enemies of the country. I will not stand next to those who, along with other disasters, planned the liquidation of the nation by means of propagating homosexual relations between men.”

Asaval-Dasavali, 8-14 July

Levan Anjaparidze, film director: “They are not interested in national topics; their priority is movies about homosexuals... I am sure there are many LGBT representatives in the cinema center, whom they cannot hide.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/977/977.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 June

Levan Anjaparidze: “I do not want to enter either NATO or EU as a pederast!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

Rezonansi, May 20

Zaza Khutsishvili, singer: *“I think, we have to urgently adopt legal amendments guaranteeing their rights but prohibiting propaganda. Last year, men were kissing each other right in the streets... They should not be allowed to do this.”*

Kviris Palitra, 15–21 July

Janri Lolashvili, actor: *“They are fining a caress of a man and a woman and not a gay parade? These degenerated people are forcing to watch their behavior in the street. This is violation of human dignity and just such kind of behavior should be fined. Not any penalty would be enough – jail is just the thing for them!.. Is not it miserable when a man puts his tongue into another man’s mouth?!.. All what is beyond of norms of human behavior should be punishable, should not it?!”*

Kviris Palitra, 29 July–4 August

Givi Sikharulidze, actor: *“A photo of such a male who asks a woman for a certificate confirming that she is a virgin, must be posted in the street as of a queer... Unfortunately in a country where men marry men and women marry women, nothing can surprise me any longer. In such a perverted world everything may happen and what one must be surprised about?!..*

Shame on that nation which wants to jail priests who took to the street to protest against gay pride while queers walk around freely. Now this perversion is being imposed on us... I think a certificate confirming masculinity must be introduced because the country has become full of queers... Homosexuals and perverts cannot be threatened by anything. They will threaten the world soon...”

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/18030-givi-sikharulidze-qme-thu-mkithkhavth-vazhishvilobis-motsmobac-unda-shemoighon-pederastebith-gaivso-qveyanaq.html>

Imedi, Gia Eteri, 17 May

Dima Jaiani, actor: *“Should we all be gay to join NATO? Then I don’t want to NATO, Sirs.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2050182

Asaval-Dasavali, 1–7 July

Dima Jaiani: *“Should a nation with thousand years’ culture dance to their butt’s tune? Are their behinds our ticket to NATO? I don’t want it, bro! Should I be damned if I tolerate this and spit into my ancestors’ graves! If these pederasts are so dear for Rasmussen, let him gather them and take to Afghanistan to fight – we’ll see what use he makes of them! Should we allow massacring our boys in Afghanistan so the pederasts may have a parade here? Would they dare to tell Israel to allow pederasts to run joyfully in the streets?”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 17 May

Gia Maisashvili: *“When the one is sick – and people you are talking about are sick [on LGBT representatives] – I do not want my country and the society to fall into this adventurism and the whole country to burst up.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11970>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 6 June

Alik Eskin, political observer: *“Here it is the best gay parade [break-up of the May 17 rally] was held in Georgia... you will never allow any foreign flows to rot you from inside.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12280>

Kavkasia, Barrier, 24 May

Gela Nikolaishvili, *Former Political Prisoners for HR*: “At this stage, maybe we could give these people some territory... and intrusion into their territory will be a crime, like nudists have their beaches.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2049158

Rustavi 2, Position, 17 May

Giorgi Gabedava, released as a political prisoner: “Instead of staying home, ashamed, and ask for treatment – and we will help them – they become aggressive.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045641

GPB, Moambe, May 17

Giorgi Gabedava: “This march is meant to protect our morality. In Georgia, we will not allow the gay parade and the similar perverted actions, financed by America and Europe.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2050107

GPB, Moambe, 24 May

Giorgi Gabedava: “Propaganda of lechery should be legally banned in Georgia.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2049001

GPB, Moambe, 18 May

Evgeni Mikeladze, National Front: “We demand the government to legally forbid the propaganda of philandering including the sexual wrongdoing and its propaganda and agitation.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2044163

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 27 May

Malkhaz Gulashvili, People’s Orthodox Movement: “I do not prohibit anyone to commit their immoral actions wherever they want, but let them refrain from promoting that... I call on the state bodies to restrict the assembly of such people and those provocative actions which these or those people stage on purpose...”

Do not under-valuate those LGBT... They are an unseen army of Anti-Christ.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12131>

Asavali-dasavali, 15-21 July

Avtandil Ungiadze, Orthodox Parent’s Union: “In the 70th of the past century the special plan promoting homosexual perversion was adopted in America, that implied implementation of “Sexual Education” programs in schools...”

Unfortunately, in our country people of non-traditional sexual orientation are contrary attacking us... The church has the right and ought to prevent propaganda of immorality and in the extreme cases even practice anathema against persons being especially active in this regard!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/978/978.pdf>

Maestro, Politmeter, 14 June

Mikheil Khubutia, Georgians’ Union in Russia: “What do we wish for 2020, or 2030? Do we aspire for gay parades everywhere or do we aspire to join NATO?... Maybe we want Russia, what do we get as a result in this case?! We have to hold a referendum.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2067624

Kviris Qronika, 29 July-4 August

Kakha Mikaia, Protect Georgia: *“Akhala and his milieu raped goats, cows, pigs, men; they are political gays. Even more, the United National Movement is the political LGBTs”...*

Asaval-Dasavali, 3-9 June

Gocha Kelenjeridze, member of the Spanish section of the Amnesty International: *“It was police and clergy who prevented the bloodshed for which 20 individuals, considered to be sick by the World Health Organization until 1990, were brought as food for powder.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 June

Francesco Bruno, psychiatrist: *“From a conceptual point of view, homosexual appears to be in the position as an invalid, deaf or blind... Gays are differently positioned from the point of sexuality and these differences are pointing on a mutation from the natural.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 17-23 June

Aleksandre Papitashvili, scientist: *“I would call those people, whose sexual development was defective from the very inception, sexual invalids, but those who developed this quality and propagate their mode of life or intend to involve others in that, are sexual criminals. Those who took to the Rustaveli avenue on 17 May had no medical certificate and confirmation that they were indeed diseased people, therefore, one cannot rule out that through this form some want to stage a provocation and gain money...*

Those who are not inclined towards an opposite sex, that is in any case a sexual pathology. Thus, the attitude of the society towards sexual invalids and criminals must not be equalized because a diseased person needs assistance from a doctor whilst this assistance must not extend to another category. One must not call everyone diseased person.”

Kviris Palitra, 27 May-2 June

Soso Tsintsadze, political scientist: *“What should we hope for when two “pretty men” get married in France? Should we pin hopes on such a Europe?”*

Alia, 29 May

Manana Nikolaishvili, expert: *“The government set the course that we want to be in the European structure. In order to be allowed to enter the European educational space, there must be a 12-year school education and the same-sex marriage.”*

Maestro, Politmeter, 20 May

Levan Vasadze, businessman: *“I have nothing to do in Europe where the same-sex marriages are allowed... If they come and tell me, hey dude, this is our standard and if you want to hang out with us, you should be like we are, then we’ll tell them, sorry...”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045993

Asaval-Dasavali, 3-9 June

Address of a group of citizens to the Prime Minister: *“They think European values mean defending the sex between men and this is disaster... Go shake your ass in order to get admitted to NATO and EU, but will these respected organizations accept Georgia because of that?..*

We, who could not join the street rallies before, will join now, if such provocative pederast rallies continue... Dissociate yourselves from Republicans and lame-minded intellectuals immediately!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

Rezonansi, 20 May

Nugzar Kvashali, singer: *“This is not Europe where they have a lot of such filth, Hell with them! This is the Orthodox Christian country. The whole nation should not be stressed out because of some 50 persons. That’s why I justify the actions of every single person, who adequately responded to them.”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 8-14 July

Piruz Kintsurashvili: *“We, ordinary people, do not care which homosexual says what in Europe or America!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/977/977.pdf>

Obiektivi, Night Studio, 29 May

Vazha Beridze, political scientist: *“The reaction of the Georgian people [on May 17] was absolutely reasonable, logical... Naturally, the Georgian society will not accept an excess demonstration of such perversion in streets in the form of gay pride.”*

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12161>

Kavkasia, Spektri, 21 May

SoSo Tsintsadze, political scientist: *“I am asking you, may a child raised in a family of pederasts be normal?... the hell with them. I also know what a threat these gays coming into power pose for a country. This is a threat, a serious threat.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046543

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2046568

Asaval-Dasavali, 20-26 May

Guram Pirtskalava, actor: *“This bitch Ninia Kakabadze and all organizers of the gay parade should be arrested!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/970/970.pdf>

Channel 9, Mtavari Kitkhva, 27 May

Goga Khaindrava, film director: *“Now we are facing a very serious threat because this homosexuality is penetrating and is brought into Georgia and a serious fight is underway for its legalization from the West.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2051537

Maestro, Politmeter, 24 May

Goga Khaindrava, film director: *“This country will not tolerate pederasty... whatever is said about human rights by people who see nothing beyond their own behinds, or exactly, beyond the pals’ butts.*

Do you want people with their pants down walking around in Tbilisi? Men wearing tongues, French-kissing each other, and you...”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2048729

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2048776

Asaval-Dasavali, 24-30 June

Goga Khaindrava: *“I am anticipating these representatives of LGBT to start rallies in support of those executioners who used to rape men in the police. This was the way of his private life – he lived with men, so what? Let these LGBT persons come out and defend this butcher’s rights!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

4.4. SEXISM, GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Examples:

Kavkasia, *Spektri*, 27 June

Koki Ionatamishvili, National Movement [as of June 27]: “How amusing is that the whole day a very beautiful girl [the head of the press-service of the investigative agency of the Ministry of Finance] talks from the Ministry of the Finance... She is a wonderful girl, but she talks about such hard topics... Appearance of a person does not really matter, we just said this jokingly, and however she really is a beautiful girl.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081924

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081944

GPB, *Dialogue*, 17 July

Shalva Natelashvili, Presidential candidate of Labor Party: “*I was surprised by his photo [Giorgi Margvelashvili, presidential candidate of Georgian Dream] in which he is knitting...*

How is a weak man better than a knitting lady” – even Rustaveli condemned such activities... A man should work forging and not knitting.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2097235

Channel 9, 30 July

Zakaria Kutsnashvili, Georgian Dream: “*I think that the main certificate of virginity is that issued by a husband. The husband is the key person issuing this certificate and therefore, if the husband, as the main issuer of the certificate, is interested to involve lawyers and experts [in establishing this], we cannot prevent him from doing that. Thus, let us look at this issue less seriously.”*

Rustavi 2, Position, May 7

In a talk-show Position, concerning the illegal recording of private lives, one of the respondents, editor-in-chief of the Rezonansi newspaper Lasha Tugushi demanded the response from the studio guest Tamar Chergoleishvili for her husband’s work who happens to be the Secretary of the National Security Council. In response, Tamar Chergoleishvili called on the opponent to respect the rights of women:

Tamar Chergoleishvili: “*What does it have to do with my husband? Talk to me, please. I am not talking to you about your spouse... I am here as an editor of the magazine, so please, talk to me as to the editor of the magazine. We live in the 21st century. Please, respect women.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2033642

Alia, 14 May

Gela Nikolaisvhili, HR defender: “*Should anyone believe that Vashadze, Sakvarelidze and Gorozia became so humble that allowed women to beat them up?”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 3-9 June

Tamaz Tsivtsivadze, writer: “*Now, if all women stay in booths occupying them- selves by embroiling and sewing, while all men leave the booths and take up the hooks and ploughs, there will be a way to salvation for us.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

5. Hate Speech

- Hate speech applied both by respondents and journalists mainly stemmed from unacceptability of opinions and actions rather than ethnic origin and/or religious belief or sexual orientation of addressees; in this regard the *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper was again in the lead. For instance, in one case the subject of hate speech from an *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper journalist was the historian Lasha Bakradze because of his criticism of the phenomenon of Stalinism; in another case the cause of hate expression of the actor Dima Jaiani was the United National Movement (UNM) because of the president vetoing the amendment to the Law on Common Law Courts;
- Hate speech was mainly applied towards sexual minorities in discussions about the 17 May events, political processes connected with the UNM and its separate representatives and discussions about footage depicting torture which was discovered by the Interior Ministry.
- The Chair of Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Georgian Parliament has been promoting hatred and indirectly encouraging violence on political grounds while assessing the facts of physical incident directed against the political opponents of the ruling party.
- If before 17 May the main target of criticism or hatred for protecting the rights of minorities was the UNM, in the context of the 17 May events, the Republican party was also added to the UNM.
- Inciting anti-Western, anti-American sentiments in this context and drawing unsubstantiated parallels with Western values makes it clear that the basis of hate speech is not as much related to the sexual orientation but rather to the modernization and liberal values.

Even though the examples of hate speech are given in other chapters too, the report includes a separate section to especially acute expressions of hate speech largely in regard with the sexual minorities and the UNM and examples when the cause of hatred is opinions unacceptable for people.

5.1. JOURNALISTS

Asaval-Dasavali, 15–21 April

An article “For money they will do anything” regarding the information of the Interior Ministry about a crime in which a 45-year mother forcefully engaged her 11-year daughter in pornography, unjustifiably links this incident with American values and portrays criminal behavior as a mode of Western life:

Giorgi Gigauri: *“Indeed, such a thing has already become an ordinary event in the United States because the transformation of people into cattle there, i.e. degeneration, has reached the peak.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/965/965.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 15 April

Journalist Gia Beridze concerns President Saakashvili's bicycle incident in Turkey in which, according to rumors, Saakashvili collided with a truck. It involves hate speech:

Giorgi Beridze: *"A large segment of our society was basically angry at the truck's driver that he did not do his job well..."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

The journalist of Asaval-Dasavali paper, Giorgi Gigauri, used derogatory words – "immoral primitive," "hopeless cretin," "villain," "degenerate" – when referring to the historian Lasha Bakradze thus inciting hatred towards him.

Giorgi Gigauri: *"Yes, Lasha Bakradze and degenerates like him hate Georgian farmers... Yes Lasha Bakradze is one of those moaners who continues the business which started in Khrushchev's era and with its small snout tries to dig a grave for great Stalin!"*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, May 20-26

Giorgi Gigauri: *"How he [Bidzina Ivanishvili] can fulfill the Georgian Dream while standing by the anti-Georgian, haters of Georgians – the Republican Party?! If the domination of pederasts, Liberty Institute, and Republican Party continues in Georgia, I would like to ensure everybody, that millions of Georgians rather than just 100 000 will come out into the streets. Republican Party is a cancer that has been sucking life out of Georgian national body since 1990, for 23 years now. It should be cut off from the political reality of Georgia, together with the NatMo [United National Movement]."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 8-14 July

Giorgi Gigauri: *"Mr. Bidzina [Ivanishvili], had it not been for a high political culture of Georgians, the henchmen of [Mikheil] Saakashvili's party would have been hanged on trees upside down all over the country, with their flesh peeled off and salt sprinkled on wounds!"*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/977/977.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 24-30 June

Giorgi Gigauri: *"Right of Suicide for Vano Merabishvili!" should be their slogan instead of "Freedom to Vano Merabishvili!"*

"How can you talk to the killers of innocent youth, rapers of tied up men and their lackeys other than with the hate speech, of course, if you do not have the Soros's excrements circulating in your veins instead of blood."

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

Alia, 12-15 July

Nino Samkharadze: *"Chiora [Taktakishvili, MP], you'd better shut up and stop making provocative statements or else you will get your zombie face smashed."*

Kviris Qronika, 22-28 April

Unidentified respondent: *“When Turks, Chinese and monkeys wearing turbans are humiliating us, when we are scratching Americans’ asses and they keep ruling us, does that mean that Georgians have died out in Georgia?”*

5.2. POLITICIANS

Obiektivi, *Night Studio*, May 21

Bidzina Gujabidze, Georgian Dream: *“Our boys died heroically in Afghanistan, and whoever shows disrespect and says so impertinently and cynically that some rights are being violated, will get the social rage in response.”*

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12032>

Alia, 30 May

Luka Kurtanidze, vice-rector of the Police Academy, GD: *“Yes, Chiora Taktakishvili, Ako Minashvili, Goka Gabashvili [UNM members] and others represent a rotten segment of society; these people created a system under the leadership of Saakov.”*

Gela Zedelashvili, journalist: *“That means that you no longer intend to remove their skin and have entrusted all this to courts?”*

Rustavi 2, *Kurier*, 13 May

Eka Beselia, Chair of the HR parliamentary Committee: *“Government will act in response to the incident at La Truffe restaurant yesterday and the investigation will be conducted. However, I would like to remind the former high rank officials from the National Movement that they should have thought earlier that one day, when they stepped down from their positions they would meet people treated by them inhumanely and with exceptional brutality. These people, victims of their actions, would naturally express certain aggression and protest against them. ... And is this our government’s fault?”*

5.3. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIETY

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-12 May

Dima Jaiani, actor: *“How long can this fake physiognomy of that Giorgi Kandelaki be watched?! Tell me folks, how long should we watch that Akuki [mocking name – Akaki] Minashvili of unidentified origin and sex?!.. They not only deserve to be sent to prison but also deserve to be raped there with brooms! But the problem is that many of them will even enjoy that very much!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/967/967.pdf>

Imedi TV, *Gia Eteri*, 17 May

Dima Jaiani: *“I know that 98% of the policemen deep inside were against the people conducting the parade. Despite this, they jumped above their heads and defended them. I know they hated them while seating them in those buses.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2044973

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Dima Jaiani: *“National Movement will face the lynch trial.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Maestro, Politmeter, 20 May

Levan Vasadze, businessman: *“I do not think that I confronted a lesser filth on May 17 than the Soviet army that came and has been killing us on April 9 on Rustaveli Avenue.”*

“People were angry, because perverse way of life was imposed on them”.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045954

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045976

Asaval-Dasavali, 10-16 June

Levan Anjaparidze, film director: *“We should seat Saakashvili on the araba and drag him around Georgia so that people could spit into his face... We should treat the same way other Nationals. I call on all true Georgians, refrain from getting your hands dirty with these parasites. Do not take a revenge on them at the restaurants or any other public places. Just spit on them and pass by... We have to make them wish to leave the country!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/973/973.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 3-9 June

Tamaz Tamazashvili, General: *“Generally, nationals are not human beings. They are the mobs of devil’s apostles. They are deprived of the inner intellect i.e. the divine grace.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 24-30 June

Elizbar Diakonidze, Deacon of the Sameba Cathedral: *“This is not a sect of heretics! This is a group of lechers! One should not kill them washing away their crime with blood but drive them all into the reservation and lock the door at them.”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Elizbar Diakonidze: *“The only proper punishment for them [UNM] is to make them rot in jail till the end of days!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Kviris Qronika, 24-30 June

Tamaz Tsivtsivadze, writer: *“Personally, I am for pulling up the “Nazis” tale and shoving up a broom into the exposed body parts.”*

Kviris Qronika, 24-30 June

Jansug Charkviani, poet: *“If they wanted to commit such crimes they should have engaged with their pederasts, it would have been easier... Fuck them all, I cannot stand this anymore, sometimes I think we should catch them and rape with brooms and sticks!”*

Kviris Palitra, 1-7 July

Jansug Charkviani: *“Now I think that those who are guilty – the President and his men – should not be imprisoned but subjected to the same things as in torture videos. This would be the best for them to see how it feels... one should not be shy to have a broom shoved in...”*

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/17686-jansugh-charkviani-qar-unda-iyomorckhvi-rom-gagirtcon-cockhi-prezidents-da-mis-damqashebs-igive-unda-gauketho-rac-im-kadrebzea.html>

Kviris Qronika, 20-26 May

Jansug Charkviani: *“I wrote a poem on May 17:
Look how they are running,
Alas, we are witnessing this,
A Kakhetian donkey’s better
Than pederasts from Tiflis.”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 20-26 May

Rezo Amashukeli, poet: *Let’s not follow these sick people, these handicapped, let them talk as much as they want! I am saying directly: because of these mankurts, stinky sons of bitches, the Georgian people hate America! I was a dedicated US fan myself, I cannot stand them now.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/970/970.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 1-7 July

Rezo Amashukeli: *“I hate America! I hate it so much that I might stop listening to and playing Jazz!.. These Mankurts [UNM] seeded such hatred in me... this interview might be fatal for me. I am sure that Americans have their hand in the murder of Guram Sharadze and killing me won’t be hard for them, but I don’t care!*

...ok, let’s join NATO, but why would you – either America or the west – wish to cripple my soul and then turn me into a part of your dirty life? I will say directly, Americans should take care of their own stinky mentality and stop lecturing us! Let Americans first manage to stop maniacs killing 20-25 people every other day, school children planting bombs in the classrooms and killing their classmates, sons cutting their fathers throats and only then talk to us... because they have perverse, damaged psychics.

Americans want to spoil, degenerate Georgians... and these people should change us? This hermaphrodite, ugly with body and soul, Akaki Minashvili should change me?”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/976/976.pdf>

Asaval-dasavali, 22-28 July

Rezo Amashukeli: *“I regret that death penalty had been abolished in Georgia, otherwise they all should be hanged up, all of them, starting with Saakashvili and ended with Kublashvili!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/979/979.pdf>

Kavkasia, Spektri, 21 May

Rezo Amashukeli: *“If a man comes out showing me the hips and lipstick, I will hit him so hard that even his mother will fail to recognize him.... Some day these people will really rush in rage.”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2045901

Asaval-Dasavali, 20-26 May

Rezo Amashukeli: *“I am not sorry at all that these pederasts and their rights’ defenders were beaten up. Now these so called human rights defender ladies with their horny butts may go and raise complaints against me wherever they want.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/970.html>

Asaval-Dasavali, 3-9 June

Rezo Amashukeli: *“I was ready to publicly smash against the wall these grant seeking ladies “striving for justice” and greedy for money. They will soon jump on their parents publicly in order to please their “liberast” [combination of liberal and “pederast”] conductors... Then I will take care of those women and guys, I will show them clearly the hate speech they seeded themselves... those growing mustard on their parents’ graves, freaks tattooed on the devil’s ass can go and complain to their stinky bosses and we’ll see where Georgia stands – with those pants down mankurts without motherland, or with those striving to save the homeland, family, nation, and Mother Church!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/972/972.pdf>

Kavkasia, Spektri, 24 May

Naira Gelashvili, writer: *“I, personally, being supportive to any type of tolerance in this country and cannot put up with any violence and discrimination, have never seen anything disgusting as a gay pride. Gay prides which I have watched on TV is something nauseous! And no one is obliged to like that and tolerate that! Am I not right?”*

<http://identoba.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/naira-gelashvili.jpg>

Asaval-Dasavali, 8-14 July

Lali Antia, Women for Peace: *“Saakashvili deserves to be raped in those secret places where his henchmen raped males tied to a table!”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/977/977.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 3-9 June

Tamar Iveri, singer: *“...Please, stop vigorous attempts to bring West’s “fecal masses” in the mentality of the people by means of propaganda. Do not try to wrap this mass in beautiful packages, pour Chanel perfume on it and present it to people as if it was something of medical, recreational qualities. No matter how unhappy “friendly West” might become, fortunately, the Georgian people are well aware of what fruits, offered by the West in their menu, to eat and what to discard. Just like my small dog guesses it...*

“Even today, U.S. ambassador said that the people who raided the rally yesterday were against NATO. No, Mr. Ambassador: those, who yesterday raided the rally, are Georgian youth of pure blood, still unspoiled by you... From my side I would tell you, Mr. Ambassador – I spat at your NATO, which tells me that first, I have to put up with and permit all these and then I will be accepted [in NATO]. There might be 20, 30, or even 100 people like this to please you, but you won’t be able to stoop [the term that is used in the original version means “bending down for anal sex”] the whole nation to get into NATO!”

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/17399-qbatono-elcho-mthel-ers-am-gzith-natoshi-misaghebad-ver-tsakzavthq.html>

Maestro, Kviris Argumenti, 1 May

Irakli Petriashvili, trade union: *“I know how in one of Tbilisi entities the manager sexually abuses females... In this regard, well, hard to say but, the society must burn that person, at least, in the prison...”*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2026201

6. Unjustified Parallels

6.1. ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

Respondents

| Source | Minority topics | Unjustified parallels |
|--|---|---|
| Representatives of Alliance of Patriots; Soso Tsitsandze, political scientist | Turkish investments | Restoration of Ottoman Empire |
| Giorgi Gugava, Labour Party | Repatriation of Deported Mesketians | Problems of IDPs and bank debtors facing evictions |
| Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia | Ratification of the Charter of Regional Languages | Threat of separatism |
| Mirza Davitaia, United National Movement | Ratification of the Charter of Regional Languages | Release of Russian spies, Vaughan Chakhaliani |
| Tamar Kordzaia, Georgian Dream | Ratification of the Charter of Regional Languages | Threat of territorial integrity |
| Soso Manjavidze, Alliance of Patriots | Ratification of the Charter of Regional Languages | The law initiated by the Republicans that implies granting self-governing rights to the municipalities dominated by ethnic minorities |
| Elene Kakhniashvili, Foundation for the Revival of Georgian Village | Sale of lands to foreigners | Disintegration of Yugoslavia |

Media

| Source | Minority topics | Unjustified parallels |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Kviris Qronika | Migration of Chinese | Fight of ancestors for the motherland |
| Rustavi 2, respondent | Lands owned by Indians in Georgia | Invasion of Russian tanks |
| Imedi TV | Religious conflict | Murder case |

6.2. SEXUAL MINORITIES

Respondents

| Source | Minority topics | Unjustified parallels |
|---|---|---|
| Nino Burjanadze, Democratic Movement | Propaganda of homosexuality Sexual minorities | Lost control over a 2/3 of territory of Georgia, problem of poverty Soft attitude towards United National Movement, criminals minorities |
| Manuchar Machaidze, Alliance of Patriots | Restriction to employ sexual minorities in prisons and other law enforcement institutions | Cases of torture and rape in prisons |
| Jondi Bagaturia, Georgian Troup | Rights of sexual minorities | United National Movement and President Saakashvili |
| Goga Khaindrava, film director | LGBT rights defender | Torture in prisons |
| Giorgi Targamadze, Christian-Democrats | Ban on same-sex marriage | War in Abkhazia and Shida Kartli for national identity |
| Unidentified respondent | May 17 event | Alleged case of pedophilia |
| Manana Nikolaishvili, expert | Same-sex marriage | A 12-year school education |
| Levan Vasadze, businessman | Confront participants of May 17 rally against homophobia and transphobia | Confront the Soviet army that killed protest rally participants on April 9, 1989. |

Media

| Source | Minority topics | Unjustified parallels |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Asaval-Dasavali | Sexual orientation | Possession of aquarium, teaching ABC at schools |
| Asaval-Dasavali | May 17 rally | Prosecution of the National Movement |
| Asaval-Dasavali | Sexual orientation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany | Criticism of Stalin by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia |
| Asaval-Dasavali | Particular criminal case | Hate speech towards Americans |
| Kviris Qronika | May 17 rally | Protest against President Saakashvili's regime |

| Source | Minority topics | Unjustified parallels |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Alia | May 17 rally | Torture scenes |
| Channel 9, respondent | Sexual orientation | Christian belief |
| Imedi Tv | Protest rally on protection of privacy re: release of footage on homosexual scenes | The fact that the rally was held just days before the Easter |
| Obiektivi | Same-sex marriage | World food shortage |
| Obiektivi | Homosexuality, sexual orientation of Thomas Fletcher, English teacher in Zugdidi School #4 | Coloring hairs by man, the program of the Ministry of Education “Teach and Learn with Georgia” that involves volunteers from abroad. |
| Obiektivi | Interest of minorities | Interests of criminals, prosecution of Saakashvili government |

7 ● Civil Sector

In the reporting period, non-governmental organizations, the office of the Public Defender and religious organizations actively reacted to hate speech and discrimination on various grounds used both in media and political discourse; separate demonstration of the infringement of fundamental human rights, including incidents on religious ground, violent break up of a rally against homophobia planned on 17 May, facts of infringement of the rights of sexual minorities, privacy; also to instances of discrimination of minorities on various grounds by media.

In this regard, especially active were the following non-governmental organizations:

Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI), Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)), Media Development Foundation (MDF), Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Identoba, Article 42 of Georgian Constitution, Transparency International Georgia (TI), ALPE Foundation, Charter of Journalistic Ethics.

Special statements on above mentioned topics were released by the Public Defender's Office of Georgia as well as the following religious associations: the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia, Muslim Administration, Eparchy of Batumi and Lazeti.

8. Recommendations

To media, professional organizations and non-governmental organization:

- To effectively implement the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters and other existing media regulations, it is important for media outlets to conduct in-house training and in this area, cooperate with those NGOs which will provide them training as well as media studies. It is desirable for media outlets to analyze the results of the monitoring and to avoid detected shortcomings in their future activities;
- A cooperation between media and governmental entities, media and minority groups as well as NGOs for the aim of ensuring that media coverage of the topic of diversity is done in a professional and informed manner;
- It should be favorable for print media to use the provisions in the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters as guiding principles or to develop, like the GPB did, their in-house editorial codes the observance of which will be made mandatory in employment contracts signed with journalists;
- It should be favorable for media outlets to establish internal monitoring mechanisms for the aim of timely and effectively responding to detected violations or in case of need, cooperate in this area with NGOs working on media issues;
- In order to raise the awareness of society about the self-regulation mechanisms, it is necessary to inform the society about complaint mechanisms in order to enable consumers enjoy the right guaranteed by the law.

On 16 June, the Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Georgian Democracy Initiative put forward a joint initiative to the civil sector and political parties:

- To fight xenophobia, it is important to establish a unified civil platform within the framework of which, on the one hand, an effective monitoring will be conducted on each and every fact of use of such rhetoric (and in case of need, reaction will be made) and on the other hand, proper formation of public opinion will be facilitated.
- It is necessary for political associations in Georgia to create or strengthen inter-party mechanisms which ensure the elimination of any expression of xenophobia in the political activity.

Appendix

APPENDIX 1. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

BROADCASTER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Chapter IX. Diversity, equality and tolerance

Article 31. Principle of diversity, equality and tolerance

Broadcasters shall refrain from publishing any material likely to incite hatred or intolerance on the grounds of race, language, gender, religious convictions, political opinions, ethnic origin, geographic location, or social background.

Article 32. Requirements for diversity, equality, and tolerance (rules)

1. Broadcasters shall report accurate, reliable, balanced, proportional information on all cultural, religious, ethnic and social groups living in Georgia, with due regard to the principles of fairness and impartiality.
2. Broadcasters shall respect the fundamental rights of freedom of opinion, conscience, belief and religion and avoid offending any ethnic, religious, cultural, or social groups.
3. Broadcasters shall respect human rights and freedoms.

Article 33. Guidelines for diversity, equality and tolerance

1. Broadcasters should avoid drawing unjustified parallels between ethnic or religious origin and negative events, including associating activities of specific individuals with the entire group.
2. Broadcasters should avoid inaccurate and misleading statements regarding minorities and their social problems, should not promote stereotypes or identify an individual's ethnic origin or religious faith unless necessary.
3. Broadcasters should avoid causing offence to any religious, ethnic or other groups by using, among others, certain terminology and images. This does not prevent broadcasters from promoting informed and balanced discussions on intolerance or discrimination, or from reporting factual material or opinions prevalent in society.
4. Any unjustified referral to ethnic origin, religious faith, sexual orientation, family status, social standing or any other factor as to a cause of the problem, or the use of offensive terminology by a source in live broadcast or news programme should not go unchallenged and presenters should ask authors of offensive statements to substantiate their views.
5. Broadcasters should pay attention to correct spelling and pronunciation of names.
6. Broadcasters should describe people with disabilities using neutral terms. Special considerations should be given to the right to privacy, physical and moral wellbeing as well as to obtaining informed consent.

Chapter XIV. Protection from harm and offence

Article 56. Guidelines for the protection from potential harm and offence

1. To avoid causing any offence to audience, broadcasters should make careful judgments about the use of offensive language.
5. Broadcasters should not exploit violence for sensational effect. It may be necessary to broadcast shocking images, but the decision to do so should be made only after very careful consideration.
6. When deciding on portraying violence, broadcasters should consider a number of factors which, in combination, can increase the impact of violence on audience:
 - a) Violence in daily life: domestic violence, brawls in amusement and catering places, hooliganism, road rage and mugging;
 - b) Violence in places normally regarded as safe such as the family home, hospitals and schools;
 - c) Unusual or sadistic methods of inflicting pain, injury or death;
 - d) Incidents where elderly, disabled people, women and children are the victims;
 - e) Verbal and physical aggression;
 - f) Broadcast of reactions of others to violence, especially that against children.
7. Sexual or any other violence should not be condoned.

THE LAW ON BROADCASTING OF GEORGIA

The law on Broadcasting of Georgia imposes content obligations on the Public Broadcaster.

Article 16. Content Obligations

1. The Public Service Broadcaster shall:
 - h) reflect ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, age and gender diversity in programs;

The law also imposes following restrictions for broadcasters.

Article 56. Prohibition

2. Broadcasting license holders shall avoid broadcasting programs containing material to incite ethnic or religious hatred and which are of a discriminatory nature to any group.
3. Broadcasting license holders shall avoid broadcasting programs containing material to stir up hatred, discrimination, that is offensive to any person or group on the basis of ethnic background, religion, opinion, age, gender, sexual preference or disability, or any other feature or status. Special emphasis of these features or statuses is only permissible within the context of a program if it aims merely to illustrate such hatred or discrimination, as they already exist in society.
4. Television programs or advertisement including pornography, as well as obscenity and infringing a citizen's dignity and his/her basic rights, are prohibited.

CODE OF CONDUCT OF PUBLIC BROADCASTER

Diversity – To cover issues related to minorities and social groups living in the country in a fair manner.

Equality – Not to allow discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, race, gender or sexual orientation.

15. REPORTING DIVERSITY

15.1 Ethnic and religious minorities

GPB must reflect in its programmes representatives of all minorities and social groups living in Georgia and their real life.

The GPB aims at comprehensive and fair covering of all peoples living in Georgia and their cultures, pay respect for the right of ethnic and religious minorities and contribute to their development.

When preparing reports and programmes on ethnic and religious minorities, we should:

- treat minorities without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, cultural or social origin, family, property, birth or other status, residence, state of health, age, as well as any other sign;

- not use such words, statements or pictures that might lead to discrimination of an individual or a part of community by any of the signs listed above;
- name ethnic and religion background of a suspect or accused individual only when its of essential significance for the plot;
- not describe such physical data which might fully erroneously link criminal behaviour to ethnic origin;
- not draw ungrounded parallels between minorities and social problems;
- differentiate activities of an individual representative of minority from those of the minority; not identify an individual with a minority as a whole;
- facilitate societal integration of minorities.

We should bear in mind that by reflecting in programmes of viewpoints and opinions of minority representatives we facilitate their integration into society and the raising of a level of tolerance in the community.

When preparing a programme on minorities, we should:

- take interviews from minority representatives and report their opinions. Otherwise they will be “objects” rather than “subjects” of the plot. Criticism of any one group in the plot is inadmissible unless members of the groups are provided with an opportunity to state own viewpoints and respond to questions asked;
- ensure invitation to a programme of a minority representative with an appropriate qualification, together with other guests;
- respond to negative statements with regard to minorities even when their authors are representatives of the administrative, political or cultural elite;
- report opinions of minority representatives not only in connection with matters related to minorities, but also in case of covering other subjects.

15.2 Negative coverage of minorities

We should not cover wrongdoings or violence committed by minority representatives in a manner that is known under the name of “media panic”. Naturally, we should not avoid negative aspects of ethnic or religious minorities, but we should not, at the same time, make them a “permanent repertory”.

We should avoid too frequent presentation of a religious or ethnic group in criminal chronicles, for this will be conducive to the establishment of a negative stereotype.

15.3 Coverage of ethnic/religious confrontation

We should cover matters related to ethnic/religious minorities objectively, comprehensively and in a respective historical context. A material prepared on such a matter should contain the background of confrontation, its causes, all parties to the conflict and neutral opinion so that to enable the audience to make out the fact of the matter.

15.4 Religious programmes

The Broadcaster should respect the fundamental human right to practice any religion or faith, propagate it and follow devotions.

When preparing programmes or plots on religious subjects, we should be know what can offend audiences. The programme authors and presenters, as well as journalists, should take account of opinion and peculiar features of religious groups existing in Georgia, What is acceptable for representatives of one religion or faith might be unacceptable for others.

Where a religion or religious denomination is the central subject of a religious programme, then the identity of religion and/or denomination must be clear to the audience. Contributors should not be allowed to undermine or denigrate the religious beliefs of others. We should not present views of a representative of a specific religion or denomination as views of all the followers of this religion; neither shall we allow any religious group to speak on behalf of all believers.

Religious programmes must not seek to promote religious views or beliefs by stealth. They must not improperly exploit any susceptibilities of the audience.

We should pay special attention to information that contains claims that a living person (or group) has special powers or abilities. such programmes must treat such claims with due objectivity and must not broadcast such claims when significant numbers of children may be expected to be watching or listening.

Special care should be given when such information or claims are broadcast in a religious programme.

We should avoid reporting a material that might offend any religion or religious denomination.

When replicating horoscopes on air (or generally in information), we should indicate the country where the horoscope is popular. When replicating astrological forecasts, we should name its author (or more or less qualified source) and avoid mentioning non-academic degrees, where available, of the author (source). At least, indicate that such degrees are non-academic.

We will ensure that the beliefs and practices of the great world faiths are described in programmes. Identification of peoples and states on the basis of religion is inadmissible, especially when it is not related to the subject matter of a programme.

15.5 Attitude to intolerance

When a programme guest or contributor unreasonably claims ethnic origin or religious belief as a causative factor of any event, we should necessarily inform the audience about the actual causes of the event and underline that the ethnic origin and religion have no relation whatsoever to the matter in question.

We should not disregard racist or xenophobic statements of a programme guest/ contributor. WE should criticize such statements. Our audience need to be confident that the Broadcaster does not share racist and xenophobic statements.

15.6 Terminology

We should avoid such terminology that may be offensive for representatives of a specific ethnic or religious minority.

We should react to words which belittle and offend an individual because of its ethnic origin and religious belief. We should make it clear to contributors who directly use such words on air that the public broadcaster disagrees with the statements made by them and the way of their expression.

Since other believers of various faiths living in Georgia also use the word "Church", we should not identify it with the Orthodox Church only. WE should mention in a programme which Church is being discussed: Orthodox, Catholic or other. If a programme deals with a single faith (e.g. Orthodox), which is quite obvious to the audience, the word "Church" may be used as a synonym of Orthodoxy without further concretization.

We should not liberally use terms such as, for example, "fundamentalist", "Islamite". What is appropriate for describing one group might prove quite inappropriate for the other.

We should not name an individual's ethnic origin with a word having a negative colouring. For example, we should not say "kike" instead of "Jew", "Tatar" instead of "Azeri", etc.

15.7 Women

Notwithstanding recent dramatic changes in the attitude towards women and the fact that the present-day Georgian women lead rather an active life, there have been still preserved stereotypes that are offensive for many women. When speaking about women, we should avoid the use of sexist expressions, the making sexist assessments or comparisons.

Sexism means a discriminatory opinion, statement, behaviour, and attitude of one sex to the other.

For example, such characterization of a woman as: "she is not inferior to man", "she has a man's mind", etc. some women might take as an offence.

CHARTER OF JOURNALISTIC ETHICS

Article 7. A journalist shall be aware of the danger of encouraging discrimination by the media, and shall do the utmost to avoid facilitating such discrimination based on, among other things, race, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, and national or social origins;

Explanation of the article: In considering this article, the context has a decisive importance. Journalists must distance themselves from discriminatory statements made by respondents during a live program and must challenge them during the program. If a program is recorded, it must be clear that intolerant statements do not express journalists' positions. A discriminatory statement made by a public person must be reported by a journalist whilst that made by a private person may be edited if the aim of material is not to show the environment of intolerance.

In general, the European tendency is that journalists must fight against discriminatory statements.

APPENDIX 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Anti-Semitism – Discrimination against Jews on the basis of stereotypes existing about their religion and traditions or on the ground of ethnicity.

Making a scapegoat – Putting a blame on an entire group of people, or members of this group, for social, economic and other problems when, in reality, these problems are caused by numerous and very difficult reasons.

Discrimination – Refusal to fairly or equally treat representatives of other cultural, ethnic societies and groups in a whole set of spheres. This concerns employment, place of residence, political rights and places of public service.

Dogmatism – Blind and unfounded adherence to own opinions, mode of life and belief and stubbornly resisting different opinions and their follower.

Ethnocentrism – A person's conscious or unconscious assessment of other ethnic groups in accordance with the values, standards and criteria dominating that person's ethnic group and the neglect of alternative opinions and attitudes.

Ageism – Discrimination of a person on the ground of age or on the basis of stereotypes existing about elderly.

Manifestation of hatred – Attack on a person or his/her property, oppression or any other aggressive, violent act because of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or any other quality.

Equality – A condition when a person enjoys equal dignity, is granted equal rank or privilege with others.

Classism – Discrimination of a person on the ground of social and economic standing.

Multiculturalism – Existence of different characteristics and qualities between persons or groups regardless of whether this results from a personal choice of a person [education, geographic place, family status, religious belief] or from reasons independent of a person [age, sex, sexual orientation, disability...].

Racism – Discrimination and prejudice on the ground of race based on the assumption that one ethnic group is naturally superior to another by its intellect, moral qualities, belief, mode of life and other qualities.

Sexism – Discriminatory opinions, statements, behavior, attitudes on the basis of sex.

Hate speech – Any form of expression that incites and justifies discrimination of an individual or group based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or other grounds.

Stereotype – A widely generalized opinion about an entire group, which excludes a possibility of individual difference existing among members of the group.

Tolerance – Acknowledging traditions and beliefs of cultures, social groups or ethnic societies, treating them with common sense and patience.

Xenophobia – Deep antipathy, fear or hatred towards foreigners, representatives of other cultures or ethnic groups.

Prejudice – Irrational doubt or hatred towards an entire category of people. Negative assessment of other people only and mainly because of their belonging in ethnic, religious or social groups .