

Pan African Union for Science and Technology

UPR - Georgia

Georgia made progress on deep and sustainable democracy and human rights and fundamental freedoms: local elections in June and July 2014 are complied with international standards. Constitutional reform was initiated with the creation of a State Constitutional Commission. The National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan were adopted. The prison system and the protection of children's rights improved. An anti-discrimination law was adopted

Georgia deepened its political and economic ties with the European Union by signing and ratifying the Association Agreement with the EU, which requires Georgia to fulfil strong human rights commitments as part of the approximation process of aligning national laws and procedures with that of the EU. In its March European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) progress report, the EU noted that Georgia "continued to deliver on a busy reform and approximation agenda," but also highlighted the need to ensure judicial independence, avoid a perception of selective justice, and increase accountability and democratic oversight of law enforcement agencies.

The country has taken a host of measures to end discrimination in the past years. In May 2014, parliament adopted an anti-discrimination bill that provides for protection against discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Some criticized the bill for lacking efficient implementation mechanisms, including means for imposing financial penalties for perpetrators. The bill put the Ombudsman's Office in charge of overseeing anti-discrimination measures. In February 2014, the constitutional court in Georgia struck down a 13-year-old ban on homosexual men being blood donors.

Progress was made in improving the quality of the prison system, in particular in healthcare. Prisons remain a key area for EU support and the government's priority in its criminal justice reform. The presidential pardons and large-scale amnesty granted in early 2013 cut the prison population by half. This reduction, together with a budget increase and changes in staff and control methods, allowed the administration to focus on healthcare reform and initiate work on rehabilitation and re-socialisation.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) continued to monitor government activities closely. Civil society dialogue with parliament remains strong. A national action plan on gender equality (2014-16) was adopted and all existing gender and women's rights action plans were integrated into the human rights action plan (2014-15). Georgia signed the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Georgia amended its Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection Code to bring it into compliance with EU requirements. The National Food Agency was awarded a second EU grant to help establish an effective food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary management system in line with EU standards and legislations.

Georgia adopted a socioeconomic development strategy for the period until 2020, which reaffirmed the need for a good business climate and placed strong emphasis on enhancing the private sector's competitiveness. Significant progress was also made in developing the country's strategy and related action plan on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).