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31th session of the Human Rights Council

Item-Georgia under review of UPR

**Joint statement by the Georgian SRHR-Platform, conformed by Tanadgoma, Hera XXI, Identoba,
Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)**

Delivered by RFSU-Sweden on behalf of the Georgian SRHR-platform

Thank you,

The platform welcomes Georgia's acceptance of recommendations concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, and urges the Government to ensure their effective implementation, particularly given current political threats to secularism, to women's emancipation and to the effective protection of LGBT persons in Georgia.

We welcome Georgia's will to have effective national anti-discrimination laws. Therefore, we encourage the Government to combatting hate speech in public service and strengthening the role of the Ombudsman by, for instance, granting that office the possibility to imposing fines and other sanctions. Promoting secular, evidence-based education on gender relations, sexuality and equality is also a key measure against discrimination in society.

We celebrate Georgia's commitment against sexual and gender violence, and urge the Government to ensure that protective and restrictive measures are effective, and to combat impunity by establishing specialized units for investigating hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as on gender-based and domestic violence.

We welcome the Government's commitment on improving quality health care services for women, and hope that sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, contraception and safe abortion is physically and financially accessible for all women and girls, especially among vulnerable groups and in rural areas.

Finally, we would like to encourage the Government to continue its active cooperation with the Georgian civil society while implementing and monitoring the UPR outcomes and recommendations.

Thank you