



Mr. President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with WISG, Equality Movement and Tbilisi Pride, civil society organizations working to protect and promote the rights of LGBTQI people in Georgia.

We thank the Member States that made recommendations relating to LGBTI persons, including on repealing the Law on the Protection of Family Values and Minors and related amendments; protection from discrimination, stigma, hate speech and violence; and legal protection on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

We regret that Georgia noted all recommendations relating specifically to LGBTI persons. We are particularly concerned that, since Georgia's last UPR review, the Government has not implemented the 21 accepted SOGIESC-related recommendations. Instead, it has adopted laws and policies that restrict LGBTI expression and assemblies, ban civil partnerships, prohibit legal gender recognition, impose criminal penalties related to gender-affirming healthcare, and censor LGBTI-related content in education and public life.

We are also concerned that Georgia noted recommendations on civic space, fundamental freedoms, protection of journalists and human rights defenders, accountability for hate crimes, victim support, access to gender-affirming healthcare, and legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

These measures have serious consequences for LGBTI communities, including self-censorship, worsening mental health, denial of healthcare, employment discrimination, censorship in academia and the media, and increased attempts to leave Georgia for safety.

We urge Georgia to reconsider these recommendations, repeal discriminatory anti-LGBTI legislation, reinstate gender identity as a protected ground, investigate hate-motivated violence, guarantee fundamental freedoms, and ensure legal gender recognition and trans-specific healthcare in line with international human rights standards.

Thank you.