

ადამიანის უფლებების სწავლებისა და მონიტორინგის ცენტრი

EMC

Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center



Suggested Lists of Issues towards the First Periodic Report by the Government of Georgia to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)

Partnership for Human Rights (PHR)

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Summary

The document aims at introducing the suggestions for the list of issues towards the first periodic report by the Government of Georgia to the UNCRPD Committee. The document is developed by the Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC) and the Partnership for Human Rights (PHR) and is linked with the shadow report, which was prepared by 17 DPOs and CSOs and provided to the UN CRPD Committee in 2017.ⁱ After the ratification of the UNCRPD, Georgia has mostly failed to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention, therefore, a major part of recommendations and findings of the abovementioned shadow report is relevant nowadays.

The report covers the implementation issues of the following articles of the UN CRPD in Georgia, namely, Article 2-3: definitions and general principles; Article 5: equality and non-discrimination, Article 6: Women with Disabilities; Article 7: Children with Disabilities; Article 9: Accessibility; Article 12: equal recognition before the law; Article 13: Access to Justice; Article 14: liberty and security of the person; Article 21: Freedom of Expression and Access to Information; Article 23: Respect for Home and the Family; Article 24: Education; Article 25: Health; Article 27: Work and Employment; Article 28: Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection; Article 33: National Implementation Mechanism of the Convention.

Articles 2 and 3. Definitions and General Principles

There are major challenges with regard to the proper implementation of Articles 2 and 3 of the UNCRPD in the country. The existing legislation is partially/not in line with the requirements of the Convention. After ratification of the UNCRPD, with the exceptions, such as Article 12 of the Convention, the main changes to the legislation were mainly connected with the introduction of the term – “person with disabilities” and did not substantially introduce changes in the normative framework. Contrary to the standards of the UNCRPD, the legislation is based on the medical paradigm, which hinders the possibility for planning and implementing policies based on the social model.ⁱⁱ Additionally, the important terms – universal design and reasonable accommodation – have not been reflected and implemented in the normative framework. Relevant legislation and practice are not sensitive towards the individual needs of persons with disabilities and do not provide special mechanisms for their support.

1. What are the plans of the government to examine existing legislation regulating the right of persons with disabilities and make changes in line with the requirements of the UNCRPD?
2. Which measures does country take to reflect the terms – “Reasonable Accommodation” and “Universal Design” in law and practice?
3. Which measures are taken in order to plan and implement disability policy based on the social model?
4. Which measures does the country take to grant the relevant status to the sign language, so the rights of persons with hearing challenges will not be disregarded?
5. Which specific measures are taken in order to implement every principle of the UNCRPD and develop legislation and practice that is sensitive towards the individual needs of persons with disabilities?

Article 5. Equality and Non-Discrimination

The issue of discrimination of persons with disabilities in all areas of life presents one of the major challenges in the country.ⁱⁱⁱ Against this background, the legislation and practice prove themselves as ineffective with regard to the prevention and eradication of these challenges. One of the most illustrative examples of the discriminatory normative framework is the absence of the term – “reasonable accommodation”, while its denial is not qualified as discrimination towards persons with disabilities. The relevant legislation also reflects the discriminative attitude and limits some groups of persons with disabilities from seeking employment in public sector, as well as the voting rights (for all supported persons residing in medical facilities).^{iv} The existence of segregated institutions lead to stigmatization and encourages attitudes towards persons with psychosocial needs. Despite the fact, that one of the main basis for the discrimination is public stereotypes and attitudes, the country does not take steps for the prevention and eradication of the problem.^v

1. Which steps are taken by the country to reflect a denial of the reasonable accommodation as the form of discrimination?

2. Which measures are carried out in order eradicate discriminative approaches in legislation towards persons with disabilities?
3. Which measures have been taken and what are the plans of the country to prevent and eradicate the public stereotypes and attitudes towards persons with disabilities?
4. Which steps are taking to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination faces by persons with disabilities, especially, when it comes to persons with psychosocial and intellectual needs?

Article 6. Women with Disabilities

Human rights situation of women with disabilities remains particularly critical in the country. The laws and policies, as well as human rights action plans establishing the rights of people with disabilities do not pay particular attention to the situation of women with disabilities. Particularly problematic are - forms of violence and harassment against women with disabilities living in state-run mental health facilities^{vi}, qualifications of law enforcement officers, and lack of a proper interrogation procedures for women victims of sexual violence^{vii}, as well as lack of production of statistical data and appropriate methodology on place^{viii}. Access to infrastructure of medical facilities and medical equipment remains an issue, in terms of proper realization of reproductive and sexual health of women/girls with disabilities^{ix}.

1. Do you have any strategy on how the rights of women and girls with disabilities will be mainstreamed across the women's rights agenda, reflected in laws, programs, and policies of the country?
2. What measures have been taken to include a disability perspective in the Government's policy for gender equality in general, and intersectional equality policy in particular?
3. What specific measures are planned to increase the participation of women with disabilities in political and public life, as well as their inclusion and effective participation in the labour market?
4. What specific measures are planned to tackle violence against women with disabilities by providing accessible shelters and 24-hour victim support hotlines, trained police officers and other professionals?
5. What legislative, administrative, or judicial measures has the government adopted to identify cases of violence and abuse against women and girls with disabilities?
6. What measures are being taken to ensure that cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities are handled in a manner compatible with the Convention, in particular with respect to their right to informed consent?
7. What concrete steps is the government taking to ensure that the services provided to women who are victims of violence, including medical, psychological and legal services, are accessible to women and girls with disabilities?
8. Is the government taking any targeted measures to ensure girls and women with disabilities have access to education and employment on an equal basis with others?
9. What concrete steps has the state taken or is it planning to take to ensure effective and quality protection of the reproductive health of women with disabilities?

10. What measures has the state taken to increase access to medical facilities for women with disabilities?

Article 7. Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities represent one of the most vulnerable groups in Georgia. Most of the social care and rehabilitation services are not available in the regions. Children with disabilities continue to live in large residential facilities, including the ones without a license. It is particularly difficult to provide quality services to children with mental health diagnosis and children involved in the state care. The problem is the lack and ineffectiveness of rehabilitation/abilitation programs for children with disabilities^x, provision of appropriate services to adolescents with behavioral difficulties and mental health problems^{xi}. Due to the lack of knowledge and competence, it is practically impossible to identify and respond to the violence committed against the children with disabilities^{xii}. The Code on the Rights of a Child adopted in 2019 failed to improve the legal status of children with disabilities in practice without introduction and development of appropriate services. In terms of protecting the rights of children with disabilities, particularly challenging problems include improvement of childcare and guardianship systems, as well as the lack of the social workers.

1. What measures has the state taken toward deinstitutionalization of the orphanages for children with disabilities? What is it planning to do in the nearest future and when will the deinstitutionalization process be completed?
2. What measures is being taken by the state to protect the rights of children with disabilities living in non-licensed residential institutions?
3. What measures has the state taken to provide quality services to children with a mental health diagnosis?
4. What are the results of addressing challenges in the child psychiatry?
5. Does the state have a strategy to provide community-based rehabilitation and educational services to children with severe and profound disabilities?
6. What measures has the state taken to ensure identification and further response of law enforcements on the violence against children with disabilities?
7. What concrete steps has the state taken to ensure that the childcare and social protection system works effectively in the country?

Article 9. Accessibility

The problems of accessibility remain unchanged. Access to the physical environment, transportation and information are a pressing issues in the country, due to which people with disabilities are not able to enjoy the full range of rights enshrined in the Convention. Georgian legislation does not comply with the requirements of the Convention. The regulations, laid down by the national technical regulations in force, are contradictory and inaccurate. To date, accessibility needs at national level have not been met and no action plan has been developed. Accessibility challenges are also acute at the municipal level^{xiii}.

The country has not yet developed an unified standard aimed at improving access to information, thus vital and essential services for people with disabilities are still inaccessible.

1. What kind of monitoring mechanisms have been established to access existing accessibility regulations and obligations, and on how these mechanisms function in reality?
2. What measures has Georgia taken to increase access to the physical environment and transportation throughout the country?
3. When is the country going to assess the barriers to accessing physical environment and transportation?
4. When will the Government introduce regulations with deadlines for universal design of existing buildings?
5. What measures have been taken to ensure the right to information and communication?

Article 12. Equal Recognition before the Law

The country carried out legal capacity reform in 2015, based on the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, which abolished the guardianship regime and replaced with supported decision-making model. However, the legislative framework restricts the rights of supported persons in some areas of life, such as the right to health, the right to employment and the right to participation in political life, as well as the possibility to marry without a wedding contract or be a foster parent.^{xiv} There are ambiguous regulations and poor procedural guarantees as it make room for the forced psychosocial examination and designation of “full support” to the person in all spheres of life, without a thorough examination of his/her individual needs.^{xv}

Implementation remains the most important issues in this area. Namely, the country has not carried out institutional reform to develop and ensure the right to legal capacity. The Government of Georgia has not allocated adequate technical, human and financial resources for the implementation of the reform and failed to inform every stakeholder (state actors, as well as supported persons and supporters) on the essence of the right to legal capacity and supported decision-making regime. Moreover, the country tasked social workers to perform the role of supporter (in the case of absence of family member/relative), while the representatives of same agencies are in charge of monitoring the support system. This clearly indicates the conflict of interests.^{xvi}

1. How many persons are currently qualified as recipients of support? Which types of statistics are in place towards the supported persons? Does the country have a methodology for the production of such statistics? Please, describe this methodology (in the case of existence);
2. What steps have been/are being taken to identify the legislative gaps in the sphere of the right to legal capacity and to make respective amendments?
3. Which measures does the country take to establish and implement support service for the supported persons?
4. Which measures does the country take to establish an effective mechanism for monitoring the

support system and avoiding the conflict of interests?

5. Which measures are in place to protect the supported persons from abuse of power from their supporters? Please, describe these measures in a detailed manner;
6. Is country planning to allocate adequate human, administrative and financial resources for the effective implementation of the legal capacity reform?
7. What measures have been taken in order to raise awareness (including, trainings, guidebooks, etc.) of the representatives of relevant state agencies on the legal capacity and supported decision-making issues?
8. What measures have been taken and what are the plans of the country with regard to carrying out an intensive and effective informational campaign for the supported persons, existing and future supporters and the public on the legal capacity and supported decision-making issues?
9. Which measures are taken by Georgia to ensure the effective realization of the right to legal capacity for persons residing in big-sized specialized institutions (psychiatric facilities and boarding houses for the persons with disabilities)?
10. Which measures are taken to ensure that the persons with psychosocial and intellectual needs have an equal right to financial autonomy and equal access to bank loans and other banking services?

Article 13. Access to Justice

The main challenge in terms of access to justice remains the qualification of professionals working in the justice system. The problem is also the lack of production of segregated statistics at all stages of administering justice. Persons living in mental institutions are still restricted to protect their rights through exercising effective justice. Assessment of the physical environment at common courts and identification of barriers to physical accessibility should be positively assessed^{xvii}. However, without appropriate follow-up measures to eliminate existing barriers, ability to access justice for persons with disabilities remains unchanged.

1. What specific steps have been taken towards envisaging the needs of persons with disabilities in cases managed by law enforcement agencies? Is there a methodology on place for producing and analyzing statistics of persons with disabilities by these agencies?
2. Has the knowledge and skills of persons involved in the justice system (police officers, investigators, judges) been raised on the issues of persons with disabilities and how has this affected the cases administered by them?
3. What measures have been taken by the state to increase physical accessibility to the persons involved in the justice system (police officers, prosecutors)?
4. What specific steps have been taken to increase access to justice for persons with disabilities living in mental health institutions and ones living under 24-hour state care?

Article 14. Liberty and Security of the Person

Large-scale psychiatric institutions (ten institutions) still represent a serious challenge to the freedom and security of persons with disabilities. In the aforementioned institutions continue to live so-called “permanent” patients who have been unable to leave the facility for years. In the absence of relevant legal regulations, one of the most pressing challenges is the use of physical and chemical restrictions on persons living in mental institutions^{xviii}. Often, safety and protection of persons with disabilities living in boarding houses are not ensured. Of particular concern is the timely and effective response to violence in boarding houses by the state^{xix}.

1. What measures has the state taken to integrate lifelong residents of mental health institutions in community services and withdraw them from psychiatric institutions?
2. When does the state plan to develop a specific plan for the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric institutions?
3. What specific measures has the state taken to prohibit physical and chemical abuse of persons living in mental institutions on the legislative level, and what are the positive changes in practice in this regard?
4. When does the state plan to develop a concrete plan for the deinstitutionalization of boarding houses for persons with disabilities?
5. What legislative and practical changes has the state implemented to prevent and respond effectively to the violence in boarding houses and psychiatric institutions?

Article 21. Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

Taking into account the weak legislative framework and insufficient policy measures, it is obvious, that the state mainly fails to ensure accessibility to information. The Constitution of Georgia and General Administrative Code of Georgia hold a neutral position with regard to access to information for the person with disabilities, as it does not underline state obligation to provide information in the adapted format and the opportunity to get special support from the state in the process of getting information. Against this background, the accessibility standards in the country only cover the physical environment and not the accessibility of information. One of the most challenging issues is the implementation of this freedom for persons with psychosocial and intellectual needs, especially if they are beneficiaries of boarding houses and psychiatric facilities.

1. Which measures are taken in order to define legislative standards and services for the persons with special communication requirements, including, state services, media, press and other means of information, as well as general public and private sector?
2. Which measures are carried out in order to ensure the accessibility for persons with disabilities (including, persons with intellectual disabilities) to the information?
3. How many representatives of public agencies (and which state agencies) have been trained in order to provide information and services for persons with disabilities in an accessible format?

Article 23. Respect for Home and the Family

There have been no positive changes in the country concerning the right to respect for family life of persons with disabilities. The lack of family support and housing services remain a challenge, especially in cases of persons with disabilities living in state care. The right to family life of persons with disabilities is violated in the cases of both persons living in large institutions and persons involved in community services. No changes have been made in the legislation concerning beneficiaries of support in respect to the right to respect for private and family life. Due to the lack of appropriate services, children are often separated from their families because of their parents' disabilities.

1. What measures have been taken or will be taken to ensure that families with children with disabilities receive the support they need?
2. What measures have been taken or will be taken to prevent children from being separated from their parents because of their own or their parents' disabilities?
3. What legislative and practical measures has or will it taken to ensure that persons with disabilities living in boarding houses are in contact with their children?

Article 24. Education

The inclusion of children with disabilities in preschool and general education systems is extremely low^{xx}. Involvement and retraining of inclusive education specialists is also a particular challenge. There are serious problems with the access to external and internal infrastructure of kindergartens. Existence of special schools remains the challenge for inclusive education.^{xxi} The fact that the state still lacks information on children left outside of formal education should be assessed negatively. Access to the physical environment of public schools, lack of inclusive education action plans, lack of educational resources, insufficient number of additional specialists and individual assistants, poor readiness of school teachers to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities, inadequate management of individual education plans and lack of effective internal monitoring of institutions are still challenging areas^{xxii}. The state still does not have statistical data on students with disabilities involved in higher education. Continuing education at the higher level remains a problem, due to the barriers to access teaching materials and physical environment at universities, as well as the lack of specific supportive measures. This cannot guarantee the continuity of education^{xxiii}.

1. Could you provide information on how accessibility to schools will be reached, and to what level and where, in relation to all children with different disabilities?
2. How does the state plan to increase the inclusion of children with disabilities in preschool?
3. What measures has been or will be taken to increase qualification and knowledge of preschool teachers to provide quality preschool education?
4. Please provide information on whether there is a concrete plan of action to secure accessibility to the school system in both urban and rural areas, allowing access to inclusive teaching of all pupils with disabilities in their local community?

5. How will be the positive attitude towards inclusive education developed and maintained among parents of children with or without disabilities and among children themselves?
6. What steps does the government plan to take to ensure provision of reasonable accommodation and make educational environments and curricula accessible for students with all types of disabilities, including in rural areas?
7. What measures will be taken to include more pupils with disabilities in the regular education system? Please provide information on how the qualifications and competences of the teachers, specialists and others regarding inclusion are guaranteed through education and courses to realize the vision of high-quality inclusive education in regular schools to the highest possible level?
8. What measures will be taken to ensure that persons with disabilities complete higher education?

Article 25.Health

Challenges to the realization of the right to health of persons with disabilities include lack of access to facilities, awareness of citizens, access to medications and effective communication by medical staff. The biggest problem is still the lack of medical insurance tailored to individual needs, due to which people with disabilities practically do not receive medical care, that also represents a serious problem for children^{xxiv}. Mental health care issues remain acute in the country. Despite the relatively increased funding for community-based services, funding and development of non-hospital services still remain low. To date, no suicide prevention program is approved. The areal of psychosocial rehabilitation centers throughout the country still has not increased. Inadequate infrastructure and living conditions remain a challenge for patients receiving inpatient psychiatric care. To date, no strategy of deinstitutionalization of psychiatric institutions has been developed. There has been no improvement in increasing the number of mental health professionals, neither the capacity of primary care staff to identify and manage mental health problems. No effective steps have been taken to increase human resources working in child psychiatry. The issue of public awareness and stigma about mental health remains a challenge. The somatic health issues of people receiving psychiatric inpatient care are also acute^{xxv}.

1. In What form and when does the state intend to offer people with disabilities a medical insurance tailored to their needs?
2. What measures has it taken or is it planning take in order to make health care facilities and services available for persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas?
3. How does the state intend to increase out of hospital and community/rehabilitation services to improve mental health situation?
4. When and to what extend does the state plan to increase primary care physicians' knowledge and competence in regards of identification mental health problems?
5. What measures does the state plan to take to promote the somatic health of persons living in mental health facilities?
6. What plan does the state have to address the problems of child psychiatry, in particular to increase the involvement of qualified specialists and make the service child-centered?

Article 27. Work and Employment

Realization of the right to work is problematic for persons with disabilities in both legal and practical viewpoint. The legislative framework regulating work and employment of persons with disabilities is mostly declarative, which makes challenges in the process of effective implementation and monitoring.^{xxvi} The principle of reasonable accommodation is not enshrined in legislation, which makes an additional barrier for persons with disabilities in the process of realization of their rights. Additionally, a major part of the legislative framework does not envisage affirmative mechanisms, including, quota system, aiming at fostering employment of the persons with disabilities. On the other hand, regulations setting the restriction for most groups of persons with disabilities to get the social package in the case of employment in the civil sector is not amended by the Government.

The country neither possesses exact statistics of employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector nor have a systemic view of implementing effective and sustained employment policy. The existing employment programs are mostly identical in nature and are not tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities.^{xxvii} Because of the abovementioned challenges, as well as lack of sustainability of employment and inaccessible physical environment, transport and working space, the number of official job seekers (via www.worknet.gov.ge) goes higher (for example, in 2017 – 3535 persons, in 2018 – 6073 persons), while already low employment rate is declining (in 2017 – 103 persons, in 2018 – 99 persons).^{xxviii}

1. Which specific measures are carried out in order to reflect the principle of reasonable accommodation in Georgian legislation? Which steps are taken for ensuring accessible workplaces for persons with disabilities and sanctioning those, who do not comply with it?
2. Which positive measures are taken in order to promote the employment of persons with disabilities? Does the country plan to introduce specific measures, such as quota system at workplaces?
3. Does country intend to analyze, identify and eradicate major challenges in the legislation regulating the right to work and employment issues of the persons with disabilities, including, status-based (supported persons) restriction on the employment contracts and discriminatory approaches towards civil service employees?
4. Which measures does the country take in order to increase and ensure the sustainability of the existing employment promotion programs?
5. Which type of statistics does the country have in the sphere of work and employment of persons with disabilities? What is the rate of employment of persons with disabilities compared to the total number of this group in the country? Please, provide with the rate of persons employed in the open labour market, private and public sectors, disaggregated by disability type, gender and regions of Georgia.

Article 28. Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection

The existing policy of social protection does not meet with the individual needs of persons with disabilities and is mainly connected with the types of disability. Government has not developed long-term supportive programs aiming at improving the quality of living, preventing and eradicating poverty and social isolation. The existing legislation regulating social protection is outdated, ineffective and not in line with the UN CRPD standards.^{xxix} The realization of the right to adequate housing presents one of the most challenging issues in the country. Georgia does not have housing strategy and action plan, while relevant legislative and institutional frameworks do not correspond international standards. Taking into account these challenges, hundreds of persons with disabilities are institutionalized in large-sized facilities, as the relevant community services (including, housing services) are lacking.

1. What measures are intended by Georgia to amend its social protection system in line with the requirements of the UN CRPD?
2. What types of researches have been carried out in the country aiming at identifying data on individual needs of persons with disabilities? Please, provide us with detailed information on these researches, including, methodology, coverage, etc.
3. Which measures are taken to design and implement poverty prevention and reduction policy tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities?
4. Which measures are carried out in order to develop state housing/homelessness policy and prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities?
5. What steps are taken for deinstitutionalization of big-sized institutions and develop community housing and support services in line with the requirements of UNCRPD?

Article 33. National Implementation Mechanism of the Convention

Since ratification of the UNCRPD, the Government of Georgia has failed to develop institutional framework - effective mechanisms for implementation and coordination of the Convention under Article 33. Under the Government of Georgia, some mechanisms for this purpose were designated in the past; however, they proved themselves as ineffective and nowadays they are non-existent. Thus, the state has to nominate implementation and coordination mechanism under the UNCRPD.

1. What steps are taken by the country to develop effective mechanisms for implementation and coordination of the Convention (including, allocation of financial, technical, human resources)? To what extent will the persons with disabilities be involved in the creation of the institutional framework and its working process?
2. What steps are taken by the Government for supporting the Public Defender's Office as the body responsible for monitoring of promotion, protection and implementation of the convention?

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- ⁱ Comprehensive Alternative Report of DPOs and CSOs of Georgia Submitted regarding to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of PWDs, 2017, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRPD%2fCO%2fGEO%2f41146&Lang=en.
- ⁱⁱ Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 263, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid., pg. 114.
- ^{iv} Constitution of Georgia, Article 24 (2), Election Code of Georgia, Article 3 (A,C).
- ^v Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 114, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>.
- ^{vi} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2017, pg. 50, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019062409381039906.pdf>;
- ^{vii} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 115, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{viii} Study on Gathering, Processing and Disseminating Gender Statistics for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence in Georgia, Partnership for Human Rights, 2019;
- ^{ix} Thematic Inquiry on Accessibility of Healthcare Services for Women and Girls with Disabilities, Maka Meshveliania, Georgian Parliament, 2019, pg. 14;
- ^x Enforcement of Anti-discrimination legislation of Georgia to ensure equality of persons with disabilities, Partnership for Human Rights, 2018, http://phr.ge/home/content?content_id=827
- ^{xi} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 222, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xii} Ibid, pg. 229,
- ^{xiii} Ibid, pg. 226-227,
- ^{xiv} The assessment of the Legal Capacity Reform and its Implementation, Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), 2016. Accessible at: <https://emc.org.ge/2016/06/07/emc-82/>.
- ^{xv} Ibid., 45.
- ^{xvi} Ibid., 51.
- ^{xvii} Evaluation of accessibility to court buildings for Persons with disabilities, Council of Europe, Partnership for Human Rights, 2019, <https://phrgeorgia.wordpress.com/2019/10/16/resphr/>
- ^{xviii} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 60-61, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xix} ibid, pg. 228-229.
- ^{xx} According to the National Statistics Office of Georgia, in public schools of Georgia, 524,000 pupils were registered in 2018-2019 academic year. As regards to students with disabilities, according to the information of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, only 750 students with disabilities are indicated in the respective columns of student management electronic databases, which is only 0.14% of the total number of students - Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 225, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xxi} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 225-226, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xxii} Enforcement of Anti-discrimination legislation of Georgia to ensure equality of persons with disabilities, Partnership for Human Rights, 2018, http://phr.ge/home/content?content_id=827
- ^{xxiii} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 226, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xxiv} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2017, pg. 187, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019062409381039906.pdf>;
- ^{xxv} Annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The situation of human rights and freedoms in Georgia, 2018, pg. 230-231, <http://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019101108583612469.pdf>;
- ^{xxvi} ibid, 268.
- ^{xxvii} Ibid.
- ^{xxviii} Ibid, 269.
- ^{xxix} Law of Georgia on Social Protection of PWDs, Available at: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/30316>.