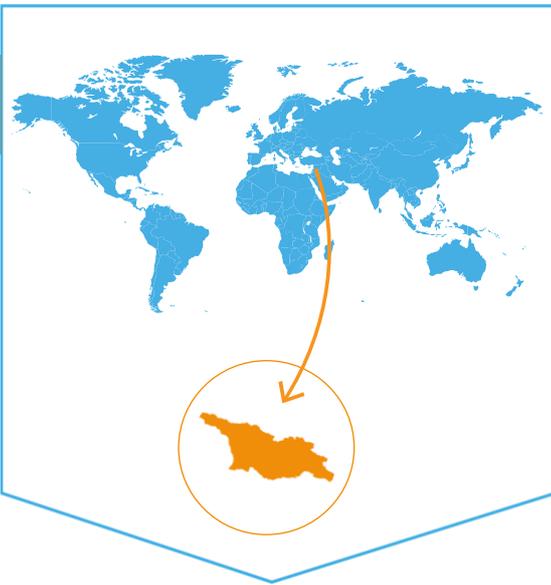




Georgia



Government focal points

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Head of the Human Rights Secretariat,
Administration of the Government
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Pathfinding since May 2018



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

2010

A joint ministerial decree by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs initiated the development of a national child protection referral system.

2012

The Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs established minimum standards for childcare.

2014

A chapter on violence against children was added to the National Action Plan on Human Rights Protection 2014-2020, which has been signed by decree by the Prime Minister in January 2018.

2015

Georgia accepted recommendations to prohibit all corporal punishment, extended during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

2016

The government established an Interagency Commission (IAC) responsible for the implementation of the CRC and for effectively coordinating among various levels of government, different regions and agencies, and with other partners. The protection of children from violence is one of its priority agendas.

2017

The government reported to the Committee on the Rights of the Child that it was committed to "implementing the Committee's previous recommendation on corporal punishment."



**Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

- Ending violence against children is one of the key objectives of the Interagency Commission, a multi-stakeholder platform which consists of various government agencies and civil society. It is composed by relevant deputy ministries and chaired by the head of the Human Rights secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia. The Commission also engages with the Judiciary power, the Parliament, the Ombudsman Office, NGOs and international partners. The IAC is composed by the following ministries: Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Social Service Agency, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, and the Public Defender Office.
- Children and young people's voices were heard and included in the *National Survey of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices* study, undertaken by UNICEF via group discussions on violence against children conducted in Tbilisi, Kutaisi (West Georgia), and Telavi (East Georgia). Children are expected to continue participation in evaluations, in the elaboration of policies, and in the improvement of services oriented to prevention and response. Civil society organizations (CSOs) had a direct input into the drafting of the plan under the leadership of one of the members of the CSO coalition.

Investments from the End Violence Fund

- Georgia is one of the 10 priority countries of the regional project supported by the Fund and led by the **Council of Europe** to strengthen legislative frameworks and national capacity to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including awareness-raising activities on child online safety

- UNICEF has carried out several Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), including 1999 and 2005.
- In 2013, the *National Survey of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices* study concluded. The study assessed the Georgian general public's knowledge, attitude, behaviors and practices toward the issue of violence against children. The quantitative study was administered to 3,284 households randomly selected across the country and to 61 professionals, including statutory social workers, teachers and school resource officers.
- In 2018, UNICEF launched a national website on data, including data on violence against children.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis



Collective Action and INSPIRE

- Parliament is currently discussing the second draft of the Child Rights Code, based on CRC recommendations and standards. In the past years, the inter-ministerial working group, with the support of UNICEF, has developed a package of legislative amendments focused on the protection of children from violence. Corporal punishment of children is legal in the home, in alternative care and in day care settings; it is prohibited in schools and in the penal system. In 2016 the Parliament of Georgia approved more than 10 revisions in laws and regulations to improve legal safeguards of children living and working on the streets and victims of domestic violence.
- In 2018 UNICEF Georgia, with support from the EU, organized an End Violence campaign based on the results of the social norms study conducted in the same year. The campaign set up community meetings, debates and teacher training sessions. A social media campaign was conducted in parallel. In January 2019, ChildHub, UNICEF and the Global Partnership organized a sensitization training on INSPIRE with local partners from the government and civil society. The focus was on different INSPIRE strategies that address violence against girls and boys through prevention and response, and the importance of cross-sectoral approaches and collaboration to achieve sustainable results. It also included a training module for instructors.
- The Initiative for Social Changes (ISC), a local NGO, is currently implementing the Promotion of the INSPIRE Strategies in Georgia project, supported by the INSPIRE Fund. Thus far, ISC has established the INSPIRE Working Group Georgia (IWGG), which consists of representatives from relevant ministries, the Georgian Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and 11 international and local NGOs who underwent a two-day INSPIRE training. ISC has also translated the INSPIRE core document into Georgian and is facilitating meetings of the IWGG to organize a large-scale event: INSPIRE Forum: Ending Violence Against Children.

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2019.
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2017.



Will undergo next UPR in November 2020.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/global movement

1. Under the leadership of the Child Rights' Commission, develop a multi-sectoral national action plan that focuses on prevention and response of violence against children, with specific objectives and associated costs.
2. Strengthen the Interagency Commission as a coordinating body.
3. Undertake a mapping of programs to prevent violence against children broadly categorized using the INSPIRE strategies.
4. Encourage laws that prohibit corporal punishment in the home.

Equip practitioners

5. Organize a donor roundtable, engaging with the private sector.
6. Link Georgia with Romania as holders of the European Union presidency.

Equip practitioners

7. Develop evidence-based national guidelines on the health sector response to child maltreatment with the support of WHO and UNICEF.
8. Train frontline healthcare providers in the identification of and response to children who have suffered physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
9. Organize a policy dialogue with Ministry of Education on Handbook to prevent school-based violence (UNICEF/UNESCO/WHO).
10. To create a composite picture of VAC and build research capacity, synthesize existing data using the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children methodology, led by Innocenti and national partners.