



**GEORGIAN
YOUNG
LAWYERS'
ASSOCIATION**

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

RULE OF LAW
FOR
JUSTICE



GEORGIAN
YOUNG
LAWYERS'
ASSOCIATION

2020 ANNUAL
REPORT

Responsible for publication: Irma Pavliashvili, Khatuna Kviralashvili

Design: Teona Kereselidze

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DEAR MEMBER OF GYLA!

This is the third year that I am greeting you in the capacity of the Chairman of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association. Traditionally, this address is both an honor and responsibility.

It will probably not come as a surprise if I say that 2020 was full of challenges for GYLA – just as for every single one of you; and yet, this year, we had new challenges on top of usual ones. This year will be remembered in history as the year of Covid-19. All of our activities were marked by Covid-19 realities and its challenges.

Covid-19 has changed our daily work. Many meetings and events have shifted from physical space to the digital one. Tens of thousands of people, who usually queue in front of GYLA's offices every year, have moved to virtual space. We had to close our offices and switch to remote work. Despite this, the statistics, depicting consultations and legal support that we provided in the pandemic realities, is quite impressive. Within the reporting period, we provided legal support to over 23 000 beneficiaries, we have 300 ongoing cases and successfully completed dozens of cases, both at the local and international levels. This demonstrates that GYLA achieved results even in the context of the pandemic. I believe that regardless of how much longer this situation will continue, GYLA will endure, providing consultations and qualified legal support throughout the challenges.

Throughout the entire year, GYLA has been working on various human rights aspects, including: equality, social policy, criminal justice and media. In the present report you will find many issues, which reflect systemic problems, affecting various communities and groups. Conducting research and providing evidence-based support to women, LGBTQI, children, IDPs, religious groups, ethnic minorities, persons with disability, persons from the occupied territories and adjacent areas – this is a very short sample of the many activities, which GYLA has been implementing in the reporting period. I must separately mention GYLA's efforts in improvement of labor and environment legislation, as well as special reports, submitted to the international organizations.

One of the tangible results of GYLA's structural reform is the work, implemented for supporting democratic institutions. I can say confidently that the research, conducted by

GYLA on Parliamentary oversight – will be relevant for a very long time. Traditionally, we have been active in the fields of justice and public governance. Our work was particularly focused on 2020 Parliamentary Elections. Despite the challenges, GYLA’s Observation Mission turned out to be of a large-scale and impressive outreach.

In the beginning of my address I mentioned that along with great honor, the greeting in the capacity of a GYLA’s Chairman is also a responsibility. For the full honesty, I have to add that there is certain sadness – because this is my last address in this capacity.

Three years ago, when GYLA’s Board affirmed its trust in me and selected me to the position of Chairperson, I had many plans, ideas and thoughts. Of course, I cannot say that I was able to implement all of them, however, with the support of GYLA’s staff members, Board and GYLA’s members, we achieved a number of tangible results. To avoid abusing your time I will mention only a few – new organizational structure, which has given us the opportunity to strengthen work in providing support to democratic institutions and safeguarding human rights, along with provision of legal aid. We introduced the new system of remuneration and employee evaluation, we corrected and updated GYLA’s Members’ list – this is all a result of lengthy and hard work.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone, with whom I had luck to work with – GYLA’s staff members, GYLA’s Board, our members, donors and partners from the civil society sector; each beneficiary who believed in us and had hope; to everyone who supported and to everyone who criticized us; everyone who was happy for our success and everyone who was not. I am proud to have had the opportunity to be the Chairman of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association, and to have had the chance to do important work together with you.

Wishing you health and a better country,
Sulkhan Saladze
Chairman of the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association

ZUGDIDI OFFICE

2014

OZURGETI OFFICE

2001

ADJARA OFFICE

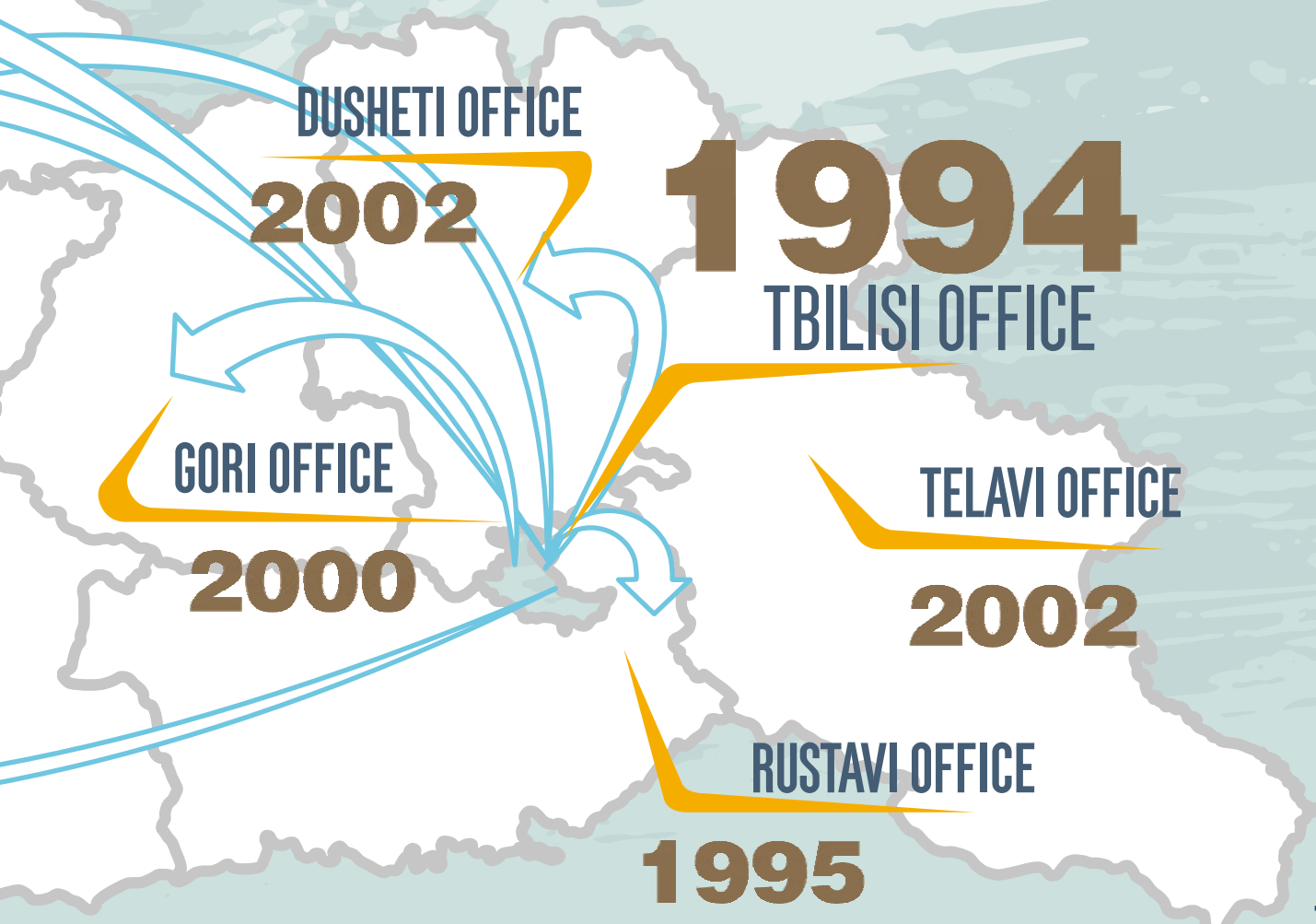
1995

KUTAISI OFFICE

1996

OFFICES OF GYLA

- TBILISI OFFICE – 1994
- ADJARA OFFICE -1995
- RUSTAVI OFFICE - 1995
- KUTAISI OFFICE - 1996
- GORI OFFICE - 2000
- OZURGETI OFFICE - 2001
- TELAVI OFFICE - 2002
- DUSHETI OFFICE - 2002
- ZUGDIDI OFFICE - 2014



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) is the membership-based organization, uniting about 400 members. GYLA was established in 1994 and since then has been expanding its geographic coverage. Today, GYLA operates through 9 offices throughout Georgia. The major goal of its work is protection of human rights and supporting good governance in Georgia.

Along with the growth of the organization throughout years, the need for structural changes has evolved, to adjust to the new requirements of donors and the changes of the civil society (CSO) ecosystem. In 2016, with the support of USAID's Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD 2020) project in Georgia, GYLA's work was evaluated from the human resource and institutional development perspective. As a result, recommendations were developed and since 2018, two phases of reform were planned. The first phase covers structural changes of the organization, while the second phase emphasizes on the improvement of the human resource policy, regional network and communication strategy development.

As a result of the structural changes, financial and organizational coordination functions were accumulated under the responsibilities of the Administrative Director, while project-related work of GYLA was divided into three thematic Programs. Those are:

- Human Rights Protection;
- Supporting Democratic Institutions;
- Legal Aid.

Organizational reform in GYLA will continue throughout the next year.

For now, according to the Statute and established tradition of GYLA, we present the 2020 report of work of Tbilisi and 8 regional offices (the reporting period covers: November 1/2019 – November 1/2020).



1

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights protection is one of the major strategic goals of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association. GYLA analyzes the the existing situation in the country in this regard and advocates for improvements at the policy level.

Human rights protection program is working on 4 priority directions:

- Equality
- Social policy
- Criminal justice
- Media

EQUALITY

Analyzing the human rights conditions of the vulnerable groups and providing assessment remains to be one of the major activities of GYLA. Within “Coalition for Equality”, GYLA, together with its partners, have prepared the fourth report “Implementation of the Right to Protection from Discrimination for Various Groups in Georgia”. The publication describes human rights condition of 10 groups, in terms of discrimination throughout 2019.

Within the reporting period, GYLA actively disseminated public statements (independently and as part of coalitions) regarding the human rights conditions of specific groups. GYLA was actively involved in legislative amendments, submitting recommendations and legal initiatives for promotion of equality.

Specific problems revealed among different groups:

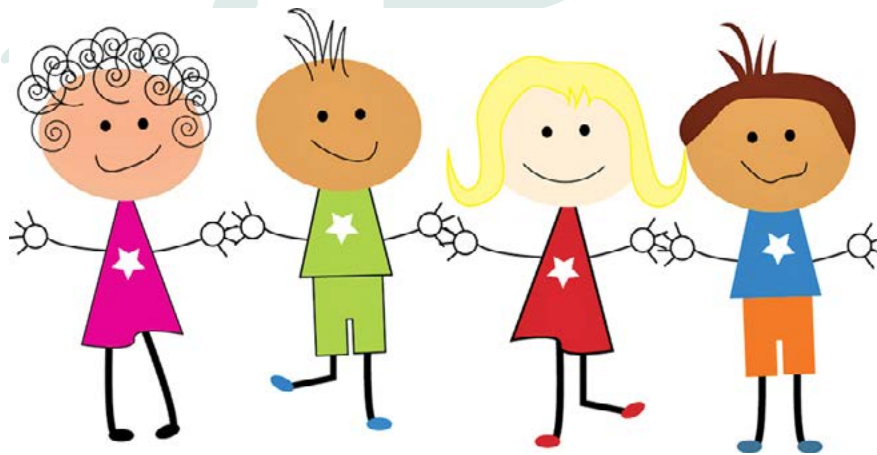


Women: sexual violence remains to be one of the gravest, concealed and unpunished forms of gender violence. Within the reporting period, government has not conducted relevant measures for economic strengthening of women. Moreover, lack of proper vision and awareness in this area remains to be a problem.

Within the reporting period, GYLA submitted opinion regarding the legal initiative on the crimes against gender freedom. GYLA positively assessed the initiative of the Georgian Parliament, however, also suggested to add two provisions – criminalization of forced abortion, which are – yet unimplemented obligations of the government, under the Convention of the Council of Europe on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

LGBTQI: LGBTQI persons continue to endure systemic challenges due to stereotypes and stigma existing in the society. Similar to previous years, hate-motivated crimes remain to be a problem. Furthermore, the freedom of manifestation and gathering, the freedom of expression, remain to be problematic for the LGBTQI community.

Children: adoption of Child Code was a significant progress in 2019. This creates the framework for protection of child rights in Georgia. However, without effective mechanism of implementation, it is impossible to implement it in practice. With challenges, remaining in social protection system and ineffective work of the state institutions that are responsible for responding to child rights violations – violence, poverty and child labor remain to be problems. Development of proper alternative forms of care remains to be an issue, as children without families continue to live in large residential institutions. **Internally Displaced**



Persons (IDPs): part of IDPs, still has not received housing and/or provided housing does not conform to the basic standards of housing.

Religious groups: freedom of religion and faith remain to be problematic in Georgia. Legislation still includes discriminatory provisions. There are also challenges in terms of property of religious unions. The problems remain in the policy and mandate of the State Agency on Religious Issues.

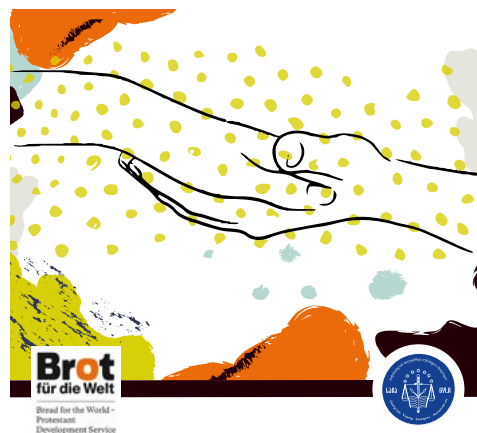
Ethnic minorities: there have been no positive changes in terms of systemic challenges, faced by ethnic minorities, their rights and integration. Emergency situation, introduced in response to Covid-19 was followed by rise of discriminatory remarks and hate speech towards them. Together with partners, GYLA called upon the Government of Georgia and televisions, to adopt measures against hate speech, discriminatory information and approaches.

Occupied territories and rights of persons living near them: within the reporting period, GYLA continuously responded to the human rights violations of citizens, living near the occupied territories, as well as to the crisis in those areas. On September 2/2019, de facto authorities of South Ossetia arbitrarily closed down the crossing point of Mosabruni. Such prohibition has caused a humanitarian crisis, affecting both Georgian and Ossetian residents. Population lost access to proper medical support, food, pension and other essential services. Deaths of people behind the so-called border have acutely demonstrated the humanitarian crisis and grave violation of human rights in occupied territories.

Furthermore, the negative practice of illegal and arbitrary detentions continue near the Administrative Border Line (ABL). Hundreds of Georgian citizens – among others, women and children, become victims of kidnapping every year. In most cases, they are detained through administrative procedure and are released in exchange for ransom. However, criminal procedure-based detentions have become frequent in the recent period, when detainees remain in captivity for years. Other grave violations of human rights are also revealed, including violation of right to life and/or physically injuring victims.

Human rights of persons with disability in Georgia: within the reporting period, GYLA analyzed the human rights conditions of the persons with disability, comparing the existing situation with the standards, established under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The research was

The standards set by
United Nations Convention
on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities (UNCRPD)



conducted within the project, funded by the Bread for the World (BFDW) – “Safeguarding the Socio-Economic Rights of the Most Vulnerable in Georgia”.

GYLA also actively participated in public and committee discussions on the initiated bill on “Rights of Persons with Disability”. In response to GYLA’s recommendations, the Parliament introduced the following aspects to the bill: creation of the mechanism of special applicant and granting this status to the NGOs, working on the rights of persons with disability; improvement of the provisions, regulating the services of personal assistant; definition of reasonable application term and recognition of its discriminatory form; definition of universal design term; creation of the Parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the rights of persons with disability by the government.

Critical positions were expressed by GYLA on the following aspects of the bill: declaratory nature of the bill and lack of clarity of the state obligations; lack of provisions on obligation to create additional social services; mental health and deinstitutionalization; creation of additional guarantees on protection of the women with disability, etc.

SOCIAL POLICY

LABOR LEGISLATION

Within the reporting period GYLA actively participated in public debates on the amendments, initiated in the Labor Code, continuing engagement in committee hearings, following the initiation of the bill in the Parliament of Georgia.

In response to GYLA’s initiatives, the following issues were reflected in the Labor Code: improvement of legislative framework for protection of employee from the discrimination, and definition of the reasonable adjustment concept; normalizing work hours, regulating the breaks and vacations; regulating the internship in a new way and creation of additional legal guarantees for the interns; improvement of the procedures for judiciary review of the lawsuit on dismissal and execution of the court decision; full compensation of the forced absence from the moment of dismissal to the execution of the court decision. Furthermore, resulting from GYLA’s active advocacy campaign, labor inspection was strengthened and its mandate extended to human rights violations within employment relations.

GYLA was also actively advocating to reflect some of the provisions in Labor Code, such as: expanding the definition of “employment relations” and ensuring that it covers un-compensated internship; establishing fixed amount of reimbursement for overtime work; improvement of reimbursement for maternity leave; definition of exhaustive list of grounds for termination of employment contract; adding minimum salary, etc. However, those aspects were not reflected in the bill.

Following the reform in the labor legislation, GYLA prepared 2 information/advocacy video ads:

- Role and mandate of labor inspection
- New regulation of maternity leave

During advocacy of the social policy issues, two more video ads were developed, relating to (1) violation of the labor rights in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and (2) lack of possibility of persons, who are informally employed, to receive one-time government social support.





ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Based on recommendations of GYLA and Green Alternative, construction of large energy objects was prohibited in protected landscapes.

Within the reporting period, GYLA and “Green Alternative” have prepared recommendations on three bills, submitted to the Parliament by the Government of Georgia. The bills suggested changes to the law On Protected Territory System, creating protected landscapes of Aragvi and Truso. This legal initiative was first registered in December 2018, however, it was negatively assessed by the NGOs, environmental experts and local population. With this amendment, government would have gained the power to permit large-scale construction of energy objects and related infrastructure, with a decree. The legislative amendment directly contradicted the concept of protected territories and IUCN (International Union on Conservation of Nature) principles. Local population and other stakeholders were not involved in the process of development of the bill. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture carried out the process in a completely non-transparent manner.

Cooperation between the Georgian Parliament’s Environment Protection and Natural Resources Committee proved constructive and fruitful, as it accepted all recommendations, submitted by GYLA and Green Alternative, in particular:

- Clarified the record regarding the list of permitted activities in the protected landscape. Direct provision was added, indicating that on the protected territories of Aragvi and Truso, in the exceptional circumstances defined by the management, it is allowed to construct hydroelectric plants of no more than 6 Megawatt and connected infrastructure, only for improvement of the living conditions of the local population, development of tourism and the region, without altering the visual characteristics of a landscape.



- The form of the Governance of the protected landscapes was also changed towards decentralization. Local municipalities and the representative body (Council, created by the relevant municipality City Council/Sakrebulo) will now be responsible for the governance of the Aragvi and Truso protected landscapes.

Cooperation with the Parliament of Georgia for Improvement of the Legislation, Regulating the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA)

The Committee of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources of the Parliament of Georgia has implemented control over the execution of the procedures of the EIA, from March to July 2020. The goal of the research was to establish the effectiveness of the EIA procedures, analyzing the revealed shortcomings and other factors, impeding implementation of the law.

The process of the Control of Execution of the Normative Act (CENA) involved experts, civil society, representatives of the public institutions and other stakeholders. GYLA presented justified recommendations to the Committee regarding supervision of the EIA execution. Furthermore, GYLA participated in the discussions, held online. The opinions, provided by GYLA concerned the following issues:

- Shortcomings, revealed in the process of screening/scoping/EIA and related decisions;
- Shortcomings and quality of the scoping and EIA reports;
- Engagement of the stakeholders in the public review of the scoping/EIA reports;
- Improvement of the norms on dispute regulation;
- Information about the court practice in relation to the law;

The Committee has adopted large part of GYLA's recommendations in its final published report on the CENA. Also, CENA report includes a number of important recommendations, provided by GYLA to the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture (related to improvement of the execution of the Environmental Assessment Code).

As a result of GYLA's advocacy campaign, the population of village Bokhvauri in Ozurgeti municipality was able to resolve the issue of land ownership registration.

For years, about 200 families living in village Bokhvauri suffered violation of property rights, as the government registered the land given to those families (through land reform and act of delivery-receipt) as public property and gave it to a private company with lease.

Within the advocacy campaign, GYLA organized various activities, including meetings with village residents, meetings with local population, prepared registration documentation in the national agency of public registry, submitted registration documents, initiated correspondence with the Ozurgeti municipality mayor's office and the legal entity of public law – national agency of public property. As a result, upon the request of the national agency of public property, the lease registration was terminated. At the same time, the agency is not against terminating state ownership of the land that is claimed by the local population, if the relevant procedures enable identification of the landplots belonging to the locals. Finally, after resolving the issue of identification, the citizens were able to register the right to their landplots.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

STANDARDS OF APPLICATION OF THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Within the reporting period, GYLA published the report “Standards of Application of the Preventive Measures”. Within the research, GYLA analyzed the national legislative framework on preventive measures, implemented reforms and the practice, developed as a result. At the same time, GYLA analyzed international standards in this regard and the challenges in their implementation – in terms of national jurisdiction. Interviews and focus groups with judges, prosecutors and lawyers were held in the process of the research.

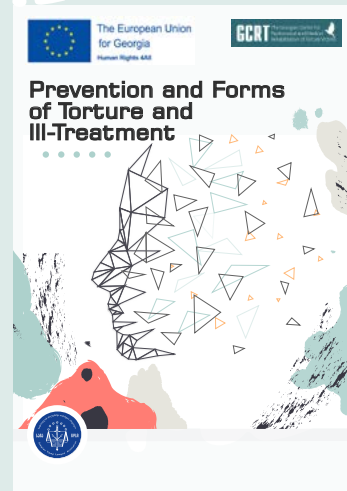
The research revealed the need of legislative reform. Existing provisions on preventive measures must be amended – in particular, those relating to one of the types of preventive measures “agreement on non-departure and proper behavior”. This type of preventive measure must not be dependent on the type of punishment or the category of conviction. At the same time, the minimal amount of bail indicated in the criminal procedure code must be abolished. At the same time, the provision on “bail ensured by imprisonment” must be modified in such a way that it should become one of the discretionary powers of a judge – not a mandatory measure. As a result, it will be possible to use bail in application to the detained defendant as well. At the same time, the need was revealed for the house arrest, as the new type of preventive measure.



FORMS AND PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN, DEGRADING TREATMENT

GYLA prepared a report “Forms and Prevention of Torture and Inhuman, Degrading Treatment”, aiming at identification of cases of torture and inhuman, degrading treatment from the side of the law-enforcements in Georgia. The research also aimed at development of the state inspector service and assessment of the composition of its investigative component.

The process of working on the report has revealed that those violations happen most frequently during detention, transportation and during interrogation in the police department. Similar to the previous years, the challenges are: proper qualification of such cases by the law-enforcements, performing investigation within reasonable timeframes and the recognition of the victims. Creation and launch of operation of the state inspector office was positively evaluated; however, composition of its investigative department includes certain risks, because it mostly involves prosecutors and staffers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



REPORT #14 OF THE COURT MONITORING

Since 2011, GYLA is monitoring the criminal court processes. In 2020, GYLA published #14 report, reflecting the findings of observation of the 5 courts (2744 criminal procedure hearings).

The reporting period has also revealed the existing challenges, facing the prosecution and judiciary institutions. There were facts of insufficiently justified motions from the side of the prosecution. The prosecution is increasingly requesting imprisonment. Also, the number of detainees at first hearings has also increased.

Weak judiciary control remains to be a problem. Mostly, judges do not review legality of detentions publicly; they discuss those issues only when the defendant is indicating illegality of the detention. The number of unjustified bails and imprisonments has also increased. Assessment of fairness and legality of the procedural agreement by the judge is also a very formalistic process.

The prosecution continues the practice of the previous years, and almost always, even when there is no imminent necessity motive, substantiates its decision to circumvent the court and conduct search and seizure. As for the court, it does not exercise control and in majority of cases, considers it legal to interfere in private lives of citizens through search and seizure without prior permission. Analysis of the court decisions is another clear indicator of this. Specifically, decisions are usually formalistic; the court mostly refers to legal provisions, however, it does not discuss the factual circumstances around the issue and does not try to assess the necessity of the search and seizure.





As a result of the monitoring, one of the important problems – procrastination of the processes, remains to be a problem (which is caused either by postponement of court hearings or late start). The report indicates a few so-called “high-profile cases”, which have been ongoing for years and the decisions are not yet made. In these cases, the defendants are practically limited in opportunity to enjoy timely adjudication of their case.

It has been years, since GYLA has been discussing the need to regulate the legislation on the narcotic substances/drugs. The practice shows that the list of the narcotic substances needs to be updated and punishment must be changed, to avoid unjustifiably harsh sentences on this category of violations.

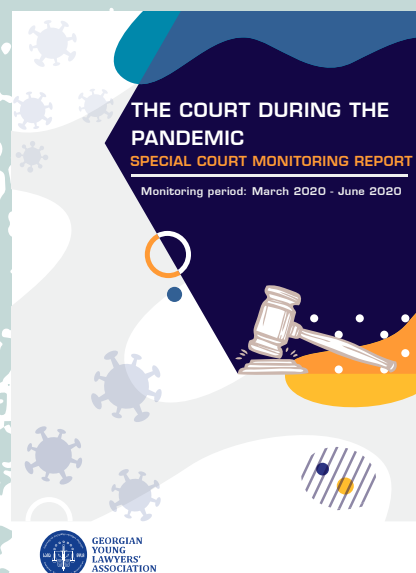
The court monitoring results represent an important indicator, showing the dynamics in the criminal justice, throughout the years.

COURT DURING THE PANDEMIC

Within the court monitoring, GYLA issued a special report, identifying the challenges of the criminal justice process in the context of the pandemic. Existing legislative regulations in the sphere of criminal justice were analyzed. At the same time, 141 criminal case hearings were monitored online.

Monitoring has revealed that online court hearing practice is characterized by 3 major problems: publicity of the hearings, confidentiality of the lawyer and the defendant and technical problems. At the same time, there is a risk of revealing personal data of defendant or other participants of the process. At the same time, there is a risk of violating the secrecy of information during the closed hearings.

The report has demonstrated that the defendants, which attended the court hearing online – from the penitentiary establishment, may face the challenge of openly speaking about the facts of inhuman degrading treatment towards them; especially, when the violence is likely committed by the staffers of the penitentiary establishment itself.



MEDIA

Despite Georgian legislation stipulating protection of the freedom of expression, there are nevertheless, certain attempts of discriminatory approach and limitation of this right. The recent developments have demonstrated that the government attempts to control media.

The project on media covers two major components: advocating for a good legislation, essential for a free media environment and legal aid. Within the project, research papers were developed and meetings were held on a number of important issues for media.

■ legislative work

Within the reporting period, GYLA presented its opinions on the bill, submitted by the National Commission on Communications to the Parliament, which stipulated broadening the power of the Commission over the broadcasters. The bill included the risk of abusing those powers, as well as the risks of limitation of the freedom of expression and other significant risks. As a result of GYLA's active participation in the process, the most important and critical part of GYLA's recommendations were adopted.

Together with the members of the Coalition for Media Advocacy, GYLA submitted the recommendations to the National Commission on Communications, which were related to the placement of political advertisement and enlargement of the commission's authority over online media (in relation to the public opinion survey). Important part of the recommendations was adopted.

GYLA is observing the ongoing important changes in the public broadcaster. GYLA presented a package of recommendations to the board of the public broadcaster (regarding the staffer list). Together with the trade union of of the public broadcaster, GYLA is actively involved in this process.

■ Research and Reports

Within the reporting period, GYLA, together with the Journalist Ethics Charter of Georgia, prepared the research “What Happened in Adjara Broadcaster”, which includes the analysis of the developments that occurred in Adjara public broadcaster from April 2019 to April 2020. The research evaluates the impeachment issue of the broadcaster’s director, the processes ongoing in court and other important developments, which aimed at changing the editorial policy of the broadcaster.



■ Meetings

The chapter on media freedom, represented a significant part of the annual report of the Coalition for Equality, where major role was played by GYLA. Online discussion was held in relation to this chapter, with participation of the civil society sector.

Apart from the above, GYLA, together with media and other civil society members, participated in the conference, related to international day of press.

RIGHT TO PRIVATE LIFE

GYLA presented recommendations to the Parliament of Georgia on the prepared amendments, to the law “on Information Security”. Those amendments provide possibility to the state security service (operative-technical agency) to control the internet – as a result, creating risks of total control over personal or commercial data in the information systems. This contradicts the Georgian Constitution and international commitments. Despite the attempts by civil society, the process was carried out behind the closed doors, in violation of the regulations of the parliament. The bill reflected only technical recommendation, which does not affect the key principles.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE EMERGENCY PERIOD

In the springtime of the reporting year, due to the increased cases of Covid-19 and subsequent introduction of emergency situation by the Government of Georgia, GYLA focused its activities on the new challenges in this context. GYLA made multiple statements regarding the presidential decree #1, the government decree and their amendments, establishing restrictions. Furthermore, GYLA has been publishing assessments on the challenges related to the emergency situation and was issuing the relevant recommendations, such as: granting authority to the Justice Minister, to define the rules of execution; restriction of public participation in the environmental decision-making process; closure of processes in the common courts; amendments, introduced as a result of the emergency situation, etc.

GYLA paid particular attention to the availability of information about Covid-19 and emergency situation for the ethnic minorities. For this purpose, GYLA made statements in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages as well. At the same time, together with partners, GYLA addressed the state and media to take into account minority languages in the information policy.

GYLA, together with partner organizations, addressed the government and religious organizations to temporarily refrain from collective rituals and religious services, because such gatherings represented a significant challenge in the times of emergency. At the same time, GYLA evaluated illegal decision of the Ltd. Georgian Manganese to illegally decrease the salary to its staffers, due to mandatory suspension of work.





GYLA held online discussions on the critical questions related to Covid-19 pandemic. First discussion related to the interpretation of the restrictions, introduced during the emergency situation, the second discussion related to the human rights of the disabled persons in the pandemic context. It is notable that the online discussions were interactive and any participants had an opportunity to ask a question.

Apart from the above, GYLA prepared the research about the emergency situation, which will be published in the nearest future. The research evaluates the violation of the human rights, which Georgia undertook to safeguard under the international mechanisms; limitation of the rights under the presidential decree and introduction of responsibility measures, as well as the legal amendments related to the pandemic.

REPORTS, SUBMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In 2020, GYLA, together with partner organizations, has submitted shadow reports to the international organizations.

Within the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), GYLA submitted 5 reports, assessing implementation of recommendations after the second cycle review (2015 hearing) and covers the period from 2015 to 2020. The report covers the problematic issues in both equality, as well as social policy. Also, the report covers the issues with criminal justice and media freedom.

Apart from this, GYLA and EMC submitted shadow reports to the UN regarding the implementation of the civil and political rights. The report was prepared within the fifth cycle of assessment of the social and political rights in Georgia.

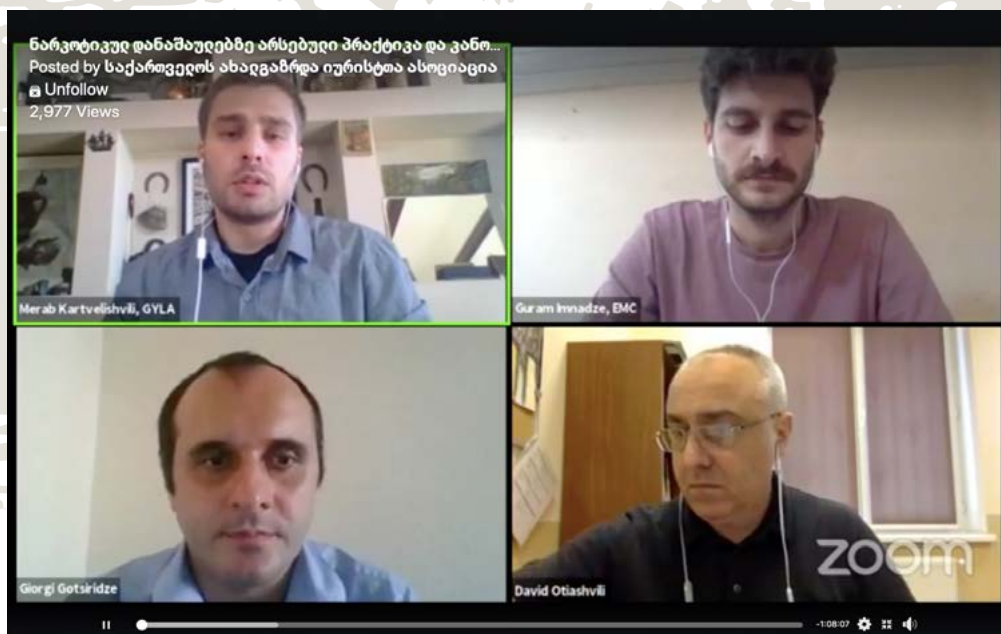
The report analyzes the major developments for the past 6 years, in the field of the civil and political rights. At the same time, the report covers the state of implementation of the recommendations, issued within the previous – fourth cycle of the committee.

The report also assesses the cases of violation of the human rights of the residents in occupied territories, grave living conditions of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), problems in anti-discrimination and gender policies, challenges related to independence of the court and investigative system, the need of fundamental reform of the administrative violations' code, challenges in the juvenile criminal system, as well as the issues in the freedom of religion. The significant part of the report is dedicated to the repressive drug policy.

In the shadow report, GYLA and EMC evaluate the heavy violations of the freedom of manifestation and expression, among others, developments of June 20-21/2019 and May 12/2018, the right of assembly of the LGBTQTI persons and a number of challenges in this regard. Also, the situation with media freedom is critically assessed. Specifically, the developments in the Adjara public broadcaster; the grave interference in the work of journalists and physical harm, inflicted during coverage of June 20-21.

One part of the report is dedicated to the challenges in the labor rights, labor safety, guarantee of the housing and protection from homelessness, reform of the capacity model of the persons with disability in Georgia.





The information and reasoning in the shadow report is based on the research, made by GYLA and EMC, field work, strategic litigation and their analysis. In some cases, report is based on the information, provided by the government, public defender and the assessments of other organizations, working on human rights.



2

**SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS**

Without wide engagement of the public in the institutionalized politics, state institutions become instruments for political and clan-based groups. In these conditions, public goods are abused for the interests of the few, while other citizens' interests are ignored. GYLA's Program – Support to Democratic Institutions aims to work on such reforms, which will promote creation of the inclusive political process and create strong foundation for the citizen engagement in the decision-making process, to introduce needs-based, real policies in Georgia. The program works on the 5 priorities:

- Strengthening parliamentary control
- Judiciary reform
- Public governance
- Local self-governance
- Elections

PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL

Since August/2019 to September/2020, GYLA, with the support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was implementing the project “Strengthening the Mechanisms of Parliamentary Control over Security Sector”. Within the project, 12 blogs and 2 research papers were developed – “Parliamentary Control after the Reform in Constitution and the Regulations” and “Secret Procurements”, which analyzes the

THE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT SINCE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE REFORM



results of the 2017-2018 Constitutional and 2018 regulatory reforms, reveals their challenges and achievements. Based on international practice, recommendations were developed.

JUDICIARY REFORM

GYLA participates in the work of the Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary, with the mandate of the governing committee member. GYLA has been involved in the preparation of all the statements and documents, which have been published under the name of the coalition within this period. GYLA has been participating in the cycle of discussions (total 7 discussions), which were held in the capacity of the Coalition within this period and covered the existing major problems in the field of judiciary.

Since 2012, GYLA annually evaluates the work of the Supreme Council of Justice and is publishing monitoring reports. In 2020, 8 monitoring reports were published. Within the research, GYLA has been observing the process of implementation of the legal amendments. Despite certain positive amendments, the core existing challenges have not been addressed. The observation of the process demonstrates that any engagement in the legal amendments that does not confront the existing decision-making mechanism, favors the powerful group of judges (so-called “clan”), which is abusing both shortcomings as well as positive changes, for strengthening its own power.



In 2020, GYLA continued observation of the Council, results of which will be published in 2021.

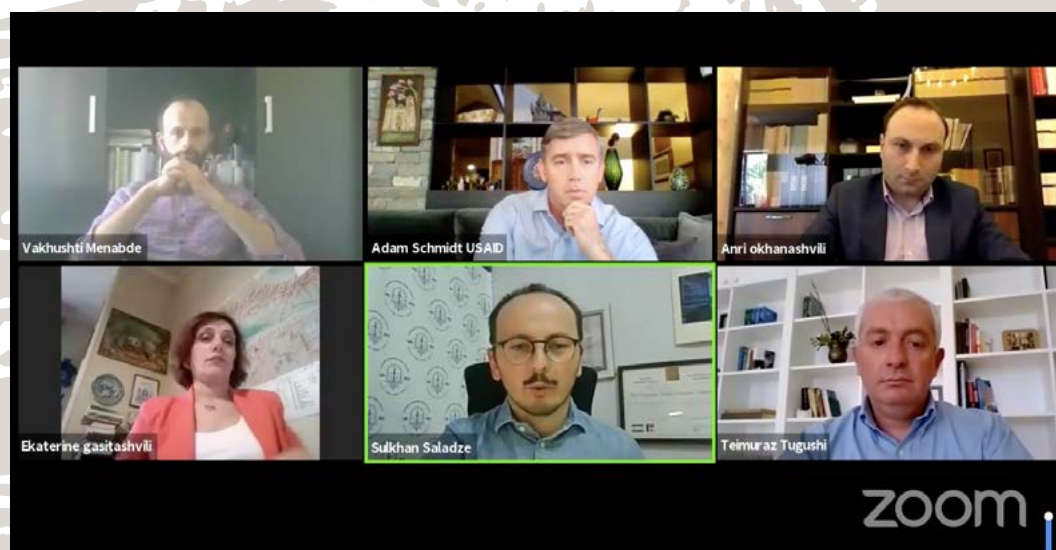
Since January/2020, GYLA started monitoring of the plenum of the Supreme Court. Report is being developed, which will be published next year.

In 2021, one more report will be published, which, on the one hand, reviews the reforms introduced in 2017-2020, while on another hand, evaluates the implementation of the prior amendments.

GYLA is also working on the issues related to the constitutional court. In this regard, GYLA presented a number of recommendations to the Parliament, for improvement of the legal framework.

Within the reporting period, GYLA, together with the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), has prepared the research “Supreme Court of Georgia – Analysis of the Institutional and Legal Framework”. The document analyzes the key issues, such as: the role of the Supreme Council and its place in the justice system, its composition, rights of the chairperson of the Supreme Court, responsibilities of the chairperson and the judges, competence of the Supreme Council plenum, work of the chambers and distribution of cases. The research involves respective recommendations as well.

The above mentioned activities in the sphere of justice are implemented by GYLA within the project “Support to the Rule of Law in Georgia”, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the East-West Management Institute (EWMI).



PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

GYLA, in partnership with IDFI and support from the EU, is implementing the project “Support to Public Reform through Civic Monitoring and Engagement”. The project covers monitoring of the four directions of the Public Administration Reform (PAR): policy planning and coordination, governance of public finances, accountability and delivery of state services. The first two components from this list are analyzed by GYLA. During the project, the electronic platform for monitoring – PAR tracker will be created, enabling broad public and any stakeholder to receive detailed information about PAR implementation and possible engagement in the monitoring process. GYLA ensures engagement of regional organizations in preparation of shadow reports on PAR and is issuing small grants for this purpose.

In 2020, GYLA and IDFI submitted alternative monitoring reports on the PAR, published in four parts and covering analysis of implementation of the 2019 objectives and activities.

Currently, monitoring of the first half of the 2020 action plan is ongoing, which will be published towards the end of 2020.





■ Emergency Situation

With support of USAID-funded program – Good Governance Initiative (GGI), GYLA is researching the functioning of the government in normal and in the emergency periods. Extraordinary situation called for introduction of regulations by the government, to address the crisis, and its implementation. It became necessary to evaluate the rules regulating government work and competences during the emergency situation, to analyze the justification and motives behind the introduced decisions, as well as to analyze the tendency of division of powers before and after announcement of the emergency situation. The research will be published in 2021.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

With support of USAID-funded program – Good Governance Initiative (GGI), GYLA created the Good Faith and Transparent Governance Strategy for Tbilisi Municipality, its action plan and monitoring framework. The listed documents were adopted by the Tbilisi municipality government in July 2020. The project serves to support implementation of the obligations under the Open Governance Partnership (OGP) and increasing transparency of the self-government body.

Within the reporting period, GYLA implemented the project with the support from GIZ, aiming to assess effectiveness of the public service provision in Georgian municipalities. The research covers both newly-established services, as well as assessment of the pre-existing mechanisms. As a result, needs and challenges were revealed, based on which recommendations are being developed for better performance of duties by the local self-governments. The research will be published towards the end of 2020.

ELECTIONS

GYLA was involved in the process of electoral system amendment, discussions and parliamentary reviews, as well as the overall electoral reform, aiming at reflecting OSCE/ODIHR recommendations in the legislation. GYLA prepared and submitted the conclusion on the draft bill. The document covers recommendations in the following directions: composition of the electoral administration, increasing the distance of placing campaign materials around polling stations, announcing the pre-election day “silent day”, increasing proportion of a different gender up to 50% in the electoral registration of a party list, etc.

GYLA analyzed the practice of the EU states in different directions and published 3 small research papers:

- Mandatory gender quota in parliamentary elections, in EU member states;
- Overview of the electoral systems;
- Guarantees of free expression of voters' will.



2 research papers are underway, which will be published in the nearest future:

- Usage of public resources during the pandemic for pre-election purposes;
- Election administration.

GYLA observes ongoing political processes in Georgia and is preparing monthly information bulletin. From October/2019 to November/2020, 13 bulletins were published and two summary presentations were held.

Above activities were implemented within the project “Free, Fair and Equal Electoral-Political Cycle in 2019-2022”, which was funded by the USAID.



Within the project, funded by the Open Society Foundation – “Long-Term Observation Mission prior to 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia” – GYLA has been observing the pre-election environment through 9 regional monitors in Tbilisi, Adjara, Guria, Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti, Imereti, Shida and Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Kakheti. With the help of the monitors, GYLA ensured access to reliable and evidence-based information for the broad public.

Three interim reports, assessing the long-term observation mission findings, were published for 2020 Parliamentary elections, covering issues, such as: neglecting the requirement of separating the state and the political party; vote bribery; violent actions; turbulent pre-election environment and interference in the pre-election campaign. Fourth interim and final reports will be published by the end of 2020.





GYLA's observation mission for 2020 Parliamentary Elections involved 740 persons. The observation mission included 4 levels and consisted of the central and regional branches, district and precinct level observers (mobile group, observers of an outside perimeter and the polling stations). GYLA made 3 assessments on the election day and on the next day provided the public with the summary conclusion about the election day. The report on the observation mission will be published in 2021.





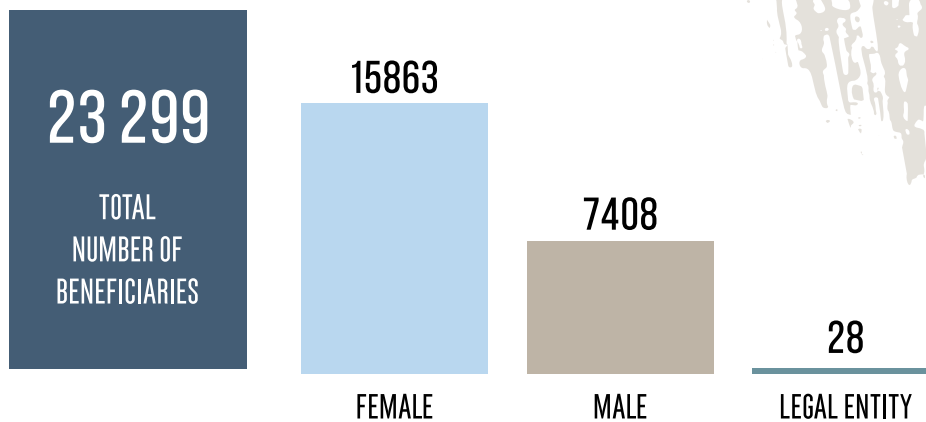
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LEGAL AID

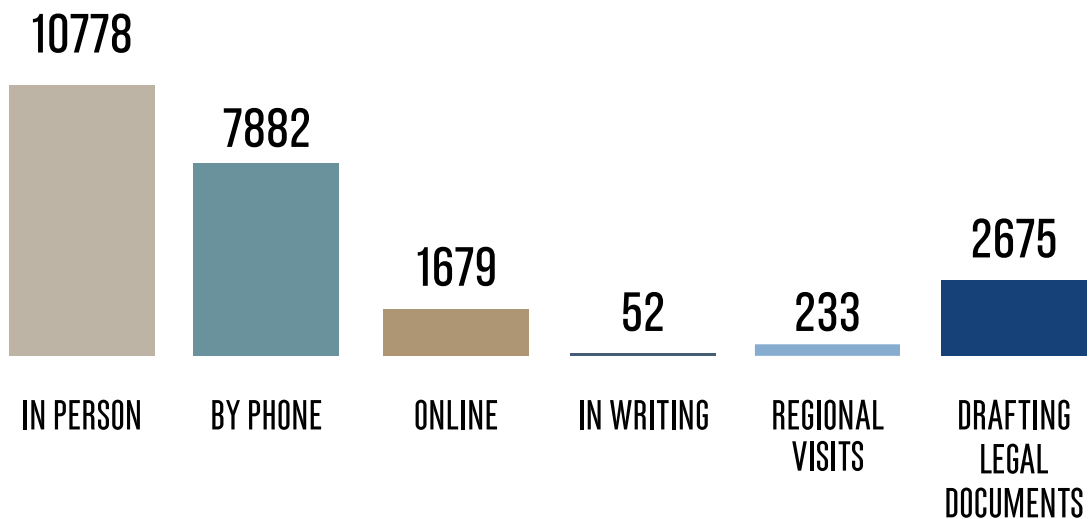
GYLA's Legal Aid Program has been working in 4 priority directions in the reporting period:

- Legal Aid
- Strategic litigation
- Applying executive mechanisms
- Supporting the work of Hague Court and investigation of Georgia situation

Within the reporting period, GYLA provided legal support to over 23 000 persons.



Provided legal aid - break down by types of legal support:



Currently, GYLA is litigating on 305 cases:



SUCCESSFUL CASES

Within the reporting period, GYLA successfully completed 53 cases on the national level. Below are some of the examples:

■ Judge Ruled for Patrol Police Department to Pay Moral Damages to the Citizen, for Beating

Tbilisi City Court has tasked the Patrol Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to pay damages for the health deterioration of the citizen. The court found that during the administrative detention in 2014, disproportional physical force was used, resulting in damage to health of the citizen. The decision is important as a precedent in cases involving the state and the citizen on another hand – from the point of view of burden of evidence. The court has also indicated that despite the citizen being guilty of violation, police had an obligation to only apply proportional force during the detention.



■ **Illegally Dismissed Person Received Compensation from Tbilisi City Council (Sakrebulo)**

Tbilisi City Council (Sakrebulo) paid 43'750 GEL to illegally dismissed person. The dispute that started in 2013 ended in 2020, with agreement. The applicant was litigating on illegal detention, requesting to return to work.

The successful outcome of the case is important from the point of view of protection of public servants. The defendant administrative body had to pay solid amount to the applicant, which, in the future, may play a preventive role against illegal dismissals in the future.

■ **Telavi Municipality Mayor's Office was tasked to Reinstate the Dismissed Employee and Pay the Forced Absence Salary**

Due to reorganization, the dismissed person (as a result of reorganization) won the dispute against Telavi Mayor's office. The court of all three levels ruled that the dismissal was against legal requirements. As a result, the Mayor's Office of Telavi Municipality was tasked to reinstate the person to their position and provide payment for forced absence from January 30/2018.

The court paid attention to the following circumstances: although Telavi Municipality and self-governing city were merged, creating new united Telavi Municipality, and reorganization resulted in decrease of staff members, the position of the dismissed individual was not terminated, nor its functional description has changed. Considering that such organizational changes happened in a number of municipalities, the decision on this case is a certain precedent and possibly, can have a positive impact on the rights of other dismissed persons.

■ **Due to Wrong Medical Action, the Court Ruled that Medical Institution Must Pay Damages**

The parents of the deceased patient have successfully won the dispute against the medical institution. The Supreme Court has maintained the decision of the Tbilisi Appellate Court in force, obliging the medical institution to pay moral damages to the parents of the

diseased patient in the amount of 5000 GEL and 10'000 GEL for material damages (burial costs).

The patient died on December 5/2014 as a result of the wrong treatment by the doctor in the Akhmeta regional branch of the emergency medical service. The parents of the patient were claiming that the doctor did not make necessary actions and did not act in accordance with the recognized medical standards. This resulted in the death of a patient. Apart from the wrong treatment of the patient, the emergency support car was not properly equipped with necessary medical tools.

The court has established that in the given case the damage (death of the patient) was caused by the incorrect actions during the treatment by the medical personnel. Notably, Georgian legislation does not indicate explicitly the obligation of the moral damages for the death of a relative or family member. However, considering the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, the court considered it indisputable that the wrongful act of the doctor resulted in the death of a child, causing strong suffering of the parents. This creates presumption that such strong suffering finally result in deterioration of health. These circumstances were taken into account by the court when establishing the preconditions for moral damages.

The case represents a certain precedent, on the one hand, for the disputes in the medical sector, while on another hand, for moral damages for the death of the diseased family member.

■ **Socially Vulnerable Family Won the Dispute against the Bank**

Socially vulnerable family, which was denied to be given social welfare funds from the bank, due to the existing debt in the bank, has won the dispute through the court. The Court entirely terminated the clause in the loan agreement with the bank, which indicated the right of the bank to block the social welfare funds without the prior consent from the family.

According to the court, in the context when the clause on bank credit itself was not disputable, individually, the fact that it has not been agreed with the client, in the conditions of the deficit of information made it impossible by the family to make informed choice. Based on the decision, unless otherwise confirmed, it is alleged that



the family would not have wished to agree to such loan conditions, which would have enabled the bank to block its sustenance money, which is essential for survival from month to month. The family would have only had such opportunity, if such information was provided to them in advance.

■ **Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and Akaki Tsereteli Public Library in Batumi were Tasked to Develop internal Document on Prohibition and Prevention of Discrimination**

GYLA represented the interests of the NGO “Identoba” (LGBTQI-focused organization) in the antidiscrimination mechanism of the Public Defender, due to being denied the possibility to hold the planned event. On January 27/2020, Public Defender has concluded that the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and Akaki Tsereteli Public Library in Batumi have directly discriminated against “Identoba” on the basis of sexual orientation and the field of work. Those institutions were tasked to adopt internal documents on prohibition and prevention of discrimination and to comply with the principles of equality in the future, as well as to develop the tolerant environment towards the LGBTQ community and other vulnerable groups.

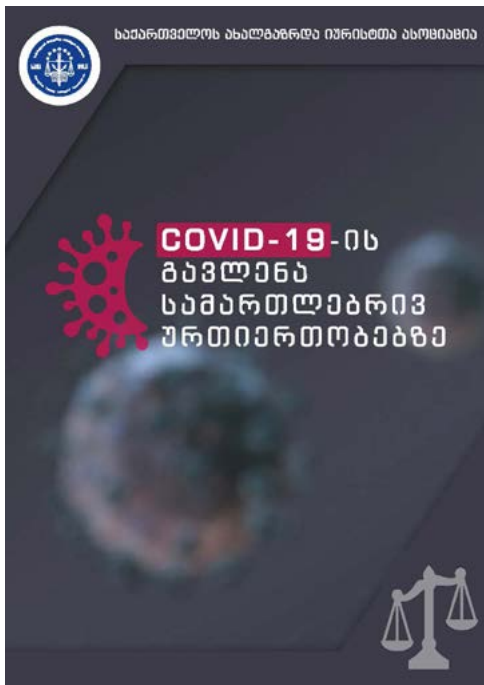
PUBLICATIONS

Three information brochures were prepared and published, covering the following issues:

- Receiving social welfare;
- Receiving state pension;
- Consumer rights protection by financial organizations, during delivery of services.

Additionally, 1 analytical document was developed, covering the problematic legal issues related to Covid-19 and offering legal advice to the public.

For supporting effective litigation on criminal cases, within the reporting period, GYLA prepared and published supporting guidelines for lawyers. The guideline aims to explain the specifics of dealing with the cases of torture/inhuman, degrading treatment and sexual violence, which are important to consider during preparation of the statement of the victim. The guideline offers the lawyers suggested questions, which can be possibly used for obtaining statement of the victim.





STRATEGIC LITIGATION AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

GYLA is currently litigating 31 cases in the Constitutional Court, of which 12 were submitted within the reporting period. At the same time, GYLA submitted 1 Amicus curiae. Within the reporting period, 2 cases were completed successfully.

NEW LAWSUITS

Out of the 12 submitted lawsuits in the reporting period, especially notable are:

- Lawsuits, submitted in relation to various problematic articles in the Administrative Offence's code, which cover the following issues: 48-hour detention for those persons, who were detained during non-working days and 12-hour detention for those persons, who were detained during working hours; standard of the distribution of the burden of evidence in administrative offences' cases; seizure of tractors or other equipment during the illegal mining; prohibition of spontaneous protest with banner placement, without notifying Mayor's office (in Tbilisi); addition of the allowed level of noise during the protests.

- Covid-19 related cases: GYLA litigated against the amendments, introduced to the “Law on Public Health”, which empowered the Government to limit the freedom of movement until January 1/2021. In this case, GYLA is arguing that restriction of this right, in accordance with the Constitution, is allowed only by law – and not the bylaw; another lawsuit relates to citizenship-based discrimination. The decree, against which GYLA submitted the lawsuit, releases foreigners from quarantine obligation, while imposing this obligation upon Georgian citizens.
- GYLA applied to the Constitutional Court regarding constitutionality of the restriction for the internet media to publish public opinion survey in the electoral period. GYLA is also litigating by the normative act of the National Communications Commission, on the basis of violation of the intellectual property rights, due to the right to impose sanctions on the electronic communications companies;
- One of GYLA’s lawsuits relates to the freedom of publishing one’s political views through their facebook page (by the Notary);
- Within the reporting period GYLA also defended former member of Parliament – Nika Melia. GYLA argued that termination of the authority of the member of Parliament is allowed under the constitution, when the last instance court leaves the conviction unchanged.
- Two new constitutional lawsuits of GYLA relate to the accessibility to the court. One of the provisions in question prohibits the observation organization to litigate against the rejection of the Central Election Commission chairperson to draw up the protocol on administrative offences. The second lawsuit relates to prohibition to submit appellate lawsuit on the civil case, when the dispute does not exceed 2000 GEL. This prohibition does not offer exceptions, when there is contradictory practice on the issue of the object of dispute and therefore, there is a need to establish uniform interpretation of the norm by the upper instances.

SUCCESSFUL CASES

■ Blood Donation by MSM Persons

On December 17/2019, the Constitutional Court once again recognized unconstitutionality of the unreasonable prohibition to MSMs (Men who Have Sex with Men). The provision under the question prohibited blood donation to MSMs for 10 years from the last sexual encounter. The Constitutional Court considered that prohibition for such a long time is against the freedom of personal development and gave the Health Minister time until March 31/2020 to adopt new regulations on the issue. Health Minister has complied, adopting a new regulation on time and currently, MSM persons are only restricted from blood donation for 12 months from the last sexual encounter.

■ Recognition of Unconstitutionality of Imprisonment on the Charges of Storing Drugs that are Useless for Consumption

On June 4/2020, the Constitutional Court has upheld one more lawsuit of GYLA. GYLA was defending interests of a citizen, who was convicted for storing 0,00000126 grams of metamphetamine. This is a substance of invisible amount, remaining in the dish as a result of usage of drugs, which not only cannot be sold, but also impossible to consume. Despite this, the defendant was being convicted for five to eight years of imprisonment for storage of this invisible amount of drugs. The Constitutional court considered that imprisonment for storage of such an amount of drugs (useless for consumption) is degrading for human dignity. At the same time, the court must decide case by case, depending on the circumstances – what amount of drugs can be considered sufficient for consumption.

Following this decision, the Appellate Court has reviewed many cases and released the prisoners, who were being held for storage of drugs of useless amount.



STRATEGIC LITIGATION IN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS

GYLA is currently working on 113 cases in international mechanisms and at the stage of execution. Within the reporting period, GYLA submitted 1 new case and won 1 case in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Simultaneously, within the reporting period, GYLA continued active communication with the European Court, regarding the ongoing cases. GYLA submitted legal argumentation on 3 cases. Of those, 1 case relates to lack of regulation of the legal recognition of gender, due to which transgender people are refused from indicating the preferred gender in their identification documents. The second case relates to the inhuman, degrading treatment against defendant by the police and ineffectiveness of investigation on this matter. The third case relates to violation of the right to property.

NEW CASE

One new lawsuit, submitted to the European Court of Human Rights relates to the state's obligation to carry out effective investigation. The defendant requested to return their case for review.

SUCCESSFUL CASE

■ Megrelishvili against Georgia (lawsuit №30364/09)

On May 7/2020, European Court of Human Rights has reached a decision on the case “Megrelishvili against Georgia”, establishing violation of Article 6 (1) of the European Convention of Human Rights by Georgia (the right to fair trial).

According to the decision, the search of the defendant and his apartment was carried out with significant procedural violations, among others, he and his family members were unjustifiably denied from being present during the search. As a result, uncovering the major evidence (drugs) raised questions on its reliability. At the same time, the national courts did not properly review the defendant’s argument regarding planting the drugs by the police, due to which the European Court considered the case entirely unfair. Based on the final decision, the state has to repay moral damages to the defendant (3000 EUR). The interests of the defendant in the ECHR were represented by GYLA and European Human Rights Advocacy Center (EHRAC).

APPLICATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RULINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

GYLA presented alternative report to the Parliament of Georgia on the state of the implementation of the decisions and rulings by the European Court of Human Rights against Georgia. The reports were sent in total, on 12 cases. Of those, GYLA is assessing general activities of the government in 4 cases, in 8 – individual activities.

Of the 4 above cases (Makharadze and Sikharulidze, Identoba, Tsintsabadze group cases and Sarishvili-Bolkvadze against Georgia), GYLA assessed the shortcomings revealed in terms of access to proper medical services in penitentiary and private medical facilities, right to life, prevention of inhuman and degrading treatment and their effective investigation, as well as protection of the rights of minorities, LGBTQ community, freedom of expression and manifestation. 8 individual cases relate to the right to life and inhuman degrading

SUPPORTING THE HAGUE COURT WORK AND THE INVESTIGATION OF GEORGIA SITUATION

Within the reporting period, GYLA continued providing support to the International Criminal Court, as well as to the 2008 August war victims, within the investigation carried out by the Hague Court Prosecutor's Office.



For this purpose, in April/2020, GYLA, as the Chairing organization in the Georgian Coalition for the International Criminal Court, has provided recommendations to the court and independent expert group (created on behalf of the assembly of the member states). The document indicates multiple shortcomings, which were revealed during the work on the investigation of the Georgia situation, specifically:

- Unjustified prolongation of the preliminary assessment and investigation and limited engagement of victims during this stage;
- Lack of activities for awareness raising;
- Prolongation of the implementation of the projects at the national level, and participation of the trust fund for victims.

For the purpose of awareness raising of the victims and the public, GYLA, together with partner organizations, has created the website – www.gcicc.ge, which aims to raise awareness about the ICC, its bodies, ongoing investigations in Georgia, rights of the victims and the work of the coalition.

Within the reporting period GYLA was also actively involved in the selection process of the candidates from Georgia for the position of the judge at the International Criminal Court. For this purpose, together with the coalition members, GYLA made a number of statements and written opinions. These documents evaluate a number of shortcomings, characterizing the process of selection procedure at the national level.



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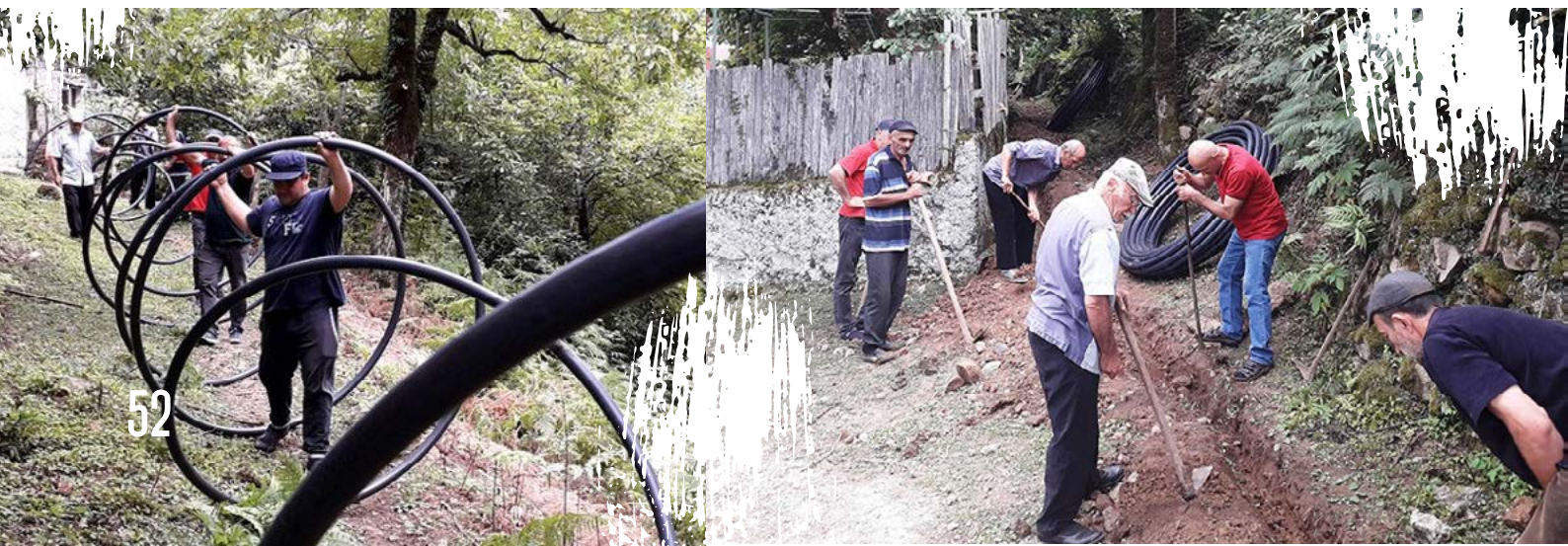
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

SUPPORTING LOCAL NGOS AND POPULATION

Similar to the previous year, GYLA, within the reporting period, continued support to the Georgian NGO sector, through enabling projects for livelihood and local development at the grassroots level, to address poverty-based violations. GYLA issued sub-grants and administered them, while paying attention not only to institutional capacity-building of the NGOs, but also raising awareness of the NGOs in various thematic areas, as well as sharing experience with them.

Based on the grant competitions announced by GYLA, sub-grants were issued to resolve the following important issues:

- The project of the Free Journalists' House (IJH), for the improvement of the living conditions of the mountainous settlements – villages Makhalakuri, Chanchkhalo and Bzubzu. The project aimed to provide drinking/irrigation water to the population of the village Bzubzu in Keda municipality and village Makhalakuri of Khulo municipality, through the participation of local population and support of the relevant municipalities. Additionally, the project included installation of 20 street lights in village Chanchkhalo of Shuakhevi municipality, as a result of which the dangerous 3-kilometer part of the village road received light. In total, those projects benefited 535 local residents. At the same time, opportunities for eco-tourism of all three villages have increased.



- Chiatura Union’s project – rehabilitation of the drinking water system for the kindergarten of the village Sveri of Chiatura municipality. Children of Sveri and Tskhrukveti villages receive pre-school education in this kindergarten. In both villages, there are total 605 families. Within the project, the drinking water system of the building and related infrastructure were fully rehabilitated and water filters were installed. As a result, the children have enough safe water for drinking.
- Civil Activities’ Center – project for supporting economic growth in the remote villages in Khevsureti. The project aimed to support economic growth of the village population, through development of eco-tourism, strengthening regional tourism potential and supporting livelihood activities in the local community. Within the project, three new eco-tourism routes were created, which were reflected on the electronic tourism map of Georgia. Additionally, local guides were trained and strengthened with the skills, new tourist routes were marked and small infrastructure was arranged. As a result, the residents of 15 villages will receive income on spot, while the perspective for youth development will appear. Within the project, Pshav-Khevsureti eco-tourism development center was arranged in Barisakho village, where all information about Pshav-Khevsureti tourism routes and services will be provided in one space. To ensure sustainability of the project, in the nearest future, it is planned to open social enterprise in the center, aiming to local elderly women and through inviting youth interns to them, to revive the traditional handcrafts.
- Fre Journalists’ House (IJH) – strengthening socio-economic capabilities of the youth, living in Chvana village of Shuakhevi municipality. The project aims to rehabilitate the village house of the Chvana village, with the engagement of local population. This building will be used for providing alternative education, preparing and lobbying for youth initiatives, creation of development perspectives and local employment.





With the help of the trainings, young people will gain necessary skills and will be able to work themselves on the development-oriented projects, to address donors for funding and participate in resolving village problems together. They will also learn to prepare business plans, select the proper organizational form for the enterprise, team building, project writing, etc. Youth will present to the donors the projects, oriented at the improvement of the infrastructure, which will support building tourism capacity of Chvana village and development of the family-type hotels – for increasing financial capabilities of local population. The rehabilitated village house can be used by Chvana village residents, as well as the residents of Tsivadzebi and Tskhemlisi (total 150 families).

Sub-grants were issued within the project, funded by the Bread for the World (BFDW).

Currently, selection of the sub-grantees is ongoing in the following directions:

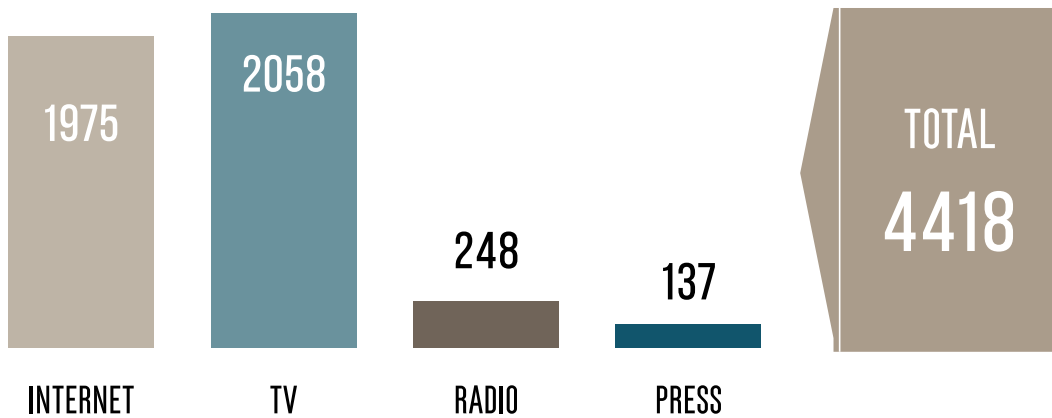
- Advocacy/monitoring of the public administration reform;
- Development of the political equality index and assessment.



5

MEDIA MONITORING

For years, GYLA has been leading in media coverage ratings. According to the research organization - IPM, GYLA's media appearance statistics, by types of media, are as follows:



SOCIAL MEDIA

GYLA has active social media presence, providing its audience daily updates about its work. GYLA has over 54'000 subscribers on the most popular social media – Facebook.

GYLA is also active in online platforms – twitter, linkedin, instagram.

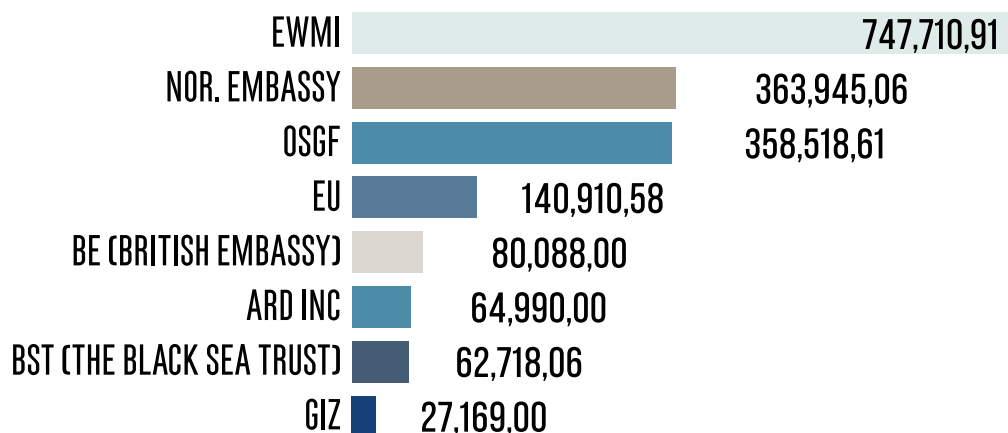




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FINANCIAL REPORT

Within the reporting period, GYLA received total 2,155,965.22 GEL, in the form of grants, contributions and membership fees. The break-down by sources is as follows:



MEMBERSHIP FEES	192.00
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MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	309,723.00
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Within the reporting period, GYLA employed 109 staff members, including 47 – in the regions. The salary for all employees in the reporting period totalled 2,163,309.01 GEL. One-time honoraria was paid to 156 persons – total 183,216.47 GEL.

Reimbursement of salaries, honoraria and income tax for human resources totalled 496,283.87 GEL.

Within the reporting period, GYLA purchased 36,397.01 GEL worth of assets, including 16,450.00

GEL worth of office equipment for regional offices.

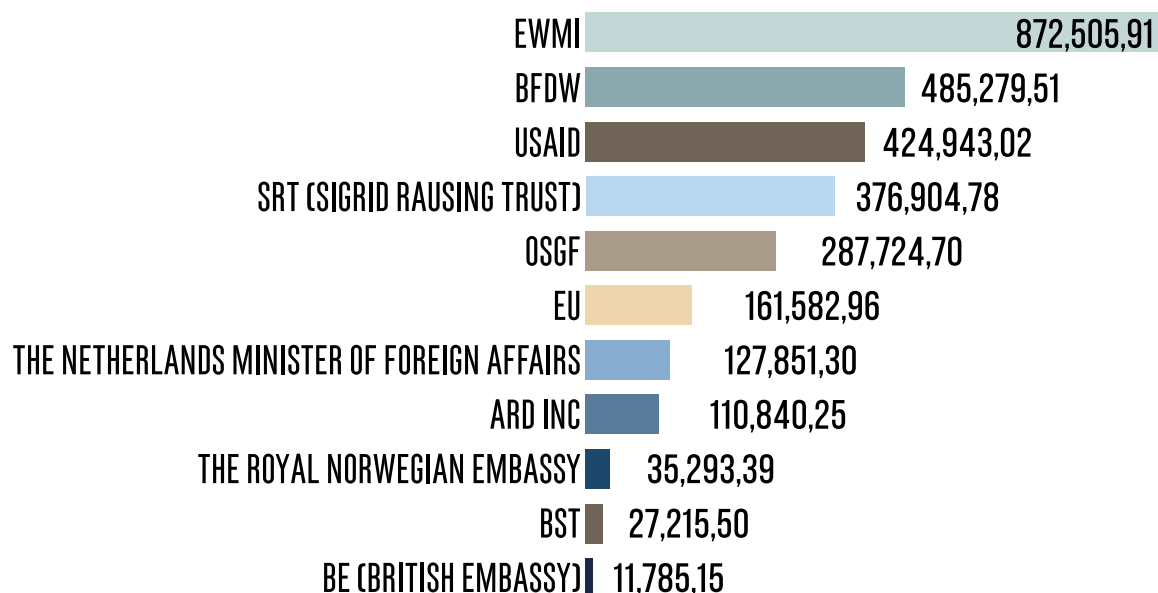
Within the same period, GYLA purchased 42,370.73 GEL worth of small-value office items, including 22,105.00 GEL – for regional offices.

GYLA also spent 45,258.47 GEL for organizing various seminars and meetings, including both in Tbilisi and in the regions.

Travel costs of staff members, members and invited participants of activities totalled 135,477.56 GEL. Office rent totalled 151,972.93 GEL and communications totalled 31,041.50 GEL (including 5,626.40 GEL – for regions).

Sub-grants, provided by GYLA for local NGOs totalled 91,862.01 GEL.

Within the reporting period, expenditures of GYLA totalled 2,921,926.47 GEL, with following break-down by sources:



GOVERNANCE BODIES OF THE GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

● BOARD MEMBERS:

Sulkhan Saladze – Chairperson
Nona Kurdovanidze – Deputy Chairperson
Tamar Abazadze
Ketevan Abashidze
Taia Arabuli
Zviad Ardzenadze
Irena Gabunia
Tamar Gvaramadze
Dimitry Gugunava
Natia Kapanadze
Kakha Kozhoridze
Vakhtang Menabde
Levan Mosakhlshvili
Nikoloz Simonishvili
Tamar Ghvaladze
Mikheil Ghoghaze
Ketevan Shubashvili
Mikheil Jakhua
Sophio Chareli
Tamar Khidasheli
Nino Khukhua

● BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sulkhan Saladze – Chairperson
Merab Kartvelishvili – Director of Human Rights Program
Vakhtang Menabde – Director of Democratic Institutions Support Program
Nona Kurdovanidze – Director of Legal Aid Program
Irma Pavliashvili – Administrative Director

● REVISION COMMISSION

Tamar Sarajishvili
Malkhaz Vepkhvadze
Nino Bibiluri
Nino Samadashvili
Ana Kotetishvili

● HEADS OF REGIONAL OFFICES

Adjara branch – Paata Diasamidze
Kutaisi branch – Zaal Gorgidze
Rustavi office – Ekaterine Pavlenishvili
Gori office – Ketevan Bebiashvili
Telavi office – Marekh Mgaloblishvili
Ozurgeti office – Tamaz Trapaidze
Dusheti office – Sergo Isashvili
Zugdidi office – Jano Chkadua

DONORS AND PARTNERS



Kingdom of the Netherlands

EAST • WEST
MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE
*Promoting Rule of Law
in Georgia (PROLoG)*



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTRE
EHRAC

B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

Brot
für die Welt

Bread for the World -
Protestant
Development Service



Norwegian Embassy



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



British Embassy
Tbilisi



EQUAL RIGHTS TRUST

GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

- Tbilisi

15, J.Kakhidze str. 0102

Tel: + (995 32) 2936101 / 2952353

E-mail: gyla@gyla.ge

- Kutaisi Branch

11, Kostava str. 4600

Tel: + (995 431) 241192 / 246523

E-mail: kutaisi@gyla.ge

- Adjara Branch

89, Gorgasali str. Batumi, 6000

Tel: + (995 422) 276668

E-mail: batumi@gyla.ge

- Gori Office

19, Stalini str. 1400

Tel: + (995 370) 272646

E-mail: gori@gyla.ge

- Rustavi Office

15 a/5, Kostava str. 3700

Tel: + (995 341) 255337

E-mail: rustavi@gyla.ge

- Telavi Office

13, 26 Maisi str. 2200

Tel: + (995 350) 271371

E-mail: telavi@gyla.ge

- Ozurgeti Office

25/10, Gabriel Episkoposi str. 3500

Tel: + (995 496) 273138

E-mail: ozurgeti@gyla.ge

- Dusheti Office

29, Rustaveli str. 1810

Tel: + (995 346) 221554

E-mail: dusheti@gyla.ge

- Zugdidi Office

3, Laghidze str. (21, Tabukashvili str.)

Tel: + (995 415) 227770

E-mail: zugdidi@gyla.ge

