

**Country – Georgia**

**Committee – UNHCR**

**Agenda – Deliberation on rights to LGBTQ+ with special emphasis on spreading of homophobic beliefs**

Accounts of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender asylum seekers ( **Person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another** ) fleeing Russia’s repressive law on “homosexual propaganda” peppered reports in the English-language media. Meanwhile, a different former Soviet country, Georgia, settled into a period of transition that, rights activists hope, will eliminate LGBT discrimination.

The transition began last spring after the country’s parliament passed a new antidiscrimination law that includes protections for gender identity and sexual orientation. While some have criticized the law for not going far enough in enforcing its own mandate, many have hailed it as a brave step toward ensuring LGBT rights in a region beset by state and religious homophobia

“I think it’s a victory for the Georgian government over the Georgian church, the most trusted institution in the country,” said Vano Chkhikvadze, the EU Integration field manager at the Open Society Georgia Foundation, who worked with the government to organize a coalition of civil society organizations that helped shape the law. Georgia’s state non-discrimination law protects state workers but does not protect workers in the private sector. The law also does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. An estimated 3.5% of Georgia’s workforce, 170,000 workers, identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Of those workers, approximately 7,500 work for the state government, 10,600 work for local governments, and 151,900 work in the private sector. This report summarizes evidence of sexual orientation and gender identity employment discrimination in government employment, explains the limited current protections from sexual orientation and gender identity employment discrimination in Georgia, and estimates the administrative impact of adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Georgia’s state government employment non-discrimination law



In total there are approximately 269,000 LGBT adults in Georgia, including 7,507 who work for the state government. Like other countries in the former Soviet Union, Georgia has struggled to end discrimination against the LGBT community. Those who are LGBT—and even those who are perceived to be—are often refused service by businesses and hospitals, bullied in school, and harassed by the police. Meanwhile the Georgian Orthodox Church, a sister denomination to its Russian counterpart, has attacked support for LGBT equality as the “propaganda of sin.

As of June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in the case Obergefell vs. Hodges that same sex marriage is now legal in all fifty (50) states. Prior to June 26, 2015, the State of Georgia had absolutely prohibited same sex couples from getting married; additionally, the State of Georgia would not recognize the marriages of same sex couples who were legally married in other states or countries that already recognized same sex marriages, either through the legislative process or judicial decree. Nevertheless, based upon the United States Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell vs. Hodges, the State of Georgia now allows same sex couples to get married, as well as recognizes such marriages that occurred in jurisdictions other than the State of Georgia.

Delegate of Georgia

Sanskriti Bisht

Class – 8

School- Bal Bhavan Public School