



COMBATTING
RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC AND
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IN GEORGIA

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Promoting Rule of Law
in Georgia (PROLoG)

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ABOUT US


Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI) is a non-governmental organization, which has been actively working for protection of freedom of religion, development of tolerance culture, protection and advocacy for minority rights since 2013. The organization studies and analyzes the State policy and applicable legislation, organizes different events and projects for educational and general awareness raising purposes and supports protection and dissemination of idea of the inter-cultural dialogue and secular State.

COMBATTING RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN GEORGIA

Since January 2016, TDI has been implementing the fourteen-month project *Combating Religious, Ethnic and Racial Discrimination in Georgia* in the framework of East-West Management Institute's (EWMI) project Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG) funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project aims at increasing access to justice/ensuring strategic litigation, eliminating violation of human rights with discriminative grounds and provision of full legal aid (civil, administrative and criminal) free of charge to representatives of the religious, ethnic and racial minority groups.

Also, the project's goal is to raise awareness of women representing ethnic and religious minority groups regarding the gender equality.



Following organizations are partners of TDI in the project: Georgian Muslims Union, Association Beteli under the auspices of Evangelical-Baptist Church and the organization, Religions for Peace.

Lawyers will provide support to the representatives of minority groups in Tbilisi and Achara.

FREE LEGAL AID FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC MINORITIES AND RACIAL GROUPS

Prohibition of discrimination and principle of equality are cornerstone of all democratic countries. These values are safeguarded under both, Georgian and international legislation.

Discrimination i.e. unequal treatment of the substantially equal persons or equal treatment of substantially unequal persons and granting any advantage or disadvantage in this regard, is a clear and unjustified violation of principle of equality.

If you believe that your rights have been violated on the grounds of discrimination **due to the belonging to religious, ethnic and/or racial group,**

For example:

- ▶ Encountering problems while publicly declaring your **religion, ethnicity and/or race;**
- ▶ Your honor and/or dignity is abused due to your **belief and/or ethnic, racial background;**
- ▶ You are deprived of possibility to gather publicly;
- ▶ Administrative bodies, including police, are not neutral while performance the statutorily determined duties and/or are hesitant of effective investigation of the crime committed against you;

- ▶ You are victim of inappropriately strict sanction (punishment) in response to the offence committed or your procedural rights are violated at any stage of the proceedings;
- ▶ Process of issuance residence permit is delayed or interrupted due to your **ethnic and/or racial belonging**;
- ▶ You are prevented from conducting **religious or other ritual** individually or in a group;
- ▶ You are not able to build a **house of worship/building** intended for religious practice;
- ▶ You suffer from any type of physical and/or psychological pressure;
- ▶ You, your family member or acquaintance is treated differently in the educational institution (school, university, professional institution, kindergarten) due to his/her **religious, ethnic and/or racial background**; the person is directly or indirectly forced to participate in the religious rituals (prayer, demonstrations, events).
- ▶ You encounter problems in relations with the employer (at work) or your job application was rejected due to your **religious belief, national, ethnic and/or racial belonging**;
- ▶ You encounter problems while crossing the State borders (you are held for unreasonably long period; no explanation of delay is given or the search standards are violated etc.); you have hindrances while bringing the religious literature on the border;
- ▶ You are not able to fully participate in the social-political life;

or, any other right guaranteed under the constitution, international agreements and legislative acts was violated and you suspect that such violation is in relation **with your religious belief, affiliation, ethnic, national or racial belonging or color of your skin**; if you believe that you are treated unequally, you may contact us, Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI). Our lawyers will assist you free of charge through consultations and advocacy activities and protect your interests with natural or legal entities, administrative bodies and courts.