

President of Georgia Engages with Gori Youth for Stronger EU Integration Support

By Liza Mchedlidze

The youth of Gori has joined the signature campaign 'Our Voice to Europe.' On November 26, according to the presidential administration, the President of Georgia met with the young participants of the campaign in Gori. They reiterated their support by signing an appeal to European leaders, emphasizing that Georgia's place is within the European Union.

As per their announcement, the signature campaign, set to be distributed across various regions of Georgia starting today, was initiated on November 8 by the President of Georgia. Participants from diverse sectors of society express their positions by signing the petition.

"This signature campaign, 'Our Voice to Europe', expresses our desire and determination for Georgia to align with its future. It invites everyone to lend their voice to Europe and proclaim, 'We want Europe!'. This is not merely a political statement for the country; it extends to every citizen, especially the younger generation. This campaign represents the space where you will enter, live, and experience profound changes that will enhance your existence. It aims to fortify the identity of Georgia, enrich its culture, and provide this culture with more exposure. It signifies more opportunities for mutual understanding, emphasizing the unity of Europe and Georgia—symbolized by the two flags proudly displayed here today.

Thank you very much for being here



today and participating in this campaign. I want to emphasize once again that this is not my campaign; I initiated it and

handed it over to you. This is your campaign, free from any other political influence. It truly belongs to you, as it repre-

sents our collective future," said the President of Georgia.

EU Ambassador Pawel Herczynski Calls for Collective Action Against Gender-Based Violence in Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, H.E. Pawel Herczynski, released a video address on November 25 for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Herczynski emphasized that no one should experience any form of violence, whether at home, work, in public spaces, or anywhere else. Despite this ideal, he pointed out the unfortunate reality that one in three women globally faces violence from their partner or experiences some form of sexual violence during their lifetime. He noted that this happens regardless of a person's origin, ethnicity, culture, or religion.

The European Union, according to Herczynski, maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence. He framed gender-based violence as a severe violation of human rights and one that contradicts the core values of the EU.

The ambassador discussed the collaborative efforts with Georgian authorities to combat gender-based violence. This involves strengthening protection and prevention measures, contributing to the establishment of support services like shelters and post-shelter assistance for survivors, and actively working on awareness campaigns.

Herczynski delivered a powerful message urging people not to remain silent



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7128; Euro - 2.9594; GBP - 3.4081; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0518; Swiss Franc - 3.0702

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in the face of violence. He stressed that gender-based violence is not a private issue or exclusive to women; instead, it is a societal issue that concerns everyone in Georgia. He called for reporting instances of violence, whether at home, workplace, or online, emphasizing that

reporting is crucial to breaking free from the cycle of violence.

“No one should experience any form of violence at home, at work, in a public space, or anywhere at all. But the reality is that one in three women across the globe faces violence from her partner or any other type of sexual violence during her lifespan, regardless of origin,

ethnicity, culture, or religion. The European Union has a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence. This is a grave violation of human rights and the EU’s core values. In Georgia, we work together with authorities to combat gender-based violence by strengthening protection and prevention. We are contributing to establishing reliable support ser-

vices such as shelters and post-shelter assistance for survivors, and we are working on raising awareness, changing proper attitudes and behavior, as well as breaking gender stereotypes.

Today I have one simple yet very important message. Do not remain silent. This is not a private issue. This is not a women’s issue. This is an issue for the whole of society and all of the people of Georgia. If you see violence at home, sexual harassment at work or verbal abuse online reported, it’s a crime. It’s the only way to break free from the cycle of violence,” Herczynski said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Russian Occupation Forces Illegally Arrest Three Georgian Citizens

near the village of Adzvi, in the Gori municipality.

“Upon receiving information about the mentioned incident, the State Security Service activated the ‘hotline’ operated by the EU

All existing mechanisms for the release of illegally detained Georgian citizens have been activated. The responsibility for all destructive actions committed in the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as along the occupation line, rests with the occupying power,” the statement reads.

pressive practices remains our common duty, ensuring that history will not repeat itself,” Zourabichvili wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

In his response, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky

Moscow’s aggressive policies, indicating a history of suffering.

“Thank you, @Zourabichvili_S, for standing in solidarity with Ukraine on Holodomor Remembrance Day.



The State Security Service is disseminating information about the illegal arrest of three citizens of Georgia by Russian occupation forces in the occupied territory

Monitoring Mission. Details about another case of illegal detention were promptly reported to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and to our international partners.

Zelensky Thanks President Zourabichvili for Standing in Solidarity on Holodomor Remembrance Day

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, conveyed her unwavering solidarity with Ukraine on the Holodomor Memorial Day, emphasizing the shared commitment to remembering historical tragedies.

“Standing in solidarity with Ukraine on #Holodomor Memorial Day, we honor the victims of the Soviet regime of terror.

After 90 years, resistance to op-



expressed gratitude to President Zourabichvili for showing solidarity with Ukraine on Holodomor Remembrance Day. He acknowledged the shared challenges both nations have faced due to

Our nations have faced considerable suffering due to Moscow’s aggressive policies. Mutual support is crucial as we strive to safeguard our freedom and our people,” Zelensky responded.

This joint statement is issued by the United Nations system in Georgia, the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the NATO Liaison Office in Georgia, and the Embassies to Georgia of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, we

Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

call for action to end violence against women and girls in all its forms – from sexual harassment and abuse to child marriage and femicide. Globally, nearly one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once, the majority of them assaulted by their husband or partner.¹ In Georgia, violence against women and girls remains a critical problem despite decisive steps taken by the government and civil society to combat these horrific human rights violations. Such violence is rooted in gender inequality and is in turn further perpetuating discrimination of women and girls. As a result, our societies are less peaceful and less just, and our economies are less prosperous.

Eliminating violence against women and girls will require strengthening and enforcing leg-

islation and policies to protect their rights and to promote gender equality, to ensure full protection and support to survivors of violence, and to end impunity for all perpetrators. To make this happen, it is vital to raise awareness and promote women’s leadership at every stage of decision-making. We especially emphasize the urgent need to take concrete steps in order to eliminate violence against women in politics, which prevents women’s meaningful participation in Georgian democracy. According to the latest data, 54 per cent of female candidates have experienced physical, psychological, economic, or sexual violence and harassment during their election campaigns or political careers.² Sexist hate speech is often used against women politicians in social media, including attacks based on their gender identity,

appearance, intellectual abilities, and moral criteria.³

Economic violence is one of the most hidden forms of violence in Georgia, forcing the victim to stay with the perpetrator. Challenges remain in reducing the gender pay gap⁴, women’s equal access to financial resources, inheritance rights, employment opportunities, recognizing and redistributing unpaid and care work. Improving child protection

systems, access to education and adolescent-friendly health services is of paramount importance to combat violence against girls.

We call on all stakeholders, including political parties, the government, civil society organizations and the media to work towards a future where women are empowered to participate fully and equally in economic, social and political life, without fear of violence or harassment.

¹ Facts and figures: Ending violence against women, available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

² Violence Against Women in Politics in Georgia, available at: <https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/08/violence-against-women-in-politics-in-georgia>

³ Election Monitoring Report: Sexism and Gender Stereotypes in Social Media, available at: <https://www.undp.org/georgia/publications/gender-bias-social-media-2020>

⁴ In 2022 the adjusted hourly gender pay gap equaled 15.4%. The same indicator calculated at the monthly level equaled 23.0%, available at: <https://www.geostat.ge/media/57459/Adjusted-gender-pay-gap—2022.pdf>

Weather

Monday, November 27

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 10°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 2°C

Tuesday, November 28

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 8°C

Night Clear
Low: -1°C

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