



FOCUS ON HEDONE

Hedone founder Tinatin Uplisashvili shows us how to achieve harmony between mind, body and soul

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Protests against Foreign Agent Law Continue, Now Spearheaded by Georgia's Europe-Focused Youth

BY TEAM GT

After days of generally peaceful protest, in which around two dozen people were arrested, once the government had accepted the draft law "On transparency of foreign influence" with 83 votes in the first reading on April 17, the stage and speakers were taken down from in front of the parliament building. But if the MPs thought the protesters were done speaking out, were tired and resigned to their fates, they were wrong - for that night and every night since, the central avenue of the capital has been filled with Georgia's youth. Sometimes they march along the streets, sometimes they dance the Georgian national dances, sometimes they open friendly games of football, and always they wave the Georgian and European flags and show off potent messages directed at the country's decision makers and the eyes of Europe watching Georgia's progress.

This week, the students also organized a march from Tbilisi State University to the Parliament and then to the Tiflis Palace hotel, where the participants of the rally claimed the Russian Institute was holding a forum on "Traditional Values."

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Georgia's youth protest the government's decision to introduce the foreign agents bill. Source: FormulaNews

Lazare Grigoriadis Freed from Prison by Presidential Pardon

BY TEAM GT

Lazare Grigoriadis, who was convicted of harming the health of police officers and destroying state property, has been released from the Gldani penitentiary.

Family members, relatives, lawyers and journalists were waiting to greet him outside the penitentiary building on Wednesday.

The President of Georgia issued an act of pardon for Lazare Grigoriadis that morning, having announced on April 12 that she had made the decision to pardon him.

21-year-old Lazare Grigoriadis was arrested by the police on the night of March 29, 2023. He was accused of using

violence against policemen during the rallies held near the parliament building against the "Russian law," and of setting fire to a car belonging to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Specifically, according to the information provided by the investigation, on March 7, during the rally held on Rustaveli Avenue, Grigoriadis is said to have thrown "Molotov cocktails" twice in the direction of the employees of the Special Tasks Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who were on duty on April 9 Street, and on March 9, on Chanturia Street, the accused deliberately set fire to a Toyota Corolla belonging to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which burned on the spot, allegedly costing the state budget 39,500 GEL in property damage.

The Tbilisi City Court found Grigoriadis guilty, and judge Zviad Sharadze sentenced him to 9 years in prison.



Lazare, freed by presidential pardon. Source: Aprili Media

Grigoriadis claimed the judge had made a politicized decision in sentencing him to 9 years.

On his release, he said: "First of all, I want to thank the President, Salome Zurbishvili. The battle continues. We will meet at the rallies. The judge made a politicized decision [by sentencing me!]"

He also stated that the "Russian law" undermines Georgia's democracy, and said the country's government simply cannot adopt such laws on its path to the European Union.

In a televised interview which saw him sitting between his mother and grandfather, Grigoriadis noted how pleased he was to see so many people out on the streets in protest, and remembered a time it felt like it was "just him" out there speaking his mind for Georgia's European future.



Renowned Chef Jamie Oliver Visits Georgia on a Gastronomic Tour of the Country

Renowned chef Jamie Oliver is visiting Georgia on a gastronomic tour of the country.

The Georgian National Tourism Administration states that Jamie Oliver has arrived in Georgia to help promote the country's delicious gastronomic cuisine in an initiative spearheaded by the Georgian National Tourism Admin-

istration. On his culinary tour, Jamie is learning about the country's unique food culture as he meets local artisans and learns how to cook Georgian dishes.

Fans will be able to catch up with Jamie's Georgian foodie adventure across his social channels - over 20 million followers on Instagram and Facebook combined, 6 million and nearly 6 million on YouTube - in the coming months.

Alcohol, E-cigarettes, Cannabis: Concerning Trends in Adolescent Substance Use, Finds New WHO/Europe Study

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance, while e-cigarettes are more popular than conventional cigarettes.

Across Europe, central Asia and Canada, a concerning picture of adolescent substance use emerges from a new WHO/Europe report. With over half of 15-year-olds surveyed having experimented with alcohol and a shocking 1 in 5 having recently used e-cigarettes, the risks to young people are clear. The new data from the Health Behavior in School-aged Children (HBSC) study also highlights a narrowing gender gap in substance use, emphasizing the need for targeted prevention strategies. The long-term consequences of these trends are significant, and policy-makers cannot afford to ignore these alarming findings.

MAJOR FINDINGS INCLUDE:

Prevalence of alcohol consumption: alcohol is the most frequently consumed substance among adolescents, with 57% of 15-year-olds surveyed having tried alcohol at least once and nearly 4 in 10 (37%) indicating they have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days.

The popularity of e-cigarettes: e-cigarettes have surpassed conventional cigarettes in popularity, with 32% of 15-year-olds surveyed reporting e-cigarette use at some point and 20% in the past 30 days.

Cannabis use trends: cannabis use shows a slight decrease, with the percentage of 15-year-olds who have ever used cannabis falling from 14% in 2018 to 12% in 2022.

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Ukraine Latest: Congress Approves \$61bn Aid Package, Abducted Children Reunited with Families

COMPILED BY ANA DUMBADZE

AID PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

The United States Congress passed a long-delayed \$61bn aid package for Ukraine that was quickly signed into law by President Joe Biden. The overall package, which also includes aid for Israel and Taiwan, is worth \$95 billion, and is a lifeline for Ukraine, whose forces have been running short on artillery units and ammunition on parts of the front line.

Kyiv has been pleading for more air defense systems and long-range missiles for months. Biden said the first tranche of military equipment would be sent to Ukraine within "the next few hours." He described the US aid as an investment not only in Ukraine and Europe's security but also US security.

"America stands with our friends; we stand up against dictators. We bow to no one, to no one! Certainly not [Russian President] Vladimir Putin," Biden said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the approval and said Ukraine would do its best to "make up" for the past six months, as it has struggled to fend off better-equipped Russian forces.

Zelensky said he was working closely with US officials to work out an incoming \$1bn military package containing "exactly the weapons that our soldiers need". He specifically mentioned Army

Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), artillery, antitank weapons, high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) and air defense.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed that the US had sent a "significant number" of long-range ATACMS to Ukraine and would "send more". Sullivan was responding to reports in the US media that the missiles had been sent, and used twice. The long-range ATACMS has a range of 300km.

16 ABDUCTED UKRAINIAN CHILDREN REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES

16 Ukrainian children previously "deported to Russia" had been reunited with their families after mediation talks organized by Qatar. Kyiv has accused Russia of the forcible deportation of thousands of children from Ukrainian territories it has occupied.

ITALY, UNESCO TO HELP REBUILD ODESA

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Italy will sign an agreement next month with Ukraine and the United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO to rebuild the city of Odesa and its cathedral, which was badly damaged by a Russian attack last July.

CONGRESS PASSES \$61BN



A Ukrainian serviceman catches a drone at the front line, not far from Bakhmut. Photo by Alex Babenko/AP Photo

Protests against Foreign Agent Law Continue, Now Spearheaded by Georgia's Europe-Focused Youth

Continued from page 1

The student organizers say the protests will continue until the government withdraws the "On transparency of foreign influence" bill, but emphasized that they will aim not to go beyond the limits of freedom of expression, saying they hope that the police will pay the same respect in not trying to restrict them.

"Hopefully, there will be many of us. Our protest is spontaneous," the organizers told press at Wednesday night's protest. "Today, we saw a statement from the Ministry of Internal Affairs saying that it is forbidden to block the roadway, and we worry there is a risk of some kind of provocation in this."

"The protest did not start today and it will not end today. It is spontaneous, but peaceful and firm."

The draft law "On transparency of foreign influence," initiated for the second time by the Georgian Dream faction, envisages the registration of non-commercial legal entities and media outlets, whose income - more than 20% - is received from abroad, as an organization "carrying out the interests of a foreign power." According to the project, everyone who is considered an "organization carrying the interests of a foreign power" must be registered in the public register under the same name in a mandatory manner. At the time of registration, it will be necessary to reflect the received income. At the same time, the organizations will have the obligation to fill in an annual financial declaration.

Questions abound as to what will happen on April 29, when Georgian Dream gathers its own supporters in front of Parliament. Part of the current protesters aim to respect the "others" right to protest; some say there may be confrontations as emotions run high. It is also suspected that Georgian Dream will be bussing in its state-employees from across the country, of which there are over 100,000, leading to accusations of coercion. Indeed, such moves have been evidenced in past cases by both the current and previous governments of Georgia.



Georgia's youth protest the government's decision to introduce the foreign agents bill. Source: Mtavari Arkhi

"Georgia must show its strength, that it supports transparency, nationalism, the ban on LGBT propaganda and the correct Georgian, strong national course," Mamuka Mdinardze, the leader of the parliamentary majority, said at the general meeting of the draft law prepared against LGBT propaganda this week, expressing hope that there will be support from the "whole of Georgia" in this direction.

"On April 29, we will count on your support and the whole of Georgia's support in this," Mdinardze said.

At the end of March, two constitutional initiatives were registered: "Against LGBT Propaganda," a draft of amendments to the current constitution, and a draft of the constitutional law entitled "On Family Values and Protection of Minors."

The constitutional initiative prepared "Against LGBT Propaganda" was signed by 83 deputies of the majority. Article 30 of the Constitution will be amended, which concerns the rights of marriage, mothers and children. The draft constitutional law "On Family Values and Protection of Minors" consists of eight clauses and provides for the establish-

ment of a number of restrictions and prohibitions.

"The basis for initiating this change is the trends we have all been observing recently. Trends that are happening in the world. Our experience shows us that the trends that are outside, after a certain period of time, can be transferred here. That's why we have to establish our family values now," said Chairman of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, speaking at a general public review of the constitutional amendments against LGBT propaganda underway in Kutaisi Monday, a review which is also being held in Ambrolauri, Ozurgeti, Batumi, Zugdidi and Mestia.

To give our readers a reminder of the conservative sentiment also evident in the country, we remind you that last July, Georgia's Patriarchate initiated the adoption of the above law. In a statement released at the time, they said: "The so-called LGBT movement carries out far-reaching plans under the umbrella of protection of human rights, tolerance and acceptance. This can be observed on the example of the countries where this movement started a few decades ago. Even years ago, we loudly declared that the real purpose of this movement is not to protect anyone's rights, but to promote a perverted lifestyle, including propaganda among the teenage generation, registering same-sex couples as families, adopting children, and generally changing the cultural code."

"Today, everything is visible and we can clearly see the attempts to start this propaganda among children. We have gathered here to state once again: our society cannot accept this, is not ready, and will never be. This issue especially poses a threat to civil peace and causes extreme polarization, therefore we consider it appropriate to regulate it by law."

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Sovereignty & Independence

OP-ED BY NUGZAR B RUHADZE

Sovereignty and independence are not synonymous political notions, although they have a fairly equivalent dogmatic sound. Compared to independence as such, sovereignty ostensibly sounds more compact and appreciable in terms of political standing, but national independence has bigger weight as a moral political value. Considering these two terms from the viewpoint of lawful statehood, sovereignty, including all its formally documented pillars and its heraldic attributes, is transferable from generation to generation as a legal right to possess supreme authority for making overseeing decisions, which is a significant asset in a nation's possession. Meanwhile, independence means the freedom of a given country from the rule of another nation, which could be a matter of genuine national pride. At the same time, paradoxically, a nation having acquired official sovereignty and international recognition might have to go another mile

or two to become a de-facto independent state. Sakartvelo is a sovereign country with a certain amount of independence in expectation of fulltime independence, if this is possible at all in today's world of unknown-before interdependence between the nations. We are caught between the anvil and the hammer: The world is nowadays operating via tens of various military and economic blocs, and if we want to be completely independent, we should eschew initiation into one of those blocs because membership would mean dependence on rules and regulations that the selected bloc suggests we observe. On the other hand, without membership in some of those blocs, associations or international organizations, we can't survive, because in our globalized world, all human activities are so tightly intertwined that avoiding club-life might be equal to national suicide. Does this mean that we have found ourselves at a loss? No, not necessarily! Sakartvelo, as a contemporary sovereign country, is faced with a variety of opportunities to create a qualitative standard of living for its people by means of fruitful cooperation with the rest of the nations around the globe, and that cooperation can only take place via

interaction with other nations, which is facilitated by the blocs they want to be members of. How to be a bloc member and an independent nation at the same time? No nation is absolutely independent from others, and the probable adverse or favorable settings thereof, but some countries, being members of some of those clubs, try and often succeed in maintaining both their state sovereignty and national independence, simultaneously serving their national interests and catering to international exigencies. This would be an ideal version of bringing about Georgia's genuine statehood, but it might not be very easy to accomplish. Why? Because, firstly, we are a former soviet republic with little experience in capitalist and democratic ways of life, still using lots of social and political leftovers from those bygone times. Secondly, we have deeply and precipitously plunged into a new style of political life, notably determined by the NGO sector, which we haven't so far gotten the complete hang of. Thirdly, our economic status is still qualified as that of a developing country, which in the first place needs to feed and clad its people, and only after that think

about lofty ideals of full-blown democracy and unaffected independence. Fourthly and lastly, we are still working on our modern civil consciousness, which is still raw in this country and needs a lot to be shaped into pure western standards, but without losing our millennia-old national identity. Honestly and relentlessly striving for identity, sovereignty and independence should desirably be the obligation of every citizen of this country, doing that without the slightest breach of the accepted rules of international play, feeling the shades and intricacies of the ongoing complicated game, doing this with complete sense of recognition of the well-known maxim that we may have no friends, no enemies, but only interests. We definitely have our own interests, based on the idea of our statehood and bringing those interests to realization only through goodwill, sharp brain and knowledge of the global political environment, not accepting external dictates, but not refusing either from a good piece of advice if one is available. Bottom line? This nation's doubtless survival without losing its overall sense of identity, happiness and objectivity. Nothing impossible!

Georgian PM Participates in Conservative Political Action Conference in Hungary

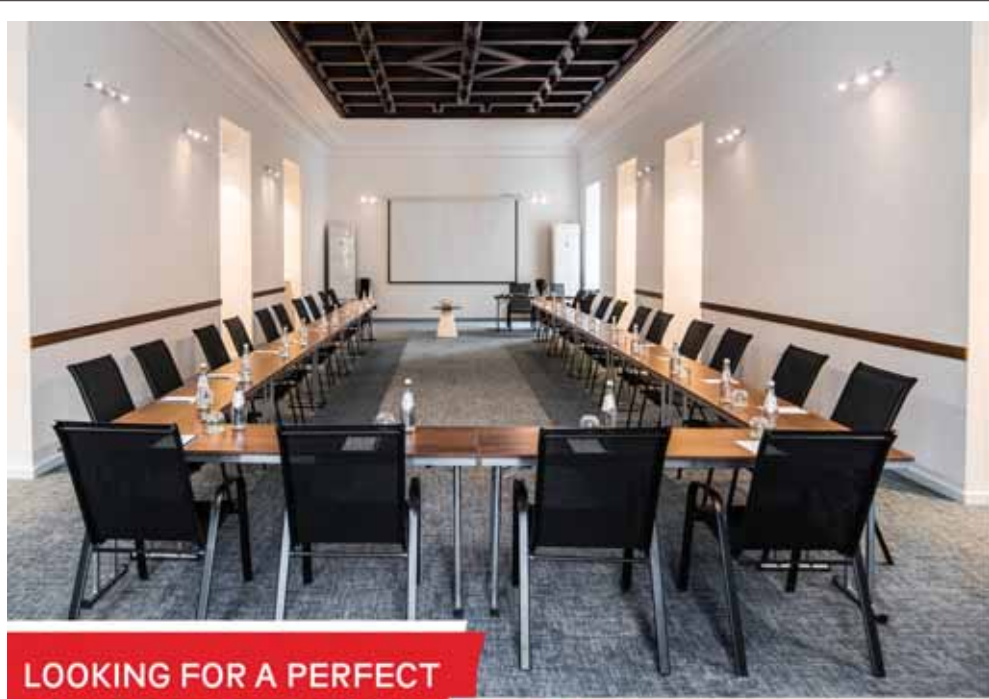
BY TEAM GT

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, participated in the Conservative Political Action Conference in Hungary, April 25-26. The Georgian delegation, headed by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, included Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilia Darchiashvili and Head of Government Administration Levan Zhorzholiani. The Prime Minister delivered a speech at the opening session. "I am sure that very soon Georgia will become a full-fledged member of the European family, and together we will be able to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of the European

Union, to the construction of a Europe based on solid values," the Georgian PM noted. "May God give us strength and help us in this important work." Within the framework of the visit, a meeting was also held with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. "Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze is the head of the government, and he is considered a great chess player in Georgian politics," Orbán said. "This is not surprising, because in the centuries-old history of Georgia, chess is a geopolitical game. Despite all the challenges, the power to preserve the national identity and culture in the country is really the skill of a chess player, a grandmaster. "Mr. Prime Minister, we thank you for being with us and wish you success," he added. CPAC Hungary, the largest conservative gathering in Hungary and internationally, is being held

for the third time in 2024. The world's conservative leaders, thinkers, and influencers met in Budapest, among them Geert Wilders, leader of the Dutch Party for Freedom, Santiago Abascal, president of the Spanish VOX, and US Senator Markwayne Mullin, Congressmen Andy Harris and Keith Self. This year's keynote speaker was Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán. The CPAC website reads: "Originating in the 1970s, CPAC became the annual rally of the American Right. The first European iteration of the conference was hosted by the Center for Fundamental Rights in the Hungarian capital in 2022. The event, which centered around the values of "God, Homeland, Family" and attracted more than 1,500 people, including nearly 200 foreign decision-makers, journalists and influencers, generated enormous interest: Even closer friend-

ships were forged with our allies, and the left-liberal world erupted in hysteria. "With good reason. CPAC, pioneered by the American Conservative Union (ACU), the Center's American partner, is a flagship project for conservatives building their international alliance, and last year's CPAC Hungary concentrated on the liberals' nightmare: The international convergence of national forces. Hungary's Prime Minister outlined the 12 points of the conservative recipe for success in 2022, including his admonition to play by our own rules, make friends and build communities. The Hungarian Right can act as an intellectual and political driving force in this process. CPAC Hungary 2023 provided a unique platform for joining with our allies in North and South America, Europe, Japan, Israel and Australia in proclaiming "United We Stand!"



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Public Defender Applies to OSCE/ODIHR on Draft Law on Abolition of Gender Quotas, Latvian Embassy Strips Beka Odisharia of Honorary Title after His Insults to Women MPs

BY TEAM GT

On April 22, the Public Defender of Georgia, Levan Ioseliani, Levan Ioseliani, applied to the OSCE/ODIHR to prepare a conclusion on the Georgian parliament's draft law seeking to cancel gender quotas. The Office of the Ombudsman has urged the Parliament of Georgia not to allow the bill to proceed further until the conclusions of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR are published. "The above-mentioned draft law was announced to the public on April 1, and as a result of the accelerated discussion, on April 4, it was adopted by all three readings. The Public Defender responded to the draft law with a public statement and evaluated it negatively. On April 17, the President of Georgia vetoed the bill and returned it to Parliament with motivated remarks. "Based on the appeal of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission is also preparing an opinion on the draft law. "The Public Defender calls on the Parliament of Georgia not to allow the bill to proceed further until the conclusions of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR are published, and to ensure compliance of each decision with human rights standards," the statement reads. At the end of March, Georgian Dream said it was to support the Girchi party initiative, which provides for the abolition of gender quotas in the party list. Based on the existing law on gender quotas, at least every 4th candidate in a party list should be of a different gender. Georgian Dream MP Beka Davituli stated that the parliamentary majority supports consideration of the mentioned legislative changes in an accelerated manner, and noted that they have received consent from Girchi, in return for "the selection of the CEC chairman being



Georgian Dream MP Beka Odisharia. Source: Mtavari Arkhi

focused on the integrity and professionalism of the candidate and not for it to be used for personal political gains." On Wednesday, the Latvian Embassy in Georgia announced it was stripping MP Beka Odisharia of the title of Honorary Consul. Several weeks' prior, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Latvia's Saeimas, Rihards Kols, had called on Latvia's foreign ministry to revoke the status from Georgian Dream MP Beka Odisharia following his shockingly insulting remarks towards female MPs, seeing him lashing out at female MPs who had accused him of being corrupt during parliamentary debates on abolishing the women's quotas. "F*ck you, you herd of unf*cked females! This is a syndrome of unf*cked women," he told them. In response to the Latvian Embassy's announcement, Mamuka Mdinaradze, leader of the parliamentary majority, said: "This is an obvious attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Georgia, an attempt to determine the actions of Beka Odisharia and other MPs, so that they cannot make independent decisions, but make decisions under international pressure."

What Constitutes a Crime in Various Contract Scenarios and Real Estate Transactions?



BY KLEIN & PANTSULAIA

Wehavebeenswamped with requests to write an article about business situations that cross the line

from civil suits to potential criminal acts. Taking a party to civil court can be daunting, as the courts are understaffed and a case can take years if appealed. In contrast, criminal proceedings are fast-tracked and can be determined in months. The maximum time to adjudicate a matter, with the accused in pre-trial detention, is nine months,

providing a form of speedy justice. Furthermore, a criminal prosecution can hinder the accused in business dealings, especially if there is a conviction. Another drawback to civil actions is that counterparties may not have the funds to pay following a judgment. While using a criminal lawyer is not free, it can be more cost-effective, since

criminal lawyers generally do not participate in the process but work to provide evidence.

The one drawback of bringing a criminal action to court is that once a prosecutor starts working on a case, it is generally not possible to withdraw a complaint. Notably, unlike in many Western jurisdictions, threatening to bring a criminal action is not a crime.

CONTRACTS & FRAUD

Fraud standards in Georgia are quite relaxed compared to many jurisdictions. If a contracting party makes a false statement to entice the signing of a contract, this could constitute fraud. Even if the defrauded party has the opportunity to verify the statements, a false statement could still constitute fraud. For example, if an apartment owner represents that they are the sole owner of a flat but are not, and the buyer can easily verify this, it could still potentially be considered criminal fraud.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Late delivery of an apartment in a development project is not generally considered fraud; it is typically a civil breach of contract at most. However, it is also not a crime for the investor to threaten to go to the press about delayed delivery in exchange for a refund.

PERSONAL EFFECTS IN AN APARTMENT

When a tenant leaves an apartment or commercial space, personal effects should be given to the old tenant. Items that are generally immovable, like tenant-installed kitchens and air conditioners, are usually items that the landlord is permitted to keep, depending on what is written in the lease contract.

CAMPAIGN TO EVICT A TENANT

Generally, if the landlord cuts off electricity and water, it does not constitute a crime. Changing locks might be questionable.

OTHER TYPES OF REAL ESTATE MISREPRESENTATIONS

If the landlord makes false statements, such as claiming they received all necessary approvals for interior/exterior works, or denying a flood occurred, this could also constitute criminal fraud.

Many buyers/renters of real estate or businesspersons, who can claim to be victims, believe it unworthy of their time, money or energy to take someone to court. However, in certain situations, an apparent breach may be considered criminal fraud. Just because a plaintiff brings a civil action, it does not preclude criminal proceedings. Generally, non-fulfillment of an agreement cannot be considered criminal. Likewise, if a criminal fraud action is initiated, this does not preclude a party from bringing a parallel or post-conviction proceeding in the civil courts.

Please note that, in general, the statute of limitations for a civil proceeding is three years from the time the initiating party knew or reasonably should have known that a civil fraud had occurred. The statute of limitations for a criminal offense is 3 to 15 years, depending on the severity of the crime.



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Hedone: Find Harmony between Your Mind, Body and Soul



THE WELLNESS INDUSTRY.

The wellness industry is guided by several generally recognized standards around the world. These standards aim to ensure the well-being and safety of individuals seeking wellness services. One of the widely recognized standards focuses on quality management in the wellness industry. For instance, in spa and wellness facilities, the International Spa Association (ISPA) provides a framework for operational best practices that encompass areas such as hygiene, staff training, and customer experience.

Furthermore, some countries may have their own regulations or licensing requirements specific to the wellness industry. For example, certain regions may require massage therapists or nutritionists to be licensed practitioners with appropriate qualifications, having a solid understanding of human anatomy, exercise science principles, and client assessment techniques.

In the stressful environment we live in today, taking care of our mental and physical health is important, although oftentimes our efforts don't go far enough to achieve the necessary balance.

The wellness industry plays a big role in helping us find inner peace, harmony and balance between our mind, body and soul. In this regard, a distinguished spot with a diverse service and team of professionals is Hedone, located in Dighomi, Tbilisi, in a green and beautiful environment, isolated from the noise and dust of the city.

When entering the facility, one directly feels inner peace and calmness due to the cozy and beautiful garden of Hedone, which gives the impression that you're in the countryside, not just minutes from the capital.

Hedone is a truly must-visit place and happiness hub for those seeking perfect relaxation and an amazing healing experience. Born from the idea of combating mental health issues during the pandemic, Hedone has become a wellness spot that goes beyond the usual expectations and becomes like a home for its visitors.

There is a wide range of procedures available at Hedone, including massages, healing therapies led by skilled physiotherapists, and advanced facial skin care using French and Spanish products. They also offer urological and aesthetic procedures, diode epilation with a modern German device, fitness exercises, yoga, salon services, and a bar with refreshing and alcoholic drinks. In short, Hedone covers all aspects of wellness.

For more detailed information about the story behind Hedone, its success in the Georgian wellness industry and its diverse services, GEORGIA TODAY spoke to its founder, Tinatin Uplishashvili, who elaborates on the importance of wellness and relaxation services for our spiritual and physical well-being.

TELL US ABOUT THE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS AROUND THE WORLD IN



offer an environment that promotes overall well-being and helps you master time management for self-love and self-realization. Let us assist you in understanding your desires better with our diverse themed packages tailored to your needs. At Hedone, we are dedicated to helping you discover yourself while providing pure relaxation when you need it most.

WHAT SERVICES DOES HEDONE OFFER THE COMMUNITY, AND WHAT MAKES YOUR WELLNESS CENTER UNIQUE?

With over 40 different types of massages and a wide range of healing and weight correction procedures, we have everything you need for the perfect day of relaxation. But that's not all - our comprehensive services also include salon treatments like diode epilation, hair and nail care, and cosmetic procedures.

Immerse yourself in the serene ambi-



TELL US ABOUT THE HEDONE STAFF.

Our team at Hedone is made up of highly skilled professionals who are dedicated to providing the best care. From rehabilitation doctors to cosmetologists, manual therapists, and physiotherapy

this as their new normal and lost their motivation to socialize. We wanted to tell them - step outside, we're here to offer a joyful and positive environment! Another challenge that still lingers is the unhealthy perception of the wellness industry in our country. This is largely due to unprofessional and incomplete services that have been offered, leading people to lose trust in such facilities. Furthermore, inadequate payment for staff members affects their performance and ultimately distorts society's approach towards wellness. It becomes our mission to combat this mindset and show everyone that high-quality service delivers truly transformative results. Therefore, it is crucial for attitudes and perspectives in society to shift - we must change minds and restore trust in the wellness industry.

WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE WOMEN WHO ARE TAKING THEIR FIRST STEPS IN A CAREER IN WELLNESS?

First and foremost, let me tell you that being a woman in Georgia is no walk in the park. That's why empowering and supporting women is incredibly crucial. Instead of being afraid of our own ideas, ourselves, or our potential, we should embrace them with open arms. Let's step out of our comfort zones, believe in ourselves wholeheartedly, and understand our capabilities better, and boldly pursue all those new ideas buzzing in our minds. Because guess what? Absolutely anything is possible if we put in the effort and conquer our fears. It's true that the environment may not always be supportive for women, but with unwavering determination and motivation, we can achieve anything we set our hearts on. Taking concrete steps requires courage, but it's through experimentation and improvisation that we truly grow and develop ourselves to become the best versions of who we are meant to be.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS.

Continuing our exciting journey and embracing corporate well-being in Georgia to the fullest. Let's leave a lasting impact in this arena, with Hedone leading the way as pioneers who openly discuss and strive to enhance the culture of corporate well-being.



Overall, these generally recognized standards play a crucial role in maintaining quality assurance within the global wellness industry while prioritizing customer well-being and satisfaction.

WHEN AND HOW WAS THE IDEA OF CREATING HEDONE BORN?

Hedone, a haven of happiness and relaxation named after the Greek goddess herself, was born during the challenging times of the pandemic, our vision was to create a space where people could escape stress, embrace self-expression, and find inner peace. Now open after the restrictions eased, we aim to guide our guests on a journey of physical and spiritual healing. Our goal is simple: to

experience of our beautiful veranda where we hold intimate yoga sessions, or indulge in individual healing exercises. Our unique healing packages are carefully crafted to address various therapeutic needs, combining manual therapy, underwater therapy, lymph drainage, sports massage, and deep tissue massage to enhance your overall well-being.

Experience the power of specialized therapies such as wine therapy and sea water therapy that will leave you feeling rejuvenated. Additionally, our correction services are designed to help you achieve your health goals.

But it doesn't stop there - our wellness center is more than just treatments. Located in Tbilisi but offering a tranquil countryside atmosphere with chirping birds and playful squirrels on our veranda surrounded by spruces. Relax at our bar with wholesome food and drinks between sessions or celebrate special occasions like birthdays and book club discussions here.

We haven't forgotten about children either! Our Children's Correct Posture Development Program offers top-level rehabilitation doctors who provide comprehensive therapies for proper spine development in kids. We've even partnered with renowned sports academies like Zaza Pachulia Basketball Academy to treat future athletes.

At Hedone Wellness Center, everyone can find their bliss - whether you're seeking ultimate relaxation or specific therapeutic needs. Welcome to a world where wellness meets serenity!

specialists, each member of our staff is certified and experienced in their respective fields. We also offer a personal assistant service to ensure that our guests feel comfortable and have their needs met. We are constantly expanding our team to include even more experts such as nutritionists and endocrinologists, so we can provide comprehensive solutions for our guests' well-being.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME ON YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS?

When it came to Hedone, the first challenge we encountered was the pandemic. It was during this time that the idea was born, but we had to overcome the feeling of being trapped. People had accepted



Law on Securitization Comes into Effect in Georgia

On 15 December 2023, the Parliament of Georgia passed the new Law on Securitization (the Law). The Law officially came into effect on April 1, 2024. It provides a legal framework for transforming future receivables from third parties into liquid assets through the issuance of securities.

Definition of Securitization
Under the Law, securitization is defined as a process where the initiator (an entity willing to receive financing) (the Initiator) transfers to the securitization special purpose entity (the Securitization Entity) its underlying assets (any future foreseeable income), in return for which the Initiator receives funds from the Securitization Entity. The Securitization Entity issues securitization instruments (including securities, other financial instruments, unit of a securitization fund (unit), share of a securitization company, etc.), which are obtained by the investors (the Investor), who receive specific income from such instruments. Thus, the Law is applicable to the Initiators, Securitization Entities and the Investors. In some cases, securitization can be carried out without the involvement of the Securitization Entity (as described below).

SECURITIZATION ENTITY AND ITS ROLE

The Securitization Entity is a legal entity or an organization (without legal entity status) that, by purchasing underlying assets or through other means (such as derivatives), takes on the credit risk associated with these assets. It then issues securitization instruments to raise funds for acquiring this risk. The value and/or profitability of these instruments depend on the mentioned risk. Securitization Entities can take the form of either a securitization company or a securitization fund. These entities are strictly limited to activities directly related to securitization, such as acquiring underlying assets, managing risks, and issuing



Image source: euroassetssecurities

securitization instruments. The National Bank of Georgia (NBG) regulates the securitization market and oversees Securitization Entities.

Under the Law, a Securitization Entity must be authorized by the NBG if it engages in a public offer or has more than 20 non-qualified investors. The authorization fee for a Securitization Entity is set at GEL 5,000. Entities not requiring NBG authorization must notify the NBG before commencing activities. Initiators conducting securitization without a Securitization Entity's involvement must also inform the NBG in advance and are limited to private offers with

fewer than 20 inexperienced investors.

INVESTORS AND THEIR ROLE IN SECURITIZATION

The Investor may be an individual, a company, or an organization (without legal entity status) that holds a risk position in securitization through securitization instruments. The law differentiates between inexperienced, experienced and institutional investors. Where the terms inexperienced and experienced investors have already been used in other legislative acts regulating the security markets, the term institutional investor (the Institutional Investor) is a novelty

introduced by the Law.

The Law defines an inexperienced investor as one who is not an experienced investor under the Law of Georgia on Securities Market (the Securities Market Law), while an experienced investor, as per the Securities Market Law, is characterized by possessing ample experience, assets, or income to absorb financial losses from investment activities. Experienced investors are individuals secured with substantial assets, and/or financial institutions, directors of such institutions, legal entities with capital surpassing GEL 1,000,000, or those officially recognized as such by the NBG. Under the Law, the Institutional Investor is a type of investor who falls into one of the following categories:

- A commercial bank;
- A microbank;
- A microfinance organization;
- An insurance organization;
- An asset management company or registered/authorized investment fund;
- A brokerage company;
- A person acting on behalf of the pension scheme provided for by the Law of Georgia "On Cumulative Pension." and
- A person acting on behalf of a voluntary private pension scheme.

The Institutional Investors are supervised by the NBG, and the Law sets forth specific obligations for them, including assessment of the risks associated with the underlying assets and securitization instruments.

PROCEDURE OF SECURITIZATION

Securitization, in essence, is a financial arrangement where initial assets are pooled together, and securities are issued based on this pool. An overview of securitization procedure is provided below:

- Pooling of Assets: Initially, a collection of income-generating financial assets is gathered. These could be anything from loans to other receivables.
- Transfer to Securitization Entities: Instead of the original owner of these

initial assets (Initiator) holding onto them, they are transferred to Securitization Entities set up specifically for this purpose.

- Funding by Issuing Securitization Instruments: The Securitization Entities then finance the acquisition of these initial assets by issuing securitization instruments (i.e. securities). These instruments are essentially shares in the income generated by the pooled initial assets.

- Payment Backed by Asset Proceeds: The principal and interest payments on these instruments are funded by the income generated by the initial assets.

Accordingly, securitization allows for the conversion of diverse income-generating assets into tradable securities, providing Investors with an opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio of assets while providing the original owner with liquidity.

Under the Law, there are two procedures of securitization:

- Traditional Securitization: This involves transferring ownership of the underlying assets to a Securitization Entity.

- Synthetic Securitization: Here, the credit risk is transferred without transferring ownership of the underlying assets. This can be done through methods like placing a credit derivative or issuing a guarantee. In synthetic securitization, the underlying assets remain with the originator, and credit risk is directly transferred to investors. Synthetic Securitization can be carried out without the participation of a Securitization Entity, by directly transferring credit risk to the Investor(s).

In summary, the Securitization Law in Georgia empowers Securitization Entities to manage credit risks associated with underlying assets by issuing securitization instruments. Investors acquire these instruments to generate specific income, contributing to the liquidity and efficiency of Georgia's financial markets.



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 **Tsavkisi Park**

Two Premium-class International Brand Restaurants Chotto Matte and Beefbar to Open in Central Park Towers in Tbilisi

In 2025, two premium-class international brand restaurants Chotto Matte and Beefbar will be opened in the Tbilisi mega resort Central Park Towers, which is a joint project of Orbi Group and Block Group. Exclusive agreements were signed in London and Monaco to this end.

BEEFBAR

After taking the name to destinations such as Saint-Tropez, New York, Mykonos, Milan, Paris, Hong Kong this latest restaurant is to be found in Tbilisi. Beefbar was founded by the famous Italian-British creative restaurateur and exclusive importer of premium meat products, Riccardo Giraudi, in Monaco in 2005. His success and passion for hospitality have allowed him to create and rethink restaurant concepts, to offer new ways to consume, and to boost the gastronomic world.

Beefbar breaks with the rigid, traditional codes of steakhouses, through its glamorous lines, a clear-cut personality, its modern luxury feels and a 360 degrees experience. Every little detail counts. Here, you feel and savor luxury rather than see it, the minute you come through the door. Whether on an island overlooking crystal clear waters, in an historical building, on snowy slopes in the middle of the French Alps, or in a buzzing city, Beefbar brings its elegance, excellence and simplicity to any part of the world.

Beefbar creates the most distinctive, comfortable, and elegant restaurant spaces.

CHOTTO MATTE

Chotto Matte, set up in London in 2013 by renowned chef and restaurateur Kurt Zdesar, is inspired by the rich heritage of Japan and the vibrant spirit of Peru.

Quote from Kurt Zdesar (Chef, Restaurateur & Founder of Chotto Matte): "We are hugely looking forward to launching Chotto Matte in such a flourishing destination with an eclectic food scene. Opening at The Central Park Towers is a unique opportunity to be part of the revolutionizing landscape of Georgia,



with the location set to epitomize modern luxury, and set a new standard in both aesthetic and experience. This is a pivotal moment in our global brand expansion, and I'm excited to bring the bold, creative flavours of Nikkei cuisine to the rich history and entrepreneurial spirit of Georgia's community."

Chotto Matte has secured its position as one of the top trailblazing restaurants in the city with Kurt behind the curation of every aspect from menu creation to music programming, to the bespoke design, working with long-time collaborator Andy Martin of Superfutures for each Chotto Matte site. Carefully selecting each destination, these highly crafted spaces are designed to reflect

the culture of each city in which they are located, working with individual craftsmen and global artists to bring the restaurant to life. Outposts include London's Soho and Marylebone in Europe, San Francisco, Miami and Toronto in North America and Doha in the Middle East. Kurt is currently focusing on the continued international expansion of Chotto Matte with further confirmed sites in Manchester, Tbilisi, Riyadh and Dubai.

Central Park Towers will be home to premium fine dining restaurants, with Chotto Matte taking the largest space spanning two floors including the roof terrace and offering a 360-degree panoramic view of the city.

CENTRAL PARK TOWERS

Central Park Towers will be completed by the end of 2025. The project boasts high-class international brands and a scale that will put Tbilisi next to the world's leading cities - London, Paris, and Milan.

Central Park Towers is a joint grand project of Orbi Group and Block Group being built on Kazbegi Avenue, and it will unite the world's leading premium brands. A 5-star Radisson Blu hotel is set to be opened in the mega-resort, as well as the first high-class brand shopping mall and the biggest casino in Georgia. The largest event hall in the region will be integrated into a space equipped with modern technologies that can host

business, sports, and entertainment events. The complex will also house the largest wellness center in Georgia, with premium-class outdoor and indoor pools, and an aesthetic medicine center.

Central Park Towers will be home to premium fine dining restaurants, while the top floor of the tower will house the most expensive penthouses in Eastern Europe. Interested persons can purchase investment rooms in the international brand 5-star hotel of Central Park Towers.

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Prospero's Books Celebrates World Book Day with a Meet-and-Greet of A.J. Liddle, Author of a Georgian Crime Book Series



A.J. Liddle. Source: FB
BY SHELBI R. ANKIEWICZ

In celebration of World Book Day on April 23, the author of a Georgian-themed English book series, A.J. Liddle, appeared for a book reading and meet-and-greet at Prospero's newly reopened location in

Saburtalo.

Prospero's Books is an English/Georgian bookstore and café in Tbilisi that first opened its doors in 1999. The business has opened many locations over the years, the most recent one in Saburtalo, in the same building as the Georgian National Archive Exhibition Center.

Alistair Liddle, a Scottish native known by his pen name A.J., was invited to read

an excerpt from and display his three-book series about crime and investigations.

Liddle lived in Georgia for 15 years after he moved to the country in 2003 for his job with BP Oil. He was the manager of a VP-operated site, and eventually moved up the ladder to operations manager for pipelines throughout the whole country and the Supsa oil terminal. During his time in Georgia, he learned a lot about the culture, and thought it would make a great component for a crime series. He said this is especially true since the "crime" genre is popular in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

"Nobody writes about Georgia, as I'm aware. Maybe Georgian writers, but the idea was a bit different. That's what really inspired me to write about Georgian characters," said Liddle. "Plus, it's a very interesting country, and a lot is going on here. Especially where Georgia is now. It's no longer the Soviet Republic; it wants to join the EU and NATO at some point, so all of it is an interesting thing."

Currently, there are three books in Liddle's series: "No Harm Done", "No Way Back", and "No Rules Apply". He said he begins each book with a common theme and then works on characters and plots around that. The first book focuses on oil and gas, the second on human trafficking, and the third one is more financially based, focusing on the idea of money laundering. All of them feature the same detective, Lieutenant Ramaz Donadze.

Liddle said there is also a fourth book on the way, that he hopes will be ready to publish by the end of this year. He

explained that this book is different from the others, starting with a murder, as most crime books do, and digging deeper into the meanings of the first three books in the series. Liddle said during his presentation that all the people in the books are fictional, but the themes are real.

The meet and greet was a small, informal gathering, and most of the guests already knew Liddle. Many people came to show their gratitude toward his work and congratulate him on what he's done. One of his old colleagues, Anzor Doborjginidze, said he read some of the books, and as a Georgian native, the English was easy to navigate, and the descriptions of the Georgian culture were very accurate to how it is in real life.

"I met Alistair in 2003, and we worked together for many years. He was a good manager, and excellent in writing emails," said Doborjginidze. "But I never knew he could write books. When I started reading them, I couldn't be interrupted by anything but sleep."

Liddle moved back to Scotland in 2019 when he retired from the oil and gas industry, which is when he picked up writing. He said he believes a lot of people have a book inside of them, and luckily, he had three, even four. He's been writing nearly one book a year since he returned home.

"I was looking for a new mission in life, because I'm just one of these people who need to do something," Liddle told GEORGIA TODAY. "I stopped working full time, and because I always enjoyed writing, I thought I'd try writing a book."

During his time in Tbilisi, Liddle often

visited Prospero's, and the café later picked up his book series. Before COVID-19, Prospero's had four different locations around the capital, including this one in the Archives. However, co-founder of the bookstore, Steve Johnson, said that after the pandemic, they lost nearly every branch. Now, they have resumed operations on the second floor of the same Archives, offering a small, retail selection of books and a café equipped with coffee, tea and light snacks, for visitors who are browsing the shelves.

"The hope is that since we're close to universities, people will come in, grab a cup of coffee, and do some work. It's a very nice location," said Johnson.

Prospero's also has storefronts on Rustaveli Avenue and in Saburtalo off Pekini Avenue. Johnson said there may be more locations to come.



Showcase of A.J. Liddle's three-part book series at the meet and greet.



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Losing a Dimension

BLOG BY TONY HANMER

While the Netherlands might be famous for many things, and rightly so, possession of a dramatic third dimension, height, is not one of them. Its highest point is barely over 300m above sea level. Nonetheless, it makes up for this lack in many other ways. We said goodbye to our Caucasus mountains for two weeks recently to catch up with some old dear friends and discover some of these distinctions.

This country has more bicycles per capita than any other on the world: 1.2-1.3 per person among its population of over 18 million. Its flatness makes it ideal for such locomotion; the cities are far less crowded with cars and bad air; and the people are also much fitter as a result.

But climate change has had one noticeable effect here. A great friend of mine from my St Petersburg days of about 30 years ago, Gert-Jan Roest, used to speed skate regularly on the many canals in winter. The last time he was able to do this was over 10 years ago. You need a week or more of -10 degrees C to give the ice enough solid thickness for this sport. It just hasn't hap-

pened in the last decade.

Gert and his Swiss wife, Sandra, took my wife and me on a canal boat cruise through Amsterdam a few hours after we had arrived and settled in as their guests. This is an ideal way to see the city for an hour, and you certainly notice how ubiquitous are the waterways and the bicycles. Almost every house we saw, too, has a beam jutting out horizontally from its roof with a pulley, because their stairways are often narrow, and moving furniture up from outside is far easier. Houseboats and cruise boats line the canals, and peace reigns.

Then we took trains to our next stop for a few days, to other friends (from



Georgia) near Zwolle. Here, we are out in the countryside, where my wife can practice biking on a tandem machine in serene forests on dedicated biking trails. Sheep and deer greet us, amidst heather which will bloom purple in the fall. We bike to the nearest town for its market day, and stand in line with those in the know to buy as much cheese of different varieties, including one three years old, as our luggage will allow. Love this stuff. I'm not so hot on licorice, but the cheese, definitely.

It's still cold enough here to need multiple layers, and I don't envy Georgia, where reports of 40 degrees in the east (in APRIL!) are reaching us. What will actual summer bring there?

We have booked tickets to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, best place in the world to see Rembrandt's work, and the Escher Museum in The Hague. These

are both favorites of mine. But Vincent (van Gogh) will have to wait for another visit: Tickets to his place are all gone already. Another outing will be to a famous park for tulips, now in their prime, for a picnic with still other friends, and another with my Dutch-Swiss friends to Texel Island, with its famous World War II Georgian connection. Plenty to see in this small country. More to come next week as we wrap up.

Tony Hanmer has lived in Georgia since 1999, in Svaneti since 2007, and been a weekly writer and photographer for GT since early 2011. He runs the "Svaneti Renaissance" Facebook group, now with over 2000 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/SvanetiRenaissance/. He and his wife also run their own guest house in Etseri: www.facebook.com/hanmer.house.svaneti

Alcohol, E-cigarettes, Cannabis: Concerning Trends in Adolescent Substance Use, Finds New WHO/Europe Study

Continued from page 2

Narrowing gender gap: the disparity in substance use between genders is rapidly closing, with girls equaling or surpassing boys in rates of smoking, alcohol consumption and e-cigarette use by the age of 15.

ALCOHOL USE WIDESPREAD AMONG ADOLESCENTS

Alcohol is by far the most commonly used substance among adolescents. More than half (57%) of 15-year-olds have tried alcohol at least once (56% of boys and 59% of girls), and nearly 40% reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (36% of boys and 38% of girls).

Roughly 1 in 10 (9%) adolescents across all age groups have experienced significant drunkenness – being drunk at least twice – in their lifetime, a rate that alarmingly climbs from 5% at age 13 to 20% by age 15, demonstrating an escalating trend in alcohol abuse among youth. Furthermore, recent patterns reveal that the incidence of drunkenness within the past 30 days also increases with age, jumping from 5% among 13-year-olds to an alarming 15% among 15-year-olds, highlighting an urgent need for targeted intervention strategies to curb this growing issue of underage drinking.

These findings highlight how available and normalized alcohol is, showing the urgent need for better policy measures to protect children and young people from harms caused by alcohol.

E-CIGARETTES ARE MORE POPULAR THAN CONVENTIONAL CIGARETTES AMONG ADOLESCENTS

The use of e-cigarettes is becoming increasingly popular among adolescents. The study found that around a third (32%) of 15-year-olds had used e-cigarettes during their lifetime, and 20% had used

these products in the past 30 days. This compares with 25% of 15-year-olds having smoked a conventional cigarette in their lifetime and 15% having smoked a cigarette in the last 30 days.

A higher proportion of e-cigarette use compared to cigarette smoking can be seen from the age of 13: 11% of 13-year-olds report having ever smoked a cigarette, compared with 16% who have ever used an e-cigarette. Further, 5% of 13-year-olds report smoking a cigarette in the last 30 days compared to 9% who used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days. This transition to e-cigarettes as a more popular choice than conventional cigarettes calls for targeted interventions to address this emerging public health concern, including targeting harmful product placement in video games, entertainment programmes and other content aimed at young people via multimedia platforms.

"I play a lot of video games," said Imran, a 15-year-old boy WHO/Europe interviewed in Sweden. "If your character is holding an alcoholic drink in his hands, or a cigarette, that can impact you and makes it seem normal."

The study highlights the urgent need for robust prevention strategies to safeguard adolescents from harmful sub-



stances. It is crucial to recognize that the negative impact of these substances extends beyond users, affecting the broader youth community.

CANNABIS USE DECREASES SLIGHTLY

When it comes to cannabis, more than 1 in 10 (12%) 15-year-olds report having ever used the substance, a slight decline since 2018 (down from 14%), while 6% of 15-year-olds report having used cannabis in the last 30 days.

Early cannabis use can lead to dependence and problematic use patterns later in life. Prevention efforts tailored to

adolescents are crucial in mitigating these risks and promoting healthy choices.

GENDER GAP NARROWS IN ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE: GIRLS CATCHING UP TO BOYS

The study unveils a significant shift in adolescent substance use patterns, challenging traditional gender norms.

Historically, substance use was more common among boys than girls, but the landscape is changing. By age 15, girls not only catch up to but, in some cases, surpass boys. This includes cigarette smoking, where a notable difference at age 11 disappears by age 15; e-cigarette usage, with girls outpacing boys; and alcohol consumption, where girls exhibit marginally higher rates.

The closing of historical gender gaps in substance use, especially among older adolescents, calls for the development of prevention strategies that are sensitive to the unique experiences and needs of both boys and girls. Tailored interventions that consider these evolving dynamics are crucial for effective prevention.

PREVENTION MEASURES ARE NEEDED TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS

To reduce the use of alcohol, nicotine and tobacco products, and prevent their uptake by young people, comprehensive

measures, outlined in various international treaties and WHO recommendations, must be urgently implemented. These include but are not limited to:

- the increase of excise taxes;
- limiting the availability of nicotine and tobacco products and alcohol, for example through reduced hours or locations of sale, and the enforcement of minimum legal ages for purchasing such products;
- banning all flavoring agents, including menthol and synthetic menthol analogues in all nicotine and tobacco products; and
- enforcing a comprehensive ban on advertising, promotion and sponsorship opportunities on mainstream and social media.

"The widespread use of harmful substances among children in many countries across the European Region – and beyond – is a serious public health threat," said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe. "Considering that the brain continues to develop well into a person's mid-20s, adolescents need to be protected from the effects of toxic and dangerous products. Unfortunately, children today are constantly exposed to targeted online marketing of harmful products, while popular culture, like video games, normalizes them. WHO/Europe is working with countries to ensure all young people, everywhere, get the best possible start in life. This means protecting them from toxic and addictive products that could affect their quality of life in the years ahead."

The report, "A focus on adolescent substance use in Europe, central Asia and Canada", is based on data from the HBSC survey 2021/2022, which monitored the health behavior and social environments of nearly 280 000 boys and girls. The results highlight the need to strengthen comprehensive prevention measures.



Reach Art Visual Bridging Cultures, Generations and Perspectives through Art at Tbilisi Art Fair 2024



...tive while engaging with his drawings. This multimedia presentation offered a profound exploration of migration and resilience, inviting viewers to connect deeply with Guan Yu's journey and contemplate the broader human experience.

Presented by Vere Gallery were two distinguished artists: Liu Kandareli Guangwen and Iliko Zautashvili.

Arriving in Georgia 63 years ago to pursue studies at the Art Academy, Liu Kandareli Guangwen quickly became a revered figure in the local community. Besides her artistic pursuits, she has significantly impacted Georgian society by advocating for Chinese culture and language, enriching understanding and appreciation for this heritage.

At the Tbilisi Art Fair 2024, Reach Art Visual presented an immersive exploration of Liu Kandareli's world, offering a fresh perspective on Chinese culture through her graphic drawings titled "Beyond Artistic Censorship." These works provided a personal insight into the artist's creative journey, revealing Kandareli's intricate side previously unseen by the public. Crafted from 1970 to 1990, these drawings testify to Kandareli's artistic evolution and resilience in navigating artistic expression under censorship. Through her work, viewers delve into the depths of Kandareli's creative process, gaining a deeper understanding of her perspective on Chinese culture and artistic freedom.

In the dynamic landscape of the 1990s, Iliko Zautashvili emerged as a central figure in Georgian conceptual art. His collection, characterized by symbolic elements, abstraction, and a rich cultural legacy, played a vital role in cultural preservation, demonstrating the resilience of artistic expression. Zautashvili's artistic journey began in the challenging period of the 1980s, marked by the quest for a personal artistic vision amid historical and political shifts. His series of abstract works from this era reflect his pursuit of a unique perspective and method of artistic expression.

At Tbilisi Art Fair 2024, Reach Art Visual showcased two artworks by Iliko Zautashvili: Light Darkness and Space-Space As a Line. These pieces offered a deeply personal artistic journey, inviting



viewers into the depths of imagination, and igniting a transformative exploration through the realms of creativity.

Reach Art's historical collection featured works by Giorgi Kotrikadze, a prominent figure in mid-twentieth century Georgian art, known for his distinctive style in graphic painting. At the Tbilisi Art Fair 2024, Reach Art Visual revealed Kotrikadze's graphic series titled The Artist's Journey Abroad, offering a visual exploration of themes such

as travel, interconnectedness, and universal experiences during the artist's stay in Cuba in the 1960s.

Through his drawings, Kotrikadze offers viewers a glimpse into his experiences abroad, prompting contemplation of exploration and connection. Each piece in the series captures moments of discovery, reflection, and cultural exchange. Viewers had the opportunity to reflect on their own travel experiences and the interconnectedness of the global community while engaging with Kotrikadze's imagery.

The artists featured at the fair highlighted the lasting influence of art in transcending boundaries and enhancing comprehension of the human experience. Viewers were prompted to contemplate their own journeys, cultural backgrounds, and the common ties that unite us globally as they interacted with the artworks. Reach Art Visual emphasized the transformative role of art in bridging gaps and building connections worldwide, highlighting creativity and diversity.

From April 11 to April 14, the Tbilisi Art Fair (TAF) unfolded its vibrant exhibition. TAF, an international contemporary art fair, highlights young, emerging, and mid-career artists, and uncovers art scenes that are less visible and less accessible from the eastern and southern frontiers of Europe. During this dynamic event, Reach Art Visual (R.A.V.) curated a showcase featuring five artists drawn from three distinct collections: The Reach Art Visual collection, the Vere Gallery collection, and the Historical collection. Each collection blended Western and Eastern artistic traditions, aiming to foster cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation for art's universal power to connect people across borders.

boundaries, captivating audiences with their sincerity and profoundness.

At the Tbilisi Art Fair 2024, Reach Art Visual presented a series of large-scale paintings by Merab Kopaleishvili, featuring colorful and mythological themes. Kopaleishvili blends mythological and tangible worlds seamlessly into one. This collection reflected Kopaleishvili's commitment to individuality and authenticity, inviting viewers to explore realms of imagination and creativity.

Guan Yu, a Chinese artist, is known for his skillful drawings and captivating narratives. His artistic odyssey delves into profound themes of migration and resilience, encouraging viewers to reflect on our shared human experience. With a distinctive artistic touch, Yu's drawings extend a personal invitation, guiding viewers through the stages of his migration journey.

At the Tbilisi Art Fair, Reach Art Visual unveiled an immersive installation, inviting visitors to experience Yu's story first hand. Through a headphone set, attendees listened to Guan Yu's narra-

Merab Kopaleishvili is a distinguished Georgian artist known for his evocative paintings and sculptures that explore human emotions, introspection, and resilience. Through a lifelong commitment to his craft, Kopaleishvili's artworks transcend cultural and generational



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