

# Briefing Note on **Freedom of Association** in Georgia: Key Developments Since Spring 2024 Submitted to the OSCE Human Dimension Mechanism (February, 2026)





**Briefing Note on Freedom of Association in Georgia:  
Key Developments Since Spring 2024**

*Submitted to the OSCE Moscow Mechanism*

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

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## I. Introduction

This document has been prepared by Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) to provide information to the OSCE Moscow Mechanism on the state of freedom of association in Georgia since 2024.

Since spring 2024, the human rights situation in Georgia has rapidly deteriorated across multiple areas, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, and the misuse of criminal and administrative justice mechanisms. **While this document primarily addresses developments related to freedom of association, the accompanying submissions examine other areas of concern.** Accordingly, this document must be read against the backdrop of this overall deterioration of the human rights environment. Among other significant challenges, was marked by measures targeting freedom of association, including legislative amendments, their selective enforcement, and the arbitrary use of criminal mechanisms to disrupt and intimidate organizations.

**Key legislative innovations adopted in 2025 against civil society include the “Foreign Agents Registration Act” (FARA) and amendments to the Georgian Law “On Grants,” (*new amendments in this law are under examination for spring session of 2026*) while the Russian-style law “On Transparency of Foreign Influence,” adopted in 2024, remains in force.** Taken individually and collectively, these laws have a devastating impact on freedom of association, as reflected in the “Russian law” case submitted to the European Court of Human Rights, *Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia* (31069/24),<sup>1</sup> and in the written positions of third-party stakeholders, including the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>2</sup> and the Venice Commission.<sup>3</sup>

This document draws on broader research, monitoring reports, and source materials, which are referenced throughout the text. Relevant GYLA reports are also submitted to the OSCE Moscow Mechanism alongside this submission.

## II. Foreign Agent Laws

The beginning adopting laws aimed at repressing Freedom of association was the law “on transparency of foreign influence” (The Russian law). This law declares that any non-governmental organization or media outlet that receives 20% of their annual non-commercial income from a “foreign power” is an organization that channels the interests of a foreign power and requires them to register in a stigmatizing register, as well as intensive reporting, and imposes high financial sanctions in case of violation of

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<sup>1</sup> *Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia* App no: (31069/24) [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#/{%22itemid%22:\[%22001-242877%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#/{%22itemid%22:[%22001-242877%22]}) [05.02.26].

<sup>2</sup> Third party intervention by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe under Article 36, paragraph 3, of the European Convention on Human Rights Application no. 31069/24 *Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia*, CommHR(2025)52, see: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/commissioner-o-flaherty-intervenes-in-ecthr-case-on-georgia-s-foreign-influence-law> [05.02.26].

<sup>3</sup> Venice Commission, CDL-AD(2025)035, *Amicus Curiae Brief for the European Court of Human Rights in the Case of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia* (no. 31069/24) on the Law of Georgia on Transparency of Foreign Influence.

obligations under the law.<sup>4</sup> The law was heavily criticized by the OSCE<sup>5</sup> and the Venice commission<sup>6</sup> for its overly broad nature and stigmatizing effect on civil society organizations.

On 1 April 2025, the Parliament adopted the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), which requires individuals to register as “agents of a foreign principal” if they engage in political activities in Georgia for the benefit of a foreign principal while acting under its direction or control.<sup>7</sup> The law grants overly broad monitoring powers to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, imposes extensive reporting obligations and labelling requirements, and establishes criminal liability, including up to five years’ imprisonment, for non-compliance.<sup>8</sup> According to its explanatory memorandum, FARA was introduced because the 2024 Law “On Transparency of Foreign Influence” allegedly cannot be enforced,<sup>9</sup> though the Venice Commission has repeatedly stressed that transparency alone cannot serve as a legitimate aim for restricting freedom of association.<sup>10</sup> The Venice Commission found that the “Russian law,” and now FARA, undermine democratic pluralism, contain vague and overly broad definitions enabling arbitrary application, create a chilling effect, and fail the tests of legality, necessity, and proportionality.<sup>11</sup> FARA, together with the “Russian law” and amendments to the Law on Grants, also poses significant risks to the protection of personal data of civil society actors and beneficiaries, a threat underscored by GRETA’s 2025 report,<sup>12</sup> which highlights risks to sensitive data, including that of trafficking victims assisted by civil society organisations.

### III. Amendments to the Law on Grants

Under the 2025 amendments to the Law on Grants, issuing a grant by a foreign donor now requires the consent of the Government of Georgia or an authorized body,<sup>13</sup> and acceptance of a grant without such consent after 17 April 2025 results in a fine equal to twice the grant amount.<sup>14</sup> The amendments also grant the Anti-Corruption Bureau broad monitoring powers, already used to harass civil society organizations, while the government assesses each grant’s purpose, volume, and direction for compliance with government programs, strategic documents, and “state interests,”<sup>15</sup> effectively requiring alignment with ruling-party policy to obtain approval.

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<sup>4</sup> Law of Georgia “On Transparency of Foreign Influence”, <https://matsne.gov.ge/document/view/6171895?publication=0> [05.02.26].

<sup>5</sup> URGENT OPINION ON THE LAW OF GEORGIA “ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE”, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, 2024.

<https://www.osce.org/sites/default/files/f/documents/b/d/569922.pdf> [05.02.26].

<sup>6</sup> ON THE LAW ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE, CDL-PI(2024)013, 2024.

[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI\(2024\)013-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI(2024)013-e) [05.02.26].

<sup>7</sup> Law of Georgia “Foreign Agents Registration Act”, Article 1.c.

<sup>8</sup> Criminal Code of Georgia, Article 355<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Explanatory note to the “Foreign Agents Registration Act” and other files related to the draft law, See the link: <https://info.parliament.ge/#law-drafting/30320> [05.02.26].

<sup>10</sup> VENICE COMMISSION, OPINION ON THE LAW ON THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN AGENTS, THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON GRANTS AND OTHER LAWS RELATING TO “FOREIGN INFLUENCE”, CDL-AD(2025)034, 2025, para 66.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> GRETA, FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, GEORGIA, GRETA(2025)11, see: <https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-the-implementation-of-the-council-of-europe/488028ee2c> [05.02.26].

<sup>13</sup> Law of Georgia “On Grants”, Article 5<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Law of Georgia “On Grants”, Article 6<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Resolution of the Government of Georgia No. 250 of July 7, 2025 “On Approval of the Rules and Conditions for the Agreement with the Government of Georgia on the Issuance of a Grant by a Foreign Grantor (Donor)”, Article 10, Paragraph 3.

This contradicts the public-watchdog role of civil society and the media, whose work may involve government criticism. Like FARA, these changes form part of a broader disinformation campaign against civil society and aim to deprive critical organizations of essential resources, as illustrated by the British Embassy case: on 11 June, the Embassy announced the cancellation of planned grant proposals due to the government's failure to adopt the approval procedure, leaving no decision-making mechanisms or deadlines.<sup>16</sup> The canceled projects were intended to support transparency and competitiveness in the upcoming municipal elections, and the episode was followed by unfounded attacks by Georgian Dream officials against the Embassy, civil society groups, including GYLA, and media.<sup>17</sup>

In 2026, a new legislative<sup>18</sup> package<sup>19</sup> in Georgia would vastly expand what counts as a "grant," subject all such funding to prior government approval, and punish violations with fines and criminal penalties of up to six years' imprisonment. It imposes restrictions linked to an overly broad definition of political activity and creates the possibility of misusing money-laundering sanctions against civil society, bans staff of organizations receiving more than 20% foreign funding from joining political parties for eight years, and imposes heavy fines on business entities engaging in political activity beyond their core business, while the package remains under parliamentary consideration.

These amendments are abusive, as they enable sweeping state control over funding and advocacy, impose disproportionate criminal and financial sanctions on legitimate civic and political activity, and structurally deter participation in public life and party politics by those associated with foreign-funded organizations.

Michael O'Flaherty, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, considers the draft package deeply incompatible with Georgia's human rights obligations and has urged Parliament to reject it. He warns that the amendments would impose "significant restrictions" on civil society, are inconsistent with Georgia's duty to guarantee freedom of association, and would subject ordinary civic activities to undue state scrutiny through an overbroad definition of "grant" and harsh criminal sanctions, thereby undermining public advocacy and participation in democratic life.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> British Embassy statement, 11.06.2025; see <https://www.facebook.com/ukingeorgia/posts/pfbid0U6nQEYWEZiHtaGRLFndfWZdYsvx73HKUMeoQwsEZm5vcpwNTZkDRJNFqFhqwHsv7l?rdid=Is3J51gpOx4mU1eS> [05.02.26].

<sup>17</sup> "Officials of the Georgian Dream, including the Chairman of the Georgian Dream Parliament Shalva Papuashvili, the Vice Speaker of the Georgian Dream Parliament Nino Tsilosani, and the Prime Minister of the Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze, have made numerous statements aimed at discrediting these organizations and equating their funding with the funding of extremism. See "Tabula", "Papuashvili Accuses British Ambassador of Funding Extremism and Interfering in Elections", 11.06.2025, see <https://tabula.ge/ge/news/736553-papuashvili-britanetis-elchs-ekstremizmis> [05.02.26]; "Imedi", "Nino Tsilosani: I am really surprised by such a stated position of the British Embassy regarding the fact that the well-known destructive "NGOs" will no longer be funded", 11.06.2025, see <https://imedinews.ge/ge/politika/390016/nino-tsilosani-namdvilad-mikvirs-britanetis-saelchos-aseti-gatskhadebuli-pozitsia-imastan-dakavshirebit-rom-kvelastvis-tsnobil-destruqtsiul-enjeoebs-vegar-daapinanseben> [05.02.26]; "Rustavi 2", "Irakli Kobakhidze on the British Embassy: Like other democratic countries, external funding of political parties is prohibited in Georgia. When you fund party supplements, this is also an encouragement of extremism and will not receive support from the government", 12.06.2025, see <https://rustavi2.ge/ka/news/316845> [05.02.26].

<sup>18</sup> See legislative package at: <https://info.parliament.ge/#law-drafting/31737> [05.02.26].

<sup>19</sup> Parliament Consideration of Amendments to the Law "On Grants", 29.01.26. <https://parliament.ge/en/media/news/parlamentshi-grantebis-shesakheb-kanonshi-tsvlilebebis-gankhilva-itsqeba> [05.02.26].

<sup>20</sup> Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. (2026, February 2). Georgian Parliament should reject amendments stifling civil society. Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/georgian->

#### IV. Monitoring of Civil Society Organizations under the Grants Law and FARA

The implementation of the Georgian Law on Grants was overseen by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, which also serves as the main executive body for FARA and wields extensive investigative powers, including requesting information, conducting interrogations, and performing seizures.<sup>21</sup> The Venice Commission has stressed that the Bureau lacks guarantees of independence and political neutrality,<sup>22</sup> and that expanding its mandate through FARA and the Grants Act creates an unusual concentration of powers that raises doubts about whether its functions can be exercised fully and impartially, heightening risks of selective enforcement against specific organizations or individuals.<sup>23</sup> Although the government announced in November 2025 that the Bureau will be abolished in March 2026 and its functions transferred to the State Audit Office,<sup>24</sup> systemic institutional capture means the underlying problems remain. This is illustrated by events of 17–23 June 2025, when civil society organizations received court orders, granted upon the Bureau's motions, requiring them to provide unlimited legal, personal, financial, and technical information, including special categories of personal data on beneficiaries and third parties, covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 10 June 2025.<sup>25</sup>

According to information released by the organizations,<sup>26</sup> the Anti-Corruption Bureau relied on two additional legal norms alongside the Law on Grants: Article 34<sup>1</sup> of the Organic Law on Political Unions, which concerns financial monitoring of electoral entities despite the fact that the targeted organizations had no declared electoral objectives, and Article 20<sup>13</sup> of the Law on Combating Corruption, which allows information requests for detecting corruption in the public service, although no link to such aims was explained. It also remained unclear why organizations were ordered to submit information covering 1 January 2024 to 10 June 2025, even though the Grant Law amendments took effect only on 17 April 2025, or why such extensive personal data, including beneficiaries' data, was needed.<sup>27</sup> In August 2025, the seven organizations previously targeted received further letters demanding explanations for not registering under FARA, and after 8 September more than 80 civil society and media organizations were notified of new monitoring procedures under the Law on Grants, requiring

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[parliament-should-reject-amendments-stifling-civil-society?fbclid=IwY2xjawP2pEtleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbIcmIkETFieUg4T1VwcUJhUERFU0Ztc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHo76ZZvY2x4Je5y5KrzOHdMiectyrHWn4UyphPpnQ6valWk\\_TdTSVPdgOBCb\\_aem\\_L8JxWcGXAOMHBmJuLMIV6A](https://www.parliament.ge/en/parliament-should-reject-amendments-stifling-civil-society?fbclid=IwY2xjawP2pEtleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbIcmIkETFieUg4T1VwcUJhUERFU0Ztc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHo76ZZvY2x4Je5y5KrzOHdMiectyrHWn4UyphPpnQ6valWk_TdTSVPdgOBCb_aem_L8JxWcGXAOMHBmJuLMIV6A), [05.02.2026].

<sup>21</sup> See: GYLA, Foreign Agents Registration Act in the Absence of Independent Institutions, 2025, 7; [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/FOREIGN%20AGENTS%20REGISTRATION%20ACT%20IN%20THE%20ABSENCE%20OF%20THE%20INDEPENDENT%20INSTITUTIONS.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/FOREIGN%20AGENTS%20REGISTRATION%20ACT%20IN%20THE%20ABSENCE%20OF%20THE%20INDEPENDENT%20INSTITUTIONS.pdf) [05.02.26]

<sup>22</sup> VENICE COMMISSION, OPINION ON THE LAW ON THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN AGENTS, THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON GRANTS AND OTHER LAWS RELATING TO "FOREIGN INFLUENCE", CDL-AD(2025)034, 2025, para 79; see: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdfid=CDL-AD\(2025\)034-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdfid=CDL-AD(2025)034-e) [05.02.26]

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> "Radio Liberty", "Anti-Corruption Bureau to be Abolished from March Next Year", 17.11.2025, see <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33593687.html> [05.02.26].

<sup>25</sup> The Social Justice center, Georgian Dream, has already begun implementing laws that are destructive to civil society. 19.06.2025, see: <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/kartulma-otsnebam-samokalako-sazogadoebistvis-damangreveli-kanonebis-gamoqeneba-ukve-daitsqo> [05.02.26]; also ISFED, The Anti-Corruption Bureau is also requesting information about beneficiaries from Fair Elections. 23.06.2025, <https://isfed.ge/geo/gantskhadebebi/benefitsiarebisshesakheb-informatsias-antikoruftsiuli-biuro-samaritiani-archevnebisganats-itkhovs> [05.02.26].

<sup>26</sup> The Social Justice center, Georgian Dream, has already begun implementing laws that are destructive to civil society. 19.06.2025, see: <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/kartulma-otsnebam-samokalako-sazogadoebistvis-damangreveli-kanonebis-gamoqeneba-ukve-daitsqo> [05.02.26].

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

large volumes of information about their activities after 16 April 2025.<sup>28</sup> Although the organizations detailed in writing why the requests were unlawful, the Bureau applied to the courts, which gradually granted the petitions, including a 17 September order against GYLA in which the Tbilisi City Court repeated the Bureau's arguments without substantive analysis; the Court of Appeal upheld the decision.<sup>29</sup> Taken together, these actions constitute a coordinated attack on the civil sector, aimed at persecuting civil society organizations, exerting pressure, and blatantly interfering with their autonomy.

## **V. Seizure of accounts and use of criminal mechanisms against civil society organizations and human rights defenders**

In 2025, harassment of civil society organizations and human rights defenders extended beyond Anti-Corruption Bureau monitoring to the abusive use of criminal justice mechanisms, including account seizures, home searches, and interrogations. The first wave of account freezes occurred in March 2025,<sup>30</sup> targeting five foundations that raised funds to support individuals fined for protest activities, including covering medical expenses for victims of police violence, followed in April by searches of representatives' homes conducted in gross violation of procedural safeguards.<sup>31</sup> In August 2025, the bank accounts of seven civil society organizations were again frozen,<sup>32</sup> and their representatives were summoned for questioning.<sup>33</sup> These measures were conducted under a criminal investigation invoking several serious offenses in the Criminal Code<sup>34</sup>: sabotage (Art. 318(1)); attempted sabotage under aggravating circumstances (Art. 19 with Art. 318(2)); assistance to a foreign state or foreign-controlled organization in hostile activities (Art. 319); and financing or materially supporting, as part of an organized group, activities directed against the constitutional order or national security (Art. 321<sup>1</sup>(2)(a)). The law provides for severe penalties for the crimes covered by these articles, including imprisonment for a term of up to 15 years (Articles 319 and 321<sup>1</sup> (2) of the Criminal Code).

Beginning on 2 December, the State Security Service also started summoning for questioning individuals who appeared in or contributed to the BBC's investigative film,<sup>35</sup> published on 1 December, which alleged that Georgian authorities used bromobenzyl cyanide (Camite) mixed with water cannon to disperse protesters in 2024. Following the publication, the State Security Service opened an investigation for abuse of official authority (Criminal Code Article 333) and assistance to a foreign

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<sup>28</sup> "Radio Liberty", "We serve the interests of Georgian citizens" - NGOs responded to the Anti-Corruption Bureau <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33510314.html> [05.02.26].

<sup>29</sup> GYLA, "Georgian Dream" has started a new phase of repression of civil society against up to 30 Georgian NGOs, 22.09.2025; see <https://www.gyla.ge/en/post/Statemnet-22-09> [05.02.26].

<sup>30</sup> Statement of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, 17.03.2025, [https://pog.gov.ge/news/saqartvelos-prokuraturis-gantskhadeba-4736?fbclid=IwY2xjawJE8\\_1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUimY\\_By-9GOBh5sAUzTmMojzgiqZyjlVmvXFpvWpL4Z\\_rl7gSvwXsZ5UA\\_aem](https://pog.gov.ge/news/saqartvelos-prokuraturis-gantskhadeba-4736?fbclid=IwY2xjawJE8_1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUimY_By-9GOBh5sAUzTmMojzgiqZyjlVmvXFpvWpL4Z_rl7gSvwXsZ5UA_aem) [05.02.26].

<sup>31</sup> GYLA responds to searches conducted at the homes of foundation representatives 30.04.25. <https://gyla.ge/post/GYLA-pondebis-warmomadgenelta-saxlebschichkhreka> (in Georgian) [05.02.26].

<sup>32</sup> Statement of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, 27.08.2025, <https://pog.gov.ge/news/saqartvelos-prokuraturis-gantskhadeba-4982> [05.02.26].

<sup>33</sup> Netgazeti", "Prosecutor's Office Summons Heads of Civil Organizations for Questioning", 01.09.2025, [https://netgazeti.ge/life/783963/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPxOKIleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExTVp6MmVacEJxSGNoTG1wc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHk7stmnTrpe2Z\\_LuinAJKIOarFo2RZljViR1DMby4Z9dRM4NYvHeP5s1PA9n\\_aem-KTxKVLf4v7KewlpvHZ2Rw](https://netgazeti.ge/life/783963/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPxOKIleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExTVp6MmVacEJxSGNoTG1wc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHk7stmnTrpe2Z_LuinAJKIOarFo2RZljViR1DMby4Z9dRM4NYvHeP5s1PA9n_aem-KTxKVLf4v7KewlpvHZ2Rw) (in Georgian) [05.02.26].

<sup>34</sup> Statement of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, 17.03.2025, [https://pog.gov.ge/news/saqartvelos-prokuraturis-gantskhadeba-4736?fbclid=IwY2xjawJE8\\_1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUimY\\_By-9GOBh5sAUzTmMojzgiqZyjlVmvXFpvWpL4Z\\_rl7gSvwXsZ5UA\\_aem](https://pog.gov.ge/news/saqartvelos-prokuraturis-gantskhadeba-4736?fbclid=IwY2xjawJE8_1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUimY_By-9GOBh5sAUzTmMojzgiqZyjlVmvXFpvWpL4Z_rl7gSvwXsZ5UA_aem) [05.02.26].

<sup>35</sup> BBC, Did Georgian police use a chemical weapon against protesters? - BBC World Service Documentaries, 01.11.2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4-koO916Gk> BBC, WW1 toxic compound sprayed on Georgian protesters, BBC evidence suggests, 01.12.2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czrk7g50e1po> [05.02.26].

organization in hostile activities (Article 319),<sup>36</sup> and summoned doctors, protest participants, and human rights defenders, including GYLA staff, for questioning.<sup>37</sup> In the film, GYLA described torture of protest participants and other systemic human rights violations during the 2024 protests; together with partner organizations, it had already published a detailed public report documenting dozens of victims,<sup>38</sup> which GYLA continues to discuss openly in local and international media.

## V. The impact of restrictive legislative space on civil society organizations

GYLA is pursuing Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia (31069/24) before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of 136 organizations and four individuals, challenging the 2024 "Transparency of Foreign Influence" law,<sup>39</sup> and the information submitted by applicant organizations in August 2025 shows the devastating cumulative effects of that law, the so-called FARA, and the amendments to the Law on Grants. Only three organizations registered under the Russian Law (Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence), while the rest refused due to its incompatibility with constitutional and international human rights standards and its stigmatizing and misleading labeling. As a result, most organizations have suspended or sharply reduced their activities: 34 have ceased work, 74 have reduced it, and 12 expect to stop soon, driven by fear of sanctions and loss of funding, as well as their inability to cooperate with state agencies. A total of 109 organizations report difficulties or impossibility in obtaining funds, 19 note severe obstacles, and 90 report an absolute inability to secure new financing. Leadership turnover has occurred in 31 organizations due to risks of sanctions and criminal liability; 12 report artificial barriers and delays in registering organizational changes; and 97 report staff reductions or complete loss of paid employees, with 23 continuing works solely through management or volunteer effort. Moreover, 62 organizations report propaganda attacks, including disinformation from officials, government-affiliated media, and social-media smear campaigns, while 32 report reputational harm and partner disengagement, with beneficiaries and partners avoiding contact due to fear of repercussions. The impact is particularly acute for local community groups: according to CSRDG,<sup>40</sup> of 114 registered community groups in 2024, 77 had ceased activities by 2025, leaving only 37 still functioning and most nearing completion of their final projects.

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<sup>36</sup> See the statement of the State Security Service of December 1, 2025. <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/1058/sus-shi-gamodzieba-daitsyo-BBC-is-mier-sajaro-sivrceshi-danashaulis-shesaxe-b-gavrcelebul-informaciastan-dakavshirebit> (in Georgian) [05.02.26].

<sup>37</sup> State Security Service Summons GYLA Employees for Questioning in Connection with the BBC Investigative Film, 02.12.25. <https://gyla.ge/en/post/GYLA-BBCsagamodziebopilmi-gamokitxvazedabareba> [05.02.26]; Netgazeti, Prosecutor's Office Summons Leaders of Civil Society Organizations for Questioning, 01.12.25. [https://netgazeti.ge/life/783963/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPxOKIleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExTVp6MmVacEJxSGNoTG1wc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHk7stmnTrpe2Z\\_LuinAJKIOarFo2RZljViR1DMby4Z9dRM4NYvHeP5s1PA9n\\_aem-KTxKVLf4v7KewlpvHZ2Rw](https://netgazeti.ge/life/783963/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPxOKIleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExTVp6MmVacEJxSGNoTG1wc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHk7stmnTrpe2Z_LuinAJKIOarFo2RZljViR1DMby4Z9dRM4NYvHeP5s1PA9n_aem-KTxKVLf4v7KewlpvHZ2Rw) (in Georgian) [05.02.26]

<sup>38</sup> Gyla, Human rights crisis following the 2024 parliamentary elections, 2025, See: [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf) [05.02.26].

<sup>39</sup> Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Others v. Georgia App no: (31069/24) <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#%7B%22itemid%22%3A%22001-242877%22%7D> [05.02.26].

<sup>40</sup> Community Groups and Organizations Database 2025, <https://www.csrdg.ge/en/siakhle/satemo-jgufebisa-da-organizatsiebis-monatsemta-baza-2025> [05.02.26].

### List of Relevant Publications Prepared by GYLA

- Information from Civil Society Organization Submitted to the OSCE Vienna Mechanism Prepared by Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), January 21, 2025, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/Alternative%20Information%20from%20GYLA%20to%20Vienna%20Mechanism.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/Alternative%20Information%20from%20GYLA%20to%20Vienna%20Mechanism.pdf)
- Follow up on Civil Society Organization Submission to the OSCE Vienna Mechanism Prepared by Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and Rights Georgia, April, 2025, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/phpMmEW31%20\(4\).pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/phpMmEW31%20(4).pdf)
- Human Rights Crisis in Georgia Following the 2024 Parliamentary Elections, 28 November 2024 - 28 February 2025, Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) et al, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf),
- Human Rights Situation in Georgia 2025 Assessment of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association December 10 2025, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20SITUATION%20IN%20GEORGIA%202025.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20SITUATION%20IN%20GEORGIA%202025.pdf)
- GYLA, Foreign Agents Registration Act in the Absence of Independent Institutions, 2025, 7; [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/FOREIGN%20AGENTS%20REGISTRATION%20ACT%20IN%20THE%20ABSENCE%20OF%20THE%20INDEPENDENT%20INSTITUTIONS.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/FOREIGN%20AGENTS%20REGISTRATION%20ACT%20IN%20THE%20ABSENCE%20OF%20THE%20INDEPENDENT%20INSTITUTIONS.pdf) [05.02.26]