



GEORGIAN
YOUNG
LAWYERS'
ASSOCIATION

**TO PROTECT
HUMAN RIGHTS
AND THE RULE
OF LAW**

www.gyla.ge

**2025
ANNUAL
REPORT**

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GYLA MEMBERS, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS,

At the end of 2025, when we summarize the activities of GYLA, first of all, I would like to express special gratitude to the employees of this organization – people who, even under the conditions of undemocratic and repressive laws, continue their outstanding work, daily proving their high professionalism and commitment to GYLA's values.

The year 2025 was marked by many challenges. It was a year when GYLA had to fight not only to protect the freedom of the union of citizens, but also of its own organization and the entire civil space, to save democracy. The repressive and undemocratic laws adopted by the Georgian Dream in 2024-2025, which restrict the receipt of international funding and require NGOs to be labeled as “agents of a foreign state,” brought the independent civil sector to the brink of destruction. Unfortunately, GYLA and its partner organizations became targets of monitoring and pressure from the Anti-Corruption Bureau. However, despite this, we stand steadfast in defending our principles. Despite the difficulties, together we achieved many important results in 2025. Strategic litigation, responding to violations of freedom of assembly and expression, protecting those unjustly detained, tortured, and fined, monitoring the cases of those detained on political grounds, working on the case of the first female political prisoner, Mzia Amaglobeli, the work carried out to save democratic institutions, and the 31-year tradition of defending justice have shown us once again why it is worth fighting for.

It was also a year of recognition. In 2025, GYLA became the recipient of the Democracy Defenders Award. The aforementioned award, which was presented to GYLA by the eight member states of the OSCE Permanent Council for its exceptional contribution to strengthening human rights, democracy and the rule of law, is the result of our joint efforts. It is a clear expression of international support in the conditions when the civil space in Georgia has been significantly restricted. This support is an additional motivation for us to fight even more persistently and relentlessly for the protection of human rights and democracy.

GYLA proudly continues the work it began 31 years ago.

It will continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

Nona Kurdovanidze

Chairwoman of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

GYLA OFFICES:

TBILISI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 1994

KUTAISI BRANCH – ESTABLISHED IN 1996

OZURGETI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 2001

TELAVI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 2002

ADJARA BRANCH – ESTABLISHED IN 1995, CEASED OPERATIONS AS OF JUNE 2025

RUSTAVI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 1995, CEASED OPERATIONS AS OF JUNE 2025

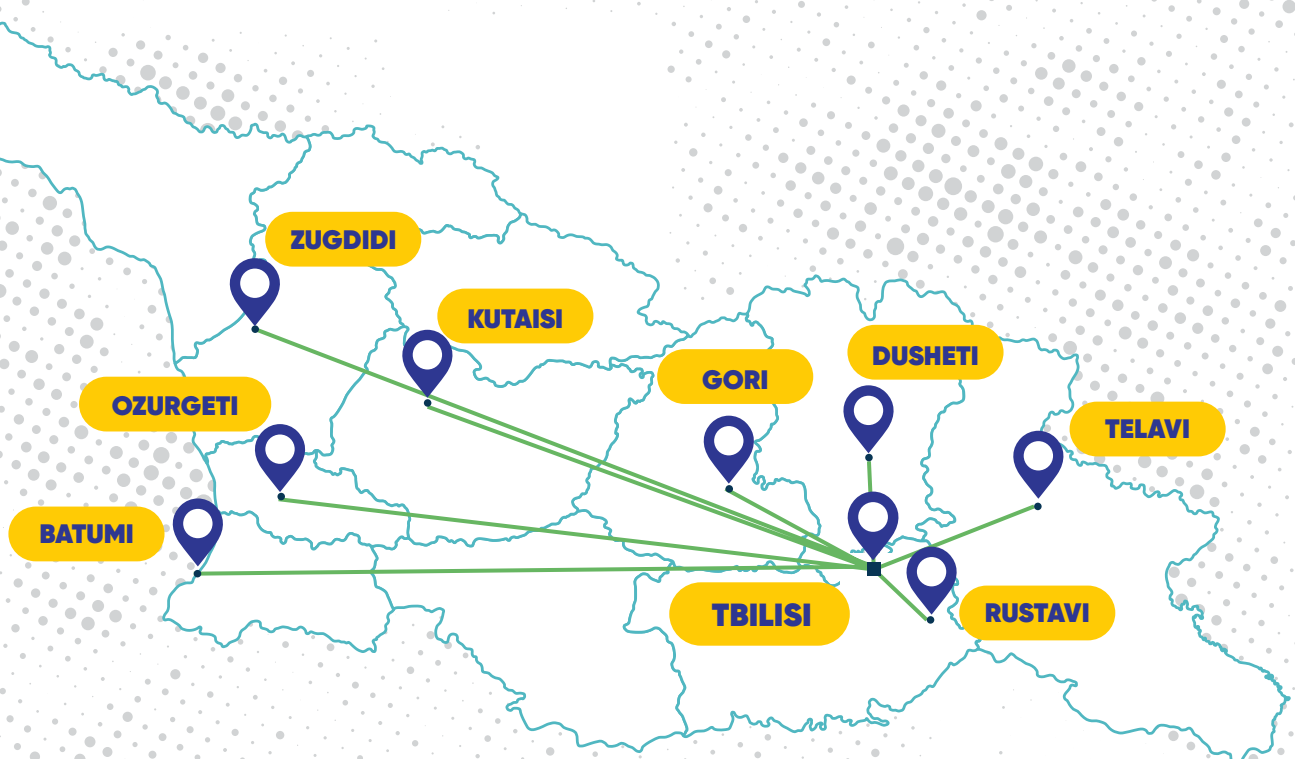
GORI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 2000, CEASED OPERATIONS AS OF JUNE 2025

ZUGDIDI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 2014, CEASED OPERATIONS AS OF JUNE 2025

DUSHETI OFFICE – ESTABLISHED IN 2002, CEASED OPERATIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2024



**GEORGIAN
YOUNG
LAWYERS'
ASSOCIATION**



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) is a membership-based organization defending human rights and the rule of law, uniting about 450 members.

GYLA was founded in 1994 and has gradually expanded its scope of action, including operating through 9 offices across the country.

As a result of the enactment of undemocratic legislative amendments restricting civil society organizations in 2024-2025, the activities of some of the organization's regional offices have been temporarily suspended since June 2025. Currently, GYLA continues to establish the rule of law and protect human rights in the country through 4 offices.

GYLA carries out its substantive activities within the framework of three program areas. These programs are:

- LEGAL AID PROGRAM
- HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAM
- DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT PROGRAM

The presented 2025 report reflects GYLA's activities from November 1, 2024, to November 1, 2025.

GYLA WAS AWARDED THE DEMOCRACY DEFENDERS AWARD

On April 8, 2025, representatives of the 8 OSCE Permanent Council member states presented the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) with the Democracy Defenders Award for its exceptional contribution to strengthening human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Georgia.

This decision was made by the representatives of the following OSCE Permanent Council member states: Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Denmark, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

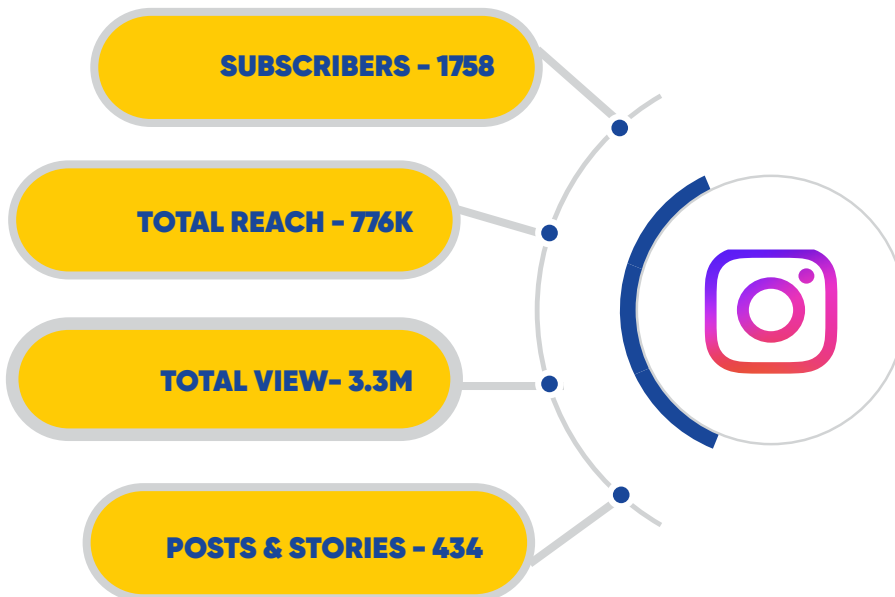
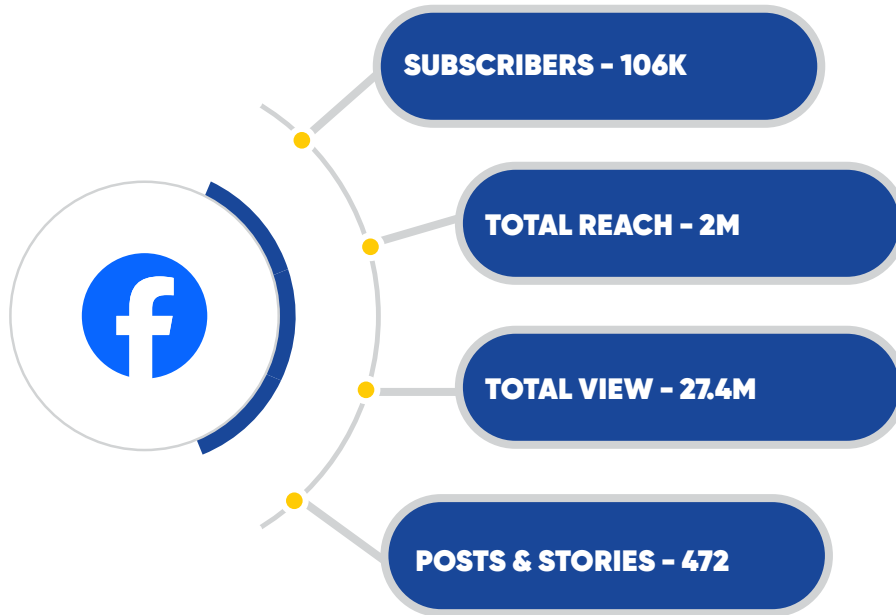
The Democracy Defender Award was established in 2016. It is presented to individuals or organizations that have distinguished themselves in the field of democracy promotion and human rights protection. The award is based on the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, and other OSCE principles and commitments.

Against the backdrop of the fact that the space for civil society in Georgia is narrowing day by day, such international support is of particular importance to GYLA and is an additional incentive in the fight for the protection of human rights and democracy.



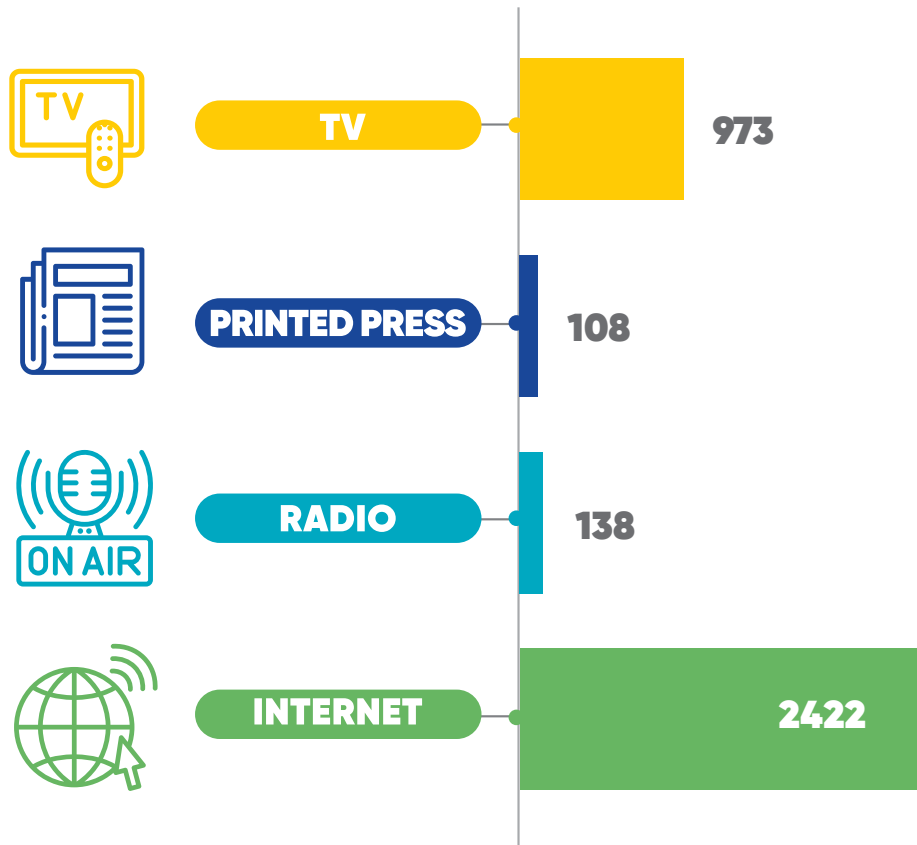
MEDIA MONITORING

GYLA ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA

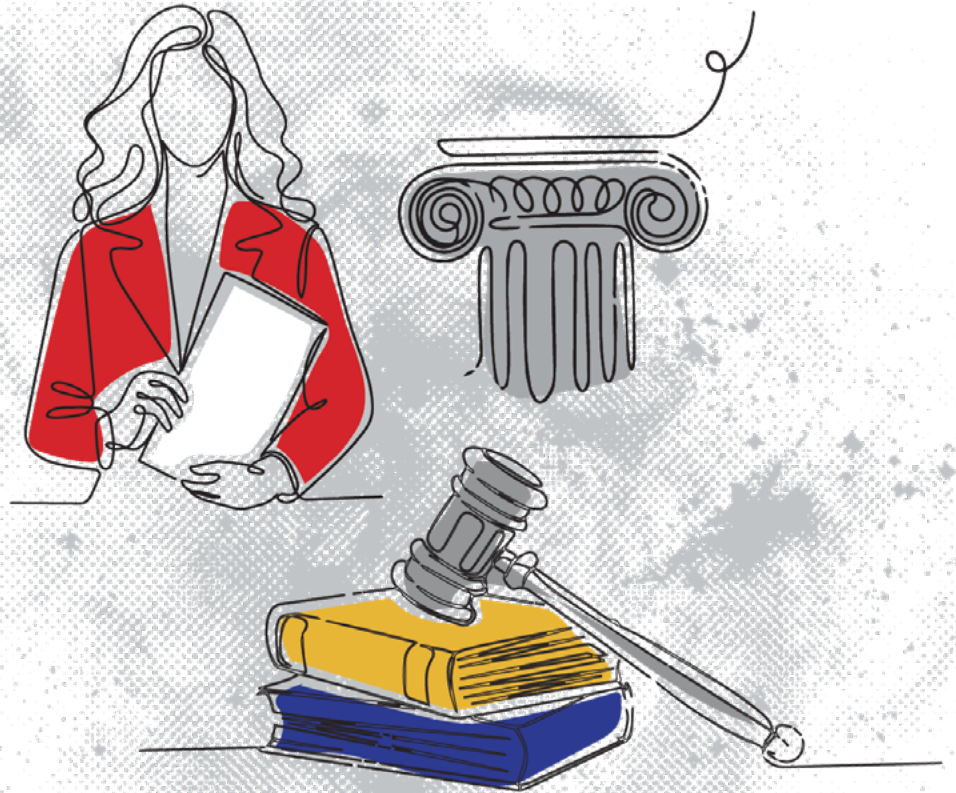


MEDIA MONITORING

MEDIA COVERAGE



TOTAL - 3641



LEGAL AID

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The Georgian Young Lawyers Association's legal aid program worked in the following priority areas during the reporting period:

- LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- STRATEGIC LITIGATION
- USE OF ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS
- RESPONDING TO SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED THROUGH LITIGATION.

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GYLA PROVIDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO 6 560 INDIVIDUALS. OF THESE:



CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED BY TYPE



3166
IN-PERSON



2425
PHONE



373
ONLINE



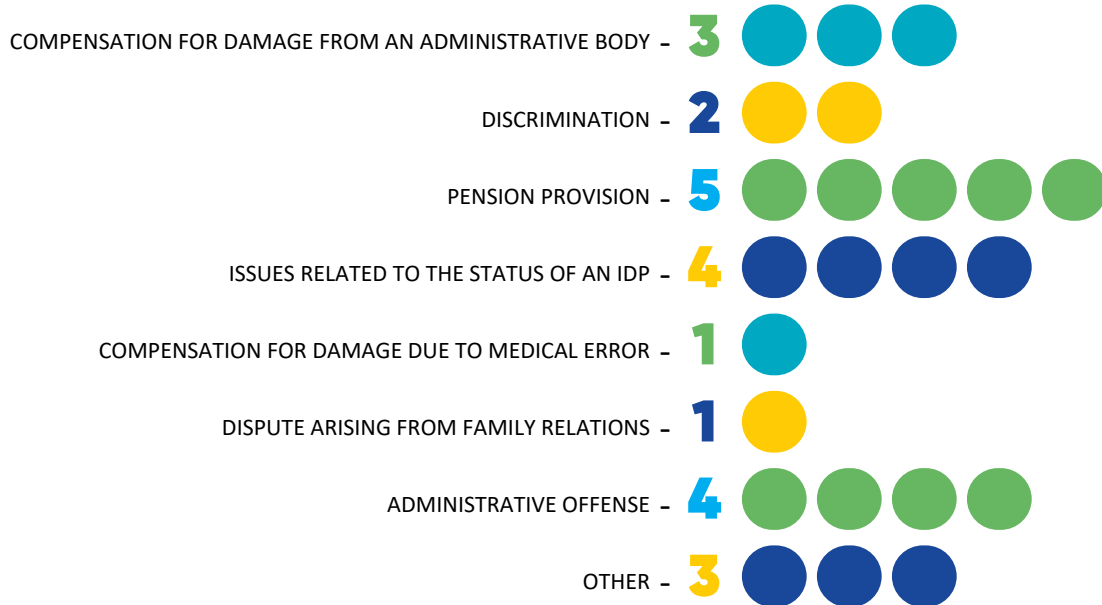
569
LEGAL
DOCUMENTS



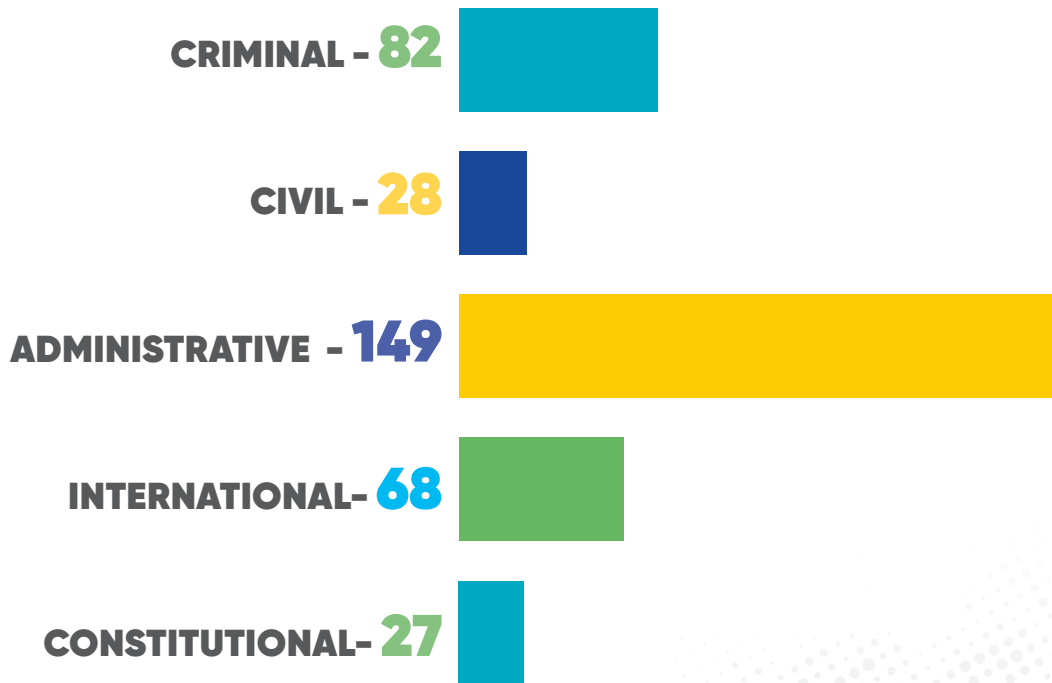
27
FIELD

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GYLA WON 27 CASES.

Statistical data on successfully completed cases in common courts:



GYLA IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING 354 CASES



LEGAL AID NETWORK

The Legal Aid Network of Non-Governmental Organizations continues to provide legal assistance to citizens.

According to information received by the network's hotline between November 19 and September 10, administrative proceedings were initiated against about **2,000 individuals** on various grounds related to their participation in assemblies and demonstrations.

544 people were detained under administrative law.

The network's lawyers were able to visit **458 detainees** in temporary detention centers.

The network's lawyers assisted about **1,400 people** in appealing the administrative offense protocol issued against them.

The network's hotline has received **about 9,000 calls.**

The Legal Aid Network receives notifications about those who have been arrested and fined by telephone. The network's employees also provide 24-hour consultations to interested parties on legal issues.

STRATEGIC LITIGATION REGARDING RESTRICTIVE LAWS AGAINST CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

In 2024-2025, the Georgian Dream adopted and implemented a number of restrictive laws against civil society and media organizations, aimed at suppressing the voices of critical civil society and media. To stop these laws and their repressive enforcement, GYLA initiated strategic litigation in both the Constitutional Court of Georgia and the European Court of Human Rights.

GYLA HAS SENT 2 CASES TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REGARDING THESE LAWS:

■ GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS V. GEORGIA (COMPLAINT FILED REGARDING THE "RUSSIAN LAW")

On October 17, 2024, 16 media organizations, 120 non-governmental organizations, and 4 individuals filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights against the "Russian law" and its severe consequences. The court began considering the case in an unprecedentedly brief period of time. It has already received the state's response to the complaint. At the next stage, the Ministry of Justice will again have to submit written observations and respond to the written arguments of the complainants.

On September 22, 2025, GYLA and the complainant organizations provided the court with detailed information about the adoption of restrictive laws, their repressive enforcement, persecution of the civil sector, and the deteriorating situation in this regard. It is noteworthy that in 2024, GYLA, together with other complainant organizations, also filed a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court of Georgia regarding the "Russian Law," which has not yet reviewed the case or made a decision.

■ GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS V. GEORGIA (SO-CALLED FARA COMPLAINT)

GYLA, Studio Monitor and Georgian News have appealed to the European Court of Human Rights this year due to the inconsistency of the FARA regulations with the European Convention on Human Rights. The complaint states that the so-called FARA and the negative effects it entails, including stigmatizing the reputation of the civil society sector, eliminating the possibility of receiving foreign funding, imposing registration obligations on organizations, arbitrary inspections

and monitoring, which are not accompanied by effective, efficient means of protecting rights at the national level, violate the rights guaranteed by Articles 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 18 of the Human Rights Convention.

GYLA APPEALED TO THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

In its appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, GYLA highlighted recent cases of harassment, obstruction and intimidation against the organization and its lawyers in the performance of their professional duties. In addition, the appeal describes the facts of the vandalism of the GYLA central office in 2024, to which the relevant state bodies have not yet responded, thus, in effect, refusing to fulfill their obligations under the law.

COMPLAINTS FILED WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF GEORGIA

GYLA filed 5 lawsuits with the Constitutional Court:

■ UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS FARA

On June 20, 2024, GYLA, together with Studio Monitor and Georgian News, appealed the Foreign Agent Registration Act and Article 3552 of the Criminal Code to the Constitutional Court. GYLA disputes that the adopted regulations are not foreseeable and contradict Article 31, Paragraph 9 of the Constitution. GYLA has also requested that the contested articles be suspended until the dispute is resolved.

■ THE UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE SO-CALLED FARA ENFORCEMENT BYLAW

GYLA, together with Studio Monitor and Georgian News, filed another lawsuit with the Constitutional Court on June 30, 2025, challenging the subordinate normative act adopted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for the purpose of implementing the so-called FARA. GYLA also requests the suspension of the contested articles until the dispute is resolved.

■ UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL MECHANISM ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW OF GEORGIA ON GRANTS

On August 18, 2025, the Constitutional Court registered a lawsuit by GYLA and Studio Monitor, which concerns the government's authority to approve the receipt of grants by non-governmental and media organizations or to make amendments to grant agreements. In GYLA's opinion, the goals of an NGO's activities should be determined by its founders and members, not by the state.

The adopted regulations gave the government unlimited authority to interfere with the organizations' freedom of association guaranteed by Article 22 of the Constitution.

■ UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE MONITORING MECHANISM ESTABLISHED BY THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW OF GEORGIA ON GRANTS

On October 1, 2025, GYLA appealed to the Constitutional Court Article 61 of the Law on Grants, on the basis of which the Anti-Corruption Bureau launched a mass monitoring process against NGOs, including GYLA, in September 2025. The disputed norm of the Law on Grants gives the Anti-Corruption Bureau unlimited authority to request, with the consent of the court, information containing special categories and other personal data from NGOs, banks, and any state institution. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Bureau set a three-day deadline for organizations to submit enormous amounts of information. GYLA argues that the disputed norms contradict the freedom of association protected by Article 22, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Georgia. In addition, setting an unreasonably short deadline violates the right to a fair hearing before an administrative body, protected by Article 18, Paragraph 1, of the Constitution.

■ UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE LAW ON POLITICAL UNION OF THE CITIZENS

This year, GYLA and the Media Development Fund filed a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court regarding the Law on Political Unions of Citizens. The aforementioned law provides for granting the status of a subject with declared electoral goals to a non-governmental organization and its head. It is the norm that was appealed in relation to the right to expression guaranteed by Article 17 of the Constitution and the freedom of association guaranteed by Article 22, paragraph 1.

According to this law, if an NGO criticizes a draft law being considered by parliament during an election campaign, the Anti-Corruption Bureau will recognize it as an entity with electoral purposes. As a result, the organization is prohibited from receiving foreign funding until the election votes are tallied.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED CASES

GYLA continued to provide legal assistance to citizens and conduct strategic litigation during the reporting period. This year, the organization won a number of cases. In addition, it filed new, particularly important lawsuits with the European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court. During the reporting period, GYLA continued litigation in 354 cases.

Among the cases won are:

■ THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOUND A VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL IN THE CABLES CASE

On February 11, 2025, the European Court of Human Rights issued a judgment in the case *Ghlonti and Others v. Georgia* (the so-called Cables case) filed by GYLA on behalf of the applicants and found a violation of the right to a fair trial. The judgment noted that during the trial, the applicants defended themselves within the framework of the embezzlement charge. Ultimately, the Tbilisi Court of Appeal found this charge unfounded due to the absence of one of the constituent elements of the crime. Before issuing the new verdict, the Tbilisi Court of Appeal did not warn the applicants that their charges could be reclassified. Accordingly, the applicants only learned about the legal assessment of the facts when they were served with the verdict of the Court of Appeal. The European Court indicated that in such circumstances, the defense must have a practical, timely and effective opportunity to respond.

■ THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS FOUND A VIOLATION OF THE PROCEDURAL PART OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE BY RUSSIA IN THE CASE OF A DUTCH JOURNALIST WHO DIED WHILE COVERING THE AUGUST WAR.

On 7 October 2025, the European Court of Human Rights published its judgment in the case of *Storimans-Verhulst and Others V. Russia*” (no. 26302/10). The Court found that the procedural limb of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights had been violated against Stan Storimans.

Stan Storimans, whose wife, and children were also applicants in the case, was killed in an alleged rocket attack in the city of Gori at around 10.45 a.m. on 12 August 2008. On 25 August 2008, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed a special mission to investigate the incident. On 20 October of the same year, the Dutch investigative mission published a report stating that the rocket attack in Gori had been carried out with an Iskander missile. The report also stated that this type of missile was only available in the Russian Federation.

The Court found that there had been a violation of the procedural limb of Article 2 of the Convention, which involved a failure to fulfil the obligation to conduct an effective investigation. The Court ordered the Russian Federation to pay the applicants EUR 10,000 in compensation for non-pecuniary damage.

■ THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT UPHELD GYLA’S CLAIM REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR APPEALING AN INVESTIGATIVE ACTION CONDUCTED UNDER URGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

In the case *Giorgi Putkaradze v. Parliament of Georgia*, the Constitutional Court recognized as unconstitutional the normative content of Article 112, Part 8 of the Criminal Procedure Code, ac-

ording to which, in cases of urgent necessity, a ruling of a district (city) court on recognizing the legality of an investigative action carried out is appealed to the Court of Appeal within 48 hours after the completion of the search (seizure), and not within 48 hours after the delivery of the ruling of the district (city) court to the party. The court determined that in such a case, the term for appealing the ruling is calculated not from the moment of completion of the search or seizure process, but from the delivery of the ruling.

■ WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GYLA, THE MEDICAL INSTITUTION WAS ORDERED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE INCORRECT/UNQUALIFIED MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED TO THE CHILD.

GYLA won a case concerning the provision of incorrect/unqualified medical care to a 3-year-old child and the resulting harm. The child was brought to the clinic to have a foreign body (plastic ball) removed from their ear. During the manipulation, the doctor got a medical instrument stuck in the ear canal, which could not be removed. As a result, the child's auditory tube was damaged, facial asymmetry developed, and hearing was impaired. As a result of GYLA's legal assistance, the medical institution was ordered to compensate the child for moral and material damage.

■ THE COURT ORDERED THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO PAY MORAL DAMAGES FOR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

A person with disabilities was dismissed from the LEPL Public Service Development Agency on discriminatory grounds. With the help of GYLA, they appealed to the court and won the dispute. The court found that, compared to other persons in a similar situation (employees with disabilities using wheelchairs, who were exempted by the agency from the obligation to complete the written component of the evaluation), the plaintiff was placed in clearly unequal conditions. In addition, the plaintiff, who was in a substantially unequal situation (with a vision problem), was, at the same time, placed on an equal footing with other employees. The Public Service Development Agency was ordered to reinstate the person with disabilities, pay the full amount of the severance pay, and compensate for moral damages in the amount of 10,000 GEL.

■ WITH THE HELP OF GYLA, AN ILLEGALLY DISMISSED PERSON WON A DISPUTE AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

A person dismissed from the Ministry of Culture due to reorganization won a court case with the help of GYLA. It was determined that the Ministry did not take into account the results of the testing conducted during the reorganization process and based its decision on an interview for which no evaluation criteria were defined. The Ministry of Culture was ordered to reinstate them and pay them back their salary.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS WERE ORDERED TO COMPENSATE FOR DAMAGES DUE TO VIOLATION OF THE RULES FOR HOSPITALIZATION AND CARE OF A PERSON DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC.

During the Covid pandemic, the plaintiff went to the clinic due to a health problem. They were tested for coronavirus, the result of which was “suspicious.” Due to this response, despite the “suspicious” status, they were transferred to one of the defendant medical institutions together with a patient infected with coronavirus and was placed in the same ward with them.

Later, the person, at their own request, underwent a repeat test, which did not confirm Covid-19. However, since the patient was transported and hospitalized together with a Covid-infected patient, the clinic decided that it was necessary to isolate them for 14 days, which they spent in the so-called quarantine. With the help of GYLA, the plaintiff won the dispute in court. The medical institution was ordered to compensate them for the damage.

COURT FOUND DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT BY PENITENTIARY SERVICE AGAINST A VEGAN PRISONER

A vegan prisoner, who ate only plant-based proteins, fats, and carbohydrates, was incarcerated in a penitentiary from May to November 2019. The prisoner repeatedly appealed to the prison administration and the Penitentiary Service to provide them with vegan food, but no effective steps were taken to resolve the problem. They filed a lawsuit in court regarding this issue. The 5-year legal process ended with a decision of the Supreme Court, which established that the prisoner had been subjected to discriminatory treatment. Accordingly, the Special Penitentiary Service was ordered to pay compensation for moral damages.

NEW CASES AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

DUE TO THE MASSIVE VIOLATION OF THE SECRECY OF THE VOTE IN THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, GYLA FILED A LAWSUIT WITH THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

GYLA claims that Article 3 of the First Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (right to free elections) has been violated. The complaint states that as a result of the election administration’s improper fulfillment of its obligations during the elections, the fundamental principle of the secrecy of the ballot was massively violated, and subsequently, the right to review election disputes through effective mechanisms. GYLA’s complaint also states that the blanket

provision in Georgian legislation, which restricts citizens' ability to file a complaint on election disputes, does not comply with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.

THE ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT OF MZIA AMAGLOBELI AND OTHER VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST HER WERE APPEALED TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

On April 28, 2025, GYLA filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Mzia Amaglobeli, the founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, who is in illegal detention.

The complaint substantiates that the fundamental rights of the European Convention on Human Rights, such as the right to liberty and security (Article 5 of the Convention), the right to a fair hearing (Article 6 of the Convention), the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8 of the Convention), freedom of expression (Article 10 of the Convention)- in conjunction with Articles 8, 10 and 13 of the Convention (right to an effective remedy), and the scope of the application of restrictions on rights (Article 18 of the Convention) have been violated in relation to Mzia Amaglobeli. The Strasbourg Court communicated the case in a timely manner and addressed the Ministry of Justice of Georgia with related questions.

GYLA DISPUTES THE SYSTEMIC SHORTCOMINGS OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTHCARE SECTORS

On May 20, 2025, GYLA applied to the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of a patient regarding systemic shortcomings in the legal framework in the healthcare and medical field, including the lack of effective regulation of medical qualifications, mandatory continuing education programs for doctors, medical practice guidelines, and an effective medical expertise system, resulting in persistent pain and medical manipulation.

The European Court of Human Rights communicated the application on 1 July 2025, within the speedy time limit, in respect of all articles. The application concerns a violation of Articles 6, 8 and 13 of the Convention against the applicant. GYLA argues that the medical manipulations that caused the applicant's oral cavity damage and facial asymmetry, which forced them to wear a mask and take painkillers, violated the applicant's physical and psychological integrity – guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention. The application also states that as a result of the protracted court proceedings, in the absence of an independent/impartial judiciary, the applicant's right to a fair trial guaranteed by Article 6 of the Convention was violated.

ORAL HEARING IN THE GRAND CHAMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On February 26, 2025, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights considered the complaints of citizens affected by the anti-occupation protests of June 20-21, 2019, in an oral hearing.

This is the first precedent in the history of Georgia when the case, at the request of the applicants, was referred to the Grand Chamber of the European Court.

The European Court of Human Rights found a violation of the procedural part of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (prohibition of torture) in the above-mentioned cases back on May 7, 2024. **The court indicated that the state had not conducted an effective investigation, therefore, it ordered the government to conduct an investigation,** and with regard to the remaining rights, it noted that the violations, based on the principle of subsidiarity, would be assessed after the investigation. The court made a number of important instructions in its decision, determined the state's obligation to take general measures, and, at the same time, emphasized the systemic violations that were revealed in the process of dispersing assemblies and demonstrations and, subsequently, in the investigation process.

COMMUNICATIONS SENT UNDER RULE 9

With the involvement of GYLA, 4 alternative reports were sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

28.04.2025 – MAKARASHVILI AND OTHERS V GEORGIA - VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND FAIR TRIAL AT PROTEST RALLIES

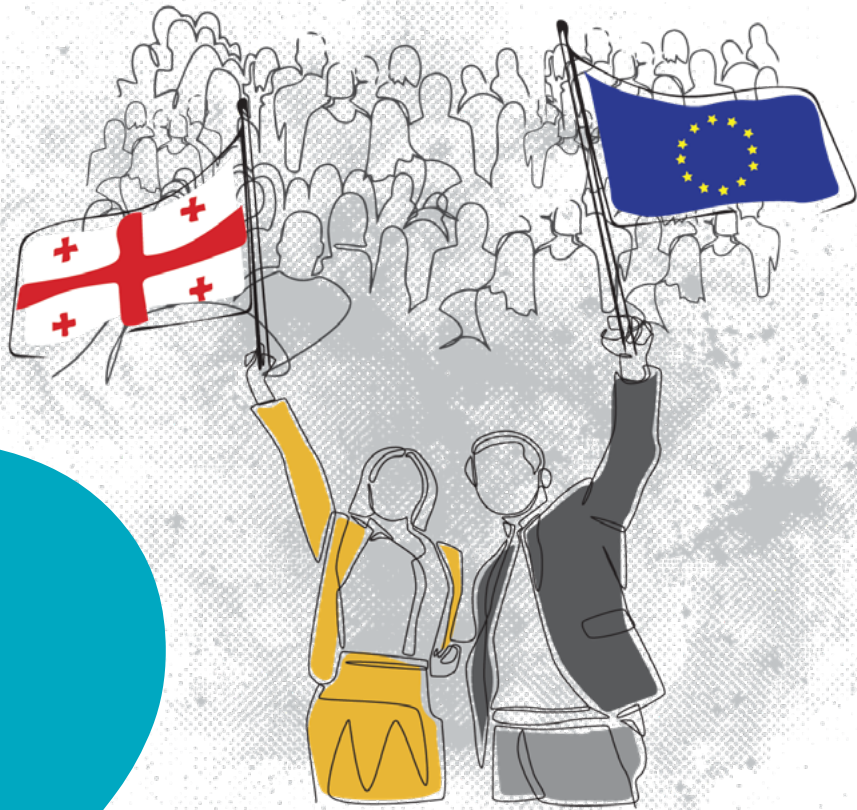
30.04.2025 – TSINTSABADZE GROUP - CRIMES COMMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

30.04.2025 – TSINTSABADZE GROUP (OCHIGAVA V. GEORGIA, EDZGVERADZE V. GEORGIA, MAMULASHVILI V. GEORGIA)

31.01.2025 – A.D. V GEORGIA - ISSUES OF LEGAL RECOGNITION OF GENDER

2

HUMAN RIGHTS



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The protection of human rights is one of the main strategic objectives of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association. The organization studies the current situation in the country in this regard, analyzes challenges, and promotes changes.

During the reporting period, the Human Rights Protection Program worked in 4 priority areas:

- PERFORMING A WATCHDOG FUNCTION, INCLUDING DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND PREPARING STATEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS IN RELATION TO THEM
- ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES
- INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY
- PROMOTING LEGAL EDUCATION AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

THE WATCHDOG FUNCTION

Through an evidence-based rapid response approach, **88 statements/assessments** of human rights violations were issued across the country. This process also included responding to serious violations, including systematic practices of torture and ill-treatment, monitoring of assemblies, and observation of criminal proceedings.

In November-December 2024 and February 2025, gross, systematic, and systematic violations of fundamental human rights were particularly frequent, including violent dispersal of peaceful demonstrations and torture of protest participants. **GYLA led the process of documenting these violations**, in which 11 Georgian civil society organizations were involved. Based on the methodology of international organizations working on torture issues, a semi-structured, in-depth questionnaire was prepared taking into account the Georgian context.

According to this questionnaire, **interviews were conducted with 117 respondents who participated in protests from November 19 to January 28 or were subjected to ill-treatment or violence in the context of the ongoing protests**. The findings from the interviews are supported by, among other things, photo/video material, and medical documentation. A focus group was also held with lawyers. **21 letters were sent to 10 agencies** requesting public information.

ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES

As part of the analytical activities, in-depth studies and reports were prepared, which concern:

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND POLICE VIOLENCE

PARTICULARLY SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING
SYSTEMATIC TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION







FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES TO THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



6 reports/studies were prepared on the following issues:

-  **Civil rights violations in the context of police violence in November-December 2024**
-  **Freedom of expression and restrictive legislation on media activities**
-  **Monitoring criminal trials**
-  **Challenges to the Georgian justice system according to the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights**
-  **Documenting human rights violations identified between November 2024 and February 2025** (the documentation process was led by GYLA and involved 11 Georgian civil society organizations)
-  **Report on torture and ill-treatment in November-December 2024** (GYLA, together with international and local human rights organizations (OMCT, Omega Research Foundation, GCRT and PHR) participated in the preparation of the report on torture and ill-treatment in November-December 2024. The report was based on the findings of a fact-finding mission. This mission was carried out by the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), and the Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG), with the support of Georgian organizations, including GYLA, in Tbilisi on 17-24 December 2024.

6 videos were prepared, which, among other things, concerned: facts of systemic torture, other human rights violations occurring in November-December 2024, criminal justice, restrictions on media activities, challenges in the justice system, and the narrowing of civil space.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

In the area of international advocacy, together with partner organizations, **3 reports** were prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

8 reports were prepared for the OSCE Vienna Mechanism, UN treaty bodies, and the European Committee of Social Rights.

21 written communications were prepared for OSCE, Council of Europe institutions, UN treaty bodies, and special procedures.

Program representatives participated in **13 international conferences or sessions**, including: Human Rights Council sessions, OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings, Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, and events organized within the framework of the UNDP European Implementation Center (EIN) conference.

PROMOTING LEGAL EDUCATION AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

To improve civil society advocacy mechanisms, promote legal education, and share knowledge with the next generation of human rights defenders:



2 training courses were conducted for students



1 guide on documenting human rights violations was prepared



3

SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The goal of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) Democratic Institutions Support Program is to promote transparent and accountable governance in the country.

The program works in several strategic directions:

- JUSTICE SYSTEM
- ELECTIONS
- IMPROVING PARLIAMENTARY LIFE
- STRENGTHENING THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AT THE CENTRAL AND LOCAL LEVELS
- PROMOTING EFFECTIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT
- EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

During the reporting period, the program's activities included the preparation of several types of analytical documents, as well as meetings with international and local partners.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

In the field of justice, GYLA published:



2 BLOGS



1 ANALYTICAL PAPER



5 STATEMENTS
(1- independent, 4- in coalition format)



8 INFOGRAPHICS

During the reporting period, GYLA was the Deputy Chair of the Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary.

ELECTIONS

In this regard, the organization published:



3
REPORTS



30
STATEMENTS



2
AMICUS
CURIAE
OPINIONS



2
ბლოგი

One of these was submitted to the Constitutional Court (concerning violations of the principles of secrecy of the vote and universality in the 2024 parliamentary elections), and the other to the Tbilisi City Court (concerning a lawsuit pending before the court regarding the CEC Resolution No. 22/2025 of April 3, 2025. This resolution restricted the free movement of observers at polling stations, the inspection of voter ID documents, and the documentation of detected violations)

PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL

In this direction, the following was published:



2
BLOGS



2
ANALYTICAL
PAPERS

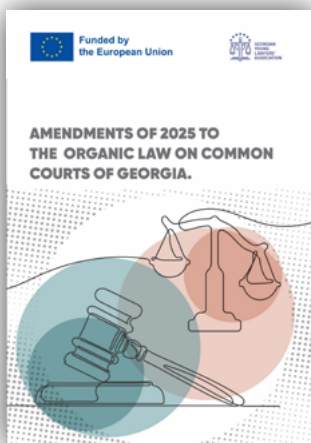
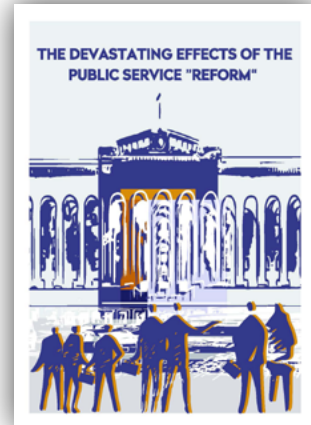


3
STATEMENTS

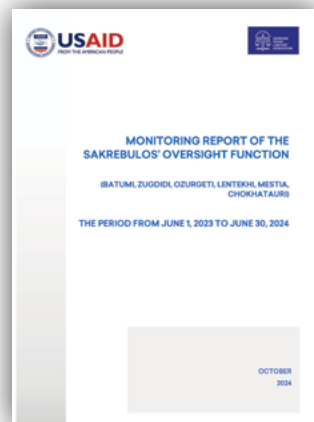
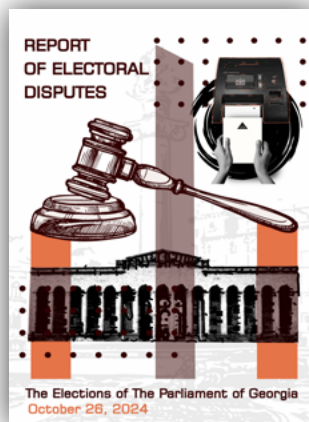
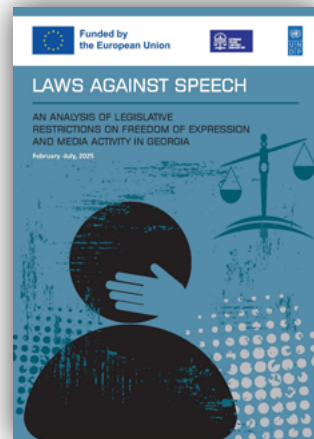
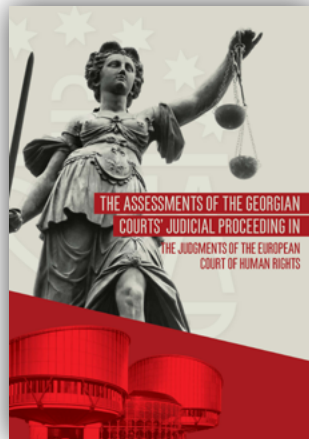
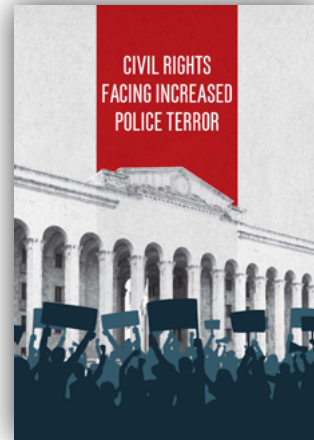


1
REPORT

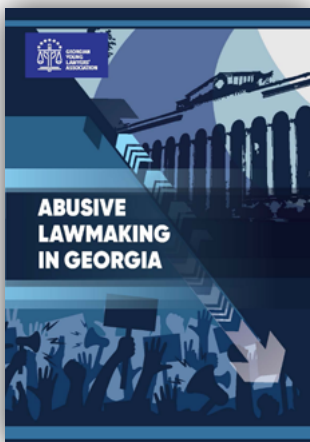
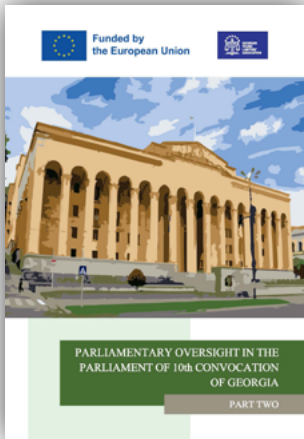
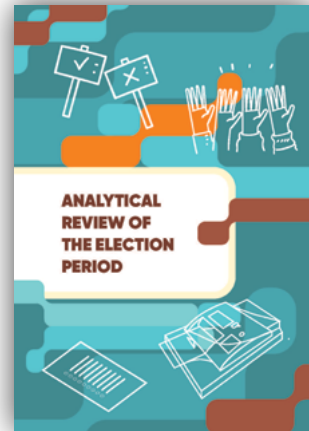
PUBLICATIONS



PUBLICATIONS



PUBLICATIONS



MEETINGS, VISITS, PRESENTATIONS



November 13, 2024, GYLA meeting with representatives of local and international organizations, as well as embassies, regarding the violation of the secrecy of the vote in the elections



December 4, 2024, GYLA press conference on the events that took place in November-December, and the criminal practices used against demonstrators



February 12, press conference of Mzia Amaglobeli's human rights defenders - GYLA and lawyer Maia Mtsariashvili regarding the details of the case of political prisoner Mzia Amaglobeli



February 27, discussion organized by the Human Rights House Foundation at the UN on the topic Human Rights Crisis in Georgia, in which GYLA participated

MEETINGS, VISITS, PRESENTATIONS



March 18, OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (OSCE SHDM) in Vienna on media freedom and the state of government institutions in Georgia, in which GYLA participated



May 6, OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (OSCE SHDM II) in Vienna on the human rights crisis in Georgia, in which GYLA participated



May 14, Presentation of a Joint Documentation Report by 11 Civil Society Organizations – Human Rights Crisis in Georgia after the 2024 Parliamentary Elections



July 7, visit of the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Georgia, Meline Arakelian, to GYLA

MEETINGS, VISITS, PRESENTATIONS



October 23, Presentation of the GYLA report – Results of the observation of politically motivated cases of persons detained in the context of protests in the courts of first instance in 2024-2025



March 15, 33rd General Meeting of the Adjara Branch of GYLA

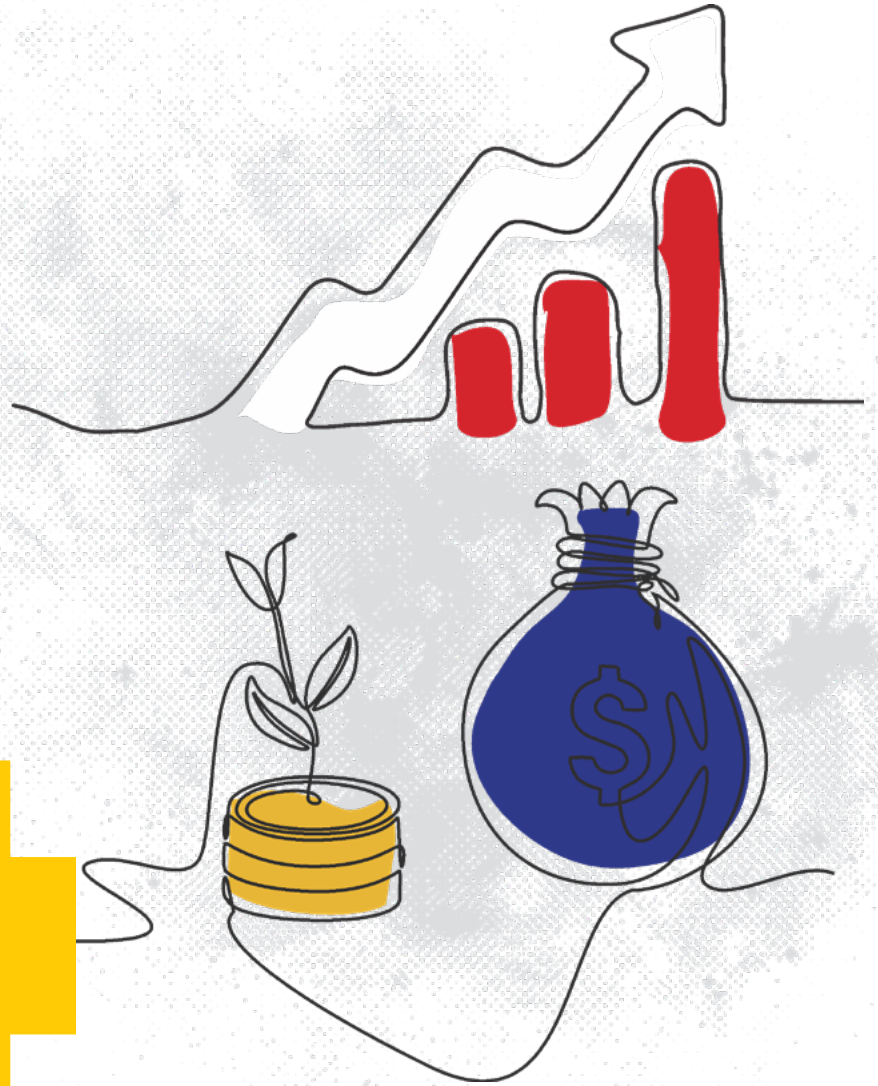


March 16, 26th General Meeting of the Kutaisi Branch of GYLA



July 8, Certificates awarded to GYLA Legal Aid Center assistants upon successful completion of internship

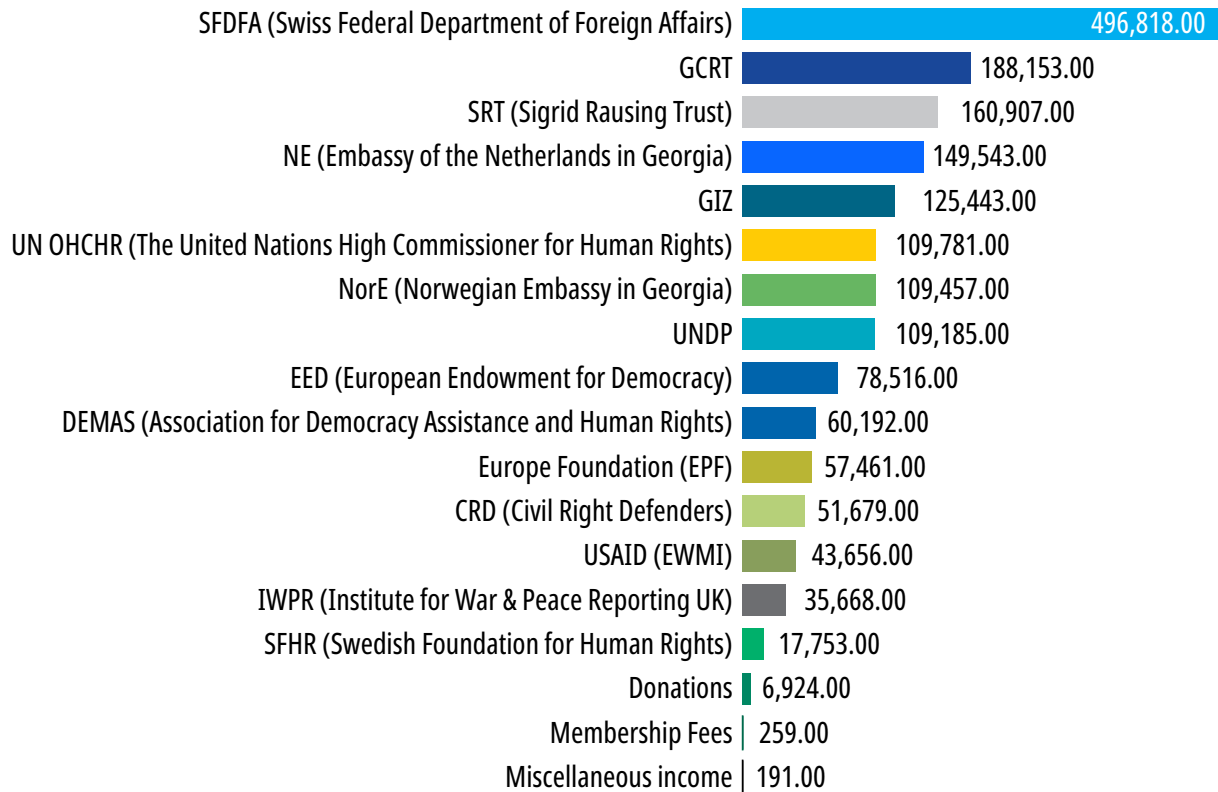
4



FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

During the reporting period, GYLA received a total of 1,801,586.00 GEL in the form of grants (grant revenues from projects the organization began implementing during the reporting period), donations, and membership fees. This amount, according to sources, is as follows:



During the reporting period, 75 employees were employed in GYLA on multiple jobs, including 5 in the regions. Their total compensation amounted to 2,761,107.00 GEL. One-time service fees were paid to 724 individuals - a total of 519,927.00 GEL.

Income tax on service fees, salaries and honoraria of private individuals amounted to 621,582.00 GEL.

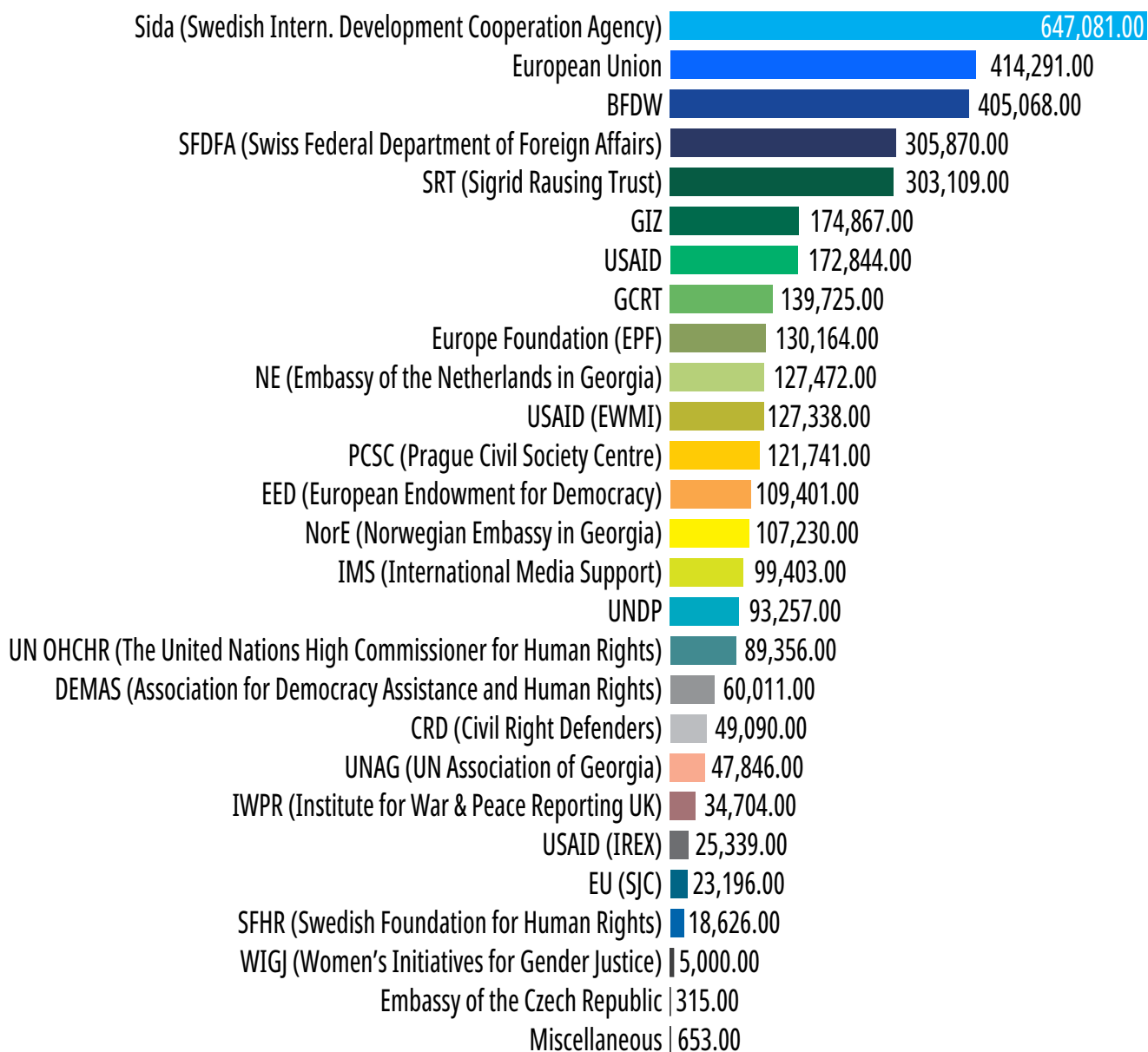
During the reporting period, GYLA purchased fixed assets worth 9,600.00 GEL. During the same period, various low-cost office items worth 10,680.00 GEL were purchased.

57,900.00 GEL was spent on seminars and meetings organized by GYLA, both in Tbilisi and in the regions.

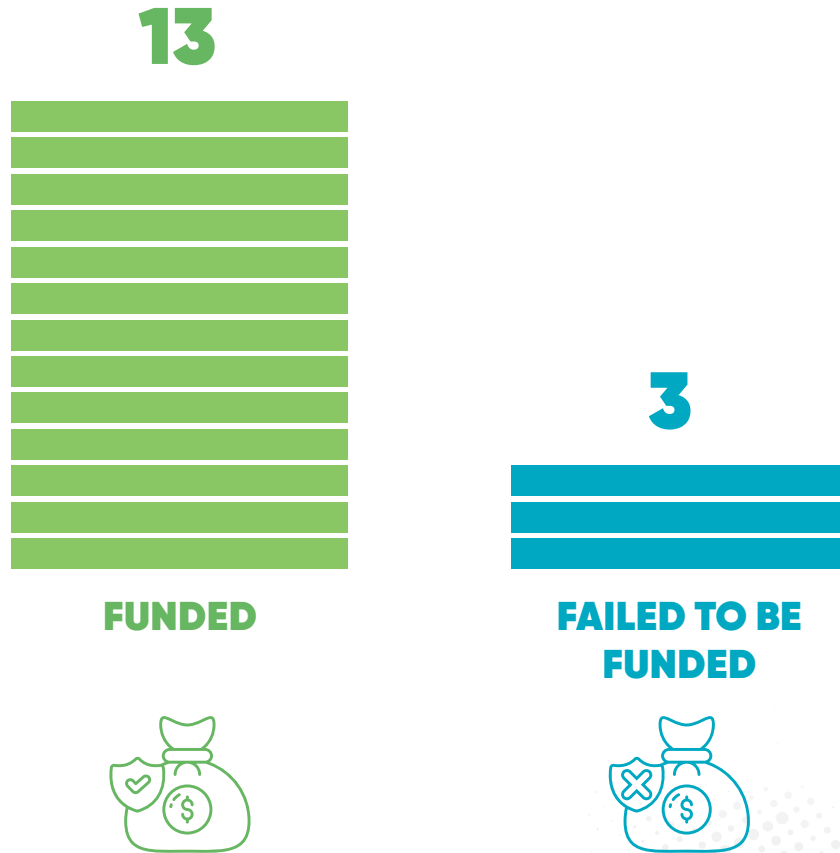
Travel expenses for the organization’s employees, members, and invited guests amounted to 119,888.00 GEL, office rent - 38,673.00 GEL, and communication expenses - 34,360.00 GEL.

Sub-grants issued by GYLA to local NGOs amounted to 377,593.00 GEL.

During the reporting period, a total of 3,832,997.00 GEL was spent from the association’s funds, which, according to sources, looks as follows:



During the reporting period, GYLA prepared 16 grant project applications for submission to various donor organizations until April 16, 2025, when the issuing of grants without government approval was restricted. Of these, before the restrictive changes came into effect (until April 16, 2025):



As of November 1, 2025, GYLA continues to implement 10 ongoing projects.

GOVERNING BODIES OF THE GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS

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Tamar Oniani- Deputy Chairperson
Giorgi Abuladze
Giorgi Antadze
Revaz Acharadze
Nino Bagashvili
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Giorgi Tabatadze
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Tamar Khubuluri
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(Chairwoman)

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Program

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(Director)

Legal Assistance
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Tamar Oniani (Director)

Democratic Institutions
Support Program

Nanuka Kruashvili
(Director- until July 2025))

Tamar Khukhia
(Acting Director)

