

Delegation of Georgia
2006 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, October 2-13, 2006

Statement submitted at the Working Session #6
“Access to Justice”
(October 5, 2006)

Thank you Mr. Moderator

The Georgian Delegation would like to make a brief observation with regard to the protection of victims of domestic violence and measures undertaken by the State to that end.

The Law on Combating Domestic Violence entered into force in May 2006.

The Law which was drafted in compliance with the obligations assumed by Georgia in accordance with the international treaties envisages mechanisms of prevention and combating domestic violence.

Specificities of domestic violence are considered by the Law in the course of respective legal proceedings. Social and labor guarantees for domestic violence victims, as well as rehabilitation measures for victims are envisaged by the newly introduced legislative act.

Due to the fact that there still are complex technical constraints to be addressed, the Georgian Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs has been tasked to establish minimum standards for creation of shelters for victims of domestic violence and rehabilitation centers for their perpetrators, as well as conduct preparatory works for their ultimate establishment by the beginning of 2008.

Along with solving many other problems related to the human rights protection, the Georgian Government is truly determined to address root causes of domestic violence and to that end respective Three Years-long Action Plan is currently being finalized. Implementation of the Action Plan is based on close cooperation of the Georgian Government, relevant NGOs and the media.

The Georgian Government devotes particular attention to respective awareness raising activities and to that end trainings of social workers, as well as police is another aspect the Georgian Government concentrates its efforts. The Curriculum of the Police Academy has already incorporated respective modules on handling domestic violence cases by the Police.

The aforementioned Action Plan also envisages mechanisms of protection and rehabilitation of victims, allocation of state budget funds for prevention of domestic violence, as well as creation and development of information database on domestic violence.

At the same time it must be underlined that physical/psychological abuse of any person is criminally punishable by the Georgian Criminal Code, as is abduction of young women, including for the purpose of marriage, as the latter action equals to illegal deprivation of liberty of a person and involves respective criminal responsibility.