

# WIC NEWS

DIGEST

SUMMER 2013

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it's about information!



Women's Information Center

## WOMEN UNITED FOR PEACE

Today, in the beginning of the twenty first century, humanity tries to use the maximum of its ability to preserve the peace, the world unites around the UN resolutions, and states spare no effort to avoid armed conflicts. Nevertheless, it is not still possible to establish an universal peace and the supreme right of many people, to live in a safe environment, still cannot be protected, and especially women and children are suffering during the conflicts.

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## WOMEN UNITED FOR PEACE

We express our concern over the developments in Syria, which caused the death of the innocent people, including women, children and the elderly.

Today we are united to end the bloodshed that has claimed the lives of many people as soon as possible, because each life is of paramount importance for humanity.

Today, we are united to stand side by side with the Syrian people, to stand side by side with the women and children who are looking forward and asking for help.

Today, we are united as it is not a tragedy of one country; it is a tragedy of the whole world.

Today we are united to stop the war now, as it will cost too expansive tomorrow, because we all know how much time it takes to eliminate the effects of a devastating war, to bring joy into the live of the people whose rights were violated, to find the missing, to restore the ruins.

We all know well how the live in a constant threat and fear is, especially for vulnerable women and children. We want the Syrian people to know that we are not indifferent to the developments happening in their country.

We call on our colleagues around the world, representatives of the governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations and media, we call on everyone who knows what the war is, for whom the life of each person is precious, surviving generations, we call on everyone, regardless of nationality, religion, political beliefs – let us use all the available instruments to stop the violence, stand side by side with the Syrian people today, in order not to be late tomorrow.

## Gender policy Gender advisers in governmental institutions

Women's Information Center has initiated the creation of the position of gender adviser in governmental institutions. On 10 July 2013, the representatives of Women's Information Center and the coalition "For Women's Political Engagement" have announced about this initiative during the meeting with the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, David Narmania. The organizer of this meeting was UN Women and it was held in the framework of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development".



As a result, in July 2013, Kakhaber Tsetskhladze has been appointed as the gender adviser of the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, and Manana Iluridze is the responsible person about gender issues in the municipality of Gori. In the meantime, the representatives of Women's Information Center hold meetings with local governments of other regions.

## Women's political engagement

### The coalition

### "For Women's Political Engagement" has been created

Women living in Shida Kartli are united in order to support gender mainstreaming in political and social life in the region. After their decision, on 3 July 2013, this union has been transformed into coalition "For Women's Political Engagement". Fifteen of the members of the coalition will to be actively involved in politics and participate in local self-government elections. The coalition aims to strengthen women's role through gender mainstreaming in local self-government, what will improve the development of the region.

This coalition has been created in the framework of the project "Sustaining Gender Justice through Enhancing Women's Political Participation", which is implemented by Women's Information Center, with the support of Georgian representatives of Great Britain charity organization "OXFAM". Several meetings with the representatives of local and central government, the leaders of political parties and the experts were held during



the existence of the coalition. Trainings and preparation of the members is provided by Women's Information Center with the support of its local and foreign partners. In the same time, Women's Information Center, with the members of the coalition,

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The coalition "For Women's Political Engagement" has been created



holds meetings with local population in order to reveal and advocate problematic issues.

Women of different age, profession and experience are united in the coalition. Most of them are the residents of cross-border villages or IDPs. Each of them understands well the problems of the population of the region, each of them is the accomplice of the life full of difficulties.

The will and readiness of eliminating common problems, supporting each other and the population of the region- this is the idea uniting the members of the coalition. They have already identified main issues. Meetings and consultations are being held in order to find the ways of solution of these problems.

## THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OXFAM MET WOMEN LIVING IN ERGNETI

On 11 of July, the representatives of Great Britain charity organization OXFAM and Women's Information Center have met the members of the coalition "For Women's Political Engagement" in Ergneti.

Lia Chlachidze is one of the most active members of the coalition. Regardless of the damage after Russian-Georgian war in 2008, she hasn't left her village and continues civil activities. She has told herself about the situations in cross-border villages. They have also discussed women's activeness and their role in social-political life. The member of the coalition, Neli Dvalishvili, has provided the meeting of the representatives of OXFAM with the population of the village, which has been also attended by other members of the coalition.

By the end of the meeting it has been announced, that both, OXFAM representatives and the residents of Ergneti welcome the initiative about political engagement of more and more women.



Women's Information Center

## THE COALITION “FOR WOMEN’S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT” HAD MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF “NEW RIGHTS PARTY”

On 26 July 2013, in Gori Art Café, the members of the coalition “For Women’s Political Engagement” have met the leaders of “New Rights Party”- Pikria Chikhradze and Manana Nachkebia. The meeting was held in the framework of the project “Sustaining Gender Justice through Enhancing Women’s Political Participation””, which is implemented by Women’s Information Center with the support of Georgian representatives of UK organization “OXFAM”.

The leaders of “New Rights Party” have shared their experience with the members of the coalition. Manana Nachkebia welcomed women’s initiative about the participation in local government elections. Pikria Chikhradze has told, that it’s possible to make the problem more actual through political engagement of women, living in cross-border villages.

The leaders of “New Rights Party” have talked about the future strategy of the party, and the

members of the coalition presented future plans of the coalition.

The meeting lasted two hours. In order to share experience, the members of the group will meet again the representatives of different political parties and officials in the framework of coalition’s development strategy.



## THE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION “FOR WOMEN’S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT” MET FEMALE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

**The members of the coalition “For Women’s Political Engagement” have meetings with presidential candidates. On 31 July, at 15:00, in Gori Art Café, the members of the coalition “For Women’s Political Engagement” have met Mrs. Nino Burjanadze. The representatives of Women’s Information Center, of local and central media have also attended the meeting.**

Nino Burjanadze has talked about women’s role in politics and her experience, about the period, when she was the member of the government. During the meeting, main accent was about the necessity of women’s involvement in political processes.

The members of the coalition have told that the meeting with female presidential candidate is very important for them in order to share experi-



ence. The organizer of the meeting was Women’s Information Center. The Head of the organization, Elene Rusetskaia tells that they are planning many interesting meetings in order to strengthen the coalition.

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The manager of regional programs of international organization OXFAM, Jonathan Puddifoot, has also attended the meeting. He has talked about the factors, promoting women's activation in the field of politics.

By the end of the meeting, Nino Burjanadze has told, that this women's coalition is a very important resource for the region and needs to be supported.

The meeting was held in the framework of the project "Sustaining Gender Justice through Enhancing Women's Political Participation", which is implemented by the support of Georgian representatives of Great Britain organization "OXFAM" by Women's Information Center. The coalition "For Women's Political Engagement" has been created in July 2013.

## Women for Equality, Peace and Development

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE SECTOR OF SECURITY

Gender equality and UNSC 1325 resolution has been the topic of the training in David Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia, held by joint initiative of Women's Information Center and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia on 5 July. The aim of the training was to raise the awareness of the student of the academy in the field of gender equality and to inform them about the role, duties and involvement of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia in the frame of the resolution.

The professionals, who have passed the training, organized by SIDA, have worked with the cadets:

Maia Avaliani and Giorgi Amanatidze, and the representatives of Women's Information Center: Mamuka Gachechiladze and Giorgi Bibilashvili.

# 1325

## THE MINISTER HAS BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN LIVING IN SHIDA QARTLI

On 10 July 2013, in the conference hall of the municipality of Gori, the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, David Narmania has been informed about the problems of the population of the region. The meeting, organized by the Ministry and UN Women, has been attended by those persons, who know well problematic issues. The representatives of local government, civil society, international organization and women's rights defender organizations have participated in the meeting with IDPs and people living in cross-border village. The representatives of Women's Information Center have also attended the meeting. Community workers of Taso Foundation and the members of the coalition "For Women's Political Engagement" have talked about the problems of IDP and the residents of cross-border villages.

The meeting was held in the framework of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia" by UN Women, with the partnership with Women's Information Center and Taso



Foundation, with the support of the government of Norway. The project aims to support IDP, conflict affected and national minorities women, civil society and the government, to strengthen their possibilities in order to defend gender quality and women's rights in Georgia.

## The meeting about the issues of IDPs and conflict affected people in Zugdidi

On 16 July, in the Center of Civic Engagement, with the support of UN Women, Women's Information Center held "one window shop" principle meeting with case providers in the framework of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development". The meeting aimed to study the documentation of these cases and monitor the results, and also, to inform interested organizations about the project and "one window shop" principle methodology.

The topic of the second part of the meeting was the changes of Labor Code, which were prepared by the support of Women's Global Fund. The participators have been informed also about the activities of the coalition "For Women's Political Engagement".

The participators of the project and representatives of non-governmental organizations from Zugdidi have attended the meeting.

It's noteworthy, that Women's Information Center uses "one window shop" principle meth-

odology since 2010 in order to solve the problems of IDPs and conflict affected people. This training for case providers was held in the field of second part of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development", which has started in 2013 and is implemented by UN Women with the partnership of Women's Information Center and "Taso" Foundation, with the support of the government of Norway. This year the trainings are planned in the municipalities of Gori, Tetrtskaro, Marneuli and Samtredia.



## David Narmania has been informed about women's problems in Zugdidi

With joint initiative of UN Women and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, informational meeting was held in Zugdidi, in conference hall of the municipality. Local population has discussed with David Narmania the situation in Samegrelo cross-border villages. As they have told, most problematic are the issues of water, damaged roads and shore protecting works.

The meeting has been attended by the minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the representatives of local government and civil society, women's rights defenders and the women living in cross-border villages. The representatives of Women's Information Center have also attended the meeting.

The head of the organization has paid attention of the topic of gender and the necessity of working about this issue from the government.

The meeting was held in the framework of the project of UN Women, implemented since 2010, with the support of the government of Norway. By the information of the initiators of the project, such

meetings will be periodical and they will monitor some concrete cases.

The project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia", is implemented by UN Women with Women's Information Center and Taso Foundation. The aim is to support IDPs, conflict affected and national minorities women's groups, civil society and the government, and also to strengthen their possibilities in the field of gender equality and women's rights in Georgia.



## The problems of IDP families were discussed at the meeting in Zugdidi

On 7 August, Women's Information Center, with UN Women held "One window shop" consultation meeting in the framework of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development", in the conference hall of Zugdidi municipality. The meeting aimed the discuss and solve the problems of IDPs and conflict affected people living in Zugdidi. The meeting has been attended by the representatives of local self-government, social service agency and other relevant institutions.

12 cases, presented by IDPs, were discussed during the meeting.

Women's Information Center uses "one window shop" methodology since 2010 in order to solve the problems of IDPs and conflict affected people. In the framework of the project, such meetings are held in the municipalities of Gori, Tbilisi, Tetric-

aro, Marneuli, Samtredia and Zugdidi.

The project is implemented by UN Women with Women's Information Center and the partnership of Taso Foundation, with the support of the government of Norway. The aim of the project is to support IDPs, conflict affected and national minorities women, civil society and the government, to strengthen their possibilities in order to support gender equality and women's rights in Georgia.





## UN SCR 1325 TRAINING IN KAZBEGI



On 13-16 August, in Kazbegi, Women's Information Center held a training "UN SCR 1325 and the implementation on local level". The training was held in the frame of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia".

The representatives of non-governmental organizations and local self-government of Shida Qartli and Qvemo Qartli have attended the training. Participants and organizers have discussed UN SCR 1325, and the representatives of Women's Information Center held a presentation for participants in order to clarify the concept of gender.

As a result of training, the enumeration of distinctive signs of sex and gender has been simplified for the participants. A discussion was also held in this field, the participants worked also in groups about analysis and discussed legislative changes concerning human rights.

Second part of the training was dedicated to the role of UN and international organizations in the field of peace keeping. Trainers introduced 2012-2015 National Action Plan of UN SCR 1325.

During the last part of the training, the issues of public information, its transparency and civil activeness were discussed. There was a big interest

from the audience about this topic, what has been confirmed by their engagement. The participants have talked about women's and girls' needs by the example of their regions, and presented the ways of solving these problems.

During the last day of the training, organizers have talked about "one window shop" principle methodology. They have also answered the questions about finding and discussing concrete cases.

The project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia" is implemented with the support of the government of Norway, by UN Women with the partnership with Women's Information Center and "Taso" Foundation. The project aims to support IDPs, conflict affected and national minorities women groups, civil society and the government and to strengthen their possibilities in order to protect women's rights and gender equality in Georgia.

# 1325

## WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTER HELD THE SECOND FORUM OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The second forum of non-governmental organizations, organized on 27th August by Women's Information Center has been dedicated to the implementation of UN SCR about "Women, Peace and Security". The report about the meeting of national coordination group of national action plan 2012-2015 of UN SCR 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1960 on "Women, Peace and Security" has been presented to the participants.

Activities implemented in the frame of the project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development" have also been presented to non-governmental organizations. The representatives of Women's Information Center and "Taso" Foundation have talked about the results of their work in communities, the trainings of governmental institutions and "one window shop" meetings. The members of the "Coalition for Women's Political Engagement", who presented planned activities in order to implement UN SCR 1325, have also attended the forum.

The forum has been attended by the representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions of Georgia, who have been presented the work and activities implemented in the frame of the project "Women for Equality,

Peace and Development". The partner of the event was Internally Displaced Women's association "Tankhmoba".

The project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia" is implemented with the support of the government of Norway, by UN Women with the partnership with Women's Information Center and "Taso" Foundation. The project aims to support IDPs, conflict affected and national minorities women groups, civil society and the government and to strengthen their possibilities in order to protect women's rights and gender equality in Georgia.



## Against gender violence "Men talk to Men"

Women's Information Center implements the project "Men talk to Men" since 2010 with the support of UN-FPA. Two trainings for trainers and twelve trainings for men in Tbilisi and regions of different profession and social status were held during the project. The main aim of the project is to increase awareness and inform youngsters about gender and domestic violence.

Women's Information Center works actively with the students of different universities of Georgia. "Men talk to Men" is very popular among young people.



# GEORGIAN SPORTSMEN ARE UNITED AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Famous Georgian sportsmen have met senior pupils by the initiative of UN Women and the fund of regional development of Kakheti, in the framework of UN joint program “For Supporting Gender Equality in Georgia”. The rugby player Nodar (Nono) Andguladze and the boxer, Giga Chikadze have participated in the meeting, held on 24 July, in school of arts of Akhmeta.

Special meetings “Talks with sportsmen” held under the aegis of global campaign “Union against women’s violence” of UN secretary general Ban Ki-Mun, aims to increase awareness and sensitivity of young boys against women’s and domestic violence.

The representative of Women’s Information Center Mamuka Gachchiladze held a training for young sportsmen in the frame of the meeting.

UN joint program “For Supporting Gender Equality in Georgia” is implemented by financial support of Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) by three agencies of UN- UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Women and UNFPA.



## LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

- Women's Information Center has done the analysis of the implementation of National Action Plan against trafficking, with the support of Global Fund for Women. Special meeting was held with the support of IOM. The Minister of Justice of Georgia, Tea Tsulukiani has been informed about the results. It's noteworthy, that the situation in the field of trafficking has worsened in Georgia. The country has been moved to second cart from the first one. This fact is reflected in the report about trafficking around the world of United States State Department.
- In 2011, Women's Information Center, with other women's non-governmental organizations, has presented to UN alternative report about women's condition in Georgia. The representatives of Women's Information Center have attended the discussion. Georgia has got some recommendations from UN. Women's Information Center works also about the monitoring of implementing these recommendations. The information is already obtained from relevant structures and the analysis of materials is going on.
- In July 2011, Women's Information Center, with the support of NDI, has done the analyze of the legislation and court practice of Labor Code and domestic violence. In 2013, some changes of Labor Code were initiated by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The project of changes has been presented by Women's Information Center, with the cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the support of Global Fund for Women, which will be discussed in September. The experience of several countries has been foreseen in the process of the preparation of changes.
- The representatives of Women's Information Center were actively involved in the process of analyzing the implementation of the action plan against trafficking and working about the changes in the law about domestic violence and anti discriminatory law.
- Women's Information Center is engaged in the group, created by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia, which works about the strategy of civil education at schools.

## Advocacy

### NURSERY GARDEN IN THE VILLAGE OF OMALO

In the frame of different projects, Women's Information Center advocacies actively the problems of the cities and villages of Georgia. During the meeting in the village of Duisi of Akhmeta region, the representatives of Women's Information Center has been informed about Omalo nursery garden, where are 45 children. It was built by the funding of UN, but children had no bedrooms because of the lack of space. By the information of employees and parents, the space of the yard gives the possibility of construction of new building.

Women's Information Center has applied to the governor of the municipality of Akhmeta, Mr. Beqa Baidauri, on 4 July 2013, and the trustee of Omalo, Mr. Rostom Fareulidze, to foresee the construction of bedrooms in the nursery garden in the budget of 2014. On 22 July, Women's Information Center got positive response.

Kakhaber Tsetsckhladze, gender adviser of the minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia has been actively involved in this process. By the initiative of Women's Information Center, the Ministry has prepared a solicitation letter for the government of Akhmeta municipality.



The Ministry is ready to fund the construction of bedrooms from the fund of regional development. The problem of nursery garden of Omalo will be solved in 2014.

The problem was solved in the frame of the project "Gender Sensitive Information for Gender Equality in Georgia" financed by Swedish "Kvinnatill Kvinna Foundation", with the organization "Kakheti Regional Development Foundation".



## FAMILY FROM SHASHVEBI

In the frame of the project “Women for Equality, Peace and Development” the representatives of Women’s Information Center have been informed about the situation of D.K. living in the compact settlement of Gori. The beneficiary and her family members have hard social, household and health problems. The health of D.K.-s husband, N.Ch. is damaged after being captured during the war. The situation got harder, because N.Ch. had no possibility to pay for his Identity Card, the minor grandchild has the problems of development because of insufficient nutrition.

During “One window shop” principle meeting in Gori, the representatives of Women’s information Center have discussed the issue of the family of D.K. with beneficiaries and responsible persons. As a result, the society “Biliki” has decided to pay the fees for the Identity Card, rating points were given to the family by the Agency of Social Servic-

es, “Children of Georgia” provided the nutrition of minor member of the family. The Agency of Health and Social Affairs of the municipality of Gori has also been interested in this issue.

UNHCR has given a refrigerator to the family, and UN FAO the half of amount needed to buy a cow. Women’s Information Center tries to gather the whole amount.

32 cases were revealed and discussed in the field of the project “Women for Equality, Peace and Development”. The problems of one part of the beneficiaries are already solved with the support of international and non-governmental organizations and local government.

The project “Women for Equality, Peace and Development” is implemented by UN Women with the partnership with Women’s Information Center and Taso Foundation, with the support of the government of Norway.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

42 years old I.C. has applied to Women’s Information Center because of hard domestic situation. His drug-addicted and judged husband abused her physically and morally. Their three children have often been witnesses and victims of domestic conflict. One of their children, who is 22 years old, has even tried to suicide because of the stress.

I.C. began herself the trial of divorcing, but the advocate and judge were opposed. The fees of divorce have also been problematic. She has never worked, her apartment is bought during the cohabitation of the couple.

The representatives of Women’s Information Center held legal and other consultation for I.C. After the efforts of the center, she has been given the status of victim. After their divorce, the property has been divided between the couple without any problems.

I.C. tells, that she is happy and she can start her life from the beginning.

The problem was solved in the frame of the project “Gender Sensitive Information for Gender Equality in Georgia” financed by Swedish “Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation”.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LABOR CODE

Women's Information Center has held a meeting with non-governmental organizations in hotel "Tbilisi Marriot". With other issues, the representatives of the organization have presented the recommendations about the changes of Labor Code, concerning women's labor rights.

Women's Information Center has worked about this topic in the frame of the project, supported by Global Fund of Women. In the framework of the project "Monitoring of national and international obligations in the sphere of defending women's rights" several activities have been implemented.

The meeting has been attended by the representatives of different regions, most of them were from conflict zone. Increasing the period of maternity leave, the rights of employees in educational field, recommendations about convicted women- these are some of the topics, discussed during the meeting.



As it's known, the Ministry of Justice will continue working about the amendments of Labor Code from Autumn. Recommendations, prepared by Women's Information Center will be sent to the Ministry in nearest future.

## Increasing civil awareness

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOR INCREASING CIVIL AWARENESS

Gender informational portal [www.ginsc.net](http://www.ginsc.net) is one of the most important projects of Women's Information Center. During its existence, the portal had some different stages. During different projects, the partners were: women's program of "Open society- Georgia", Mama Chash, currently the portal is functioning with the support of Swedish foundation "Kvinna till Kvinna". The website was redesigned, what has made the portal more effective.

[www.ginsc.net](http://www.ginsc.net) is a unique project with its importance. The visitors can see information about gender equality, trafficking and domestic violence, as well the legislation in the field of gender equality and women's rights, normative acts, reports, abstracts and researches. The site has also photo archive. [www.ginsc.net](http://www.ginsc.net) informs the visitors every day about news not only in Georgia and Caucasus, but also about the events in whole the world, what increases its popularity from day to day.

Website of Women's Information Center [www.wicge.org](http://www.wicge.org) informs society about the news and projects of the organization. The reconstruction of the

site is going on and from September the visitors will be able to see information of renewed page.

Women's Information Center has its page on Facebook, by which everyday news are disseminated in social web. Women's Information Center actively uses social media for organizing different charity actions.

Women's Information Center administrates Facebook page of the coalition "For Women's Political Engagement".





# FESTIVAL OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ქალთა საინფორმაციო ცენტრი



ინფორმაცია ქალებისათვის და არა მხოლოდ ქალებისათვის

www.ginsc.net  
www.wicge.org  
www.nasilie.net  
www.youthknot.net  
www.antitraf.net

It's not about **only women**,  
It's about **useful information**



Women's Information Center

On 11 July 2013, the festival of non-governmental organizations, containing different activities, has been held in “Expo Georgia” by the organization of Tbilisi City Hall. Up to 100 organizations have participated in the festival, which has been opened by the exposition of non-governmental organizations. Organizations, working about different topics, have presented their books, booklets, audio and video material and handmade.

Women's Information Center has also participated in the festival. The organization has presented published books, brochures and informational booklets, photo material of different projects.

The representatives of current non-governmental sector, diplomatic corps, international organizations and donor organizations took part in the festival.

The visitors were very interested about the corner of Women's Information Center. The exposition gave the organizations opportunity to be better informed about each other's activities and see the plans of future cooperation.





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