



IN BRIEF

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN GEORGIA

Photo: UN Women

Since the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and its subsequent nine resolutions the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) has significantly influenced the engagement of women in peace and security efforts. Since 2011, through its four consecutive National Action Plans (NAPs), Georgia has made notable progress, evidenced by its improved ranking in the 2023 Women, Peace and Security Index.¹ Despite these advancements, challenges such as

women’s perception of decreased community safety persist. The latest NAP (2022–2024) sets a precedent by allocating a dedicated budget for the initiatives aimed at improving conditions for internally displaced (IDP) and conflict-affected women and enhancing their role in peace and security decision-making. The data show that women’s participation in peace and security processes is critically low, while IDP and conflict-affected women remain one of the most vulnerable groups.

WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE AND SECURITY PROCESSES IN GEORGIA IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOW.

Despite the fact that women have constituted half (51 per cent in 2021) of the workforce at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia in recent years, only **38%** of decision-making roles in the Civil Office were held by women in 2022.²

The representation of women in the Georgian Defence Forces was just **7%** in 2022.³

At the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, women held a mere **6.1%** of leadership positions in 2022 (Figure 1).⁴

FIGURE 1: Proportion of women at the decision-making level in the security sector (percentage)

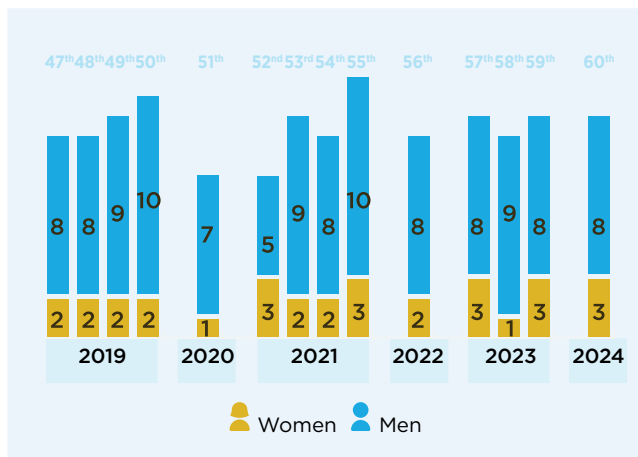


Source: PDO; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Geostat.

Additionally, women’s engagement in conflict resolution and peace processes is critically low, limiting inclusion of their perspectives and contributions from

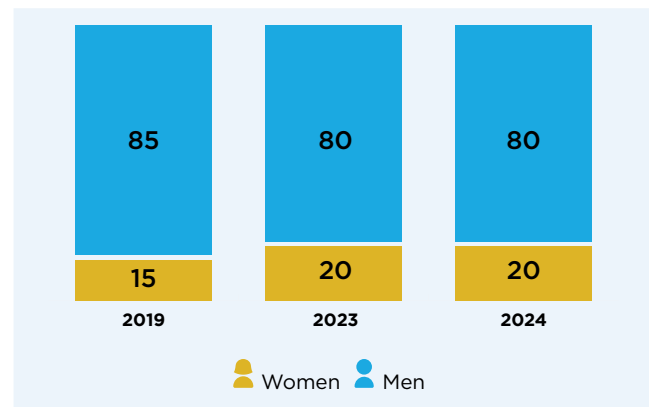
the Geneva International Discussions (Figure 2) and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (Figure 3).

FIGURE 2: Georgian participants in the Geneva International Discussions (GID), by GID rounds and sex 2019-2024



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Letter dated 01.05.2024

FIGURE 3: Georgian participants in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), by years and sex (percentage)



Source: State Security Service of Georgia. Letter dated 15 May 2024.
Note: From 2020 to 2022, the number of IPRM participants was limited due to COVID-19-related restrictions.



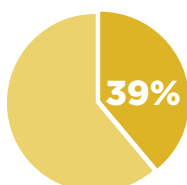
Moreover, women are underrepresented in people-to-people diplomacy; Only **16%** of such initiatives were led by women’s organizations or focused on women’s issues in 2021 and 2022.⁵

IDPS ARE ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GEORGIA, FACING HIGHER LEVELS OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT THAN OTHER GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY.

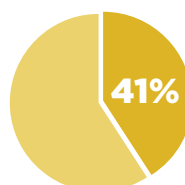
Georgia has a significant number of IDPs (totalling 290,257 as of 2021), 53 per cent of whom are women. Additionally, 46,620 individuals live along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with Abkhazia, Georgia

and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia.⁶ A 2023 study by UN Women and ANOVA highlights that IDP women face particularly severe economic hardships,⁷ such as:

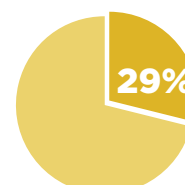
Unemployment



Insufficient income for basic necessities, like food



Unable to afford clothing



While IDP women are generally aware of health programmes, significant barriers prevent them from accessing comprehensive health services, especially in covering treatment and medical costs. Furthermore, domestic violence—encompassing physical,

psychological and economic abuse—remains a profound challenge for IDP women. This is compounded by other critical issues such as housing, unemployment and health concerns.⁸

IDP WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, RECONCILIATION AND PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES IS CRITICALLY LOW.

According to UN Women and ANOVA study, only:⁹



24%

of IDP women are aware of initiatives related to conflict transformation and peacebuilding.



29%

have heard of any people, organizations or government projects working on these issues.



28%

of women reported that the opinions of female IDPs are seldom sought in matters of conflict transformation.



25%

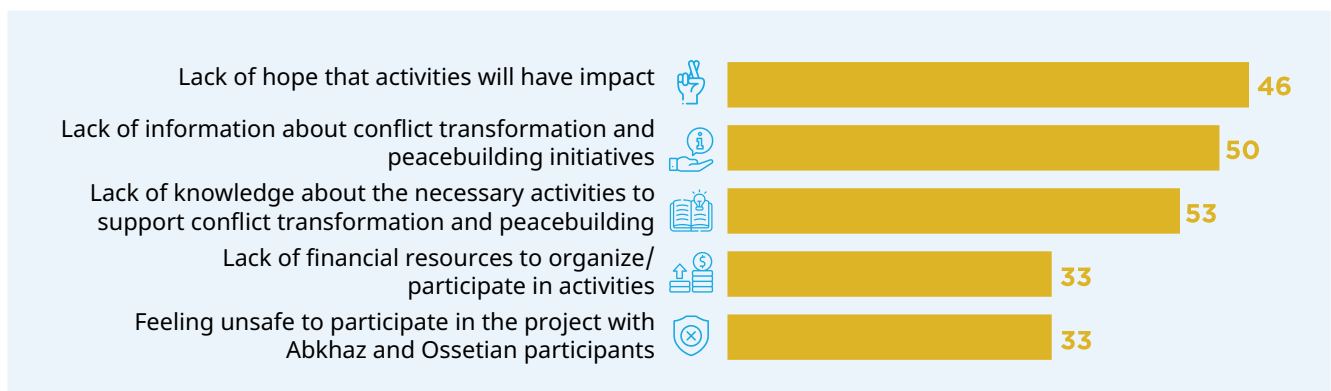
felt that their ideas and opinions are not taken seriously.

Alarming, **95%** of the study's participants have never been involved in conflict transformation processes themselves. The barriers preventing IDP women from

participating in these processes include a lack of hope, insufficient information and knowledge, financial constraints and feelings of insecurity (Figure 4).¹⁰

FIGURE 4:

Barriers preventing IDP women from participating in conflict transformation processes (percentage of respondents)



Source: UN Women and ANOVA. 2023

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE WPS AGENDA IN GEORGIA

- **Promote women’s leadership in peace and security-related decision-making:** Launch targeted recruitment, retention and career advancement initiatives to enhance women’s roles in decision-making and leadership within the defence and security sector.
- **Ensure the participation of IDP women, including young women, in peace processes:** Improve outreach and engagement strategies to ensure that IDP women are informed and can participate meaningfully in conflict transformation, reconciliation and all peacebuilding efforts, including through civil society support.
- **Address IDP women’s specific and differentiate needs:** Develop comprehensive programmes focusing on prevention and response to domestic violence, access to tailored livelihood and employment opportunities, accessibility of healthcare services, and increased awareness of IDP women’s rights and the available services, thereby catering and tailoring to the unique challenges faced by IDP women.

ENDNOTES

1. Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security. 2023. Women, Peace and Security Index 2023/24: Tracking sustainable peace through inclusion, justice and security for women. Washington, DC: GIWPS and PRIO, p. 124. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WPS-Index-full-report.pdf>.
2. PDO (Public Defender’s Office of Georgia). 2022. Situation on the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia. Tbilisi: PDO, p. 199.
3. Ibid.
4. Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. 2021 and 2022. “Number of MIA employees by sex.” <https://info.police.ge/uploads/6204fb84ef816.pdf>.
5. Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. Official letter No. 1341-1-2- 202307251412, dated 25 July 2023.
6. Geostat (National Statistics Office of Georgia). n.d. “Gender Statistics Portal.” <http://gender.geostat.ge/gender/index.php> (see: Social Protection).
7. UN Women and ANOVA. 2023. Study on the Views and Attitudes of IDP Women towards Conflict Transformation, Reconciliation and Peacebuilding.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.