

STUDY OF THE PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN TBILISI, KAKHETI AND SAMEGRELO-ZEMO SVANETI REGIONS OF GEORGIA (2013)

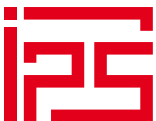


Report
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Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of the study was to investigate attitudes of citizens of Georgia in Tbilisi, Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti towards domestic violence and violence against women and girls and to estimate the extent to which the population is informed on the existing services for the victims/survivors of domestic violence. This study was commissioned by UN Women in the frameworks of the UN Joint Project to *Enhance Gender Equality in Georgia* (hereinafter the UNJP), generously supported by the Swedish Government. The study was implemented by a local research organization – the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). The results of the study among others will lay grounds for the development of a public awareness-raising campaign on violence against women and girls and domestic violence and further promotion of domestic violence services for all the relevant state and non-state stakeholders.

Methodology

The field-work was carried out in July-September 2013 in the capital Tbilisi, as well as Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions of Georgia that are also the target regions of the UNJP. The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) has used mixed methodology once conducting the present study, involving qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative aspects of the study

aimed at identification of the attitudes towards violence against women and girls and domestic violence, singling out the problems, their causes and consequences and effective ways for combating it.

Eight focus group discussions were held with women and men, as well as youth, engaging non-displaced as well as internally displaced (IDPs) citizens of Georgia. Altogether, 78 individuals took part in the focus groups, among them 54 were women and 24 were men. Results of the discussions formed basis for the design of the survey instrument used in the quantitative component of the study.

In total, 1500 persons (women - 65.1 percent and men - 34.9 percent) were surveyed in the age groups of 18 to 80 years old. The survey instrument contained 80 questions, the majority of which were designed specifically for the present study. To ensure comparability of the findings of this study with similar research conducted in other parts of the world, in the questionnaire there were integrated questions from Eurobarometer (Eurobarometer, 2010), the study of Attitudes to Domestic Abuse in Ireland (COS, 2010) and a question on acceptance of violence used in 26 countries (Pierotti, 2013). The 80 questions have been grouped around: 1.

Demographic data; 2. Economic condition and the quality of life; 3. Sources of information; 4. Gender equality; 5. Gender roles; 6. Domestic violence; 7. Response to violence; 8. Information on violence; 9. General section.

In each survey site a starting point was taken from which the interviewers were instructed to enter every fifth house. The face-to-face interviews were taken from people with the knowledge of the Georgian language. The survey interview lasted for about 30-45 minutes.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Results of both qualitative and quantitative components illustrate that domestic violence is acknowledged as a grave problem in all the target locations of the study. Some 77.8 percent of the respondents considers that domestic violence occurs very often or quite often, 66.8 percent admitted that they know victims/survivors of domestic violence and 56.3 percent admitted that they know perpetrators personally.

Violence is first of all considered as a violation of human rights; namely, 51 percent of respondents considers that women are more oppressed than men. While at the same time some 12.8 percent of both women and men think that men have apparent superiority over women in Georgia. The study also found that there is a clear link between public attitudes towards gender equality and violence against women and

girls and domestic violence; citizens who opt for equality are much less tolerant to violence.

Physical abuse is considered the most severe form of violence according to some 97.1 percent of the respondents. It is followed by sexual violence (94.4 percent), restriction on contacts with others (91 percent), restrictions on freedom of movement (89.2 percent), economic control (89 percent) and verbal abuse (83.5 percent). Moreover, verbal abuse is understood as a prelude to other forms of violence that are perceived to be graver.

It is noteworthy, that some 57 percent of interviewees consider all instances of violence against women and girls and domestic violence as a criminal offence. Respondents are stricter in their evaluation of wife battery and 68.9 percent admit that such offences should always be punishable by law. Comparison of the study data with the studies carried out in previous years in the country unequivocally point to the increased intolerance of violence and its increased perception as a criminal offence rather than a family matter. The comparison of the study findings on the question about the possible justifications of violence with results accumulated in 26 countries (Pierotti, 2013) shows increased intolerance of violence in Georgia; Worldwide, 51 percent of interviewees and 76.6 percent of respondents in Georgia did not justify violence by any of the listed five

reasons ((a) when wife does not pay attention to children; b) when wife quarrels with husband; c) when wife burns food; d) when wife refuses to have sex; e) when wife leaves house without husband's permission).

Divorce is considered as an appropriate reaction to domestic violence by 79 percent of the respondents, while 17 percent think that women should tolerate violence in order to maintain marriage. Some 78.9 percent of respondents think that in case of bride kidnapping, women should not agree to marriage. If a woman is facing violence from her spouse appeal for help to her parents and kin (76.2 percent) is considered as the most appropriate reaction followed by appeal to church (73.7 percent), a lawyer (65.3 percent), police (62.8 percent) and other respective services (53.3 percent).

Increasing education and awareness of gender equality (93.6 percent), adequate legal punishment of perpetrators (87.7 percent), introducing and implementing stricter legal measures (84.5 percent), involvement of the church (80.5 percent), increased media coverage of the problem of violence (80.1 percent) are considered the most effective ways for combating domestic violence and violence against women and girls.

Along with the aforementioned general findings for all the three query locations, important differences have been

identified across the regions according to respondents' sex, age, and level of education.

In the regional context, intolerance of violence against women and girls and domestic violence, attitudes in favor of gender equality and acknowledgement of violence against women and girls and domestic violence as a grave problem is greater in Tbilisi, as compared to Kakheti and the lowest in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region.

Women are more intolerant towards violence against women and girls and domestic violence than men and are better informed of its consequences and existing services for the victims/survivors.

There is a sharp distinction in attitudes of the respondents in the age group over 60 and younger respondents. Older respondents as compared to younger ones are much more tolerant to domestic violence, consider it as a family matter rather than a criminal offence, and are less informed about its causes and consequences. The younger generation in the age group 18-30 is less tolerant to violence.

The attitudes are also in correlation with the level of education. Intolerance of violence against women and girls and domestic violence and support of gender equality is much more shared by persons with higher education than the ones with secondary or lower education.

Differences across regions, age groups and education levels can be explained by the concept of the diffusion of global scenarios (Mayer, et al., 2010, 1997). According to this concept, change of attitudes occurs more due to the spread of global ideas than due to the impact of local policies. Therefore, the higher the education status and access to new technologies, more often found in the capital, among younger and educated persons, the higher the intolerance towards violence among these segments of population.

Steps to be taken

- **Focusing awareness raising interventions on all segments of the society and greater involvement of citizens in such campaigns** – In order for violence against women and girls and domestic violence to be perceived as a violation of human rights, and expression of gender inequality, intolerance towards different opinion and behavior and disrespect to human dignity, it is indispensable to implement complex actions targeting the whole society. It is necessary to actively involve the population in the implementation of anti-violence campaigns, especially to focus them on the effect of domestic violence on children. Training of journalists in gender equality issues and gender-sensitive reporting is also necessary. In addition to traditional promotion strategies, use of innovative methods should be supported.
- **Promotion of gender equality** – It is critical to use all the different chan-

nels of media, including social media for the promotion of gender equality as an integral value for democratic development of the country and as a means for preventing and combatting violence against women and girls and domestic violence. The image of a man as a caring spouse and father should be promoted. Awareness-raising interventions on gender equality should target both men and women.

- **Upbringing** – Learning /internalization of the domestic violence perpetrator and victim roles occurs in childhood and mostly in the family. A healthy family environment is a necessary condition for disrupting the circle of violence. The attitude of mutual respect, equality between the parents must be promoted with the help of the media, through informational publications, parent consultations and trainings.
- **Education** – Teaching of gender equality should be integrated at all levels of educational programs, from pre-school throughout higher education programs. Teaching of achievement of own goals in non-aggressive ways, techniques of compromise should be incorporated in school curricula.
- **Empowerment of women** – Efforts should be taken to increase women's resources, including their access to economic resources and employment.
- **Involvement of the Orthodox Church and other religious organizations** – Opportunities for partnership with religious leaders should be explored, namely to engage them in awareness-raising campaigns con-

denying violence against women and girls and domestic violence and promoting peace and love and respect for human dignity irrespective of one's sex.

- **Criminalization of domestic violence** – Perception of violence as a criminal offence rather than a private family matter should be promoted. Furthermore, intolerance to any form of violence and inequality should be promoted.

- **Support of victims/survivors** – There should be more possibilities for psychological, legal and medical consulting and support to victims/survivors. Training of victims/survivors in assertiveness and increase of self-esteem should be provided. Victims/survivors should be instructed as how to ensure their own security. Shelters and crisis centers should be opened in regions.

- **Re-socialization of perpetrators** – Psychological consultation and treatment of perpetrators, in case of substance abuse should be available and mandated by courts.

- **Acknowledgement of the problem of violence against children** – The study demonstrated that parents cannot rightly identify their behavior to children, cannot distinguish upbringing from violence and often consider their acts of violence as necessary and approved means for upbringing. Consulting and training of parents, providing them with more information about upbringing and detrimental effects of violence on the wellbeing of children is necessary.

- **Restricting the use of hate speech**

- The study has shown the role of hate speech and swearing as the preceding form to physical and other types of violence. Use of hate speech and swearing in media and public places should be punishable.

- **Conducting regular studies on prevalence of violence against women and girls and domestic violence and attitudes towards it**

- For monitoring the effects of implemented awareness raising interventions and planning of further interventions, it is recommended to conduct studies on prevalence of violence against women and girls and domestic violence as well as attitudes towards it at least once in three years. Closer examination of the link between gender equality and intolerance to violence should be further examined.

- **Need of context specific measures**

- Next to the need of implementing country-wide interventions, there is a need for context specific approach considering the place of residence, sex, age and education status of the respondents. The study showed that the need for promoting gender equality is higher in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region as compared to Kakheti and Tbilisi. More focus needs to be placed on men, as they are more prone to accept and approve inequality than women. More efforts should be directed to persons with lower than higher education. Different tools should be used in working with them as well as with youth, persons in the middle and late adulthood.

1. FINDINGS OF QUALITATIVE COMPONENT OF THE STUDY

The qualitative study aimed at identification of the attitudes towards violence against women and girls and domestic violence, singling out perceptions about their causes and consequences and the ways for combating violence.

1.1. Perception of domestic violence

Meaning of domestic violence, its reasons and consequence as well as possible effective ways of combating it were discussed during the eight focus group discussions (involving altogether 78 persons, 54 female and 24 male) in Tbilisi, Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions of Georgia.

The majority of the participants understood domestic violence as a violation of human rights. Participants pointed out the prevalence of domestic violence and its overarching character. They talked not only about violence against women and girls, but also about the instances of violence against men and children perpetrated by women, violence against children perpetrated by grandparents and by brothers against sisters.

Violence is rather prevalent in Kakheti. This is not only violence of hus-

band against wife, but also violence of parents against their children, and grandparents against their grandchildren (female participant from Telavi, Kakheti).

Participants also pointed at a cyclic, continuous nature of violence. A child, who was a witness or a victim of domestic violence often becomes a perpetrator or a victim.

According to focus group participants, during the last decade, progress with regard to the achievement of gender equality has been noticeable. The degree of trust towards women has increased. Husbands let their wives work or go abroad with more easily. An increased number of women have driver's licenses nowadays.

Participants of the discussion pointed out that domestic violence encompasses much more than just physical abuse. Psychological and economic violence, restriction of freedom and control are also considered as forms of domestic violence.

Physical violence

Battery, hitting, throwing objects towards the victim, dragging by hair

are manifestations of physical abuse, which is most often perpetrated by men against their wives.

Psychological violence

In a number of discussions, the participants pointed out that psychological or emotional violence can be more harmful than physical violence. It is more prevalent than physical violence.

I would say that psychological violence could be the most harmful, as a person once hurt by it may remain wounded during the entire life. Verbal insult and swearing is a daily phenomenon (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

Shouting, swearing, threatening, insulting and humiliating words, attempts of lowering one's self-esteem - are forms of verbal abuse.

There are continuous attempts to lower self-esteem of women. At school, many teachers emphasize that boys are gifted and girls get high marks only due to hard work (Female participant in Telavi).

The favorite phrase of Georgian man is "women belong in the kitchen". At this point, a woman's self-esteem is lowered (Male participant in Tbilisi).

Economic violence

According to the focus group participants, economic violence occurs when a husband does not give money to his

wife or takes away her income. The case when husband is unemployed and spends the wife's money on his own pleasure e.g. on gambling is also considered as economic violence. Too often women cultivate land, while men are socializing.

It's violence when husband does nothing and sends wife abroad to work and then lives in harmony, doing nothing, buying cigarettes and enjoying himself with other women and justifies his behavior by the fact that his wife is not there (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

Restriction of freedom and control

Participants considered it a violation of human rights and hence a form of violence when people do not take into consideration values, interests and thoughts of others and when the wife or the husband always tries to make decisions. Restriction of contacts, suspiciousness, jealousy, imposing one's rules over the other, control of the other's behavior - are understood as manifestations of domestic violence.

Violence against children

Discussants pointed out that restrictions are frequently imposed upon children and they are often oppressed. Children are continuously told that they are not capable to do anything, that they cannot achieve their aims. Adults often swear at children and insult them. Many participants noted that prohibiting something also constitutes

violence and in many cases it is difficult to draw a line between upbringing and violence.

1.2. Causes of domestic violence

According to discussants, gender inequality is the main reason of domestic violence. The superiority of men over women is assumed by men and women alike.

In Svaneti there is a cult of masculinity and the Bible tells us, that we should obey men. This is also an example of violence (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

Many saw the reason for granting superiority to men over women in wrong interpretation of the religious scripts, which are used as a justification of violence and promotion of male superiority.

The superiority of men over women is expressed in the widely spread attitude according to which the man is the head of the family and he is not to be blamed for anything.

A man is the head and a woman is the second person in the family. This is the reason (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

Participants noted that it would be more appropriate to talk about equal rights.

We talk about gender equality and then get angry when men do not offer us a seat. If there is gender equality, why should he do this? (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo-Svaneti)

Female participant in Mestia stated that inequality is a political issue, which is reflected in a small number of women in the Parliament and government.

Many participants thought that violence is so wide-spread because the society is highly tolerant to swearing and using of dirty words, which is caused by poor education.

According to the discussants, one can name many reasons of domestic violence, but the essential reason is in the personality and most often is determined by the perpetrators' upbringing. Growing up in a situation where domestic violence, violence against women and girls is accepted often results in a child becoming either a perpetrator or a victim of domestic violence.

Another reason is seen in excessive demands towards boys, which they cannot meet. As a result, aggression is accumulated and later transposed on others. A person who cannot realize himself often becomes a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Inferiority complex in men often stimulates violence. The woman is next to him, who is strong and nice and he

cannot prove his superiority either with word or with the deeds, but is stronger physically so he perpetrates violence (Female participant in Tbilisi).

The feeling of inferiority is fueled by the fact that often the woman is employed, while the man is not. According to discussants, alcohol abuse also often provokes violence. However, a male participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo, claimed that prohibiting men to drink alcohol should be understood as violence perpetrated by a woman against a man.

Jealousy often serves as a cause of violence. According to a female participant's opinion, this is an illness and a man who suffers from it should be provided with psychological assistance.

It is very difficult for them. I know the cases when a man is against violence, but cannot control himself (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

Young men justify violence perpetrated by brothers against their sisters to a much greater extent, than violence perpetrated by husbands against their wives. They considered violence against sisters as more acceptable as it, in their opinion, contributes to the "improvement" of the sisters' behavior and is aimed at saving them from "disgrace".

A brother beats his sister in order to make her better (Male participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

Many participants, mostly men, named the wife's behavior as one of the main causes for domestic violence. Showing disrespect towards her husband, infidelity, provocation of violence, the fact that the husband cannot make the wife understand something - were named among the reasons of violence.

Men beat women because they differ biologically and men have more physical strength. Women are weaker and cannot use violence, but instead they can say such things that make men beat them (Male participant in Zugdidi, Samegrelo).

Maybe you have not met them, but there are women who have to be beaten (Male participant in Zugdidi, Samegrelo).

A female participant in Tbilisi thinks that a woman should not give her husband a reason for beating her up, thus implying that some women deserve to be beaten. Not knowing one's own rights and women's passiveness often cause violence.

The weakness of women is that they at first give in to men, and then it becomes difficult to take a right position. Women know more about their obligations than about their rights (Female participant in Tbilisi).

According to the participants, the practice of domestic violence continues be-

cause it is supported by society's attitude towards it. Frequently, the society does not interfere in family conflicts.

Social environments, consisting of friends who are perpetrators of domestic violence can prompt men to use violence. Stressful life, problems may bring men to the point of losing control. Economic problems at home also often result in violence. Some participants thought that if not these problems, some men could have never become perpetrators.

1.3. Consequences of domestic violence

Consequences of domestic violence are manifold. They affect the victim and perpetrator, the witnesses of violence and on the society as a whole.

Evaluations of violence by the discussants did not differ. Everyone admitted that the effect of violence on woman is grave. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the victim gets accustomed to violence.

It becomes unimaginable that normal life exists beyond it, that there is equality and that normal relationships exist (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo-Svaneti).

According to the focus group participants, as a result of violence, the woman loses the feeling of herself, she feels that she is a useless object, nobody.

Life looks like a mere existence, you do not live, and you just exist and wait for the day when this comes to an end (Female participant in Zugdidi, Samegrelo).

Participants claimed that as a consequence of violence, women give up their positions, their self-esteem is lowered, they become obsessed with the fear of future, and they lose motivation to do anything, fear her husband and acquire health problems.

According to a young man in Telavi, by virtue of violence one loses hope, becomes pessimistic. Women hope to find warmth and love in marriage, not swearing and insult. This feeling will follow a woman throughout her life. She can divorce, but will restrain herself from getting married once again fearing to become a victim of violence again.

Violence against women can also affect the wellbeing of children, as violence may leave the woman without energy to properly look after the children or being angry at the husband may result in revenge upon children.

As a result of violence, women cannot be as caring mothers as they were before. Because they would not have enough nerves, so children become oppressed from both – the father and the mother (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

According to the respondents, men often enjoy violence, at least at the moment of committing such acts, and most often regret afterwards. After acting in a violent way a perpetrator often feels bad and makes excuses. Some participants think that if the husband does not love his wife and is violent to her, he entertains himself with violence and does not care what the wife feels.

Domestic violence has a rather negative impact on the mental state of a child. According to the participants, consequences of witnessing violence will undoubtedly be revealed eventually.

Violence resides in the consciousness of the child and s/he will eventually reveal it in adulthood (Female participant in Tbilisi).

A participant in Telavi, Kakheti told the following story:

We asked children to stage a social scene, like a theater performance. Children from Naphareuli had to write a script. They wrote the following: A drunk man acts violently towards his wife and child. A neighbor named Natali enters the scene. She is fed up with the screams of the woman and tells her to go with her to her house and promises to provide her help. The victim of violence answers Natali that this is not her business, that this is her and her husband's business and tells her not to interfere. The child cannot stand this anymore and goes out in the

street. Such was the reality seen by the children.

According to the participants, witnessing violence by a child triggers a permanent, continuous form of violence. Parents serve as models to their children, whom they imitate.

A child witnessing violence becomes a victim of domestic violence. A child should also become a parent and if his/her parents do not secure safe environment for him/her, there is a high probability that s/he will create a similar environment for his/her children (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

Girls imitate their mothers at any age, as the boys imitate their fathers. Today, I still imitate my mother and if a boy is brought up next to a violent father, he by all means will become a perpetrator of domestic violence. If it is a girl who sees that her mother acts violently against her grandmother, in case a problem arises, she will do the same (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

According to the view of participant in Telavi, witnessing violence has an impact on both boys and girls. Boys become perpetrators, while girl become victims of domestic violence.

When a girl witnesses violence, she grows up as her mother, as a slave or I do not know how to call this. The

mother teaches her patience and tolerance-“tolerate, look how much I can endure”. The mother gives her own example. “Don’t you think I did not want to go to friends, but I endure”. But the question is why? The answer is “To have peace in the family” (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

A child witness of domestic violence becomes isolated from his parents and the society. The child closes in himself/herself, says nothing, tries to be in public as little as possible, and loses connection with the parents.

In case of violence in my family I would not go to my peers and friends and talk with them about it (Male participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

A child witnessing domestic violence becomes inclined to drug addiction and nervous outbreaks. Outside the home, the child gives in everything in favor of others, because s/he is frightened. Many get inclined to delinquency. Witnessing violence lowers the child’s academic and cognitive abilities.

According to the view of a female discussant, a woman subjected to domestic violence is not capable of rearing a healthy generation and hence the whole society suffers from violence.

1.4. Response to domestic violence

Divorce

Most often participants named divorce as an appropriate response to domestic violence.

A woman should not spit in her soul, she should destroy what should be destroyed, and not tolerate it (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

If the husband beats his wife at least once I consider him a perpetrator. It is unacceptable to live with him. If my daughter finds herself in a similar situation, I would strongly advise her to return home or go to live somewhere else (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

The majority of participants expressed their negative attitude towards women who continue to live with perpetrators.

Women who continue to live with perpetrators do not deserve respect. Most probably they are masochists (Female participant in Tbilisi).

Participants named a number of reasons why women stay with perpetrators:

- Love. When a woman still loves her husband;
- The desire that children have their father at home;

Many people do not realize that witnessing violence is more stressful for children than divorce and try not to break up the family (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

- Losing the face. According to the view of a male participant in Telavi, divorced women have a bad image, and are thought to be easily accessible for other men;
- Norm of tolerance. Many consider that women should endure everything;

Mother tells you as her daughter that you should endure everything from the very childhood. (Female participant in Tbilisi).

- Fear of public opinion;
- No place to go;

Many do not have any place to go. The paternal family refuses to accept the woman back or she cannot go there because of her brother's family (Female participant in Telavi).

Participant in Telavi provided an example of her neighbor. According to her neighbor, she got to know her future husband via phone and ran away with him and even if he tries to kill her she cannot go back home, because her parents will not accept her back.

- Economic problems – many women are economically fully dependent on their husbands and their families, so divorce would bring serious economic problems for them and their children.

Calling the police

A considerable number of respondents think that it is necessary to call the police in case of domestic violence. However, others think that women should not do this, as it is an embarrassment.

Calling the police is your embarrassment, because you let your husband beat you, i.e. you do not even deserve to call the police. You are the one to be blamed. The police may come and laugh at you. You should not let yourself to be ridiculed (Female participant in Tbilisi).

Many respondents do not consider calling the police as a way out, as the husband will continue beating the wife after the police has left.

Very often, as soon as policemen leave, the husband resumes beating his wife even more severely and scolding her for calling the police (Female participant in Tbilisi).

In the respondents' opinion, the same happens in case the husband is arrested.

The men can be incarcerated, but they will continue beating upon release (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

There are cases when women call the police out of despair, but then they pity their husbands and tell the police that nothing has happened.

Interference of the Community

Many respondents think that the society needs to interfere in cases of domestic violence, although there may be various obstacles to that:

- Victim hides occurrence of violence;

When a victim goes out she puts on a mask as if nothing has happened (Male participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

- Victim refuses to receive assistance;

In some cases women are used to violence and any other type of life is unimaginable for them. She is accustomed to be beaten by men and going to live elsewhere or divorce is not an option for her (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

- The third party in fact does not know what is happening in the family;

Family is a closed unit and nobody knows what happens in it in reality (Male participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

- One does not know how to interfere in the instances of violence;

I do not know how to interfere, what to say, how to begin, how to avoid his disrespectful behavior toward myself. When two people are fighting, the one who tries to separate them also gets hurt. I do not know what to say, I cannot tell him "calm down" (Male participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

1.5. Ways for preventing domestic violence

The majority of discussants consider upbringing to be at a core of everything, be it in the family or at school. Therefore, combatting violence is possible only through proper upbringing. Discussants are convinced that parents should talk with children about domestic violence and its consequences.

At school, time should be allocated for the discussions on domestic violence and gender equality issues.

Once we have understood the concept of equality, and how to treat different people, there will be less violence. When I know my rights, I will not allow anyone to use violence against me (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

Not only children, but also adults should be educated on violence through trainings. This should happen by sending positive messages – not by “I do not

want war” but by “I want peace”, with men and women at their work places.

Parents should be taught the essentials of upbringing, violence against children should become the focus of discussions.

Religion

According to the participants, the role of the church and its potential in preventing violence against women and girls and domestic violence is immense yet not utilized.

The church should be engaged, as the opinion of priests is very important for a major part of the society (Female participant in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti).

Religion changes a person to a significant extent, although it is unlikely to improve situation entirely. (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti).

A male participant in Orsantia noted that if the person lives according to the Orthodox Christian morals, he will never commit any act of violence. Some of the participants have noted that it would be expedient to take young children to church so that they learn mutual obedience and respect, develop the skill of taking into account the opinions of others.

Getting advice and consultation

A young man in Telavi noted that he would like to get advice from adults about violence. As he said:

Young people should be assisted in reconciling their parents or urging them not to quarrel, but even more in overcoming trauma of witnessing violence.

A victim should be able to share her sufferings with a close person.

Participants of the discussion consider assistance of a psychiatrist and/or psychologist essential. Assistance of a psychologist is also needed for women to be able to defend their rights. Self-esteem of women should be raised and they should get assistance in career advancement. Possibilities for psychological rehabilitation of perpetrators should also exist. If a drunk man commits an act of violence and has remorse afterwards, he should be provided relevant assistance. Children should be able to talk with psychologists to better understand their feelings.

Awareness raising through the media

Group members pointed out the importance of public awareness raising. Special outreach initiatives should be used to disseminate information among women who are unemployed and stay at home. This could be brochures, leaflets, TV broadcasts, meetings, mobile groups' visits. Non-governmental organizations should be actively engaged in the process.

More information should be provided to women concerning their rights and what they can do in case of domestic vi-

olence. Programs on domestic violence should be aired on TV so that men also watch them.

Increase of resources

According to the respondents, women with certain kinds of resources, who e.g. have fathers or brothers to defend them, are less subjected to violence. Discussants pointed out that a large number of men behave well because they are afraid of their wives' fathers or brothers.

They are good husbands because their wives have well-off fathers or brothers (Female participant in Telavi, Kakheti)

A young male participant noted that men should be fearful that in case of violence they may lose their houses or property.

Education, knowledge of one's own rights and assertiveness are important resources. According to the respondents, Increase in education and knowledge of rights will diminish violence against women. Education allows women to be more independent, not to be afraid to leave their husbands, will enable them to find employment. Early marriages should be avoided as they restrict women's possibilities to get proper education. For increasing material resources, vocational retraining courses are very helpful, as they can increase women's employability.

Local self-government and police

Participants think that local self-governments should have a greater role in solving family problems. Conflicts can also be effectively addressed by local police officers.

Women's behavior and selection of a right partner

Some participants saw the roots of violence in times preceding marriage. They pointed out the importance of knowing the future husband well.

One should not marry by chance. Spouses should compromise in turns and the process should be balanced (Female participant in Orsantia).

Some participants noted that women should marry decent men, while others noted that it is often impossible to predict who will turn out to be a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Some participants pointed that often women's behavior provokes violence. In their opinion, women need to be careful not to irritate husbands.

One should know the man's character and should not drive him to the edge, should not provoke him (Female participant in Orsantia, Samegrelo).

Condemning perpetrators by the community

Participants emphasized the role of the community in combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence. The majority of respondents thought that the society is indifferent to violence and is tolerant to violence. One should not sit next to the perpetrator and drink with him, but rather should advise him not to behave this way.

1.6. Concluding remarks

The discussions have proved that citizens acknowledge domestic violence and violence against women and girls as a serious and prevalent problem in Tbilisi, Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions of Georgia.

Violence is perceived as a violation of human rights and manifestation of inequality. The different forms of violence - physical, psychological and economic violence and control were discussed and evaluated. Swearing was perceived as a preceding form of other forms of violence, often leading to physical violence. It has been demonstrated that men and women perceive violence differently. A large number of men consider it acceptable and think that women are to be blamed for it.

The continuous character of violence was singled out. It is highly probable that children having witnessed domes-

tic violence, will become either a perpetrator or a victim of domestic violence.

Divorce, appeal to the police, and condemnation of the perpetrator of domestic violence by the society were seen as the most appropriate responses to violence. Upbringing, awareness raising, empowerment of women, psychological counseling of victims/survivors and involvement of the church were also named as preventive mechanisms. In many instances respondents demonstrated that they are bearers of patriarchal values, especially once arguing that women who have strong kin, such as their fathers and brothers are better protected from violence i.e. there should be some male authority to ensure protection of women's rights and once stating that women can prevent violence by trying not to "provoke" their husbands and being obedient wives. The qualitative part of the study further showed that citizens do understand that the causes of violence vest in gender inequality and inadequate upbringing reinforcing inequality. This understanding is an important finding to be borne in mind in developing future awareness raising and development interventions.

2. FINDINGS OF THE QUANTITATIVE COMPONENT OF THE STUDY

Below the general findings of the quantitative part of the study are presented as and if the differences are statistically significant, sorted by regions, sex, age and education status of respondents. Whenever possible, parallels are drawn with the Eurobarometer 2010 and the public perception survey conducted in Ireland (COSC, 2008).

2.1. Demographic data

The majority of the respondents in the survey -65.1 percent are women, while men comprised - 34.9 percent. Individuals belonging to 18-30 age group cohort constituted the largest group, followed by 31-60 year olds (30.7 percent) and 61-80 year olds (24.8 percent). Some 48.8 percent of the surveyed was married, 36 percent was single,

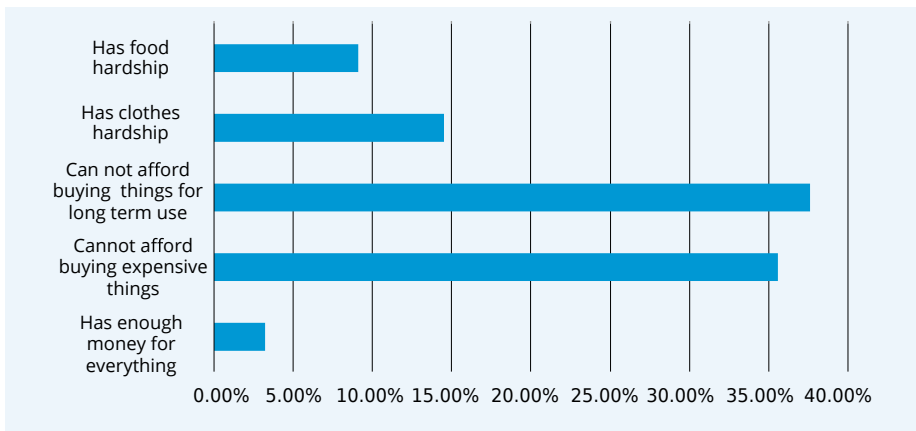
11 percent was widowed and 4.1 percent was separated. More than a half (55 percent) had higher than secondary education, 42 percent had secondary or vocational education and 3 percent had elementary education only. Ethnic Georgians comprised 95.8 percent and 4.2 percent to other ethnicities, and some 97.7 percent of respondents stated that they belonged to the Georgian Orthodox Church and their 37.9 percent claimed performance of main religious rituals.

2.2. Economic condition and the quality of life

Economic conditions of the majority are not extremely severe; 76.3 percent stated that they have enough money to buy food and clothes.

Chart no. 1:

Economic condition of respondents



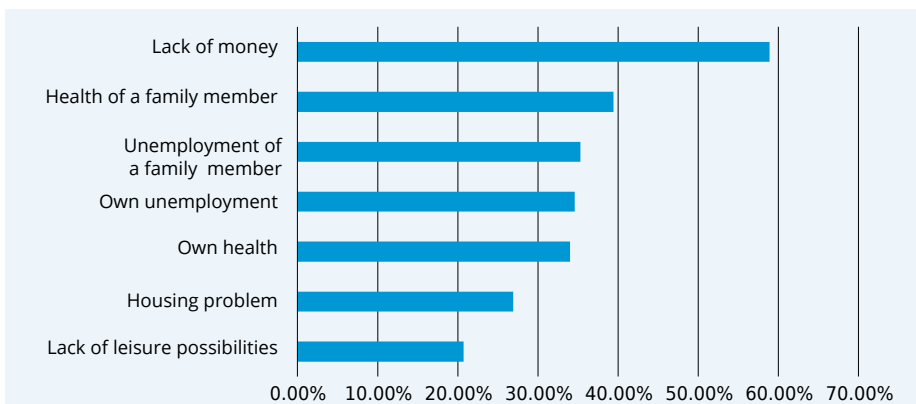
In 69.9 percent of households men are the main breadwinners. There is a difference in the amount of remuneration given to men and women. Men get more income than women. Furthermore, 43.5 percent of married men and only 23.2 of married women noted that their income exceeded their spouses' income. More women (55.8 percent)

spend their income according to their own desire as compared to men (45.4 percent).

Economic and health condition is the main concern of the population. No significant differences were traced according to age, sex and region once stating the main problems that bothered the respondents.

Chart no. 2:

Problems



2.3. Gender equality

A range of questions were aimed at measuring the attitudes of respondents towards gender equality. Answers to all questions in this range, except for the question 36 concerning the husband's response to the wife's infidelity, differed across the study locations.

More than a half of the respondents (51 percent) think that women are more oppressed in Georgia than men, while 36.2 percent considers that gender equality is exercised in Georgia, and a very small fraction (4.7 percent) thinks that men are more oppressed, while 8,1 percent does not have a definite position on this matter. Gender equality is perceived as achieved more by the population of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (46.1 percent), than by Kakheti (24.7 percent) and least of all by Tbilisi residents (37.6 percent). Men and persons over 60 are more likely to think so.

The majority of respondents (67.5 percent) does not think that men as a rule do everything better than women. Some 26 percent believes in the male superiority over women and 6.4 percent does not have a formulated position on this matter.

The biggest portion of the surveyed (58.8 percent of men and 33.8 percent of women) thinks that if the family has to have only one child, it is better to have a boy. Quite a high number of respondents (41.8 percent)

was unable to answer this question. Having a son is preferred by 56.3 percent of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, 41.8 percent of Kakheti and 29.7 percent of Tbilisi population.

In case of equal qualification, 37.9 percent of respondents supports giving preference to men in employment, while a bigger part (52.4 percent) is against giving preference to candidates on the basis of gender, 9.8 percent was unable to answer the question. Most people in favor of giving preference to men in employment reside in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, the least in Tbilisi.

To facilitate comparison, the following three new variables have been created: attitude to male superiority (grouping answers to questions 27, 28, 29), property rights (answers to questions 30, 31, 32) and economic equality (answers to questions 33, 34).

The combined analysis of the three sets of questions aimed at measuring public attitudes towards gender equality demonstrated that some 12.8 percent of the respondent shared the extreme view of male superiority in relation to women. The least preference to male superiority and thus disapproval of the foundation for gender inequality was expressed in Tbilisi (9.4 percent), followed by Kakheti (11.2 percent) and the most preference for male superiority or acceptance of gender inequality was revealed in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti

(17.8 percent). Superiority of men was more acceptable to men, elderly and persons with only secondary and basic education.

Three questions referred to property rights of sons and unmarried daughters in case of death of parents; some 66.6 percent of respondent were for equal division of the house among the siblings i.e. primary heirs of the property as per the Georgian legislation, while 68.4 percent were in favor of equal division of land and 76.6 percent for equal division of other property. The second answer by frequency in all cases was granting bigger share to the son. According to the variable used in the survey, only 6.1 percent favored granting all property to the son. Some 9.4 percent of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, 5.2 percent of Kakheti and 3.6 percent of Tbilisi population thought so. Again, male superiority was more acceptable for men, elderly and persons with just secondary or elementary education.

Respondents demonstrated almost equal attitudes towards spending own income without consulting the spouse; according to 73.6 percent of respondents, this can be done by women and to 75.5 percent - by men. The difference on granting freedom to women and men is insignificant among the surveyed in Tbilisi and in Kakheti, but is greater in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti. According to the economic variable

created by us, 68.2 percent of respondents believe freedom of spending own income should be granted to both men and women. This attitude is least favored by elderly persons and respondents with secondary education.

The most significant difference has been identified in the attitudes towards sexual freedom; some 43.8 percent thinks that woman should seek divorce in case of husband's infidelity, while 81.4 percent think that this should be done by husband in case of wife's infidelity. The largest percentage of those in favor of divorce in case of husband's infidelity reside in Tbilisi (58.5 percent), in Kakheti (40.3 percent) and lowest in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (32.5 percent). On the other hand, if a wife is not faithful to her husband, divorce is considered as the most appropriate step in Samegrelo - Zemo Svaneti (83.1 percent), in Tbilisi (81.0 percent) and in Telavi (80.0 percent). **According to 80.9 percent of respondents, a woman must be a virgin before marriage.**

The lowest number of the respondents think so in Tbilisi (60.8 percent), then in Kakheti (90.4 percent) and the highest in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (91.7 percent). **Only 10.2 percent thinks that men too must have their first sexual experience after the marriage** (8.8 percent of Tbilisi, 10.4 percent of Kakheti and 11.5 percent of Samegrelo - Zemo Svaneti population).

Table no. 1:

Perception of gender equality in a regional perspective

Variable	Total %	Tbilisi %	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti %	Kakheti %	p
There is no gender equality in Georgia, women are more oppressed	51.0	45.2	44.1	63.8	<.001
Acknowledges male superiority	12.8	9.4	17.8	11.2	<.001
Acknowledges superiority of man's property rights	6.1	3.6	9.4	5.2	<.001
Acknowledges equality of both, women and men in spending their own income	68.2	72.9	77.2	54.5	<.001

Table no. 2:

Perception of gender equality according to sex, age and education of respondents

Variable	Total %	Sex			Age				Education		
		Male %	Female %	p	18-30 %	31-60 %	61+ %	p	Secondary or less %	Tertiary %	p
There is no gender equality in Georgia, women are more oppressed	51.0	39.6	57.1	.001	57.0	46.8	44.6	.001	54.4	48.4	n.s.
Acknowledges male superiority	12.8	23.1	7.3	.001	9.4	12.0	19.9	.001	16.2	9.6	<.001
Acknowledges superiority of man's property rights	6.1	9.9	4.0	.001	5.9	4.1	9.1	.001	7.7	4.8	<.001
Acknowledges equality of both, women and men in spending their own income	68.2	66.0	69.4	n.s.	73.6	71.1	55.6	.001	61.0	74.3	<.001

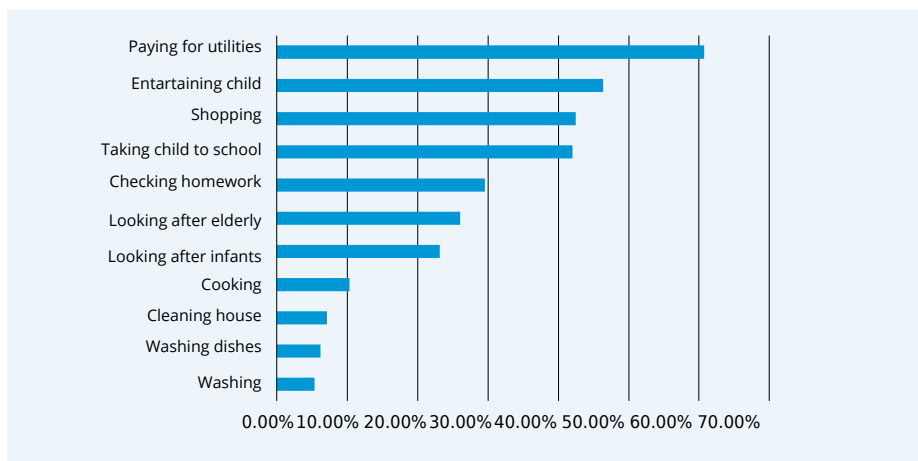
To a certain extent, gender roles can be considered as characteristics of gender equality/inequality. **Half of the surveyed (50.8 percent) agrees that it is better for everyone when the husband works and the wife looks after the family. The majority (80.5 percent) of respondents thinks that the husband should earn more than his wife.** Some 65.6 percent thinks that women are valued by their families and not according to achievements in their

careers, and only 17.5 percent considers that men are valued according to their careers and not by their families.

Respondents think that among the household chores that usually are performed by women, the share of men should be biggest in covering expenses for utilities, shopping, entertaining children and taking them to school, but not in washing dishes or cleaning the house and looking after infants.

Chart no. 3:

Extent of desired male participation in household chores



It seems that there is an agreement between men and women when it comes to dividing gender roles in household chores. From the listed 11 chores, a statistically significant difference between the answers of men and women has only been identified in three chores, these being shopping, paying for utilities and looking after infants. In all the three cases, women

think that there should be more participation of men in these occupations.

2.4 Prevalence of domestic violence

The study found that 77.8 percent of the surveyed considers domestic violence to be very or quite prevalent. This finding is similar to the data obtained

in the Eurobarometer, where prevalence is perceived to be extremely high or high by 78 percent of the surveyed. It is highly prevalent according to 70 percent of those surveyed in Ireland (COSC, 2008) as well.

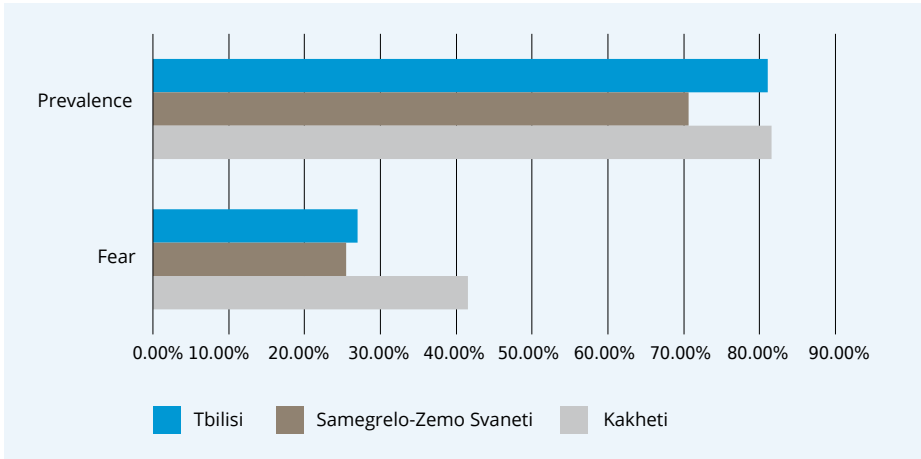
Regional differences in the perception of prevalence of domestic violence and violence against women and girls are significant (Chi-Square 76.7;df6;p<.001). It is perceived as the most prevalent in Kakheti (81.6 percent), in Tbilisi (81.1 percent) and the least of all in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (70.6 percent). Gender difference has also been apparent (Chi-

Square 44.2;df3;p<.001). A bigger share of women (82.5 percent) as compared to men (69.1 percent) considers it prevalent.

Some 9.6 percent fears that his/her relative or friend may become a victim of violence. Most of all, this is feared in Kakheti (41.5 percent), then in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (25.5 percent) and least of all in Tbilisi (23 percent, Chi-Square 58.70;df4;p<.001). A difference is also found in gender (Chi-Square 10.8;df2;p<.005). More women (32.7 percent) than men (25.0 percent) are fearful of violence.

Chart no. 4:

Prevalence of domestic violence in a regional perspective



The share of respondents who personally know a perpetrator or victim of violence can serve as an indirect indicators of prevalence. More respondents know victims (66.8 percent) than perpetrators (56.3 percent). Samegrelo – Zemo

Svaneti inhabitants knew both victims and perpetrators least of all. Some 55.1 percent in Samegrelo –Zemo Svaneti, 71.9 percent in Kakheti and 73.3 percent in Tbilisi knew a victim, while 46.3 percent in Samegrelo – Zemo Svaneti,

57.1 percent in Kakheti and 65.3 percent in Tbilisi was acquainted with a perpetrator. More women knew both, a victim and a perpetrator. **The study**

found that 77.1 percent of men and 72.1 of women knew a victim and 45.3 percent of men and 62.1 percent of women knew a perpetrator.

Chart no. 5:

Personally knowing victims and perpetrators in a regional perspective

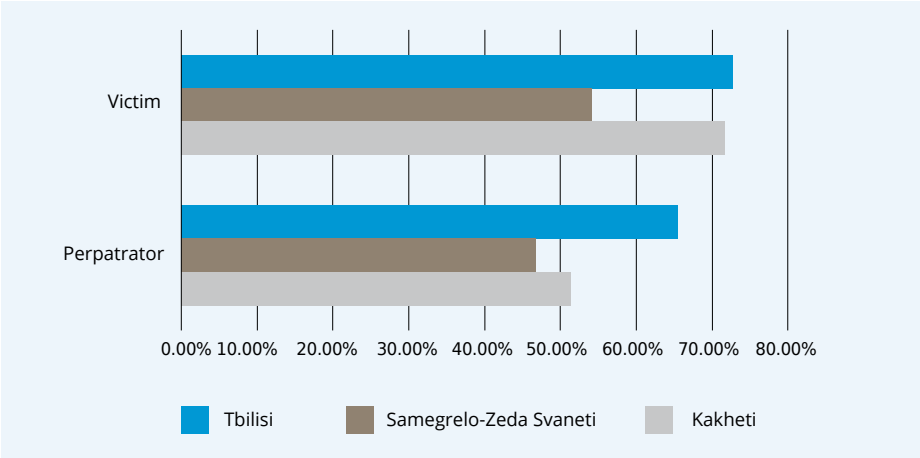
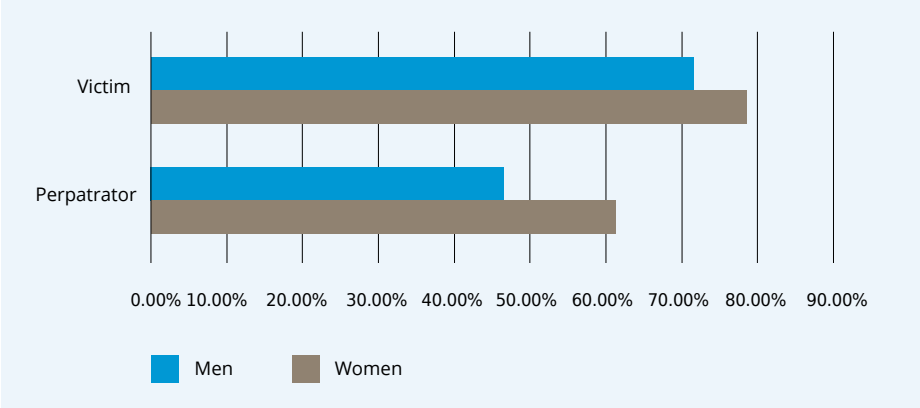


Chart no. 6:

Knowing victims and perpetrators according to respondents' sex



Some 6.2 percent of victims represent a family member or a close friend of the respondent, 11.3 percent a close person, 5.0 percent is a colleague, 17.1 percent is a neighbor and 28.1 percent is an acquaintance. A perpetrator is a

family member or a close friend for 4.8 percent, for 8.1 percent he is a close acquaintance, for 3.7 percent a colleague, for 15.0 percent a neighbor and for 24 percent is an acquaintance.

Chart no. 7:

Relationship with the victim - a comparison between the present study and Eurobarometer

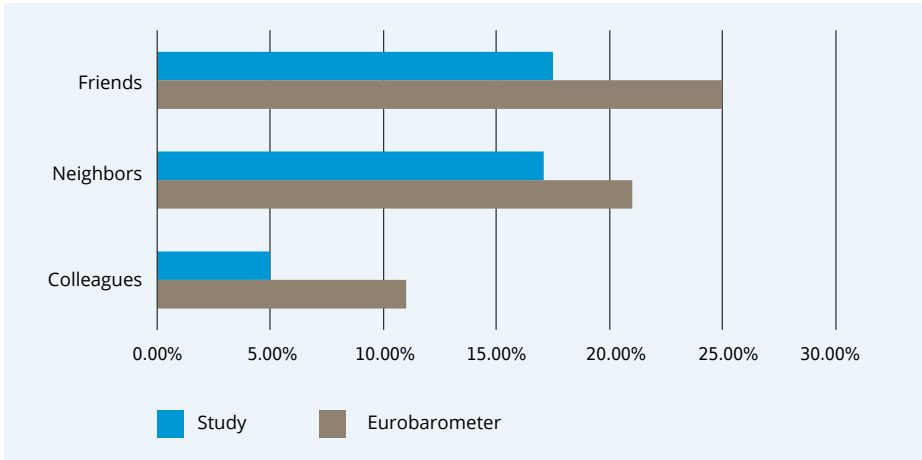


Chart no. 8:

Relationship with a perpetrator according to the study and Eurobarometer

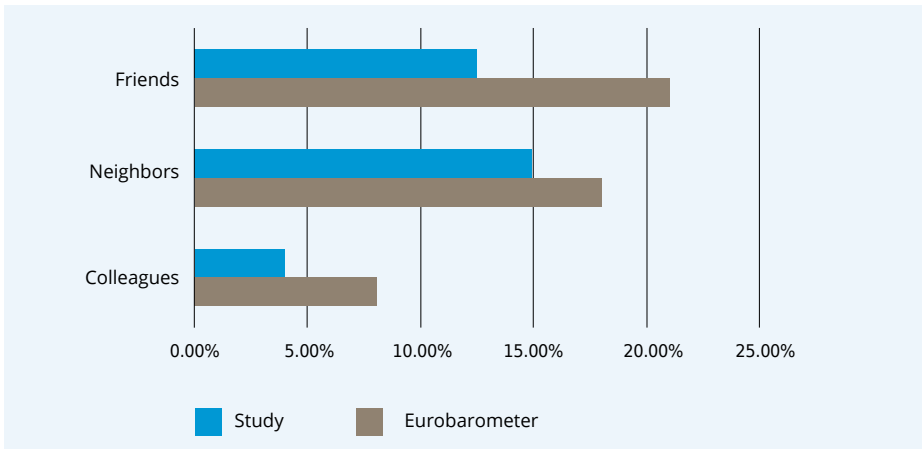


Chart 7 and Chart 8 show, that most often victims of violence in Georgia like in Europe were friends, neighbors and colleagues. Unlike the Eurobarometer, in this study there was one more category for denoting a victim or perpetrator - an acquaintance - 28.1 percent pointed out that the victim, and 25.4 percent that the perpetrator was their acquaintance.

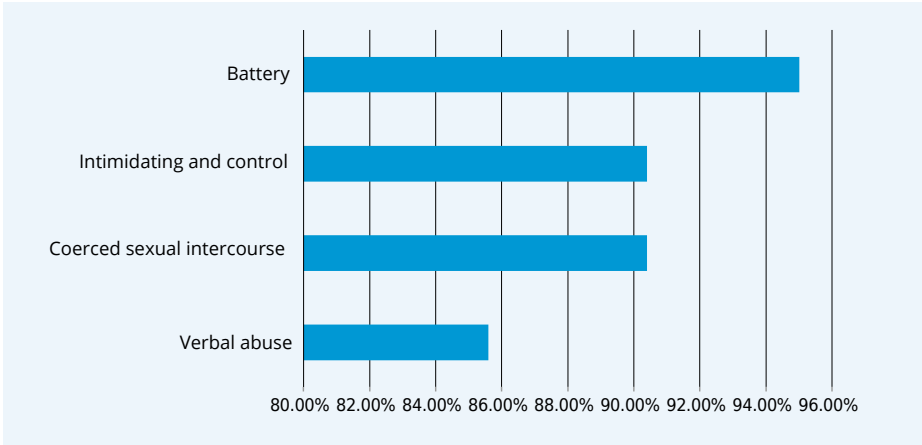
According to the study carried out in Ireland (COSC, 2008), a victim was a friend of 36 percent of respondents

and a family member of 28 percent. In California, a victim was either a friend or a family member for 66 percent of respondents (Tulchin, 2012).

2.5. Understanding domestic violence

The majority of the respondents considers battery, intimidation, control, coerced sexual intercourse and verbal abuse of a family member as domestic violence.

Chart no. 9:
Understanding of domestic violence

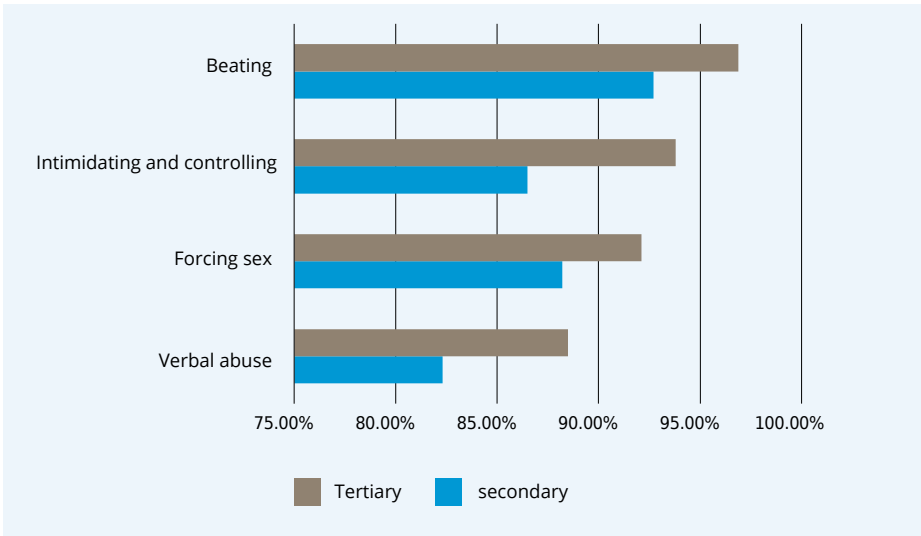


There is no significant difference across the regions in the understanding of domestic violence. However, the difference in understanding is linked to the level of education of the respondents,

all the four types of violence are perceived as such by much more people with a university degree than by those with lower education.

Chart no. 10:

Perceptions of domestic violence by persons having secondary and tertiary education concerning.

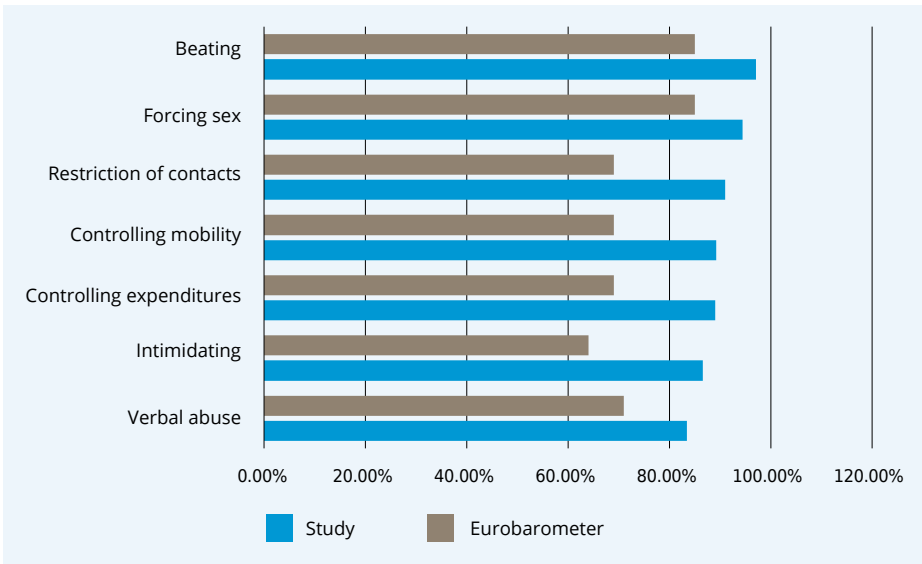


Respondents estimated seven types of violence according to the degree of gravity. Battery, forced sex and restric-

tion of contacts are perceived as the gravest forms of violence.

Chart no. 11:

Gravity of the forms of violence according to the present study and the Eurobarometer

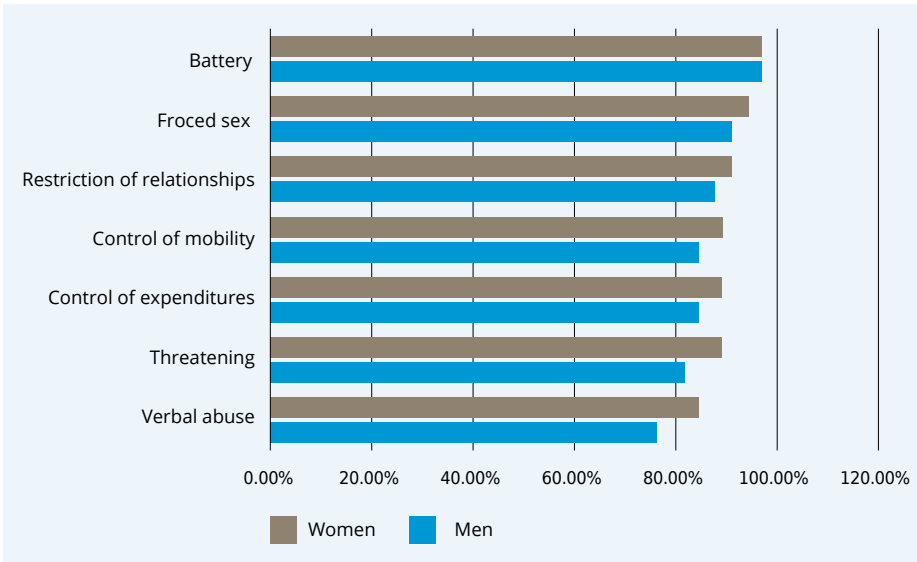


As illustrated in Fig.11, the respondents of the Eurobarometer are less inclined to assessing all the listed forms of violence as extreme (Eurobarometer, 2010). However, their evaluation in terms of gravity is similar.

The difference in the perception of gravity varies according to regions, sex, age and education status of respondents.

Chart no. 12:

Perception of the gravity of different types of violence by men and women.



Women perceive all forms of violence more seriously than men.

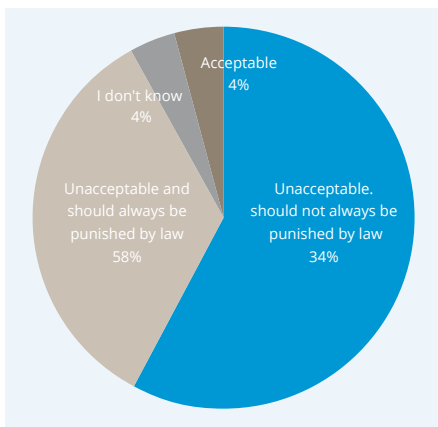
Respondents belonging to the 31-60 age group perceive all forms of violence much more acutely than men, (except for verbal abuse, which is perceived most painfully by the youth). Older respondents reveal higher levels of tolerance to verbal abuse. Persons with university education estimate all forms as

graver, compared to persons with just secondary and elementary education.

For over the half of respondents (57.1%) domestic violence is unacceptable and should always be punished by law. A much larger share of the population of the European Union (84.0%) thinks so. Even higher is the share (97.0 percent) of those who share this opinion in Ireland (COSC, 2008).

Chart no. 13:

Attitude towards domestic violence



The attitudes differed across the regions. Most of all, the population of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (61.8 percent), followed by Tbilisi (55.2 percent) and the least of all the population of Kakheti (54.3 percent) considers that violence should always be punished by law (Chi-Square 38.5; df4; $p < .001$).

Violence is more unacceptable for women (60.7 percent) than for men (50.4

percent) (Chi-Square 15.8; df8; $p < .005$), more for the youth (62.0 percent); some 56.6 percent of persons aged 31-60 and 48 percent of those over this age (Chi-Square 25.3; df48 $p < .001$) thinks that it should always be punished.

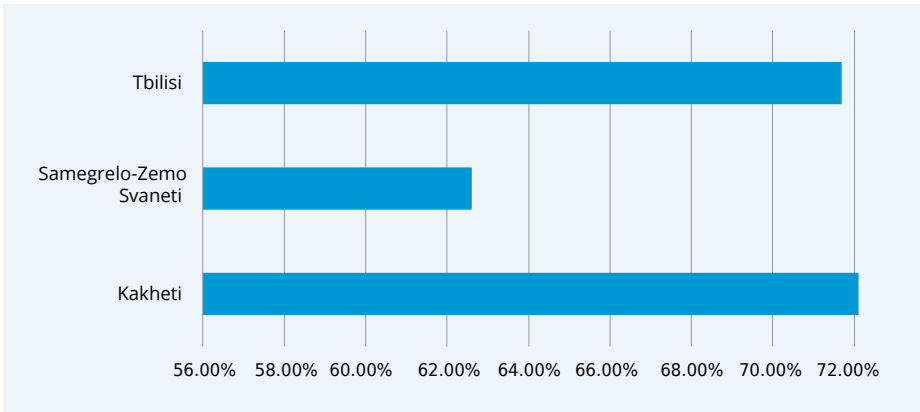
More people with tertiary (59.9%) than secondary (53.8 percent) education consider domestic violence as a criminal offence (Chi-Square 19.2; df4; $p < .001$).

Respondents were asked to select one from two possible answers to the question “should wife-beating be punished by law or is it a family matter?” **68.9 percent considered wife-beating a criminal offence.**

Attitudes differed across regions, sex, and age and education status of the respondents. Wife beating was considered a crime most of all by the Kakheti population (72.1 percent), followed by Tbilisi (71.9 percent) and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (62.6 percent) (Chi-Square 18.9; df4; $p < .001$).

Chart no. 14:

Considering wife-beating as a criminal offence across regions



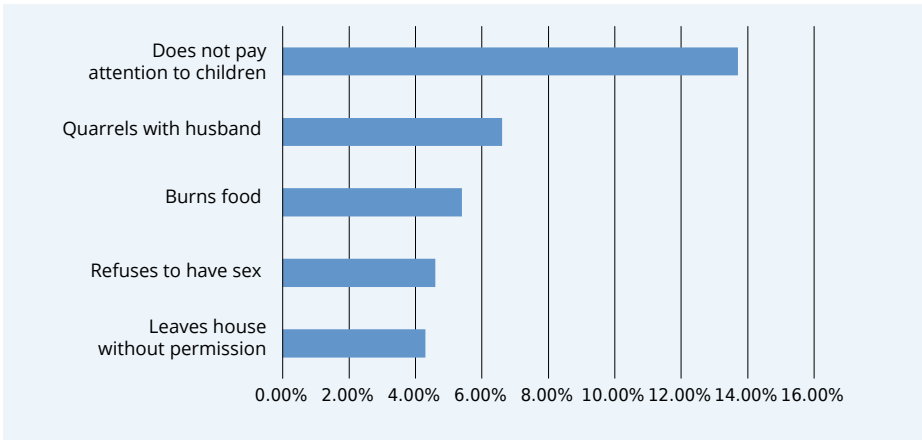
More women (73.3 percent) than men (60.5 percent) consider wife beating a criminal offence (Chi-Square 40.4; df2; $p < .001$). More respondents in the age group of 18-30 (73.1 percent), than in the 31-60 age group (68.9 percent) or those over the age of 60 (62.1 percent) (Chi-Square 13.7; df44 $p < .05$) share this opinion. Persons with university education are less tolerant to violence (59.9 percent), than those with secondary education only (53.8 percent) (Chi-Square 19.2; df4; $p < .001$).

2.6. Causes of domestic violence

The survey instrument contained a question, which enlisted 5 reasons that could justify wife-beating. This is a standard question on which data has been collected in 26 countries (Pierotti, 2013). In our study, battery was most justified when the wife did not pay attention to children and the least justified in when she left the home without the spouse's permission.

Chart no. 15:

Justification of wife-beating

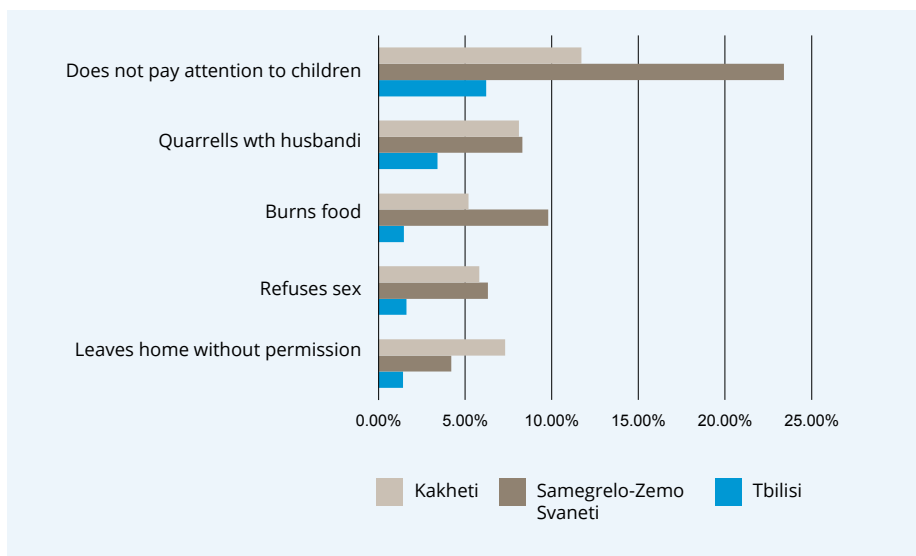


Respondents living in different regions and having different educational status demonstrated different attitudes towards the causes justifying wife-beating. Beating was most justified in

Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region and the least in Tbilisi. It was more justified by persons with a lower educational status.

Chart no. 16:

Justification of wife- beating by regions

**Table no. 3:**

Justification of wife-beating by education status

Justification		Secondary education %	Tertiary education %	Total %	Chi Square, df;p
1	When wife does not pay attention to children	18.1	10.1	13.7	29.1;2; .001
2	When wife quarrels with husband	9.9	3.8	6.6	28.4;2; .001
3	When wife burns food	7.7	3.5	5.4	15.5;2; .001
4	When wife refuses to have sex	7.1	2,6	4.6	24.0;2; .001
5	When wife leaves house without husband's permission	7.7	3.5	4.3	16.8;2; .001

According to the surveys of 2000-2005, 51 percent of the surveyed population in 26 countries of Europe does not justify beating by any listed above reasons (Pierotti, 2013). The share of those, who does not justify beating is much greater in Georgia and equals to 76.6 percent. As demonstrated in the table above, infidelity was not included among the possible justifying causes of violence in the question above. However, as it is evident from table 4, 95.5 percent of respondents considers infidelity of a wife as the most probable reason behind violence. Important differences were found across regions (Chi-Square 59.3;df2;p<.001) and by education status of respondents. Violence is most widely condemned in Tbilisi (38.6%), then in Kakheti (33.3%) and least of all in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (29.95). Violence is more unacceptable to people with higher education (59.4%), than to those with secondary education.

Education proved to be an important factor according the survey conducted in 26 countries of Europe as well (Pierotti, 2013). People with higher education are more likely to condemn violence.

Acceptance of violence is associated with attitudes towards gender equality (Chi-Square 68.9;df3;p<.001). Male superiority was denied by 43.8 percent of those respondents for whom violence is unacceptable as compared to 26.5 percent of those who found some justification for it.

In addition to evaluating acceptance of violence, respondents were asked to estimate the probability of different reasons for violence. The wife's infidelity and alcohol or drug abuse by the husband are considered as the most probable causes for violence in all the regions.

Table no. 4:

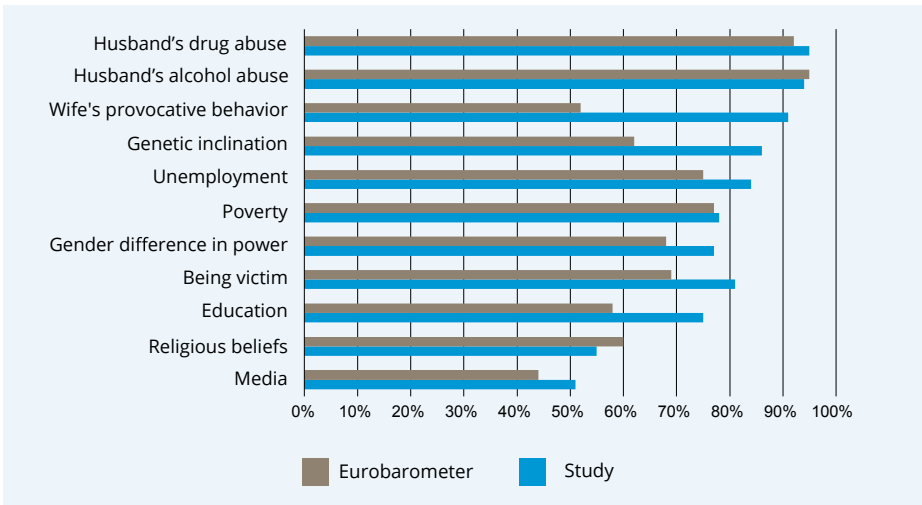
Possible causes of violence (multiple choice)

Answers: the following is or can be the reason of violence

Rank	Cause	Tbilisi %	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti %	Kakheti %	Total %	Difference Chi-Square; df;p<.
1	The wife's infidelity	96.7	94.7	94.7	95.5	n.s
2	Alcohol or drug abuse by the husband	95.2	91.7	93.9	93.6	n.s.
3	Alcohol abuse by the husband	93.9	91.1	94.2	93.1	n.s.
4	The wife's provocative behavior	90.8	89.6	92.3	90.9	18.4;6;005
5	The husband's genetic inclination to violence	85.6	79.7	91.9	86.0	33.0;6;001
6	The husband's unemployment	83.8	86.0	87.7	85.8	18.4;6;005
7	Poverty	78.4	84.5	83.4	82.1	25.3;6;001
8	Gender inequality	76.7	75.3	84.9	79.0	39.1;6;001
9	Power distribution between sexes	76.8	69.0	87.1	77.6	52.6;6;001
10	The fact that a person was victim of domestic violence	80.9	67.4	84.3	77.5	66.9;6;001
11	The fact that person was a witness of domestic violence	76.3	64.3	82.3	74.3	87.9;6;001
12	Low level of education	74.9	69.1	65.4	69.8	n.s.
13	Religious beliefs	55.5	45.3	45.8	48.4	36.6;6;001
14	Media	51.5	39.4	40.3	43.7	36.9;6;001

Chart no. 17:

Causes of violence according to the data of the present study and the Eurobarometer



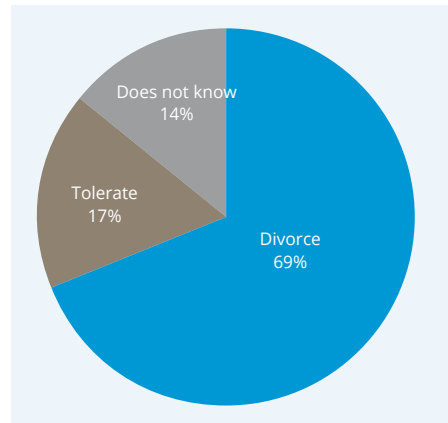
The chart 17 shows a significant difference in perception of causes of domestic violence between Georgia and the Eurobarometer data. Respondents in the present study attribute more importance to the wife's behavior, the perpetrator's genetic inclination to violence, low education status, the fact of being a victim of violence in the past, unequal distribution of power among genders, unemployment and media than those of the Eurobarometer. Religious beliefs and alcoholism is perceived as more serious reason for violence by the respondents of the Eurobarometer.

2.7. Response to domestic violence

According to the opinion of the majority (79.0 percent) of respondents,

Chart no. 18:

Wife's response to domestic violence

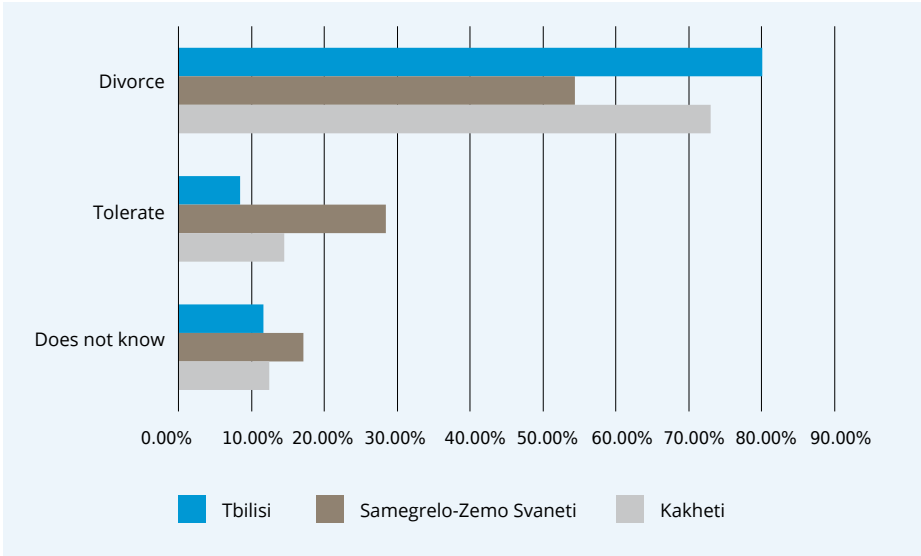


in case of domestic violence, the wife should seek divorce.

The answers differed across regions, respondents' sex, age and education level. Some 80.1 percent of Tbilisi, 73 percent of Kakheti and 54.4 percent of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti population

thinks that the wife should seek divorce if she is facing domestic violence. Accordingly, the population of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti is more ready to tolerate domestic violence.

Chart no. 19:
Wife's response to domestic violence across regions



The respondents in the age group 18-30 years are least tolerant to violence, while those aged over 60 years are most tolerant of it. Some 77.6 percent of the youngest group, 68.8 percent of those aged 31-60 and 55.3 percent of those aged over 60 consider divorce as being the most appropriate response to domestic violence (Chi-Square 57.1; df4; $p < .001$). More women (71.4 percent) than men (65.1 percent) consider it appropriate (Chi-Square 7.9; df2;

$p < .001$). Divorce is a more acceptable solution for persons with university (76.3 percent) than just secondary (60.5 percent) education (Chi-Square 69.2; df4; $p < .001$).

Bride kidnapping is a form of violence against women and girls. Respondents were requested to identify appropriate response to the cases of kidnapping. **According to the majority (78.9 percent) of respondents, a woman**

should not marry her kidnapper in any circumstances. Some 17.5 percent considers marriage appropriate if sexual intercourse has taken place between the kidnapped bride and the perpetrator, while for 8.9 percent believes it is appropriate to marry the kidnapper in any case.

Ways of responding to bride kidnapping differed across regions, respondents' sex, age and education. Some 92.2 percent of Tbilisi, 82.4 percent of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and 61.8 percent of Kakheti population thought that a woman should not marry her kidnapper (Chi-Square 144.3;df4;p<.001).

Chart no. 20:
Response to bride kidnapping

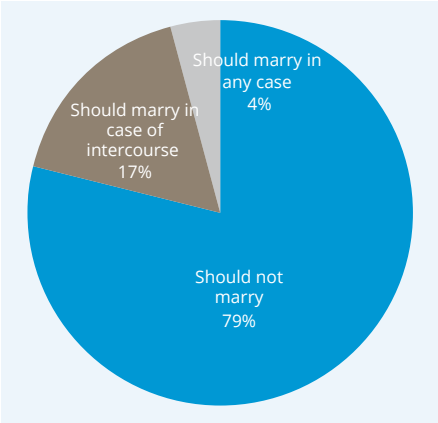
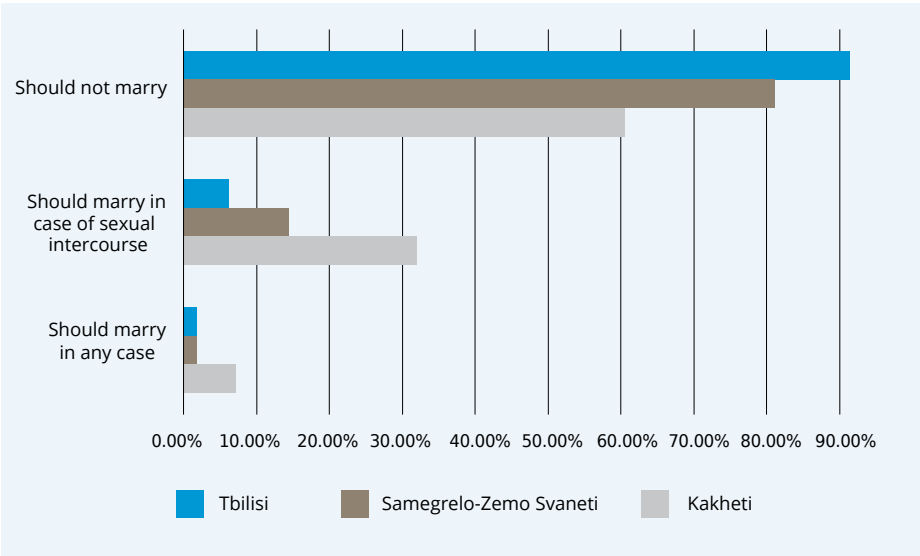


Chart no. 21:
Response to bride kidnapping across regions



Men and women, respondents of different age and education status have different attitudes towards bride kidnapping. More women (80.8 percent) than men (75.3 percent) are against marriage (Chi-Square 7.4;df2;p<.05). The share of those who support the idea of marrying a kidnapper declines with age; some 84.8 percent of the 18-30 age group, compared to 81 percent of the 31-60 age group and 66.8 percent of those aged over 60 (Chi-Square 47.6;df4;p<.001) favor marriage with the kidnapper. Marriage is a less acceptable solution for people with

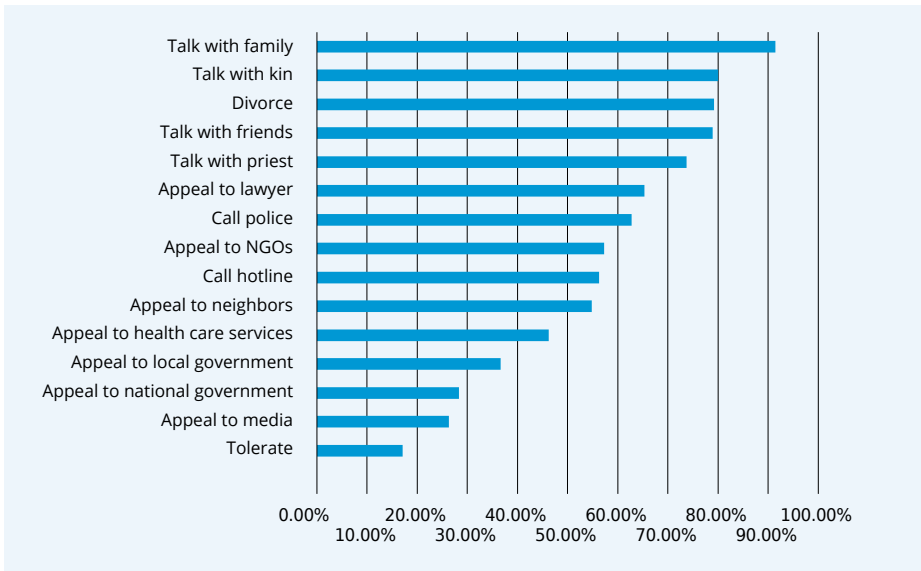
tertiary education (85.9 percent), as compared to those with just secondary education (70.6 percent) (Chi-Square 51.7;df2;p<.001).

2.8. Appropriate behavior in case of domestic violence

Respondents considered asking assistance from family members and kin as the most appropriate strategy for protecting women and children's rights once faced with domestic violence.

Chart no. 22:

Appropriate response to domestic violence perpetrated by the husband

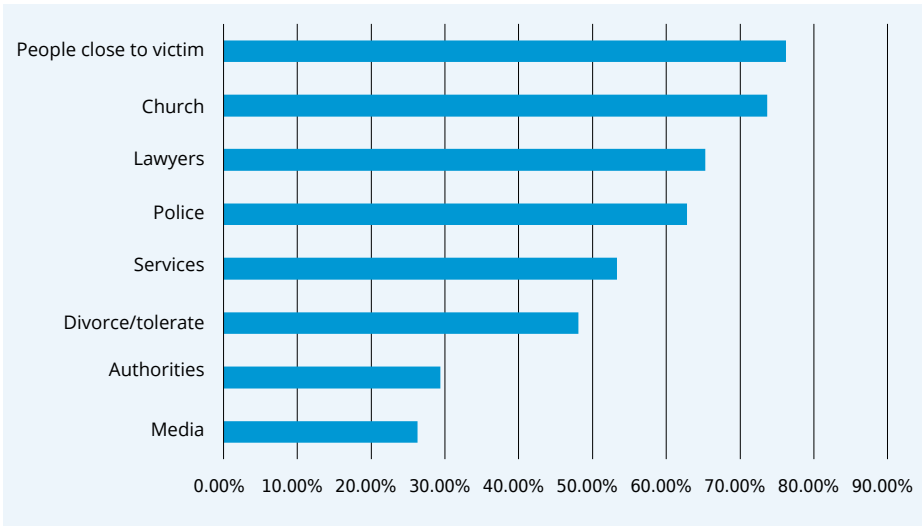


Once these categories are slightly broadened it becomes obvious that respondents consider most appropri-

ate to seek assistance from those, with whom they are closer, rather than from the church and lawyers.

Chart no. 23:

Respondents who considered appropriate to seek assistance in case of domestic violence (broader categories).

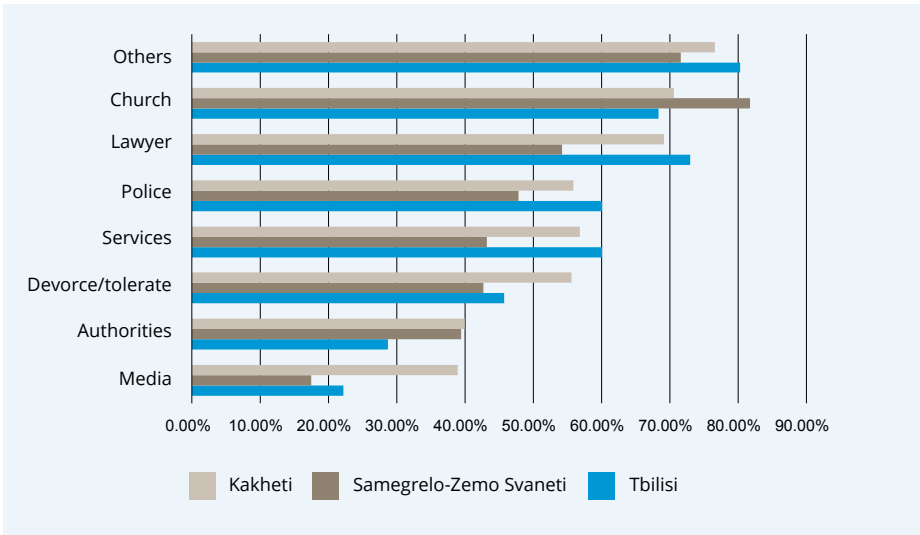


The perception of the respondents of appropriate reaction to violence differed across regions. Inhabitants of Tbilisi in comparison with the population of other regions considered it more appropriate to seek assistance from close persons of the victim, lawyers, police and service providers; the

Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti population more than others considers seeking help from Church as appropriate; Kakheti inhabitants more than others considered it appropriate to divorce the perpetrator, appeal for help to authorities and media.

Chart no. 24:

Appropriate reaction across regions (broader categories)

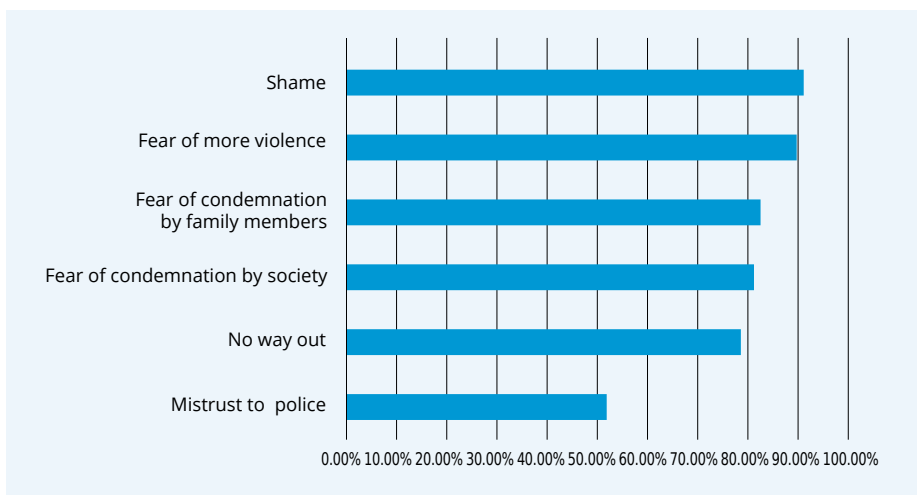


Some 65.9 percent of respondents believe it is probable that a victim in case of violence will call the police, but 23.8 percent does not expect this to happen, while 10.3 percent has no answer to this question. There were minor differences across regions once answering this question. The expectation of appeal to police is the highest in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (68.6 percent) and the lowest in Kakheti (61.0 percent), while 68.0 percent of Tbilisi population considers this as an option (Chi-Square 20.3;df4;p<.001).

Shame and fear of more violence were named as the main reasons for refraining from calling the police. This finding is indicative that the absolute majority of respondents think that victims/survivors of violence do not feel support from the society once disclosing the fact of violence, and do not feel that the protection rendered by police would be effective.

Chart no. 25:

Reasons for not calling the police



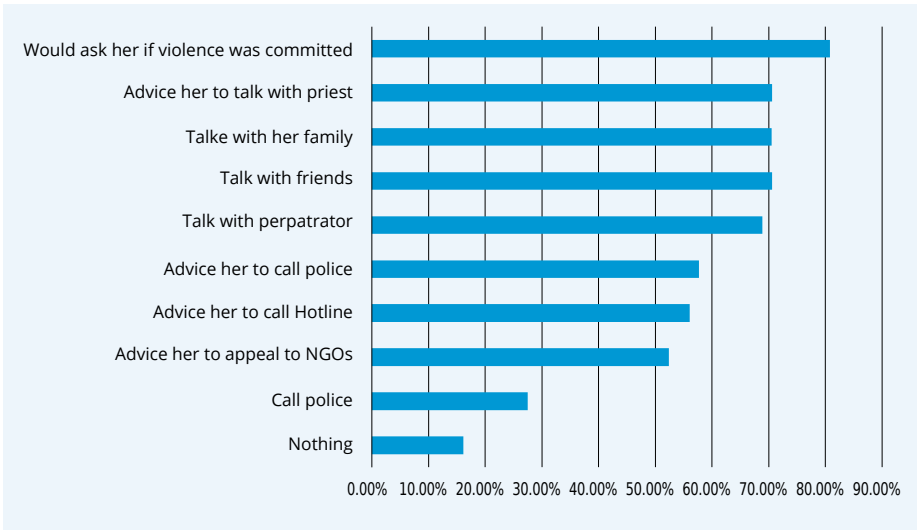
The respondents' opinions across regions did not differ significantly once naming the reasons for not calling police. The difference was found in the following two aspects only: Distrust to the police, which was the highest among Tbilisi inhabitants (61.1 percent), then Kakheti (53.5 percent) followed by the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (41.2 percent) region (Chi-Square 50.0; df4; $p < .001$).

The fear of being condemned by family members is the highest among Tbilisi inhabitants (84.2 percent), followed by Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (82.2 percent) and then Kakheti (77.5 percent).

Respondents further estimated the probability of performing all listed actions in case of violence committed against their close friend.

Chart no. 26:

Expected behavior in case domestic violence is being perpetrated against a friend



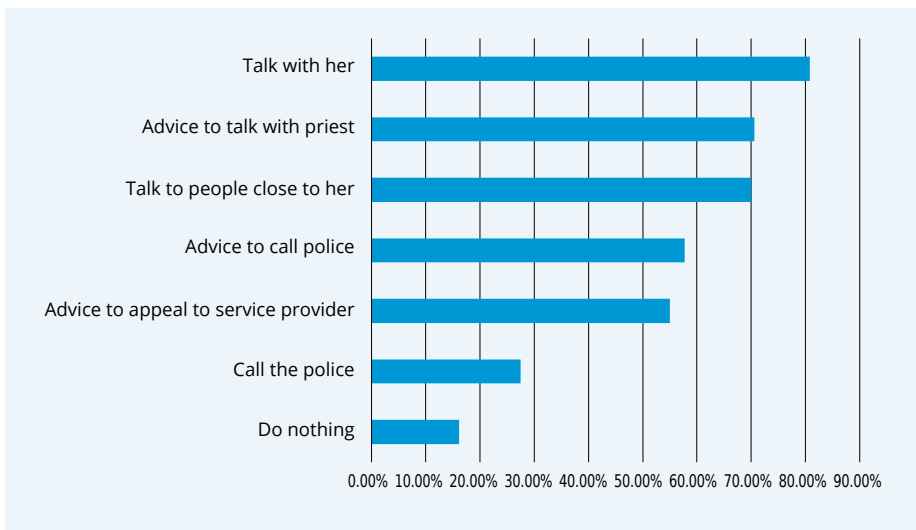
Interestingly, 95 percent of respondents in the Irish study (COSC, 2010) think that they would talk with a friend about their problems, but would not inquire directly about violence. Some 93 percent would advise a friend to call the hotline, 87 percent to call the police, and 74 percent to seek assistance from friends; some 35 pointed that they would call the police themselves and 35 percent that they would talk to the perpetrator.

In contrast to Georgian respondents, respondents in the Eurobarometer and the Irish study (COSC, 2010) show more readiness to interfere.

As a result of grouping responses in larger categories, the most expected response to domestic violence in Georgia was talking with the victim, then with close persons of the victim and advising her to talk with a priest.

Chart no. 27:

Readiness to interfere in case of domestic violence committed against a friend (broader categories).



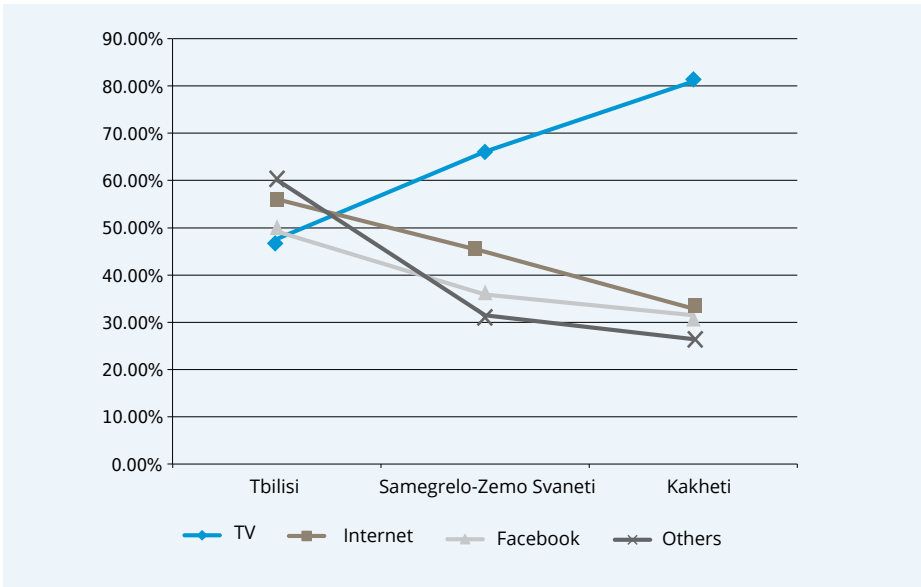
Expected response to violence differs according to sex and age of the respondents. In all cases, readiness is bigger among women than in men and decreases with increase of age.

2.9 Sources of information

The study was particularly interested in understanding of what are the main sources of information for Georgian citizens to use this information in the design of awareness raising interventions around domestic violence and violence against women and girls. The findings have shown that respondents receive information about the on-going events from television (65.2 percent), internet (45.3 percent), other people (40.4 percent) and social networks (37 percent).

Chart no. 28:

Sources of information across regions

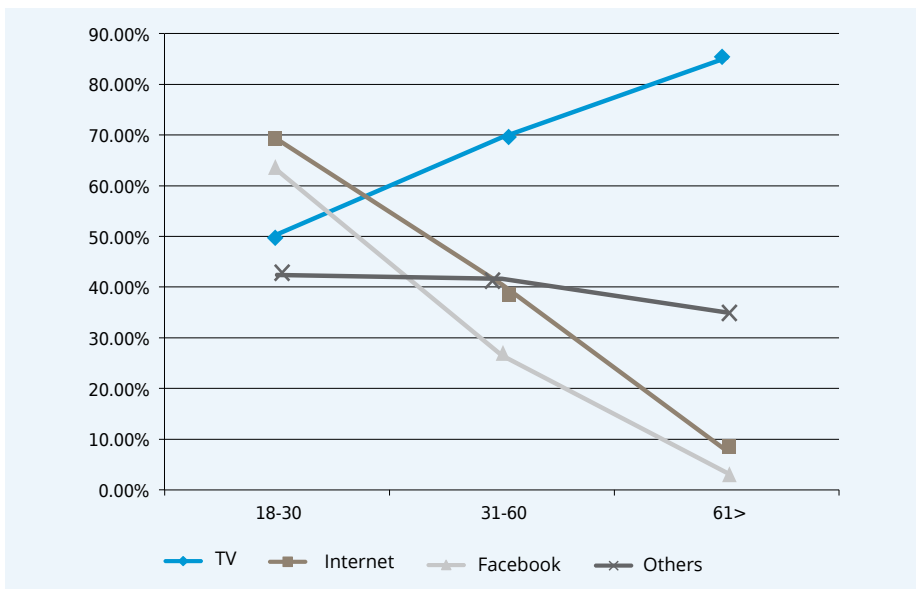


Other people, Internet and Facebook serve as the main source of informa-

tion most of all for the population of Tbilisi, while television is mostly viewed in Kakheti.

Chart no. 29:

Sources of information across age groups



Age is a significant determinant of the source of information. Importance of television increases, while importance of internet and Facebook decreases with age.

The TV company Rustavi 2 has the largest number of viewers (55.6 percent) followed by Imedi (47 percent), Maestro (32.1 percent) and then the Public Broadcaster - Channel One (17.8 percent). Soap-operas (58.3 percent), news (55.9 percent) and political talk-shows are most often watched.

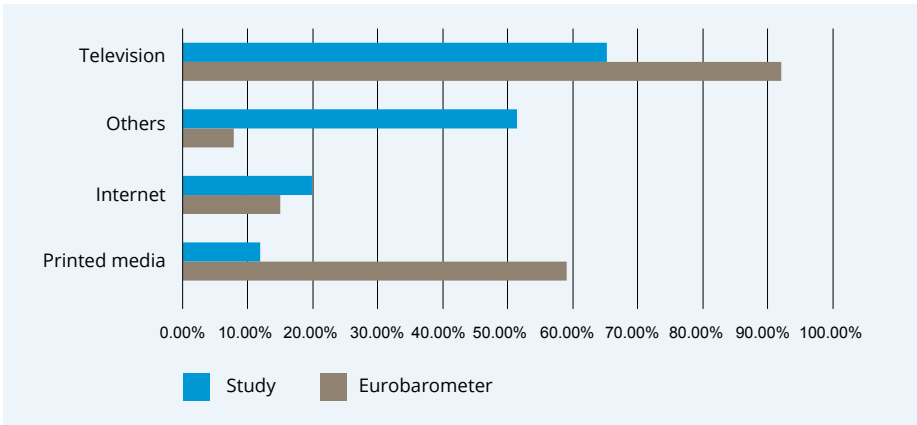
Printed media is not an important source of information; the magazine Kviris Palitra has the largest number of

readers (17.7 percent), followed by the magazine Sarke (8.8 percent), newspaper Asaval-Dasavali (8.6 percent) and the magazine Tbiliselebi (7.1 percent).

During the last year, 78.1 percent of respondents have heard some information about domestic violence, while 21.9 percent has not heard anything. Comparison of the findings of the present survey with those of the Eurobarometer in this respect is difficult, as in the Eurobarometer no timeframe has been provided and respondents were asked whether they have ever heard about domestic violence and as a result the finding was that only 2 percent had not heard anything.

Chart no. 30:

Sources of information on domestic violence according to the Study and Euro barometer

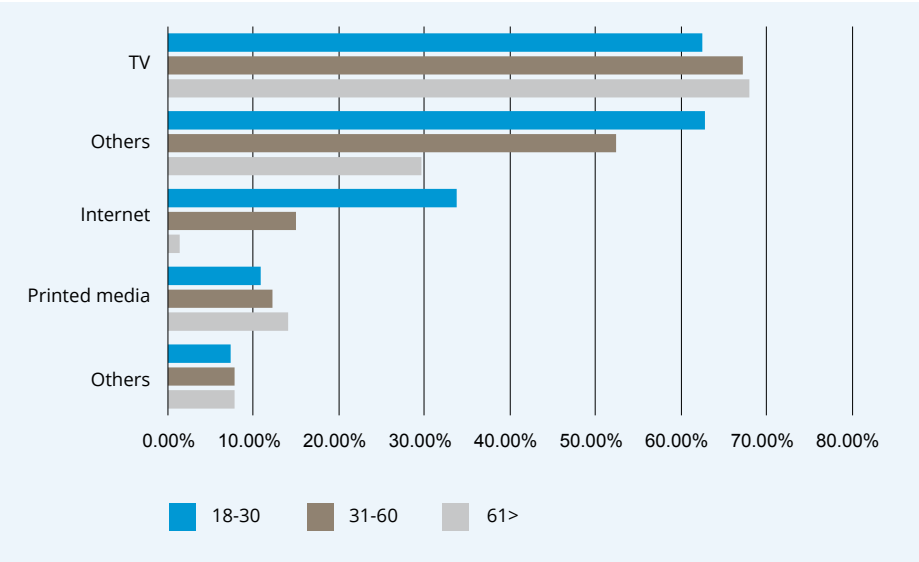


The majority of the respondents receive information on domestic violence from television (65.3 percent) and then from other sources (51.4 percent). The main source of information for the respondents of the Eurobarometer was television as well (92 percent) followed by print media (59 percent). The Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti population (72.1 percent) gets the most information from television followed by the population of Kakheti (62.3 percent) and Tbilisi population (61.5 percent).

With the age the role of television as the primary source of information increases (62.4 percent of young, 67.2 percent of middle age and 68 percent of old age respondents), printed media (10.8 percent, 12.2 percent, 14.0 percent respectively) and other sources (7.4 percent, 7.8 percent and 7.8 percent respectively) while percentage of receiving information from other people (62.7 percent, 52.4 percent and 29.6 percent) and from internet (33.7 percent, 15.0 percent and 1.3 percent respectively) decreases with age.

Chart no. 31:

Sources of information across age groups

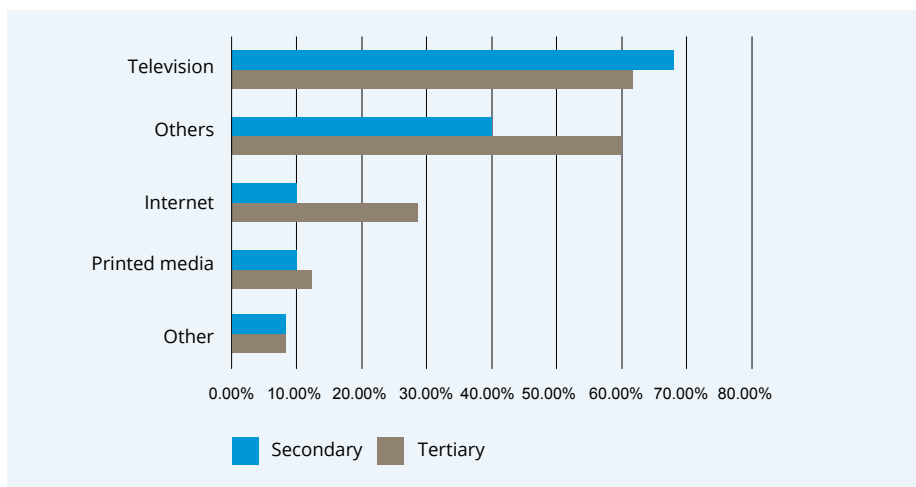


All sources of information except television are more used by the persons

with tertiary than with just secondary education.

Chart no. 32:

Sources of information according to the education level



2.10. Knowledge of the consequences of domestic violence and existing services

Several questions were designed to measure knowledge on legislation, existing services, and consequences of domestic violence.

The legal protection mechanism for DV victims/survivors – restrictive order was known to 57 percent of respondents. A similar question in the Eurobarometer was phrased in a more general way and asked respondents if they knew about the existence of law against domestic violence and 77 percent pointed that they were informed about it.

The option to isolate a perpetrator (restrictive order) is best known to the population of Tbilisi (62.7 percent), than to that of Kakheti (56 percent) and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (52.2 percent) (Chi-Square 11.5;df2;p<.005). Least of all, elderly respondents are aware of it (47.6 percent) aged 61 and older, compared to 60.3 percent of 18-30 age group respondents and 60.8 percent of respondents in the 31-60 age group (Chi-Square 18.9;df2;p<.001). Persons with higher education (60.3 percent) are more informed than the ones with just secondary education (52.7 percent).

With regard to existing services, respondents are best informed on the

availability of free legal assistance (57.4 percent). Inhabitants of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (64.6 percent) are most informed about it, followed by Tbilisi (54.6 percent) and Kakheti (53.3 percent) (Chi-Square 15.3;df2;p<.001). Women were better informed (9.1 percent) than men (54.3 percent) (Chi-Square 3.1;df1;p<.05). The level of awareness decreases with age (60.8percent – 18-30 age group, 57.9 percent 31-60 age group, 51.4 percent age groups above 60) (Chi-Square 8.6;df2;p<.05). Persons with university education are better informed (60.9 percent) than persons with a lower educational status (53.1 percent) (Chi-Square 9.8;df1;p<.05).

Some 53.9 percent have heard about free psychological services for victims/survivors of domestic violence. More women (56.6 percent) than men (48.9 percent) knew about it (Chi-Square 7.1;df1;p<.005). Information about psychological service declines with the age (58.2 percent, 55percent, 44.6 percent among those under 30, 31-60 years old and older than 60 years respectively) (Chi-Square 17.9;df2;p<.001). Information was more available to persons with higher (58.1percent) than just secondary education (48.7 percent) (Chi-Square 13.1;df1;p<.001).

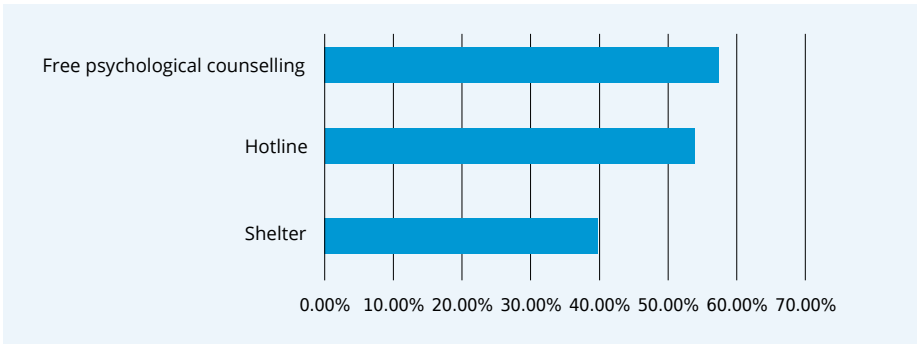
The study found that 53.8 percent knew about the existence of the do-

mestic violence hotline – 2-309-903. Inhabitants of Kakheti were the most informed about the hotline (62.4 percent) followed by Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (53 percent) and Tbilisi (46 percent) (Chi-Square 27.1;df2;p<.001). More women (57.2 percent) than men (47.2 percent) knew about it (Chi-Square 13.7;df1;p<.001). Information about the existence of the hotline was most of all available to the respondents in the 31-60 age group (60.1 percent). Some 54.4 percent of those under 30 and 45.1 percent over 60 knew about it (Chi-Square 18.7;df2;p<.001). Persons with higher education were better informed (51.3 percent) as compared to respondents having only secondary education (56.8 percent) (Chi-Square 4.3;df1;p<.05).

Information about shelters for the victims/survivors of domestic violence was available to 39.8 percent. Inhabitants of Kakheti were best informed (45.7 percent) followed by Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (38.2percent) and Tbilisi (35.5 percent) (Chi-Square 11.7; df2;p<.001). Women were more informed (44.7 percent) than men (30.5 percent) (Chi-Square 28.5; df1; p<.001). More respondents in the 31-60 age group (45.1 percent) knew about the shelter than respondents under 30 (38.2 percent) or over 60 (36.0 percent) (Chi-Square 8.2; df2;p<.05).

Chart no. 33:

Awareness of existing services



A considerable number of respondents pointed out that they knew about the possible effects of domestic violence on child witnesses. Some 78.6 percent claimed that they knew about attention deficiency and worsening of academic success in children, 71.4 percent knew about increased risk of developing heart diseases in adulthood.

Knowledge of the effect of violence on child witnesses differed across regions; the population of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti was best informed (83.6 percent), followed by Kakheti (86.4 percent) and Tbilisi (66.1 percent) (Chi-Square 71.6;df2;p<.001). Women (80.8 percent) were better informed than men (74.6.4 percent) (Chi-Square 7.7;df1;p<.005).

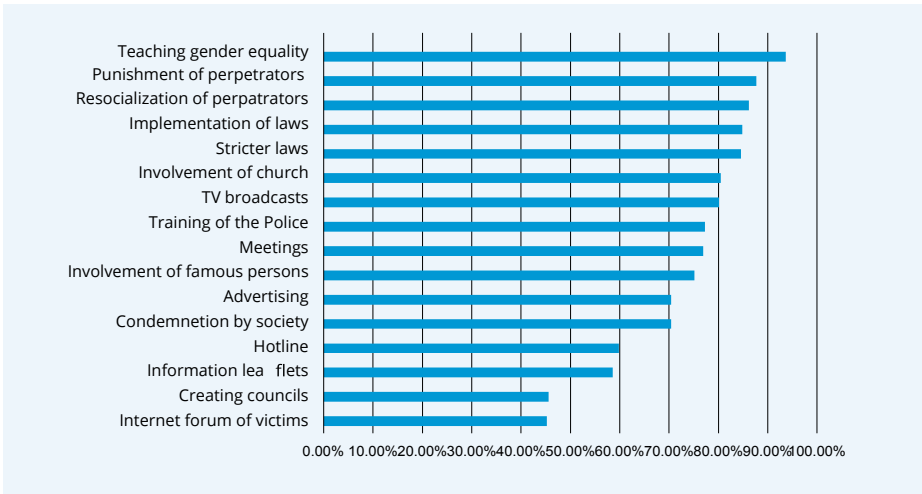
Increased probability of developing heart disease in adulthood among child witnesses of domestic violence was better known to inhabitants of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (83.6 percent), than Kakheti (80.1 percent) and least of all to Tbilisi inhabitants (54.2 percent) (Chi-Square 109.0;df2;p<.001). Women (74.5 percent) were better informed than men (65.4 percent) (Chi-Square 13.9;df1;p<.001). More people with university education (74.4percent) than just secondary education (68.6 percent) (Chi-Square 6.4;df1;p<.05) pointed out that they were informed.

2.11. Effective ways of combating domestic violence

The largest part of respondents (93.6 percent) considers promotion of gender equality as the most effective way of combating domestic violence.

Chart no. 34:

Effective ways of fighting domestic violence

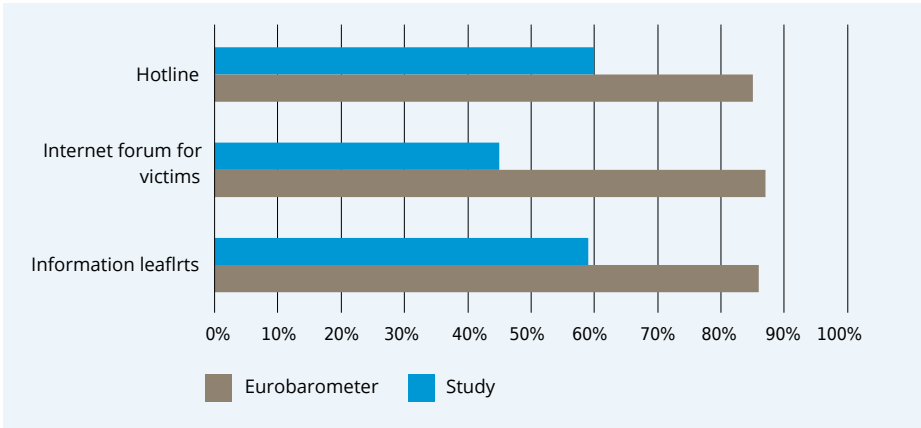


The question on effective ways for combating domestic violence listed 17 possible ways, unlike the Eurobarometer, where only four mechanisms were enumerated. Three of the options

listed in the Eurobarometer's relevant question were also presented in the study. For that reason, comparison of the data given in Fig.35 only concerns those three common mechanisms.

Chart no. 35:

Effective ways for combating domestic violence in the study and the Eurobarometer



All three mechanisms are perceived more effective by the respondents of

the Eurobarometer than those interviewed for the present study.

3. COMPARISON OF THE STUDY FINDINGS WITH OTHER RELATED STUDIES

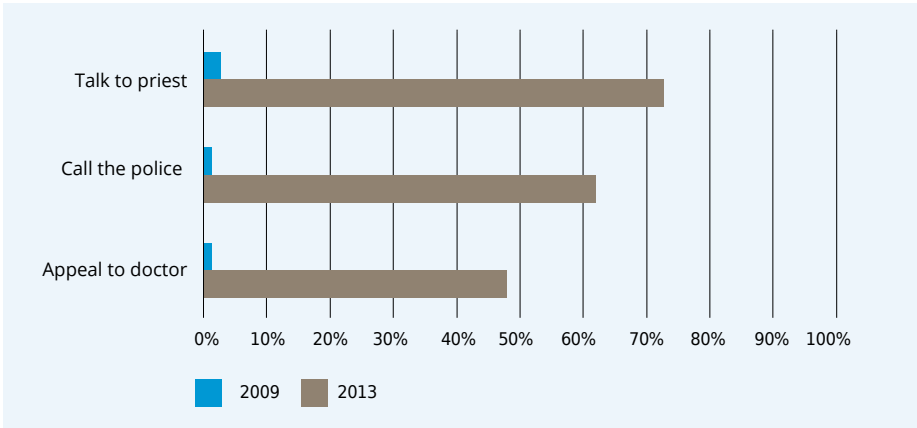
Whenever possible, findings of the present study were compared with the results of the National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Georgia (Chitashvili, M., at al. 2010) carried out in 2009, the Eurobarometer (Eurobarometer, 2010), the studies carried out in Ireland (COSC, 2008) and California, US (Tulchin, 2012).

The different aims and methodology used once conducting the present study and the National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Georgia (Chitashvili, M., at al. 2010) does not allow for exact comparisons, although some positive tendencies have been identified:

- The degree of tolerance towards domestic violence has decreased;
- Domestic violence is more widely perceived as a criminal offence rather than a family matter. If in 2009, 78.3 percent perceived domestic violence as a family matter, while in 2013 only 25 percent thought so. However, shame was named as the main reason for not calling the police both in 2009 and in 2013.
- The number of respondents who believe that a victim of violence should not talk about violence with anyone has decreased from 27.8 percent to 17.1 percent.
- Readiness to seek assistance if faced with domestic violence has significantly increased.

Chart no. 36:

Readiness to apply to different sources for assistance in 2009 and 2013



Perception of the scope of domestic violence is similar in Europe and in Georgia. Some 77 percent of Georgian respondents, 78 percent of respondents of the Eurobarometer and 70 percent of the respondents of the study conducted in Ireland (COSC, 2008) consider domestic violence as widely spread. Estimation of different types of violence by gravity is similar – physical violence is perceived as the gravest and verbal abuse as the most minor offence.

Differences were identified among methods for reacting to violence in the present research and the study carried out in Ireland (COSC, 2008). The respondents in the Irish study have shown more readiness to apply to all types of interference excluding face to face conversation with the partner. The main difference between the respondents of the Eurobarometer and those of the present study is that the degree of reliance on laws as well trust in existing services is much higher among the respondents of the Eurobarometer, as compared to the Georgian population.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the study was to understand attitudes towards violence against women and girls and domestic violence in Tbilisi, Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions of Georgia.

The study has shown that domestic violence, as a grave problem is universally acknowledged. First of all it is considered as a violation of human rights and it is linked with gender equality. Most importantly, violence is perceived as a human rights violation. Domestic violence and violence against women and girls is linked with gender inequality. Those, who favor gender equality and do not acknowledge male superiority over women, are less tolerant to domestic violence and violence against women and girls. Physical violence is considered as the gravest form of violence.

The degree of intolerance of violence is significant. Comparison with the tendencies identified in studies conducted in previous years has clearly shown that violence is increasingly being perceived as a crime rather than simply a family matter. Furthermore, increased readiness to openly discuss violence has been identified.

Upbringing and education, sharing and realization of the ideas of gender equality by the society, followed by adopting

stricter laws and their effective implementation are considered the most effective ways for combating the culture of violence and tolerance to violence. The need for more work with perpetrators has also been highlighted.

Along with common attitudes, significant differences have been found across regions, sex, age groups and education levels of respondents.

In discussing the degree of acknowledgement of violence, tolerance to it as well as attitudes towards gender equality, the following tendencies have been identified in a regional perspective: the degree of intolerance towards violence is the highest in Tbilisi, followed by Kakheti and the lowest in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. The lack of acknowledgement of violence in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti is also paired with higher approval / acceptance of male superiority in this region that it is the case in Tbilisi and Kakheti.

Women are less tolerant towards violence than men and they are better informed about its causes and consequences as well as about the existing services.

The level of education clearly significantly shapes attitudes towards domestic violence and violence against

women and girls; Gender equality is much more supported, while violence is much less tolerated by persons with higher education.

There is a clear difference between attitudes of people over the age of 60 and younger age groups. Elderly people are more tolerant to violence, more of them consider it as a family matter, and they are less informed about it. Much less obvious, but differences are still found among persons in the age groups 18-30 and 31-60. Younger respondents show less tolerance to violence and they are more open to the idea of gender equality.

The differences across regions, sex, age group and education may be explained by the concept of global diffusion (Meyer, et al, 1997; Dobbin, F.B.S., and Garrett, G, 2007). According to the global diffusion concept, the change of attitude is more likely to happen as a result of the spread of global ideas, rather than as a consequence of local

policies. Therefore, education and access to new information technologies, which obviously is connected with both education and age, has significant impact on the formation of attitudes towards domestic violence.

The study discovered essential similarities between the attitudes identified by the Eurobarometer and the present study towards domestic violence, although with some differences. The reliance of the respondent in the Eurobarometer on laws and services is higher. The effects of sex, age, and education were also similar. In Europe as well as in Georgia, violence is less acceptable to women, persons with higher education and young people.

The link between gender equality and intolerance towards domestic violence and violence against women and girls has been clearly demonstrated, which in our opinion is a rather important result, although less researched by empirical studies.

5. STEPS TO BE TAKEN

The perception of domestic violence as a human rights violation, an expression of gender inequality, and disrespect towards different opinion or behavior requires complex measures targeting the society at large, including but not limited to respective awareness raising campaigns. In awareness raising interventions, emphasis should be made on the impact of domestic violence on children and it is critical that all the different segments of the society are actively involved in the campaign.

In addition to the need for the implementation of common measures, the study has revealed the need for tailored approaches in carrying out awareness raising campaigns targeting focus groups according to regions, sex, age group and education level.

The need for the promotion of gender equality is higher in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, as compared to Tbilisi and Kakheti. Emphasis should be made on men, as they show less egalitarian attitude than women, reveal more acceptance to violence and less knowledge on the impact of violence and existing services. Education has a decisive role in determining the attitude to violence. More work should be carried out with less educated persons, using measures and language they understand. Different methods should be used while

working with youth, and with people under the age of 60 and over 60.

Family members, teachers, policemen, the church; electronic, print and social media are the main agents of shaping attitudes.

The study has demonstrated high importance of television as a primary source of information for the elderly and of the social media as the primary source of information for the youth. Internet forums may serve as both, a source of information and as well as a means of support and socialization for victims/survivors and perpetrators.

The study has further revealed the need for working more intensively with less educated persons. The persons who are highly respected in the community should be actively involved in the activities against violence. A considerable amount of information should be shared through direct contacts, be these formal or informal meetings, community meetings or similar gatherings.

The role of the church is considerable and is increasing, especially for the youth. The study revealed that people often justify gender inequality by interpreting religious scripts. The church can play a vital role in promoting values

of equality and mutual respect, contributing to shaping intolerance to any type of violence, especially towards violence against women and children.

Education is considered as one of the main ways of combating violence. Along with the importance of including gender equality and violence related issues in school curricula, personal attitudes of teachers are of paramount importance. Children are exposed to the behavior of their teachers daily; parents most often discuss rearing issues with them. Therefore, raising awareness of teachers and their training is necessary.

Training of social workers, policemen, school personnel, and health care professionals in the identification of and assistance to the victims/survivors of violence is rather important.

More specific measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women and girls include:

- **Focusing awareness raising interventions on all segments of the society and greater involvement of citizens in such campaigns** – In order for violence against women and girls and domestic violence to be perceived as a violation of human rights, and expression of gender inequality, intolerance towards different opinion and behavior and disrespect to human dignity, it is indispensable to implement complex

actions targeting the whole society. It is necessary to actively involve the population in the implementation of anti-violence campaigns, especially to focus them on the effect of domestic violence on children. Training of journalists in gender equality issues and gender-sensitive reporting is also necessary. In addition to traditional promotion strategies, use of innovative methods should be supported.

- **Promotion of gender equality** – It is critical to use all the different channels of media, including social media for the promotion of gender equality as an integral value for democratic development of the country and as a means for preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence. The image of a man as a caring spouse and father should be promoted. Awareness-raising interventions on gender equality should target both men and women.
- **Upbringing** – Learning /internalization of the domestic violence perpetrator and victim roles occurs in childhood and mostly in the family. A healthy family environment is a necessary condition for disrupting the circle of violence. The attitude of mutual respect, equality between the parents must be promoted with the help of the media, through informational publications, parent consultations and trainings.
- **Education** – Teaching of gender equality should be integrated at

all levels of educational programs, from pre-school throughout higher education programs. Teaching of achievement of own goals in non-aggressive ways, techniques of compromise should be incorporated in school curricula.

- **Empowerment of women** – Efforts should be taken to increase women's resources, including their access to economic resources and employment.
- **Involvement of the Orthodox Church and other religious organizations** – Opportunities for partnership with religious leaders should be explored, namely to engage them in awareness-raising campaigns condemning violence against women and girls and domestic violence and promoting peace and love and respect for human dignity irrespective of one's sex.
- **Criminalization of domestic violence** – Perception of violence as a criminal offence rather than a private family matter should be promoted. Furthermore, intolerance to any form of violence and inequality should be promoted.
- **Support of victims/survivors** – There should be more possibilities for psychological, legal and medical consulting and support to victims/survivors. Training of victims/survivors in assertiveness and increase of self-esteem should be provided. Victims/survivors should be instructed as how to ensure their own security. Shelters and crisis centers should be

opened in regions.

- **Re-socialization of perpetrators** – Psychological consultation and treatment of perpetrators, in case of substance abuse should be available and mandated by courts.
- **Acknowledgement of the problem of violence against children** – The study demonstrated that parents cannot rightly identify their behavior to children, cannot distinguish upbringing from violence and often consider their acts of violence as necessary and approbated means for upbringing. Consulting and training of parents, providing them with more information about upbringing and detrimental effects of violence on the wellbeing of children is necessary.
- **Restricting the use of hate speech** – The study has shown the role of hate speech and swearing as the preceding form to physical and other types of violence. Use of hate speech and swearing in media and public places should be punishable.
- **Conducting regular studies on prevalence of violence against women and girls and domestic violence and attitudes towards it** – For monitoring the effects of implemented awareness raising interventions and planning of further interventions, it is recommended to conduct studies on prevalence of violence against women and girls and domestic violence as well as attitudes towards it at least once in three years. Closer examination of

the link between gender equality and intolerance to violence should be further examined.

- **Need of context specific measures**

– Next to the need of implementing country-wide interventions, there is a need for context specific approach considering the place of residence, sex, age and education status of the respondents. The study showed that the need for promoting gender equality is higher in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region as compared to Kakheti and Tbilisi. More focus needs to be placed on men, as they are more prone to accept and approve inequality than women. More efforts should be directed to persons with lower than higher education. Different tools should be used in working with them as well as with youth, persons in the middle and late adulthood.

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