

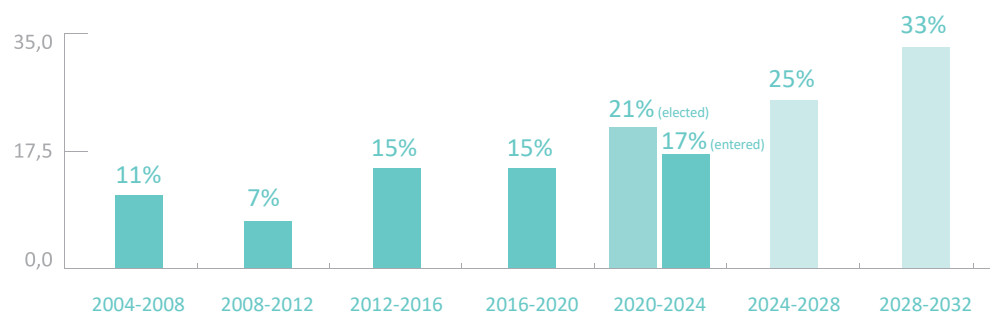
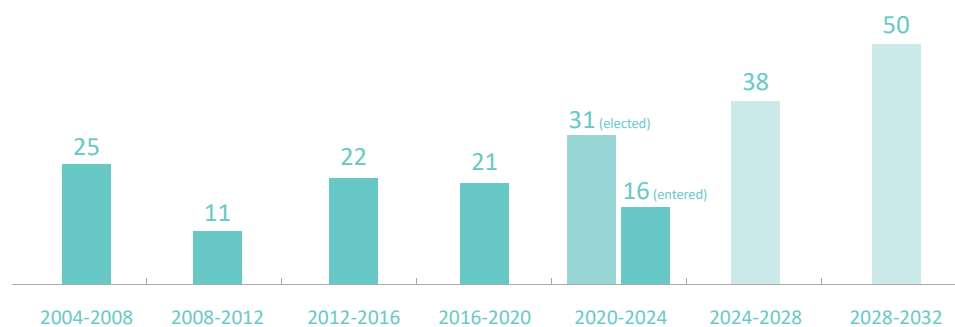
# WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING

Women’s equal participation and leadership in political and public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. However, research shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide and that achieving gender parity in political life is far off. In Georgia, women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making, whether it is in elected office, the civil service, the private sector or academia.

## PARLIAMENT

Georgians vote for individual members of the Parliament in a first-past-the-post system, in addition to voting for political parties through a proportional vote. For the proportional vote, parties present lists of candidates who gain a seat in Parliament based on the share of vote they receive.

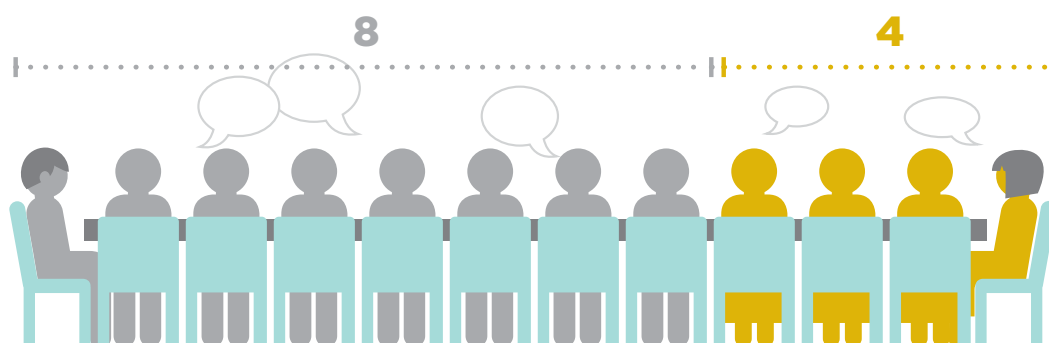
As of the electoral reforms in 2020, one quarter of candidates on the party lists used in the proportional vote are required to be a representative of the opposite sex.<sup>1</sup> While, as a result of the October 2020 elections, 31 women were elected to Parliament (21 per cent of mandates), only 16 entered Parliament (17 per cent of Members of Parliament) as of March 2021. In 2024, parliamentary elections will become fully proportional. As a result, around 25 per cent of MPs will be women. The gender quota is also set to increase to one in three candidates in 2028. Therefore, Parliament will likely be around 33 per cent female. Political parties that meet this requirement prior to 2028 will receive additional state funding.<sup>2</sup>



Source: Parliament of Georgia 2020<sup>3</sup>

## EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

Georgia’s political system features a dual executive. In it, the president is the head of state, and the prime minister is the head of government. As of March 2021, the president of Georgia is a female, and the prime minister is male. The vice prime ministers are male, as are the majority of the members of the cabinet.



Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>4</sup>

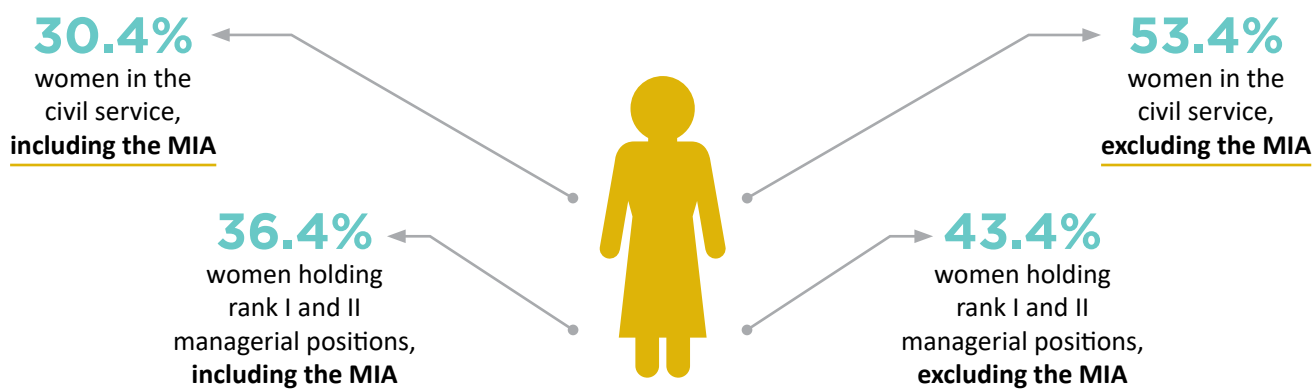
Women are also underrepresented at the deputy minister level – 25 per cent of deputy ministers are women. Only the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Health, Labour and Social Affairs and the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia (SMR) have gender-balanced deputy minister teams. The Ministry of Education and Science is the only ministry with more women than men as deputy ministers. The Ministries of Finance, Justice, and Internal Affairs have no female deputy ministers.

	Deputy ministers		Minister
SMR <sup>5</sup>			
Infrastructure <sup>6</sup>			
Justice <sup>7</sup>		0	
Internal Affairs <sup>8</sup>		0	
Defence <sup>9</sup>			
Economy <sup>10</sup>			
Foreign Affairs <sup>11</sup>			
Finance <sup>12</sup>		0	
Education <sup>13</sup>			
Health <sup>14</sup>			
Environment <sup>15</sup>			
Culture <sup>16</sup>		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 (4♀/8♂)</b>

Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>17</sup>

## THE CIVIL SERVICE

Within the civil service, there is a large gender imbalance. An important part of this imbalance stems from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) being male-dominated.



Source: Civil Service Bureau 2020<sup>18</sup>

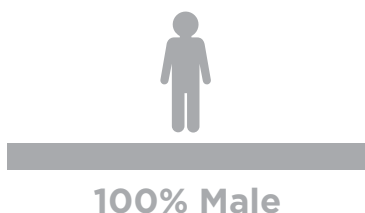
## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Women are least represented in local government. Only 1 of the 64 mayors in the country is a woman.



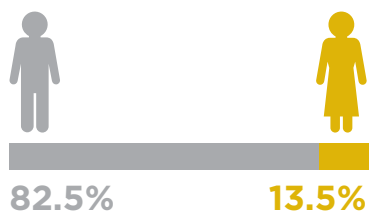
Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>19</sup>

Similarly, there are no female regional governors, an appointed position.



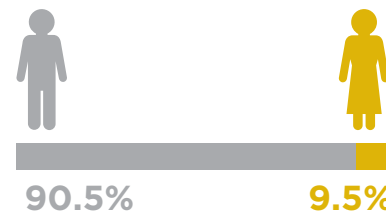
Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>20</sup>

Local legislatures have even fewer women than Parliament.



Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>21</sup>

In the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the local legislature, there are even fewer women.



Source: Adjara Supreme Council 2019<sup>22</sup>

Although women are currently underrepresented at the local level, the 2020 electoral reforms also introduced gender quotas for local elections. As a result, for the proportional component of local elections, half of the candidates must be of the opposite sex.

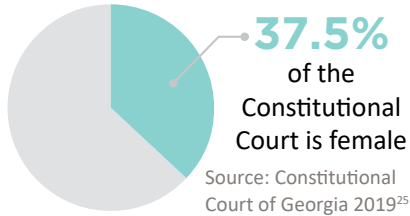
## JUDICIARY

In the judiciary, women are relatively well represented but still face a glass ceiling.

**55.6%**

of active judges are women

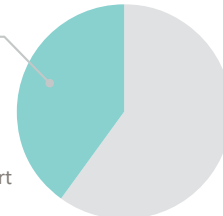
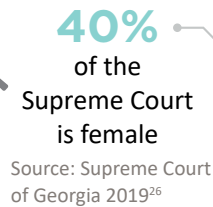
Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>23</sup>



**10.7%**

of decision-making positions in the judiciary are held by women

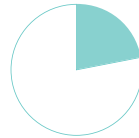
Source: Administration of the Government of Georgia 2020<sup>24</sup>



**15.4%**  
of the court chairs are women



**22.2%**  
of the Presidents of the Chambers are women



Sources: Tbilisi Court of Appeals and Kutaisi Court of Appeals 2019<sup>27</sup>

**53%** of the Kutaisi Court of Appeals judges are women

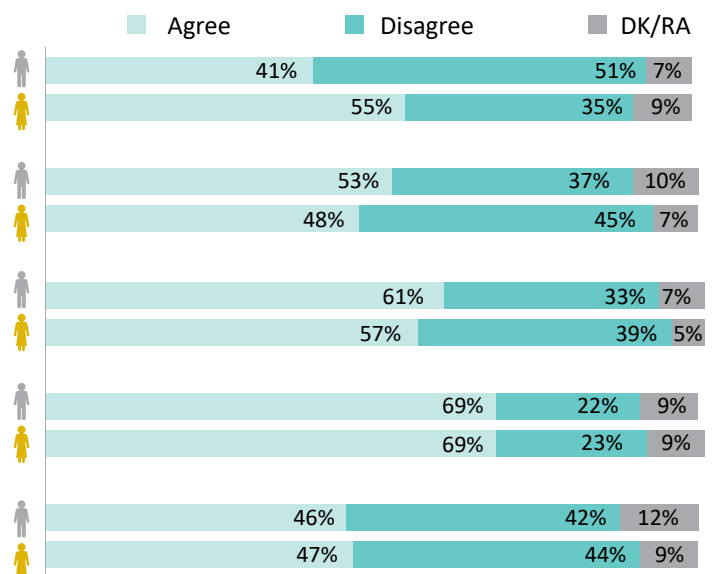
**46%** of the Tbilisi Court of Appeals judges are women

Sources: Tbilisi Court of Appeals and Kutaisi Court of Appeals 2019<sup>28</sup>

## PUBLIC OPINION

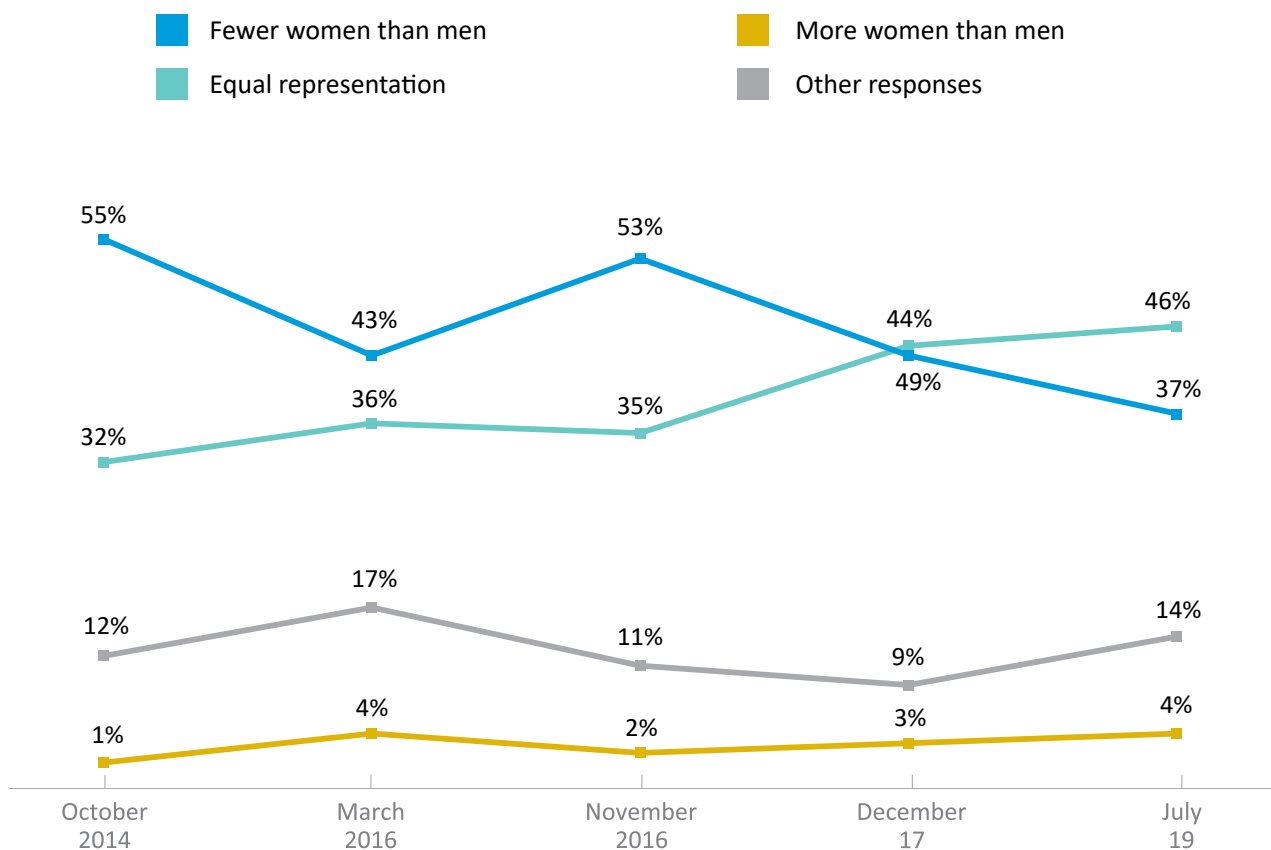
One of the likely causes of women's underrepresentation at all levels of government is the public's adverse views of women in leadership roles and politics.

- ▶ In Georgia, men prevent women from engaging in politics
- ▶ In Georgia, women think other professions are more suitable for them than politics
- ▶ In Georgia, women don't have time for politics because of household responsibilities
- ▶ In Georgia, voters prefer voting for male candidates
- ▶ In Georgia, women lack the confidence to enter politics



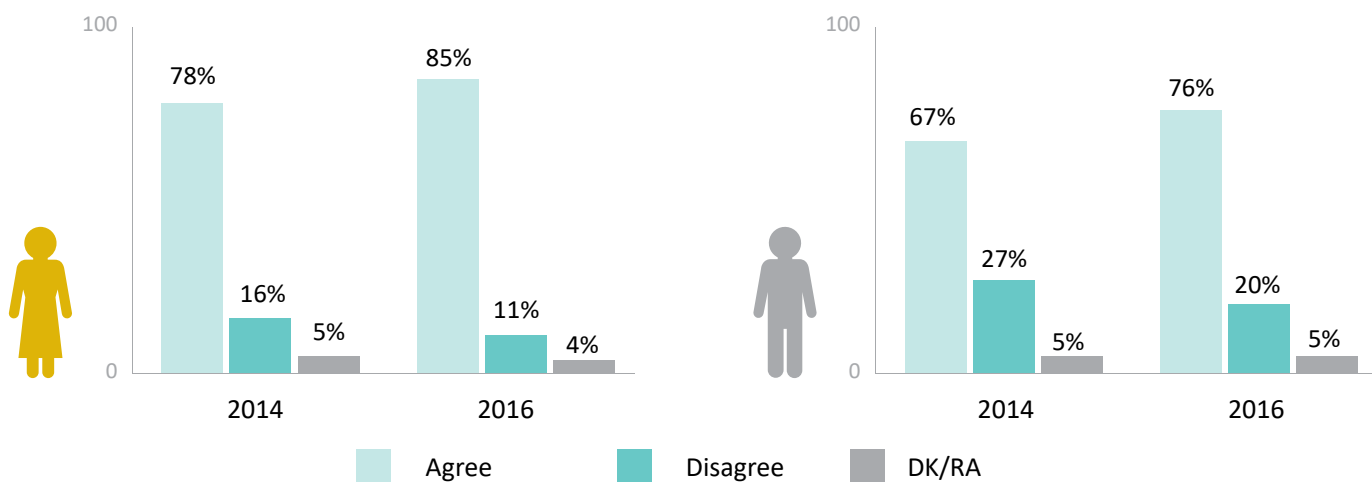
Source: CRRG Georgia and NDI 2016<sup>29</sup>

Despite the predominance of adverse views, attitudes are changing. People increasingly support having equal shares of men and women in Parliament.



Source: CRRC Georgia and NDI 2014,<sup>30</sup> 2016,<sup>31,32</sup> 2017,<sup>33</sup> 2019<sup>34</sup>

Most people also think that women are just as good decision makers as men – and increasingly so.



Source: CRRC Georgia and NDI 2014<sup>35</sup> and 2016<sup>36</sup>

## Endnotes

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