

## journal interne

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EuropeAid

### Spotlight

Building our expertise

### Nos activités

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**COMMISSION  
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## Georgia : civil lobby on gender equality

The project aimed at the integration of marginalised national and religious minorities into society and the creation of a proper space for cultural and social co-existence. Additionally, it included an awareness raising component designed to promote ethnic diversity among different social and ethnic groups.

Gender inclusion was a project priority because the need to raise awareness on gender equality, and women's rights and opportunities, was even more pressing among project's target groups – specific ethnic and religious minorities.

Better understanding of the role and place of women in various communities living in Georgia was the very first aim of the project team. Going deeper into the problem, a different understanding of women's role in Georgia was observed. Following informal research among target groups nationwide (female school teachers, parents, journalists, civil activists in the regions) and using other sources from partner organizations, the project got clearer picture of the problems, areas of interests, weaknesses and strengths.

Through series of roundtables and brainstorming with several NGOs, individual experts and female activists, it was concluded that activation of the government was vital. The government's actions through governmental commissions and councils were not enough. For improving the situation and ensuring equal opportunities, it was necessary to consolidate the efforts.

Several working groups and projects have worked out recommendations on gender equality however none of them has been seriously considered by the government.

Knowing this, project proposed to all players to create a civil lobby and to elaborate a joint document on behalf of civil society that would be presented to the government.

The idea was highly appreciated. The civil lobby was placed under the umbrella of the Public Defender's Office. After 3-week intensive consultations, on 10 December, 2008, 12 NGOs, together with the Public Defender, signed a Memorandum on the creation of "the Civil Lobby on Gender Equality with the Public Defender of Georgia."

**Nino (Nika) Kochishvili**



Discussion of the MoU on Civil Lobby on Gender Equality at the Public Defender's office

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