



## Annual Report

## Equality Movement

2023

## Letter from the Interim Executive Director

*Equality Movement is the largest LGBTQ+ community organization in the South Caucasus. The organization was established 12 years ago and has since then strived to build a society in Georgia where people are equal regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and social class.*

*Throughout the years, despite encountering numerous obstacles, the organization has been actively engaged in elevating public awareness regarding LGBTQ+ issues. Besides, the organization's efforts extend to initiating and pushing relevant policy changes, providing need-based social, legal, and health services, mobilizing the community, and raising visibility.*

*The organization's operational focuses can be grouped as follows:*

- 1. Advocating and forming an environment for the strengthening of the LGBTQ+ community;*
- 2. Ensuring access to healthcare services for LGBTQ+ people and HIV/AIDS prevention;*
- 3. Mobilizing, politically empowering, and supporting the integration of the LGBTQ+ community;*
- 4. Developing and enhancing the organizational and institutional capacities of the Equality Movement.*

*In parallel with the escalating intensity of political homophobia in Georgia, in 2023, the Equality Movement implemented its historic highest number of projects. The organization took specific measures for institutional development, the establishment of a secure and healthy working environment, and strategic planning. Moreover, the Equality Movement established new strategic partnerships and built the foundation for innovative interventions and programs to address the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.*

*Within the reporting period, the Equality Movement conducted two work visits in Brussels, Belgium, to meet representatives of various EU institutions. Moreover, different work meetings and discussions were conducted with representatives of the European Union, EU embassies, and legislative and executive bodies of EU member countries. The Equality Movement was moreover actively involved in national human rights advocacy processes.*

*In addition to advocacy, coalition, and community-strengthening activities, the organization implemented several collaborative activities in 2023 such as the innovative program 'Selftest Express' with the dating application Grindr. The program allows the users of Grindr to order HIV self-tests, condoms, and lubricants directly within the application. This integrated one-click solution is currently only available in USA, Ireland and Georgia.<sup>1</sup>*

*Furthermore, in the course of 2023, as part of Equality Movement's self-testing program, in seven cities of Georgia, the delivery company Glovo distributed the preventive and harm reduction packages of the organization free of charge. 'COITUS' and 'COITUS Talks' are two additional noteworthy new and successful projects of the Equality Movement and the club TES, which aimed to mobilize the community and promote the organization's preventive services.*

*Also, in 2023, the Equality Movement joined the UNAIDS campaign 'LET COMMUNITIES LEAD'<sup>2</sup> and held a conference dedicated to World AIDS Day on December 2. The conference consisted of six panels and was attended by members of the LGBTQ+ community, doctors*

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<sup>1</sup>Grindr Partners With Equality Movement and Empower to Provide Free At-Home HIV Test Kits to Users in Georgia and Ireland, see: <https://www.grindr.com/blog/grindr-partners-with-equality-movement-and-empower-to-provide-free-at-home-hiv-test-kits-in-georgia-and-ireland>

<sup>2</sup> LET COMMUNITIES LEAD - WORLD AIDS DAY 2023, see: <https://www.unaids.org/en/2023-world-aids-day>

*from the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, various LGBTQ+ community-based service provider organizations, and local and international partners of the Equality Movement. The representatives shared reports on AIDS-related local and international medical and human rights challenges.*

*The organization moreover conducted several research projects in 2023. The Equality Movement took a pioneering role in Georgia by being among the first to release a study addressing menstrual poverty and the social impacts related to it.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the organization carried out two bio-behavioral surveillance surveys: The first was conducted in collaboration with the 'Health Research Union', while the second one, known as BBS-Lite, was a pilot project carried out for the first time in the men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) population in Georgia, with the financial support of UNAIDS.*

*In order to sensitize the environment and foster the political empowerment of the community, the organization conducted thematic community meetings, public lectures, and the educational activities 'Queer Academy' and 'Queer-Feminist Summer Camp'. In addition, during 2023, the organization actively applied to the international human rights protection mechanisms during strategic litigation.*

*To acknowledge the accomplishments and successful outcomes of the past year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding team of the organization, valuable strategic partners, and supporters. Thank you for your tireless work, dedication, and commitment to our common values!*

*Sincerely,*

*The Interim Executive Director,*

*Mariam Guliashvili*

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<sup>3</sup> Menstrual Poverty in Georgia,2023, see: [https://equality.ge/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ilovepdf\\_merged-6.pdf](https://equality.ge/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ilovepdf_merged-6.pdf)

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## Unified Organizational Statistics for 2023

Indicator	Number	Type
Operational Focus	4	
Human Resources	39	Number of Employees
Regional Outreach Worker	6	
Project	16	
Basic Prevention Package	10,137	
Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)	6,715	
PrEP	473	New cases
Chemsex Kit	215	
Counseling and Psychotherapy	786	Sessions
Consultation of Psychiatrist	294	
Consultation of Narcologist/Addictionologist	70	
Consultation of Infectious Disease Doctor	44	
Consultation of Therapist	110	
Service of Social Worker	329	
Service of Lawyer	149	Cases
Strategic Litigation Case	1	
Report	5	
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## Reports of 2023

1. **Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** - Within the reporting period, Equality Movement submitted a joint report with the Eurasian Coalition for Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM) and the Queer Association - Temida. The report addressed human rights violations of LGBTQ+ women. Equality Movement represented the main findings of the report during the 84th session of the Committee.
2. **ILGA-Europe Annual Report** - Equality Movement submitted inputs for ILGA-Europe's annual report.
3. **The Right to Non-discrimination in Practice for Various Groups in Georgia** - Within the reporting period Equality Movement, as a member of the Coalition for Equality, prepared a chapter on the human rights violation of the LGBTQ+ community in 2022.
4. **Report on Hate Crimes** - Within the reporting period, the civil society platform No-to-Phobia started working on a report on hate crimes. The report discusses the state's practices and general policies against hate crimes. The Equality Movement covered sexual orientation-, gender identity-, and gender expression- (SOGIGE) motivated hate crimes.
5. **OSCE/ODIHR Hate Crimes Data** - In April 2023, Equality Movement submitted all its documented cases of SOGIGE-motivated hate crimes to OSCE/ODIHR.

# Reports of the Projects Implemented in 2023

## 1. HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Detection in the LGBT Community

<b>Donor</b>	<p>Service Recipient: L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)</p> <p>Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: "Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C -NCDC)</p>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	13.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 (12 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	462,940.00 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project was implemented with the collaboration of Equality Movement (contractor) and Identoba (sub-contractor).</p> <p>The services within the framework of the project were provided to members of the target population (MSM, HIV-positive MSM, MSM practicing chem-sex) in Tbilisi (based on the Tbilisi Resource Center of the Equality Movement), in Kutaisi and in Batumi (based on the Kutaisi and Batumi Resource Centers of Identoba), as well as in Zugdidi and Telavi remotely in field work conditions (through amongst others free and anonymous courier services).</p> <p>A total of 4,512 individuals benefited from the existing services in the framework of the project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beneficiaries who received a basic preventive package (condoms, lubricants, sexually transmitted diseases preventive information materials) – 4,512 (indicator fulfilled by 98%);</li> <li>2. Beneficiaries who received the voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (infections) – 3,520 (indicator exceeded by 9%);</li> <li>3. Beneficiaries who received the service of a social worker – 412;</li> <li>4. The number of sessions provided to the beneficiaries (in Kutaisi and Batumi) within the scope of psycho-consulting and psychotherapy services – 300;</li> <li>5. Beneficiaries who received medical consultations (therapist, doctor narcologist/addictologist)– 224;</li> <li>6. Beneficiaries who received the social support services in medical institutions – 34;</li> <li>7. Number of trained peer educators – 100;</li> <li>8. Number of informative/educational meetings – 10;</li> <li>9. Number of informational materials produced – 12 (about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and their prevention, as well as reduction of harm associated with the practice of chem-sex).</li> </ol>



## 2. HIV PrEP in High-Risk Populations

<b>Donor</b>	<p>Service Recipient: L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)</p> <p>Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: "Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C - NCDC)</p>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 (12 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	222,450.00 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>In the framework of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A total of 493 people were offered PrEP;</li> <li>● Out of those, a total of 473 beneficiaries received PrEP in 3 cities (Batumi, Kutaisi, Tbilisi);</li> <li>● 19 confirmed cases of HIV;</li> <li>● 2 Confirmed cases of HBV;</li> <li>● 4 patient schools were held;</li> <li>● 6 promo events were held;</li> <li>● 5 types of information materials were prepared;</li> <li>● 4 types of digital materials were created.</li> </ul>

### 3. Providing HIV Self-tests and prevention packages to HIV/AIDS key populations

<b>Donor</b>	<p>Service Recipient: L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)</p> <p>Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: "Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C - NCDC)</p>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 (12 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	169,000.00 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>In the framework of the project, a total of 5,471 people received either HIV self-tests or HIV prevention packages (condoms and lubricants) via the platform <a href="http://www.selftest.ge">www.selftest.ge</a> and delivered free of charge by Glovo. In addition, a total of 3,106 HIV tests, 48,905 condoms, and 8,841 lubricants were distributed.</p> <p>During the project, Equality Movement has produced 6 animations, 8 digital banners, and informational materials about HIV self-testing. In addition, a community meeting was organized in the framework of the collaborative activity 'COITUS Talks' of the Equality Movement and the club TES.</p> <p>In 2023 the platform <a href="http://www.selftest.ge">www.selftest.ge</a> was improved. The major updates can be grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The users of the website can report the result of their HIV self-test by uploading a photo of the result on the website. In exchange, they receive a voucher to top-up their phone balance;</li> <li>• Equality Movement and the dating application Grindr have expanded their partnership. Now the users of the application can order HIV prevention packages for free and anonymously without even leaving the application. To make the order, they only have to go to the side menu of the application, choose "Free HIV Home Test", and fill out the requested information;</li> <li>• The fourth community-based HIV-test provider organization Queer Association - Temida, which offers free HIV prevention packages named as T-Pack to Trans* community, has joined <a href="http://www.selftest.ge">www.selftest.ge</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Moreover, EM has organized an AIDS conference on December 2nd. It consisted of six panels and was attended by members of the LGBTQ+ community, doctors from the Infectious Diseases, AIDS, and Clinical Immunology Research Center, as well as community-based, service providers, and LGBTQ+ organizations. Attendees also included strategic partners of the Equality Movement, representatives from local and international non-governmental organizations, and state institutions. The representatives shared reports on AIDS-related challenges in Georgia</p>

	and the region, as well as ongoing obstacles and the intersections between the AIDS epidemic and homophobia.
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4. HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Detection in the Trans People

<b>Donor</b>	<p>Service Recipient: L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)</p> <p>Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: "Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C - NCDC)</p>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 (12 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	52,250.00 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project was implemented with the collaboration of Equality Movement (contractor) and Queer Association - Temida (sub-contractor).</p> <p>The project achievements can be measured by the following two indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beneficiaries who received a basic preventive package (condoms, lubricants, sexually transmitted diseases preventive information materials) – 100 (indicator exceeded by 54%).</li> <li>2. Beneficiaries who received voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (infections) - 89 (indicator fulfilled by 99%).</li> </ol> <p>In the framework of the project 5 informative/educational meetings have been held. Three of them have been conducted in Tbilisi and two of them in Batumi. In total the meetings have been attended by 58 people. In addition, a total of 83 psychological consultancies have been provided to members of the trans* community.</p> <p>Moreover, two types of thematic information brochures have been prepared:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. „What we should know about sexually transmitted diseases?“;</li> <li>2. “Legal gender recognition and trans-specific services“</li> </ol>

## 5. Assessment of HIV-related risk behaviors and HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men and a population-size estimation study

<b>Donor</b>	<p>Service Recipient: L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)</p> <p>Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: "Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C - NCDC)</p>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.07.2023 - 31.10.2023 (4 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	20,000.00 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project was implemented with the collaboration of the Health Research Union (contractor) and Equality Movement (sub-contractor).</p> <p>Within the scope of the research project, in three cities of Georgia, Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi, interviews were carried out within the target population (MSM persons); Moreover, venous phlebotomy blood sample testing for HIV infection, viral hepatitis (B and C) and syphilis (Anti-HIV1/HIV2; RPR Syphilis; Anti-HCV; HBsAg; Anti-HBc total) has been conducted. In Tbilisi, the interviews have been carried out by the Equality Movement, and in Batumi and Kutaisi by Identoba.</p> <p>A total of 150 beneficiaries took part in the study. Over 70 interviews and venous phlebotomy were conducted in Tbilisi, 35 in Kutaisi, and 45 in Batumi.</p>

## 6. BBS-Lite among men who have sex with men in Georgia

<b>Donor</b>	UNAIDS
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.07.2023 - 31.12.2023 (6 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	34,872.00 USD
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>In the framework of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A questionnaire has been developed and translated from English to Georgian;</li> <li>• A database has been created;</li> <li>• A total of 652 interviews were conducted with MSM;</li> <li>• Blood samples were collected and forwarded for confirmation in case of suspected-positive cases discovered during the first screening;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fieldwork has been conducted in 3 cities of Georgia (Tbilisi, Batumi, and Kutaisi);</li> </ul> <p>BSS-Lite was conducted for the first time within the MSM population in Georgia.</p>
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7. To develop and implement a pilot model of innovative HIV prevention services targeting LGBT+ communities including PrEP, nPEP and HIV self-testing services

Donor	Médecins du Monde
Reporting Period	01.03.2023 – 31.12.2023 (10 months)
Project Budget	40,100.00 GEL
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>In the framework of the project a total of 215 beneficiaries received a Chemsex Kit.</p> <p>On June 23, a training for peer educators was held at the office of Equality Movement. The training agenda covered the issues of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), chemsex practices, psychoactive substances, and harm reduction. In the framework of the training issues such as the active use of the psychoactive substances like GHB and GBL, and risks associated with their usage in a sexual context were discussed.</p> <p>Several information materials related to safe sex practices and the use of psychoactive substances were developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chemsex Brochure provides general recommendations related to practices of chemsex and the use of psychoactive substances.</li> <li>The Safe Sex Guide consists of brief recommendations/reminders on how to avoid risky behaviors in the club;</li> <li>Reminders (Posters) represent advice regarding the use of psychoactive substances.</li> </ol>

## 8. HIV and other STIs prevention among MSM and trans\* new migrants in Georgia affected by the war in Ukraine

<b>Donor</b>	Eurasian Coalition for Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM)
<b>Project Duration</b>	01.07.2023 - 29.02.2024 (8 months)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.07.2023 - 31.12.2023 (6 months)
<b>Project Budget</b>	19,793.77 EUR
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>In the framework of the project a total of 21 people received social worker services.</p> <p>Besides, an information meeting on sexual health, harm reduction, and chemsex was held with MSM migrants affected by the war in Ukraine. The meeting was attended by 19 people.</p> <p>Two meetings with LBQ women and members of the trans* community are planned for 2024; Informational materials on sexual health, harm reduction, and related services are also being prepared to be translated into English and Ukrainian.</p> <p>The project also includes outreach work among the LGBTQ* migrant community affected by the war in Ukraine.</p>

## 9. Improving HRs<sup>4</sup> of LGBT people in Georgia

Donor	Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)
Reporting Period	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 (12 months)
Budget	302,143.36 GEL
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Services:</b></p> <p>In the framework of the project Equality Movement provided the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Service of social workers: 329 LGBTQ+ people received the service.</li> <li>● Service of Lawyers: 149 new cases were accepted and managed by the lawyers of the organization. In total, Equality Movement is managing 200 ongoing current cases.</li> <li>● Service of Psychologists: 84 LGBTQ+ people received the services. In total, 786 sessions were conducted.</li> <li>● Service of Psychiatrists: 98 LGBTQ+ people received the services. In total, 294 consultations were conducted.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Queer Academy:</b></p> <p>The main aim of the Queer Academy is political empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community members. In 2023, the second Queer Academy with the name “Empires and Queer Movement” took place. The main objective of this year’s academy was the creation of a space to discuss postcolonial and decolonial theories and highlight the relevance of the theories to Georgian reality as well as to the agenda of the local queer movement. In total, 17 participants attended the academy and 10 meetings were organized. 3 meetings were designated for lectures, 4 for panel discussions, one was used for the screening of the movie “Self-Portrait Along the Borderline” and its discussion with the director Anna Dzaipshipa. The activity concluded with the workshop “In Search for Alternatives”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Queer-Feminist Summer School</b></p> <p>This year’s Queer-Feminist Summer School was organized in cooperation with the Women’s Initiative Supporting Group (WISG). The main aim of the activity was to raise awareness of youth on queer and feminist theories as well as on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The target audience of the project was LGBTQ+ community members aged 18-30, who did not have any previous experience in activism and/or in cooperation with LGBTQ+ community organizations.</p> <p>The summer school consisted of two parts: The first part of the school was designated to discuss the development of queer-feminist theories in the West as well as in Georgia. The second part was focused on the theoretical and practical basis of SRHR and its connection with feminist and queer theory.</p>

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights

<sup>5</sup> Please note, that the data includes aggregated organizational data

About 60 persons applied for participation in the project. Based on the applications, the selection committee selected 20 persons. As a result of the project, 19 young activists attended five-day training sessions..

#### **Queer-Feminist Summer School Alumni Meeting**

Equality Movement organized a meeting for the Alumni of the Queer-Feminist Summer Schools of 2022 and 2023. The main objectives of the meeting were the creation of an alumni network, the evaluation of the project by the participants, and the discussion of the plans.

In total, 30 Alumni and 6 trainers attended the meeting. The participants highlighted the following topics as project results:

- Raised awareness of queer and feminist issues, and individual and political empowerment;
- Re-evaluation of existing knowledge which led to increased empathy towards various groups and individuals;
- Increased feeling of self-affiliation with the LGBTQ+ community, getting to know queer organizations, and engaging in their activities;
- Increased access to safe spaces.

Additionally, the majority of the summer school participants got engaged in queer grassroots activism as a result of the project. A number of initiative groups have been established. The projects and activities conducted by the groups and individuals included, but were not limited to organizing meetings at schools and universities concerning gender equality, homo/transphobic attitudes, and SRHR.

#### **Strategic Litigation**

On September 8, 2023, the organization filed a lawsuit to the European Court of Human Rights. The case of I.A. was managed by Tamar Zarqua, lawyer of Equality Movement, from November 2021. Throughout 2023, the organization exhausted the domestic remedies and addressed the issue to the European Court of Human Rights. The plaintiff, represented by the Equality Movement, lodged a complaint against the Georgian state concerning the alleged violation of Articles 3 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Specifically, the case contests allegations of inhuman or degrading treatment predicated upon the grounds of sexual orientation attributed to the actions of the state.

The European Court of Human Rights accepted the proceedings and extended an invitation for a "friendly settlement" to the plaintiff and the state. Pursuant to the settlement offer, the state is obligated to remit a compensation of 15,000 Euros for the redress of damages.



## 10. Supporting and empowering LGBTQI Community in Georgia

Donor	Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia
Project Duration	15.03.2023 - 15.03.2024 (12 months)
Reporting Period	01.03.2023 - 31.12.2023 (10 months)
Project Budget	249,908.00 GEL
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>Within the framework of the project, Equality Movement provided psycho-social services to members of the LGBTQ+ community and implemented interventions to strengthen stress resilience.</p> <p>The political instrumentalization of homophobia is one of the most important reasons for the vulnerability and insecurity of the LGBTQ+ community in Georgia. Members and activists of the LGBTQ+ community not only personally face negative, often hostile attitudes based on prejudices and stereotypes, but also have to support and empower other members of the LGBTQ+ community, sharing their needs and concerns. Living and working in such conditions leads to emotional burnout related to stressful factors. In order to develop the stress-resilience skills of members of the LGBTQ+ community Equality Movement held 2 training sessions for LGBTQ+ activists in July and September. The trainer discussed with the LGBTQ+ activists the challenges and defined strategies for developing stress resilience. A total of 30 people participated in the training sessions.</p>

## 11. Equality Movement for a Strong Georgian LGBTQ Civil and Political Society

Donor	Open Society Foundation (OSF)
Project Duration	01.01.2022-31.03.2024 (27 months)
Reporting Period	01.01.2023-31.12.2023 (12 months)
Project Budget	70,000.00 USD
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p><b>Community meeting on the so-called “Russian law”<sup>6</sup></b></p> <p>On May 12, Equality Movement held a community meeting for LGBTQ+ activists to analyze and discuss the results of March protests against the so-called “Russian Law” and the potential dangers arising from the government's homophobic policy.</p>

<sup>6</sup> The Parliament of Georgia discussed in March 2023 a “Law on foreign agents” which would require every media and civil society organization to register in case of foreign funding bigger than 20%. The draft law became commonly known as “Russian Law” due to its similarity to such bills in Russia.

	<p><b>Community meeting on LGBTQ+ community positioning and strategic communication</b></p> <p>On December 14, the Equality Movement held a community meeting to discuss the issues of strategic communications and positioning of the LGBTQ+ community. 20 activists attended the meeting and mapped the topics that should be included in the communication strategy of the Equality Movement.</p> <p><b>Cooperation with LGBTQ+ community organizations</b></p> <p>During the reporting period, the Equality Movement participated in four meetings together with LGBTQ+ community organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first meeting was held on February 14. Representatives of the Women's Initiatives Support Group (WISG), the Queer Association - Temida, Peripheria and Identoba Youth discussed acute issues that affected the LGBTQ+ community members.</li> <li>• The second meeting was held on March 11-12, in the city of Kutaisi, where the platform member organizations attended the conference "Hidden Feelings and Feminist Imagination in the Periphery" organized by Peripheria.</li> <li>• At the May 3 meeting, the current events related to the so-called "Russian Law" and possible directions for further development of the government's political homophobia were discussed.</li> <li>• The last meeting in the reporting period was held on June 29. The topic was the upcoming Tbilisi Pride, with a special emphasis on the safety issues of LGBTQ+ community members, and the organization's contribution through psycho-social and legal services.</li> </ul>
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## 12. Capacity Building of Equality Movement and Empowerment of the Coalition for Equality

Donor	Open Society Foundation (OSF)
Project Duration	01.12.2023 – 29.02.2024 (14 months)
Reporting Period	01.01.2023 – 31.12.2023 (12 months)
Budget	40,000.00 USD
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>The project was implemented in collaboration with Equality Movement and Partnership for Human Rights (PHR).</p> <p><b>Selftest.ge service evaluation research</b> - The study assesses the strengths and weaknesses of Equality Movement's self-testing service from a user perspective to identify features needed to improve the platform.</p> <p><b>Training courses</b> - Within the framework of the project, foreign language courses and a certified first aid course were financed for the organization's staff</p>

	<p><b>Review of internal documents</b> - As part of within the framework of the project, a work meeting was held to develop documents relevant for the organization's strategy and action plan.</p>
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13. Alliance Against Hate Crime: Tackling Violence Against LGBTQI Communities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Donor	Stonewall
Project Duration	01.07.2021 – 30.06.2024 (37 months)
Reporting Period	01.01.2023-31.12.2023 (12 months)
Project Budget	150,400.00 USD
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>Within the project, Equality Movement supports and organizes training with law enforcement; promotes knowledge on hate crimes, supporting services, and reporting mechanisms; and strengthens cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. The intervention is implemented in Georgia, Bulgaria, and Romania.</p> <p><b>Create a training module</b> – Under the project framework, the Equality Movement created a training module on hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression (SOGIGE). The training module aims to raise awareness of LGBTQI-specific terms and hate crimes; national and international legislation, policies, and practices; challenges of investigating SOGIGE-based hate crimes; And victim support services. Training target groups are social workers, lawyers, and the staff of LGBTQI organizations. Equality Movement will conduct the training in 2024.</p> <p><b>OSCE/ODIHR Hate Crimes Data</b> – Within the reporting period, Equality Movement submitted a report of hate crime incidents from 2022.</p> <p><b>Roundtable with LGBTQI organizations</b> – In April 2023, the Equality Movement organized a roundtable with local LGBTQI organizations to discuss challenges and the plans of the organizations.</p>

## 14. Women's Poverty and Menstrual Health

Donor	Women's Fund in Georgia
Project Duration	01.12.2022 - 30.06.2023 (7 months)
Reporting Period	01.01.2023 - 30.06.2023 (6 months)
Budget	15,000.00 EUR
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>1. Qualitative research on menstrual poverty in Georgia</p> <p>The research report presents on the one hand, the results of a desk study, which includes local and international data related to menstrual poverty, and on the other hand, information obtained from in-depth interviews and focus groups. During the research process, a total of 7 focus groups, 5 in-depth interviews, and 4 face-to-face interviews with relevant experts were conducted. When planning the focus groups, the place of residence of the participants (city/village) was taken into account. For in-depth analysis of the unique experiences of the representatives of the social groups participating in the study, in-depth interviews were conducted with several respondents. To ensure the respondents' involvement in the research, community mobilization specialists in Tbilisi, Adjara, Imereti and Shida Kartli municipalities were involved in the research process.</p> <p>The study revealed the following issues: Knowledge related to menstruation; menstrual pain and access to medical services; Access to menstrual products, water and sanitation; Intersection between menstruation and labour rights. The research report presents recommendations grouped by respective state institutions for further advocacy; it is available on the website of Equality Movement.</p> <p>2. Creation and dissemination of informational materials on menstrual poverty</p> <p>In total, 1 video clip, 4 posters, and 2 blogs related to menstrual poverty were prepared. The selection of blog authors was made on the basis of the abstracts sent by the applicants. As a result of the competition, 2 authors were selected. The context of the blogs is based on the personal experiences related to menstrual health and poverty. The first text published by the organization describes the experiences and practices of menstrual care in mountainous Adjara, and the second text describes the intersection between menstruation and labour practices.</p> <p>A group of women with relevant experience worked on the production of the video clip. The content of the video is based on the key findings of the study "Menstrual poverty in Georgia" and the characters are also selected in order to describe the social groups represented in the study. The visuals and content of the video, on the one hand, try to explain the meaning of menstrual poverty, and on the other hand, focus on the daily difficulties associated with menstruation management. The video clip is available on social media platforms of the Equality Movement<sup>7</sup>. Quotes from the research are presented on the posters, which can be found on Equality Movement's <a href="#">Instagram platform</a>.</p>

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://fb.watch/IGtMs2MuMD/>

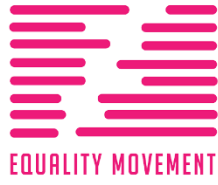
	<p>3. Presentation of the study "Menstrual poverty in Georgia".</p> <p>The presentation of the study "Menstrual poverty in Georgia" was held on May 24, 2023. The report was presented by the author of the study, gender researcher Ani Gogberashvili. The presentation was preceded by the panel discussion "Social Impacts of Menstrual Poverty".</p>
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15. Building resilience of LGBTQI communities in Georgia

Donor	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project Duration	02.10.2023 - 30.09.2024 (12 months)
Reporting Period	02.10.2023 - 31.12.2023 (3 months)
Project Budget	292,924.19 GEL
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>Under the initiative: "LEAD: Leadership, Equality, Advocacy, Democracy" the project addresses two of the organization's operational focuses: On the one hand, the project supports the empowerment of the LGBTQI community and builds its resilience by expanding the number and variety of psycho-social services; And, on the other hand, it promotes the organization's capacity building through strategic planning and human resource management.</p> <p>In the framework of the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As part of the strategic planning, in collaboration with an expert facilitator, a small study on the goals and needs of the organization was carried out. Besides, a 3-day workshop was conducted for developing the Strategic Plan of the organization. The workshop was attended by the board and staff members of the organization, in total 26 people. After additional working meetings and consultations, a draft document of the Strategic Plan of Equality Movement for 2024-2026 was developed.</li> <li>2. In collaboration with communication and strategic communication experts the analysis of the branding, communication channels, and materials of the organization has been done. In addition, a 3-day workshop was conducted for the development of the Communications Strategy of Equality Movement for 2024-2026. The workshop was attended by members of the board and staff of the organization, in total 13 people.</li> <li>3. A fundraiser has joined the organization.</li> <li>4. The social worker consulted 31 people.</li> </ol>

## 16. Strengthening Safety of the Organization

Donor	Civil Rights Defenders (CRD)
Project Duration	01.08.2023 – 31.12.2023 (5 months)
Reporting Period	01.08.2023 – 31.12.2023 (5 months)
Project Budget	64,607.50 GEL
Description of the Project Activities and Indicators	<p>In the framework of the project the organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hired an IT Company to diagnose the work appliances (laptops/printers) of the staff members;</li> <li>● Received an expert consultation to develop a policy document against fraud;</li> <li>● Purchased 5 laptops for the staff members;</li> <li>● Purchased the accounting software ORIS Accounting;</li> <li>● Purchased 1 shredder for those members of the organization who have access to the personal information;</li> <li>● Purchased 1 cell phone for those members of the organization who provide services;</li> <li>● Purchased 3 fire extinguishers for the safety of the organization's office.</li> </ul>



[@equalitymovementgeorgia](https://www.instagram.com/equalitymovementgeorgia)



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[თანასწორობის მოძრაობა/ Equality Movement](https://www.youtube.com/equalitymovementgeorgia)



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