



# ANNUAL REPORT OF EQUALITY MOVEMENT 2024



## Letter from the Executive Director

*It would not be an exaggeration to say that the past year has been particularly challenging for Georgia's young democracy. In 2024, anti-democratic, homophobic, and censorship-imposing legislative initiatives—now known as the “Russian laws”—have stripped away the rights and freedoms we have fought hard to achieve.*

*The laws adopted by the ruling party, Georgian Dream, in April and September 2024, passed under the guise of transparency and family values, serve as a primary tool to suppress NGOs and civil society groups while undermining grassroots activism. At the same time, the government has once again used the pre-election period to escalate political homophobia.*

*For Equality Movement, working in a hostile and challenging environment is not new. However, the government's organized repressive policies have created an entirely different reality—not just for the LGBTQ+ community but for every citizen and group that values freedom, equality, and democracy.*

*Despite these difficulties, Equality Movement remains the largest LGBTQ+ community organization in the Caucasus region, offering services across nearly all major cities in Georgia. Even in this shifting landscape, we continue to lead initiatives aimed at transforming the political, social, and cultural environment for LGBTQ+ people.*

*Our four main goals remain unchanged:*

- 1. Creating an environment conducive to LGBTQ+ advocacy and strengthening the community.***
- 2. Providing healthcare services and advancing HIV/AIDS prevention efforts within the LGBTQ+ community.***
- 3. Mobilizing, politically empowering, and promoting the integration of LGBTQ+ community members.***
- 4. Ensuring the organizational and institutional development of the Equality Movement.***

*To achieve these goals, we have planned and implemented numerous activities over the past year, provided vital services to thousands of LGBTQ+ community members, and worked toward strengthening our organization—an effort which's necessity has been reaffirmed by this difficult year.*

*The achievements outlined in Equality Movement's 2024 report would not have been possible without the trust and commitment of our dedicated team, long-standing and new strategic partners, and our community members. We are grateful for this support.*

***Mikheil Meparishvili***  
***Executive Director***

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## Unified Organizational Statistics for 2024

1.	Operational Focus	4
2.	Human Resources	40
3.	Regional Outreach Worker	5
4.	Project	14
5.	Number of beneficiaries who received a basic package of essential tools for preventing the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted infections.	10 517
6.	Number of beneficiaries who received voluntary counseling and testing services for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including viral hepatitis (B and C) and syphilis.	6 581
7.	Number of beneficiaries enrolled in the HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) program	566
8.	Psychological and Psychiatric Consultation and Psychotherapy	1340
9.	Social Worker Service Beneficiaries	800
10.	Service of Lawyer	257
11.	Strategic Litigation Case	1

**Alliance Against Hate Crime: Tackling Violence Against LGBTQI Communities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus**

<b>Donor</b>	Stonewall / Global Equality Fund (GEF)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	150 400 USD
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The joint project aims to raise awareness of hate crimes against the LGBTQI community, prevent such crimes, and strengthen cooperation with law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>As part of the project, awareness-raising training sessions were held in 2024 on crimes motivated by intolerance based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.</p> <p><b>The training module includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Definitions of LGBTQI terms and the concept of hate crime</li> <li>● An overview of national and international legislation, policies, and practices in combating hate crime</li> <li>● Information on challenges in hate crime investigations and victim support services</li> </ul> <p>As part of the project, 25 social workers, lawyers, and employees of various LGBTQI organizations from different regions of Georgia were trained.</p>

**Building Resilience of the LGBTQ+ Community in Georgia**

<b>Donor</b>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	02.11.2023 – 02.11.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	292 924 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p><b>General Overview of Project Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>210</b> beneficiaries received support from a social worker.</li> <li>● <b>96</b> beneficiaries accessed consultations with a psychiatrist or psychologist;</li> <li>● The psychologist and psychiatrist conducted a total of <b>679</b> consultations.</li> <li>● One group therapy program and <b>six</b> sessions were conducted.</li> </ul>

- One couple participated in couples therapy

**Fundraising Specialist Achievements**

- Over the year, **44** grant applications were reviewed from **32** different donors;
- The Fundraising Specialist prepared **35** grant proposals for **25** different donors.
- **11** grant agreements were signed with **10** different donors;
- In 2024, the organization established communication with seven new donors

**Development of Key Documents for Institutional Sustainability**

**Code of Ethics:** As part of the project, an internal Code of Ethics for service providers and beneficiaries was developed in 2024. This document establishes ethical standards and creates a feedback framework for beneficiaries to improve service quality. The development process included focus groups and face-to-face interviews.

**Organizational Strategy:** In 2024, the organization developed a 2025-2027 strategy, outlining key aspects such as its mission, vision, values, target groups, goals, objectives, and relevant performance indicators.

**Strategic Communications Document:** The organization also developed a Strategic Communications Document for 2025-2027. This document defines the communication mission, organizational positioning, target groups, program directions, and contextual analysis.

**Fundraising Strategy:** A Fundraising Strategy was drafted in 2024 with support from the USAID Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) program.

### Clear Mind in Troublesome Times

<b>Donor</b>	Embassy of France in Georgia
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.10.2024 – 31.12.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	27 324 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project aimed to provide mental relief and psychosocial assistance to members of the LGBTQ+ community amid heightened political pressure and social adversity.</p> <p>During the reporting period, <b>302</b> psychosocial support sessions were conducted by professional psychologists and psychiatrists, offering critical emotional and psychological support to community members facing systemic discrimination and mental health challenges.</p>

### 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>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2024 – 31.08.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	19 793 EUR
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>Information materials on sexual health, harm reduction, and related services were prepared and translated into English, Ukrainian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani.</p> <p>The project also organized a meeting with MSM and trans* migrant activists affected by the war in Ukraine. Participants received information on available services in Georgia and learned about the country's political and legislative context.</p>

### HIV/AIDS prevention and case detection in the LGBTQ+ community

<b>Donor</b>	Service provider for L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: <b>"Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C -NCDC)</b>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	03.01.2024 – 19.02.2025 (ongoing)
<b>Project Budget</b>	362 424 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>A wide range of activities was implemented to prevent and detect HIV/AIDS. Consultations, informational materials, and preventive measures essential for assessing and reducing the risk of infection provided beneficiaries in the LGBTQ+ community with a basic prevention tool package. In total, 5,102 activities were carried out as part of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A total of <b>3,628</b> people underwent voluntary counseling and testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;</li> <li>● Medical counseling, psycho-counseling, and psychotherapy were provided to <b>201</b> beneficiaries;</li> <li>● <b>17</b> informational and educational meetings were held, attended by more than <b>300</b> beneficiaries.</li> <li>● As part of the peer education intervention, <b>100</b> peer educators were trained.</li> <li>● More than <b>170,000</b> condoms and <b>45,000</b> lubricants were distributed through the project</li> </ul>

### Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services for populations at high risk of HIV/AIDS

<b>Donor</b>	Service provider for L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2024 – 31.01.2025
<b>Project Budget</b>	268 960 GEL

<p><b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b></p>	<p><b>General Overview of Project Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>566</b> people participated in the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) program (<b>487</b> first-time participants and <b>79</b> returning participants).</li> <li>● <b>75</b> beneficiaries received the hepatitis B vaccine.</li> <li>● <b>76</b> people were vaccinated against influenza.</li> </ul> <p><b>Activities to Support Beneficiaries</b></p> <p><b>Educational Events:</b> Four events were held throughout the year, providing beneficiaries with information about PrEP and other services available within the organization.</p> <p><b>Distribution of Printed Information Materials:</b> Four types of informational materials (a total of 6,300 copies) were produced, explaining situational and daily PrEP use.</p> <p><b>Creation and Distribution of Digital Information Materials:</b> In 2024, four types of digital materials about PrEP were developed and shared via social media.</p> <p><b>Patient Schools:</b> Six patient schools were conducted throughout the year, facilitated by infectious disease specialists. Beneficiaries enrolled in the PrEP program, as well as those interested in joining, received general information about PrEP.</p>
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**Providing HIV self-test services and prevention packages to HIV/AIDS for key populations**

<p><b>Donor</b></p>	<p>Service provider for L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) Program sponsored by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: <b>"Strengthening of National HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Systems in Georgia" (GEO-C -NCDC)</b></p>
<p><b>Reporting Period</b></p>	<p>01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024</p>
<p><b>Project Budget</b></p>	<p>169 000 GEL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Through the <b>Selftest.ge</b> platform and the free courier service provided by Glovo, a package of preventive tools was</li> </ul>

<p><b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b></p>	<p>delivered to <b>5,249</b> beneficiaries. <i>(The total number of registered users on the platform is <b>9,112</b>.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A total of <b>2,880 tests, 84,575 condoms, and 6,386 lubricants</b> were distributed via the platform.</li> <li>● As part of the project, three animated videos on self-testing were produced.</li> <li>● Eight digital banners were designed to promote various HIV prevention tools.</li> <li>● Informational and promotional materials, including T-shirts, stickers, and booklets, were produced and distributed</li> </ul> <p>In 2024, two events were held as part of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An event with <b>80</b> community members. The organization provided transportation, food, and both educational and recreational activities.</li> <li>● On December 2, marking World AIDS Day, the Equality Movement organized a conference on AIDS-related services and rights.</li> </ul>
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**Improving Human Rights of LGBTQ+ people in Georgia**

<p><b>Donor</b></p>	<p>Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)</p>
<p><b>Reporting Period</b></p>	<p>01.02.2024 – 31.12.2024</p>
<p><b>Project Budget</b></p>	<p>388 433 GEL</p>
<p><b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b></p>	<p><b>Overview of Legal Services</b></p> <p><i>In 2024, 257</i> beneficiaries accessed the Equality Movement's legal services through telephone consultations or in-person visits.</p> <p>A total of <b>139</b> cases were registered, among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Violence/Threats: 46 cases</b></li> <li>● <b>Domestic Violence: 6 cases</b></li> <li>● <b>Labor Rights Violations: 5 cases</b></li> </ul> <p>In 2024, the organization’s legal team selected T.K.’s case for strategic litigation. On December 6, T.K. contacted the Equality Movement and reported that on the evening of November 29-30, while returning home from a rally, she was verbally and physically assaulted near Besiki Street, Tbilisi, Georgia by unidentified individuals wearing black</p>

	<p>masks. Upon learning that she had participated in the rally, they began kicking her in the shins, hurling verbal abuse, and telling her to stay home, claiming that rallies were not a place for women.</p> <p>That same day, representatives of the Equality Movement were present during T.K.'s questioning at the Special Investigation Service, where a medical examination was also conducted.</p> <p>T.K. was accompanied by a lawyer throughout the process. An investigation is currently ongoing.</p> <p>The case is now being prepared for submission to the European Court of Human Rights.</p> <p><b>Overview of Social Worker Service</b></p> <p><b>158</b> beneficiaries accessed social worker services In 2024, with <b>95</b> beneficiaries referred to a psychologist or psychiatrist.</p> <p>During beneficiary assessments this year, the following needs were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Psycho-emotional difficulties – including depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and challenges in managing emotions;</li><li>• Health-related issues – chronic and/or serious illnesses, the need for consultations with qualified and LGBTQ+-friendly doctors, and support in purchasing medications;</li><li>• Alleged human rights violations – violence by a family member and/or (former) partner;</li><li>• Attempted or experienced threats and blackmail;</li><li>• Harassment and discrimination in labor relations;</li><li>• Harassment in public spaces;</li><li>• Homophobic and transphobic attitudes;</li><li>• Challenges related to “coming out”, including psycho-emotional and social difficulties;</li><li>• Difficulties in self-acceptance related to identity;</li><li>• Limited access to information, especially regarding trans-specific issues such as hormone therapy, medical visits, and medication side effects.</li><li>• Access to education — supporting beneficiaries in registering and preparing for exams required for free education at a vocational college;</li><li>• Employment challenges – guidance on job search platforms, resume writing, and ongoing supervision;</li></ul>
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- Sharing information about inclusive and LGBTQ+-friendly employment opportunities
- Migration-related issues – guidance on required documentation for leaving the country (e.g., service receipt certificates, victim recognition certificates).
- Assistance in finding social and community support;
- Consultations for foreign beneficiaries and referrals to relevant organizations or services;
- Relationship difficulties – including partner conflicts and referrals for couples therapy;
- Substance use concerns – including alcohol, weed, and other substances, assessment of gambling addiction severity and motivation, and referrals to addiction specialists for further monitoring;
- Housing-related challenges — including homelessness and difficulties paying rent;
- Assistance in obtaining socially vulnerable status and support for inclusion in state programs;

### **Overview of Additional Project Activities**

The project funded **three** initiatives led by LGBTQ+ community members, including regional meetings aimed at strengthening the community, art therapy sessions benefiting **40** community members, and an exhibition showcasing the work of a young designer.

As part of the project, **35** community members participated in the **Queer Health School**, which aimed to raise awareness of health-related issues.

In November, the organization launched a small-scale research to assess community needs regarding health, social, and legal services. The results will be shared with the organization’s partners and used in future work. The final report is expected to be completed by February 2025.

From month to month, Weekly **Queer Academy** sessions were also held, with 20-25 community members regularly participating. These sessions created a space for discussions on relevant issues, current events, and community needs.

Additionally, the project supported the translation of a brochure on the rights and social conditions of HIV-positive women.

## Out of the Margins (Phase II)

<b>Donor</b>	Stonewall / Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	17.01.2024 – 01.04.2025 (ongoing; project ends in 2027)
<b>Project Budget</b>	220 695 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project aims to advance and protect the rights of lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LBT+) individuals globally. Implementation is carried out in partnership with local communities and civil society, with a focus on responding to anti-gender (anti-rights) movements in a timely and appropriate manner.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase in the number of NGOs whose technical and legal capacity, skills, and knowledge contribute significantly to promoting LBT+ equality and countering anti-gender movements.</li> <li>● Percentage increase in NGOs that act as sub-grantors, thereby enhancing their visibility and influence.</li> <li>● Growth in the number of external stakeholders with influence on governance and policy who are engaged in awareness-raising efforts and support the inclusion of LBT+ rights in the 2030 SDG Action Plan.</li> <li>● Enhanced protection of LBT+ rights and improved violence prevention through the integration of innovative tactics and methods into local activist work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Activities Implemented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Several community meetings have been held within the framework of the project since January 17, 2024.</li> <li>● In December 2024, an outreach meeting for LBT women was conducted, focusing on mental health, stress resilience, and substance use.</li> <li>● An outreach meeting was also held in Kvareli, attended by LBT+ women. The session addressed political homophobia, the instrumentalization of LGBTQ+ issues, and included an introduction to relevant existing research.</li> <li>● A documentary film was produced on the history of Georgian feminism as part of the project.</li> </ul>

## Rethinking Relations – New Chances for LGBTQI Media Coverage in Georgia

<b>Donor</b>	National Democratic Institute (NDI)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	30 000 USD
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The project aimed to strengthen inclusive, ethical, and accurate media coverage of LGBTQ+ issues in Georgia. It addressed the widespread misrepresentation of LGBTQ+ topics in both traditional and digital media by equipping journalists and influencers with knowledge, tools, and ethical frameworks for responsible reporting.</p> <p>A series of coordinated activities was carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A 3-day training</b> was held in Kvareli for <b>13 social media influencers</b>. It focused on LGBTQI terminology, inclusive language, and content ethics. Influencers reported improved understanding and pledged to produce more inclusive content.</li> <li>● <b>A 3-day training</b> engaged approximately <b>20 journalists from 14 media outlets</b>, focusing on practical skills for sensitive and accurate reporting on LGBTQI topics. Sessions included case analysis, role-play, and peer review, resulting in strengthened ethical standards and awareness.</li> <li>● <b>A virtual coordination meeting</b> brought together <b>8 key media organizations</b> to address the threats posed by the “transparency” and “family values” legislative proposals. The discussion emphasized the role of the media in safeguarding LGBTQI+ rights through informed reporting.</li> <li>● <b>A follow-up coordination meeting</b> was held with <b>5 returning media outlets</b> to address the proposed "anti-propaganda" law. Participants discussed the implications for human rights and reinforced the need for ethical, human-rights-based journalism.</li> </ul> <p><b>In total, over 40 media professionals were engaged</b> across these activities, building stronger networks and advancing fair, accurate, and inclusive media coverage of LGBTQI issues in Georgia.</p>

## Supporting and Empowering of the LGBTQ+ Community in Georgia

<b>Donor</b>	Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01.01.2024 – 31.08.2024
<b>Project Budget</b>	249 908 GEL
<b>Description of the Project Activities and Indicators</b>	<p>The political instrumentalization of homophobia is a major factor contributing to the vulnerability and insecurity of the LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ community members and activists not only face negative attitudes due to prejudice and stereotypes but also take on the responsibility of supporting and empowering others by advocating for their needs and concerns.</p> <p>As part of the project, the Equality Movement provided psychosocial support services to LGBTQ+ community members, including <b>357</b> sessions conducted by psychologists and psychiatrists.</p> <p>Additionally, a training session for LGBTQ+ activists was held, where participants, alongside an invited specialist, discussed the challenges they face and strategies for building resilience. <b>Eighteen</b> activists took part in the session.</p>

## Summary of Projects in Progress

In 2024, the Equality Movement began implementing several new projects aimed at advancing the rights, well-being, and visibility of Georgia's LGBTQ+ community. As these initiatives were launched toward the end of the reporting year, detailed activity reporting is not yet available. These projects will be fully reportable in the 2025 annual report. The projects include:

1. ***Rights and Resilience: Empowering Georgia's LGBTIQ+ Community for Inclusive Change*** – funded by AFEW International / the European Union
2. ***Queer TM: Trauma & Migration – Regional Cooperation of Queer Community Organisations for Better Social, Psychological, and Legal Services*** – funded by RFSL Malmö / the Swedish Institute
3. ***Queer Context: Fresh Voices from Georgia and Beyond*** – funded by LGBT+ DK / New Democracy Fund

## International Conferences

In addition to project implementation, representatives of the Equality Movement actively engaged in key international forums, contributing to global conversations on LGBTQ+ rights. In 2024, the organization participated in the following conferences:

- *AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference – Munich, Germany*
- *ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2024 – Bucharest, Romania*
- *IGLYO Annual Members' Conference – Ljubljana, Slovenia*
- *International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) Regional Forum – Lisbon, Portugal*
- *Equal Rights Coalition Conference – Berlin, Germany*