



GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform strongly condemns the deliberate discreditation of civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in different forms in supporting the implementation of EU recommendations.

The Georgian National Platform (GNP), which is the platform recognized under the Association Agreement, has repeatedly had to fend off the government's and opponents' attacks on its member CSOs. Such attacks trigger the imposition of negative labels on active CSOs.

The aforementioned is a clear expression of the polarization in the country. First of all, it affects the society and CSOs that should be overcome according to the EU recommendations.

We are observing former deputy head of the State Security Service of Georgia, Soso Gogashvili's attempt to discredit two of our active member organizations and also the announcement of a campaign within which the former high-ranking official discloses "GONGO" CSOs. This campaign contradicts the interests of the country that will shift the polarization process to the CSO sector, freeze work process on fulfilling the 12-point conditions established by the EU and give the government an additional reason to talk about the failure to fulfill the main goal of the country - granting candidate status at the end of the year.

We would like to emphasize that there is no substitution of organizations presented by the GNP to the election working group. The GNP presented the following 4 organizations to the Parliament of Georgia for the election working group: International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Public Movement Multicultural Georgia (PMMG) and Public Advocacy. All of them have been selected by the GNP on the basis of their high qualifications and taking into account that they are members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) working in the Central Election Commission of Georgia under the auspices of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and have been involved in the election processes for years. In addition to unacceptable situation initiated around the ISFED, two CSOs participating in the working group have been attacked today, which represents a threat and an attempt to disrupt the process. All of them are the GNP members.

We urge all political actors to show extreme restraint and avoid discrediting CSOs.

We call on the civil society organizations to show solidarity and media - to be more careful and thorough in reporting such issues.