

GNP statement on the draft law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence"

Member civil society organizations of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum express our protest against the introduction of the draft law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence" prepared by several MPs representing the majority of the Parliament of Georgia.

We consider that the initiated draft law is anti-democratic, anti-constitutional, restricts human rights and discriminates against public organizations and the media. The draft law completely contradicts the principles and nature of the EU law and poses a serious threat to Georgia's Euro-Atlantic choice as mentioned in the Constitution of Georgia. It will also create a serious barrier to the inflow of financial resources for Georgia and the country's economic growth, violating the principles of fair competition.

It will hinder the implementation of recommendation 10 – "Ensure the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels" and recommendation 7 – "Undertake stronger efforts to guarantee a free, professional, pluralistic and independent media environment" of the 12-point plan launched by the EU.

We believe that hearing of such draft law and moreover, its adoption, will damage Georgia's European perspective and is directed against granting Georgia membership candidate status and marginalization of the country.