



GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Statement of the National Platform of Georgia

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform echoes the negative campaign initiated by certain high ranking officials and media outlets against civil society organizations, pending for more than a week.

On February 22, in the Parliamentary working format, members of the "National Platform" presented a [legislative proposal](#) on the reform of the justice system of Georgia developed in response to the Venice Commission and the European Commission recommendations. After the discussions held in the parliament around the legislative proposal, the negative information campaign has been initiated involving some high-ranking officials and media outlets. The campaign in most of the cases distorts the real content of the legislative proposal, but also, feeds into the anti-European sentiments and serves to discredit civil society organizations.

We welcome the meaningful debate around the reforms held in the Parliament on February 22, discussions in which both the majority and opposition representatives took part. However, 9 steps presented by the European Commission to Georgia requires deeper deliberations with broader civil society participation, not only with the members of the "National Platform", but also with other interested civil society organisations. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that discussions around the major reforms should be conducted without spreading disinformation and discrediting civil society organizations.

We call on the Parliament of Georgia to ensure deliberations around the Venice Commission, OSCE/ODHIR and European Commission recommendations with the participation of all interested groups.