



## GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

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EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Georgian National Platform supports the systemic judicial reform, including the introduction of an extraordinary integrity check of judges. On the other hand, the ongoing campaign to discredit the judicial vetting mechanism and its supporters does not contribute to the meaningful discussions about judicial reform and the implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission.

A serious discussion on the systemic justice reform, including on the introduction of an extraordinary integrity check of judges, is necessary for Georgia to take the next step towards joining the European Union. Instead, for several weeks the public has been hearing the statements of the governing authorities against checking integrity and undocumented wealth of judges, and the campaign to discredit the supporters of such checks.

Since Georgia submitted its application for EU membership, the National Platform coordinated and facilitated a number of discussions and workshops on judicial reform, both, among platform member organizations and with the decision-makers. In September 2023 and February 2024, several member organizations of the National Platform submitted a legislative proposal to the Parliament, with which they offer the Parliament concrete models for the comprehensive reform of the High Council of Justice of Georgia, for strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms in the judicial system, and extraordinary integrity check of judges.

Accordingly, the National Platform of Georgia believes that there is a need for a systemic judicial reform: the legislation regulating the independence of the court does not establish sufficient guarantees to exclude corporatism and illegal influences of the small group of judges. In addition, the anti-corruption mechanisms should be strengthened so that alleged cases of corruption are not left uninvestigated.