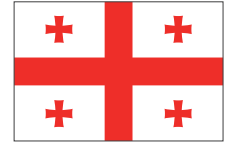


Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

GEORGIA

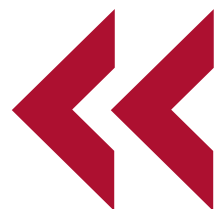


GEORGIA



Status of sexuality education

Sexuality education is presently not part of the school curriculum, but the government is in the process of introducing Healthy Lifestyle Education, which is provisionally planned to include some sexuality-education topics. Active support for this development is provided by UNFPA Georgia and by the non-governmental organisation 'Tanadgoma'. There is strong religious opposition to sexuality education in the country.





Laws and policies

There are no specific laws or policies on sexuality education in Georgia. However, **the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has publicly stated that it is going to incorporate Healthy Lifestyle Education into the national school curriculum. Sexuality education is scheduled to become part of this effort.**

Implementation of sexuality education

A few elements of sexuality education are included in the subject of biology or have been piloted in civic education and physical activity. Some lessons on HIV and sexually transmitted infections were introduced as non-mandatory classes several years ago.

A healthy lifestyle education curriculum development commenced in late 2014, and a revised version for grades 1–6 (approx. 6–11-year-old learners¹) was officially presented in 2016.

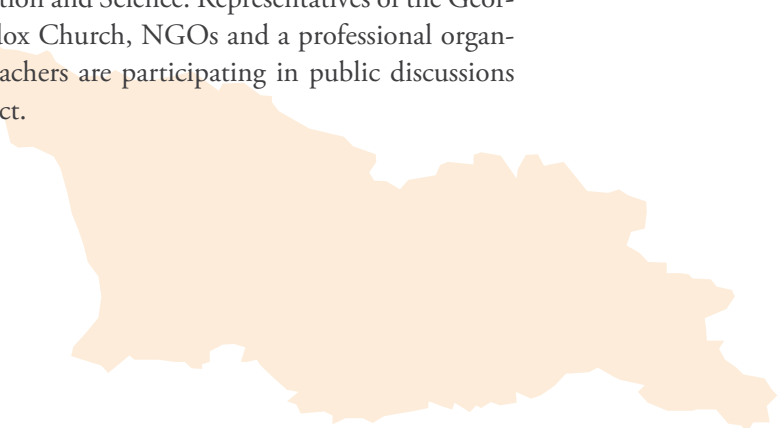
This draft curriculum is still being discussed with the Ministry of Education and Science. Several working groups under the aegis of the Ministry, including experts from local non-governmental organisation (NGOs) and international organisations (UNFPA), are working on the sexuality-education topics in the draft curriculum. NGOs are already involved in piloting one of the subjects – entitled ‘Me and Society’ – under the topic of civic education (for 9–11-year-old learners) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science. Representatives of the Georgian Orthodox Church, NGOs and a professional organisation of teachers are participating in public discussions on the subject.

Training of teachers on sexuality education

Beginning in 2017, it is planned to train teachers once the new curriculum has been approved. There are also plans to develop guidelines and teaching materials.

Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

NGOs such as Tanadgoma and ‘HERA XXI’ (IPPF member association) are conducting educational sessions using peer educators on the prevention of HIV/sexually transmitted infections, family planning, prevention of early marriage, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights, gender and sexual health of minorities (e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons - LGBT). Further, TV and radio shows are broadcasting talkshows dedicated to some SRH issues, although there are cultural limitations.





Challenges

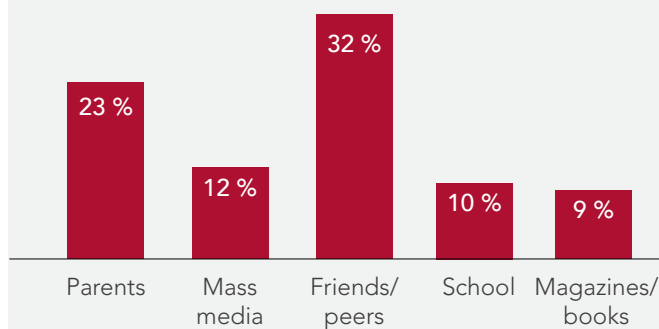
Quite strong opposition to sexuality education comes from the Church, other orthodox religious movements and conservative social groups. Their arguments portray sexuality education as LGBT propaganda and as going against moral principles established in ‘traditional Georgian society’. Additional challenges to introducing sexuality-education components are lack of technical expertise and human resources.

Data

→ Use of contraception

A GEOSTAT 2014 survey³ showed that young people aged 15–29 are poor users of contraception. Only condoms are used quite widely. Their knowledge of contraception (other than condoms) is generally quite low.

Most important source of information about issues related to sexual and reproductive health²



The Reproductive Health Survey Georgia was conducted in 2010 for young women aged 15–24 years.

Teenage birth rate in Georgia⁴

2016

38 births per 1000 women*

2015

51.1 births per 1000 women*

* women aged 15–19 years

Country facts



Georgia

Total population ⁵	4 490 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) ⁵	273 000 (6.1 %)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) ⁶	2
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) ⁷	29.8
Gender Inequality Index rating ⁸	0.361
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years ⁹	38
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse ¹⁰	N/A
Average age of mother at birth of first child ¹¹	24.4

N/A: not available

For references go to last page

References / Definitions

- 1 **Learner:** a child or young person who is enrolled or attends classes in school, including primary (basic/elementary), secondary (middle) and high school.
- 2 Reproductive health survey Georgia 2012, final report. Tbilisi/Atlanta (GE): National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs, National Statistical Office of Georgia et. al.; 2012.
- 3 Adolescents and youth in Georgia: GEOSTAT, June 2014. Tbilisi: United Nations Children's Fund; 2014.
- 4 Health care. Statistical yearbook 2014 Georgia. Tbilisi: National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health; 2015.
- 5 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 6 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Government expenditure on education:** current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5.
- 7 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Youth unemployment rate:** percentage of the labour force population aged 15–24 years that is not in paid employment or self-employed, but is available for work and has taken steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.
- 8 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Gender Inequality Index:** a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. It varies between zero (when women and men fare equally) and one (when men or women fare poorly compared with the other in all dimensions).
- 9 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 10 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 11 Mother's mean age at first birth. Index Mundi [data from CIA world factbook, various years] (<http://www.indexmundi.com/factbook/fields/mother's-mean-age-at-first-birth>, accessed 25 March 2017).