



GRASS Disinfo Brief

MONITORING PERIOD:

March 5th – March 11th

GRASS
REFORMANDA

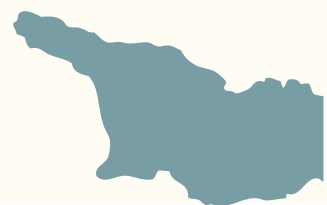
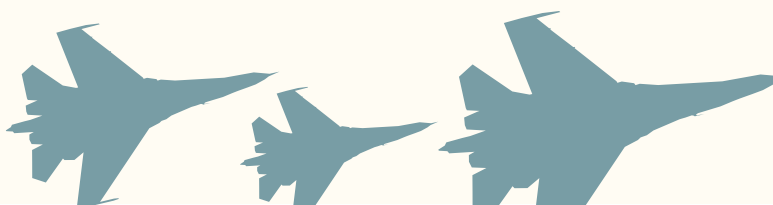




- Georgian Dream and People's Party movement double down on "LGBT propaganda", urge the opposition and CSOs to respond
- Georgian Dream criticizes EU recommendations, blasts Germany and EU for hosting Georgia's former Minister of Justice, Zurab Adeishvili
- Chairperson of the Parliament continues pressure on donor organizations, accuses them of interfering in Georgian elections
- Propaganda says the EU, the West is pressuring Georgia to adopt "LGBT ideology" and open a second front
- Pro-Kremlin groups claim NATO's article 5 is bogus, says the alliance will not protect Georgia if needed
- Propaganda sources blame Ukraine and the West for Russia's aggression, repeats second front conspiracy
- Alignment with Russia is the only way to restore territorial integrity, propaganda reasserts
- Propaganda claims the US is involved in plans to overthrow the government in Georgia

Georgian Dream and People's Party movement double down on "LGBT propaganda", urge the opposition and CSOs to respond

- The Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, [stated](#) that the silence of the opposition parties and CSOs regarding the initiated law against "LGBT propaganda" is suspicious – it means that they either support "LGBT propaganda" or do not take it seriously. According to Papuashvili, the issue should be addressed as no one thought 5-10 years ago that the Prime Minister of the UK would need to clarify that a man is a man and a woman is a woman - **"As experience shows us, such things spill over in Georgia through different finance's and mechanisms."** He called on the opposition and CSOs to stop hiding from the public and declare their attitudes toward the matter.
- Leader of the Parliamentary Majority, Mamuka Mdinardze, [called](#) last year's protests against the Foreign Agents Law "farce of the century" because a literal translation of the US Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) was dubbed as Russian. According to him, even if the newly initiated law against "LGBT propaganda" is called "Russian" or "Soviet", the ruling party will still proceed with it. Mdinardze [argued](#) that by talking about high prices and the economy, the opposition is trying to justify its pro-LGBT propaganda stance. Moreover, during a plenary session in the Parliament, he [stated](#) that the issue of "LGBT propaganda" is very concerning to the Georgian people. The opposition should declare its position on how to separate the protection of human rights from "malign LGBT propaganda and pseudo-liberal ideology."



- Chairperson of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Gharibashvili, [blamed](#) Tbilisi Pride for provoking the 2021 July 5th attacks. According to him, the opposition, through Tbilisi Pride, staged the “destructive, provocative, anti-state action.” “Who stands behind Pride? The Shame Movement? Who is behind the Shame Movement? Of course, Saakashvili and the United National Movement”, he argued. Gharibashvili also [stated](#) that **the risks of opening a second front in Georgia and dragging the country into the war have not disappeared.**
- Vice-speaker of the Parliament, Archil Talakvadze, [argued](#) that when announcing the ruling party’s plan to initiate a law against “LGBT propaganda”, Mamuka Mdinardze offered all political groups to engage in discussions and provide their opinions. However, the opposition has refrained from publicly talking about the issue, which raises many questions.
- Georgian Dream MP Irakli Zarkua [argued](#) that the opposition is silent because if they address the issue of “LGBT propaganda”, their funding will be cut from foreign sources. He also claimed that the opposition is getting ready for revenge, and their goal is to undermine state institutions, come to power, **obey foreign interests and wishes, and open a second front in Georgia.**
- Another Georgian Dream MP, Irakli Kadagishvili, [said](#) that the initiated law against “LGBT propaganda” is a common national cause. There are often speculations that due to European integration, Georgia will be obliged to accept “LGBT propaganda”. Against this background, it is important to protect everyone’s interests, including the interests of the majority. Kadagishvili then called on the opposition to “take a brave step and take a national stance on this issue.”
- People’s Power movement member Sozar Subari [claimed](#) that the opposition’s PR specialist advised them that voicing their positions on the issue of “LGBT propaganda” would be electorally damaging. Therefore, according to Subari, the opposition decided to shift the public’s attention to social issues. However, the Georgian people see that the opposition is refraining from addressing the issue. Subari argued that the effects of “LGBT propaganda” are no less concerning than social issues for Georgian society.

Georgian Dream criticizes EU recommendations, blasts Germany and EU for hosting Georgia’s former Minister of Justice, Zurab Adeishvili

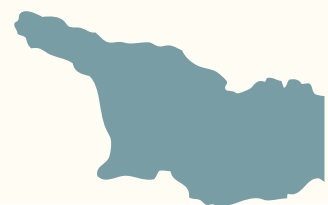
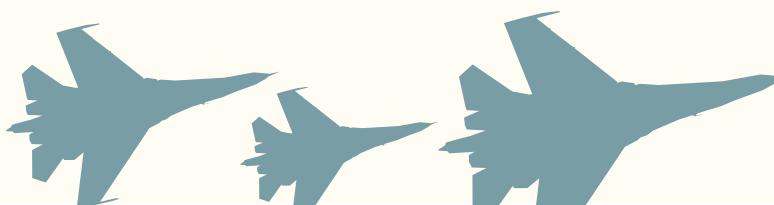
- Referring to the amendments in the Electoral Code, Mamuka Mdinardze [stated](#) that, although the EU recommends it, there is no reason for a Deputy Chairman of the CEC to be from the opposition as none of the European countries have the same practice. “We will not do something that is not practiced in Europe itself”, he argued, stating that the ruling party will not take recommendations about implementing the vetting system in the judiciary as well. As he continued, no foreigner will be able to make decisions about issues in Georgia.
- Responding to the criticism that the recent amendments to the Electoral Code contradicts the European Commission’s requirements, as well as OSCE/ODIHR and



Venice Commission's recommendations about staffing the Central Election Commission based on a multi-party consensus, Shalva Papuashvili [argued](#) that those who call on Georgia to make consensus-based decisions should practice what they preach. According to him, no country makes consensus-based decisions, including the 27 EU member states. Therefore, Georgia should not be obliged to do so. As he said, Georgia is no longer an experiment in a laboratory as it was for 2 years. "This experiment is not working, and those who want us to continue being an experiment should make decisions based on consensus themselves and then talk to us", Papuashvili stated.

The ruling party became especially agitated after Zurab Adeishvili, a high-ranking official of Saakashvili's government who is sentenced to prison in absentia by the Georgian court, was part of official meetings in Berlin and Brussels. The German embassy in Georgia [clarified](#) that Adeishvili was present in the German Bundestag as a member of the Ukrainian embassy's delegation, and there was no reason based on the principles of the rule of law to prevent him from entering the building. The EU delegation in Georgia [responded](#) by saying that the Deputy Director General of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Gert Jan Koopman, has regular meetings with representatives of EU neighbour countries, including Ukraine. In this capacity, Koopman met with the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, accompanied by several members of the Ukrainian delegation. "To portray this meeting otherwise is disinformation", reads the delegation's statement. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia officially [informed](#) the Head of the EU's delegation and the German Ambassador about the Georgian side's concerns regarding Adeishvili's visit to the German Bundestag.

- Mamuka Mdinardze [argued](#) that before the EU points Georgia to the nine steps, which includes a provision about fighting disinformation, everyone should understand that the biggest disinformation and an attack on Europe is allowing a torturer and a business racketeer, Zurab Adeishvili, to move in Europe freely and hold official meetings with high-ranking officials. He also criticized the EU Delegation's response and stated that the ruling party voiced no disinformation as Adeishvili was evidently present in the German legislature.
- Shalva Papuashvili made several statements regarding Adeishvili's visits. He [argued](#) that when the EU hosts known criminals like Adeishvili in its meeting rooms and then issues recommendations about Georgia's justice system from the very same meeting rooms, it is hard to take it seriously. According to Papuashvili, Georgia strictly adheres to sanctions imposed by the EU or other countries and ensures they are not circumvented. However, it seems that some European countries are bypassing sanctions imposed by the Georgian court. He also [said](#) that there are a lot of talks about the EU's priorities, but the Georgian people's priority is for the EU not to become a space where criminals take refuge, as it discredits Europe in the eyes of the Georgian people. Papuashvili [criticized](#) the statements made by the EU delegation and the German embassy, stating that rather than



feeling sorry, these institutions seem to be normalizing meetings with criminals such as Adeishvili.

Chairperson of the Parliament continues pressure on donor organizations, accuses them of interfering in Georgian elections

- Papuashvili [stated](#) that foreign funding of CSOs is becoming a serious problem. According to him, there is a whole scheme set up to fund Georgian politicians through fake CSOs, which is direct interference in electoral processes. He argued that this is a method used by Russia, and it is surprising that European and American foundations are using the Russian underground funding method to influence Georgian politics. “This is political corruption”, he said.
- Papuashvili [doubled down](#) the pressure on the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), whose Chairman, Kenneth Wollack, stated that NED is not funding Georgian political parties. The Chairperson of the Parliament said that such promises are good, but relevant evidence is needed. He stated that NED is funding CSOs, which were established by politicians such as Natia Mezvrishvili of For Georgia; Giorgi Kandelaki, a former member of European Georgia; Ana Dolidze, leader of the For the People party. When talking about the transparency of foreign funding, Papuashvili alleged that NED is one of the least transparent foundations. When such organizations say they are helping the Georgian people, they do not clarify exactly what they do. The projects funded by them are hidden. “This statement should be welcomed. Now they should act and cut funding which goes to the pockets of political parties”, the Chairperson of the Parliament said.
- Mamuka Mdinardze [reiterated](#) that funding of political parties from foreign organizations is justified with fake CSOs. Some politicians have established CSOs, gained access to foreign funds through them, and use those funds for political purposes, which is prohibited by law.
- One of the leaders of the People’s Power movement, Guram Matcharashvili, [stated](#) that Georgian CSOs have become extensions of political parties. CSOs which are directly involved in politics and want to change the government should not be funded by donors. According to him, the European Parliament is planning to adopt a similar law, which was initiated by the People’s Power movement and supported by the Georgian Dream in 2023. The European Parliament is talking about how transparency is important. Yet, the Georgian version of the law, a copy of FARA operating in the US, was falsely portrayed as Russian.

Propaganda says the EU, the West is pressuring Georgia to adopt “LGBT ideology” and open a second front

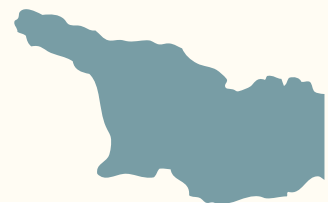
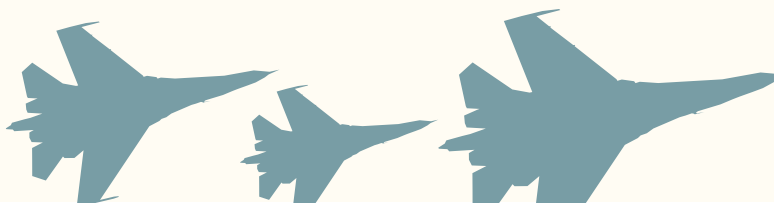
- Sezoni TV host and pro-Russian propagandist Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [stated](#) that the path to European integration will lead to Georgia’s “sodomisation”. He also argued that the West is attempting to take control of the Georgian justice system by implementing the vetting system, which infringes on Georgia’s sovereignty. The propagandist alleged that



the nine steps issued by the EU for Georgia involve provisions about punishing conservatives and giving more rights to the LGBT community, which undermines Georgian society. Additionally, he [repeated](#) the traditional warmongering narrative that the West aims to open a second front in Georgia.

- An anchor on Alt Info's broadcast also [voiced](#) the narrative that the West is pressuring Georgia to join the war against Russia, and Georgian Dream members are forced to talk openly about it.
- Aleksandre Palavandishvili, Alt Info anchor, [stated](#) that the West continues to pressure Georgia to start a war against Russia, which will lead to its destruction. According to the propagandist, the ruling party has realized that, so it distanced itself from the West.
- One of the prominent members of the Alt Info group, Irakli Morgoshia, appeared on Sezoni TV, where he [propagated](#) that EU countries prioritize LGBT communities over religious groups and demands that Georgia does the same. According to him, if the ruling party's proposed law against "pseudo-liberal ideology" is met with the same protests as the Foreign Agents Law was last year, **"Alt Info will do everything to protect this law, even by using force."**
- A guest on Alt Info [expressed](#) that due to the mass chaos in European countries, they have not had time to react to the law against "LGBT propaganda" initiated by the ruling party. However, he claimed that the issue of "LGBT propaganda" is so important to the West that it will not allow the Georgian Dream to adopt the law.
- Another guest on Alt Info [spread](#) disinformation that the provisions of the nine steps set out by the EU state that Georgia should legalize same-sex marriage and allow CSOs and foreign embassies to appoint judges.
- A narrative voiced on Alt Info [claimed](#) that Euro-Atlantic integration means the destruction of a state that is based on faith and Christianity. The civilized world is asking Georgia to accept "sickness, absurdity, and demographic destruction", which is a recipe for the degeneration of Georgia.
- A host of Alt Info's broadcast [stated](#) that adopting the law against "LGBT propaganda" will send a message to neighbouring countries that Georgia is distancing itself from the West, which is vital for Georgia's survival as Russia is evidently gaining influence in the South Caucasus.
- Tristan Tselashvili, a former Georgian high-ranking officer who was previously imprisoned for spying in favour of Russia during the 2008 war, once again appeared as a guest on Sezoni TV, where he [propagated](#) that the West forced Ukraine to shut down Orthodox churches and open strip clubs in their place and is pressuring Georgia to do the same,

Pro-Kremlin groups claim NATO's article 5 is bogus, says the alliance will not protect Georgia if needed



- Guest on Alt Info [argued](#) that protesting occupation will bring no tangible results for Georgia. Despite spreading the message that NATO will protect Georgia, the propagandist believes that NATO has failed to even protect Ukraine, which is more easily defensible. He further stated that although NATO may arm Ukraine, they will not send weapons to Georgia, nor will they send any troops.
- Another guest [mentioned](#) that President Zourabichvili's decision to bring the President of Iceland to the occupation line could be seen as a provocation from Russia and lead to negative consequences because Iceland is a NATO member state. He also argued that in 1999 and 2004, even though Russia had expressed a desire to cooperate with Europe to create a common security structure, Europe responded by expanding near Russia's borders, which prompted Russia to invade. He additionally claims that the concept of Article 5 is absurd, and if the Baltic countries were to be invaded by Russia, rather than sending troops, NATO countries would send weapons and private mercenary groups to prolong the war.
- The host of Sezoni TV, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, [stated](#) that the ongoing NATO military exercises in Georgia could result in the loss of Sokhumi and Tskhinvali. He believes that given the current tensions between NATO and Russia, and the delicate relations between Georgia and Russia in need of sorting out, the joint exercises conducted near Tbilisi will not go unnoticed and could provoke a corresponding reaction from Russia.
- A pro-Russian guest on Sezoni TV [claimed](#) that if a NATO flag is raised in Georgia, the country will be destroyed. He believes that Georgia's security is dependent on its relationship with Russia rather than NATO. According to him, it would not be possible to establish US or NATO bases in Georgia since Russia controls the airspace and the seas in the region.

Propaganda sources blame Ukraine and the West for Russia's aggression, repeats second front conspiracy

- Prominent pro-Russian propagandist Valeri Kvaratskhelia published an article on GeWorld, where he [argues](#) that the West created a criminal regime in Ukraine, which is sacrificing Ukrainian people and statehood to maintain Russophobic attitudes in the country, while the West continues its efforts to prolong the war and bloodshed. According to him, more Ukrainian lives will be saved if Ukraine abandons fascism, Russophobia, and NATO membership aspirations and gets rid of the government dragged into power through a coup by the Americans. Kvaratskhelia claimed that **the West is attempting to open a second front in Georgia to gain an informational and ideological advantage against Russia.**
- Another article on GeWorld [claimed](#) that the Georgian Legion fighting in Ukraine against Russia is being prepared to be deployed in Georgia in order to assist the Georgian opposition parties in overthrowing the current government. If the Georgian Legion prevails and an openly pro-American, Russophobic power comes to power in Georgia, Russia will invade.
- A website established by the Georgia First and Foremost party, led by former member of the Georgian Dream, Vato Shakarishvili, published an article which was translated from

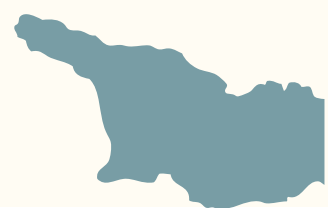
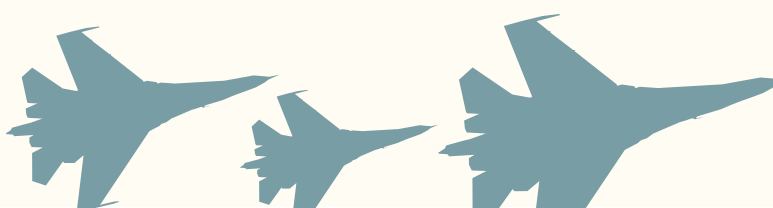


an American website – theamericanconservative.com. The article [argues](#) that Ukraine is losing the war, and no amount of arms or aid is going to change that. Currently, the West can escalate its support and send troops, risking direct confrontation with Russia, but as the article advocates, the West should turn off the path of war that has benefitted no one, not send troops to Ukraine and, instead, explore the diplomatic road.

Alignment with Russia is the only way to restore territorial integrity, propaganda reasserts

- Sezoni TV host and pro-Russian propagandist Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [stated](#) that Georgia's prospects of restoring control over Abkhazia, Tskhinvali region or Davit Gareji hinge heavily on repairing diplomatic ties with Russia. Mzhavanadze emphasized the insufficiency of Georgia's unilateral strength in negotiations, particularly regarding Davit Gareji, part of which is under Azerbaijani control. Mzhavanadze asserted that only Russia possesses the necessary diplomatic leverage to pressure Azerbaijan into giving over control of Davit Gareji to Georgia.
- Another pro-Russian propagandist [asserted](#) that Russia is winning the war against Ukraine. Hence, Russia's dominance in the ongoing conflict and the West's diminished influence in the region has prompted Georgia's ruling party to reconsider its pro-Western policy. As a result, according to the propagandist, Georgia will engage in talks with Russia sooner than anticipated.
- A guest on Alt Info [claimed](#) that the only way to save the Georgian economy is to reintegrate into the Russian, Belarussian, and Kazakhistani economic space. He argued that Georgia's economy is still struggling despite the thirty-year-long relations and association agreement signed with the EU. He criticized the free trade agreement between Georgia and the EU. He stated that excessively restrictive intricacies do not allow the Georgian economy to access the European market.
- The same propagandist [argued](#) that Georgia should promptly and publicly announce its decision to restore diplomatic ties with Russia. Key areas for discussion should include the restoration of economic, humanitarian and cultural relations. Moreover, the propagandist underscores the need to address security concerns by advocating for the establishment of a common security space, which will stabilize the region and facilitate dialogue with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region.
- Mikheil Zghenti, a member of the pro-Russian Solidarity for Peace party, [noted](#) that Georgia's economy grew by 90% from 1913 until 1975 in 1913-1975 years, which is a historic demonstration of how alignment with Russia is beneficial for Georgia.

Propaganda claims the US is involved in plans to overthrow the government in Georgia



- The leader of the Georgia First and Foremost party and the former member of the Georgian Dream, Vato Shakarishvili, published an article addressing the resignation of the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States, Victoria Nuland. [According](#) to Shakarishvili, Nuland was the architect of the Maidan revolution and the destruction of Ukraine. Nuland also curated the agent network operating in Georgia for years – the United National Movement, other opposition parties, and CSOs, who were ready to sacrifice Georgia for US interests. The author argued that the US Embassy personnel in Georgia were directly staffed by Nuland. He concludes that similar to Ukraine, a Maidan revolution was being prepared in Georgia. However, due to the wisdom of the government and the Georgian people's, it did not succeed.
- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze voiced several anti-US narratives throughout the week. [According](#) to him, the US is the source of all evil and American imperialism has been destroying Georgia since 1992, while alignment with Russia resulted in demographic and economic progress during the Soviet Union. He also stated that the US appoints MPs and government members in Georgia. Mzhavanadze contradicted himself when he stated on a separate occasion that USAID is conducting training on how to overthrow the government and is preparing to escalate the situation during the elections to start a Maidan revolution in Georgia.
- Tristan Tselashvili [alleged](#) that the US was preparing a terrorist attack in Sochi, which was supposed to be carried out by the Chief of the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine, Kyrylo Budanov. Moreover, the US intelligence services cooperated with Ukrainian colleagues to transport explosives on Georgian and Russian territories. As the propagandist claimed, he has colleagues who provided this information. Tselashvili also argued that US intelligence services killed Alexei Navalny to start another wave of confrontation against Putin.
- An article on GeWorld [propagated](#) a recurring narrative that the US opened biological labs around the world, which is currently controlled by the Pentagon. According to the author, biological weapons are created in these laboratories that will affect people of a certain race.