



GRASS Disinfo Brief

MONITORING PERIOD:

March 19 – March 25

GRASS
REFORMANDA





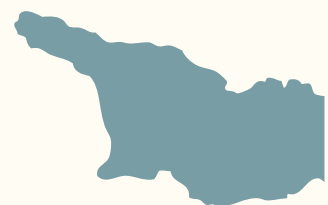
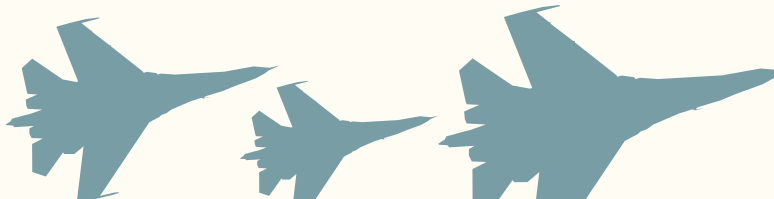
- Georgian Dream talks about initiating amendments in the Constitution and several laws to tackle “pseudo-liberal propaganda”
- The CSO sector is the least transparent, say Georgian Dream and People’s Power
- Georgian Dream’s borderline anti-Western rhetoric continues
- According to the ruling party, a strategic partnership with the US needs to have tangible results
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Georgian Dream talks about initiating amendments in the Constitution and several laws to tackle “pseudo-liberal propaganda”

On March 25th, leader of the Parliamentary majority and the Executive Secretary of the Georgian Dream, Mamuka Mdinardze [introduced](#) the ruling party’s plans to amend the Constitution along with several laws so that „no one can ever impose pseudo-liberal propaganda and its harmful effects on Georgian society, discredit family values and have malign influence on minors”.

The ruling party initiated two amendments in the Constitution – A provision stating that “The protection of family values and minors is ensured by the constitutional law of Georgia, which is an integral part of the Constitution of Georgia” will be added to the Article of the Constitution which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. After that, an appropriate constitutional law titled “Constitutional law of Georgia on family values and protection of minors” will be [initiated](#):

1. According to the legislation, only relationships similar to marriage, a union of one genetic man and one genetic woman who are at least 18 years old, can be regulated;
2. Adoption or foster care of a minor will only be allowed by married spouses or a heterosexual person;
3. Medical interventions aimed at changing a person’s sex will be prohibited;
4. Official state documentation will only indicate two sexes – female and male, corresponding to the person’s genetic data;
5. Any decision of a public or private entity that will directly or indirectly restrict the use of gender-based concepts will be automatically invalidated;
6. Gatherings that aim to promote the concept of a same-sex family or intimate relationships, incest, adoption or foster care of minors by same-sex couples or a non-



heterosexual person, medical interventions related to sex-change, or the non-use of gender-specific concepts will be prohibited;

7. Distribution of content, programs, or other material that is aimed at promoting same-sex families or intimate relationships, incest, adoption or foster care of minors by same-sex couples or a non-heterosexual person, medical interventions related to sex-change, or the non-use of gender-specific concepts will be prohibited;
8. Spread of information in public or private educational institutions that are aimed at promoting same-sex families or intimate relationships, incest, adoption or foster care of minors by same-sex couples or a non-heterosexual person, medical interventions related to sex-change, or the non-use of gender-specific concepts will be prohibited.

Mdinaradze [stated](#) that 90% of people justifiably view LGBT Pride events in public spaces as propaganda, especially when people demonstrate their sexuality on the street, near churches and schools. Therefore, if “some issues will be demonstrated in a positive light”, it will be counted as propaganda and prohibited. However, he also claimed that the law should somehow not limit human rights.

According to Mdinaradze, in 10-15 years, a “pseudo-liberal” party might come to power and repeal these laws, and thus, a Constitutional amendment is a stronger guardrail that will ensure the protection of the Georgian society from pseudo-liberal propaganda and its malign effects.

The CSO sector is the least transparent, say Georgian Dream and People’s Power

- Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#) that all CSOs are not the same as some of them do important work while some are engaged in suspicious activities. Specifically, some CSOs openly called for the government’s resignation and were involved in political activities. In a different statement, the Prime Minister [said](#) that the CSO sector is the least transparent. Their finances and expenses are completely hidden, and the Georgian people do not know who is financing Georgian CSOs and what for. There were disturbing facts when **extremist organizations were financed from foreign sources**, for example, the Franklin Club. According to Kobakhidze, donors should take responsibility and condemn some of the statements made by the organizations that they fund.
- The Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, issued several attacks on CSOs and donors throughout the week. He [underlined](#) that CSO funding is not transparent, which is why the ruling party planned to adopt the law that would address this issue. According to him, the law prompted the least transparent CSOs and donors to organize violent attacks on the Parliament last year. Papuashvili once again singled out **NED and the European Endowment for Democracy (EED)**, which, according to him, are financing political parties and media engaged in disinformation campaigns. In another statement, he [argued](#) that the CSO sector was dominated by people who were high-ranking officials when the United National Movement was in power and now seeks to return to government and “start executing a vendetta”. The Chairperson of the Parliament once again scolded donor organizations for not disclosing their funds.
- Mamuka Mdinaradze also made several statements. [According](#) to him, the donor, in this case, **USAID, should publish information about the funds that went into ISFED’s parallel vote tabulation results in 2020**, which, according to him, was deliberately falsified and



caused chaos in the country. Nowadays, people still do not know anything about the funds concerning the parallel counting of votes. In another instance, Mdinardze [said](#) that good projects are also being financed by donors as well however, without an adequate law, citizens do not have information about the donor's work – **“if they fund important work, we will say thank you. If they fund LGBT propaganda, we will reprimand them”**.

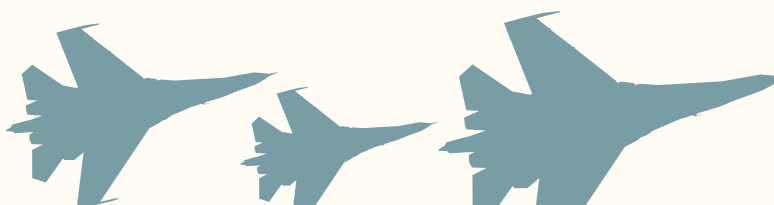
- General Secretary of the Georgian Dream and Mayor of Tbilisi Kakha Kaladze [stated](#) that the parallel vote tabulation results were falsified to destabilize the country. He also stated that no foreign country will have the opportunity to meddle in Georgia's internal affairs and start a revolution.
- Chairperson of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Gharibashvili, [assessed](#) that the **absolute majority of the CSOs are against Georgia's interests** and fulfill the tasks and interests of foreign countries, which is a tragedy. “We know very well how some CSOs participated directly in extremist, radical actions”, stated Gharibashvili.
- People's Power actively repeated the same narratives throughout the week, although more harshly. For example, Sozar Subari [said](#) that **USAID funded trainings about starting revolutions**. [Moreover](#), The CSO sector and the opposition are foreign agents and work entirely on the orders of a foreign country.

Georgian Dream's borderline anti-Western rhetoric continues

- Chairperson of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with the ruling party's members in Guria. As he [commented](#) during the gathering, he emphasized the importance of safeguarding Georgia's peaceful development and preventing internal and external adversaries from obstructing the country's progress, as the **threat of opening a second front in Georgia still exists**.

The Parliamentary majority overcame the President's veto on the amendments to the Electoral Code last week. The changes - abolished the position of Deputy Head of the CEC, a position held by the opposition; allows the ruling party to ultimately elect the new Chairperson of the Central Election Committee for a five-year term with 76 votes; empowers the Chairperson of the Parliament, rather than the President, to nominate and announce the competition for electing the CEC Chairperson and non-partisan (“professional”) members.

- [Responding](#) to statements about the amendments contradicting the April 19th agreement and the Venice Commission's recommendations, Prime Minister Kobakhidze said that Georgia is an independent state and acts according to its interests, not by tasks set out by others. According to the head of the government, the ruling party will take advice and recommendations into account and is doing everything to ensure that free and fair elections are held in Georgia.



- After signing the amendments into law, Shalva Papuashvili took to [social](#) media to defend the changes. In his post, Papuashvili argued that the amendments would overcome the deadlock created by the April 19th agreement. He reminded the public that the previous regulation, which required a two-thirds majority vote to elect Central Election Commission (CEC) members and appoint an opposition politician as the alternate Chairperson, is an unprecedented practice not found in any other country. As he assessed, the previous law was **a persistent idea of the mediator** [Charles Michel], which proved ineffective and unfeasible.
- Mamuka Mdinardze [said](#) that **the ruling party will not take into account any recommendations from the Venice Commission or any other commission that is directed against Georgia, its democratic elections and sovereignty.**

Simultaneously, throughout the week, the ruling party continued to claim that calls for implementing the vetting system in the Georgian judiciary disrespect Georgia's sovereignty and independence.

- Shalva Papuashvili [argued](#) that the opposition, CSOs, and some embassies were proven wrong by the European Court of Justice's decision regarding the case of Rustavi 2. According to him, Saakashvili's, Melia's, and Ugulava's cases were similar, however the Georgian court's decisions were consistently and unfoundedly criticized. Instead of apologizing, the opposition, CSOs, and some embassies maintain their arrogant position about how Georgia should forget about its Constitution and independence and give up control over its judiciary.
- Mamuka Mdinardze voiced similar remarks and [said](#) that it is **unacceptable for the ruling party to let foreign countries, no matter friends or foes, conduct vetting of the judiciary** and make important decisions.

The European Council published a conclusion after the end of the first day of the two-day summit, where it is noted that "The European Council welcomes the progress of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in advancing on the necessary reforms on their EU path." However, progress is not mentioned in Georgia's case – "The European Council takes note of Georgia's ongoing efforts and encourages the country to advance on the outstanding priority reforms".

- Responding to this fact, Shalva Papuashvili [stated](#) that even if Georgia does not complete either of the nine steps set out by the European Commission, it will still be ahead of Ukraine and Moldova in terms of meeting EU membership conditions. Therefore, according to him, Georgia and the **Georgian people are mistreated** by such unfair decisions from the EU.
- Mamuka Mdinardze [argued](#) that Ukraine and Moldova, which are behind Georgia in terms of reforms, are praised while Georgia is not. He stated that there is a specific reason behind this discrepancy without providing further clarification. However, a week before, Mdinardze made statements saying that Georgia **was not granted EU membership candidate status because of the "Global War Party"** (see previous edition of GRASS Disinfo Brief).

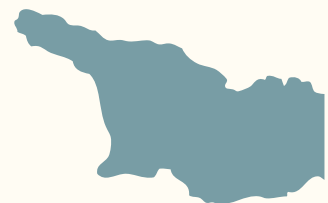
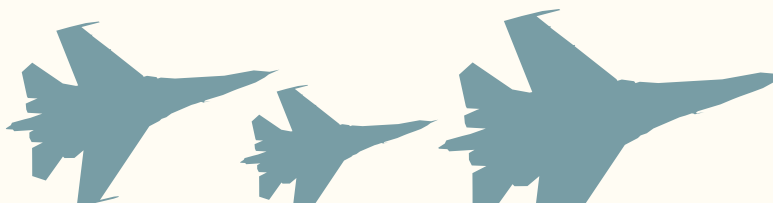


According to the ruling party, strategic partnership with the US needs to have tangible results

- Georgia wishes to achieve tangible results in the framework of the strategic partnership with the US, the Prime Minister [said](#). According to him, this partnership should entail a free trade agreement and visa liberalization.
- Shalva Papuashvili [stated](#) that Georgia has been showing the US friendship and partnership by removing visa requirements for American citizens, creating conditions for American businesses to operate in Georgia, and fighting among US soldiers in Afghanistan. In turn, Georgia expects the removal of visa requirements for Georgia, the establishment of direct flights between the countries, and a signature of a free trade agreement. Papuashvili added that China met all **these expectations after signing a strategic partnership agreement with Georgia**.
- [According](#) to Mamuka Mdinaradze, it is no secret that the ruling party is issuing friendly criticisms towards the US. He emphasized that Georgian soldiers, despite the country's non-NATO membership, have fought alongside American troops for years. Consequently, Mdinaradze stated that Georgia expects tangible results from this partnership, such as a free trade agreement or visa liberalization, in return for its contributions.
- People's Power member Dimitri Khundadze [stated](#) that the US sometimes actually provides effective and useful aid to Georgia but reminded the Georgian public that the US is not a charitable organization and that Washington uses this aid primarily to suit its own interests. "For example, if they remind us of this aid because we did not get engaged in the Ukraine war, then it cannot be regarded as compensation for what potentially could have happened to Georgia.", said Khundadze. Khundadze further warned that the people should realize that external financing is often used to undermine the government and destabilize the country.

The West wants war and LGBT propaganda in Georgia, propaganda sources claim

- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze propagated several anti-EU, anti-Western narratives. [According](#) to him, the EU staged the revolution in Ukraine in 2014, which caused the loss of Crimea and the subsequent Russian invasion in 2022. In regards to Georgia, Mzhavanadze [claimed](#) that no matter what the current government does, **the West will try to start a revolution and is already preparing election technologies**, training the LGBT community to cause destabilization and undermine the Georgian church and national consciousness. On a different broadcast, he [argued](#) that the **West controls every state institution in Georgia except the judiciary**, which is why they are trying to implement **the vetting system**. The West will appoint judges who will say that the 2024 elections are falsified and cause a revolution.
- A guest on Sezoni TV [asserted](#) that while **Lukashenko's Belarus is progressing**, **Georgia is regressing** because of its relations with NATO and the EU, which only give false promises



to Georgians. According to him, the West does not care about Georgia's development and only aims to use it as a tool, which is reflected on Georgia's lackluster industries, economy, culture, and education, caused by 30-year long relations with the West.

- Giorgi Dzvelaia, a host on Alt Info and a prominent propagandist, [claimed](#) that the Georgian Dream party's refusal to engage in a war with Russia at the West's behest damaged its relations with Western powers. Consequently, he alleged, the ruling party now aims to mobilize Georgia's conservative segments of society ahead of the elections.
- Along with Georgia, the West is also trying to **drag Armenia into a war with Russia**, as another propagandist [claimed](#) on Alt Info. According to him, Armenia's Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, is losing his grip on power, and a war with Russia would be a solution to that problem.
- Tristan Tselashvili, a former Georgian high-ranking officer who was previously imprisoned for spying in favor of Russia during the 2008 war, was a [guest](#) speaker on Sezoni TV's broadcast. During the broadcast, he claimed that the UN, EU, NATO, and individual Western countries promote LGBTQ+ propaganda, asserting that they will never have Georgia's best interests at heart.
- Aleksandre Palavandishvili, another host of Alt Info's broadcasts, [stated](#) that the new law against LGBT propaganda has not even been adopted, and the West is already financing organizations such as Tbilisi Pride to not allow the law to be adopted.
- Chairperson of the "Free Georgia" anti-Western party, Kakha Kukava, [underlined](#) that **LGBT propaganda is a bigger issue than drug addiction and gambling**. However, it is still pushed by CSOs, universities, and schools in order to compromise the next generation ideologically.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [argued](#) that **feminists and the LGBT community represent the face of the collective West**, which aims to destroy the sanctity of a traditional family in every country, it can through "gender policing".
- Another propagandist [assessed](#) the anti-discrimination law, laws regarding women's rights, and the Code on the Rights of the child as political tools for foreign powers.

Pro-Kremlin propaganda says NATO General Secretary's visit aimed to destabilize the Caucasus

- A guest on Alt Info [claimed](#) that the NATO General Secretary, Jens Stoltenberg's visit to Georgia, **aimed to destabilize the Caucasus region** and disrupt the situation **to create new triggers for Russia** on the southern border. According to him, the Georgian public knows that Georgia will never join NATO due to the presence of occupied territories, which goes against the NATO charter.
- Another guest on the same broadcast [argued](#) that Western countries are already getting ready for a possible **direct confrontation with Russia**, and the visit of Jens Stoltenberg is a part of this "game". He believes that the **Black Sea area** will become an important **confrontational point** between the West and Russia, which means that every step that Georgia takes toward NATO will serve as **a provocation for Russia**.



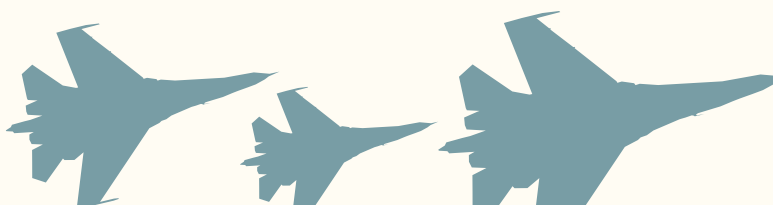
- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze once again [talked](#) about the impossibility of Georgia joining NATO or NATO having a presence in the Caucasus. He continued saying that comparing Georgia to Finland and Sweden is pointless as these countries are actually in Europe, and Georgia is in a much more dangerous region.

According to propaganda - Russia equals prosperity, the West equals destruction

- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [claimed](#) that Georgia will be **destroyed and divided without Russia**. He believes that Georgia has a choice – on the one hand, it has the West, which has brought destruction to Ukraine and Armenia, as well as Georgia. On the other hand, it has **Russia, which will help Georgia grow economically**. He stated that if Georgia does not start talks with Russia soon, leaders of occupied Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region will take its place in the **3+3 diplomatic format**.
- Mzhavanadze also [talked](#) about how Georgia flourished and how many factories were built when it was closely aligned with Russia, meaning when it was under Soviet occupation. In contrast, he said, when the USSR was dismantled, and Georgia went against Russia, the country saw a catastrophic decline.
- A guest on Sezoni TV [stated](#) that the fate of the EU and NATO will be determined by the war in Ukraine, where **Russia is “decidedly winning”** – he remarked that even Western leaders are admitting this. The guest claimed that the situation is forcing Europe to increase aid to Ukraine, which is proved by the statements made by the French President, Emmanuel Macron. He continued the narrative of Georgia having a choice between Europe, which is on the edge of destruction, or Russia, which will help Georgia overcome its problems.
- The same guest [congratulated](#) **Vladimir Putin** on his “excellent victory” in the elections, which, according to him, **guarantees the protection of Orthodox Christianity**.
- A frequent guest on Sezoni TV and a pro-Russian propagandist, Eka Naskidashvili [argued](#) that the key to “all the good things,” including restoring Georgia’s territorial integrity, lies in aligning with Russia. The same propagandist [insisted](#) that Russia has no guarantees that Georgia “will not do anything stupid,” and by her standards, “something stupid” means aspiring to become a member of NATO and the EU. She remarked that the West is only providing Ukraine with verbal support and “**weak weapons**” that Russia can allegedly destroy “in seconds.” She claimed that if a conflict were to escalate, the West would never come to Georgia’s aid.

Propaganda sources claim that the US controls Georgia but still wants to start a revolution

- A propagandist on Alt Info [continued](#) the traditional narrative about the US planning to **stage a revolution in Georgia after the elections**. According to him, the US wants to control the Georgian judiciary to justify the revolution and the radical actions of its agents.



- One of the Alt Info anchors [assessed](#) the role of **USAID** in the educational system, stating that it serves the purpose of raising a new generation that will protest every change in the country that contradicts Western interests. This generation will be a new “component of society controlled by the West.” He recalls the protests against the Russian Law, saying that it proves how “**anti-Georgian**” the **education system** has become with the help of **Western funds**.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [stated](#) that the **US embassy in Georgia played a big role in the Armenian Velvet Revolution in 2018**, which brought Nikol Pashinyan to power. According to him, the goal was to **make the embassy in Georgia a base for such processes**. He also insisted that he knew the names of every person included in these events.
- Another pro-Russian guest on Alt Info [asserted](#) that the **EU flag in front of the Georgian parliament is a symbol of occupation**. The EU itself is a vassal of the US, which also makes Georgia a vassal of the US.
- Tristan Tselashvili [claimed](#) that unless Georgia frees itself from the influence of the US, it can never have normal relations with Russia, which will lead to the restoration of Georgia’s territorial integrity.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [insisted](#) that the government has political prisoners who were arrested on July 5, 2021, for violence. According to him, the **US embassy representative has an office in the Georgian court and controls the decisions made by the judges**. The arrest of people on July 5 is a byproduct of this.
- Hamlet Tchipashvili, a staunch pro-Russian published an article on Isari.ge, where he spread disinformation about the 2020 US presidential elections being falsified. [According](#) to the article, ballot stuffing occurred all throughout the US, which is not a surprise as **election-rigging is a normal phenomenon for Americans**. In contrast, the propagandist **praises the Presidential elections held recently in Russia as exemplary**. The Russian CEC offered such a wide variety of voting options that the voters could not neglect the three-day process.