



# GRASS Disinfo Brief

**MONITORING PERIOD:**

**April 4th - April 22nd**

GRASS  
REFORMANDA

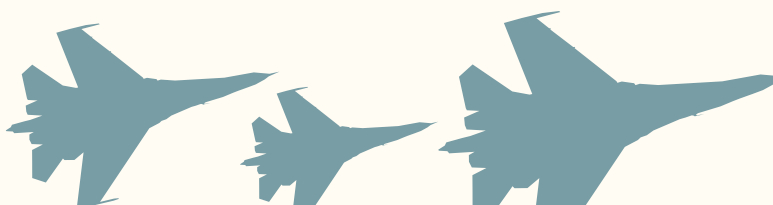




- **Disinformation and lies spread by the Georgian Dream about the Russian-style foreign agents law**
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- **Georgian Dream attempted to frame Olaf Scholz's criticism of the law as misinterpreted and wrongly portrayed.**
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- **Georgian Dream equates EU to Soviet Union, hinting on a reverse of Georgia's declared EU aspirations**
- **Georgian Dream's coordinated social media campaign against the rallies opposing the Russian-style Foreign Agent's law**
- **Pro-Russian groups spread anti-Western conspiracies to support the Russian-style Foreign Agents law, claim the West wants to overthrow Georgian Dream government**

### **Disinformation and lies spread by the Georgian Dream about the Russian-style foreign agents law**

The ruling party-affiliated "People's Power" movement initiated the law on foreign agents in February 2023, but the parliamentary majority backed down on the backdrop of mass protests and international criticism. In the aftermath, Georgian Dream members ensured the Georgian people that it was not planning to bring back the law. On March 9th, 2023, then Chairperson of the Georgian Dream and current Prime Minister, Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#) that "the law that will regulate the issue of transparency of foreign influence is removed from our agenda... our plans do not include such laws. This is our clear political decision, for which we took political responsibility. This is a promise given to voters, to society". Irakli Kobakhidze rejected the possible return of the law two more times. On November 29th, 2023, he [argued](#) that "A significant part of the public was misled, which we took into account. Despite everything, we are not going to return to this law in the future either". On December 12th, Kobakhidze also [underlined](#) that "we will not return to this law, even though it would be very important for more transparency and for the public. This is not included in our plans. Today, society is sufficiently informed about this even without a law. Therefore, we do not see the need to initiate and adopt the law". The current Chairperson of the Georgian Dream and former Prime Minister, Irakli Gharibashvili, also denied plans of returning to the law in June 2023, [suggesting](#) that "I clearly confirmed to our European and American friends, that Georgian Dream is not going to return to the foreign agent's law. This issue is closed, and we



will not return to this issue”. Despite the abovementioned, on April 3rd, 2024, the leader of the parliamentary majority and the Executive Secretary of the Georgian Dream, Mamuka Mdinardze, [announced](#) that the ruling party would indeed return to the Russian-style foreign agents law.

- While announcing the ruling party’s plans to break its promise, Mamuka Mdinardze argued that the NGO sector is the least transparent in Georgia, which creates problems for the country’s sovereignty and national security. [In fact](#), the Georgian draft law aims to undermine civil society under the pretext of transparency (See FactCheck Georgia’s [article](#) for details).
- Georgian Dream members also claim ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) that the Law on the Transparency of Foreign Influence initiated in Georgia is an analogue of those adopted or discussed in the EU, the US, the UK, France, Australia, etc. However, similarly to the law in force in Russia, according to the draft Georgian law, an organization will be declared an agent of foreign interests based on the fact that it received money from a foreign source. Western legislation considers not the fact of financing but – what activity an organization or an individual undertakes with the direction, control, and instruction for this money and for what purpose (See FactCheck Georgia’s articles for details – [1](#), [2](#)) The [US Ambassador](#), the [Head of the EU delegation](#) in Georgia, and the [French Ambassador](#) also denied these claims and underlined that the Georgian version of the draft law is not an analogue of the laws in force or under discussion in their respective countries.
- A [postcard](#) that asserted that the Georgian Dream’s version of the Foreign Agents law was analogous to that of Western democracies was massively spread on Facebook in a coordinated manner. Since the postcard contained disinformation, it was labeled on Meta’s platforms as disinformation, which angered the ruling party. On April 8th, during the government meeting, the Prime Minister [stated](#) that Georgian fact-checking organizations were engaged in censorship and deliberately lied to the public. Other members of the ruling party shared the same narrative. Government-affiliated TV outlets went further and [spread conspiracies](#) about Georgian fact-checking organizations acquiring verification “through lobbying with international fact-check”. The same TV networks accused fact-checkers of [lobbying with Meta](#) through Nikoloz Bolkvadze, a Georgian national allegedly working in Meta’s offices. As a response, the [International Fact-Checking Network](#) and the [European Fact-Checking Standards Network](#) rejected any suggestions that their verification processes include “lobbying” or any other form of undue influence. [Meta](#) also responded to the allegations by assessing them as “a lie and dangerous.”
- Throughout the whole process, despite the civil society’s attempts to hold genuine discussions about why the proposed law would be detrimental to Georgia’s development and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, the ruling party members [claim](#) that its opponents,



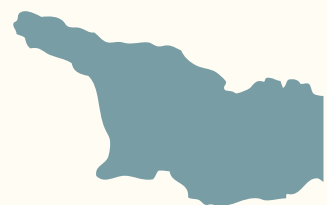
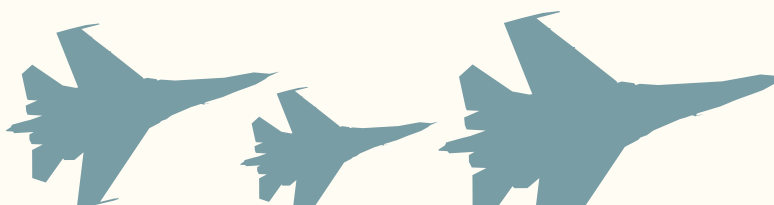
including NGOs, were not able to present a single argument about why the law is Russian-style and harmful. Leader of the parliamentary majority even [claimed](#) that he begged opponents to present arguments. Director of Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS), Paata Gaprindashvili, directly [appealed](#) to Mamuka Mdinardze via an open letter, announcing his readiness to present arguments and hold discussions in any format. There was no response from the ruling party.

- [Georgian Dream](#) and [People's People's Power](#) members argued that NGOs operating in Georgia were using “black” money to spend on clandestine operations within the country. According to them, the law was initiated in order to expose “black money”, and those who oppose it are protecting attempting to protect it. In reality, Georgian legislation already [prohibits](#) money laundering or the use of “black money.” The funding received from the Western partners is mainly funds collected legally through taxes and then given as a grant, in accordance with international agreements, to NGOs. The funds come into Georgia through official channels, such as bank transfers. All these financial resources are then taxed per the Georgian legislation; as such, they are known and visible to the Government of Georgia.
- After adopting the law in the first reading, which was met with mass protests, the Georgian Dream [announced](#) its plans to hold a demonstration in front of the parliament building. The statement emphasized that “the number of participants of the demonstrations organized by the political opposition reached 9,500 at its peak”. FactCheck Georgia [analyzed](#) the photo and video material taken during the rally held on April 17th, 2024, and with the help of the online crowd measurement website [mapchecking.com](#) determined that the Georgian Dream's statement was false. The rally held on April 17th included a minimum of 32 000 people.

### Georgian Dream's harsh response to partners' criticism

International criticism quickly followed the ruling party's decision to reintroduce the foreign agents draft law. High-ranking officials, as well as ambassadors from the EU, the US, Germany, France, the UK, and many others voiced their concerns and underlined multiple times that the draft law is not in line with European norms and democratic values.

- In response, Prime Minister Kobakhidze [challenged](#) the ambassadors of the US, EU member states, and the Head of the EU Delegation in Georgia in public discussions – essentially televised debates. According to Kobakhidze's statement, Georgia values its relations with partner countries and appreciates all the support aimed at strengthening Georgia's international positions, including from ambassadors. However, ambassadors



frequently confuse their functions. They think they can participate in Georgia's legislative processes and dictate to the parliament elected by the Georgian people which law to adopt and which not. As the statement says, this is understandable to the ruling party due to the lack of political and intellectual resources in the opposition. However, the opaque political discussion around the draft law on "Transparency of Foreign Influence" harms the trust of the Georgian public towards partner countries. Therefore, the Prime Minister deemed it adequate to invite ambassadors to hold public discussions about the draft law.

- Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, supported the Prime Minister's decision and [argued](#) that specific members of the diplomatic corps are too deeply engaged in Georgia's internal political discussions. As he stated, he is surprised by the fact that during closed meetings, certain ambassadors do not provide concrete arguments about the law. However, they voice different opinions when making public comments. If ambassadors feel the need to engage in internal political discussions and voice their opinions about the draft law, they should provide relevant arguments to the Georgian public.
- The only people who protest against the law are foreigners and those internal actors who sought to open a second front in Georgia, Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze, [claimed](#). According to him, nobody has the right to interfere in Georgia's internal affairs, and ambassadors making comments about what laws the parliament should and should not adopt is "insanity." Moreover, as he stated, "the same is occurring today as it was during the Soviet Union – they are making certain directions."

US Senators [Jeanne Shaheen](#) and [Ben Cardin](#), Administrator for USAID [Samantha Powers](#), as well as former US Ambassadors to Georgia – [Kelly Degnan](#) and [Ian Kelly](#) voiced their criticism towards the reintroduced draft law and underlined that it would negatively affect Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations. US State Department speakers expressed concerns [several times](#), and apart from the draft law, [called on](#) the Government of Georgia to take steps to hold corrupt actors within the Georgian judicial system accountable (meaning those judges who were sanctioned by the US last year). Incumbent US ambassador to Georgia, [Robin Dunnigan](#) also underlined that the law reintroduced by the ruling party is not the same as the American Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

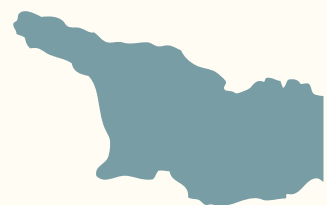
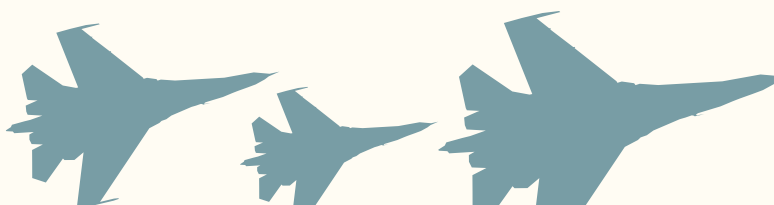
- Mamuka Mdinardze [stated](#) that the US ambassador is right to state that the Georgian draft law on foreign agents is different from the American FARA as it is much less stringent and harsh. FARA covers individuals, while the Georgian version only regulates non-commercial legal entities.
- Georgian Dream MP Irakli Zarkua [responded](#) to Senator Jeanne Shaheen by asking if the Senator was deliberately antagonistic towards Georgia when she was claiming that former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili was a political prisoner who was



deliberately poisoned. He also argued that while the US is surrounded by oceans and allies, Georgia has many adversaries, countries that directly occupy its territories and countries that clandestinely undermine it. Therefore, according to him, in order to protect Georgia, the ruling party must adopt laws that make foreign funds transparent.

- In a different Statement, Irakli Zarkua [responded](#) to US State Department Speaker Matthew Miller when he called on the Georgian government to hold sanctioned Georgian judges accountable for corruption. “Hey Matthew, are you kidding my friend?” Zarkua jested in English. As he claimed, independent Georgian judges were unjustly sanctioned by the US and the US embassy should apologize for “bullying” them. The Georgian justice system has 50% approval within the country, while the US justice system only has 25%. “What are you talking about, my friend?” concluded the Georgian Dream MP.
- A more anti-Western, anti-US wing of the Georgian Dream, the People’s Power movement also responded to the statements made by US officials. Guram Matcharashvili, a member of the parliamentary majority and the People’s Power movement [corrected](#) US Ambassador Robin Dunnigan about how the American FARA operates in the US. According to him, FARA does not only regulate lobbyists as the ambassador claimed, and similar to the Georgian draft law, it also makes NGOs register as foreign agents. “How can anyone dare to fund NGOs in the US without the government knowing about it?” concluded the MP.
- Dimitri Khundadze, also a People’s Power movement member, [responded](#) to the US State Department’s criticism, claiming that the EU is working on a similar law. It is unfair that the EU can adopt a law. Meanwhile, Georgia is threatened with sanctions when it decides to adopt the same law. “What kind of principle or equal partnership is this?” stated Khundadze.
- No \$6 billion was spent by the US in Georgia, [claimed](#) another People’s Power member, Eka Sepashvili. She argued that the US ambassador should show the Georgian people in detail what the US has financed in Georgia throughout the years, “for which she is so proud of.”

President of the European Council, [Charles Michel](#), High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, [Josep Borrell](#), European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, [Olivér Várhelyi](#), as well as the Head of the EU delegation in



Georgia, [Paweł Herczyński](#), expressed their concerns and reiterated that the draft law contradicts EU norms and Georgia's EU integration path.

- Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, [stated](#) that Charles Michel viewed Nika Gvaramia's pardon as a step towards depolarization. Meanwhile, according to him, releasing Nika Gvaramia from prison exacerbated polarization in Georgia. Papuashvili practically suggested that Charles Michel was wrong then and is wrong now. "We listen to everyone's statements, but the highest authority for us is the Georgian people, and the law is in their interest," Papuashvili claimed.
- Papuashvili [argued](#) that it is not in the EU's interest for Georgia to adopt the foreign agent's law as the EU's funds are also not transparent in Georgia. As he stated, the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) is betraying European values and surreptitiously funds radical groups and political parties. "I am sure Josep Borrell has not read the draft law, I am absolutely sure," said the Chairperson of the Parliament.
- Leader of the parliamentary majority, Mamuka Mdinaradze, while [expressing](#) respect towards Josep Borrell, urged the High Representative to provide arguments about why Georgia cannot adopt a law that is discussed in the EU and France. According to him, there is no answer to this question.

### **Georgian Dream defends Georgia's "sovereignty" in response to European Parliament draft resolution**

A [resolution](#) on "attempts to reintroduce a foreign agent law in Georgia and its restrictions on civil society" was introduced in the European Parliament, which includes demands to sanction Georgian Dream founder Bidzina Ivanishvili and individuals involved in any future adoption of the law. During the discussion about the resolution, several MEP's voiced harsh criticism towards the Georgian Dream and initiated draft law ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)).

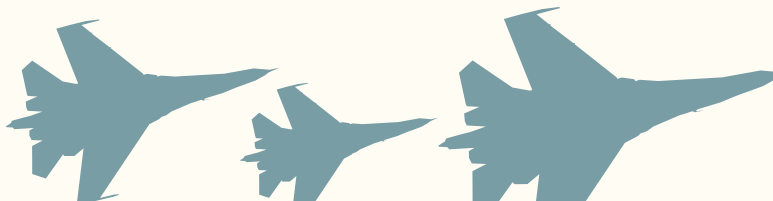
- For Prime Minister [Kobakhidze](#), only the truth, facts, and arguments have value, and the European Parliament's baseless resolutions have lost value, including in the eyes of the Georgian people. "It is shameful. Rasa Juknevičienė, who looks like she jumped out from the Warsaw Pact, cannot be the face of Europe", he added.
- Shalva Papuashvili once again [claimed](#) that the European Endowment for Democracy's funds are not transparent and are controlled by MEPs, which is why they are threatening sanctions in case the law gets adopted. Papuashvili argued that for certain MEPs, releasing former President Saakashvili and attacking police officers are equated with European values, while these MEPs accuse the Georgian Dream of betraying European values.



- [According](#) to Mamuka Mdinardze, it is unimaginable that there are threats of issuing sanctions on Georgia for adopting a law on transparency, which makes it even more apparent how necessary it is to adopt the law and protect national dignity, independence, real European path, democracy, family values, Georgian identity, sovereignty, and traditions.
- Georgian Dream MP Irakli Zarkua [deemed](#) MEPs as lobbyists of the United National Movement and accused them of undermining EU values. As he stated, Andrius Kubilius, Anna Fotyga, and others are insulting the Georgian state by threatening Georgian MPs with sanctions for simply doing their job and adopting laws that are in Georgia's interests.
- Member of the parliamentary majority, Irakli Beraia, [purported](#) that MEPs have no arguments about why the law is terrible and have turned into United National Movement members. He advised MEPs to get to know Georgian history and the character of the Georgian people and stop threatening with sanctions.

**Georgian Dream attempted to frame Olaf Scholz's criticism of the law as misinterpreted and wrongly portrayed.**

- Another lie [spread](#) by the Georgian Dream and its affiliated actors concerned Prime Minister Kobakhidze's joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, where the latter stated that "We [Germany], like the whole EU, were critical of the law on foreign influence organizations and when it was suspended we had high hopes that it would not be considered again." Immediately after the joint press conference, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze [argued](#) that the German Chancellor had incorrect information about the law and that the interpreter, a Georgian national hired by the German side, was a "supporter of the radical opposition and deliberately falsified the statement made by Olaf Scholz". The German Embassy in Georgia later [published](#) a direct translation of Scholz's words, which clearly shows criticism towards the Russian-style foreign agents law.
- Kobakhidze continued to [argue](#) that Olaf Scholz was misinterpreted after he returned to Tbilisi. According to the Prime Minister, Olaf Scholz was not specifically against the Georgian draft law on foreign agents but is critical towards foreign influence transparency laws in general, including those discussed by the EU and France. As Kobakhidze argued, German high-ranking officials had not personally read the Georgian draft law and were wrongly briefed about it. He also accused the German ambassador to





Georgia of accompanying the leader of the opposition party Lelo, Mamuka Khazaradze, during political campaigns. Kobakhidze underlined that the German ambassador is also renting the house from Mamuka Khazaradze.

- Mamuka Mdinardze also [stated](#) that the German Chancellor is opposed to foreign influence transparency laws in general and does not like the European version of regulating sector as well.
- Commenting on the German Chancellors' criticism, Georgian Dream MP Maka Botchorishvili [stated](#) that it is essential for Georgia to adopt laws that are in line with EU standards. However, since the EU is also working on a directive about foreign influence transparency, there should not be different standards for Georgia and the EU in this regard.

### **Russia endorses Georgia's foreign agents draft law with the same arguments blames the West in financing a revolution in Georgia, just like the Georgian Dream**

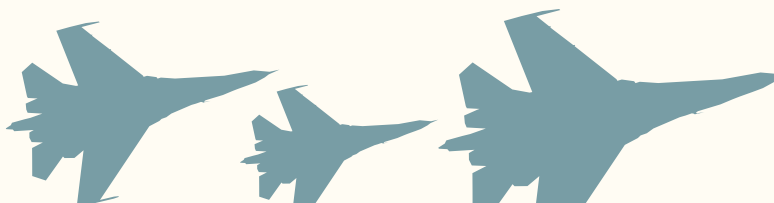
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Sergey Lavrov, [stated](#) that compared to the foreign influence/foreign agent laws in force or under discussion in the US, France, Poland, and other countries, are much stricter than the Georgian version as the Georgian draft law only demands that organizations provide financial declarations to the state. Similarly, [according](#) to Prime Minister Kobakhidze – “how can you have arguments against NGO's providing annual declarations once a year?”, and [as per](#) Mamuka Mdinardze, “this [the draft law] is a more loyal version, less strict, where the obligation is only to register and fill in the declaration”.
- Another Kremlin official in line with the Georgian Dream's narrative is the Press Secretary of the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Peskov, who [argued](#) that such laws are not solely Russian practice and it is normal for many states to do everything to protect themselves from external influence - from foreign influence on domestic politics.
- [According](#) to the Chairperson of the Russian State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin, every country that aims to become a sovereign state, where the people have the right to independently decide their future, is obliged to adopt a law on foreign agents. Strengthening Georgia's sovereignty and independence is one of the central arguments of the Georgian Dream for the draft law, as evidenced by a statement made by the Chairperson of the Georgian Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, [according](#) to which “a certain caste of radical parties and NGOs are attempting to diminish and negatively portray sovereignty.”



- Just as Georgian Dream members claim that identical laws are in force or initiated in Western democracies, including in the EU and the US, Former President and Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, uses the same arguments, [stating](#) that the EU is currently in the process of adopting a similar law, while FARA has been in force in the US since 1938.
- Dmitry Peskov, Dmitry Medvedev, Vyacheslav Volodin, and other Russian politicians and Kremlin propagandists [assess](#) the protest against the draft law in Georgia as orchestrated by the West. One of the reasons why law was introduced, as per the Georgian Dream, is the fact that Western countries and foundations finance extremist and radical groups which aim to incite a revolution. A recent [statement](#) from the anti-Western wing of the Georgian Dream, People's Power, reads that "The plans of our so-called friends are clear – they will deny opening accession talks with Georgia, and with the hands of the collective United National Movement and NGOs, try to incite a revolution for the third time since 2020".

#### Georgian Dream equates EU to Soviet Union, hinting on a reverse of Georgia's declared EU aspirations

- Mayor of Tbilisi and General Secretary of the Georgian Dream, Kakha Kaladze, [stated](#) that donor organizations oppose the draft law because it portray their activities as if they support Georgia's development and democracy when, in reality, they fund all kinds of evil, nasty things one can think of. "I do not want this [Western integration] to be an act of replacing one master with another," he argued, adding that no union is worth it if it means giving up Georgia's national interests.
- Chairperson of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Gharibashvili, [argued](#) that Georgia reached its maximum in terms of European integration when it received EU membership candidate status. According to him, the EU is not ready for enlargement, and there is no consensus about Georgia becoming an EU member soon. However, if the EU announces that it will make Georgia a member soon, the draft law on foreign agents can be further discussed and, if needed, withdrawn.
- Leader of the People's Power movement, Guram Matcharashvili, also equated the Soviet Union with the EU, [arguing](#) that the radical opposition has a perverted understanding of sovereignty. According to him, for the opposition, sovereignty means independence from Russia and dependence on other foreign powers. As he said, foreign "black money" in Georgian politics means the destruction of Georgian sovereignty.



A [statement](#) released by the People's Power movement contains several anti-Western narratives that do not fall short of narratives spread by openly pro-Kremlin groups operating in Georgia:

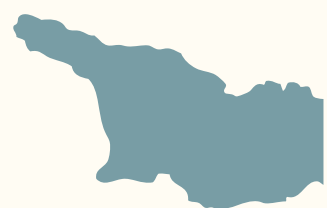
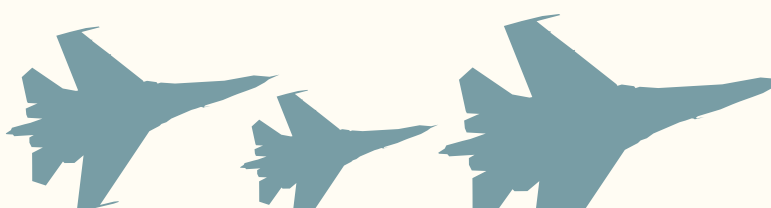
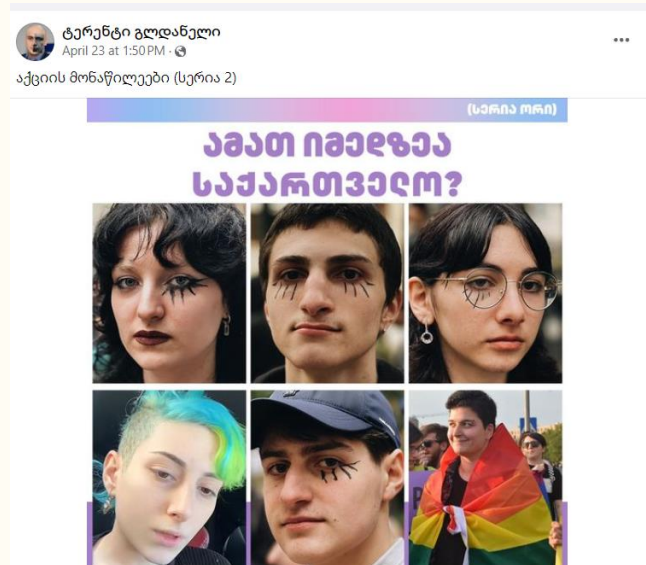
- The statement criticizes the US and purports that the \$6 billion spent on aid in Georgia is not transparent and could have been used to damage Georgia, including by creating an agent network within the country, inciting a revolution, undermining state institutions, insulting the Georgian Orthodox Church, promoting LGBT propaganda, supporting religious extremism, blocking strategic economic project, radicalizing political processes, etc. Any funds that the foreign states give out as loans or grants are capital investments designed to receive double profit and advance one's own interests.
- According to the statement, if the Georgian people find out that Western funds are indeed directed towards these purposes, they might reject this "support." This statement amplifies the suggestion that the ruling party aims to remove Western funds and organizations altogether, which is exactly what happened in Russia after adopting the agent's law.
- The movement also blames the Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008 on the US, arguing that the financial support resulted in a war, the occupation of Georgian territories, the death of 400 Georgians, and 30 000 IDPs. Loans that were issued to Georgia in 2008-2011 were used to strengthen Saakashvili's repressive regime, and the Georgian people are still paying for those loans.
- The funds granted to Georgian NGOs were used to destabilize the country, hindering the development of the Georgian economy. Had the West refrained from funding NGOs, Georgia could have been much more economically advanced.
- The plans of "the so-called friends" are clear—they will deny opening accession talks with Georgia and, with the help of the collective United National Movement and NGOs, try to incite a revolution for the third time since 2020.
- Zelenskyy recalled the Ukrainian ambassador to Georgia because the Government of Georgia refused to open a second front against Russia.
- Since 2021, all three institutions of the EU have been attacking Georgia – the European Parliament adopted three resolutions calling for the release of criminals, meaning the representatives of the United National Movement's government; the European Commission and the European Council refused to grant Georgia EU membership candidate status in 2022; The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, intended to replace the Georgian Constitution with the April 19th agreement. All of this aimed to destroy the Georgian Dream and bring the United National Movement and Western agents into power.



## Georgian Dream’s coordinated social media campaign against the rallies opposing the Russian-style Foreign Agent’s law

The ruling party’s announcement about the reintroduction of the foreign agent’s draft law was immediately followed by mass protests in the streets of Tbilisi, some of which were met with police violence. Since April 15<sup>th</sup>, the main avenue of the country is being held by protesters every evening. The protests were met with a surge of Facebook posts amplified by GD and their affiliated actors discrediting the protesters, as well as the organizers of the rallies, including young people and students. Significantly, the discrediting campaign often uses homophobic narratives to undermine their reputation. The deployed social media campaign seems to be coordinated, with several anonymous Facebook pages posting similar or identical content at the same time.

Three anonymous pages - “[Political Absurd](#)”, “[Polit Ologi](#)” and “[Terenti Gldaneli](#)” shared the same photo depicting protesters, suggesting that the protests are only attended by “LGBT activists”. The captions read – “Where did all these people like you gather?” and “90% of the protesters are LGBT persons.”



პოლიტ ოლოგი  
April 17 at 6:28 PM · 🌐  
მომდი რუსთაველზე გრანტიჭამიების დასაცავად



ტერენტი გლდანელი  
April 17 at 6:28 PM · 🌐  
მომდი რუსთაველზე გრანტიჭამიების დასაცავად



The text in the photo says - “If you are an LGBT activist come to Rustaveli!” (The avenue where protests take place) ([1](#), [2](#)).

პოლიტიკური აბსურდი  
April 17 at 3:32 PM · 🌐  
ყველა ესეთი სად შეიკრიბეთ?



ტერენტი გლდანელი  
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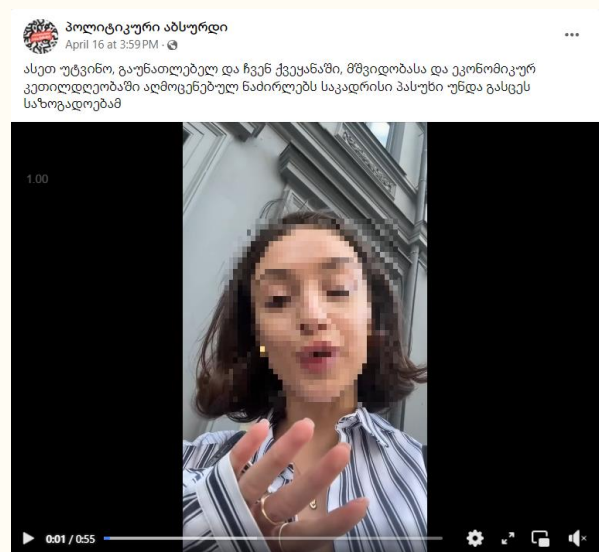
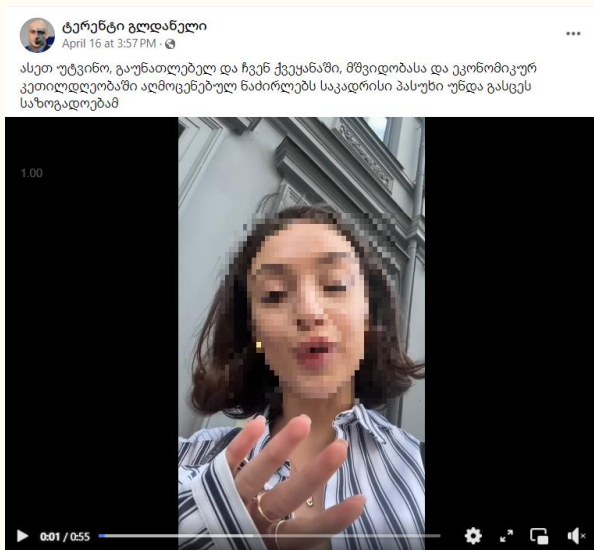


“Who is protesting the law on transparency?”, reads the text in the photo ([1](#), [2](#)).

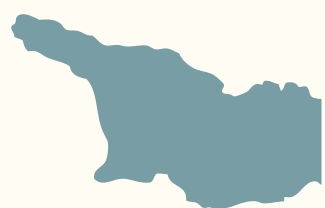
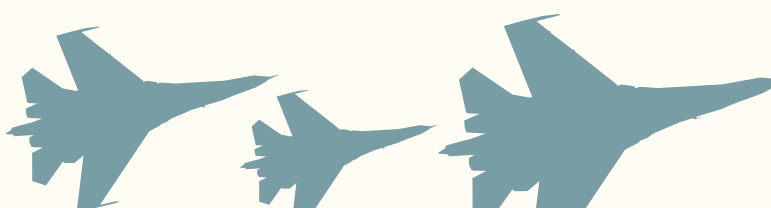
Another direction that anonymous Facebook pages take is attacking and discrediting content creators, social media influencers, and individuals who openly oppose the foreign agent’s law and express their disapproval on social media. The anonymous pages portray them as unintelligent, brainwashed, or sold out for money.

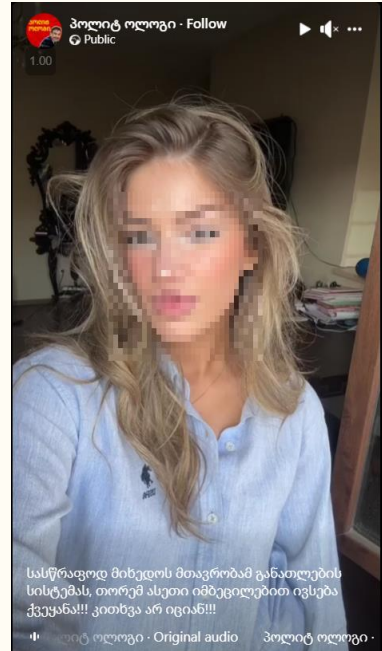
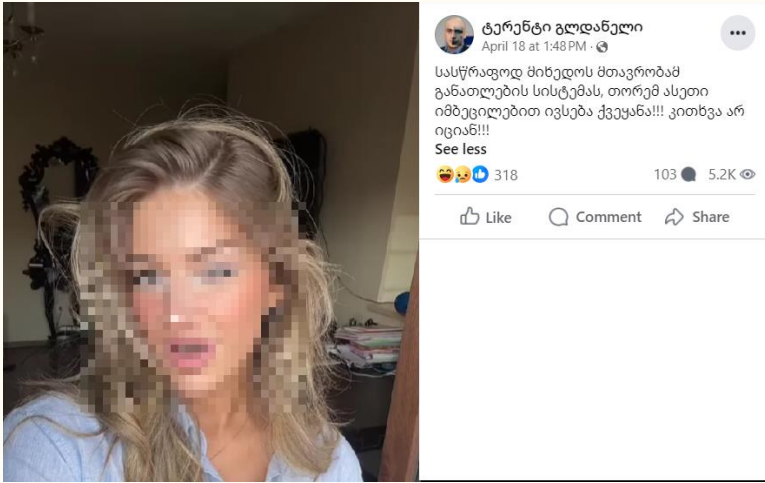


All three posts have the same caption – “unfortunately, the reality is that 90% of protesters are LGBT persons, because foreign funds are used for LGBT propaganda, which is why they oppose the law!”. (1, 2, 3).

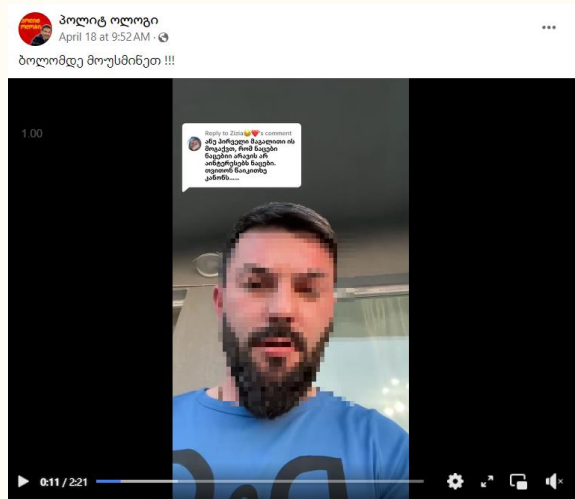
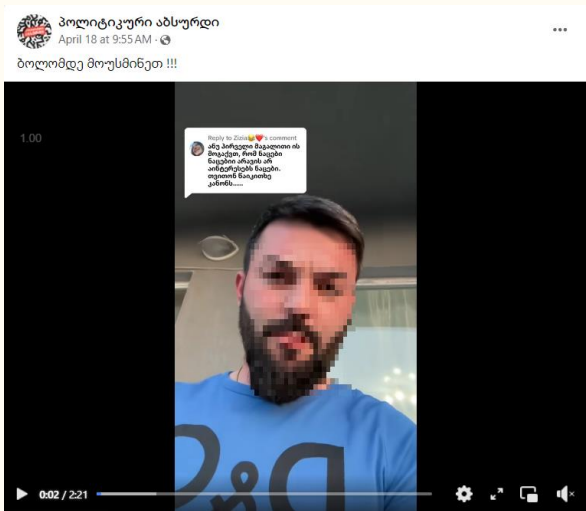


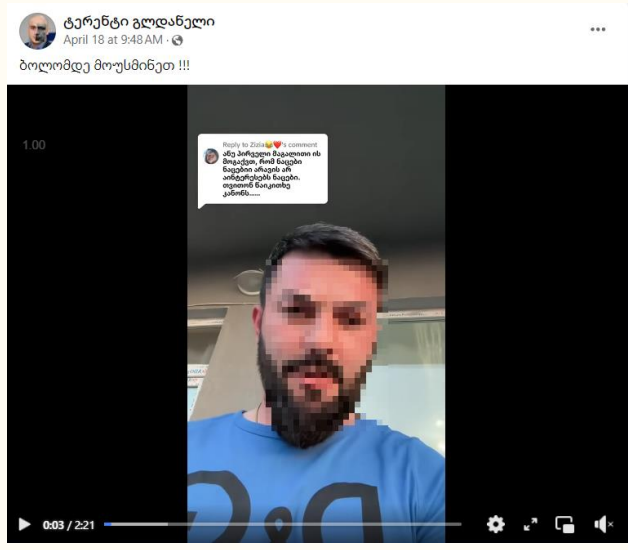
“Society should answer these types of brainless, unintelligent people, who emerged from the peace and economic stability of this country”, both posts argue (1, 2).



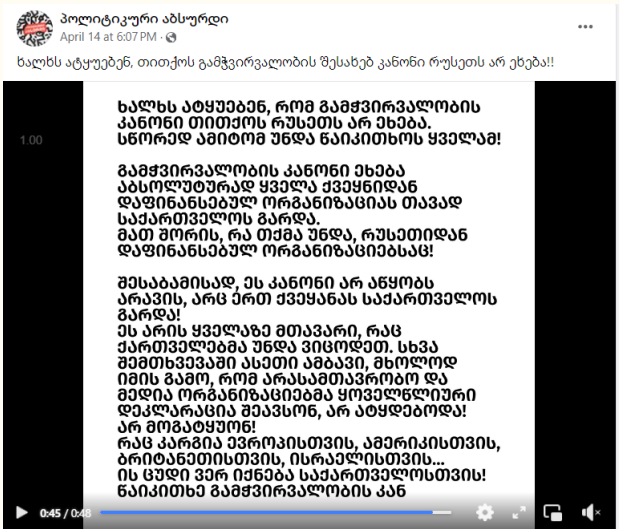


“The government should immediately take care of the education system, or else the country is getting filled with these imbeciles!!! They cannot read!!!” read captions on both posts (1, 2). Anonymous pages also share content amplifying the narrative that the reintroduced draft law is not Russian, is beneficial for the country, and those who oppose it cannot provide any arguments to disprove that.





All three pages in the span of 7 minutes shared the same video (1, 2, 3) where a person talks about how the political opposition in Georgia is the one associated with Russia and insists that after reading the Georgian draft law and the American FARA, he is sure that this law does not have a Russian influence. He continues the narrative of the Georgian Dream, according to which the foreign powers finance LGBT propaganda and violent demonstrations in Georgia.



Two pages also shared a video where a voice narrates the text, saying “People are being lied to, that the transparency law does not regulate Russian influence. (...) It affects every country except for Georgia, including Russia, which is why this law is not beneficial for any country except for Georgia. (...) What’s good for Europe, the US, the UK, Israel... cannot be bad for Georgia”. Both posts are captioned “[They] are lying to people as if the transparency law does not affect Russia!!” (1, 2).

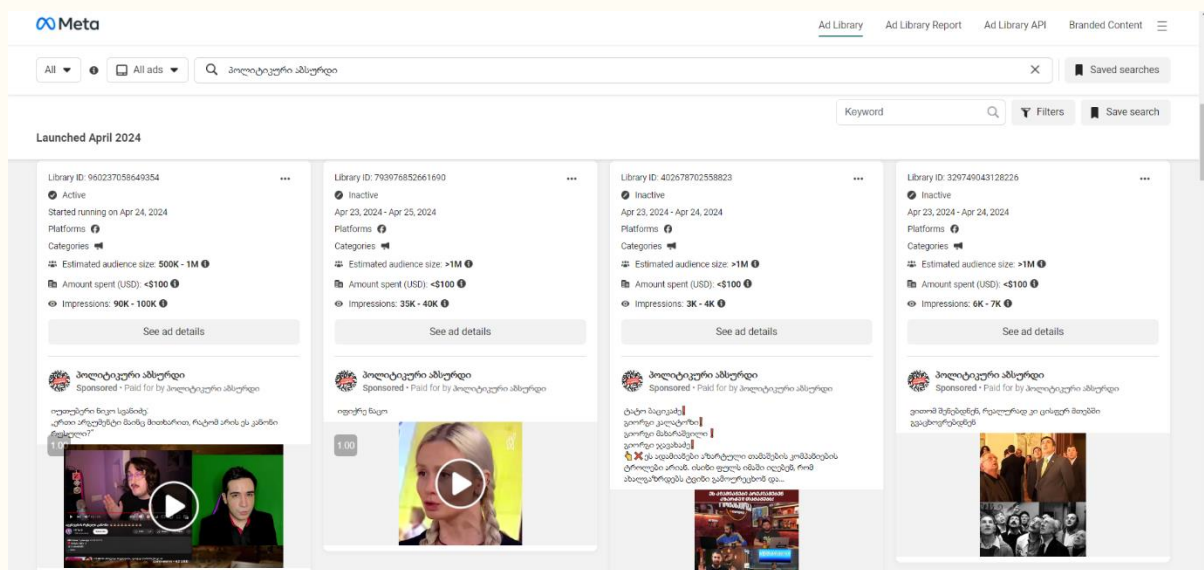






“Political Absurd” and “Terenti Gldaneli” also posted a postcard at the exact same time with no caption (1, 2). It reads as follows: “Urgent! Wanted - an argument about why is the law on transparency Russian? If anyone finds it, message us!!!”.

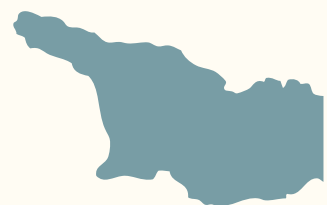
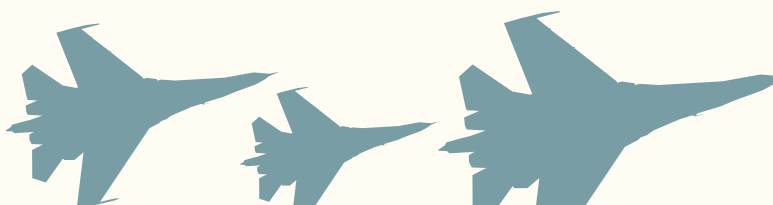
Notably, these anonymous pages spend considerable amount of funds to sponsor these types of posts on Facebook. The page “[Political Absurd](#)” is currently running ads for basically every single post it publishes. Other two pages that used to do so have since been removed by Meta.





## Pro-Russian groups spread anti-Western conspiracies to support the Russian-style Foreign Agents law, claim the West wants to overthrow Georgian Dream government

- Pro-Russian Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [purported](#) that the West is signaling the Georgian Dream that it will overthrow it, just like it did the first and second Presidents of Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia and Eduard Shevardnadze. [According](#) to him, the protesters are paid by the Americans and are using drugs during the rallies. Another propagandist on Sezoni TV [claimed](#) that protesters were selling and using methamphetamine on Rustaveli Avenue during the protests.
- Tristan Tselashvili, a former Georgian high-ranking officer who was previously imprisoned for spying in favour of Russia during the 2008 war, voiced a [conspiracy](#) that Georgian-Ukrainian soldiers are operating undercover in Georgia and are waiting for protesters and opposition figures to start storming the parliament building to aid in overthrowing the government. As he claimed, the plans to destabilize Georgia and destroy Georgian traditions and religion are being prepared in Washington.
- A frequent guest on Sezoni TV, Soso Shatberashvili, [attributed](#) the West's disapproval of the draft law to former Public Defender Nino Lomjaria. As he claimed, the West's response to the draft law resulted from Nino Lomjaria calling on the high-ranking officials of NATO, the EU, and the US to frame the draft law as Russian and pressure the Georgian Dream.
- Propagandists on Alt Info also [spread](#) the narrative that the young people participating in the protests are merely completing tasks set out by the West. The West is attempting to overthrow the government and cause destabilization with the hands of young people it has brainwashed and paid.
- [According](#) to one of Alt Info's propagandists, Aleksandre Palavandishvili, NGOs and politicians funded by the Americans are causing destabilization in Georgia as the US aims to create a ring of fire around Russia's borders. As he argued, chaos caused by US funds in Georgia might give Russia a reason to do the same to Georgia as it did to Ukraine.
- Another propagandist on Alt Info [parroted](#) the Georgian Dream's narrative that Western democracies have already adopted similar laws to strengthen their sovereignty but do not allow Georgia to do the same. As he purported, NGOs represent the face of Western colonialism.



- Several propagandists on Sezoni TV voiced a [conspiracy](#) that the Western funds directed to Georgia are also utilized to cause destabilization in Azerbaijan. As the narrative suggests, Azerbaijani nationals were trained to use Molotov cocktails, and “Azerbaijani Sodomist organizations” are assisted by Western-funded Georgian NGOs. Another propagandist went further and [claimed](#) that USAID funds in Georgia are also used to finance terrorist organizations in Syria.