

Help for U.S. Citizen Survivors of Crime Overseas

DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

If you are the survivor of a crime overseas:

- Contact the local police to report the incident and get immediate help.
- Request a copy of the police report.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy Tbilisi Consular Section to report the crime, if you wish.

U.S. Embassy Tbilisi

11 George Balanchine Street

Tbilisi, Georgia, 0131

Telephone: (995 32) 227-70-00 or

Consular Section: (995 32) 227-77-24

Emergency Telephone: (995 32) 227-70-00

Email: AskConsulTbilisi@state.gov

To contact the Department of State in the U.S. call 1-888-407-4747 (from the U.S. or Canada) or (202) 501-4444 (from overseas).

Consular Assistance to U.S. Crime Survivors:

When a U.S. citizen is the survivor of a crime overseas, he or she may suffer from physical, emotional or financial injuries. It can be more difficult because the survivor may be in unfamiliar surroundings, and may not know the local language or customs. Consular officers and local employees at overseas posts know local government agencies and resources in the country where they work.

We can help:

- Replace a stolen passport
- Contact family, friends, or employers
- Obtain appropriate medical care
- Address emergency needs that arise as a result of the crime
- Explain the local criminal justice process
- Obtain information about your case
- Connect you to local and U.S.-based resources to assist survivors of crime
- Obtain information about any local and U.S. survivor compensation programs available
- Provide a list of local lawyers who speak English

We cannot:

- Investigate crimes
- Provide legal advice or represent you in court
- Serve as official interpreters or translators
- Pay legal, medical, or other fees for you

OVERVIEW AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE EMERGENCY LOCAL CONTACT AND RESOURCES:

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

<http://police.ge/en/projects/domestic-violence>

From their website:

Domestic violence is one of the most severe and extensive form of abuse. It occurs across the world, in various countries and affects people of all economic statuses. Traditionally, domestic abuse has hidden and long-term character, Domestic violence takes place between family members when one family member or members resorts to violence against another family member/s. Often society associates domestic violence only with physical abuse between spouses or intimate partners but according to the legislation today, domestic violence has a much broader definition, including sexual, psychological and economic abuse as well as coercion.

In most cases, domestic violence causes serious emotional and physical health problems that can have fatal results.

Fight against domestic violence is the top priority for Georgian government and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Ministry actively cooperates with NGOs, international organizations and other institutions in order to combat domestic violence.

In 2006 the Parliament of Georgia adopted the law on "[Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to Its Victims](#)". Deputy Minister represents Ministry of Internal Affairs at the Interagency Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which develops and monitors the implementation of national [Action Plan](#).

The conventions ratified by the Parliament of Georgia

[The UN Convention on the "Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" ratified by #561 resolution of the parliament of Georgia on 22nd September of 1994.](#)

The State shelter

Shelter for the victims of domestic violence is provided by the state, where the victims are accommodated for up to 3 months. There are 3 different ways to determine the victim status:

- The victim status granted by the permanent council;
- [Restrictive Order](#);
- Protective order.

For consultations and additional information you can contact hotline: **(995 32) 2 309 903**

Criminalization of domestic violence

In May, 2012 amendments were made to the criminal code of Georgia, which criminalized Domestic Violence. The [Article 11¹](#) defines a circle of family members and refers to the list of crimes throughout the code that if are committed between family members reference must be done to the mentioned Article 11¹. [Article 126¹](#) determines the criminal nature of domestic violence and establishes responsibility for committed acts.

Response to Domestic violence

Within the Ministry of Internal Affairs the [Patrol Police Department](#) and district police are actively involved in the fight against domestic violence. As soon as the fact of domestic violence is reported, patrol police crew is immediately dispatched to the location of the incident. In areas where patrol police competence doesn't extend the district police responds to the case. The officers are authorized to issue a restrictive order for the protection of the victim and to avoid repetition of the violence.

If the conditions of the restrictive order are violated, the responsibility is defined under the [Article 175¹ of the Administrative Code](#) and [Article 381¹ of the Criminal Code](#).

If you are a victim of domestic violence or have relevant information, please contact the local emergency line at the following number: "112" free hot line 24/7.

The hotline for the consultation service is: +995 32 2 309 903

LEPL STATE FUND FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING <http://www.atipfund.gov.ge/>

This government entity provides shelter, as well as legal, psychological and medical services for persons who were granted the status of a victim.

Atipfund Georgia

Address: 15a Tamarashvili street, Tbilisi

Phone: (995 32) 2 39 53 50

Hotline: (995 32) 2 309 903

Email: contact@atipfund.ge

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF GEORGIA - SERVICE OF WITNESS AND VICTIM COORDINATOR <http://pog.gov.ge/eng/witness>

From their website:

Service of Witness and Victim Coordinator has been functioning in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia since August 2011. In order to make victim's relationship with the law-enforcement system more effective, this office main function is to provide a victim with fair and dignified treatment during the criminal proceedings and to inform them with detailed information related to their case. This service is based on values and principles like citizen and protection of their rights.

The service duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- In order to improve the effectiveness of the victim's relationship with the Court, they will provide a witness with the detailed information about the trial procedures, place, date and functions.
- For more confidence Service of Witness and Victim Coordinator will be next to the victim in the court building and attend testimony before the court.

- If the victim would like to meet a prosecutor, Service of Witness and Victim Coordinator will help in the organization of the meeting.
- If the victim's request is not in the competencies of the prosecutor's office, Service of Witness and Victim Coordinator will refer them to the competent institutions.
- Service of Witness and Victim Coordinator will also inform the victim about the procedural actions, such as starting of investigation, arresting the offender, sending the case to the court, reaching the plea agreement, damage reimbursement and any other investigation- or process-related information.

Prosecutor's Office of Georgia

Address: 24 Gorgasali street, Tbilisi

Contact Person: Levan Makhashvili

Phone: (995 32) 2405902

Email: lmakhashvili@justice.gov.ge

ARTICLE 42 OF THE CONSTITUTION www.article42.ge

From the NGO:

Article 42 of the Constitution is a non-governmental, non-political, human rights advocacy organization founded on September 12, 1997. The members of the organization are professional lawyers providing free of charge legal assistance to the victims of human rights abuses in local and international courts and other state agencies. The organization aims at promoting the establishment of the rule of law in Georgia through introduction of international standards for the protection of human rights and freedoms, and increase of legal awareness of the public.

The organization declares that protection of human rights stays to be its key goal. In addition, along with strategic litigations, the organization shall apply training, survey, and analysis in order to achieve the above goal; it will make its involvement in lawmaking processes more intense that will ensure prevention of infringement of human rights and introduction of high standards of human rights protection. Article 42 of the Constitution is operating in the sphere of protection of human rights facilitating the protection of civic and political rights and freedoms, as well as protection of other fundamental rights recognized by international law; harmonization of state policy and national legislation with international standards; and improvement of public legal awareness through efficient legal proceedings, strengthening of target groups, and participating in civic monitoring, surveys, analysis, and lawmaking initiatives.

The name of the organization is associated with Article 42 of Georgian Constitution based on which:
Each individual shall have the right of appeal to the courts to protect his/her rights and freedoms;
Each individual shall only be judged by the court which has jurisdiction over the particular case;
The right to defense shall be guaranteed;
No individual shall be brought to court twice for the same case;
No individual shall be held responsible for an action, which did not constitute a violation of the law at the moment it was performed. Laws that neither mitigate or abrogate responsibility shall have no retroactive force;

The accused shall have the right to demand summoning and interrogation of his/her witnesses under the same conditions as those of the prosecution;

Evidence obtained through contravention of the law shall have no legal force;

No individual shall be obliged to testify against himself/herself or his/her relatives whose circle shall be defined by law;

Any individual who suffers illegal damage imposed by the state, self-government bodies and officials shall be guaranteed to receive full compensation from state funds through the court proceedings.

The organization provides free legal consultation to the internally displaced people in collective centers and lodge applications to the European Court of Human Rights and the implementation of international legal norms on national level; raise awareness of vulnerable and marginalized population on the protection of their rights; ensure that the practice of national state agencies complies with international standards of protection of human rights, including the case law of European Court of Human Rights; protect citizens' rights and represent them on the national level as well as at the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 42 of the Constitution

Address: 11a M. Kantaria street, Tbilisi

Phone: (995 32) 299 88 56 (995 32) 272 88 56

Fax: (995 32) 299 88 56

E-Mail: Office@Article42.com

Working Days: Monday-Friday

Working Hours: 10:30-18:00

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear below. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the U.S. Department of State.

Domestic Violence:

- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) – Toll-free 24/7 hotline for crisis counseling and referrals: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).
- [U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women](#) – Information about local domestic violence victim assistance coalitions.
- [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) - The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence offers a safe home and shelter programs, public education, and technical assistance. They also have a list of state and international organizations that can assist domestic violence victims. 303-839-1852
- [Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center](#) - The center serves abused Americans, mostly women and children, in both civilian and military populations overseas. The 24/7 international crisis hotline 1-866-USWOMEN (1-866-879-6636) can be called toll free from overseas.
- [International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies](#) - Global list of abuse hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations, plus domestic violence information in over 90 languages.

- **NOTE:** The agencies and organizations listed on this international directory have not been vetted by the U.S. Department of State or other federal agency.

General Victim Assistance:

- [U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime](#) – Contact information for non-emergency services in communities throughout U.S.
- [National Crime Victim Center](#) – Information for crime victims on the impact of crime, safety planning, legal rights and civil legal remedies, and options for assistance and referrals to local programs.
- [National Organization for Victim Assistance \(NOVA\)](#) – Toll-free hotline available Monday-Friday 9am-5pm EST for information and referral to victim assistance programs: 1-800-TRY-NOVA

Overseas Resources:

- [Victim Assistance On-line](#) – Information about victim assistance programs in approximately 20 countries.
- [International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies](#) - Global list of abuse hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations, plus domestic violence information in over 90 languages.
- **NOTE:** The agencies and organizations listed on this international directory have not been vetted by the U.S. Department of State or other federal agency.