

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF AN ETHNIC MINORITY, INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN – THE CASE OF GEORGIA

Nino Dekanoidze

PhD student of political science Kakkaz International University

### Abstract

Life of ethnic minorities in a state with a different culture and traditions is not easy. Each nation is unique and has its own culture, history, customs and character. Their aforementioned individualism when living with another nation requires proper perception and moderate fusion with the characteristics of another nation. The coexistence of two or more states can lead to difficulties and, in some cases, to the emergence of conflict zones. The article outlines the legislative acts of Georgia and the institutional mechanisms implemented in the Georgian state. It also reflects the consistent political steps that the Georgian state has taken in connection with the need for an integration course. This implies both the existence of a document on priorities, which is developed by a state institution, and reports on the work done, clearly demonstrating the effectiveness of the existing plan. The integration of national minorities is a priority for the Georgian state and is carried out within the framework of the action plan approved in the country.

**Keywords:** ethnic identity, legislative framework, state strategy, integration

In the process of building a democratic state, the fundamental issue is the development of an effective strategic plan for ethnic minorities. Within the framework of which the legislative provisions on the protection of the rights of national minorities will be detailed. Today, the rights of national minorities living in Georgia are protected. The rights of a full citizen of Georgia are enshrined in the Constitution of Georgia. Based on the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union of 2014, the state has committed itself to implementing democratic reforms in the country, protecting the rights of ethnic minorities in terms of civil equality and integration. The Georgian state, as a member of the Council of Europe, the UN and other international organizations, has expressed its readiness to share international experience in order to ensure the protection of the rights of national minorities. According to Article 27 of General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966: In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess their own religion and customs and to use their own language. At the state level, issues related to national minorities are regulated by Article 11 of the Constitution of Georgia, according to which: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Georgia, “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”, Article 27, Legislative Herald of Georgia, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1398335?publication=0>; The article describes Georgian legislative norms and institutional mechanisms implemented in the Georgian state. It also reflects the consistent political steps taken by the Georgian state in connection with the need for an integration course, which implies both the existence of a document of priorities, which is developed by a state institution, and reports on the work done, which clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the current plan. The priority for the Georgian state is the integration of ethnic minorities, which is taking place within the framework of the action plan approved in the country.

keywords (Keywords): ethnic personality, legislative framework, state strategy, integration

In the process of building a democratic state, a fundamental issue in relation to ethnic minorities is the development of an effective strategic plan, within the framework of which the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities will be detailed. As for legal norms. Today, the rights of ethnic minorities living in Georgia are protected as the rights of full citizens of Georgia and are enshrined in the Constitution of Georgia. Based on the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union of 2014, the state has committed to carrying out democratic reforms in the country, protecting the rights of ethnic minorities in terms of civil equality and integration. The Georgian state, as a member of the Council of Europe, the UN and other international organizations, has expressed its readiness to share international experience in order to ensure the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. According to Article 27 of General Assembly Resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966: It is also important to note that the only international legal instrument that not only specifically regulates but also obliges states to fulfill their obligations regarding the protection of ethnic minorities is presented in the “Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of Ethnic Minorities”.

The “Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of Ethnic Minorities” describes in detail the full range of rights in various areas, such as:

- ☐ individual and collective rights;
- ☐ media, language and education.

Within the framework of the Framework Convention, states, taking into account the above issues, formulate policies towards ethnic minorities, which should exclude discriminatory approaches at the initial stage and ensure the elimination of inequalities.

In Georgia, state policy from the very beginning is focused on an approach that should ensure the full integration of ethnic minorities and the creation of a tolerant environment. Only the above approach will guarantee that each member of society will be a guarantor of democratic principles, equal rights, justice and a safe environment. political or other views, social affiliation, property or rank, place of residence or other characteristics;

□ In accordance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and the legislation of Georgia, citizens of Georgia, regardless of their ethnic, religious and linguistic affiliation, have the right to preserve and develop their culture and use their native language without any discrimination. in private or in public. □ “In countries in which ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities exist, members of these minorities shall not be denied the right to enjoy their culture in community with other members of their group, to profess their religion and practice their customs, and to use their native language.”

□ Issues related to ethnic minorities at the state level are regulated by Article 11 of the Constitution of Georgia, according to which:

□ “ All people are equal before the law. Discrimination on the grounds of race, skin color, sex, origin, ethnicity, language, religion

It should be noted that the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality has developed the "Civil Equality and Integration". State Strategy and Action Plan".

The plan envisages the formation of a unified and consistent policy in the direction of civil equality and integration, which should ensure coordinated management of these processes. Within the framework of the above-mentioned document, five strategic priorities are presented, such as:

- Support for the integration of the state language d ;
- Access to quality education ;
- Equality, civic and political participation ;
- Social and political integration ;
- Intercultural integration.

Along with the above-mentioned priorities, "civil equality and integration" are very important. Defining the goal of the state strategy and action plan , since the document is based on the vision of strengthening a democratic and legal state .

The strategy is to further strengthen civil equality and integration in the state, which means strengthening interethnic relations in the country, protecting its cultural values and identity, and fully implementing the principles of equality in society so that all citizens of Georgia, regardless of ethnic origin, can contribute to the economic, political and social life of the country and to the process of democratic development." In order to achieve this goal, it is extremely important to preserve the progress achieved in the field of civil equality and integration, take into account national interests and bring it into line with international principles. Language, culture and tradition are the symbols, the combination of which provides the opportunity to identify with the heritage and not only preserve human potential, but also fully realize it.

Civil, political and social integration of ethnic minorities is part of the development of a democratic society. - One important task. Although a number of projects and initiatives have



been implemented in this direction in recent years, important steps still need to be taken to achieve tangible results in terms of participation in political life.

Especially in a state like Georgia, civil integration determines the involvement of the ethnic population in the life of society, which ultimately forms a connection between the state and society and creates a sense of identity.

State policy on civil equality and integration should provide for a unified approach to representatives of both large and small ethnic minorities.

When fulfilling the state's obligations, it is necessary to emphasize the factors influencing the process of building a society and the correct formation of the citizen's thinking. It is important to note here that the consideration of historical facts, before implementing the issue in a practical sense, should be one of the priorities of the action cycle, since civil integration is associated with quite multifaceted processes and requires the involvement and sharing of responsibility not only of a specific subject, but also of a wide spectrum of society. The main task of state policy carried out in the field of civil equality and integration should be a comprehensive and systemic approach to this issue in order to ensure the possibility of achieving the set goal, which implies the effective integration of a multi-ethnic society. In terms of implementation, it is important to note that a coordinated and agreed approach to the issue on the part of departments and the effective implementation of the directions outlined in the strategy will be a necessary prerequisite for completing the action plan, since the principle focused on full and equal participation of ethnic minorities, ensures their full involvement in the political and public life of the country.

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