

Georgia

Law of Georgia on Combating Human Trafficking

Adopted on 28 April 2006; entered into force in 16 June 2006

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. Scope of Regulation

This Law determines the organizational and legal grounds for preventing and combating human trafficking, the competencies and obligations of the state agencies, public officials, and legal entities and rules of co-ordination of their activities in the measures applied against human trafficking, as well as the legal status and rights of the victims of human trafficking and the guarantees of their social and legal protection.

Article 2. Purpose of the Law

Purpose of this Law is:

- a) To ensure facilitation to prevention and combating human trafficking by means of protection of the rights of victims of human trafficking;
- b) To ensure protection, assistance and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking;
- c) To determine specificities of prosecuting the crime of human trafficking;
- d) To set the principles of co-operation among state agencies, international organizations and legal entities in preventing and combating trafficking as well as in the protection, assistance and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking.

Article 3. Definition of the Terms

The terms used in this Law shall have the following meaning:

- a) Human trafficking – crime defined by Articles 1431 and 1432 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; Consent of the victim of human trafficking to his/her deliberate exploitation shall have no importance.
- b) Blackmail – Coercion of a person to perform or not to perform certain activity by means of threatening that person to disclose information that is infamous or otherwise damaging to him/her or his/her close people;
- c) Vulnerable situation – a situation where a person is materially or otherwise dependent on other person, where because of physical or mental disability a person is unable to truly understand the existing situation, where a person has no other true option but to obey the violence applied to him/her;
- d) Exploitation – use of a person for forced labor or service, involvement of a person in criminal or other anti-societal conduct, putting a person in slavery-like conditions or conditions of contemporary slavery, sexual exploitation or coercion to provide other

type of services, as well as use of a person for transplantation of his/her organ, part of organ or tissue, or use of a person for other purposes;

- e) Forced labor – any work or service received by means of physical or mental coercion of a person by use of threat or blackmail against him/her or by use of his/her vulnerable situation;
- f) Sexual exploitation – involvement of a person in prostitution, other sexual services or production of pornographic material by use of threat, violence, coercion or blackmail against him/her or by use of his/her vulnerable situation, by abuse of power, or by provision of false information on the nature and conditions of work;
- g) Slavery-like conditions – the status or condition of a person as defined in the United Nations Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery dated 7 September 1956;
- h) Putting a person in contemporary conditions of slavery – deprivation of a person of his/her identity documents, limitation to the person of his/her right to free movement, prohibition to the person of communication with his family, including written correspondence and telephone contacts, cultural isolation of a person, coercion of a person to work in degrading conditions and/or without any compensation or with inadequate compensation;
- i) Trafficker – natural person or legal entity or a group of persons who has committed a crime under Articles 1431 or 1432 of the Criminal Code of Georgia;
- j) Victim of Human Trafficking – a natural person who suffered moral, physical or material damage as a result of the commission of the crime of trafficking in persons and who has been, in accordance with legislation of Georgia, recognized as victim of human trafficking by the Permanent Task Group at the Coordination Council for the Implementation of Measures against Human Trafficking;
- k) Country of Origin – a State of citizenship or permanent residence of a victim of human trafficking;
- l) Country of Destination – a state on the territory of which the victim of human trafficking is exploited;
- m) Country of Transit – a state through the territory of which the activities constituting human trafficking are carried out;
- n) Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) – a legal entity established pursuant to the legislation of Georgia, which is aimed at providing victims of human trafficking with shelter as well as legal, psychological, medical and/or other services, with a view of protection of their lawful rights and interests, rehabilitation and full re-integration into family and society.

Article 4. State Policy in Combating Human Trafficking

1. State policy in preventing and combating human trafficking, and in protection, assistance and rehabilitation of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall be determined in accordance with the obligations under the Constitution and

international treaties of Georgia relative to combating the transnational organized crime and corruption and the protection of human rights.

2. The state shall promote prevention of human trafficking, protection of human rights of (statutory) victims of human trafficking, their assistance and rehabilitation and shall implement measures to combat human trafficking.
3. State agencies responsible for preventing and combating human trafficking, and protection, assistance and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking, shall be guided by the Constitution of Georgia, international treaties of Georgia, this Law and other relevant normative acts of Georgia.

Chapter II. Mechanisms for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Competence of State Agencies in Prevention of Human Trafficking

Article 5. Mechanisms for Prevention of Human Trafficking

1. Mechanisms for the prevention of human trafficking shall imply organizational, legal, research, educational, informational and socio-economic measures that are directed at reduction, prevention and elimination of human trafficking.
2. Preventive measures of the state shall imply:
 - a) Elaboration and implementation of short- and long-term programs aimed at reducing poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and unequal access to opportunities in the country, and at eliminating all forms of discrimination.
 - b) Analyzing and assessing causes of human trafficking;
 - c) Research and collection of data on the forms and scale of human trafficking in order to develop effective prevention measures;
 - d) Comprehensive legal regulation of migration, implementation of measures facilitating legal labor migration;
 - e) Reduction of the risk of illegal labor migration and human trafficking by means of: implementing informational and educational measures, including establishing “hotlines” in relevant state agencies; developing educational programs for wide layers of population; supplying the Georgian passport and visa bodies, border points and consulates with information materials on legal labor and prevention of human trafficking in abroad for citizens of Georgia, protection, assistance and rehabilitation centers of (statutory) victims of human trafficking, etc.
 - f) Inclusion of human trafficking-related issues in the curricula of secondary (high schools) and highest education institutions;
 - g) Arranging and conducting special training courses or seminars for public officials responsible for implementation of measures for preventing and combating human trafficking, and measures of protection, assistance and rehabilitation of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking.
 - h) Other measures directed against all factors facilitating any form of exploitation.

Article 6. Competence of State Agencies in the Prevention of Human trafficking

1. State agencies promoting prevention of human trafficking shall: provide conditions for the prevention and elimination of human trafficking; improve the legal and economic background for at-risk groups; and implement appropriate informational and educational campaigns.
2. The State Agency for Social Assistance and Employment shall, within its competence, obtain and make publicly available information on vacancies within and outside Georgia, perform intermediary services for the purpose of providing job seekers with employment, and promote the elaboration and implementation of projects for employment of the unemployed.
3. The government authority responsible for the management of tourism and resorts shall, within its competence, elaborate a program for the protection and security of tourists and vacationists and shall coordinate implementation of such program.
4. The Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia shall, within its competence, ensure the inclusion of human trafficking-related issues in the curricula of secondary (high schools) and highest education institutions.
5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall, within its competence, oversee the issuance of Georgian visas and identification documents allowing citizens of Georgia to return to Georgia; hold negotiations with foreign countries with a view of concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements in accordance with the Georgian legislation in order to provide citizens and permanent residents of Georgia with employment opportunities outside Georgia; assign the staff responsible for dealing with trafficking issues in the consular institutions of Georgia in accordance with the procedure defined by law in order to render legal assistance to citizens and permanent residents of Georgia being abroad.
6. Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall, within its competence, oversee the movement of persons across the Georgian state border and the activities of border points in order to ensure identification of persons participating in the crime of human trafficking and registration of their entry into and exit from Georgia; cooperate with relevant law enforcement bodies of foreign countries; research and analyze causes of human trafficking in order to eradicate and prevent human trafficking and implement preventive measures for the eradication of such causes.
7. State authorities shall ensure implementation of the referenced in this Article and, for this purpose, shall cooperate with international organizations, not-for-profit legal entities operating in Georgia and other civil society institutions.

Chapter III. Mechanisms to Combat Human Trafficking

Article 7. Competence of State Agencies in Combating Human trafficking

1. The mechanisms to combat human trafficking shall imply the combination of measures to be carried out to reveal and investigate the crime of human trafficking and to detect, arrest, prosecute, and sentence traffickers, as well as to provide information to, protect and assist the (statutory) victims of human trafficking.

2. The state agencies responsible for combating human trafficking shall implement measures to prevent, detect and eradicate this crime as well as to identify, arrest and prosecute persons suspected in the crime of trafficking in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.
3. State agencies responsible for combating human trafficking and protection of (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall elaborate mandatory guidelines on and train their own employees by means of special training courses or seminars in identification and treatment of victims of human trafficking and specificities of related proceedings.
4. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall, within its competence conduct criminal intelligence and investigative activities, ensure security of (statutory) victims and witness of human trafficking, ensure creation of a unified database, cooperate with relevant state agencies in order to elaborate and implement measures against human trafficking.
5. The Prosecution Office of Georgia shall, within its competence, conduct prosecution and support charges in the court on cases of human trafficking.
6. With a view of effective fight against human trafficking, a Permanent Task Group against Human Trafficking shall be established at the Ministry of Interior that shall be composed of representatives from the Prosecution Office of Georgia and other relevant state bodies. The Group will coordinate criminal intelligence and investigation activities related to human trafficking on the entire territory of the country. The Group has the right to receive any information pertaining to human trafficking directly from the relevant state bodies, including embassies and consulates.

Article 8. Unified Information Database

1. For the purpose of identifying and systematizing existing information on traffickers, a Unified Information Database shall be established in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in accordance with procedure established by the legislation of Georgia. The Database shall be comprised of information obtained through criminal intelligence measures, pre-trial investigation and court hearings and/or information received from the International Criminal Police (Interpol) or other relevant organizations.
2. The procedure of creation of the Database, the nature and content of the information to be entered into the Database as well as the list of persons authorized to access the Database shall be approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs.
3. Information kept in Database is confidential information and may be accessed and issued in accordance with procedures under law on accessing and issuing confidential information.
4. Unauthorized disclosure of information kept in the Database shall be punishable under law.

Article 9. State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Public law entity “State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking” (hereinafter “the Fund”) shall be established for the purpose of effective implementation of protection, assistance and rehabilitation measures for the (statutory) victims of human trafficking.
2. State control over the Fund shall be exercised by the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia.
3. The Fund shall be governed by its Director to be appointed and dismissed by President of Georgia.
4. The Supervisory Council shall be established to coordinate the activities of the Fund. The Supervisory Council shall be comprised, in addition to representatives from state agencies, of representatives from not-for-profit legal entities and international organizations working in the relevant field and relevant specialists and scientists.
5. The structure and rules of operation of the Fund shall be determined by its Statute. The Statute, by recommendation of the Director of the Fund, shall be approved by President of Georgia.
6. The purpose of the Fund is to issue compensation to (statutory) victims of human trafficking as well as to finance their protection, assistance and rehabilitation measures.
7. Sources of income of the Fund are:
 - a) state budgetary resources;
 - b) resources received from international organizations;
 - c) contributions from legal entities and natural persons;
 - d) other income permitted under legislation of Georgia.

Article 10. Interagency Coordination Council for the Implementation of Measures against Human trafficking

1. For the purpose of the promoting effective performance of their functions by state agencies responsible for preventing and combating human trafficking and the protection, assistance and rehabilitation of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking, and to coordinate and monitor activities, the Interagency Coordination Council for the Implementation of Measures against Human Trafficking (hereinafter “the Council”) shall be established by President of Georgia.
2. In addition to representatives from state agencies, the Coordination Council may consist of representatives from not-for-profit legal entities and international organizations working in the relevant field, representatives from mass media and relevant specialists and scientists.
3. Rules of creation of the Coordination Council, nomination to and removal from the Coordination Council of persons, composition and rules of operation of the

Coordination Council (Statute) shall be determined by the Government of Georgia and approved with his Decree by President of Georgia.

Chapter IV. Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

Article 11. Status of a Victim of Human Trafficking

1. The Permanent Task Group against Human Trafficking at the Coordination Council shall decide on granting the status of victim of human trafficking within 48 hours after a person has applied to the Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) or other relevant institution. Composition, rules of operation and scope of authority of the Permanent Task Group shall be determined by the Coordination Council.
2. If a person is granted the status of victim of human trafficking, the person shall have the right to address the Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) and to exercise his/her rights under this Chapter.
3. Enjoyment of the status of victim of human trafficking by a person as such shall not be the basis for such person to enjoy the rights and obligations of statutory victim prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia.
4. Provisions of this Chapter shall apply to citizens of Georgia and stateless persons permanently residing in Georgia who were recognized as victim of human trafficking in other countries.

Article 12. Deliberation Term (Reflection Period)

1. A victim of human trafficking shall be entitled to a 30-day deliberation term to decide whether he/she wants to cooperate with the law enforcement bodies in proceedings related to the given crime.
2. Countdown of the deliberation term starts from the date of addressing by the person the Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter), law enforcement bodies or the relevant institution.
3. During the deliberation term the victim of human trafficking shall not be subject to liability under Article 371 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

Article 13. Specificities of Criminal Proceedings related to the Crime of Human Trafficking

1. Criminal proceedings in relation to the crime of human trafficking shall be performed pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Code and other legislative acts of Georgia.
2. A closed court hearing on the crime of human trafficking may be held by order (resolution) of the court (judge) based on the motion submitted by the prosecutor, statutory victim or the representative of the statutory victim.

3. Special protection measures prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia may be applied in cases of the crime of human trafficking.
4. Legal entities being perpetrators of the crime of human trafficking are subject to criminal liability in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.
5. Traffickers may be deprived of criminal proceeds in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.
6. Before, during and after criminal proceedings on the crime of human trafficking, measures of protection, assistance and rehabilitation of (statutory) victims of human trafficking prescribed in this Law shall be effected.

Article 14. Legal Protection of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Access to justice is guaranteed to (statutory) victims of human trafficking in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Georgia.
2. Law enforcement bodies shall immediately explain to the (statutory) victim of human trafficking that he/she has the right to address a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter).
3. Law enforcement bodies and a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall provide the (statutory) victims of human trafficking with full information on Georgian legislation on human trafficking.
4. The investigator, prosecutor and judge shall inform the statutory victim of human trafficking, in his/her native language or in a language he/she understands, of his/her rights and legal status as well as information on matters relating to the investigation and judicial proceedings.
5. In the criminal proceedings, the state shall provide the statutory victim of human trafficking with the service of a lawyer and an interpreter as well as servicing documents and materials related to the proceedings in his/her native language or a language understandable for him/her.
6. (Statutory) victim of human trafficking may receive free legal aid and in-court representation from Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) or other natural person or legal entity having relevant authorization, in accordance with procedures established by the Georgian legislation.
7. The statutory victim and witness as well as persons providing legal services and assistance to them shall have the right to request protection of their own security and security of their family members at any time, in accordance with procedures established by the Georgian legislation.
8. Identity, address and other personal data of (statutory) victims and witnesses of trafficking is confidential information and its disclosure is prohibited except in cases envisaged by law.

9. At the request of statutory victim, witness or their legal representative, special protection measures may be applied in accordance with procedures established by the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia.

Article 15. Exemption of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking from Liability

1. A (statutory) victim of human trafficking shall be exempted from criminal liability for conducts envisaged in Articles 344 and 362 of the Criminal Code of Georgia and Article 1723 and 185 of the Administrative Violations Code of Georgia. In addition, a (statutory) victim shall not be held liable for his/her participation in unlawful conducts if he/she had to behave so due to his/her being (statutory) victim of human trafficking.
2. Provision of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply to violations, which the person committed due to his/her being (statutory) victim of human trafficking before the person was granted the status of (statutory) victim of human trafficking.

Article 16. Right of the (Statutory) Victim of Human Trafficking to Reimbursement of Damages Incurred as a Result of the Crime of Human Trafficking

1. The (statutory) victim of human trafficking shall have the right to request reimbursement of moral, physical or material damages, which he/she incurred as result of crime of human trafficking, in accordance with Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia.
2. Where it is impossible to reimburse damages incurred by a (statutory) victim of human trafficking under paragraph 1 of this Article, he/she shall receive compensation from the Fund in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Article 17. Competence of State Agencies in the Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Protection, assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration of (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall imply the combination of those legal, social and organizational measures that provide for:
 - a) Prosecution of the crime of human trafficking with full respect for the dignity, privacy, and security of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking;
 - b) Inadmissibility of discrimination against (statutory) victims of human trafficking;
 - c) Elaboration of effective legal mechanisms for reimbursement of damages incurred as a result of crime of trafficking for (statutory) victims of human trafficking;
 - d) Promotion of full rehabilitation and integration into family and society of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking;
 - e) Serving full information to the (statutory) victims of human trafficking on their rights and legal remedies to ensure protection of these rights existing under the legislation of Georgia.

2. State agencies responsible for the protection, assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall, in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts, cooperate with international organizations, not-for-profit legal entities operating in Georgia and other civil society institutions, in order to: ensure legal protection and assistance of (statutory) victims of human trafficking; ensure full secrecy of personal data of (statutory) victims and witnesses of trafficking; ensure protection of their privacy and personal security, safe repatriation and medico-psychological rehabilitation; elaboration and implementation of mechanisms for reimbursement of physical, moral and material damages incurred as a result of the crime of trafficking.

Article 18. Mechanisms for Assistance and Rehabilitation of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. With the consent of the victim of human trafficking, the state shall ensure his/her accommodation in a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) – a dwelling that is appropriate for decent and safe being.
2. It shall be prohibited to place the victims of human trafficking in places of detention, pre-trial detention facilities, prisons and other places of detention save in exceptional situations determined by law and if they can be accommodated separately from others.
3. A Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall, with the consent of the (statutory) victim of human trafficking, provide him/her with free-of-charge medical and psychological assistance and free-of-charge legal consultation and assistance. A Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall elaborate and implement short and long-term programs of rehabilitation and full re-integration into the family and society of (statutory) victims of human trafficking.
4. With the consent of the (statutory) victim of human trafficking, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure his/her participation in professional training and other educational programs developed jointly by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia.
5. When performing their obligations under this Article, all Service Agencies for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelters) shall take into consideration the victims' age, sex and special needs, particularly special needs of the children in appropriate housing, education and care.
6. (Statutory) child victims of human trafficking are subject to the protection mechanisms established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as of 20 November 1989, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and guidelines adopted by international organizations in the field of protection of the child victims of human trafficking.
7. If the age of (statutory) victim of human trafficking is not determined and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the (statutory) victim of human trafficking is a

minor, he/she shall be regarded as a minor and he/she will be subject to special protection measures until the determination of his/her age.

8. Measures of protection of personal security and medico-psychological rehabilitation measures of (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall be applied only with their consent and in observance of full confidentiality of their personal data.

Article 19. Arrangement of Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter)

1. For the purposes of the protection of the legal rights and interests of the (statutory) victims of human trafficking, their assistance, rehabilitation and full reintegration in family and society, a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall be established in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the legislation of Georgia.
2. A Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall be established at the Fund as a structural unit of the public law entity.
3. Any natural person or legal entity is empowered to establish, in legal-organizational form prescribed by the Georgian legislation, a private law not-for-profit legal entity – a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter).
4. A Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall meet standards established by the legislation of Georgia.
5. A Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) shall ensure the exercise of rights of (statutory) victims of human trafficking under this Law, including personal security while the (statutory) victim of human trafficking is in the Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter).

Article 20. Status and Repatriation of Foreign (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. The foreigners who are (statutory) victims of human trafficking perpetrated on the territory of Georgia shall have the same rights as envisaged for the (statutory) victims of human trafficking by this Law.
2. A (statutory) victim of human trafficking who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person shall be exempted from the liability for conduct envisaged by Article 185 of the Administrative Violations Code of Georgia.
3. It is impermissible to expel a foreigner from the territory of Georgia where there are reasonable grounds to believe that he/she may be a (statutory) victim of human trafficking.
4. During the deliberation term, a residence card shall be issued to the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia based on a motion of a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) or a body in charge of proceedings. Identity-related information given in the motion constitutes

confidential information disclosure of which is punishable under law. The relevant state agency shall decide on classifying the information as confidential in accordance with procedure prescribed by the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

5. If the person referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article decides to cooperate with the law enforcement bodies in the process of proceedings on the given crime, he/she shall be provided, in accordance with procedure under law, with a resident card until the completion of the relevant criminal and/or civil proceedings. During this period, he/she shall have the right to work on the territory of Georgia and enjoy rights and guarantees established by the Labor Code of Georgia.
6. Following the expiry of the deliberation term or upon completion of the relevant criminal proceedings, the state shall take appropriate measures to safely return foreign (statutory) victims of human trafficking to their country of origin.
7. Following the completion of the relevant criminal proceedings, a foreign (statutory) victim of human trafficking may, at his/her request, be granted asylum on the territory of Georgia if there are reasonable grounds to believe that his or her life, health or personal liberty will be under threat if returned to the country of origin.

Article 21. Safe Repatriation of Citizens of Georgia or Persons Permanently Residing in Georgia Who Have Become (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Georgian consular offices and diplomatic representations shall cooperate with the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and other appropriate state agencies of Georgia in order to issue, within shortest possible time, identification cards or identification documents allowing to return to Georgia to (statutory) victims of human trafficking and to ensure their safe return to Georgia.
2. For the purpose of the safe and voluntary return of (statutory) victims of human trafficking, state agencies of Georgia shall cooperate with the appropriate agencies of foreign countries, international organizations and not-for-profit legal entities.

Chapter V. Georgia's International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking

Article 22. Georgian State Agencies' Cooperation with Appropriate State Agencies of Foreign Countries in Combating Human Trafficking

Georgian state agencies' cooperation with appropriate state agencies of foreign countries in preventing and combating human trafficking as well as in protection, assistance and rehabilitation of (statutory) victims of human trafficking shall be determined pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Georgia's international treaties on mutual legal cooperation concluded with relevant states and Georgia's other international treaties and agreements.

Article 23. Cooperation with International Governmental and Non-Governmental Organization in Implementing Joint Programs

International governmental and non-governmental organizations, according to procedure prescribed by the legislation of Georgia, participate in elaboration and implementation of measures and joint programs aimed at preventing and combating human trafficking and protection, assistance and rehabilitation of (statutory) victims of human trafficking.

Chapter VI. Transitional Provisions

Article 24. Measures to be Applied in Relation to Entry into Force of This Law

1. The Government of Georgia shall ensure financing of measures against human trafficking to be implemented by state agencies responsible for combating human trafficking.
2. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Government of Georgia shall elaborate and submit to President of Georgia for his approval Rules of creation of the Coordination Council, nomination to and removal from the Coordination Council of persons, composition and rules of operation of the Coordination Council (Statute).
3. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Coordination Council shall elaborate and submit to President of Georgia for his approval the unified standards and rules of identification of victims of human trafficking.
4. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Coordination Council shall approve:
 - a) Composition, rules of operation and scope of authority of the Permanent Task Group established at the Coordination Council;
 - b) Necessary standards and requirements for the arrangement of a Service Agency for the Victims of Human Trafficking (Shelter) and its sample Statute;
 - c) Operational instruction for the protection of victims of human trafficking (national referral mechanism);
 - d) Rules of issuance of compensation from the Fund.
5. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia shall ensure transfer of appropriate property in accordance with procedure prescribed by the legislation of Georgia to the public law entity “State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of human trafficking”.
6. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall implement necessary organizational and legal measures for the creation of the Unified Information Database.
7. Within 3 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection shall elaborate rules and forms of rendering medical assistance to victims of human trafficking.

8. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure inclusion of human trafficking-related issues into the curricula of secondary (high schools) and highest educational institutions.
9. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall approve rules of creation of the Unified Information Database.
10. Within 1 month following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall ensure assignment of the staff responsible for dealing with trafficking issues in the consular institutions of Georgia and public availability of relevant information, including outside Georgia.
11. Within 6 months following the entry into force of this Law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall submit to the Parliament of Georgia the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for ratification.

Chapter VII. Concluding Provisions

Article 25. Entry into Force of the Law

1. This Law save its Article 13(4), 18(2) and 22 shall enter into force after one month following its publication.
2. Article 13(4) of this Law shall enter into force following the relevant amendments and addenda are made to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia.
3. Article 18(2) of this Law shall enter into force from 1 January 2008.
4. Article 22 of this Law shall enter into force following Georgia's accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Saakashvili

Tbilisi.