

Supporting Georgia's European Path and the Democratic Will of its People

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Presented by: Konservativ Ungdom (Denmark) and United National Movement Youth (Georgia)

Supported by: Les Jeunes Républicains (France), Vienotibas Jauniesi (Latvia), Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto (Finland), Moderata Ungdomsförbundet (Sweden) and Young Fine Gael (Ireland)

Recognizing:

- Since early 2023, Georgia has faced a serious political crisis. At the beginning of that year, the pro-Russian government attempted to pass a law on so-called “foreign agents,” which triggered mass protests. In 2024, the ruling Georgian Dream party reintroduced the same bill, sparking another wave of demonstrations followed by brutal police crackdowns on peaceful protesters – reminiscent of 2023. Later in 2024, Georgian Dream allegedly rigged the elections, depriving citizens of their right to choose. For several weeks, armed groups roamed the streets of Tbilisi, violently attacking peaceful demonstrators, including women, teenagers, and journalists.
- The illegitimate Georgian Dream government, following the stolen elections, continued to pass laws that restrict freedom of speech and freedom of the press. One political prisoner was sentenced to 4 years and 6 months in prison without any credible evidence. His case is just one among many – there are over 50 similar instances.
- These developments are part of a broader pattern of democratic backsliding, media repression, and attempts to derail Georgia's European integration.
- The so-called Prime Minister Kobakhidze, after the November 28 elections, declared that he does not plan to continue integration with the EU until the end of 2028, which became yet another proof that the so-called Georgian Dream government is fully subordinated to the Kremlin.
- The Kremlin continues to control Georgia's foreign and international policy through the Georgian Dream party.

Acknowledging:

- That the Georgian people – especially the youth – have clearly and repeatedly expressed their commitment to European values, human rights, and democracy, often at great personal risk.
- That the imprisonment of peaceful demonstrators, threats against activists, and attacks on independent media are incompatible with the principles of the EU Association Agreement and the Copenhagen criteria.
- That YEPP, as the largest youth political organization in Europe, has a duty to stand with the youth of Georgia and amplify their call for freedom, dignity, and a European future.
- That failure to respond firmly to the Georgian government's anti-democratic behavior would weaken the EU's credibility and embolden similar regimes in the region.

YEPP calls on:

- The immediate release of all peaceful protesters former president Mikheil Saakashvili, Giorgi Vashadze, leader of Strategy Aghmashenebeli; Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze, leaders of the Strong Georgia coalition; Nika Melia and Nika Gvaramia, leaders of the Coalition for Change; and Zurab Japaridze, leader of the Girchi — More Freedom party, and political prisoners in Georgia, especially young people detained for exercising their right to freedom of assembly.
- The European People's Party and its member organizations to increase pressure on the Georgian government to withdraw authoritarian legislation and uphold democratic standards.
- The EU institutions to apply democratic conditionality in all bilateral relations with Georgia, conditioning support on measurable democratic progress and the reversal of repressive laws.
- YEPP member organizations to strengthen cooperation with Georgian youth, including political exchange, civic training, and coordinated advocacy at the EU level.