



12 January 2018

UNICEF

Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore
United Nations Children's Fund
3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017
USA

Global Partnership to End Violence against Children

Director Dr. Susan Bissell
Secretariat Global Partnership C/O UNICEF

Dear Ms. Fore and Dr. Bissell,

I am pleased to inform you that Georgia wishes to become one of the pathfinder countries in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

The Government of Georgia is very much dedicated to the cause of ending violence against children and we do hope that our active participation in the partnership will be resulted in the fruitful cooperation with the countries and other stakeholders.

Child rights protection is one of the main priorities of the Government of Georgia. In order to ensure the effective coordination among central government agencies, among different regions, between central and other levels of government and between Government and civil society, the Interagency Commission responsible for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was set up in 2016. Interagency Commission consists of the relevant deputy ministers and is chaired by the Head of the Human Rights secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia. The commission also engages the judiciary, the Parliament, the Ombudsman's Office, NGOs and international partners.

The combating violence against children is one of the key issues of the commission's agenda. The inter-ministerial working group with support of UNICEF has developed Package of Legislative Amendments focusing on the protection of children from violence. Parliament of Georgia on 17th October of 2014 has approved amendments in total of 10 laws. Government with UNICEF support has continued working on the refinement of the legal environment for ensuring better protection of children from violence. On 22 June 2016 Parliament of Georgia has approved amendments in more than 10 laws and regulations in order to further improve legal safeguards of children living and working on the streets and victims of domestic violence.

The separate chapter on Violence against Children has been added to the draft Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights for 2018-2020 in the frame of the National Strategy of Human Rights 2014-2020, which is the major guiding document for the country to protect human rights in Georgia.

The major objectives of the respective part of the Action Plan are a) Developing/strengthening prevention mechanisms of violence against children and b) Strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms for children victims of abuse/neglect. The Interagency Commission is one of the main responsible body for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the child rights chapter in the Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights for 2018-2020.

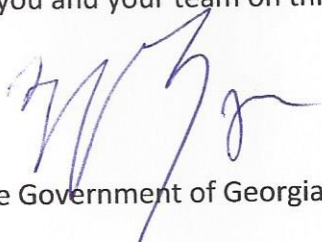
We believe that Georgia as the Pathfinder Country of the Partnership will make substantial progress in ending violence against children.

Therefore, I would like to inform you that the Interagency Commission for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be the focal point representing the executive branch of the Government in the partnership. The Interagency Commission is comprised with Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Social Service Agency, Ministry of Education and Sciences, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, Public Defender Office, NGO representative(s) and UNICEF.

In addition to this, the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Issues will serve as the champion in this process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and I am very much looking forward to working with you and your team on this very important matter.

Maia Tskitishvili



Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia