



Preventing Far-Right Extremism in Georgia

Far-Right Rhetoric and Trends in Social Media

(May-June)

2022

The present report is prepared by the Democracy Research Institute (DRI) as a part of its project: Understanding and Combating Far-Right Extremism and Far-Right Nationalism in Georgia. The project is financially supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Georgia. The views and opinions expressed in the publication are those of the project team and should not be perceived as an official position of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Georgia.

Introduction

After May 17, homophobic and anti-Western messages have been particularly actively featured in the discourse of media platforms known for their openly pro-Russian and far-right views. At the same time, the Russia-Ukraine war, again, became the focus of these platforms and their disinformation media campaign. The "Alt-Info" team was especially active. Along with fostering irrational fears, Euroscepticism and homophobia in society, they also distinguished themselves by their pro-Kremlin sentiments and an openly propagandistic, violent media campaign.

The present report results from social media monitoring. The main messages and trends of far-right leaders and media outlets are analyzed during the period of May-June 2022, and the path of their disinformation discourses are studied. During the reporting period, the Democracy Research Institute analyzed propaganda in 463 cases, the content that was virally distributed in social and online media.

In the reporting period, the leaders of the political parties "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" and "Georgian Idea" were particularly active. Equally active were "Zneoba" (morality) and "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights". It was under their auspices, that several highly homophobic and anti-Western demonstrations were held. Joining their leaders in circulating hate speech and spreading anti-Western messages, the following Facebook pages related to the "conservative movement/alt-info" were also quite active: "[Conservative Movement Lagodekhi Organization](#)", "[Conservative Women](#)" and "[Conservatives-conservatives](#)".

Just like in previous months, the reporting period also showed **that the ultra-right forces in Georgia are actively engaging social and online media platforms to create false public sentiments and mobilize support.**

In the reporting period, the discourse of the far-right forces was dominated by three main topics: 1. Homophobic rhetoric, which became particularly active after the "Tbilisi Pride" festival was announced; 2) The anti-Western campaign, which acquired a new momentum after the criticism of Georgia by the European Parliament and the [resolution was adopted](#)¹; and 3) Pro-Kremlin rhetoric against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war.

One flank of the far-right groups ("Georgian Idea", "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights" and "Zneoba"), tried to discredit the West by inciting homophobic sentiments. The other flank ("conservative movement" and "alt info"), actively voiced openly pro-Kremlinist narratives, and simultaneously tried to demonize Euro-Atlantic institutions. In the reporting period, **a central trend was the emphasis on identity and incompatibility of values between Georgia and the West.** At the same time, Orthodox Russia was presented as a counterweight to the West, with which, according to the far-right groups, the need for dialogue is determined by cultural/religious proximity, as well as the need for security guarantees.

The swift and aggressive reaction of the leaders of the far-right groups ("Georgian Idea", "Children's Rights Protection Society" and "Conservative Movement") came after the announcement of the festival by "Tbilisi Pride" to be celebrated on July 2. The far-right groups announced their full mobilization and declared that they would not allow "propaganda of lewdness" in Georgia. The rhetoric of far-right leaders Guram and Aleksandre Palavandishvili, Konstantine Morgoshia, Zura Makharadze, Shota Martynenko, Levan

¹ The resolution of the European Parliament is critical of the Georgian government and emphasizes the need for reforms that "Georgian Dream" should carry out in order to grant Georgia the EU membership candidacy.

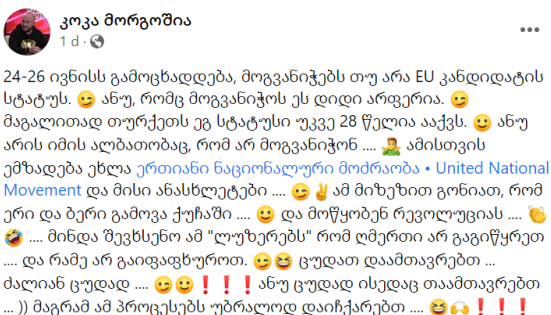
Chachua and Giorgi Kardava, featured excessive focus on homophobic sentiments, circulation of hate speech and disinformation.

1. Anti-Western rhetoric of far-right groups

[In a resolution](#) adopted on June 9, 2022, the European Parliament slammed the Georgian Dream government for violating media freedom and the security of journalists in Georgia. The same document calls on the partners with a recommendation to impose sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili because of his outsized role in deteriorating democratic processes in Georgia. The document critically assesses the lack of effective investigations of the attacks perpetrated against journalists and human rights activists on July 5-6, 2021. Against this backdrop, not only did Georgia not get the status of a candidate for EU membership, but the European Parliament focused on the need to pursue reforms in Georgia.

The publication of the resolution followed the deluge of anti-Western messages in the discourse of far-right forces in Georgia. The rhetoric of their leaders has been clearly exposed as an attempt to foster nihilism in Georgia regarding EU membership and to discredit Western institutions. In addition, messages supporting Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of the Georgian Dream party, were also voiced here and there.

The European Parliament resolution received an instant response from the far-right media platform Alt-Info and the conservative movement/alt-info party. On June 10, far-right leader and Alt-Info founder Konstantin Morgoshia posted a cynical post on his personal Facebook page regarding Georgia's membership of the European Union, and further claimed that the United National Movement and “the fragments that have bounced off of it” were preparing to organize the revolution in the event the candidacy was not granted to Georgia. ***"On 24-26 June, they will announce whether the EU grants us candidacy. That is, even if it gives us, it is nothing great. For example, Turkey has been in this position for 28 years now. That is, there is also a likelihood that they will not give it to us."***



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24-26 ივნისს გამოცხადდება, მოგვანიჭებს თუ არა EU კანდიდატის სტატუსს. 😊 ანუ, რომე მოგვანიჭოს ეს დიდი არფერია. 😊 მაგალითად თურქეთს ეგ სტატუსი უკვე 28 წელია ააქვს. 😊 ანუ არის იმის ალბათობაც, რომ არ მოგვანიჭონ 🙄 ამისთვის ემზადება ეზლა ერთიანი ნაციონალური მოძრაობა • United National Movement და მისი ანასწლეტები 😊👉 ამ მიზეზით გონიათ, რომ ერი და ბერი გამოვა ქუჩაში 😊 და მოწყობენ რევოლუციას 🙄 მინდა შევხსენო ამ "ლუზერებს" რომ ღმერთი არ გაგიწყრეთ და რამე არ გაიფაფხუროთ. 😊🙄 ცუდათ დაამთავრებთ ... ძალიან ცუდად 😊🙄 !!! ანუ ცუდად ისედაც თაამთავრებთ ...) მაგრამ ამ პროცესებს უბრალოდ დაიჩქარებთ 😊🙄 !!!



"On 24-26 June, they will announce whether the EU grants us candidacy. That is, even if it gives us, it is nothing great. For example, Turkey has been in this position for 28 years now. That is, there is also a likelihood that they will not give it to us. And the UNM and their fragments are preparing for this now. They hope to bring out the clergy and non-clergy out in the streets... and to organize a revolution... I would like to remind these losers that do not even think about it... do not even make a move... it won't end well for you... terribly bad... What I mean is that you are going to have a miserable end anyway, but this way, you are just speeding up the arrival of your demise...!!!"

Anti-Western messages were also voiced by Konstantine Morgoshia on June 11 in "Alt-Info" program ["Comment of the Day"](#). He criticized the resolution of the European Parliament and called it unfair, both in terms of the condemnation of Bidzina Ivanishvili and the assessment of Georgia's media environment His rhetorical attempt to demonize and discredit Western institutions were noticeable. Morgoshia tried to

portray the EU as an union incompatible with the Georgian identity and values: ***"We have a pro-Western course for 30 years and we are pretending to be on friendly terms. But, what did we get in return? For 30 years, they have been fighting our traditions and have been attacking our faith. Who needs their membership or candidate status?"***

1.1. Identical messaging coming from the Georgian Dream and the Conservative Movement/Alt-Info.

In the resolution's context's assessment, the rhetoric of the leaders of the Conservative Movement/Alt-Info and the Georgian Dream features identical messaging. Both parties attempted to portray the West as a side that supposedly pushed Georgia into the opening of the "second front" of the war in Georgia and turning the country into a springboard against Russia.

On June 10, Giorgi Kardava, the leader of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" in the "[Alternative Vision](#)" TV show, attacked the resolution of the European Parliament and stated that ***"the West needs Georgia as a centre of tension, as its war platform. Bidzina Ivanishvili cannot fulfil this function, even if he were to organize gay pride to please them."***

Mamuka Mdinardze, the leader of "Georgian Dream" aggressively accused MEPs of trying to "draw Georgia into the war". He responded to the European Parliament held debate on June 8, 2022, and said that ***"there are people outside of Georgia, working on a plan that leads to the opening of the second front. This is their general interest and unfortunately, over 10 European colleagues are involved in its implementation"***.²

Furthermore, the leaders of "Georgian Dream" and "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" tried to present the critical assessment of MEPs of the Government of Georgia as the result of the efforts of "National Movement" and its leader, President Mikheil Saakashvili. ***"The Georgian dream fulfilled every requirement the West asked it to do, except for one important component. The component of pursuing a tense political path with Russia. That is why the European Parliament raised the issue like this, either Mikheil Saakashvili or confrontation with the West."*** — Giorgi Kardava, Secretary General of the "Conservative Movement" party, said in the "[Alternative Vision](#)" TV show of "Alt Info".

On June 9, the chairperson of "Georgian Dream," Irakli Kobakhidze held an unplanned [briefing](#) to respond to the demands of the resolution. He called it a paradox that the MEPs demanded to release Mikheil Saakashvili and to sanction Bidzina Ivanishvili. He echoed the main narrative of Alt Info leaders regarding the second front, noting that the ***"Georgia's so-called 'well-wishers' may not like that Georgia did not get involved in a fatal and momentous war and nobody destroyed our country."***

The MP from the "Georgian Dream," Dimitri Khundadze and "Conservative Movement" leader Konstantine Morgoshia found themselves in full harmony regarding the European Parliament resolution. Both of them, besides calling the decision of the European Parliament "unfair," stressed that in the light of these unfair obligations, Georgia itself should no longer seek the candidate status. On June 10, Dimitri Khundadze, [assessed the resolution of the European Parliament](#) as an insult to the Georgian people. ***"We have not seen such an unjust Europe during the entire period of Georgia's independence. We cannot give up dignity to get the status!"*** And the leader of the "Conservative Movement" Konstantine Morgoshia, on June 11, in the "Alt-Info" TV show, "[Comment of the Day](#)", came out with a statement supporting Bidzina Ivanishvili, and also critically evaluated the decision of the European parliamentarians: ***"the part***

² Radio Liberty, "According to Mdinardze, more than 10 MEPs want to open a second front in Georgia", 9.06.2022 – Accessible at: <https://rb.gy/anvxrz>

*of the resolution that was announced, in my opinion, is completely unfair, both from the point of view of the media and towards Bidzina Ivanishvili, who, because he does not want to confront the Georgian people and open the second front of the war in Georgia, is now facing sanctions." After announcing their decision to [leave](#) "Georgian Dream" on June 29, a [joint](#) message containing identical messages was put out by three members of the Parliament of Georgia: Sozar Subari, Mikheil Kavelashvili and Dimitri Khundadze,. Their [statement, evaluating part of the resolution, reads as follows](#): **"On the one hand, the status of a candidate puts pressure on the government, and on the other hand, with an informal sanction, pressure is applied on Bidzina Ivanishvili - we are sure that, despite such pressure, Bidzina Ivanishvili will never doom Georgia for war."***

1.2. "Incompatibility" of the values with the West and the need for dialogue with Russia

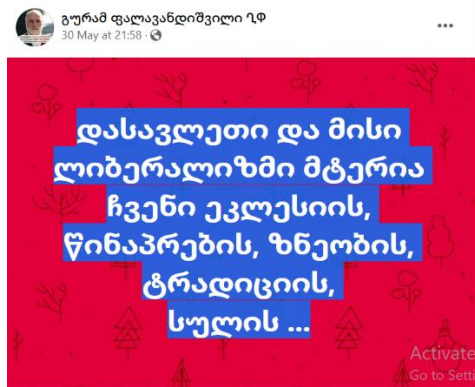
In the reporting period, the anti-Western rhetoric of the far-right leaders was notable for their emphasis on the incompatibility of identity and values - as if the West attacks the Georgian nation's identity, traditions, Orthodoxy, the institution of the family, and is entangling us with the "lewd lifestyle" - homosexuality, incest and paedophilia. At the same time, Orthodox Russia was presented as a counterweight to the West, with which the dialogue is needed and is openly connected with the security guarantees.

On June 8, in the "Alt-Info" TV show ["Comment of the Day,"](#) Zurab Makharadze, the leader of the Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" assessed the country's Euro-Atlantic foreign orientations and noted that the Georgian people are no longer willing to integrate with the West. He noted that new geopolitical reality, based on the interests and security of Georgia, requires us to engage in the dialogue with Russia. **"We are substantively different people, who say that we will not integrate with the West anymore, having realized that the geopolitical situation here is changing. We are going to start a dialogue with Russia because any other scenario leads to much more serious consequences. In the West, they talk about something abstract, that they will give us the candidate status that Turkey has had since the 80s of the previous century."**

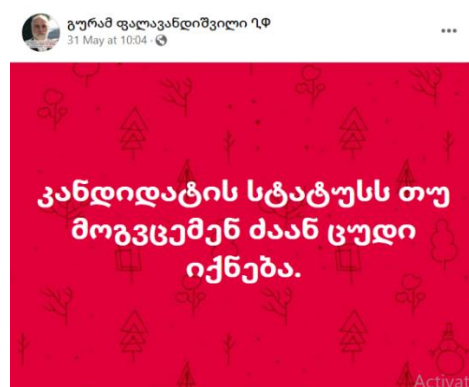
To foster nihilism, as if Georgia would never become the European Union member and striving towards this goal is nothing but an Utopia and danger for Georgia, other far-right leaders did not shy away as well. For example, Irakli Martynenko, the leader of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" and a member of their political council, said the following on June 10, in "Alt-Info" TV show: [" Comment of the Day "](#) **" Georgia will never get to join the European Union." What we will get in this process is the war that was waged against Ukraine, and Ukraine will lose this war, as will we. Georgia cannot enter anywhere, they will make us fight and we will die."** At the same time, he presented the West as a "perverted party whose main interest is the propaganda of the LGBT community in Georgia and the support of religious sectarians: **"What is Europe, what is the West, it is easy to see with a naked eye. For example, who is financed from Europe, this is not a hidden information. European representatives met with this female fathers [derogative comment addressed at Rusudan Gotsiridze, female Bishop of the Baptist Church] and gay activists. People should understand that Europe prefers these people, these female-fathers, which represent these non-existent religious formations. Europeans prefer gay activists and sectarians."**

Guram and Aleksandre Palavandishvili, the leaders of the far-right organization "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights", tried to discredit the European Union. According to them, the Europe is a "perverted force" and amounts to an "LGBT dictatorship."

Guram Palavanidshvili published posts on his personal Facebook page on May 30 and 31, where he claimed the following: *"The West and its liberalism is the enemy of our church, ancestors, morals, tradition, soul"* ; *"Granting candidate status to Georgia would be a disaster."*

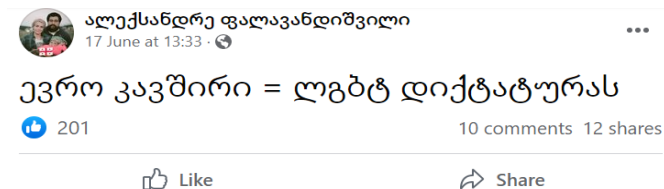


On the Left: *"The West and its Liberalism are the enemy of our Church, ancestors, morality, traditions and the soul..."*

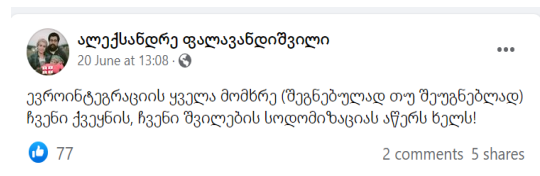


On the Right: *"If we are given EU candidacy it would be a terrible thing."*

Aleksandre Palavandishvili on June 20 on his personal [Facebook page](#) published the following post: *"Every supporter of the Euro integration (consciously, or unconsciously) signs to sodomize our country, our children!"*



On the Left: *"European Union = LGBT Dictatorship!"*



On the Right: *"Every supporter of the Euro integration (consciously or unconsciously) signs to sodomize our country, our children!"*

Levan Chachua and Gega Khvedelidze, leaders of the ultra-right party "Georgian Idea", were actively involved in the anti-Western campaign. In a post published on June 1, [Levan Chachua](#) addressed the EU's Ambassador to Georgia, Carl Hartzell: *"Georgia does not have problems. You, modern Europe do. You have forgotten Christian values and traditions and is now sinking to the bottom of multiculturalism's dead Sea."* [Gaga Khvedelidze](#) also drew attention to the incompatibility of European and Georgian cultures. In his Facebook post, it reads as follows: *"Liberal democracy is trying to establish: materialism, secularization, pluralism. Accordingly, this ideology is not natural, not organic for the Georgian nation, and there is and will be a constant conflict until formative changes have taken place."*



ლევან ჩაჩუა
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პრობლემები თქვენ გაქვთ და თანაც ძალიან სერიოზული პრობლემები. იმდენად სერიოზული, რომ უღალატეთ რა ქრისტიანობაზე დაფუძნებულ მარადიულ ღირებულებებს, კულტურას და ტრადიციებს - გარყვნილებით შეიბილწეთ, დაივიწყეთ სულიც, ზეცაც, გადაეშვით გასტრონომიული მოთხოვნილებების დაკმაყოფილების მორევში, დაკარგეთ საკუთარ სახე, იდენტობა, ფენქქვეშ გათელეთ ყოველივე, რაც წმინდა იყო თქვენი დიდი წინაპრებისთვის, ამიტომაც, რომ უცხოტომელებმა თავიანთი წყვილიადით გადაგვარეს.



გეგა გიორგი ხვედელიძე
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! ქართული ცივილიზაციის საფუძვლებია: სულიერება, რელიგიურობა, იდეალიზმი, მორალი, საკრალური ცოდნა, თეოცენტრიზმი რის საწინააღმდეგოდაც ლიბერალური დემოკრატია ცდილობს დაამკვიდროს: მატერიალიზმი, სეკულარიზაცია, რეალიზმი/პრაგმატიზმი, პლურალიზმი, რაციონალიზმი, ანთროპოცენტრიზმი. შესაბამისად ქართველი ერისთვის არა ბუნებრივი, არა ორგანულია ეს იდეოლოგია და მუდმივი კომფლიქტი არის და იქნება სანამ ფორმაციული ცვლილებები არ მოხდება და ქართველი ერი თავისი განვითარების ბუნებრივ კალაპოტში არ განაგრძობს არსებობა/ განვითარებას.

On the left: "Levan Chachua: You too have problems and very serious ones at that. So serious that you have betrayed eternal values, culture and traditions based on Christianity. You have become morally rotten and pervert. You have forgotten the soul, the heavens, you have dedicated yourself to gratifying your gastronomical needs, you have lost your faces, identity, you have trampled everything that was sanctimonious for your great ancestors. It is why you have been shadowed by immigrants coming from foreign tribes."

On the right: "Gega Giorgi Khvedelidze: ! the ground of Georgian civilization is spirituality, religion, idealism, morals, sacred knowledge, ethnocentrism . The liberal democracy tries to contradict these and pushes for materialism, secularization, realism/pragmatism, pluralism, rationalism and anthropocentrism. Therefore, this ideology, which is inorganic and unnatural to Georgian nation, is a cause for perpetual conflicts and will be so until formational changes have taken place and the Georgian nation returns to its natural riverbed and exists and develops from there."

The key **anti-Western messages of far-right** media platforms and leaders in Georgia are:

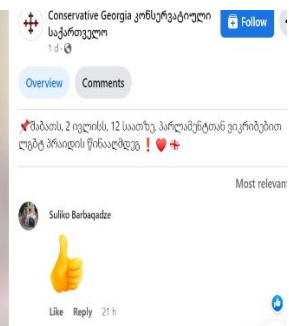
- "The West is attacking Georgian traditions, beliefs and values. Therefore, the pro-Western path means a disaster for Georgia." (Founder of Alt-info, Konstantine Morgoshia, TV show " [Comment of the Day](#) 11.06.2022)
- "The West needs Georgia as a centre of tension, as a war platform. We will never be admitted in the European Union. This is a hopeless fairy tale." (Giorgi Kardava, General Secretary of the Conservative Movement Party, "Alt-Info" TV show " [Alternative " Vision "](#) 10.06.2022)
- "Georgia will never be graced with the EU membership. What Georgia will be graced with in this process is a war. What they did to Ukraine and Ukraine will lose this war, and so will we. Georgia cannot enter anywhere, they will force us to fight and we will die" (Irakli Martynenko, member of the Political Council of the "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" political party, „[Comment of the Day](#) " 10.06.2022)
- "We see the interests of Georgia as follows: security, territorial integrity, economy, demography. Against this background, dialogue with Russia is required. The West promises us something abstract in the form of a status." (Zura Makharadze, leader of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" ("Alt Info" TV show " [Comment of the Day](#) " 8.06.2022)
- The West and its liberalism are the enemy of our church, our ancestors, our morality, our tradition and our spirituality." ([Guram Palavandishvili](#), chairperson of the "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights", Facebook post, 30.05.2022)

- "Membership of the European Union means the legalization of lewdness and sodomization. We must reject the "LGBT dictatorship," imposed by the European Union. (Aleksandre Palavandishvili, leader of the "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights.")

2. Openly pro-Russian discourse of far-right political forces against "Tbilisi Pride"

In response to the festival planned for July 2 by the organizers of "Tbilisi Pride", the far-right leaders of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info", "Georgian Idea" and " Society for the Protection of Children's Rights" announced large-scale demonstrations. Their rhetoric was dominated by homophobia, hate speech and misinformation.

Far-right groups and their media platforms: "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights", "Georgian Idea", "Alt-Info" and "Conservative Movement" announced full mobilization to disrupt the "Tbilisi Pride" events. Protests were planned at two locations. The "Conservative Movement" planned their gathering on [July 2](#) near the Parliament, while the "[Georgian Idea decided to](#) mobilize forces near the Mtatsminda Park on July 1, the day before the festival kicked in. The goal of the demonstrations was to disrupt the Pride Week. The rhetoric of the far-right groups was filled with religious sentiments. According to then their leaders, holding the Pride Week meant insulting Orthodoxy, therefore stopping the "propaganda of lewdness" was justified at all costs.



On the Left: ‘On July 1, from 9:00 p.m., the public-political movement "Georgian Idea" and our supporters from other parts of Georgia are gathering to spend the night at the Mtatsminda Park, where the concluding event of pervert LGBT Pride Week - Gay Festival is planned.

We will occupy the existing territory in advance and call on the worthy townspeople to join us! □

Let's not allow the sodomization of Georgia! □

The holy mountain, where the worthy Davit from Garejeli used to work, and the resting place of several great Georgians... we should not let the servants of the Devil to desecrate! □

Let's jointly defend the land of the Mother of God and the dignity of our nation! □ ”

On the Right: "On Saturday, July 2, at 12 o'clock, we will gather at the Parliament against LGBT Pride !"

The ultra-right forces started mobilizing their forces for disrupting the "Tbilisi Pride" week early in May. They actively use personal Facebook pages and groups to attract like-minded people. The "Alt-Info" media platform was particularly active, and was openly broadcasting homophobic statements and encouraging violence.

[On May 26](#), Zurab Makharadze, the leader of the openly pro-Russian political group "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info", called on the authorities during his live show "Alt-Info" to prevent "Tbilisi Pride" from holding events in the name of state security. According to him, in case of "Pride" was still held, "alt-info" would organize walk out, due to which the excesses could turn uncontrollable - "much more severe than the previous year."

[On June 22](#), Zurab Makharadze's another appeal was published online. In it, he announced the mobilization of money to bring people from the regions of Georgia to the protest against the pride festival. The appeal to supporters was not only highly manipulative and misleading but also hate-inciting and threatening violence in certain scenarios. Makharadze misled the public as if the festival was being held under the coercion and order of the West; He threatened the organizers and urged the supporters to resort to violence: ***"As [the King] Erekle II said, when there is a battle, a man must either take up the sword or give money to the cause. We will finally break them and in Georgia, not just the government will be replaced by another one, but the whole system will be replaced".***

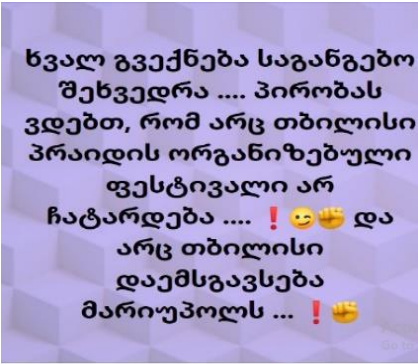
[On June 29](#), Zura Makharadze, once again, called on his supporters to mobilize funds and gather in front of the parliament on July 2. The goal was to disrupt the festival organized by "Tbilisi Pride". The same day, he appeared on "Alt-Info" TV show ["Comment of the Day"](#) and announced the mobilization of thousands for the July 2 rally, promising the active scenes of the civil protest.

Irakli Martynenko, another leader of the "Conservative Movement", referred to the "Tbilisi Pride" week as an event instigated by Western powers. On June 28, in the "Alt Info" TV show ["Alternative Vision,"](#) he appealed to the congregation of the Orthodox Church. He was calling on them to not allow the "gay festival" to be held in Georgia and said that *"we have a simple choice to make - we are either Christians or "gay activists," as the Euro-Atlantic powers would like to impose it upon us."*

On July 2, the Secretary General of the "Conservative Movement" [Giorgi Kardava also called on the supporters to mobilize](#). His statements were aggressively homophobic. Kardava called on the population to prevent "propaganda of lewdness and attempts to legalize perverted sexual pathologies" in Georgia.

Shota Martynenko, another leader of the "Conservative Movement", has been very much active since the end of May with the goal of disrupting the "Tbilisi Pride" festival. He stated in "Alt-Info" TV show "News of the Day" on May 31 that ***"from this moment on, we begin mobilizing throughout Georgia. There will be maximum mobilization. Let there be no doubt that there will be more than enough people so that they do not stand a chance of holding this sick Pride."***

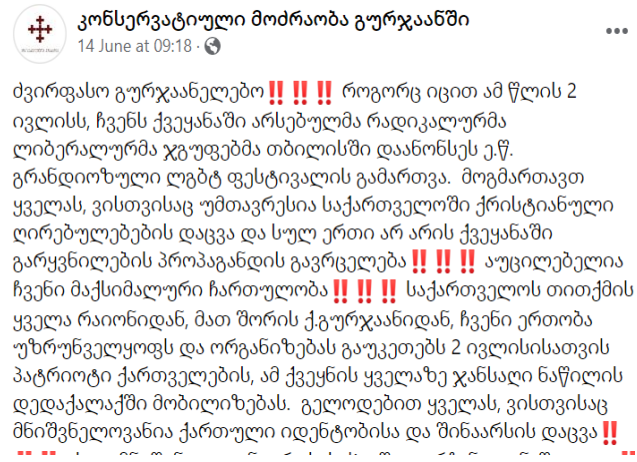
At the beginning of June, "Alt-Info" founder, Konstantine Morgoshia also announced the mobilization of forces to disrupt the festival. According to him, he held regular meetings with the representatives of the regional office of the "Conservative Movement" in order to bring supporters together. ***"This year, we will face this provocation in a much more organized manner. Additionally, we will avoid the provocation that has been planned against this country much more effectively and without tension"*** - reads Konstantine Morgoshia's Facebook post.



On the Left: “Today, we had our first working meeting. From June 28 to July 2, regarding the Festival of Filth is planned. We met regional office heads. This year, we will be much better organized to stand up to this provocation. We will avoid the provocations that have been planned against this country much more effectively and without tension.”

On the Right: “We are to hold a working meeting... we swear that the Tbilisi Pride organized festival will not be held and neither will Tbilisi turn into Mariupol...!”

Mobilization of supporters to attend the July 2 protest actively occurred on Facebook groups and pages of regional offices of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info". "Conservative Movement" [Zugdidi](#), [Tetrtskaro](#). The Facebook pages [of Gurjaani](#) and [Batumi](#) regional offices shared information about the importance of the July 2 rally and the availability of free transportation for their supporters.



On the Left: “Dear Gurjaanians !! ☐ !! ☐ !! ☐ As you know it, on July 2 of this year, the radical liberal groups operating in our country announced the so-called Grand LGBT Festival. We appeal to everyone, to whom the protection of Christian values in Georgia is the most important thing and the spread of propaganda of filth in the country is not at all !! ☐ !! ☐ !! ☐ Our maximum involvement is required !! ☐ !! ☐ !! ☐

From almost all regions of Georgia, including the town of Gurjaani, our group will ensure and organize transporting of patriotic Georgians by July 2. We want to mobilize the healthiest part of this country in the Capital. We are waiting for everyone for whom it is important to protect the Georgian identity and substance!!□!!□!!□ At such an important time, staying at home is a crime!!□!!□!!□ Let's show everyone to whom this country belongs to !!□!!□!!□ The Festival of Filth shall not be held!!□!!□!!□ For more information, contact us at the following numbers: 598 77 67 17; 598 37 19 41. The address of our office is: 21 Rustaveli street, Gurjaani town."

On the Right: *“On July 2, I am going to defend the dignity of my children and my Country!”*

The leaders of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" Konstantine Morgoshia, Zurab Makharadze and Shota Martinenko were brought for questioning at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia on June 27, based on the appeal of civil society organizations. They were planning to mobilize forces to disrupt the "Tbilisi Pride" festival. [According](#) to Konstantine Morgoshia, they did not plan violence, but would not still afford the organizers of "Tbilisi Pride" the opportunity to hold the festival. According to his statement, *"We are interested in upholding the law, but we value morality even higher."* The homophobic campaign against "Tbilisi Pride" was actively carried out on Facebook pages openly connected to the "Conservative Movement": [" Conservator Women,"](#) ["conservative movement of Lagodekhi Organization"](#) and [" Conservatives - Conservatives "](#)



On the Left: *“Protect Dignity! Say No to Gay Propaganda!”*

On the Right: *“On July 2, I am going to defend the dignity of my children and my Country. Join Us!!!”*

During the reporting period, homophobia was particularly frequently featured in the rhetoric of Guram and Aleksandre Palavandishvili, the leaders of the far-right organization "Society for the Protection of Children's Rights". It was them who organized the protests held on June 6, 9 and 28. The main demand of which was to disrupt the "Tbilisi Pride" festival and kick out Western ambassadors from the country. The leader of the far-right organization "Zneoba," Davit Lortkipanidze and blogger Beka Vardosanidze expressed their support to these causes. They published a joint open letter on the online platform "Zneoba" (morality) and appealed to embassies and international missions to cease "propaganda of the filth": *"You and Your" diplomat patsies" are much worse than ordinary Terrorists, murderers, torturers because our society, our children, will not only be destroyed physically, but you seek to exterminate their moral - spiritual lives and pervert them ."- [Claims the open letter.](#)*



ალექსანდრე ფალავანდიშვილი

8 June at 23:48 · 🌐

დღეს, ხუთშაბათს, 12 საათზე, ვიკრიბებით საქართველოში ლგბტ პროპაგანდის ხელშემწყობ ლიეტუვის საელჩოსთან მწვავე აქცია-პერფორმანსით.

კრწანისის #29



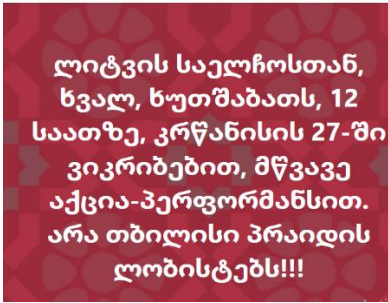
55

1 comment 14 shares



გიორგი ფალავანდიშვილი

8 June at 16:59 · 🌐



On the Left: "Today, Thursday at 12:00 we meet up in front of the Lithuanian Embassy, the promoters of LGBT propaganda in Georgia and we serve them with a bitter protest. Krtsanisi str.# 29"

On the Right: "Tomorrow, in front of the Lithuanian Embassy. Let's organize a bitter protest-performances. No to the lobbyists of Tbilisi Pride!!!"

During the reporting period, the leaders of the far-right political party "Georgian Idea" also distinguished themselves with homophobic rhetoric. Responding to the Pride Festival, Gega Khvedelidze [noted](#): *"at the end of June, the Devil's servant Sodomites announced a series of events; no matter what happens, the clergy and the Georgian nation must stand together to confront and stand against the spread of antichristian standards in our homeland!" We must object to all of its forms and manifestations."*

Against the background of religious sentiments, the leader of "Georgian Idea" Levan Chachua also stood out with his homophobic public speech during the march organized in tandem with the representatives of the Patriarchate, on May 17. Although the march was dedicated to the "Day of Family Sanctity," the homophobic sentiments and messages of the gathered were on full display.

3. Pro-Russian discourse of far-right political forces against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war

The reporting period saw that the Russia-Ukraine war remained at the centre of attention of the far-right leaders. Against the background of the war, the far-right forces in Georgia were trying to offer up Russia as a counterweight to the West. They try to push the idea that Georgia should engage in dialogue with Russia, in exchange for security guarantees. During the media monitoring, several key messages were spread by "Alt-Info" and are highlighted below. They are characterized both, by the idealization of Russia's military potential, and the attempts to declare it as the winner in the war and present the Ukraine as a country doomed by the West, never destined to become a member of the European Union.

Message N1 - the West does not need Ukraine and the granting of candidacy is irrelevant

"Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" repeatedly pushed the message on the "Alt-Info's" airwaves, that the West is in economic crisis, and the last thing it needs is another burden in the form of Ukraine.

The leader of "Conservative Movement/Alt-Info" Giorgi Kardava called the status of the EU candidate country given to Ukraine "an attempt to blindfold us" on June 24 in the TV show "[Alternative Vision](#)". He said: *"This paper is worthless. It cannot deliver hope. Ukraine was given the candidate status to further convince them that whatever policy they are pursuing is correct, "we are not dying as liars, we have received the status of a candidate for the EU membership!"*. In the same show he pushed another falsehood that because of the economic crisis in Europe, which was caused by Russia's blocking of the

"North Stream" gas pipeline, no one has time for Ukraine now, which is at war. ***"There is a serious economic crisis, inflation. Russia blocked the North Stream. Europe now spends their winter stock. They do not know where to get energy supplies needed in the Fall and in Winter. You do not need any additional burden. A half-disintegrated Ukraine with its 50 million people, and at war with Russia."***

In fact, the West's support for Ukraine actually doubled during the May-June period. In particular, on April 28, the US Congress approved the [Land Lease program](#). It allows Washington to transfer weapons to Ukraine quickly and efficiently. The "Land Lease" Act was confirmed by the President of the United States of America on May 9, 2022. The European Union has been increasing its financial aid as well. Increased [Support](#) in the form of 9 billion macro-financial assistance was announced besides active help given to the Ukrainian refugees and providing them with various humanitarian, social and medical services. It is significant that for the first time in history, the European Union transferred [military equipment](#) to a non-member country. Meanwhile, the "Alt-Info" leader [Shota Martynenko was pushing](#) full-blown scepticism towards the West, claiming that Ukraine would never become a member of the European Union: ***"Ukraine will never cross the threshold of the European Union. Because we have lifted the mask off of their faces, now they call us traitors for showing you what the real Europe is like."***

Message N2 - Russia's military superiority is obvious; Ukraine shall not win this war.

The anchors at the "Alt-Info" are trying to force the idea of Russia's invincible army and its military potential by to declare its military operations in Ukraine a success. On June 13, in the "Alt-Info" TV show "[Alternative Vision](#)," [Zurab Makharadze](#) summed up the Russian-Ukrainian war over 4 months. He said that Russia had committed great resources to completely destroy the Ukrainian military force, and that Ukraine is in crisis. He also focused on Ukraine's partners and noted that they no longer have the appetite to help the defeated Ukraine. ***"The Russians are attacking Ukrainian positions, inflicting great losses upon them. They are slowly destroying the military potential of Ukraine. This war tactic is primarily focused on depriving Ukraine of its artillery units, tanks, anti-aircraft equipment and armoured personnel carriers. For Russia, it is more important not to take large territories, but to annihilate the Ukrainian military forces."***

On June 16, Shota Martynenko, another leader of the "conservative movement", discussed the Russia-Ukraine war in the program "[Alternative vision](#)". In his account, the West lost the war with Russia a long time ago and Ukraine will not regain its lost territories: ***"Everyone understands that Ukraine will not be able to regain the territories it lost; they will not be able to defeat Russia in the battle. Hence, these territories must be ceded to Russia."*** He declared Russia the unconditional winner, which can conquer even more land, thanks to its powerful military potential.

The founder of "Alt-Info," Konstantine Morgoshia focused on Ukraine's territorial losses in the "Comment of the Day" TV show on May 29. He pointed out that Russia's progress and victory in this war is inevitable, that Ukraine has already lost all key territories, and its future perspective depends only on Russia's good will. ***"Ukraine was rich. They had grains. Those territories are now lost. They don't have a sea anymore. They have been left with a port where they have no means of manoeuvring, and it also depends on Russia's good will, whether they allow Ukraine to have Nikolaev and Odesa ports. I am sure that when the Donbas operation is resolved, and the Ukrainian authorities are forced to admit Russia's slow advances, they will not permit Ukraine's access even to the port of Odesa."***

Message N3 - the West is locked on opening a second war front in Georgia

Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, an important message of the "Alt-Info" disinformation media campaign in Georgia is to accuse the West of pushing a second war front in Georgia. This serves to

instil fear of war in various circles of the Georgian society, pushes Euroscepticism and anti-Western sentiments. Furthermore, discrediting of the U.S.A. is also underway: an attempt to portray it as a party that promotes the opening of the second front in Georgia.

On May 6, in the "Alternative View" TV show of "Alt-Info", Konstantine Morgoshia revisited the Russia-Ukraine war issue, and based his arguments on his anti-Western sentiments. He openly accused NATO of trying to launch a second war front in Georgia and noted that the West would abandon Georgia the same way it abandoned Ukraine. ***"Not much explanation and not a lot of thinking is required to see NATO's request is to open a second war front in Georgia. They had the same request and the same efforts months ago. If they doomed Ukraine for death, what is Georgia to them? Would they not doom us for death? It is self-evident that Georgia will be "used as a bargaining chip."***

The general secretary of the Conservative Movement, Giorgi Kardava, also evaluated the Russia-Ukraine war in the "Time for Geopolitics" TV show of "Alt-Info". Kardava accused the US of trying to open a second front in Georgia and noted that the high-ranking officials of the Ukrainian government are following the U.S. the orders. ***"The very first days after the start of the war, we saw an unprecedented propaganda narrative, creation of an emotional background, that we should also open a second front. By the way, we were directly called on via the mouths of Ukrainian high-ranking officials; they directly told us that there is no one in Tskhinvali and now you have a unique chance [to retake these territories]. Of course, it doesn't stop at Ukraine's level. This was an orchestrated policy with liberal circles here and in Ukraine, which was largely dictated, of course, by the United States,"*** Kardava claimed.



საქართველოს ომში ჩართვის მნიშვნელობა დასავლეთისთვის დრამატულად გაიზარდა



ერთად-ერთი, რასაც შეუძლია დასავლურ ზეწოლასთან გამკლავება, არის იმის თქმა, რომ გვკვიდია დასავლეთი

On the left: “The importance of dragging Georgia into the war has been dramatically increased for the West”

On the right: “the only thing that can withstand the Western pressures, is for us to say that we don’t care about the West at all.”