

ASSOCIATION HERA XXI

Empowering people and preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence through advocacy, education, outreach, and support.

COUNTRY PROFILE



Population
(UNFPA 2019)

3.9 m



Sexual violence or
harassment, women
(UN Women 2017)

27%



Intimate partner
violence, women
(UN Women 2017)

12%



Gender Inequality
Index (UNDP 2019)

75th

Association HERA XXI's work on gender and SGBV

Sexual and gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations. In Georgia, sexual and gender-based violence, particularly against women, is widespread and does not discriminate across class, income, or culture. Unfortunately, many of these acts go unreported due to fear and stigma towards survivors.

Association HERA XXI works against these challenges by empowering individuals who survive or are threatened by sexual and gender-based violence with the services and tools they need to protect themselves. And through advocacy for legislative change and comprehensive sexuality education we aim to change the environment in which sexual and gender-based violence persists.

Association HERA XXI was established in 1998 and became a full member of IPPF in 2005. We provide education, health services, and legal services to some of the most vulnerable populations. We advocate for a political environment in Georgia in which everyone can realise sexual health and reproductive rights.

1

• **ADVOCACY:** We advocate at local, national, and international levels for laws and programmes to protect survivors and prevent sexual and gender-based violence

2

• **EDUCATION:** We offer educational tools for teachers and for parents with lessons on gender-based violence and how to prevent it.

3

• **SERVICES:** We partner with social service agencies and clinics to ensure support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Our work has led to:

- ✓ Adoption of the National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and Measures to be Implemented for the Protection of Victims (Survivors) 2018-2020
- ✓ Strengthened capacities of social workers, healthcare workers and teachers to address gender-based violence
- ✓ Improved services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including mental health and legal services

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Education and services to combat underreporting and promote prevention



We provide free online legal services and free outreach counselling with healthcare providers, and free outreach informational counselling with social workers, reaching youth and vulnerable groups. Our online tools provide parents with critical educational materials. (Data as of December 2019)

We provide education and services, especially targeting youth and those most vulnerable, aimed at preventing sexual and gender-based violence. In Georgia, resistance to talking about sexual and gender-based violence, even among survivors, stems heavily from stigma and stereotypes. Our services provide a path to talk openly about these experiences and ways to prevent them:

- We provide free, online, anonymous legal services for survivors to protect their rights and seek justice.
- We developed mobile apps and online tools for parents and teachers to help them talk about gender-based violence with children and students.
- We created a comprehensive sexuality education course for peer educators and social and youth workers who want to become trainers.
- We provide training to peer educators, healthcare providers, and social workers to improve services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Association XXI's work on advocating for change

We believe strongly in gender equality and the rights of all to be safe from sexual and gender-based violence. We partner with state agencies and participate with government to create an environment that promotes gender equality and prevention:

- Our leadership gained our **appointment to a national working group** to develop Georgia's action plan to combat violence against women and domestic violence and its implementing measures.
- Our advocacy contributed to **an increase in state services for survivors**, including a prevention centre, shelters, and support from social workers.
- Our outreach toward state agencies has led to **improved services for vulnerable groups**, such as victims living in shelters and adolescents in state care.

Our advocacy aims to create a context where everyone can freely enjoy their rights. We continue this work in the face of legislative and cultural challenges.



Since its establishment in 1998, Association HERA XXI has actively worked in sexual and reproductive health rights field with programming involving healthcare services, education, volunteerism, and youth. Research, monitoring, advocacy and awareness raising are core activities in implementing our programs.

Our Values

Rights | Gender Equality | Innovation | Transparency | Youth & Volunteer Involvement