

# State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking

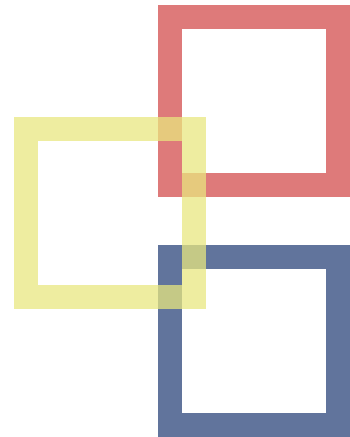
Protection and Assistance of the Victims, National  
Referral Mechanism

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## The Mandate of the State Fund

- The State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (here and after – state fund) is a legal entity of public law, under the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
- Created in 2006 on the basis of the law of Georgia on “Combating Trafficking in Persons”;
- The State Fund provides services for victims (with dependents) of human trafficking, victims of Domestic violence and/or violence against women and/or sexual violence.



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# Who can apply for services of the State Fund?

**the individuals, who have the status of victim of human trafficking**

**Victim (Statutory)** – an individual who has the status of victim according to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia.

**Victim** - Identified as victim of human trafficking by the Permanent working Group according to the confidential identification questionnaire, provided by the special mobile group of the State Fund.

- Same status granting procedures exist for the foreigner potential victims

**Code of  
Criminal Procedure**



# Procedure for Granting the Status of Victim



- Three Special Mobile Groups are established on the basis of the State Fund (1 in West Georgia, 2 in East Georgia), Each Special Mobile Group consists of two members: one lawyer and one psychologist.
- During the interview with the alleged victim of trafficking, the Special Mobile Group members fill out the Confidential Identification Questionnaire, which is sent to the Permanent Working Group for review. Permanent Working Group meets for discussion and reviews the questionnaire within 48 hours from the referral and determines the status of referred person.
- If status of victim of trafficking is granted, the Permanent Working Group issues the document in three copies. One copy to the Victim, one copy to the State Fund and one copy stays with the Permanent working group. Permanent Working Group provides victim with information about available state services (shelter, compensation, medical, psychological, legal support etc. ).

# **The State Fund's services for the victims of human trafficking:**

**Psychological Support/rehabilitation;**

**Legal Consultation , representation;**

**Shelter and Crisis center;**

**Medical support;**



**Support in social reintegration;**

**One-time compensation;**

**Services tailored to needs of children.**





## **Psychological assistance Includes:**

- **Psychological consultation and rehabilitation;**
- **Crisis intervention, emotional and psychological support;**
- **Assistance in defining their future perspectives, recovering control over their lives**



**Medical support includes:**

**Organization of emergency and non-emergency medical services;**

**Providing basic medicines to the residents of the shelters.**

**Legal assistance includes:**

**Individual legal consultation;**

**Representation in court and investigation  
authorities.**



# Assistance in social reintegration includes:

Researching information regarding available social assistance services and providing the data with residents of the State Fund's shelters;

Providing information regarding educational opportunities;

Connecting with different agencies/experts and referring and coordinating services according to the needs of the residents;

Employment assistance.



# Crisis Center Service

- Crisis center is a place of provisional accommodation of **alleged victims (with dependents)** and **victims (with dependents)** of human trafficking providing psycho-social rehabilitation, legal and emergency medical assistance.
- Since 2017 **three crisis centers** in Tbilisi (with accommodation for alleged victims), in Kutaisi (without accommodation) and in Gori (without accommodation) installed under the State Fund also provide the **alleged victims** (before having the official TIP status) and victims with full package of services, including psycho-social rehabilitation, legal and emergency medical assistance.
- Also, it is planned to open Crisis Centers in Ozurgeti and in Marneuli municipalities.







## Shelters



### Two shelters for victims of human trafficking functions in Tbilisi and in Batumi, under the authority of State Fund.

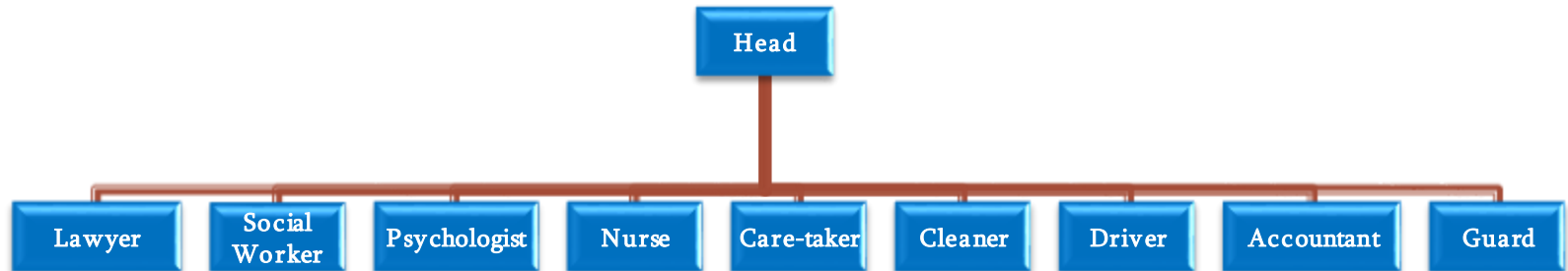
- A shelter in **Batumi** was open in 2006, another one in **Tbilisi** - in 2007.
- Each shelter is designed to accommodate 10-12 beneficiaries and is tailored to the needs of minors.
- The shelters and crisis centers are open for (statutory) victims of human trafficking regardless of their race, skin color, language, sex, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic and social affiliation, origin, property or social status, place of residence. The (statutory) victims of human trafficking can be placed at the shelters together with their dependents.



## **At shelters victims are provided with the following free of charge services:**

- Secure place of residence with decent living conditions;**
- Nutrition and clothes;**
- Psychological consultation/rehabilitation;**
- Medical assistance (including treatment with free supply of basic medicines);**
- Legal assistance and representation in court and investigation authorities;**
- Access to information in the language understandable for the beneficiary; An interpreter's service, if necessary;**

# Shelter's Staff Structure



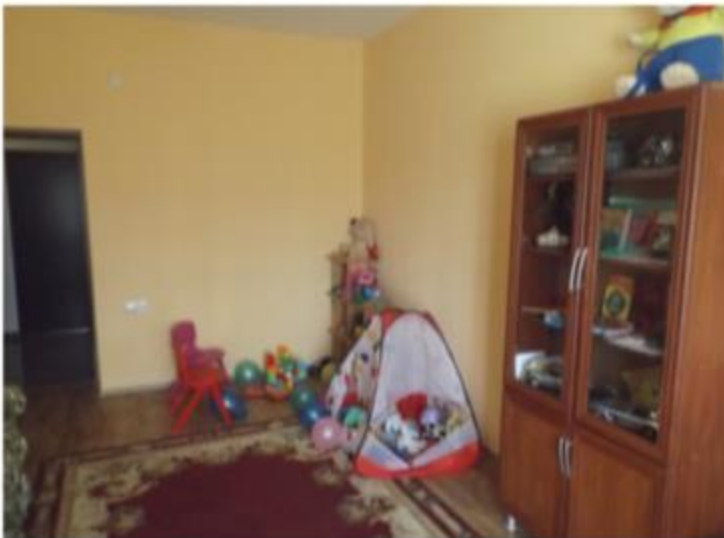
- Periodically capacity building trainings for shelter and head office staff .



## Services tailored to needs of children

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- All services of the State Fund are adapted to consider the needs of the children.
  - Rehabilitation-reintegration Plan for Minors approved;
  - LEPL Social Service Agency involved when child is referred to the shelter.
  - ✓ Care-takers/nannies in the shelters;
  - ✓ Accessibility to the formal education (school/kindergarten);
  - ✓ Support in non-formal education (arts and crafts classes, music etc).

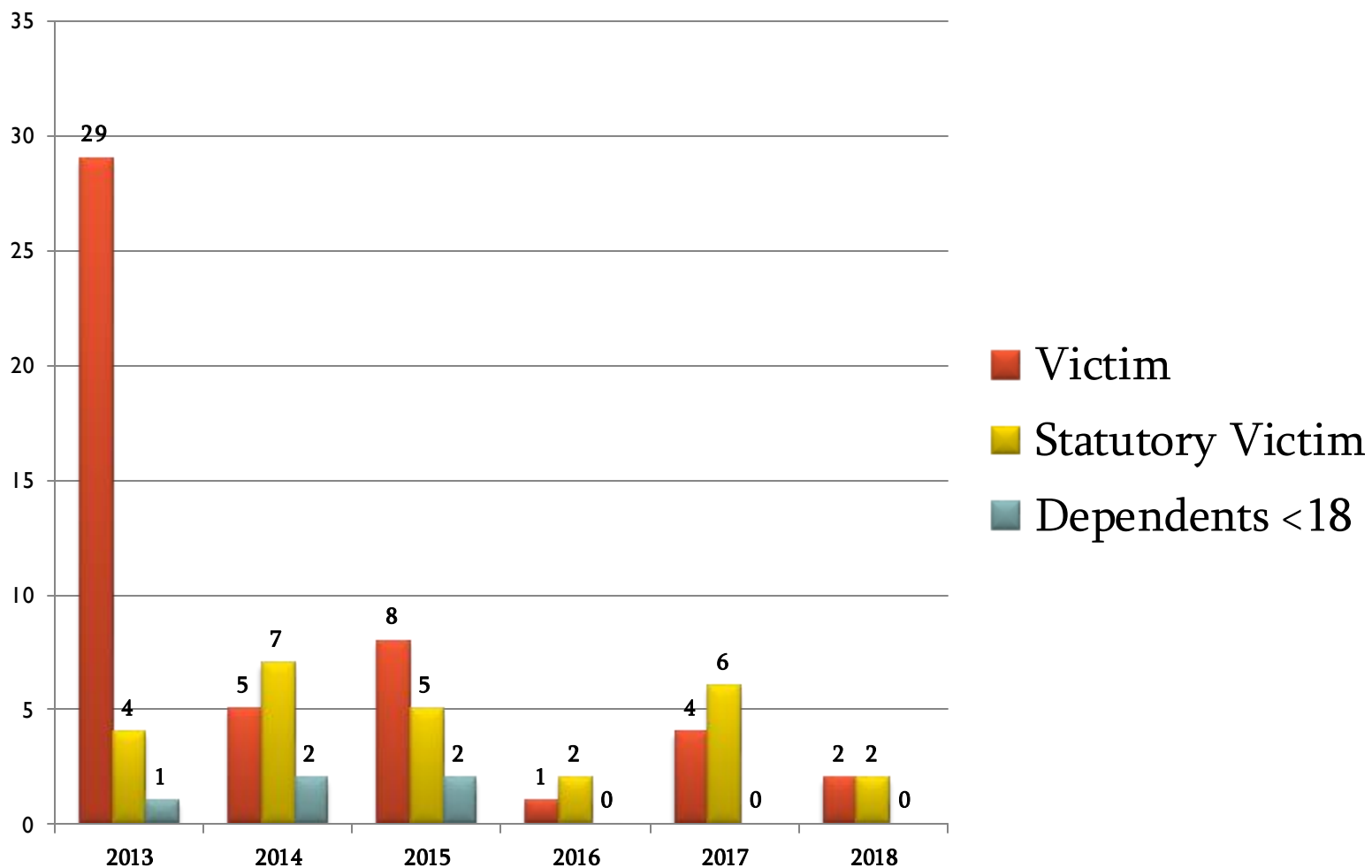
# Shelter in Batumi



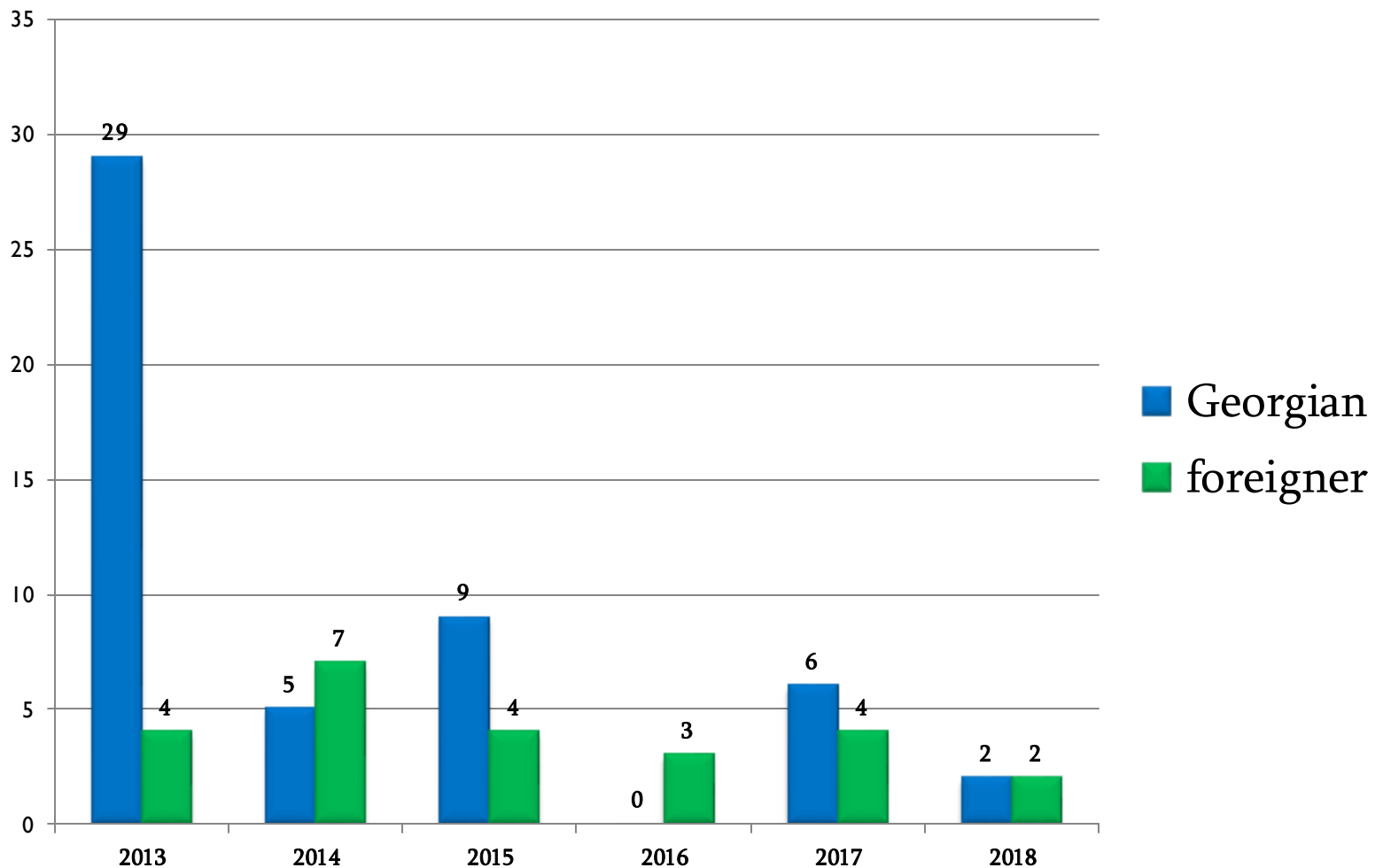
# Shelter in Tbilisi



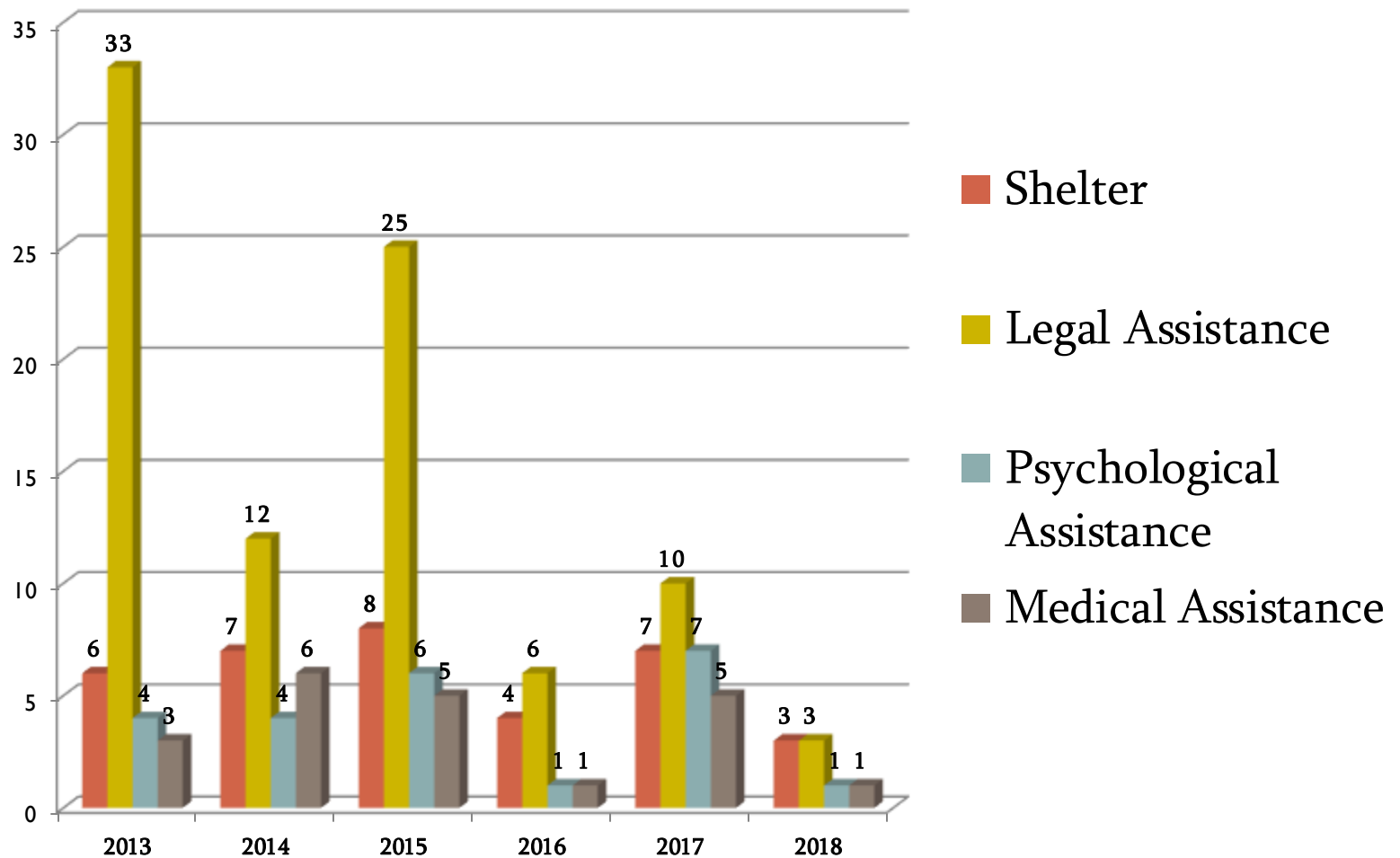
## Statistics of beneficiaries



## Statistics of beneficiaries by nationality



## Statistics of services (including dependents)



# Hotline Service

- Hotline for the victims of human trafficking is functioning at the State Fund;
- Anyone can call on the hotline: **116 006** and get qualified consultation and information about services of the State Fund;
- The hotline service is anonymous, 24/7, free of charge and is available in eight languages (Georgian, Russian, English, Turkish, Azerbaijanian, Armenian, Arabic, Persian).



# State Fund Partners in Victim Protection and Support

International Organization for Migration (IOM);  
ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development;  
NGO Georgian Young Lawyers Association;  
NGO Anti-Violence Network of Georgia;  
NGO Women for Future;  
NGO Women's Information Centre;  
NGO Tanadgoma.



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# Sign Memorandums





# Victim compensation through the State Fund

Victims of human trafficking are entitled to claim moral, physical or property damages resulting from the crime of human trafficking in accordance with the rules established by the civil legislation of Georgia.

If reimbursement of damages shall be deemed impossible under the procedure established by the civil procedure and criminal procedural legislation of Georgia The state fund gives compensation (1000 gel) to the victim.

Reimbursement of damages shall be deemed impossible :

- A) it is impossible to identify and detain a person suspected in the offense of trafficking in human beings within three months after the investigation into the case;
- B) enforcement of compulsory payments against the offender in 6 months after the conviction of a person guilty of trafficking in persons (trafficking) is impossible.



# Identification in detention centers

- Under Georgian legislation while the person being expelled from Georgia, it is examined whether or not should be subjected him/her to expulsion from the country;
- During this interview, law enforcement officers are checking trafficking signs. If there is any doubt that this person may be a victim of trafficking, the case will be redirected to the central criminal police (CPD) and the investigation begins;
- The expulsion of trafficking victims is prohibited and if a person becomes a victim of trafficking, he is subjected to all the services available for the protection and assistance of victims in the country.
- the person shall be exempt from administrative responsibility and criminal prosecution if the administrative offence (Prostitution, unlawful presence) or crime (counterfeit passport, crossing the border illegally) is committed during the period of their victims.



# Residence permits

If the victim of trafficking is the foreign national and statelessness and decides to stay in Georgia, the Ministry of Justice is obliged to grant him/her residence permit. It is not necessary for the victim to cooperate with the law-enforcement agencies, the State fund is also authorized to apply to the ministry of justice in order to deliver residence permit.

According to the law, the state fund or the party who is proceeding the case (the MIA or Prosecutor's Office) has the right to make referral for the residence permit on behalf of the applicant to the Ministry of Justice. As well, there is not chance to make such referral by other bodies directly.

Ministry of justice had a lot of practice in the field of residence permit granting to the applicant (according to the data of 2017 13 residence permits have been issued by the MOJ).



# International obligations

- Georgia was upgraded to Tier 1 in 2016 and remains in the leading position;
- GRETA;
- The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has chosen the Georgian Anti-Trafficking national referral mechanism as one of the successful;
- Global Slavery Index.

# Prevention

## Information Campaign

- Information Meetings is held with students, pupils, people living in rural areas, IDPs, Ethnic minorities;
- Dissemination of information brochures in six languages (Georgian, Russian, English, Turkish, Armenian, Azerbaijanian );
- Dissemination of One Pagers - bilingual (Georgian-English, Georgian-Russian, Georgian-Turkish)
- Bags and T-shirt with number of hotline;
- Calendars and Notebooks with number of hotline;
- Providing of TV and radio advertisements;
- Participation in TV and radio programmes;
- Campaigns in the places of public gathering;
- Web-page [www.Atipfund.gov.ge](http://www.Atipfund.gov.ge) and facebook page/ Atipfund Georgia.



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## Information Material



## Information meetings



## Public Places



## Secondary and Higher Education Institutions (the capital and the regions)





**Thank You!**

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