

I am writing to express my concern on the bill which would amend the Constitution introducing a definition of marriage as a union exclusively between a man and a woman, received the endorsement of the Parliament's Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee on 5 May. By limiting the constitutional definition of marriage to couples of the opposite sex, the amendment directly discriminates against LGBTI people who live or wish to live in a same-sex union, and denies them the enjoyment of their right to family life, the right to marry and all the economic and social rights associated with marriage.

I am therefore calling on the Georgian authorities to stop the bill aimed at restricting the constitutional definition of marriage as this would effectively discriminate against same-sex partners.

I am also urging the authorities to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of all people in Georgia regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Your attention on my suggestions would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,