

# GEODEM2023

## I Panel - Women Voters in Georgia and Representation of Their Needs in Georgian Party Agendas

### Welcoming Remarks:



**H.E. Heidi Grau**, joined the diplomatic service of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1997. She was assigned to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation where she worked on transition in CIS countries. She was posted at the Embassy in Moscow from 1998 to 2002 and at the Political Division for Peace Policy and Human Security in Bern until 2006, before moving to Switzerland's Mission to the United Nations in New York where she was in charge of humanitarian and environmental questions. She later served as Deputy Permanent Representative before becoming Ambassador and Chef de Cabinet of the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in December 2010. In May 2012 she was appointed head of the OSCE Chairmanship Task Force. Heidi Grau holds an MA in History and Russian Philology from the University of Zurich. She speaks German, French, English and Russian.



**Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze** is deputy director at Georgian Institute of Politics, where she worked since 2012. She is alumna of the On Think Tanks Fellowship Program "Integral Leaders for Global Challenges" (2017). Before joining GIP Renata has worked as a journalist covering foreign policy and European issues in Lithuania and was recipient of Heinrich Boell fellowship to research EU strategies in conflict resolution in Georgia. Her interests include collective identities, European integration, and Eastern Partnership. She earned her MA at Central European University (CEU), Nationalism Studies department (2009); and received BA in Political Science, Institute of International Relations, and Political Science (IIRPS), Vilnius University (2008).

# GEODEM2023

## Moderator:



**Dr. Iago Kachkachishvili** is Professor of Sociology and Head of the Direction of Sociology and Social Work at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. As a scientist, he undertakes academic and empirical studies. At Tbilisi State University Iago Kachkachishvili leads the courses on Contemporary and Post-Modern Social Theories, as well as the course on Methods of Social Research. Within the Institute of Social Studies and Analysis, he undertakes various projects – both research and educational projects. The research projects are related to numerous fields: problems of democracy and politics, educational policy and ethnicity, social protection and inclusion, deviation and social order, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and reproductive health, etc.

## Speakers:



**Teona Kupunia** is a Deputy Director of National Democratic Institute, NDI Georgia. Teona has devoted her career to working with women across Georgia's political spectrum, helping women overcome discrimination and become key decisionmakers in Georgia's political system. In 2014, Teona helped launch and lead the Task Force on Women's Political Participation, a joint initiative by several civil society organizations. Since 2016, Teona has worked closely with the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia. Teona is a political scientist by training holding two Master Degrees in International Relations from Tbilisi State University and a Master's Degree in International and European Affairs from Linkoping University in Sweden.

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Tamar Sabedashvili** is the Deputy Country Representative of the United Nations Women's Organization (UN Women). Since 2005, she has been working in various positions at the United Nations Organization, in 2008-2013 she was the adviser of the UN Women's Organization on gender issues in Georgia, and in 2013 - 2018 she was a specialist in the programs of the UN Women Organization. She has a Master's Degree in international relations (2004, Tbilisi State University) and in gender studies (2002, Central European University). In 2012, she defended her Ph.D. thesis in gender studies at the Central European University, Budapest. In 2013-2019, she was an Associate Professor at Tbilisi State University and head of the Gender Studies Institute and master's and Ph.D. programs in gender studies.



**Nino Dolidze** is an executive director at the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED). She has a master's degree in public policy. She has 14 years of experience working in various local and international organizations. Nino has implemented a number of projects aimed at promoting the democratic development of our country. For the past 8 years, Nino has worked at the International Republican Institute (IRI) leading the election program, developing multi-party democracy and political empowerment of women. At the same time, she is an expert on electoral and gender equality issues in a number of international organizations. Delivers lectures in political science. Nino was an employee of the ISFED in 2007-2011 as well. Working on various positions, she has participated in more than 15 local and international election observation missions (OSCE/ODIHR, IRI, NDI, ENEMO) both in Georgia and abroad.

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Tamta Mikeladze** is the director and one of the founders of Social Justice Center. Since the foundation of Social Justice Center, she has been the member of the Board of Directors and led the organisation with other programme directors. She is responsible for the management and coordination of the Equality Policy Programme. The programme is preoccupied with matters relating to antidiscrimination policy, the oppression of non-dominant groups (religious and ethnic minorities, as well as LGBT people) and their exclusion at the political, social and discursive levels. In so doing, the programme employs the instruments of research, advocacy, strategic litigation and dissemination of knowledge. As the programme director, Tamta's immediate commitment is the strategic development of the programme, of its vision and agenda, as well as ensuring the mobilization of financial resources and coordinating and supporting the programme staff.

# GEODEM2023

## II Panel - Women Politicians and Intraparty Democracy

### Moderator:



**Dr. Davit Aphrasidze** graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili State University Faculty of International Law and International Relations in 1998. Received his PhD degree in political science from the University of Hamburg in Germany in 2003. At different times, was Dean of School of Arts and Sciences and Dean of graduate and doctoral programmes. Has worked at Georgian Public Broadcaster, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Internal Affairs. Additionally, has experience of working in non-governmental organizations. He is a consultant to the regional office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. Was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research at Duke University, North Carolina, US in 2009-2010. Was a research fellow at the Institute for Peace Studies and Security Policy, Hamburg, Germany during 2000-2004. His research interests include: post-Soviet transformation, democratization, political institutions and foreign policy decision making.

### Speakers:



**Salome Kandelaki** is currently a Project Coordinator and Policy Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics. Salome is a Ph.D. student in Political Science at Tbilisi State University. She is an invited lecturer at the European University, Georgia. In 2017, she obtained her MA degree in Political Science from the Central European University Budapest. At the same time, she was specialized in Comparative Politics. Moreover, she has a second Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the joint program of the German University of Administrative Sciences and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Her previous work experience includes Fundraising Management at the Social Justice Center (former EMC). She was also a leading acting specialist at the Tbilisi City Assembly as well as project management in different youth non-governmental organizations. Her field of experience is comparative case-study analyses with a particular focus on religion and democracy, regionalism, and democratization. Among her research interests are Europeanization, frozen conflicts as well as secularism in Europe.

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Khatia Dekanoidze** is a member of the Georgian Parliament of the 10th convocation, Independent MP. Launching her career following the Rose Revolution of 2003, Dekanoidze first served as an official within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and as a diplomat, before being appointed as head of the Police Academy to oversee law enforcement recruitment reforms. In 2012, she became head of the National Examination Center and Minister of Education and Science. Following UNM's loss in the 2012 parliamentary elections, she joined the opposition, before moving to Ukraine in 2015, where she was appointed as Chief of the National Police under during the presidency of Petro Poroshenko. Returning to Georgia in 2016, she was elected to Parliament in 2020 and joined the legislature in May 2021 after a boycott in the midst of a political crisis. She served as Chairwoman of the UNM Faction in the Parliament, the only opposition faction in the legislature, from May 2021 to February 2023. In a row with her party, she left the United National Movement on March 24, 2023 and now serves as an Independent MP.



**Ana Natsvlishvili** is a member of the Georgian Parliament of the 10th convocation and the member of the party "Lelo for Georgia". She is also a professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). In 2017, Ana received Annual Global Human Rights Defender Award. At different times, Ana Natsvlishvili worked at the Essex Transitional Justice Network (ETJN) as an associate researcher; at the international organization „Penal Reform International“ (PRI) at the Caucasus office as the coordinator of the regional project; and at the Human Rights Center (HRIDC) as the project coordinator. Between 2014-2017 she served as an elected chairperson of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA). Earlier, she was also a member of the National Constitutional Commission of Georgia and acted as President Giorgi Margvelashvili's parliamentary secretary. Ana Natsvlishvili holds a BA degree from Tbilisi State University (Georgia) in Public International law as well as LL.M degree from Essex University (UK) in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Master's Degree from Central European University (Hungary).

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Ana Buchukuri** is a member of the Georgian Parliament of the 10th convocation and the member of the Political Council of the party "For Georgia". She was awarded the degree of Master of Laws from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in 2013. Currently, she is a doctoral student and a lecturer at New Vision University. At various times, Ana Buchukuri worked at the Public Defender's Office of Georgia, the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia as well as the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. Ana Buchukuri also worked as a deputy head of the Prime Minister's Office of Georgia after serving as an advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia (deputy head of the Administration). Subsequently, Ana Buchukuri worked as the head of the human rights secretariat at the administration of the Government of Georgia.

# GEODEM2023

## III Panel - Women's Political Engagement and Increased Participation

### Moderator:



**Levan Tsutskiridze** is the Executive Director of EECMD. Before he joined the NIMD/EECMD Levan worked as the Rector of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Earlier, he was the Project Manager for the reform of the Georgian civil registration system. In his earlier career, Levan served at the OSCE and with Open Society Foundation in Georgia. Levan Tsutskiridze graduated from the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). His research and professional interests are in foreign and security affairs, political institution building and democratic development.

### Speakers:



**Mariam Kobaladze** is Researcher at Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC Georgia). After joining CRRC as a Junior Fellow in 2009, she put in hard work contributing to the organization and went on to become Research Associate and, thereafter, Researcher. Previously, she worked as a LTO Assistant at the long-term observation mission of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) for parliamentary elections and as a reporter and later executive director at the weekly English-language newspaper Georgia Today. Mariam holds a B.A. in English language from Ilia State University and an M.A. in Social and Political Sciences from Center for Social Sciences at Tbilisi State University. Her research interests include media, youth, and development of democracy in transitional countries.

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Dr. Sonja Katharina Schiffers** is the Director of Heinrich Böll Foundation Tbilisi Office - South Caucasus Region with a branch office in Yerevan. She is a member of the Advisory Board to the German Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding and publishes regularly on German and EU foreign policy towards (South-) Eastern Europe and Eurasia as well as on the UN Agenda Women, Peace, and Security. Before joining the Heinrich Böll Foundation, she worked at the German Bundestag, initially as Senior Advisor for Eastern European Affairs for the green parliamentary group. From 2017-2019 she was a Visiting Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia Division. She served as President (2017-2019) and Head of Program Gender and International Politics (2016-2020) at Polis180, Grassroots Think Tank for Foreign and European Affairs. Dr. Schiffers received her doctorate from Freie Universität Berlin. She studied International Relations and European studies in Berlin, Maastricht, Saint Petersburg, and Bordeaux.



**Tamar Bagratia** has a considerable experience in working with different international organizations (UNDP, IRI, USAID, UN Women, OSCE/ODIHR, NIMD etc) and local NGOs on gender issues. She is the author of numerous surveys, as well as analytical and policy papers on gender and women's political leadership issues. She is the ILO/UN Women accredited Gender Auditor and has conducted gender Audits of different governmental institution and political parties of Georgia. She is the author of training modules on gender mainstreaming at the local level, strengthening female politicians including leadership and communication skills, campaigning and fund raising. Tamar Bagratia holds PhD in Social Sciences and has a vast pedagogical experience. She was an invited lecturer at the Tbilisi State University on following topics: Gender aspects of political leadership; Gender and Politics.

# GEODEM2023

## Speakers:



**Elene Rusetskaia** is the founder and director of Women's Information Center (WIC), Georgia, a non-governmental organization working on women's rights and gender issues at the national, regional and international levels. Additionally, she is a member of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI); an advisor the Global Fund for Women (GFW); and a member of the Advisory Board of the Women's Fund in Georgia, as well as other national and international networks. Since 2000, Elene has been working on women's rights and gender equality, gaining extensive experience in advocating and lobbying women's rights and gender issues at the national and international level. Moreover, she holds a PhD of Political science from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and Master of Science degree from the Technical University of Georgia. Elene Rusetskaia has published multiple articles and researches on issues related to women's rights and gender equality.