Thank you Mr. Chairperson, 30.11.2017

My name is Giorgi Marjanishvili, I represent the Analytical Center for Interethnic Consultations and Cooperation (ACICC) and I am also one of the OHCHR minority fellow.

Mr. Chairperson, ACICC seeks to mobilize data resources and methodological approaches for the development of qualitative, analytical, informational and methodological products necessary to support variety of stakeholders’ active in the field of minority rights protection, starting from community-based organizations of minorities to national and regional advocacy and lobby groups, state institutions, educational system and the media.

Participation of minority youth in public life Georgia are hampered by a lot of factors, one of which is hate crimes and impunity. Hate crimes make young people afraid to be visible and involve.  
  
Unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, the fight against discrimination is still one of the most important challenges for Georgia. The adoption of the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination is indeed a huge step forward for the country but its effective implementation is the real issue and its impact to minorities is insurmountable. It would be an underestimation to claim that the law has failed to protect minorities from discrimination. Gaps in the implementation of this law also hinder the victims of discrimination from effectively remedy which further exacerbate inequality among Georgian citizen.

Mr. Chairperson, a case in point, the 57 % of the pending cases on discrimination before the Public Defender Office of Georgia which deals with the public sector and 43 % that deal with the private sector, only 15 % of the complainants argue about the discrimination in labor relations on the ground of political or other opinions; sexual orientation and gender identity is referred to as ground of discrimination in 11% of disputes and the same number goes for discrimination on the ground of religion and faith. The following grounds of discrimination – disability, gender, belonging to the national or ethnic minorities – each is claimed by the 10 percent of complainants.

In 2016 police recorded 42 cases of Hate Crime. In total only 42 cases were prosecuted, of which 15 have already concluded with sentences. Nonetheless Georgia still has not made public the reliable data and statistics on hate crimes in the country.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, I recommend to Georgian Government to publicize the reliable data and statistics on hate crime and be more transparent on this issue.

Thank you, Chairperson