

Research on Violence Against Georgian Women and Their Right to Adequate Housing

For the Georgia country page, see <http://www.stopvaw.org/Georgia.html>.

An October 2003 report entitled, "Violence Against Women and Right to Adequate Housing: the Case of Georgia" has recently been made available to STOPVAW. The report is available on STOPVAW's website in Georgia's Country Page.

The report was prepared by Ketevan Dadunashvili, Nana Khoshtaria, Marina Miqeladze, Rusudan Pkhakadze and Eka Iobadze from the Women's Advice Center "Sakhli", Marina Meskhi from the Georgian Young Lawyers Association and Tamar Sabedashvili from Oxfam GB Georgia. It was delivered at the Asia Pacific Regional Consultations, with the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, which were held on 30-31 October 2003 in New Delhi, India. The subject addressed by the consultations was "The interlinkages between violence against women and women's right to adequate housing."

According to this report, Georgian women are guaranteed under law equal rights with respect to the acquisition, alienation and inheritance of property. Nevertheless, women who divorce their husbands are often left homeless because of 1) customary inheritance practices that favor men, 2) the failure to include the woman's name on the registration of marital property and 3) the fact that many married women traditionally live in property owned by their spouse before marriage or by his family. This reality motivates some women to continue living with abusive spouses for fear that they would become homeless if they were to divorce their spouse.

The report recommends that the government of the Republic of Georgia and non-governmental organizations conduct additional research, legal reform and public awareness campaigns addressing and promoting domestic violence survivors' right to adequate housing.