

# Sopio Japaridze

## PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born 01.08.1980 in Tbilisi, Georgia  
Nationality Georgia  
Marital Status Divorced  
Home Address 12 Tsintsadze Street, apt. 21  
0160, Tbilisi, Georgia  
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## EDUCATION

**2009-2010** LLM in International Human Rights Law, (Chevening/FCO scholar)  
University of Essex, Essex, UK

**1997-2002** Bachelor's degree in jurisprudence, Law Department, Degree with Honors,  
Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Ms. Japaridze is fluent in English and Russian.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**11/2/14 - present** Assistant on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues to the Prime Minister

- ☐ Co-chair Inter-Agency Council on Human Rights
- ☐ Chair- Inter Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- ☐ Focal point from Georgia to the Network on Women, Peace and Security

**12/2013 - 10/2014** EU funded project "Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Georgia",  
Project Manager on penitentiary, Tbilisi, Georgia

- ☐ Ensured smooth coordination and cooperation with the beneficiary (Ministry of Corrections)
- ☐ Organized relevant conferences, workshops, round tables
- ☐ Represented the project at the meetings/**relevant events**
- ☐ Revised draft regulations/ draft policy/concept papers produced by the MoC and provided relevant advice

**11/2012 – 11/2013** Ministry of Correction and Legal Assistance of Georgia, Deputy Minister  
Chair of the Parole Board for Juvenile inmates  
Prison Study Centre- Member of the Board

### Supervised:

- ☐ Department of International Relations
- ☐ Probation and Penitentiary Training Centre
- ☐ Legal Aid Service

**07/2012 – 10/2012** EU funded project “Support to the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia”  
Senior Legal Expert, Tbilisi, Georgia

- Researched relevant case-law of international human rights bodies for the annual report of the Public Defender of Georgia on the protection of human rights and freedoms in Georgia;
- Researched international practice and compiled relevant information for special thematic reports issued by the Public Defender of Georgia;
- Conducted studies on minority issues, attended relevant meetings, etc.

**11/ 2010 -02/2012** Lawyer (Europe programme) INTERIGHTS, London, UK

- Provided legal advice and assistance to partners in the South Caucasus region on international human rights law, jurisprudence and related international and comparative law developments relating to the region, particularly on the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Assisted applicants and representatives before regional courts and other fora in strategically significant cases;
- Submitted briefs of *amicus curiae* to international and regional courts and tribunals, and to national courts as appropriate;
- Designed, planned and delivered litigation workshops in the South Caucasus region to support domestic, regional and international human rights litigation by local lawyers;
- Represented INTERIGHTS and its programs in the region and at public events as required.

**2006 -09/2009** GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS’ ASSOCIATION (GYLA) (NGO), Tbilisi, Georgia

**Project Coordinator** (Project: Strategic Litigation for the Victims of Russian-Georgian Armed Conflict of August 2008)

**Project Coordinator, lead lawyer** (Project: Strengthening Human Rights Capacity in Georgia)

**10/2009 -10/2011** Member of the Board since. Re-elected in 10, 2014

- Litigated cases before the ECtHR, as well as before the Constitutional Court of Georgia;
- Monitored human rights situation within the country and drafted shadow reports submitted to the UN treaty bodies;
- Provided free of charge consultations to citizens on human rights issues;
- Wrote articles for the annual bulletin;
- Organized various meetings for NGO representatives and other human rights activists;
- Delivered trainings on the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention.

**2004 -02/ 2006** ARTICLE 42 OF THE CONSTITUTION (NGO), Tbilisi, Georgia, Legal Assistant  
(Project: Strategic Litigation in the Domestic Setting: Timely Enforcement of International Instruments of Human Rights)  
Member of the Board from 10/2004 to 10/2005. Re-elected in 08/2014

- Assisted the lawyers with drafting complaints for the domestic courts as well as the ECtHR;
- Attended various professional meetings on behalf of the organization;
- Supervised the group of lawyers working on the proposal regarding the legislative changes;
- Translated various legal documents.

**2003-2004** ARTICLE 42 OF THE CONSTITUTION (NGO), Tbilisi, Georgia, Lawyer- Legal Clinic Project

- Provided vulnerable citizens with consultations on human rights;
- Prepared cases for and represented clients before the domestic courts;

**2001-2002** PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA, Tbilisi, Georgia, Intern (Judicial Department)

- Prepared conclusions regarding various draft laws;
- Participated in the committee hearings and consultation meetings;
- Contributed to the creation of the monthly bulletin of the Parliament of Georgia.

## **PROFFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**13-17/06/ 2016** Participant, International Leaders Programme (ILP)

Organized by the FCO/ British Embassy to Georgia

**08/2015** Participant, IVLP Good Governance and Refugee Services in the United States

Organized by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA)

**12-14/09, 2014,** Participant, "Training delivery methodology"

Organized by the PPTC and INL, Tbilisi, Georgia

**8-12/09, 2014** Participant, "Effective Communication and Social Media Outreach"

Organized by the EU funded project "Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Georgia" and Georgian Bar Association, Tbilisi, Georgia

**27-28/01, 2014** Participant, "Leadership Training"

Organized by the Government of the United States, Tbilisi, Georgia

**17-20/12, 2013** Participant, "Training of Trainers"

Organized by Human Dynamics and PPTC, Kobuleti, Georgia

**08-11/05/2013** Participant, "The Role of Research and Analyses in the use and practice of imprisonment"

Organized by the MCLA, COE and TSU

**09.10.2012** Participant, Reasoning Court judgments on criminal cases

Organized by the GBA and NORLAG, Tbilisi, Georgia

**01.10. 2012** Observer, Parliamentary elections, GYLA representative, Tbilisi, Georgia

**29-30/09/2011** Expert, Strategic Litigation Seminar "Freedom of Expression/ Freedom of Assembly and Association"

Organized by INTERIGHTS, Tbilisi, Georgia

**7-9 /07/2011** Expert, Introducing "Amicus Curiae" to the Georgian legal system, Right to respect for private life

EU funded project "support to the Public Defender's Office", Batumi, Georgia

**10-12/05/2011** Expert, Strasbourg litigation-a regional perspective

Organized by EHRAC, IR, GYA, COE and Fredrich Ebert Stiftung, Tbilisi, Georgia

**15-16/04,2011** **Expert, Introducing “Amicus Curiae” to the Georgian legal system**  
Organized by “Article 42 of the Constitution” and NED, Bazaleti, Georgia

**20-27/03/2010** **Participant , International Humanitarian law competition Jean-Pictet**  
Organized by the ICRC and Canadian Red Cross, Oxford (Quebec, Canada)

**11-12/12/2008** **Participant, Lesbian and Gay Rights Litigation Before the European Court of Human Rights workshop**  
Organized by INTERIGHTS (IR), London (UK)

**10-28/11/2008** **Participant, Training programme LGBT and Human Rights**  
Organized by SIDA, RFSL and RFSU, Stockholm, Sweden

**26-29/10/2008** **Training on gathering information for the ICC Investigator/Prosecutor including the techniques of taking witness statements**  
Organized by the Open Society Institute (OSI), Tbilisi, Georgia

**21/05/2008** **Observer, Parliamentary elections**  
GYLA representative, Tbilisi, Georgia

**21 -24/01/2008** **Participant, Council of Europe study visit by LGBT human rights defenders**  
Strasbourg, France

**05/01/2008** **Observer, Presidential elections ,GYLA representative. Tbilisi, Georgia**

**6-8/11/2007** **Participant, Complaints workshop**  
Organized by the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Geneva, Switzerland

**24-25/04/2007** **Expert, Training seminar: Fundamental Human Rights under the European Convention and the procedure for applying to the ECtHR Convention**  
Organized by the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) and GYLA Tbilisi, Georgia

**20-25/05/2007** **Participant, Training on Planning Advocacy and Documenting Human Rights Violations**  
Organized by ILGA Europe, Issyk-Kuli, Kyrgyzstan

**27-28/02/2007** **Participant, Seminar on Effective Implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights**  
Organized by the Council of Europe, Tbilisi, Georgia

**10-24/10/ 2006** **Participant, Legal Skills Development Program**  
Organized by the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), London (UK), Strasbourg (France)

**7-8/10,2006** **Participant, Access to justice workshop**  
Organized by INTERIGHTS, London (UK)

**3-5/05/2006** **Reporter on the NGO alternative report submitted to the UNCAT, Geneva, Switzerland**



## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Since October 2015 - Member- Steering Committee of the EU Project “CIB Support to the Public Defender’s Office II”**

**Since November 2011- Member - Essex Human Rights Alumni Association**

**Since March 2010 to May 2016 -Member - European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law (ECSOL)**

**Since May 2006 -Member - Georgian Bar Association (GBA)**

**Since January 2006 -Member - NGO “Georgian Young Lawyers Association “**

**Since 10/2003 – 10/2012 -Member - NGO “Article 42 of the Constitution”**

**Second term - October 2014- March 2015**

**Since 05/2014 -11/2014-Member – Experts’ Commission, Human Rights Programme, Open Society Foundation Georgia (OSGF)**

## **SKILLS**

**Computer:** Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet