

Kobakhidze Responds to Swedish PM's LGBTQ+ Statement, Says Georgia Must Take Preventive Measures

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has responded to recent comments by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson regarding LGBTQ+ rights in Ukraine, warning that the statement sheds light on future risks and demands that may be placed on Georgia during its own EU integration process.

Speaking to journalists, Kobakhidze said Kristersson's post serves as a reminder of the scale of the challenges ahead and justified the government's adoption of the controversial "Law on Family Values and Protection of Minors."

"This statement by the Swedish Prime Minister reminds us of how great the scale of the risks is and what kind of demands may be made on us in the future," Kobakhidze said. "Accordingly, we need to take preventive measures, and one of them was the Law on Family Values and Protection of Minors, which we will protect to the maximum extent."

Kobakhidze linked these concerns to broader cultural and social trends, which he said threaten national identity. "We were talking about serious threats that are generally related to these topics [same-sex marriage]. There is very active



propaganda in this direction, which creates serious problems in Europe, the American continent and in different parts of the world," he said. "All this is directly reflected in statistics, it

directly threatens the personal identity of a person. We need to protect our national interests."

His remarks came after Kristersson posted on social media that Ukraine should legalize same-sex partnerships and provide full legal protection to LGBTQ+ individuals as part of its EU accession process. In the post, Kristersson wrote:

"Today I received Ukrainian LGBTQI veterans in Sagerska. When they risk their lives on the front line and in other ways participating in the resistance, they help defend Ukraine. However, they are also a living expression of the liberal values for which Ukraine is fighting."

Today, same-sex couples cannot marry or enter into a registered partnership in Ukraine. Full legal protection of the rights of all minorities, including the LGBTQI community, is an important part of Ukraine's approach to the EU and we support it. As a strong supporter of Ukraine, Sweden will closely monitor its implementation."

Georgian Dream government has faced criticism from civil society and international organizations for its recent legislation on "family values," which opponents argue discriminates against LGBTQ+ individuals and contradicts human rights standards. The ruling party defends the law as a measure to protect national traditions and children.

Court Orders Psychiatric Evaluation for Detained Activist Nino Datashvili, Lawyers Say Move is Meant to Discredit Her

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Tbilisi City Court has ordered the involuntary transfer of activist and teacher Nino Datashvili to a psychiatric facility for a twenty-day evaluation, following a request from prosecutors. The decision has been strongly criticized by Datashvili's lawyers, who say it is an attempt to stigmatize and silence her.

The court granted the request on August 2, according to the Partnership for Human Rights (PHR), a local legal aid group representing Datashvili. The group said the decision was made without notifying the activist or allowing her to be present at the hearing.

"The prosecutors requested to carry out court psychiatric expertise illegally and without a ground, which means that the prosecutors requested to determine the issue of sanity for Nino Datashvili without any criteria or grounds," said PHR head Tamuna Gabodze in a statement to reporters.

Gabodze said the prosecution

based its request on Datashvili's medical records from 2019, which had been submitted by the defense as part of a motion related to her spinal condition. The records indicate she suffers from intervertebral disc damage, hernia, and radiculitis, with "emotional lability" listed as a symptom. PHR argues the court should have considered the condition as a reason to review her pre-trial detention, not to justify psychiatric confinement.

"The court noted to use proportional measures of coercion should Nino Datashvili object to the expertise, which means that the court issued a permission for Nino Datashvili's involuntary transfer to a psychiatric facility," Gabodze said.

She added that the decision represents "an illegal extension of Nino's imprisonment, this time in a psychiatric facility."

PHR contends the move is part of a broader effort to undermine Datashvili's credibility and activism.

"The decision aims to discredit

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