

# V. International Gender Workshop

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## Why feminism (in Georgia) today needs intersectionality

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WISG -Women's Initiatives Supporting Group

 HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

ქალთა ინიციატივების  
მხარდაჭერის ჯგუფი  
WOMEN'S INITIATIVES  
SUPPORTING GROUP

**WISG**  
www.women.ge



# The Beginnings

- Georgian feminist activism is documented since the second half of XIX century;
- Women started to actively participate in public debates;
- They demanded the right to political participation, raised attention to issues of violence against women and engaged in philanthropy;

# The Beginnings

- In Soviet Georgia, the strict political regime as well as false emancipation halted feminist activism;
- Civil activism in Georgia reemerged in the beginning of 90ies, after the collapse of Soviet Union;
- However, due to investment from the West and specific demands towards the group that could seek funding, this activism was put into institutional NGO form.

# Women's NGO's

- The early period of women's rights activism in NGO's is characterized by a lack of public criticism regarding sexism in politics as well as the general fear for feminist identity;
- Because NGO's work was partially donor-driven and obtaining resources meant (and still means) competing with your direct partners, solidarity inside the movement was not really built;
- The early attempts at creating coalitions were also donor-driven and failed.

# Women's NGO's

- The NGO's working on issues of domestic violence and women's political participation (two main areas of their work) however, created a basis for more radical and outspoken feminist activism;
- Their work on grassroot level also prepared a new generation of women's rights activists who acknowledge the importance of feminism as a political identity and statement;

# LBT Feminism

- WISG has worked with the LBT community since 2006;
- This work focused on building solidarity between LBT women through the promotion of the idea of feminist activism;
- However, instead of developing the feminist agenda relevant to LBT community, active members joined other movements.



March of Mothers of Georgia WISG 2012

# The Independent Feminist Group

- First unregistered, non-hierarchical feminist collective in Georgia was founded in 2011;
- The group was reactive and (successfully) focused on creating an alternative opinion to the daily sexism in Georgias public discourse;



# My Body My Business (2011)



# A Different 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012



# Partisan Girls

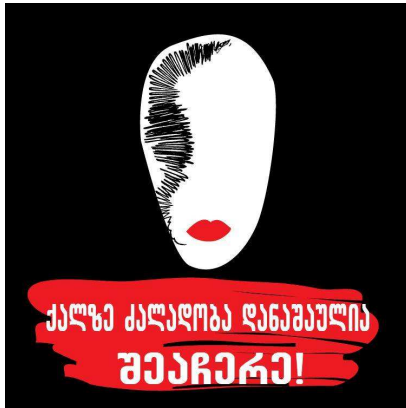
- Anonymous, radical group Partisan Girls was founded in 2012;
- The group used video art to protest against sexism, homophobia/transphobia often voiced by politicians and public figures.

# Protest against Tabula Magazine's anti-feminist articles, 2012



# 25 November aka “Women’s Movement” Group

- In 2014, a new group 25 November (aka. Women’s Movement) was founded;
- The group is a loose gathering of women, with no evident feminist agenda;
- It focuses on mass-protests related to women’s issues;



“Women’s Movement”  
against Femicide - 2014



“Women’s Movement”:  
Women’s Political  
Participation  
2015



“Women’s Movement”:  
against Early Marriages - 2015

# Stencil for Women's Political Participation Campaign



# Radical Groups

- Radical feminist groups are few in numbers (and with few members) and relatively new;
- Young Greens – focus on green issues intersecting with queer and feminist agenda;
- Self-organisation network – focus on women and labour rights as well as economic exploitation;
- Anarcho-feminists – focus on radicalizing the mainstream;
- Lesbian feminists – emphasize the importance of lesbianism as a political identity and focus on separatism;





Feminist Coming Out Project



**Women's Gaze** – page by the women's group at the self-org. network



**Gnida:**  
Anarcho-queer-feminist platform

# Dynamics Inside the Movement

- Often conflicting relationship between NGO's and informal feminist groups;
- Lack of outlined feminist agenda;
- Lack of wish for compromise;
- Lack of efficient communication;
- Acts of solidarity when it comes to strategic issues;

# The possibility to intersect

- Feminist groups have supported different movements (mostly workers and LGBT persons);
- Discussions between different feminist groups regarding the intersection points on their agenda already began;
- Presence of feminist activists in different social justice groups;
- The understanding that forms of communication offered by patriarchal system should be rejected should be cultivated inside the movement;

# Feminist Solidarity to Miners, 2012



# Feminist Solidarity on May 1st, 2012



# Feminist Solidarity to LGBTQ community, May 17th, 2013

# 25 November Demonstration, 2014





# WISG: 16 Days Campaign - Name the Violence, 2015

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