



PDOR Public Defender
of Rights

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia

And

The Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic

This Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "MoC") is concluded on 17 July, 2025 in Tbilisi, Georgia, by and between:

The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia

6 Irakli Paghava Street, Tbilisi 0144, Georgia

Duly represented by Mr. Levan Ioseliani, The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia

Phone: 1481 | Email: info@ombudsman.ge

and

The Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic

35 Grösslingová Street, 811 09 Bratislava – Staré Mesto, Slovak Republic

Duly represented by Mr. Róbert Dobrovodský, The Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic

Phone: +421 232 363 701 | Email: office@vop.gov.sk

Preamble

The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia and the Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Parties”):

- **GUIDED BY** the principles of dignity, equality and justice, and committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law and good governance;
- **RECALLING** relevant international and regional human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, The Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and other relevant human rights treaties ratified by their respective states;
- **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the UN General Assembly Resolution 75/186 (2020) on “The role of Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law” and the “Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution” (the Venice Principles, adopted by the Venice Commission in 2019);
- **RECOGNIZING** the essential role of Ombudsman institutions in promoting and protecting human rights and in ensuring that state authorities, local administrations and their officials respect and uphold these rights in practice;
- **ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in order to share experiences, build institutional capacity and address common challenges.

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1 – Objective and Scope

1.1. The objective of this MoC is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Parties in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and good governance within scope of their respective mandates as defined by their national legislation and relevant international human rights instruments.

1.2. In pursuit of this objective, the Parties undertake to cooperate in good faith and in a manner consistent with the purpose of this MoC, maintaining close communication to identify and facilitate the mobilization of necessary resources and to promote the exchange of information, expertise and best practices.

Article 2 – Areas and Forms of Cooperation

In order to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum and in accordance with their respective mandates and national legislation, the Parties shall cooperate in the following areas and undertake the following activities:

a. Exchange of Information and Mutual Assistance

- a. Prompt mutual notification, upon request of the applicant and in respect of national rules on data protection, of cases involving alleged human rights violations concerning citizens of the Slovak Republic in Georgia and citizens of Georgia in the Slovak Republic and facilitation, within their respective mandates, of efforts to restore the violated rights.
- b. Transmission and acceptance of applications submitted by citizens of either Party residing in the territory of the other, upon request of the applicant and in line with the Parties' procedures and legal competences.

b. Sharing of Resources and Institutional Knowledge

- a. Exchange of legal acts, policy documents, analytical reports and reference materials related to the Parties' human rights protection activities.
- b. Exchange of publications on legal matters, thematic reports on human rights and documentation or outcomes of international events organized by the Parties.

c. Thematic and Technical Cooperation

- a. Cooperation in the area of prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including experience sharing on national preventive mechanism, where applicable.
- b. Communication on matters related to healthcare, detention conditions and the protection of rights of detained citizens of one Party held in facilities located in the territory of the other Party.

d. Capacity Building and Staff Development

- a. Organization of study visits and exchange programs involving staff of both Parties with the aim of strengthening institutional knowledge and professional competencies.
- b. Joint organization of conferences, workshops, training sessions and public lectures to enhance human rights protection mechanisms at national, regional and international levels.

e. Other Areas of Cooperation

The Parties may engage in additional areas of cooperation not listed above, provided such cooperation is consistent with their respective mandates and national legal frameworks.

Article 3 - Legal and Institutional Dialogue

3.1. The Parties shall exchange knowledge on relevant laws, procedures and institutional models concerning the functioning of Ombudsman offices.

3.2. This may include sharing insights on complaint handling, national preventive mechanism, public outreach and cooperation with other oversight bodies.

Article 4 – Organization of Cooperation

4.1. Where appropriate, the Parties may undertake joint activities under this MoC based on annual action plans that specify priority areas for cooperation as outlined in Article 2 (“Areas and Forms of Cooperation”) of the present MoC.

4.2. Unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing, each Party shall bear the financial costs related to the travel, accommodation and other expenses of its representatives incurred in connection with the implementation of this MoC.

4.3. The Parties commit to establishing and maintaining effective and timely communication channels to facilitate coordination, ensure efficient implementation of agreed activities and support one another in fulfilling their respective commitments under this MoC.

4.4. Each Party shall designate a focal point responsible for overseeing the implementation and coherence of this MoC. These focal points shall facilitate the exchange of information, coordinate joint programs, monitor progress and evaluate outcomes within the framework of the MoC.

Article 5 – International and Regional Cooperation

The Parties shall support and, where relevant, jointly engage in international or regional cooperation efforts, including in the framework of the United Nations, Council of Europe and European or global Ombudsman and human rights networks.

Article 6 – Amendments

Amendments to this MoC may be proposed by either Party and shall enter into effect only upon mutual written consent signed by the duly authorized representatives of both Parties. Any agreed action plans or instruments containing such amendments shall be annexed to this Memorandum and shall constitute an integral part thereof.

Article 7 – Duration and Termination

7.1. This MoC shall enter into validity on the date of signature by both Parties and shall enter into force on the calendar day following the date of its publication by the Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic in the Central Register of Contracts.

7.2. This MoC remain valid for three (3) years and it shall be automatically renewed for a successive one-year (1-year) period unless either Party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the MoC at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the expiry of the current term.

7.3. Termination shall not affect the completion of any ongoing activity or obligation already undertaken.

Article 8 – Final Provisions

8.1. This Memorandum does not create any legally binding financial or contractual obligations for either Party. Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of its provisions shall be resolved amicably through consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

8.2. Nothing in this Memorandum shall be construed as limiting either Party from conducting its activities in accordance with its respective mandate, national legislation, internal regulations, or established procedures.

Article 9 – Contact Persons

9.1. The following contact persons are designated by the Parties to oversee the implementation of this Memorandum and to serve as primary liaison points:

For the Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia:

Name: Ms. Mariam Tavdgiridze

Position: Head of the International Relations Unit

Email: mtavdgiridze@ombudsman.ge

For the Office of the Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic:

Name: Mr. Branislav Gigac

Position: Department of Communication and Protocol of the Office of the Public Defender Rights]

Email: branislav.gigac@vop.gov.sk

9.2. Each Party shall promptly notify the other in writing of any changes to its contact information, including the designated contact person(s), address, or other relevant details.

Article 10 – Personal Data Protection

10.1. In connection with the conclusion and performance of this Memorandum, the Parties will process personal data of natural persons from the environment of the other Party, as stated in this Memorandum and related documents, and obtained in connection with the performance of this Memorandum.

10.2. When processing personal data, the Parties are obliged to comply with the generally binding legal regulations governing personal data protection. The Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic ensures the possibility to contact the Data Protection Officer via the email address: zodpovednaosoba@vop.gov.sk.

10.3. The Contracting Parties do not provide personal data to third parties, except in the usual submission of documents and information to legal and similar advisors, and competent authorities based on obligations under special legal regulations, or to contracted processors.

10.4. Data subjects whose personal data are being processed have the right to access their personal data, the right to rectification, the right to erasure or restriction of processing, the right to object to processing in certain cases (in the case of legitimate interest), the right to data portability and the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority.

10.5. The Parties shall provide the concerned natural persons with information about the processing of their personal data contained in this Memorandum and related documents, to the extent stipulated by legal regulations governing personal data protection.

Signed in duplicate in the English language on 17 July 2025 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Levan Ioseliani

The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of
Georgia

Róbert Dobrovodský

The Public Defender of Rights of the
Slovak Republic

