

**RENEWAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF EQUINET – THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
EQUALITY BODIES**

MANDATE 2019 – 2021

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Please return this form to:

Anne Gaspard
Executive Director
Equinet Secretariat

By email: Anne.Gaspard@equineteurope.org
or regular mail: Rue Royale 138, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Deadline for nominations: 18th September 2019

Name of the Equality Body and country	Office of Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia
Name of Candidate: <i>(First name Family Name)</i>	Nino LOMJARIA
Position in the Member organisation:	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia
Contact Email:	nlomjaria@ombudsman.ge
Telephone:	+995 555 020 200

Please note that a nomination form will only be considered valid if it includes pages 1 and 2 fully completed and accompanied by a Resume/profile of the candidate in English.

The form also needs to be hand-sign and dated by the nominated candidate and the Head of the Member Organisation (if different).

The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

1. My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board:

As a Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia, I have a strong desire to become the member of the Equinet Executive Board, since it will be an important platform for the Office of Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia (PDO), to be more actively engaged and involved in the protection of equality rights both at national and international fora.

The protection of equality remains a challenge in the world. Addressing this challenge requires special contribution and effort, especially from the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) or ombuds institutions, which play a critical role in advancing and promoting equality in their national contexts. To that end, PDO is strongly committed to the protection and achievement of equality in Georgia.

It was in 2014 when victims of discrimination in Georgia were granted the right to an effective remedy and the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia was designated as an Equality Body. Since 2014 the Public Defender (Ombudsman) has significantly contributed to advancing the issue on a policy level in the country, particularly, under my leadership we developed national standards on equality and elaborated means of communication with state authorities, stakeholders and wider public. During this period, we managed to successfully advocate for necessary legislative amendments, including, enhancing the mandate of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) and regulations regarding harassment and sexual harassment. As a result, we have influenced the bringing of legislative acts and public actions in conformity with the equality principle.

As per Georgian legislation, the prohibition of discrimination extends to all areas of life and provides an exhaustive list of protective grounds. It also prescribes all forms of discrimination. The Public Defender (Ombudsman) benefited from this extensive legislation to develop standards and apply relevant provisions in practice. For instance, we raised legal discussions and elaborated standards regarding the distinction between incitement to discrimination and freedom of expression; sexual harassment; correlation of discrimination and freedom of contract; discrimination in the realization of socio-economic rights and etc.

In light of significant flows in state policies, the Public Defender (Ombudsman) was successful in raising discussions on equality issues, reaching out to wider public and leading the establishment of important equality rights protection precedents.

I firmly believe that based on my extensive experience, I can play an important role in addressing the challenges at the national level and collectively, at the regional and international levels. This can be done by using promotion, protection and monitoring mandate of the PDO to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, conduct monitoring and research in this regard. Additionally, I could share our unique experience in the protection of equality with the members of Equinet. Membership of the Board will be an outstanding opportunity to contribute to the improvement of standards and policies regarding equality Europe-wide and take responsibility for the most important decisions of the Equality Bodies.

Besides, equality policies and anti-discrimination legislation do not have a long-standing tradition on European Human Rights agenda and new standards are frequently evolving. In this regard, becoming a part of the Equinet Executive Board will ensure the possibility of being fully engaged in the heart of the events concerning equality, to the greatest extent. This would be an exceptional opportunity and advantage for me and the Equality Body of Georgia.


Based on this background, I'm confident that I have relevant experience and capacity to serve as an active member of Equinet Executive Board, which will be a useful platform for sharing best practices and lessons learnt on the protection and promotion of equality.

2. Additional note or other relevant information relating to your application (if any):

In the decade, prior to my election as a Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia, I gained valuable experience in serving as a Secretary-General of international election observer organization – European Network of Election Observer Organizations (ENEMO) (February 2015 – October 2016) consisting of 23 CSOs from 18 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

I was awarded the title of the Human Rights Activist of 2014 by 6 Georgian universities and on 27 March 2019, became the Woman Leader of the Year in Government at the Annual Conference on Women's Role in Economic Growth and Development of Reforms.

Feel free to expand text boxes as you see fit.

Date: 18 September 2019	Signature of the candidate:  Signature of the Head of the Organisation (if different)
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Please note that your candidacy information will be communicated to all Equinet Members prior to the AGM