

Seminar

Georgian-Norwegian Perspectives on

DE-/CRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG CONSUMPTION

Date: Thursday February 28th 2019

Venue: University of Oslo, Domus Nova, Sankt Olavs Plass 5, seventh floor, Lecture hall

Last summer The Constitutional Court of Georgia concluded that the use of marijuana is protected by the constitutional right to free development of one's personality as guaranteed by Article 16 of the Constitution of Georgia. Similar arguments are found in other jurisdictions.

The seminar will discuss arguments for and against criminalization of use and possession of drugs in the light of the above-mentioned decision. Further the seminar will address what distinguishes Georgian constitutional norms from Norwegian constitutional norms.

[Decision 30th July 2018](#)

[Summary of Decision](#)

The seminar is hosted by the Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association in cooperation with the University of Oslo – Department of Public and International Law, and the Norwegian Association of Criminalists.

[Register here for lunch \(free\)](#)

Agenda:

10:00–10:15 Opening remarks

- **Mr. Giorgi Giorgadze**, President, The Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association
- **Mr. Anders Løvlie**, Associate Professor, Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo, Board member, The Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association

10:15–11:15 Regulations of Drug Consumption

- **Mr. Teimuraz Antelava**, Legal Advisor, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: *An Introduction to the Legality of Self-Harm: Sketching the Histories of Decoupling Alcohol and Tobacco from Drugs*
- **Mr. Alf Butenschøn Skre**, Lawyer and secretary for the Norwegian Commission on reform of drug regulations: *Norwegian Drug Policy*

- **Mr. Giorgi Chitidze**, Human Rights Program Manager, Open Society Georgia Foundation: *Georgian Drug Policy: 2006-2019*
- **Ms. Ingvild Bruce**, Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Public and International Law University of Oslo: *Moderator*

11.30–12.15 The Outlook for Reform

- **Mr. Hans Fredrik Marthinussen**, Professor, PhD, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen: *Decriminalisation of Drug Use – The Outlook for Reform in Norway*
- **Ms. Sopho Verdzeuli**, Institutional Reforms Support Program Director, NGO-Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC): *Draft Law on liberalizing Georgian Drug Policy. Involved Parties and the Role of CSO in the process*
- **Ms. Nino Aglemashvili**, Head of Jury Trial Unit, General Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, Board member, The Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association: *Moderator*

12.15–13.30 Lunch Break

13.30–14.00 The liberalization of drug policy and the role of the Constitutional Court of Georgia

- **Mr. Nika Pirvelashvili**, Student, Tbilisi State University, winner of the Competition of law articles for law students dedicated to the memory of Giorgi Margiani

14:00-15:00 Constitutional Perspectives

- **Mr. Eivind Smith**, Professor, Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo: *A Norwegian perspective on decisions of The Constitutional Court of Georgia*
- **Mr. Vakhushti Menabde**, Associate Professor, Ilia State University – *Decisions of the Constitutional Court of Georgia in relation with consumption of Marijuana: Philosophy and future perspectives*
- **Mrs. Synnøve Ugelvik**, Associate Professor, Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo: *Moderator*

15:00-15.30 Wrap up and concluding remarks

20:00 Reception and conference dinner hosted by the Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association.