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Title: Child Marriage in Georgia

Details: Child marriage is an issue that Georgian society is still facing in the 21st century.

Dateline: Ajara region, Georgia - 26/06/2017

Source: Ajara TV <http://ajaratv.ge>

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1/ Story Pitch:

Child marriages are an issue that Georgian society is still facing in the 21st century

2/ Shot list:

3/ Script in Eng:

There is no precise data about the number of underage marriages in Georgia. They do not figure in the statistics of the Civic Registry Office.

ITV: Sophie, child bride.

"Our everyday routine includes doing the housework, cooking...."

The only data available lists the number of girls who have dropped out of school since 2011 - more than 7 000. One of the most likely reasons for that is early marriage.

ITV: Sopho Khozrevanidze, child bride.

"I have a two-year old boy. I was 15 when I got married. I even didn't get the school graduation certificate. You can't do anything when you get married at the age of 15".

Natia Gorgodze, a specialist on the problem of child brides says there are a number of reasons for the phenomenon in Georgia.

ITV: Natia Gorgadze, Specialist, Civic Integration and International Relations.

"First of all, there is a lack of understanding of the problem; secondly the attitude to education in parts of the country is all wrong; thirdly, perhaps public opinion needs to change and, fourthly, the state needs to have a broader approach towards the problem."

Changes to the Civil Code in 2016 made it illegal to register under-age marriages. But making the law tougher has not eliminated the problem.

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ITV: Eka Beselia, chairman of the parliamentary committee on human rights.

“If we talk of legislation, our standard could be regarded as one of the best. What we need now is effective control and a responsive attitude from the police to ensure that the law is carried out”.

Only the police have the means to identify and prevent cases of child marriage. But it remains the case that the government is reluctant to clash with traditional attitudes. It still takes a tolerant attitude towards marriages entered into before the age of consent.

Only the law defenders can display and prevent the facts of child marriages. Although taking into account the reality of the country, the government remains loyal towards the families made at early ages.