



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Producer: Sandra Miller  
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### GEORGIA: PEDESTRIAN POWER IN GEORGIA

#### INTRO:

In most of the world, road traffic has increased massively in recent years - but protections for pedestrians don't always keep pace. In the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, a new campaign is focusing on pedestrian power.

#### VIDEO

WIDE SHOT  
TBILISI CITY, GEORGIA

GEORGIAN FLAG

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF  
GEORGIA DURING  
SOVIET TIMES  
(Archive by [GEORGIAN  
PUBLIC BROADCASTER](#))

(STREETS WITH ALMOST  
NO CARS)

MORE GEORGIA GVS

#### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, home to 1.4 million people. The city's architecture reflects the country's past as part of the Soviet Union. (9")

Georgia gained independence in 1991, and is now striving to become a member of the European Union. But it is still a country in transition. The Tbilisi-based pedestrian rights organization, Iare Pekhit, is working to promote the rights of pedestrians in Georgia. In Georgia and other Soviet states, the United Nations Democracy Fund, UNDEF, supports the transition to democracy by funding local civil society organizations, such as Iare Pekhit. (30")

ANNIKA SAVILL ON  
CAMERA

INTV ANNIKA SAVILL, Executive Head, UN  
Democracy Fund: (In English)  
*"This is not a project about road safety. This is a  
project about giving people power, particularly  
pedestrian power. It's about putting people at the  
centre of society rather than cars." (10")*

MORE TRAFFIC

NARRATION

In recent years the volume of traffic on the streets  
of Tbilisi has grown at an alarming rate. But  
legislation to meet the increased road use hasn't  
moved at the same pace. The majority of people  
don't own cars but pedestrians, including the  
elderly and people with disabilities, are never given  
priority on the streets. (21")

PEDESTIANS CROSSING

TRAFFIC ON RUSTAVELI  
AVENUE

PEOPLE WALKING  
THROUGH UNDERPASS

Traffic on Rustaveli Avenue, the central road that  
runs straight through the heart of the city, literally  
never stops. At each end, there is a badly lit,  
insecure and urine-infested underpass– the only  
option for pedestrians to cross. The same situation  
is true in several capital cities in post-Soviet states.  
(21")

ANNIKA SAVILL (in English)

ANNIKA ON CAMERA

HORSE DRAWING

*Trying to separate a post-Soviet man from his car  
is like trying to separate Ghengis Khan from his  
horse. He will not do it willingly. But what we hope  
is if we start from the young generation up a new  
mindset can take hold. (14")*

MORE PEDESTRIANS  
CROSSING

#### NARRATION

According to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, road accidents in Georgia have been increasing steadily over the past three years, and many of the victims are pedestrians. As in most of the former Soviet Union, there is a lingering tendency to subjugate humans to machines -- because owning a machine means having power. Walking or using public transport is considered inferior to driving. (26")

ITV EREKELE ON  
CAMERA

ITV EREKLE URUSHADZE, Board member of Iare Pekhit: (In English)

*"Georgia has not significantly updated its traffic laws since the Soviet time so you could say a lot of it is outdated and the Soviet city planning, in general urban design, and traffic regulations was more kind of authorities oriented and did not emphasize the rights of the pedestrians". (15")*

STREET SIGNS

#### NARRATION

Erekle Urushadze (ERIK-UL OO-ROO-SHADZ) is on the board of Iare Pekhit, which means 'go by foot' in English. With support from the UN Democracy Fund, Iare Pekhit identifies urban planning priorities and represents pedestrian interests in the city's planning processes. (16")

UPSOUND GUIDE:

#### NATSOT

*"Here you can see different city planning from*

*different political eras” (4”)*

#### NARRATION

IARE SHOWING  
TOURISTS AROUND  
STREETS

Iare Pekhit regularly organizes so-called ‘Ugly Walk Tours’ for concerned citizens to show how difficult it can be navigating the streets of Tbilisi and discuss how to bring about solutions.

BABY BEING CHANGED

Erekle is the father of an eight-month-old baby girl, Ana, living in an apartment building in the centre of Tbilisi. Moving around the city with a stroller is

BABY IN STROLLER

beset with difficulties. Erekle wants the streets to be safer for his daughter’s future. With Iare Pekhit, he’s encouraging support for new legislation to improve road regulations – and therefore make it easier for pedestrians negotiating the city’s streets.

IARE WITH BABY ON  
STREET

(38”)

ITV EREKLE URUSHADZE, Board member of Iare Pekhit: (In English)

IARE NAVIGATING  
PARKED CARS

*“It is important to have this new law in order to avoid having situations where there is no side walk left, no place left for pedestrians to walk, where sidewalks all around Tbilisi are occupied by cars. And this is the result of the fact that our current regulations and penalties are too mild “. (14”)*

#### NARRATION

MORE TRAFFIC SIGNS

The current system relies on a private company, CT Park, to manage parking in the capital. But critics say the mild financial penalties for parking illegally make it largely ineffective.

CARS BEING TOWED  
AWAY

The new legislation, currently under discussion in

	<p>parliament, would introduce a penalty points system so that once a driver accumulates a certain number of points their driving license is revoked. (22")</p>
GURAM IN HIS WHEELCHAIR NAVIGATING PARKED CARS	<p>Guram Chkhaidzeavaza (CHK-HAID-ZE AVAZA) has used a wheelchair since he was paralyzed following a road traffic accident in 1990. Once outside his home, he struggles to manoeuvre around the streets of Tbilisi. He often finds himself in situations like this. (17")</p>
GURAM ON CAMERA	<p><u>ITV GURAM CHKHAIDZEAVAZA,</u>  Activist for Wheelchair users on Georgian streets: (In English)  <i>"Now the passage is entirely blocked, cars are parked in a way that stops people with special needs from passing. The police should react quickly and the drivers must be fined."</i> (16")</p>
GURAM IN WHEELCHAIR AROUND THE STREETS	<p><u>NARRATION</u>  Resorting to calling the police to simply move around the streets is a daily reality for Guram. Activists hope that this can be changed by lobbying authorities to listen to the voice of the people and</p>
PHOTOS OF PROTESTS IN PARK (Photos by Erekle Urushadze)	<p>by campaigning for citizens' rights.  One notable success was when a citizens' protest in 2013 stopped a large development in Vake Park, the largest green area in the centre of Tbilisi. (28")</p>
LIVE ON CAMERA	<p><u>ITV EREKLE URUSHADZE,</u> Board member of Iare Pekhit: (In English)  <i>"People set up a camp here in the woods. So eventually the company that was trying to start the</i></p>

*construction they backed off and eventually a couple of months ago the court ruled that the construction permit was illegal, so the construction would no longer take place.” (17”)*

#### NARRATION

OFFICE OF IARE PEKHIT

UNDEF SIGN

Sunday morning at the Iare Pekhiti Office in Tbilisi. Elene Margvelashvili, (MARG-VELASH-VILI) the organization’s director and her team are getting ready for a demonstration in front of the Georgian Parliament. (12”)

ELENE ON CAMERA  
POSTERS

ITV Elene Margvelashvili, Executive Director Iare Pekhiti: (In English)

*“Today we are protesting with a group of different organizations all working on different road safety issues.*

PEOPLE PROTESTING

*The poster says 'Make road safety legal', so make it a law, turn it into a law, and this law has been stuck between two tiers and no one is taking care of it, so our main request is to pressure the government, to pressure the parliament, to pass this road safety law.” (21”)*

#### VOX POP:

*“There are people who are getting paid to manage road safety, they should take care of it”. (5”)*

#### NARRATION

MORE GVS OF TBILISI

Decision makers at Tbilisi City Hall are now realising that urban planning must become a priority. But now they face a new challenge: changing people’s mindsets: (11”)

GIORGI ON CAMERA

FONT

**Giorgi Gurgенidze:  
Transport Department  
Head  
Tbilisi Municipality City  
Hall**

PEOPLE ON TRAINS

CHILDREN IN PLAY CAR

PEOPLE WAITING AT  
SUBWAY STATION

CARS / PEDESTRIANS

ANNIKA ON CAMERA

PEOPLE WITH POSTERS  
CAMPAIGNING

ITV Giorgi Gurgенidze: Head of transport department at Tbilisi Municipality City Hall (In English)

*"It is not only the law and the enforcement that is maybe our problem, but it is also the behaviour of the participants of our cities. But again it must be done coupled with the media campaigns that aims at raising public awareness, in a way to impact positively all participants and their mobility." (19")*

NARRATION

The vision for the future of Tbilisi's younger generation is one where pedestrians won't fear moving around the city; where public transportation is improved, where it's safe to cross the road and where drivers respect other road users. One where the municipality is responsive to the needs of its citizens and is able to listen to their voices for the benefit of all. (23")

INTV Annika Savill, Executive Head, UN Democracy Fund: (In English)

*"When we started this project, there wasn't an organised movement for pedestrian empowerment in Georgia. And, I think, very little in the post-Soviet space as a whole. What we hoped in generating this project was that it could only not give the people of Tbilisi the voice they need to empower themselves but also to serve as a model for similar projects in other countries of the region." (24")*

KIDS MAKING POSTERS

TEXT ON SCREEN

SIDEWALK IS FOR  
PEDESTRIANS

### NARRATION

Through awareness raising activities by civil society organizations, such as Iare Pekhit, Georgia's future generations will be better informed and more mindful about traffic rules and pedestrian's rights. And humans will be considered the masters of the machines, not vice versa. (18")