



TV

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## GEORGIA: HIV INFECTION RISING AMONG YOUNG WOMEN

### VIDEO

GRADUATION CEREMONY

YOUNG PEOPLE IN STREETS

YOUNG COUPLES IN STREETS

LELA BAKRADZE ON CAMERA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

School's out for these graduating students in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital city. They're young, smart, digitally savvy and impatient. Like so many of their generation, they multitask, have multiple friends and are having sex. Although well-educated, many still have a lot to learn about preventing sexually transmitted diseases. They, especially young women, are increasingly a group at risk. (28")

HIV infection is rising fast amongst Georgia's young people. Last year, the number of HIV cases increased nationally by fifty-five per cent. Women have been particularly affected. (12.5")

Lela Bakradze, from UN Population Fund UNFPA, says the numbers are worrying. (5.5")

LELA BAKRADZE: (English) **F**

*"Almost 90 per cent of HIV positive women got their infections through the heterosexual way of transmission." (7")*

PEOPLE IN CHURCH

NARRATION

PUBLIC ADS IN STREETS

Georgia, a former Soviet republic, is a country still dominated by religion and tradition. This generation has to deal with society's values as well as the freedom that has come with globalization, mass media and social networks. Family expectations, peer pressure and the perceived necessity to be hip and modern can lead to misunderstanding, self-doubt and ignorance when it comes to HIV and AIDS. (26.5")

YOUNG PEOPLE IN NIGHTCLUB

YOUNG WOMEN DANCE IN NIGHTCLUB

YOUNG PEOPLE SIT AT TABLE

The significant increase of infection among the country's youngest and brightest is leading to discussions that had been off limits to generations of Georgians. The previously taboo topic of sexual health is coming out of the shadows. But there is still a long way to go. (17")

YOUNG WOMAN: (Georgian) **F**

MAYA TSKRIALASHVILI ON CAMERA

*"People expect and wait for someone to come to them and give them information." (7")*

NARRATION

STUDENTS IN CLASSROOM

The rate of infection among women aged fifteen to twenty-four is almost three times higher than among men in the same age group. The risk increases dramatically for women who have sex with addicts. Over fifty per cent of HIV transmission in Georgia happens among drug users. And they pass it on to their partners. (20")

HIV WOMAN HEATS DRUG IN SPOON

WOMAN'S SILHOUETTE

This woman got the HIV virus from her husband, who had been an intravenous drug user. (5")

HIV WOMAN ON CAMERA IN SILHOUETTE

HIV WOMAN: (Georgian) **F**

*"He died and I was left alone with this disease, in black clothes like an 80-year-old woman."* (15")

HIV PATIENTS WALK IN STREETS  
– CONCEALED CAMERA ANGLES

NARRATION

HIV patients suffer both from the disease and the associated stigma that brings with it exclusion and prejudice. They often find themselves marginalized by society. (11")

HIV MAN ON CAMERA IN SILHOUETTE

HIV MAN: (Georgian) **M**

*"In Georgia there is a big stigma and discrimination. And more so there is self-discrimination. You don't speak about it and you don't tell anyone. You are afraid of what will happen and you are not alone in this."* (20")

NARRATION

YOUNG MEN IN PUBLIC SQUARE

HIV among the gay community currently stands officially at only around two per cent. Georgia is a macho society, where being openly gay is still not easy, and these numbers are probably not representative. Likewise, for heterosexual people, an unrealistic expectation that sex will not take place before marriage amplifies risk. (20.5")

YOUNG HETEROSEXUAL  
COUPLES WALK IN PARK

YOUNG PEOPLE AT YOUTH  
CENTRES

But the UN is working to bring awareness and knowledge about the danger posed by HIV to Georgian society, particularly to its youth. More people are protecting themselves and being tested for HIV. UNFPA has opened 16 youth centres throughout the country to help inform and educate young people on HIV prevention. Eduard Demetrashvili is a youth educator. (25.5")

EDUARD DEMATRASHVILI ON  
CAMERA

DEMETRASHVILI: (Georgian) **M**

*"Everyone can go and get free consultations and also get free test kits and you will get a qualified answer to all the questions you are interested in from qualified trainers." (19)*

NARRATION

YOUNG PEOPLE DISCUSS AND  
READ INFORMATIONAL  
PAMPHLETS

For this generation to thrive and become society's driving force, as young people must be, they need to know the threats

and dangers of unsafe sex and HIV.  
Increased education and awareness will  
make this smart generation, smarter. (16")

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Alexandra  
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Nations. (5)