

GEORMAN RAINBOWTOPIA

Youth Exchange in Georgia 2026

FOLLOW-UP



Funded by
the European Union

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DAY 1

The Day starts with a chill energizer that combines learning names with fun movements. The participants are introduced to their service and care groups and discuss their strategies to tackle the tasks.

TEAMBUILDING

After we did a little team building game called bunny bunny bunny, we signed some very fun and exciting documents.

We collected things that are important to us when interacting to make a **common agreement** for the exchange. It mainly entailed rules about being mindful and respectful towards each other, but also towards our common space and time. But most importantly, we agreed to have the facilitators worship the Sabibara every morning.

POLITICS

In the afternoon, the group split into two: Both groups had a presentation about the **current political situation** in Georgia and Germany respectively. Coming back together to exchange, we had conversations about the difficulties we face every day due to political problems and how different countries and their political situations can be.

The Team indulged in a game of **Capybara**. The task is clear: temporarily (!!) kidnap the capybara. Strategies were developed by the participants - however, the facilitators had strategies of their own! It was a battle amongst giants.



DAY 2

QUEER RIGHTS

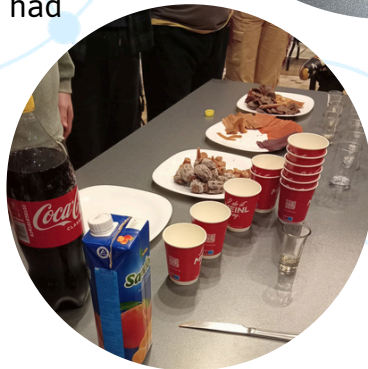
We divided into smaller groups and talked about **queer rights in Georgia and Germany**. We discussed our own experiences and common problems as well as better sides of our societies. It was really informative and fun for both sides. After lunch we had a **mental health session** which we all used differently to take care of ourselves.

ZINE-MAKING

Then we started to craft our own **Zines** - small self made magazines about our background, our activism, motivations or goals. It was really fun to get creative and have a chill activity like this.

INTERCULTURAL EVENING

In the evening, we had an amazing cultural exchange where we had some **snacks** from different peoples childhoods. we exchanged **some history**, sang different **songs** and overall had a very fun night.



DAY 3

WHAT'S QUEER?

We designed **apps for queer people** in groups of 4-5. For these, we were supposed to think of a name, a logo and a concept entailing 3 features. We kept in mind how they can help queer people and what needs of theirs these apps could fulfill.



OPEN SPACE

In the afternoon, we had an Open Space. During this time we had a lot of opportunities to experience new things, like **Craft Design** with threads or other materials. Some of the facilitators taught us how to do **threading**, which was very new to us. Everyone was in between activities. Some people did **yoga**, some exchanged languages. Some taught about **drag history** and how to create a drag persona. One person explained **Georgian history**, at the same time we were crafting around tables, listening to them and asking questions. Then some people went to play the **capibara game**. This day was different from the other ones and it was quite lovely to experience time alone in a quiet setting.

CAMPFIRE

In the evening we made a **campfire in the snow**, where we shared funny rumors about each other, talked and sang songs.



DAY 4

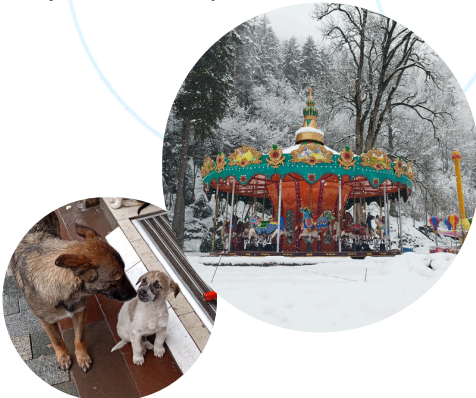
BORJOMI

On the fourth day, we did a **daytrip to Borjomi!** After a quick energizer we started the Daytrip with a walk to the minibus since it couldn't show up on the site due to weather conditions, yet it went smoothly and even added a little fun and spontaneity.

After a quick drive, we went to the park, where we drank the **Borjomi natural mineral water**, talked about the legend of Borjomi, as well as some of the cultural exchange. After a walk in the park we divided into the returners and "**Sulphur bathers**". The latter group went to a walk in the forest and enjoyed sulphur baths. They are a wonderful location in the middle of nature, with warm pools filled with the thermal water of the area. On the way back we managed to try Georgian (maybe) **street food** - pishkebi. A very important mention: everyone loved pishkebi.



The other group aka. "the returners" walked back to the entrance of the park and decided to visit some of the many **Souvenir Shops** in Borjomi. There we got to try delicacies like Pinecone Jam/Syrup and some more fruit leather. After that we walked to a small **café** where we sat down to have a drink and played some card games.



DAY 4

When we were fully recharged we made our way to the **restaurant** where we met everyone for lunch. We tried out typical food, served in different plates, put in the middle, as Georgians do.

We had a big variety of vegan and vegetarian **Georgian specialties**, such as: Soko (mushrooms), Georgian salad, Nigvziani Badrijani (nut filled aubergines), Lobiani (bread filled boiled beans), Khachapuri (bread filled with cheese), Khinkali with mushrooms.



IMPRO THEATRE

After the amazing lunch we went back to continue with the program, which included preparation for the next day's performances: We had a session of **improvisational theatre**. We started with an **introductory activity** to get into the mood and create a group atmosphere and connection. After that we made a storytelling exercise in pairs. Then we played an improvised session on a fictional bus and a longer **improvisational theater game** called "the wedding".

DAY 5

LARP

This morning started differently since we all met as **Fairytale creatures** - already deeply invested in our roles. After some getting to know each other, we took our seats at the annual meeting of the Association for the advancement of rights for Fairytale creatures. First topic was member responsibilities and how princesses should cover for each other in their fairytales. After a deep discussion and a lot of jokes, we also talked about the inclusion of Eastern fairytale creatures.



During the coffee break, the roleplay went on and alliances were made. Further on, we discussed payment of minor roles and finally, voted the next chairman of the board.

After getting back to real life, we **reflected** on how the LARP felt for us: We talked about where we see similarities to real life and what we could learn from today.

KHINKALI WORKSHOP

In the evening, some of us took part in a Khinkali workshop where we made vegetarian Khinkali ourselves. First, we prepared the dough and then filled it with mushrooms, potatoes, and cottage cheese. Even though some of us struggled with shaping them, they turned out amazing!



DAY 6

MENTAL HEALTH & RESILIENCE

Our last day started with a session on Mental Health and Resilience. First, we learned about the Concept “**10 keys to a happier living**” which includes 10 actions that can help increase happiness and well-being. We all took some time to reflect on how satisfied we are with different aspects of our lives and visualized them in “**wheels.**” After that, we collected ideas on what we can do in each dimension in our everyday life. Lastly, we all took some time to ourselves to write a nice **letter to our future-selves.** It was a very refreshing and meaningful activity.

PITCHES

We also gathered to share our **pitches for a better future.** We talked about our activism, what drives us, how we stay resilient and what gives us hope. Every individual pitch was unique and had a different focus, so it was really inspiring.

EVALUATION

In the afternoon, we talked about how we liked the program. For this, we filled in an **evaluation form** and also exchanged about what we learned, what was challenging and our favourite memories.

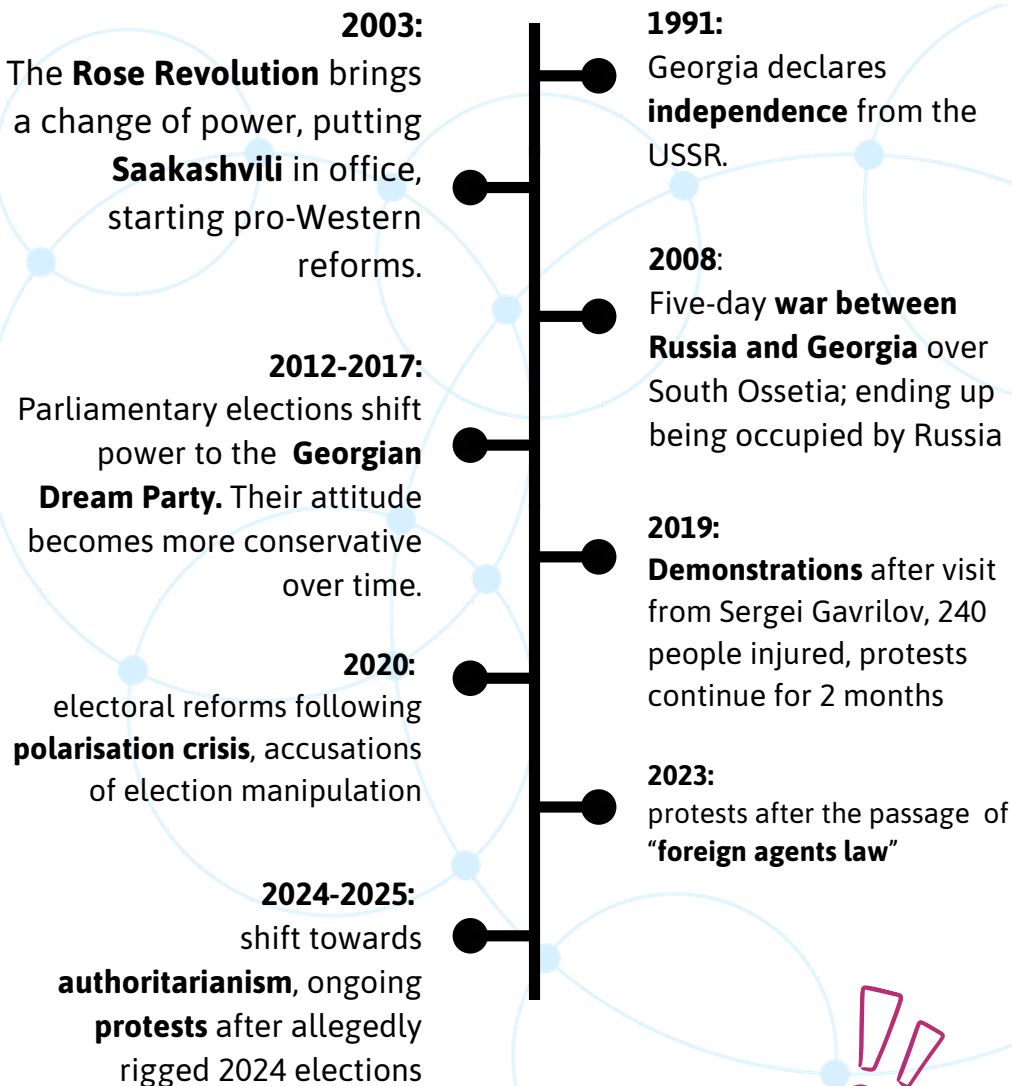
FAREWELL PARTY

Lastly, we spent our last evening together at a farewell party! Next to fun conversations and Georgian Chacha, we did a cute **mug exchange** while giving compliments to each other and people **performed** to make up for their late-coming during the week. Also, we opened a (very packed) **gossip box** and played one very last round of Capybara.



POLITICS & HISTORY

IN GEORGIA



POLITICS & HISTORY

IN GEORGIA



Current developments

May 2024: “Foreign Influence” Law

Increased pressure on NGOs and media, weakening journalists and civil society groups that defend democracy and human rights

November 2024: Stop of EU association negotiations until 2028

Protests escalated into violent clashes with police using tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons, drawing EU condemnation over state repression.



December 2024: Allegedly rigged elections

Presidential election was allegedly indirectly controlled by Georgian Dream after disputed parliamentary elections and an opposition boycott, effectively allowing the ruling party to choose the president.

July 2025: GD officially recognised as illegitimate power

EU declares that the Georgian Dream government no longer met democratic standards due to democratic backsliding and repression.

POLITICS & HISTORY

IN GERMANY

Who's running the country?

Christian Democratic Union

- conservative, market liberal, pro-employer
- sees migration as a problem; worked with AfD before

Social Democratic Party

- social democratic, pro-worker, pro-union
- (should) uphold rights of refugees & humanitarian standards



Chancellor:
Friedrich Merz

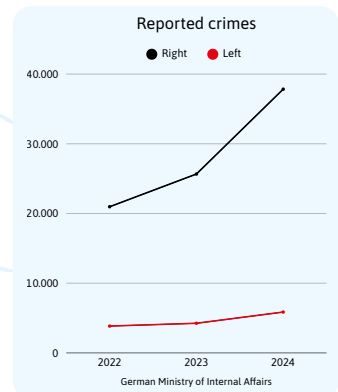
Current political issues

- **Economy:** economic growth has flattened
- **Pension System:** 25% of workers are retiring in next 10 years; pension system not equipped
- **Labor Market:** lack of workers (esp. health sector and craft sector)
- **Defense & Security:** fear of russian aggression, weakened international partnership, weak military
- **Migration:** depicted as threat & decoy topic for racism; actually part of country's identity

German Neofascists



- **Growing support** for populist right extremist party AfD ("Alternative for Germany")
- **Rising far-right crimes** & violence while politicians downplay it



QUEER RIGHTS

IN GEORGIA



2006-2014: antidiscrimination on paper, but not implemented.

2012&13: first queer marches, met with violent counter protests.

05.07.2021: Tbilisi pride tries to organise a **small pride march**, but it is **prevented by** tens of thousands of **violent counter protesters**. A reporter got killed in the violence.

2023: evacuation of pride week festival as reaction to violent crowd marching to the grounds and vandalizing the festival.

LGBTQ criminalised until **1999**.

2009: inclusive foundation - first queer organisation in Georgia (raided in 2009).

2019: foundation of **Tbilisi pride**, organise protests, weekly meetings and cooperation with families; first LGBTQ-shelter opens.

2022: first pride week with movies, workshops and a festival for smaller circle of people.

2024: re-criminalisation of LGBTQ-activities, including gender-affirming medical care and the “promotion” of LGBTQ. Many organisations have to close down and activists flee the country

QUEER RIGHTS

IN GERMANY



1934-1945:

During Nazi time, queer people are **persecuted and deported** to concentration camps

1996:

After already being partly **decriminalized** in West Germany, § 175 was finally repealed.

2017:

The German parliament passes **Marriage Equality**.

1871:

The parliament introduced the **criminalization of homosexuality** into German penal law: §175

1970:

First known **homosexual activist group** is founded, shortly after the first pride takes place

2006:

The **General Equal Treatment Act (AGG)** prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

2024:

The new **Self Determination Act** makes it easier for people to change their legal gender denomination.

QUEER RIGHTS

IN GERMANY

😊 What's going well?

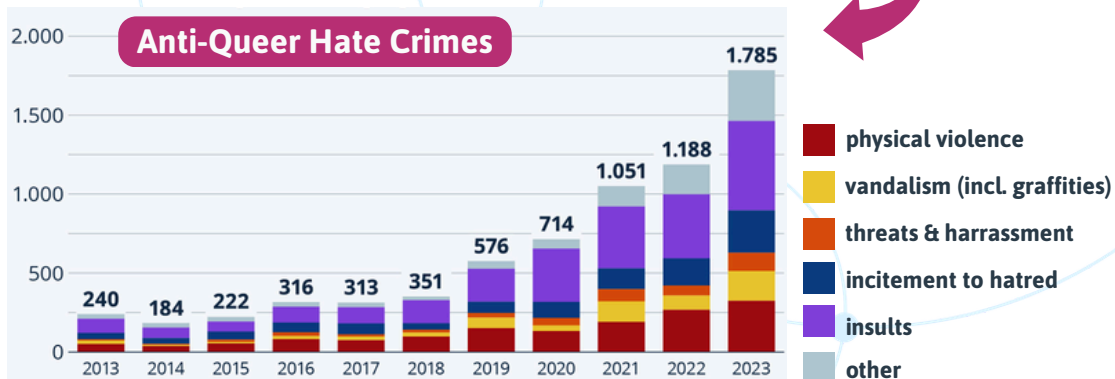
- 245 **pride parades** in 2025
- **State-funding programme** for queer initiatives
- **Self-determination law**
- Growing **queer visibility**
- **General Equal Treatment Act** protects against discrimination

SITUATION TODAY

☹️ And what not so much?

- but also 113 **counter protests**
- but partly **cancelled** because of budget cuts
- but also mass **media campaigns against queer people**
- but **growing** numbers of reported **discrimination** in housing, employment and health care
- but constant **increase in anti-queer hate crimes** all over Germany

Anti-Queer Hate Crimes

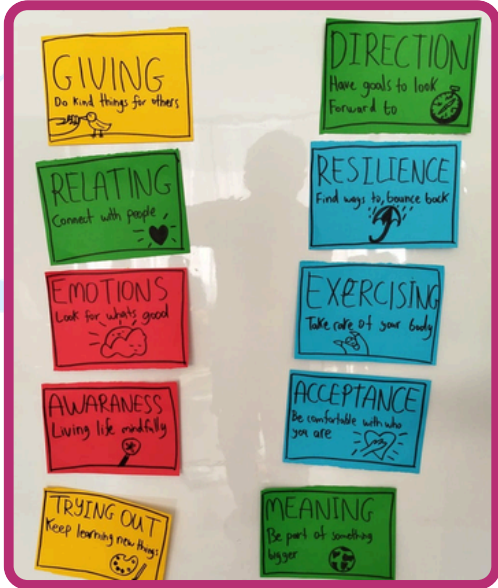


* lesbische, schwule, bisexuelle, trans- und intergeschlechtliche sowie andere queere Menschen

Quelle: Bundeskriminalamt

MENTAL HEALTH

10 KEYS TO A HAPPIER LIVING



SELF - CARE ACTIVITIES



WEBSITE TO SEND AN EMAIL TO FUTURE-YOU:
[HTTPS://WWW.FUTUREME.ORG/](https://www.futureme.org/)



Many thanks & see you soon!

