

Article 19 - Right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance

Paragraph 12 - Teaching mother tongue of migrant

The Committee takes note of the information contained in the report submitted by Georgia.

The report states that there are no special state programmes to promote the teaching of the migrant worker's native language because there are not many long-term migrant workers in Georgia.

The Committee notes from a study by the European University Institute (Gaga Gabrichidze, CARIM-East RR 2013/22, 'Integration of Migrants and Reintegration of Returnees in Georgia') that citizens of Georgia, whose native language is not Georgian, have the right to secondary education in their native language.

The Committee also notes that in an educational institution the language of teaching may be other foreign languages whenever so provided by an international agreement. According to the study, more than 400 minority language schools are financed by the state. The report states that there are foreign language schools where education is available in Ukrainian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian, English and other languages. The Committee asks whether these schools can also be accessed by the children of migrant workers. It asks for any available statistics on the number of children enrolled in such schools.

The Committee also notes from the information provided by the representative of Georgia to the Governmental Committee (Report concerning Conclusions 2011, §578) that Georgia promotes the establishment of diaspora organisations, which assist in maintaining the mother tongue and native culture of migrant workers. The Committee requests further information concerning such organisations, including examples.

The Committee recalls that the undertaking of States under this provision is to promote and facilitate the teaching, in schools or other structures, such as voluntary associations, of those languages that are most represented among migrants within their territory (Conclusions 2002, Italy). States should promote and facilitate the teaching of the languages most represented among the migrants present on their territories within their school systems or in other contexts such as voluntary associations or non-governmental organisations (Conclusions 2011, Statement of interpretation on Article 19§12). The Committee notes that the main countries of origin for migrants include Russia, Ukraine and Armenia. The Committee asks for further information and statistics concerning any schools which provide education in a language other than Georgian. It asks whether the children of migrants have access to multilingual education, and on what basis. It asks what steps that government has taken to facilitate the access of migrants' children to these schools. Should the information requested not be included in the next report, the Committee considers that there shall not be sufficient information to demonstrate that the situation is in conformity with Article 19§12 of the Charter. In the meantime, the Committee defers its conclusion.

Conclusion [0]

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee defers its conclusion.