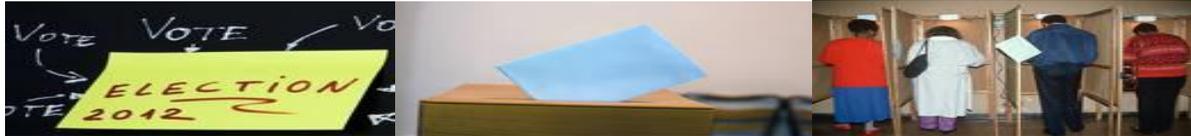




MINORITIES IN 2012 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OBSERVATORY



MINORITY ISSUES IN PARTY PROGRAMMES

National minority protection and integration issues are included in the programs of political parties running for seats in 2012 parliamentary elections, pre-election campaigns, and televised public debates. Both televised debates aired on the 1 Channel of the Public Broadcaster were re-broadcasted on the regional TV stations in Armenian population region of Samtskhe-Javakheti (Ninotsminda) and in Azeri populated region of Kvemo Kartli (Marneuli). One of the questions under the debate was *“What can political parties offer to minority groups, how they will protect their rights and ensure equal integration”* The responses were rather vague, focusing exclusively on integration through Georgian language learning, while protection of minority cultures or languages as well as participation were not mentioned at all.

Below are main priorities with regards to national minorities of those political parties, who have formulated their policies. The overview is structured according to key issues relevant for the minorities and their integration: education, language, culture, integration, media. The data are compiled from the publicly available party programs.

Issues	United National Movement	Christian Democratic Movement	Coalition Georgian Dream	Labour Party	New Rights
Education	Quotas for ethnic minorities in higher education		Multilingual education system at schools		
Minority language promotion			Innovative pre-school education with different		

			languages		
Integration	Enhancement of political and social integration	Triple funding for the study of Georgian.	Recruitment of ethnic minorities to the central administration. New approach to teaching Georgian lang. attractive for ethnic minorities to improve integration	State guarantee tolerance for traditional religions and other confessions	Georgian lang. learning promoted among the support to their integration, education and economic development.
Minority cultures		State financed revival of traditional publications in minority languages; municipal and national subsidies to minority cultural centres and educational and religious institutions	Restoration of religious and historical Buildings from state funds; law-based cultural development strategy for ethnic minorities;		All the necessary conditions must be created for the preservation of the identity and culture of minority groups
Media			More and stable radio TV programs broadcast in minority languages; State as an active and effective part in efforts to provide information and communication with ethnic minorities		