

On June 6, 2018 Parliament of Georgia adopted the following legislative amendments elaborated by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in the frames of a peace initiative of the Government of Georgia “A Step to a Better Future”:

**1. Law “on the Rules of Registration of Georgian Citizens and Foreign Citizens Residing in Georgia, Issuance of Personal Identification Card (Residence Permit) and Passport for a Citizen of Georgia”;**

(Amendments envisaged granting of personal number to persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) through registration. This implies new simplified opportunity for identification of persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on the basis of registration with a personal number)

**2. Law “on Occupied Territories”;**

(Amendments enabled consideration of documents issued by illegal authorities in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) not only for the purposes of issuing Status-Neutral Identification Card or/and Status-Neutral Travel Document but also for establishing Georgian citizenship, the fact of birth, marriage, divorce, decease or legitimate residence and registration of a person in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia)

**3. Law “on Civil Acts”;**

(Amendments enabled submission of documents issued by illegal authorities in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) to agency registering civil acts for the purposes of establishing the fact and registration of birth, marriage, divorce, decease or legitimate residence in these regions)

**4. “Tax Code of Georgia”;**

(In case of willingness to engage in trade and economic relations across dividing lines, interested persons became eligible to enjoy special taxpayer status (special enterprise status) and receive tax privileges or to register as ordinary taxpayers without this status)

**5. Law “on Entrepreneurship”;**

(Persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) registered with a personal number became eligible to register as entrepreneur (a sole-proprietor)

**6. Law “on Grants”;**

(Persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) registered with a personal number became eligible to receive grants)

**7. *Law “on General Education”;***

(Persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) registered with a personal number became eligible to receive state financing for general education on Georgian controlled territory)

**8. *Law “on Higher Education”;***

(Persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) registered with a personal number and enrolled in educational program of higher educational institution of Georgia became eligible to receive state funded educational grant (including for master studies). Also, procedures for enrolling to 1+4 program were simplified for Abkhazian/Ossetian entrants. In addition to this, simplified enrollment was ensured to higher educational institution on the basis of post-secondary education preparation center)

**9. *Organic Law “on Citizenship”;***

(Amendments enabled simplified procedures for establishing Georgian citizenship for persons legitimately residing in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (former Autonomous District of South Ossetia))