



Tbilisi Declaration on Civilizational Foundations of Europe and 1700 Years of Christianity in Georgia

Draft version

We, the participants in the conference co-organized by the Parliament of Georgia and the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) held on October 2, 2026, on the occasion of the historic 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the state religion of Georgia, reaffirm our shared commitment to Christian values as the moral and spiritual foundations of European civilization; values which started in the first century and were pronounced as state religion in Georgia in 326 AD.

These are values that highlight peace, love, tolerance, and respect for the sanctity of the human person, among others, and which collectively constitute the Christian Orthodox tradition. Throughout the ages, these values have continuously shaped European cultural heritage, its legal traditions, and its steadfast democratic principles across generations. However, today, the significance of the Christian tradition as the "environment" in which contemporary European values were forged is being overlooked. This issue was highlighted by the IAO, the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), and the Together for Europe organization in their "*Appeal to European Institutions regarding Christian Values*"¹. This appeal was adopted during the international conference entitled "Politics as an Area for Expressing Christian Values in Everyday Life," held in Thessaloniki in May 2024.

In an era defined by global instability, wars of conquest and invasion of foreign territories, armed conflicts, and rising ideological polarization, we observe with grave concern the erosion of shared moral values and the weakening of the Christian tradition in the public discourse. We advocate for a balanced and mutually respectful dialogue between parliaments and religious communities, in line with the Communiqués adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the successive *Parliamentary Conferences on Interfaith Dialogue in Marrakesh (2023) and Rome (2025)*². Furthermore, we call upon the European Parliament, inter-parliamentary institutions, and national parliaments to incorporate an open, transparent, and regular dialogue with Christian Churches and religious associations into their activities. Institutionalizing this ongoing dialogue regarding the major challenges facing modern society has become vital; indeed, through this process, Christian values can be brought to the forefront of deliberations concerning decision-making on key social issues. Thus, Christian values will once again constitute a vitally important element for integrating Christian moral wisdom into modern lawmaking and policymaking standards.

¹ IAO, *Thessaloniki Appeal to European Institutions on Christian Values* (2024), available at: <https://eiaio.org/european-elections-2024-an-address-to-european-institutions-mep-candidates-and-political-parties/>.

² IPU *Marrakesh Communiqué on Interfaith Dialogue* (2023): <https://www.ipu.org/file/17036/download>
IPU *Rome Communiqué on Interfaith Dialogue* (2025): <https://www.ipu.org/file/21869/download>.

Furthermore, addressing the challenges undermining the concept of the family in the contemporary world, we deem it essential to uphold the family as a foundational nucleus of social cohesion. In this context, the “7 YES” initiative of the Together for Europe network, adopted in Stuttgart in 2007, is significant; among other things, it advocates for the family as the “*foundation for a society that is supportive and open to the future*”³, as well as relevant policy decisions and measures that strengthen this institution. We urge legislatures to implement robust policies that protect families and traditional values and support future generations, without exclusion or coercion. We support the enduring initiatives of the IAO aimed at strengthening the institution of the family, as well as the artistic initiative and competition launched on the theme “The Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt” in collaboration with the National Egyptian Heritage Revival Association (NEHRA).

We declare our commitment to continued safeguarding of religious freedom, converting these principles into actionable legislation, strengthening the institution of the family and other Christian values, and building a dignified future, thereby reinforcing the foundational values and principles of the European Union.

Tbilisi, 3 October 2026

³ Together for Europe, “7 YES Initiative”, adopted in Stuttgart, 12 May 2007.