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LANGUAGE POLICY AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES OF THE POPULATION

Population migration process in Georgia is usually viewed into periods: before the 20th century and during various intermittent spans of the 20th century. The character and reasons of the 20th century migrations are of different characters; the reason could be ecological disasters, wars, economic interests, and changes of frontiers for political reasons.

The deficiency and loss in the issues related to the country's frontiers or in the inner arrangements in the Georgian reality was brought about for the negative changes exerted on the demographic picture.

Demographic experience in the various countries of the world manifests that the distribution of displaced people within the country only in the urban areas, and not in rural, presents an purposeful event: as cities, being subjected to the globalization, are cosmopolitan with their nature, and hardly ever loyal to traditions, or the signs and symbols of the national state. Obviously, the population who are displaced from Abkhazia and Samachablo (South Ossetia) were not only from urban estates but from a rural as well. Moreover, small towns of Georgia are quasi-urban units compared to the international standards. Thus, a greater part of the displaced population from the conflict areas had been made into "city-dwellers". Being forced out from their villages they were socially unprepared for changes. In addition to these the displaced people were given shelters in different districts of the cities, and in certain cases these people had to find themselves the place to live. People found their homes at random according to their abilities; the process itself facilitated assimilation tendencies with the local inhabitants. (It is important to note that a part of Tbilisi inhabitants met newcomers rather unfriendly. Under the conditions of the unemployment they were not only segregated but also even their dialects became the matter of annoyance to be ridiculed by city local population, who "criticized" them. The displaced population appeared to face alone with their hardships and being disorganized they had to proceed according to their individual choices. Some managed to adapt, others left the country, but the emigration had the nature of individual departure and the process was not qualified as refuge. Evidently the desire and consciousness for the organized return to the homeland of those people who hoped to return back will fade. The logic is

that when the mixing and integrating of this population had been planned it had been carried out through the following methods:

1. Displaced people were offered different places to live mostly at the localities of the denser concentration to speed up the integration process with the local population.

2. Sending the refugees to the urban and not rural areas was meant for the fostering of their cosmopolitanization.

3. No special efforts had been made that would have provided organized protection of the displaced people that would have qualified their emigration as refugees survival process but not as individual migration.

4. The government did not bring the displaced people to the regions where Georgian ethnos is sparsely populated and the Georgian language is under 'ecological' threats.

Lately, in various times, the non-Georgian Armenian and Azer population came to live in the areas where their compatriots had been densely populated in Georgia. The government led this process methodically without informing general public with which they put more load on the Georgian ethnos and Georgian language in the regions where there is high concentration of non-Georgian ethnos.