

Is the European Union a Prominent Actor in Resolving Displacement Crises in Aspiring Member States? A Case Study: the Republic of Georgia

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The Republic of Georgia has been persistent in seeking membership in the EU, but the existence of the Russian-occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, whose populations are ethnically non-Georgian and hostile to the Georgian majority, is a major obstacle. In order to assist nations in achieving accession, EU-institutions promote “desecuritisation,” which mandates peaceful borders, tolerance, and coexistence among ethnic groups. Desecuritisation activities include fostering dialogue among politicians, civil society organisations (CSOs), and people from the occupied territories.

This analysis shows how EU-affiliated organisations work with domestic actors (such as CSOs) in countries like Georgia to de-securitise marginalised internally displaced populations.

While attempting to be helpful in resolving these problems, EU-institutions are sub-optimal actors. The research summarises scholarly criticisms of European institutions’ assistance in desecuritising displaced populations at the CSO level in similar EU-aspiring, post-conflict nations such as Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, and Serbia. The research observes European institutions’ funding patterns and the activities of several Georgian CSOs working with IDP populations from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These institutions prefer to fund governments or international organisations that will implement the projects on the ground, rather than fund such projects directly. As a result of this indirect role, these institutions have a less significant impact in advancing the values the EU promotes and in assisting Georgia in reaching its ultimate goal.