

LELA AKIASHVILI

Advisor to the Prime-Minister of Georgia on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues

With 12-year professional experience in several countries, Ms. Akiashvili currently serves as the Advisor to the Prime-Minister of Georgia on Human Rights and Gender Equality. She leads the Prime Minister's Human Rights team that aims to strengthen human rights protection machinery in the country, introduce human rights-based approaches in public policy-making, enhance principles of institutional democracy and the rule of law. Ms. Akiashvili is **co-chairing the Prime-Minister's Human Rights Council** and **chairing the Interagency Gender Equality Council**.

Prior to which she led **UNDP Georgia's** work on gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights. Earlier Ms. Akiashvili contributed to setting internal and external gender equality machinery at **Save the Children US Headquarters** (Washington, DC). She also served as a Peace Researcher at **the Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice** at San Diego University (San Diego, CA) researching Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) issues. Prior, Ms. Akiashvili worked as a Research Assistant at **Texas A&M University** (College Station, TX) and supported **the Permanent Mission of Georgia to United Nations** (New York, NY) on gender equality and youth-related issues.

Ms. Akiashvili also served at **UNICEF Country Office in Georgia** and worked as Victim-Witness Coordinator at the **Prosecutor's Office of Georgia**.

Earlier, for six years Ms. Akiashvili worked for several **not-for-profit organizations in the south Caucasus and Eastern Europe** leading programs on human rights protection, gender equality, gender in development, women and youth empowerment, post-conflict community outreach, peacebuilding, and **non-formal education**. Ms. Akiashvili has significant experience of grass-root work with youth.

Ms. Akiashvili holds a **Master of Public Administration from Texas A&M University** and a **Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Tbilisi State University**. She spent her junior year as a UGRAD exchange student at the **University of Superior-Wisconsin (LLB)**.