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**COMPLETE****Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)**Started:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:41:18 AM**Last Modified:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:14:45 PM**Time Spent:** 01:33:27**IP Address:** 77.92.243.16**PAGE 1: Deadline: 15 October 2015****Q1: Personal Details**

Full Name:	Levan Berianidze
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**Q2: Member Organisation Nomination**

Member Organisation Name:	Identoba
Country:	Georgia
Legal Representative Name:	Irakli Vacharadze
Legal Representative Role:	Executive Director
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**Q3: What is your motivation to become an IGLYO board member and what roles/duties particularly interest you?**

My motivation to become a member of IGLYO's board is to grow as a LGBTQ activist and learn as well as to share my knowledge with other activists from around the world. My educational background from the Central European University gender studies masters program and my work experience of 4 years in LGBTQ activism has equipped me with quite a big expertise and skills that can be very useful as a board member at IGLYO. However, as I am constantly thriving to grow as an activist, participating in IGLYO activities on international level will give me the opportunity to learn from the organization, from other activists I will meet throughout my work, and master the skills for organizing international seminars, conferences and various campaigns and other advocacy activities. Participating in LGBTQ activism on international level, meeting activists from various countries, sharing experiences, building networks, organizing advocacy campaigns and projects and various events, and then implementing those learned skills on national level are the opportunities that excite me and motivate me to apply for the board membership.

Since I have an educational background in gender studies, and at my organization I work on educational programs, I would be particularly interested in education work at IGLYO. IGLYO conducts many valuable study sessions throughout the year. I myself have participated in a few and am going to contribute to one of upcoming study sessions in Budapest in October, this year, as a facilitator. Through this experience I can clearly see myself in contributing to IGLYO's educational work for empowering and equipping activists with necessary skills and tools.

Additionally, as I have been involved in my organization's international network building activities, I can also undoubtedly state that international advocacy, campaigning, network-building and representation are the duties I have been doing with enthusiasm, and see myself pursuing these activities in future in IGLYO's work with high professionalism and eagerness.

**Q4: Tell us about your experience in LGBTQI activism (including any involvement with IGLYO, if applicable). Please include details about projects and events you were involved in, detailing your role and responsibilities in them.**

I have been involved in feminist & LGBTQ human rights activism since 2010 on various levels - activist, intern, employee. I started my internship at Identoba in 2010 as an outreach officer. Later on I got involved in campaigning and advocacy activities in the same organization. I was one of the organizers of the first ever IDAHOT public marches on 17th of May in 2012 and 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Later I moved on to a queer feminist organization which was actively trying to establish a queer feminist activist community in Georgia. Throughout these years my main responsibilities were communication with people and building a community, organizing various educational, philanthropic and social events and writing and conducting researches. Currently I am an education and healthcare programme manager at Identoba.

I have participated in two IGLYO trainings. One was a part of a training for social inclusion organised by Human Rights Initiative where IGLYO had a day when it organised its own training seminars. It was held in Budapest in 2011. The other one was in Brussels, in 2013, focusing on intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Through these two events I have gained a basic knowledge how IGLYO's international educational events are organized and conducted.

Another case was when Identoba, in 2013, translated homophobic statements made by an internationally famous Georgian opera singer Tamar Iveri and sent it to multiple opera houses all around the world where her concerts were being organized in order to inform them and kindly ask them to boycott her. My and IGLYO's communication was successful and IGLYO kindly supported the campaign and the organization's logo was put on the statement.

Currently, I am contributing to the upcoming IGLYO study session on homelessness and low socioeconomic status within LGBTQ communities as a facilitator.

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**Q5: From the list below, please select your top three skills and explain why you have chosen them in the next question.**

Training Design/Delivery, Advocacy & Policy,  
Campaigning

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**Q6: Please give one real life example for each of the choices above to demonstrate your experience in each.**

#### Training Design/Delivery

At my organization I frequently organize training/study sessions, mostly for the LGBT community members, but also for anyone interested in the issues covered by the study sessions and motivated to contribute to the fight for equality. Throughout the summer Identoba conducted couple of study sessions in the form of summer schools which had an amazing participation rate. The feedback received from the participants was also overwhelming.

As mentioned above, I have also participated in quite a few international and national study seminars, including ones of IGLYO, and currently I am getting ready to facilitate and upcoming IGLYO study session.

#### Campaigning

As I have already mentioned above, I have been one of the initiators and organizers of first ever IDAHOT marches in Tbilisi, Georgia, which unfortunately were attacked violently. However, during the process, I was involved in communication with community members, various HR organizations and bodies, through which the event was made possible. Even though the safety risks were very high and there had not been any public appearance of LGBT people in the country before - meaning the concerns were very serious - I, together with my friends and co-workers, managed to gather impressive number of activists to stand and march for their rights.

As mentioned above, another case was when I, in 2013, made an international campaign against a famous Georgian opera singer, Tamar Iveri, due to her homophobic statements, which resulted in some major operas boycotting her upcoming concerts. IGLYO kindly supported the campaign and the organization's logo was put on the statement, which was sent to the opera houses worldwide.

#### Advocacy & Policy

Together with the lawyer of Identoba, I was one of the applicants to the Georgian Constitutional court to rule the order of Minister of Healthcare of Georgia, which prohibited donation of blood to homosexual men as unconstitutional. I was also one of the applicants to European Court of Human Rights against Georgian law enforcement authorities for not protecting the safety of the participants of IDAHOT marches. Both of these activities have affected/changed the policies and practices of the corresponding Georgian state institutions to a certain degree.

Additionally, I was one of the representatives of CSOs to advocate for strategies to address bullying at Georgian schools and incorporate education about human rights, including those of women and LGBT persons, in the school curriculum in the process undertaken by the Ministry of Education of Georgia and the UN. However, unfortunately the process has ceased for unknown reasons and the implementation is still pending.

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**Q7: Being on the IGLYO board requires a commitment of around 10 hours a week for two years. How would you manage this role on top of other commitments and continue to contribute for your full mandate?**

My work environment is quite flexible. My workload is not huge. I do have very busy workdays sometimes, especially when the big conferences or other events are approaching, but mostly my workdays are not overloaded. Also, as I have been officially nominated for IGLYO board position by my organization, I will be able to partially incorporate work done for IGLYO into my normal everyday workload for Identoba. This means that my full mandate and IGLYO board work will overlap in a number of ways and thus they will not be in conflict with each other. This means I will not have to compromise between them.

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