

COUNTERING ANTI-WESTERN DISCOURSES IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Monthly report (June 1-June 25, 2019)

Key characteristics of the pages' day-to-day activities

In June 2019, Georgian-language far-right pages published 3,104 posts, a 30% decrease from the previous month. The expulsion of pages explains the dramatic decrease in the pages' activities relative to February. Given the banning, it is not surprising that interactions with the audience declined as well. Users liked content from the pages 213,202 times, and shared content 157,139 times, which is almost 1.5 fold increase from March 2019. The number of comments also increased in relation with March 2019 to about 65,201.

The period of anti-Government protest rallies has been most active in June. The largest number of posts (319) were shared on June 20, followed by 299 posts on June 21 and 219 posts on June 25. Pages were less active during the protests organized by Georgia's far right against Tbilisi Pride Parade.

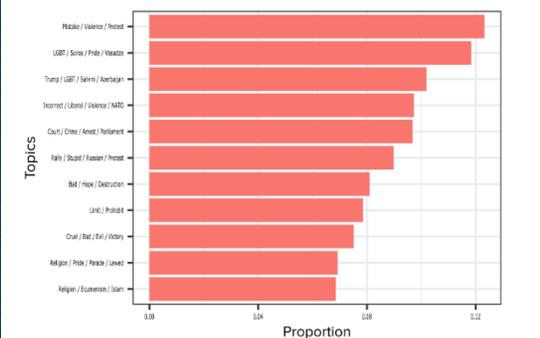
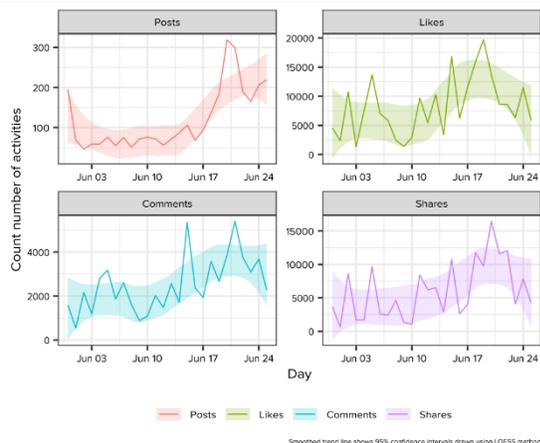
The audience was especially engaged in the days of anti-LGBT rallies. On June 19, posts earned about 19,701 likes, 2,664 comments and 9,774 likes. Although the content shared by the pages were re-posted in the days of anti-Government protest rallies.

Anti-Government protest rallies in Tbilisi

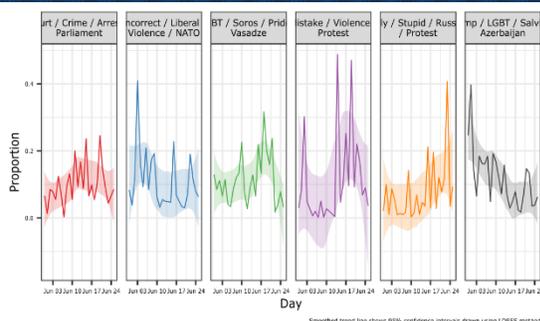
Pages were actively covering anti-government protest rallies in Tbilisi. On June 20th, pages shared commentaries from Levan Vasadze regarding anti-LGBT protests. Pages also responded to the incident involving Russian Duma member Sergey Gavrillov. Importantly, the majority of pages were negatively predisposed towards protest rallies and the visit of Sergey Gavrillov. Several pages shared photos depicting Gavrillov together with Georgian Dream and [European Georgia](#) MPs. Importantly, [pages negatively](#) reflected upon Gavrillov's visit and criticized his attendance of the forum.

Whom do the pages blame for organizing protest rallies? In general, these are the UNM and European Georgia. Pages negatively assess the role of the Georgian Dream MPs in the anti-government protest rallies. Pages also blame LGBT activists for being active in anti-governmental protests.

Several pages highlighted that the protest rallies became "seized" by the UNM and [LGBT activists who use](#) the tribune for criticizing and blackmailing Georgia's patriarch. Pages highlight that Levan Vasadze days ago issued a warning regarding such a turnaround.



Main topics Georgian-language far-right groups discussed in June



Some of the pages [emphasize](#) that Russia is not a sole occupier of Georgian lands. They mention that Azerbaijan, Turkey and Armenia also hold Georgian territories, therefore anger should also be directed towards these nations.

Pages also engaged in different talking points. Some of the pages highlighted how Russian embargo on tourism might be consequential for Georgia's economy. News from the protest rallies were actively circulated – some pages described how people with conflicting ideas were not allowed to express themselves during the protest rallies. Others would share information how protest participants would kick out politicians from the UNM and the European Georgia out of the rallies. Finally, several pages [blamed](#) several activists of participating in Russian-funded conferences.