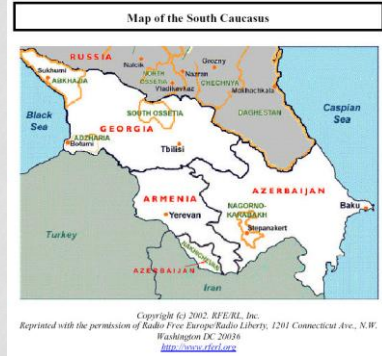


## PRENATAL SEX SELECTION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

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## COUNTRIES

- DIVERSITY IN
  - RELIGION
  - ETHNICITY
  - LANGUAGE
- IMPACT OF POST-SOVIET TRANSITION
  - PRIVATISATION OF HEALTHCARE
  - ROLLBACK OF STATE SERVICES
  - DECLINE IN FERTILITY
- GUILMOTO (2009) : ARE PEOPLE WILLING AND READY TO PRACTICE SEX SELECTION?
- DATA: MY RESEARCH SINCE 1993; ACADEMIC STUDIES; REPORTS (UNFPA, UNDP, WORLD BANK, EBRD, PACE)

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## GENDER - BASED CONTEXT: THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

- **Countries of the South Caucasus**
  - **Armenia** -- 112 boys born for every 100 girls
  - **Azerbaijan** -- 112 boys born for every 100 girls
  - **Georgia** -- 111 born for every 100 girls
- **Some cultural, social and economic trends and practices – BUT CULTURE IS DYNAMIC...**
- **The Soviet legacy**
  - Abortion as a method of contraception
  - Introduction of scans in early 1990s
  - So why not similar ratios in other post-Soviet countries?
- **2011 PACE REPORT ON PRENATAL SEX SELECTION**

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## POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

- A PROBLEM OF DEMOGRAPHY
- A PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- A PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS
  - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
  - DISCRIMINATION



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## POSSIBLE POLICY INTERVENTIONS

- FURTHER RESEARCH IS KEY
  - CULTURAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
  - TRAINING MEDICAL PERSONNEL
  - EXAMINE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESS
- LEGISLATIVE CHANGES:
  - BUT NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS NOT TO DRIVE UNDERGROUND; GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION IS A BIG PROBLEM
- EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING IS KEY
  - HOW TO FRAME AND ADDRESS THE PROBLEM
- AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST ... CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

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