

## **PRESS CAFÉ, BATUMI, REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

### **MISSION:**

Press Café's mission is to be „the popular gathering place“ in Batumi to provide people with a free exchange of multi-interest ideas and opinions. Through scheduled events, debates, and various venues facilitated by experts, the public from all social-economic levels has an opportunity to be involved in open discussion, socializing, and sharing in a popular cafe atmosphere with ideas, art and excellent food. Press Café is to be a school for democracy.

### **HISTORY:**

The Press Café was born out of the desire from the Independent Journalist House and the free media professionals of Batumelebi Gazette, to provide a place of support for the freedom of the press. The Café provides a comfortable atmosphere that is open every day for good food and drink. It opened with a discussion event from the European Union, press representatives and community members.

### **Grand Opening Events – November 27, 2010**

“European Union and Georgia”

Speaker – François Massoulié acting Head of the European Union Mission in Georgia.

“Civil Society”

Speaker – Oliver Reisner. European Union Mission in Georgia, Program Manager.

Moderator – Zviad Koridze, journalist, media expert

Since its opening in late 2010, The Press Café has hosted many events covering topics such as; human rights, journalistic ethics, civil and religious freedom, documentary and art-house cinemas.

The cafe atmosphere is kept new and inviting by changing the art and décor monthly. It has become a popular meeting place for TV interviews, non-governmental organizations (NGO), as well as ministry department meetings. The café is available for NGO's to use for open and closed meeting. With unique uses such as hosting children from the Constitution Center where they learn about the development of the Georgian constitution and their rights under their constitution.

### **Many Opportunities for involvement free of charge include:**

- Young Lawyers Association presentations and discussions
- Business opportunity presentations
- Friday Night Movies and Discussion
- Author presentations and book signings

Besides the meetings and events, the Press Café is a popular place for the general public to eat and drink, listen to music and view cinemas. The menu includes many international style dishes and the prices are kept to a minimum so that anyone can afford to eat and drink at the Café.

**MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE:**

The Press Café is upgrading its technical abilities and will be able to stream online the events and debates over the internet; professionally record and photograph interviews for television; and host various experts for discussions. Discussions and interviews with the new technical equipment will allow for training of journalists and media students in ethics, fact gathering, use of media technical equipment and involvement in freedom of the press. It gives a wider audience opportunity to be connected to the sharing in pluralistic thought provided by the Press Café.

Press Café is looking toward the future to expand its reach to the people of Georgia, students and international visitors to Batumi, Georgia. It offers wide screen TV showing international News. Various newspapers, books and literature are available to read and purchase while in the café. The café is a sustainable discussion club, open daily, with long hours, it is offering the public a safe place to gather, share and grow democratic thought.