

A large crowd of people is gathered at night in front of a grand, illuminated building with many arches. Many people are holding flags, including the Georgian national flag (white with a large red cross) and the European Union flag (blue with yellow stars). The scene suggests a significant public demonstration or rally.

FROM CHARITY TO RESISTANCE: HOW CROWDFUNDING BECAME A TOOL FOR DEMOCRACY IN GEORGIA

GVANTSA KAKAURIDZE, ORBELIANI FOUNDARION



BEFORE THE SHIFT

Crowdfunding was mainly used for:

- Medical treatment
- Humanitarian emergencies
- Support for families in need
- Individual charitable cases

THE TURNING POINT: NOVEMBER 2024

- The government announced a pause in EU accession efforts
- Large-scale pro-European protests began
- Demonstrators faced arrests, violence, and intimidation
- Civil society entered a period of severe pressure



FROM GIVING TO SOLIDARITY

Crowdfunding began supporting:

- People detained during protests
- Families of imprisoned protesters
- People who lost their main source of income
- Citizens facing legal and financial pressure





FROM INTIMIDATION TO SOLIDARITY

Protest participants were fined for activities such as:

- Standing on the road during demonstrations
- Standing on the pavement
- Wearing masks
- Other protest-related activities

KEEP THE LIGHT

A joint campaign of independent Georgian media outlets to protect:

- Independent journalism
- Free speech
- Public access to information
- Democratic resilience





GRASSROOTS MEDIA: CITIZENS FUNDING INFORMATION

Citizen donations supported:

- Independent newspapers
- Regional distribution
- Access to unbiased information
- Volunteer-led communication networks

WHAT CHANGED? CROWDFUNDING AS DEMOCRATIC INFRASTRUCTURE

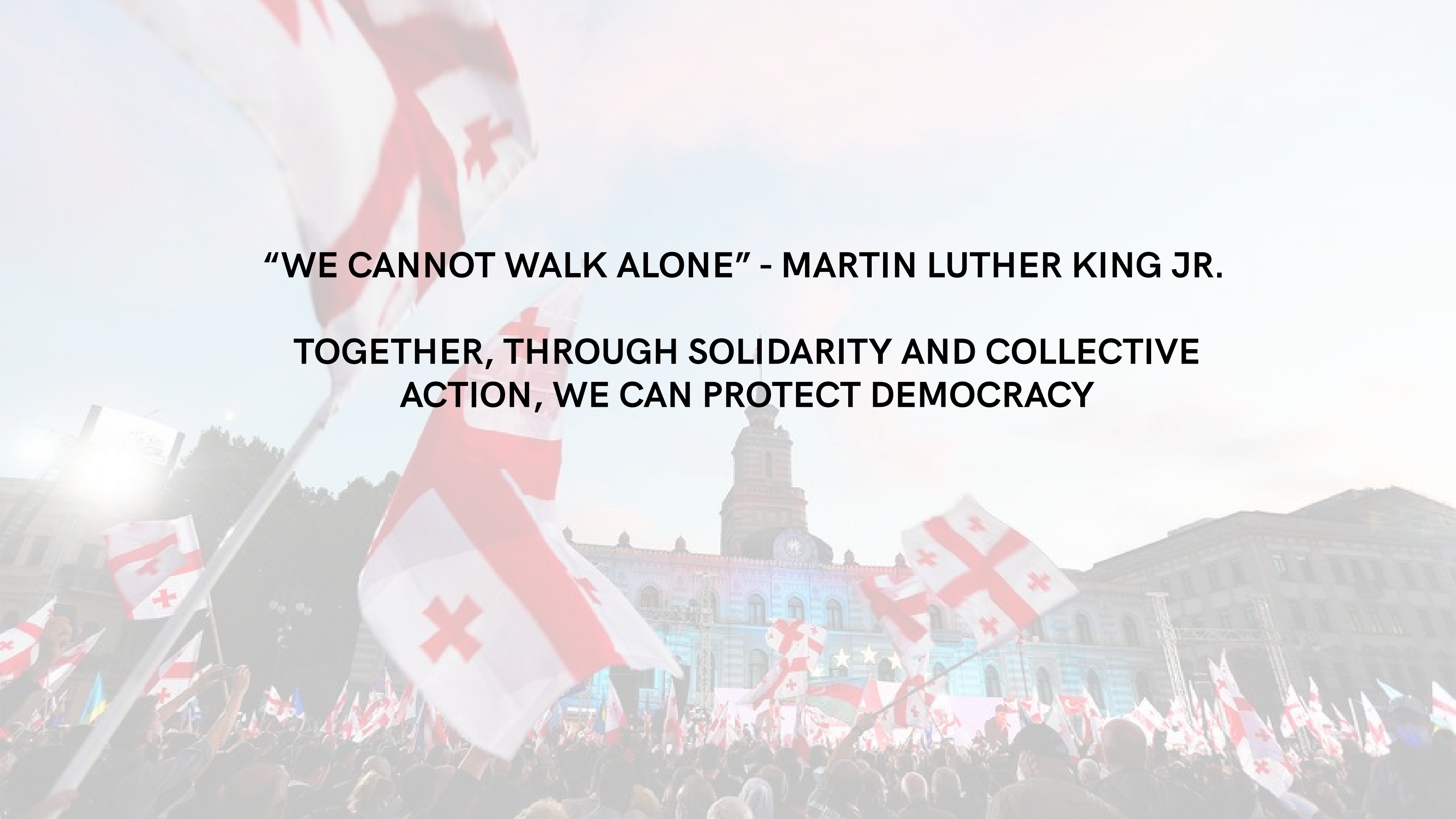


THE LESSON FOR FUNDRAISING4DEMOCRACY

Fundraising can:

- Build trust and civic networks
- Protect independent voices
- Support people facing repression
- Sustain civic participation
- Turn individual donations into collective action
- Strengthen solidarity and resilience
- Defend access to independent information



A large crowd of people is gathered in a public square, holding numerous Georgian flags (white with a large red cross and four smaller red crosses in the quarters). In the background, a large, ornate building with a central clock tower and arched windows is visible. The scene is set during the day with a clear sky.

“WE CANNOT WALK ALONE” - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**TOGETHER, THROUGH SOLIDARITY AND COLLECTIVE
ACTION, WE CAN PROTECT DEMOCRACY**