



ANDORRA

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

A number of hateful articles and comments appeared in the media this year, for instance in response to the rainbow crossing unveiled in the capital on 28 June.

EDUCATION

The NGO Diversand, in cooperation with the State Secretary of Equality and Citizen Participation, launched a children's book on Trans Day of Visibility on 31 March. Loan Poulet's 'Don't call me Pol, call me Sarai' is based on interviews with Andorran families.

On 28 June, DiversAnd read out its main claims at the annual Pride event (see more under **Equality and non-discrimination** and **Legal gender recognition**), including a need for inclusive education and training for key stakeholders in Andorra. The event was co-organised with other NGOs and was joined by key political leaders, such as the Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality, Judith Pallarès.

DiversAnd held three trainings for primary school teachers on gender diversity and for those undertaking teacher training at the University of Andorra.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Andorra's anti-discrimination body, the Equality Observatory that was set up in 2020, is yet to become operational. Minister Pallarès pledged it would be by the end of 2021. The Observatory will collect data on hate crimes and will also have a specific committee on LGBTIQ+ issues.

The government's Equality Department confirmed in May that three cases were currently being handled, including one of homophobic bullying in school and two focusing on trans young people's right to legal gender recognition. All three cases were reported in 2020. DiversAnd reported that many more cases exist, but reporting is low.

In 2021, DiversAnd learned about seven other cases, one concerning discrimination in sports and six regarding trans young people's name change and social transitioning.

On 28 June, DiversAnd held a training for politicians on trans rights issues, as part of Pride Day. The attendance was lower than expected, but the attendees were

receptive and interested in the subject. The last day of Pride events was on 2 July, when the organisers held a 'Pride Dinner' at the Primavera restaurant, which was open and welcoming of all.

The National Plan for Childhood and Adolescence, which was drafted with the participation of DiversAnd, is yet to be published, but the government announced in November that it would implement it from May 2022 onwards.

FAMILY

In February, the parliament adopted the amendments of the Law of the Person and Family, establishing that civil unions will remain available for same-sex couples, but the term "marriage" will only be used for heterosexual couples. The law recognises the parenthood of both parties who have a child via surrogacy, if the surrogacy was carried out in a country where it is legal.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

With the endorsement of the municipality in Andorra's capital, civil society painted a huge rainbow crossing between Avinguda Meritxell and Carrer Dr Molines. This was the first time that an LGBTI rights symbol was displayed by a municipality publicly.

HEALTH

The lack of access to affordable trans healthcare in the country continued to leave many in a difficult mental and physical health state. A trans person was notified by the Andorran Social Security (CASS) that they have to cover the full cost of their hormone therapy in the last two years. CASS argued that hormones are only covered for cisgender people. Due to the intervention of the Ombudsperson's Office, CASS reversed its decision. Following the case, DiversAnd met with the Ministry of Health, who expressed their commitment to include hormones for trans people in the public health scheme.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Civil society continued to urge the parliament to introduce legal gender recognition legislation, but LGR is not on the parliament's agenda right now.

The parliament (General Council) is currently debating the process of name change, which would be conditional



upon a psychologist's expert opinion for those under 18, thus failing to fit a self-determination-based model. Civil society is expecting that a proposal will be tabled in parliament in early 2022.

On 28 June, on the occasion of Pride, Contracorrent, DiversAnd and the National Youth Forum of Andorra held a demonstration calling on the government to ensure that trans people can change their name and legal gender in a quick, accessible and easy administrative process that is based on self-determination. The event was brought together by young people.



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