



# CZECHIA

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Bias-motivated speech against LGBTIQ+ people continued to be a serious issue, by politicians, religious leaders, anti-LGBTIQ+ activists, and the media. The following are a handful of examples:

In June, President Miloš Zeman called trans people “disgusting” and compared gender-affirming medical care to self-harm, making headlines internationally. Local trans organisation Trans\*parent called for a public apology.

The marriage equality bill sparked hate speech, discriminatory remarks and stigmatisation throughout the year, from politicians from a number of parties, such as the Christian Democrats and the conservative Civic Democratic Party. The leader of the far-right Freedom and Democracy said in April that he would rather jump out of a window than be adopted by a same-sex couple.

Prior to the general election in October, marriage equality was again a highly debated topic. Incoming Prime Minister and leader of the Civic Democratic Party, Petr Fiala wrote in his book that he cannot “be forced to believe that people of same-sex may create marriage and a family that equals the natural one” as it is “against his faith”. He called for protection of the “traditional family”.

Several politicians, including those from the former Prime Minister’s ANO Movement, the Civic Democratic Party and the Christian Democrats condemned the fact that Prague financially supports Prague Pride.

The anti-LGBTIQ organisation Alliance for Family continued making hateful statements and were very active in organising the public in protesting against any measure that would support LGBTIQ+ people.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

A gay couple suffered a homophobic attack in the centre of Prague for holding hands in public.

## EMPLOYMENT

A survey among those working in the public sector found that those in the justice and education sectors were least likely to be open about their sexual orientation to their colleagues. Over half of them would not disclose their sexual orientation compared to 29% among those working in the cultural sector.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The coalition of conservative parties won the October

parliamentary elections, beating the previous government by a narrow margin. Liberal parties performed worse than expected and the parliament does not currently include social democratic parties.

The chairwoman of the major anti-LGBTIQ organisation, Alliance for Family and the spokesperson of the main anti-abortion organisation, Movement for Life, were both chosen as assistants by two MPs from the conservative Civic Democrats and from Movement ANO, respectively.

The Ombudsman retained his unsupportive stance towards LGBTIQ+ people, publicly questioning if they are denied any rights whatsoever. Neither the Ombudsman, nor the High Representative for Human Rights took any significant action in support of LGBTIQ+ rights this year. The High Representative co-authored the first ever national LGBTIQ+ strategy but failed to secure support and adoption of the strategy by the outgoing government.

## FAMILY

On 11 January, the Constitutional Court ruled that a section of Czech law, which fails to recognise parenthood established under foreign law, is compliant with the Constitution. Following this ruling, the Senate rejected a legislative proposal that would have removed the ban on recognising the joint parental rights same-sex couples acquired under foreign law.

On 29 April, the parliament finally voted in favour of moving the marriage equality law to its second reading. The marriage equality bill was first introduced in 2018 and civil society waited for over a 1,000 days for this step. At the time of the vote, it was likely that the bill would not be able to move forward before the October elections, due to lack of time. In addition, periods for deliberations in parliamentary committees, which are part of the second reading, were extended, further decreasing the chances of having enough time to adopt the bill before October elections. In the end, the bill did not move forward and the legislative process now has to start all over again. Another bill, attempting to place a constitutional ban on marriage equality, also moved to its second reading but, just like the equal marriage bill, was stalled before the elections.

In August, the parliament’s lower chamber rejected a bill that would have extended the right to foster to same-sex or unmarried couples.

Jsmé Fér continue to share testimonies of same-sex parent couples again this year, including of two dads who have had to split their foster rights between their three foster children. The accounts shed light on the



discrimination that same-sex couples suffer in lack of marriage equality and equal family rights. 70,000 people joined the [petition](#) in support of equal marriage in 2021, amounting to 140,000 in total.

## FOREIGN POLICY

Czechia [failed](#) to publicly condemn the hostilities against LGBTI+ people in Poland and Hungary again this year, despite joint and individual actions of EU Member States on the matter. Nevertheless, civil society [held](#) a protest in front of the Hungarian embassy.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Prague Pride was held with restrictions this year.

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

A number of regional LGBTIQ+ groups were set up or became increasingly active this year, mostly by led youth.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The politicisation of the Czech public TV and [radio](#) continued this year. A representative of the Roman Catholic Church was [appointed](#) to the supervisory board of Czech Radio, but later resigned and is now an assistant to a far-right MP.

The anti-LGBT+ organisation Alliance for Family filed a complaint against Czech TV claiming that its reporting on equal marriage is biased. The supervisory board partially sustained the complaint. In April, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) [warned](#) that Czech media freedom was under threat and that an increasing number of members are affiliated with the ruling party. EBU called on Czechia to protect media pluralism.

## HEALTH

Trans\*parent continued holding [training](#) for mental health professionals on working with trans clients and publishing resources and [testimonies](#) for healthcare professionals in general.

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The Prague mayor (Pirate party, the liberals) continued to support Prague Pride this year,. The City Hall [raised](#) the rainbow flag on the day to celebrate the event

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The proposal of the Pirate Party to not include gender markers on IDs was [rejected](#) by the Parliament's lower house this year. Trans\*parent [asked](#) candidates in the election to state their position on trans rights issues, such as the dropping of the sterilisation requirement for legal gender recognition.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Jsmé Fér [ran](#) a successful campaign in the leadup to the October parliamentary elections, mobilising voters and encouraging them to take into account whether candidates support marriage equality or not (see under *Family*). Jsmé Fér published resources for voters (see [here](#) and [here](#)). Trans\*parent did similar actions on [highlighting](#) party positions on trans rights issues.

The documentary "[The law of love](#)", documenting several years of the equal marriage campaign and co-produced by the Czech TV, was released in cinemas.

## PUBLIC OPINION AND ATTITUDES

The majority of the population continues to support marriage equality, 65 % according to a July [poll](#) that gathered 7,000 responses.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Civil society remained concerned about the future implications of the growing power of anti-choice organisations and the failure of the government to condemn the events in Poland. Incoming Prime Minister Petr Fiala [praised](#) former US President Donald Trump's fight against abortion.

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

PROUD and Prague Pride [continued](#) to work in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to ensure that social workers are better skilled to work with LGBTI clients.



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