



# DENMARK

## ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many, especially trans people and migrants, continued struggling financially. Informal aid initiatives by queer and trans communities continued.

## ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Trans people continued reporting to TransAktion having been denied access to spaces and services, threatened or assaulted.

## ASYLUM

LGBT Asylum and TransAktion continued documenting cases of trans asylum seekers without access to trans-specific healthcare, being harassed, and their asylum claims rejected. They also continued to criticise the border regime, the conditions in camps, and housing placement in remote towns when granted asylum.

The Minister of Foreigners and Integration announced plans to establish an asylum centre for LGBTI asylum seekers.

In June, various LGBTIAQ+ organisations called for support to asylum seekers and refugees and condemned plans to deport Syrian refugees, which has frightened many others.

LGBT Asylum, among others, lobbied against stricter border regimes, migration and asylum policy and laws - including the government's intention to establish asylum camps for case processing in third countries and the lack of protection of (LGBTI+) refugees from Afghanistan.

Various LGBTIAQ+ organisations set up a hearing on LGBTI+ Refugees in parliament.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

TransAktion continued receiving reports of violent, anti-queer, anti-trans, racist, anti-Black attacks by police on queer and trans people who are BIPOC. During World Pride, several cases of racism and anti-trans attacks were experienced by participants. Anti-trans violence and discourse continued in the media and parliament, especially targeting trans women, youth, and children.

Civil society urged the government to address anti-LGBTI rhetoric in the media, by extremist groups on social media, and in sports.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

The bill to amend the hate crime legislation and add gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics as aggravating factors, was successfully adopted in December and will enter into force on 1 January 2022.

“Live and Let Live” published 1,000 accounts of anti-LGBTQI hate crimes and speech.

## BODILY INTEGRITY

A Ministry of Equality study found that 8% of LGBT people were told by friends they should not be LGBT and 3% had been subjected to conversion therapy. The government plans to ban the harmful practice against minors.

## EDUCATION

LGBT+ Youth and LGBT+ Denmark's study found that more than half of LGBTQ+ students aged 13-25 have had suicidal thoughts or self-harmed. 44% were bullied or faced discrimination in school; 37% felt lonely [general student population: 6%]. Only 23% learned about different sexual orientations and 9% about gender identities.

## EMPLOYMENT

A survey found that 6% of managers know of anti-LGBT harassment against their employees in the past three years.

The Ministry of Equality launched a campaign to prevent work discrimination.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

A report of the Ministry of Equality found that 58% of trans and 36% of intersex respondents experienced discrimination in the past year, most often in healthcare.

The government's bill to extend equal treatment legislation to gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics grounds in all areas of life and sexual orientation beyond employment was successfully adopted in December. It will enter into force on 1 January 2022.

## FAMILY

In May, rainbow families shared testimonies about being excluded from the legal system.



The government drafted and re-drafted amendments to family laws, which will give equal treatment to potential co-mothers and potential fathers and will recognise gestational trans men as fathers.

The planned amendments to the Administration of Justice Act will drop binary gender roles and the gendering of birth parents.

In February, the European Parliament's Petitions Committee examined NELFA and LGBT komiteen's petition and called on the European Commission to investigate the lack of mutual recognition of parenthood across EU borders. The case concerns a Bulgarian-Danish couple of two mothers, whose parenthood was recognised in Denmark, but not in Bulgaria.

Some rainbow families, recognised abroad as lawful parents, also lost that recognition in Denmark, for instance because their child was born out of surrogacy.

## FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

Court cases of trans and intersex people, subjected to violence and discrimination by prison guards and other incarcerated people, are ongoing. A Black trans woman was put in a male prison cell after police harassment in the street.

## FOREIGN POLICY

LGBT+ Denmark launched a global Queer Solidarity Fund. Denmark adopted a new foreign policy strategy, which is very weak on LGBTI rights.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Tens of thousands joined over 1,100 events in Copenhagen and Malmö as part of Copenhagen WorldPride and EuroGames in August. MPs from across the world, MEPs, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI and the EU Equality Commissioner were all in attendance. Thousands joined WorldPride Marches and over 50,000 joined other events. Due to public pressure the organisers backtracked on Nestlé's sponsorship. Local Pride events also took place in several Danish towns.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Months of attacks on gender and migration studies and

researchers culminated in MPs Henrik Dahl (LA) and Morten Messerschmidt (Danish People's Party) tabling 'On excessive activism in certain research environments', backed by parliamentary majority.

## HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to severely impact LGBT+ communities. NGOs, including LGBT+ Denmark (see here and here) or TransAktion still had a huge rise in demand for support and counselling.

In June, 77 organisations signed the joint statement 'Together against loneliness' so the government would address findings of a Ministry of Equality report warning that 28% of LGBT and 46% of trans people feel lonely (general population: 3%).

The state monopoly of trans healthcare continued, split between three clinics. Trans people continue to report rigid gatekeeping, medicalisation, pathologisation, racism, binary gender regimes, anti-migrant, anti-sex worker, anti-poverty, anti-fat and ableist structures and approaches. Activists and NGOs repeatedly send opinions and recommendations on the national guidelines, which are yet to be changed, but are excluded from the process.

## HOUSING

Homeless organisations continue to report a drastic increase in homelessness among LGBTI+ youth, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NGO responses often exclude the expertise of queer and trans people who have been homeless.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to increase structural inequalities, with many organisations who work against intersectional oppression, and/or are led by trans and intersex people, BIPOC, and other marginalised groups, being underfunded. That said, Sabaah and LGBT Asylum were granted funding for the next four years.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The process of lowering the legal gender recognition age-limit continued to be stalled, with opposition from some political parties and the Ethical Council, which has served as an excuse for the incoming Minister to address the issue.



Amendments to the Names Act will allow for name change on the basis of a simple self-declaration, but names continue to be listed as male or female.

*\*Some of the information about Denmark was gathered through counselling work and is reported here anonymously.*



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