

## &gt;THEMES

## ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD

## ALBANIA

During this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aleanca LGBTI and Streha supported 300 LGBTI people with food; the PINK Embassy provided food and clothing to 30 trans people.

## ARMENIA

Pink continued providing social and humanitarian support to LGBT people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly during the first half of 2021. As a result, more than 50 LGBT people received assistance for food, accommodation and medical expenses this year. Pink carried out a needs assessment in the community in June, identifying the high and detrimental impact of COVID-19, the war and the post-war situation on the mental health and well-being of LGBT+ people.

## BELARUS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also to the difficult political and social situation in Belarus, many lost their jobs and struggled to cover food, housing, and medical costs.

## DENMARK

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

## FRANCE

The pandemic continued to negatively impact LGBTI people, but with lockdowns ending, sex workers were able to resume their work.

## GEORGIA

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a devastating impact on LGBTQI and trans communities. Women's Initiative Support Group's (WISG) 2021 survey, to be published in 2022, found that almost half of LGBTQI respondents experienced food shortages during the pandemic.

## GREECE

In year two of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Transgender Support Association (GTSA) received support from the mayor of Athens and the Bodossaki Foundation to support 25 trans people with disabilities, and provide food and sanitary materials for 65 trans and LGBTQI people.

## KYRGYZSTAN

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, many LGBT+ people remained without income and struggled to afford food and other basic necessities. Those most vulnerable, including trans sex workers and migrants had no access to state assistance. Between 2020-2021, Kyrgyz Indigo (KI) provided food to 132 people and hormones to 69 trans people.

## MONTENEGRO

NGOs Juventas, Queer Montenegro, Spektra and Stana distributed food and hygiene packages to LGBTIQ people most in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, redesigning their organisational budgets.

## NORTHERN CYPRUS

The LGBTI+ community and particularly trans sex workers were severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many continuing to lack access to basic necessities and food this year.

In February, officials from the local administration announced they would provide food and hygiene items to those most vulnerable, explicitly mentioning LGBTI+ people. It was also clarified that support would be provided to those in need regardless of their citizenship or residence status, which was welcomed by Refugee Rights Association and Queer Cyprus Association (QCA).

Similar to last year, some political parties, the Nicosia Turkish municipality, and the Social Services Department, as well as some other NGOs, provided food for those most in need during the lockdown period. Queer Cyprus Association again provided financial support to those struggling the most, including trans and gay sex workers

## NORTH MACEDONIA

Trans people, and particularly trans sex workers, continued to be severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and without state support. Local trans group, Coalition Margins provided food packages to trans people most in need.

## ROMANIA

Romania became ineligible to many humanitarian programs after being classified as a high income country in 2020 and the state has done little to support marginalised groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

An increasing number of people have turned to LGBTQ+ associations seeking help with basic needs regarding shelter, repatriation, and employment.

## RUSSIA

Several NGOs continued supporting LGBTI people most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, by raising funds, supporting relocations, or distributing groceries. For instance, the Moscow Community Center for LGBT + Initiatives provided food and medication. The Center also published a report about the situation of LGBT people during the pandemic.

## TAJIKISTAN

The COVID-19 pandemic continued having a serious impact on LGBTQI+ people this year and many need financial help. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in the cost of tickets to Russia, as well as lockdowns in Russia, migrant workers have been unable to go there to earn money.

## TURKMENISTAN

The COVID-19 pandemic continued exacerbating the complex and difficult social and economic situation in Turkmenistan, having a dire impact, including LGBT people. The country is in a serious crisis – people are struggling with food shortages and hunger. There is a lack of adequate jobs and salaries vary between 24 to 45 euro. Many are quarantined without access to work. In addition to the pandemic, poverty and hunger have resulted in deaths. In some regions, a large number of thefts have taken place in food stores.

## UZBEKISTAN

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a serious impact on LGBT people, with many losing their income and struggling to cover food costs.