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BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

ALBANIA

Rainbowphilia reported ten cases of hate violence against trans people and sex workers to the Uwazi platform.

ARMENIA

(See under Police and Law Enforcement)

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year, with several attacks documented and criminal proceedings pending. Several incidents targeted trans people (see here and here). In March, for instance, over the span of a few days, a group of masked men physically assaulted two trans women and threatened to attack two others in Yerevan.

In July, a man live streamed beating up a trans woman in the street. On 20 August, a trans woman was murdered in the capital and her apartment was set on fire. The suspect was arrested shortly after and a criminal investigation is ongoing. On 21 August, a candlelight vigil was held in the victim's memory but was attacked by a group. The participants repeatedly asked for police protection, but the police allegedly just stood by.

On 23 April, police raided the techno club Poligraf and beat up several young people.

Civil society demanded investigation and accountability. The club is known to be a hub for self-expression and diversity.

Pink documented 51 cases of physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as threats of violence towards LGBT people during 2022, 23 of which were committed by family members, including one by the partner. In most cases, the parents learned about the LGBT identity of the victims and then beat, harassed, threatened, or locked them up. Legal barriers hinder organisations from addressing domestic violence cases involving LGBT minors as the parents, who are often the perpetrators, must authorise representation by another person.

RightSide NGO documented 22 cases of domestic violence cases against LGBTQ+ people.

New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) registered 35 cases of violence against LGBTI people throughout 2023, including 16 cases of domestic violence.

NTC documented and addressed 42 cases of human

rights violations, discrimination and violence against trans*, non-binary and gender-diverse people by unknown perpetrators (15), police (11), partner (10) and family members (6).

AUSTRIA

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year, with at least one homophobic incident being reported every single day. The figures are similar for gender-based crimes, which can include transphobic crimes as well. The Ministry of Interior's annual hate crime report shows 373 attacks based on the victim's sexual orientation and 350 attacks based on sex/gender identity. Since 2022 the gender marker inter/divers have been added to the report, even though it's still not being added to the law.

In light of these numbers, the Ministry of Social Affairs put in place over 250,000 Euro funding this year to support the queerfacts.at educational platform. Nevertheless, there is still no national plan in place to tackle anti-LGBTI hate crimes. SPÖ called for a national plan and stronger measures. In June, the Ministry of Justice hosted a roundtable discussion on anti-LGBTI hate crimes, which had first been announced a year earlier.

AZERBAIJAN

(See also under Education)

Hate crimes against the LGBTQI+ community continued to be a serious issue. A trans woman was tortured and murdered in July in Baku. Several other trans people were also physically assaulted this year (see here), including by the police (see here). Several gay men were attacked (see for instance here).

Two trans women were detained for 'hooliganism' by the police on 22 May, for making noise. To show solidarity and demand their release, seven LGBTI activists gathered outside the Baku police station on 23 May. All seven were arrested, charged with 'minor hooliganism' and other offences, and fined. Some of them shared that they were beaten, harassed, insulted, locked up in a very small cell and kept without food or water while in custody. The authorities and civil society did not condemn the mistreatment.

On 31 May, Christophe Lacroix, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people, issued a statement condemning the police's

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actions. On 7 June, MEPs of the European Parliament denounced the arrests and called for investigation, asking the European Commission to do the same. The EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell Fontelles expressed concern about the events in July.

In July, the police raided a private birthday party attended by several queer people and subjected them to forced medical examinations, physically and sexually harassed them, and threatened to out them publicly.

BELARUS

Several gay clubs were raided by the police in October. The police searched people's bags, looked through their photos and messaging apps, and detained several people.

In August, a queer person in Vitebsk reported an assault to the police but was detained and held for 24 hours. The person was later released pending trial.

Violence, corrective rapes and police mistreatment against trans people remain serious issues this year. In June, a trans woman in Minsk was physically assaulted for displaying a Ukrainian and a rainbow flag on her backpack. After seeking help from the police, she was imprisoned for 14 days.

A trans person faced correctional rape, intimidation and death threats. Medical assistance was denied, and the person was sent to a psychiatric clinic. A month later, the police rejected their complaint.

Anonymous initiatives reported several cases of corrective rape against trans individuals who, fearing reprisals didn't report to the police and sought crisis psychological support.

BELGIUM

(See also under Education)

After her disappearance in December 2022, the murder of a Georgian young trans woman in Belgium was reported in January.

Unia shared that it closed 137 files relating to discrimination based on sexual orientation in 2022, a worrying figure but a slight decrease compared to 2021. It received 7,310 complaints in 2022. Unia called for a

new intergovernmental action plan against discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ people, as the previous one expired in 2019.

UZ Gent/Transgender Infopoint's study, commissioned by the government, found that one in three LGBTQ+ people in Flanders have experienced physical violence in the past two years and 93% have reported verbal or psychological abuse.

Three LGBTQI+ bars were vandalised in Brussels. A man in his 70s was lured on a fake date on a dating app and robbed by five young men. A man was the victim of a homophobic and autistophobic attack in Brussels. Several rainbow crossings (see under Equality and Non-discrimination) were vandalised (see here, here, and here).

The Brussels metro received several terrorist threats, which also included anti-LGBT language.

The perpetrator in a 2022 homophobic hate crime was sentenced to 18 months of prison, including nine months of probation. One of the three perpetrators of a 2018 homophobic murder was sentenced to 28 years in prison – the others stood trial in 2021.

In July, Belgium adopted the first law against femicides in Europe. It includes protections for gender minorities who do not identify as women.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Following Tuzla (2021), Sarajevo (2018), Trebinje, Herzegovina-Neretva, Una-Sana Cantons (2023), remaining cantons in Republika Srpska and in Brcko District also appointed a staff person in the Prosecutor's Office in charge of overseeing anti-LGBTI hate crimes. This now covers the majority of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LGBTI activists consider that President Dodik was partially responsible for the violent attacks against LGBTI activists and journalists in Banja Luka in March (see under Freedom of Assembly). They urged authorities to start a criminal investigation and classify the incidents as a hate crime. The day before the planned Pride events in Banja Luka, extremists roamed the streets chanting "kill the fags" and vandalised the venue where some events were to take place. A day after the march and during a local football match, extremists displayed a banner stating "Stop disease" while shouting "kill faggots". The Council of

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Europe [High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) condemned the events and called local authorities to prosecute perpetrators.

In July, the European Parliament [adopted](#) the Commission's 2022 report on Bosnia and Herzegovina and called on the government to add SOGI as grounds to hate crime laws.

SOC documented 12 anti-LGBTI hate crimes this year - seven were reported to the authorities.

BULGARIA

In May, a group of young men [assaulted](#) several people to “clean the park of gays”, including minors.

On 10 June, a group of far-right extremists held up hateful banners outside the screening of *Close* during the Sofia Pride Film Fest and allegedly [assaulted](#) a woman. The group then went inside to [disrupt](#) the event, took photos of the attendees, called them “paedophiles”, and chanted “LGBT virus”. The event was cancelled. The police were present, but allegedly shook hands and saluted the protesters. Civil society [called](#) on Sofia's mayor to prohibit hateful actions and ensure that future screenings can go ahead with police protection.

On 23 June, a screening of *Close* was also [disrupted](#) by extremists in [Varna](#). The film was screened several times in Bulgaria prior to Pride events.

In the lead-up to Sofia Pride in June, several Pride posters and billboards were [vandalised](#) in the capital (see under Freedom of Expression). Fake hand-written banners were also [put up](#) across the city, falsely calling for violence on behalf of Pride organisers.

On 10 July, the Sofia Court of Appeals [convicted](#) former presidential candidate and neo-fascist party leader Boyan Rasate of hooliganism after [storming](#) into the Rainbow Hub in 2021 and punching staff member Gloriya Filipova in the face. The Court of Appeals gave him six months probation.

In a long-awaited move, the parliament [amended](#) the Criminal Code on 28 July to sanction hate crimes motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. Civil society had [advocated](#) for this step for [many years](#) and [welcomed](#) the developments.

CYPRUS

In February, a group of hooded men [disrupted](#) a Rainbow Meeting at Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK) in Limassol, used fire extinguishers, chanted homophobic slurs and slogans, physically assaulted one student, and damaged property when they were leaving. Five suspects were [arrested](#), three of whom are students at TEPAK. President-elect Nikos Christodoulides condemned the violence.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Several people reported harassment and violence to QCA. In March, for instance, a young man was attacked in Famagusta and verbally [harassed](#) by a man, who also poured sewage water on him.

On 27 January 2023, a minor attempted to tear the rainbow flag hanging outside the youth centre of Famagusta.

CROATIA

The Rainbow Family Association's study [found](#) that one in four LGBTQ people in Croatia have been physically [assaulted](#). Zagreb Pride's report [found](#) that the number of hate speech instances and hate crimes have been on the [rise](#) between 2018-2022 and that there were serious [gaps](#) in the implementation of existing laws. In 2022, the Ministry of Interior [documented](#) eight SOGI-based hate crimes.

In January, two men who were kissing, were [attacked](#) and chased away from a club in Split. In May, three young men tried to tear down a rainbow flag on a square in front of the National Theatre, but were prevented by a high school teacher, who [received](#) both praise and online hate afterwards. In June, three men were [arrested](#) after [throwing](#) burning torches on stage at a Pride month event in Pula.

CZECHIA

51% of LGBTIQ people have been [targeted](#) by insults, assault, or threats in the past five years. No steps towards a bill against hate crimes based on SOGI grounds were taken this year.

The police [reported](#) high rates of hate crimes and hate speech against LGBT+ people.

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As part of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), States [recommended](#) that Czechia sanction hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ people.

In July, the Constitutional Court [ordered](#) the lower courts to revise the amount of compensation in the case of a trans minor who was repeatedly raped during her psychiatric hospital care.

DENMARK

The police's hate crime report [published](#) in January and focusing on the year 2021, found a 29% increase in anti-LGBT hate crimes compared to the previous year.

The court procedures [started](#) in the case of an 18-year-old man who planned anti-LGBT violence and arson in Aarhus 2022.

Trans organisers continued receiving reports of police attacks on BIPOC queer and trans people.

Every year, between 2,000 and 3,000 LGBTIQ people experience violence due to their perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/ or sex characteristics, accounting for about 4% of victims of violence, according to a Ministry of Justice's study on crimes between 2005 and 2021. The number is probably higher as many trans people and QTIBIPOCs do not report to authorities.

ESTONIA

Civil society [continued](#) to advocate for hate crime legislation that considers anti-LGBT+ hate as an aggravated circumstance.

During Pride week, a man physically [assaulted](#) a gay pastor and two others [during](#) a Gay Christians discussion group in Tallinn. The Minister of Social Protection [condemned](#) the [violence](#). The Ministry of Interior later [announced](#) that the perpetrator, originally from Russia, would be deported.

The courts [sentenced](#) a man who [murdered](#) a migrant black trans woman in 2022 to 12 years in prison.

FINLAND

Vandalism continued to be a serious issue this year. Rainbow flags were destroyed, taken down, or burnt in a number of cities and towns, including [Masku](#), [Pori](#), [Lappeenranta](#), [Joensuu](#), and [Tornio](#).

Three people, including a former [pastor](#), were physically

[assaulted during](#) a Gay Christians discussion group at Tallinn Pride in Estonia.

Several people were [harassed or assaulted](#) outside Tampere's oldest LGBTQ bar Mixei.

A man [harassed and attacked](#) a female couple at a supermarket's parking in the town of Kaarina in November.

FRANCE

(See also under Education)

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year. The Ministry of Interior [shared](#) that the number of anti-LGBTIQ hate crimes rose by 3% between 2021-2022. SOS Homophobie's annual hate crime report [found](#) a 27% increase in the number of anti-LGBTIQ hate crimes in 2022, compared to 2021. Anti-trans incidents also [saw](#) a 27% rise compared to 2021. Le Refuge [reported](#) a 10% increase in requests from young LGBT people for support and emergency housing, compared to the previous year.

Several public spaces were attacked and vandalised this year, including LGBTIQ+ centres in [Angers](#), [Le Havre](#), [Touraine](#), [Arras](#), [Nantes](#), and [Reunion](#), and an LGBT+ association in [Perpignan](#); among others (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#)). The centre in Touraine was [attacked](#) six times in eight months. A community health centre and two employees of the association Grisélidis, which supports sex workers, were attacked in [Toulouse](#). In most cases, local politicians condemned the incidents, the police acted quickly and the perpetrators were held accountable.

In May, more than 50 civil society organisations [called](#) on the government to tackle the wave of hate crimes. In July, the government [said](#) they would invest into awareness raising and victim support and launched the new LGBT+ Action Plan (see under Equality and Non-discrimination).

In April, genderqueer singer Bilal Hassani's performance in a deconsecrated church had to be [cancelled](#) due to multiple bomb and murder threats from far-right extremists; Hassani [filed](#) a complaint.

In May, a black gay man was physically [assaulted](#) in Hérault. Several other hate crimes were reported this year ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

A street in Nantes, decorated for Pride, was [vandalised](#)

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with slogans such as “death to LGBT” and “paedophiles”. Rainbow pedestrian crossings were [vandalised](#) in Tours.

A report [identified](#) over 300 victims of fake dates over the past five years, mostly gay and bisexual men. Five men were [arrested](#) in what is suspected to be a homophobic murder in Vaucluse - the men allegedly lured others on fake dates. In March, two men were [convicted](#) of kidnapping and extortion in another case.

Two perpetrators of the murder of Vanesa Campos, a trans-migrant sex worker, in 2018 were [sentenced](#) to 14 and 17 years in prison by the appeal court in March - a reduced sentence compared to the 2022 verdict. Several perpetrators of anti-LGBTI hate crimes were convicted this year (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

GEORGIA

(See also under Foreign Policy; and Freedom of Assembly)

In January, the Tbilisi Appeals Court overturned a 2022 ruling and acquitted six people who were involved in the 2021 anti-LGBTQ attacks, by [dropping](#) the charges of group violence on grounds of SOGI. The Court also [reduced](#) their prison term from five to four years. Human rights groups [called](#) the [ruling](#) [alarming](#). The Prosecutor’s Office will appeal. In September, the European Commission [requested](#) that Georgia submit information about the investigation. The request was made as part of Georgia’s process of being a candidate for EU membership.

In January a Human Rights Watch [report](#) highlighted, among other things, violence against the LGBT community.

GERMANY

The Ministry of Interior [shared](#) in May that over 1,000 homophobic hate crimes were recorded in 2022, marking a 15% increase compared to 2021. Sven Lehmann, the Federal Government Commissioner for the Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity, highlighted that three to four queer people per day are assaulted in Germany.

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue in 2023, with the vast majority going unreported. Several LGBTIQ people (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) were assaulted this year, many of them in Berlin. In August, hundreds [gathered](#) for a demonstration in Berlin to call for action against anti-LGBTI hate crimes. Berlin’s LGBTIQ Museum (Schwules

Museum) was [attacked](#) with bullets in February.

A lesbian space in Berlin was [targeted](#) by an arson attack in the summer. A monument remembering ‘homosexual’ victims of the Nazi era was [vandalised](#) in August. A banner inciting hatred against queer people was [put up](#) in downtown Berlin. A rainbow flag was torn down and [burnt](#) outside a school in Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen.

In June, the federal working group on anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes, established in 2022, [developed](#) a series of recommendations including training at law enforcement agencies, research and setting up contact points and counselling for survivors

GREECE

The national hate crime monitoring body’s annual report [shared](#) that 38 hate crimes were documented against LGBTI+ people in 2022.

Hate crimes continued to be a [serious](#) issue this year (see also Freedom of Association) (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). On 10 July, a black migrant trans woman and sex worker, [Anna Ivankova](#) was brutally [murdered](#) in her home. Media outlets repeatedly [misgendered](#) her. A [protest](#) and commemoration was [held](#) outside her apartment on 11 July - Anna Ivankova was an active member of the LGBTIQ+ activist and art scene. Some of the organisers were [harassed](#) and [physically assaulted](#) the same evening by a group of six men. The suspected murderer was arrested.

A former police officer [sued](#) an intersex woman, who he harassed and assaulted in 2019, for defamation, after he was exonerated this year.

The second instance trial in the murder of LGBT+ activist Zacharias Kostopoulos, who was killed in 2018, was postponed to January 2024.

In December, Council of Europe’s GREVIO [published](#) its Baseline Evaluation Report on Greece, including, for the first time, intersex women.

HUNGARY

Háttér [published](#) a report on victim-centeredness and intersectionality in hate crime proceedings. A [national](#) and a [transnational](#) workshop was organised to discuss good practices in the field.

The perpetrator in a 2021 hate crime against a lesbian

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couple was sentenced to five years in prison and [said](#) at his court hearing that “Viktor Orbán thinks similarly”.

A teacher at a school outside of Budapest [quit](#) her job after constant harassment, bullying and threats (see under Education).

ICELAND

Civil society noted with concern that harassment and violent attacks [increased](#) this year. Anti-LGBTQI+ ‘barking’ still [happens](#), but is less common.

Rainbow flags were again [vandalised](#) this year during Pride month.

In September, a guest of the Nordic LGBTI conference was brutally [attacked](#) on his way to the hotel. The investigation is ongoing.

In June, a woman was [sentenced](#) to two years of probation and fined for harassing a lesbian couple who were her neighbours.

IRELAND

Hate crimes against LGBTQI+ people continued to be a serious issue (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). The police’s annual hate crime statistics [found](#) a 29% increase in reported hate crimes and related incidents in 2022, of which 22% was based on sexual orientation - the [second highest rate](#) following hate crimes based on race. Several victims were minors. In May, a brutal attack against a 14-year-old gay student was filmed and went viral on social media and [shocked](#) the country. Three minors were [arrested](#). The Taoiseach [condemned](#) the attack.

Protests and vigils were [held](#) in several cities against transphobic hate crimes after a trans teenager was killed in broad daylight in England.

The [new hate crime bill](#) passed at the Dáil, the Parliament’s lower house, and it is currently before the Seanad, [third stage](#). One of the reasons of the delay is disagreements on the definition of gender. The bill recognises anti-LGBTI violence as aggravated offences. Civil society [continued](#) urging lawmakers to pass the bill.

The perpetrator in the two homophobic murders in 2022 [pleaded](#) guilty in July and was handed two life sentences, plus another 20 years for assault on another gay man.

On November 23, violent far-right riots [broke out](#) in Dublin following a knife attack that left five injured including three children. The events, spurred by online disinformation and filled with anti-immigration chants, were [seen](#) as the worst riot in decades.

In November, results of a [survey](#) carried out by the University of Limerick (UL) and Queen’s University Belfast of 2,000 people from either side of the border found that 39% of people think hate crimes have risen a lot over the last five years. More specifically, 69% of respondents said that hate crime is a very serious problem for trans people followed by black people (64%) gay, lesbian, and bi people (60%), and Muslim people (60%).

ITALY

Anti-LGBT [hate crimes](#), including rape, assault, murder and beating continued and escalated since the Meloni government got into power. Arcigay [shared](#) in May that the past 12 months had marked the most violence the community has faced, including three suicides and three murders. Several people were physically assaulted, including young [men in Turin and Rimini](#), and a young woman in [Pavia](#). On May 17, Medus3 Observations on Lesbophobia published its second annual [report](#), documenting 20 lesbophobic attacks that came to media attention in 2022. In March, a man was lured on a fake date and was murdered. In May, three police officers brutally [beat](#) a migrant trans woman in a [racist](#) and transphobic attack in Milan.

In November, a 13-year old boy [committed suicide](#) after being bullied for his alleged sexual orientation.

KAZAKHSTAN

Several hate crimes were [committed](#) again this year and LGBTQI+ people continued to face police abuse.

In July, an LGBTQI activist was almost [run over](#) by a driver who recognised her. The man also verbally assaulted her. The activist filed a police complaint. but there was no investigation or follow up.

A trans sex worker was [harassed](#), blackmailed and threatened with eviction when police officers came to her apartment pretending to be clients. The officers extorted money from her, as others had done in the past. Several other trans sex workers [reported](#) being harassed, detained, and abused by police.

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Several lesbian, gay, and trans people shared their stories this year (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), speaking about hiding, stigma, family and police violence and harassment in employment.

In autumn, a group of ex military officers proposed that homosexuality be [criminalised](#) again.

A man was [sentenced](#) to five years in prison for luring a gay man on a fake date, robbing and assaulting him.

Out of 440 Education Community study participants, 73 or 17% LGBTQI+ people reported experiencing violence in the past year. Additionally, 40 (or 9%) chose not to respond. Most instances of violence were categorised as psychological (77%), physical (55%), sexual (32%), or economic (14%).

KOSOVO

The Prosecutor's Office [filed](#) charges against a man who allegedly planned a terrorist attack against LGBTI people.

In August, a graffiti was [painted](#) in Prishtina saying "kill the gays". The graffiti was reported to the police. Activists replaced the word "kill" with "kiss".

LATVIA

Mozaika documented nine anti-LGBT hate crimes this year. In May for instance, two people were [attacked](#) in Daugavpils for being LGBTQ+. One suspect was identified, but the police [dropped](#) the criminal case. Prosecutor General Juris Stukāns questioned the legality of the police's decision and [reopened](#) the investigation.

Civil society [reported](#) that more and more people report hate crimes and police investigation has improved.

LIECHTENSTEIN

In January, Bishop Haas [cancelled](#) the traditional mass for parliamentarians because the majority voted in favour of marriage equality. Haas had previously [described](#) marriage equality as 'LGBT propaganda' and a "diabolical attack".

LITHUANIA

Civil society continued to [document](#) cases of sexual violence, family violence, and LGBT people being lured on fake dates. At the same time, victims are scared to come

forward in fear for victim blaming or additional harassment and trauma due to their identity.

A man [painted](#) hateful slogans and nazi symbols on a rainbow crossing in Vilnius in July - the police launched an investigation.

In December, a gay couple was violently attacked by a group of perpetrators, LGL prompted the General Prosecutor to start the pre-trial investigation.

LUXEMBOURG

Hate speech against LGBTQ+ people was on the rise this year, particularly during Luxembourg Pride week, in what civil society views as the instrumentalisation of LGBTQ+ people for political gain. Two MPs and several other members of the Alternative Democratic Reform Party (ADR) criticised the parliament's support for Pride week, [sparking](#) countless hateful comments online.

Hate speech also [targeted](#) a drag story time event in the public library in Esch, including threats of violence.

In July, Centre LGBTQ+Cigale, together with Rosa Lëtzebuerg and eight other associations associations, launched a [platform statement](#) against right-wing hatred and hostility.

MALTA

Several incidents took place this year in response to Pride events. Ahead of the opening ceremony of EuroPride, a poster about the event was [vandalised](#) in Valletta. A group of Pride participants in Gozo were verbally [harassed](#) after leaving the march and one of them was physically [assaulted](#). The police [started](#) an investigation.

MOLDOVA

Several hate crimes took place this year and several LGBT people reported domestic violence cases to civil society. In June, a gay man was attacked while he was walking to, and in his car. The police detained the attackers and classified the case as a criminal offence.

In September, the Renaissance Party organised a protest in the city centre against European integration. At the protest, a flag with rainbow colours and the EU flag colours was [torn apart](#) by the party leader, Alexandr Nesterovskii.

In October, a young man was attacked outside a nightclub

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by other club customers with homophobic slurs and physical violence. Neither the security nor police identified the attackers. A misdemeanour case has been opened.

MONTENEGRO

The European Commission's report on Montenegro highlighted that misdemeanour charges are overused in the justice system and more capacity was necessary to deal with hate crimes and hate speech. The Commission's Delegation expressed concern about the rise in hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people. Distrust in the authorities and low reporting rates also remained an issue.

Two perpetrators in a 2019 assault against a trans man were sentenced to four and six months in prison. The courts previously gave eight months to both men. Spektra expressed concern about the lengthy procedure and prejudice in the judiciary.

As part of its fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR), UN States recommended Montenegro to collect data on domestic violence, disaggregated by sexual orientation and gender identity.

NETHERLANDS

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue (see here, here, here and here), including against minors. The government reported 2,654 cases of anti-LGBTI+ violence and discrimination in 2022, up from 2,471 in 2021. Many attacks occurred against symbols of the rainbow community; a rainbow flag was set on fire in Delft in May and in Wageningen in June, and another one was binned in Haarlemmermeer; an intersex-themed Pride exhibition in Alkmaar was vandalised in May and a monument remembering LGBTQI+ victims of Nazi persecution in the Hague was vandalised in July and again in November. In May, a group of 20 threatend a COC support group for LGBTI+ teenagers in Eindhoven, attacked a volunteer and took away their rainbow flag. After a call for solidarity from COC, many people, companies and almost 70 local and regional governments put up a rainbow flag in response.

EenVandaag's annual Pride survey found that 28% had negative experiences the past year (2021: 41%), and only 23% consider the Netherlands to be a leading country in LGBTI equality (2019: 51%).

CSOs continued to urge the government to take action. The Rainbow Ballot Agreement of 2023 includes measures like tougher sanctions, more capacity for the police and more inclusive legal protection against LGBTI+ discrimination. In October, Queen Máxima met with victims, NGO's and authorities to discuss anti-LGBTI+ violence.

A minor was sentenced to community service and two years of probation for assaulting a trans asylum seeker on 1 January.

NORTH MACEDONIA

In September, the Basic Criminal Court of Skopje sentenced a man to two years in prison for assaulting an LGBTI activist in 2022, applying the aggravating grounds of sexual orientation of the Criminal Code.

NORWAY

In March, 17 LGBTI groups petitioned the government to demand a wider investigation into the terrorist attack in 2022, which killed two people and wounded more than 20 people outside Oslo's queer haven and oldest queer bar, the London Pub. In June, the police-commissioned investigative report concluded that the police had known about terror threats before it, but failed to prevent the attack or inform the organisers. The alleged main perpetrator was charged with murder, attempted murder and terrorism, but no trial date has been set and the case is still under investigation. So far five people have been charged for the attack. Commemorations were held across the country on the anniversary of the attack. Threats targeted this year's Oslo Pride again this year - one suspect was detained. The police released a threat report in May.

The 2023 hate crimes report from the police found a continued increase in anti-LGBT hate crimes, from 97 in 2020 to 240 in 2021 and 285 in 2022. According to the police, hate crimes linked to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are solved in 45% of cases, while the total for all hate crimes are higher (51.9%).

POLAND

In January, far-right MP Grzegorz Braun binned a Christmas tree in Krakow that featured pro-LGBT messages.

In May, a woman carrying a rainbow flag was shot in the head with a BB gun at the Olsztyn Equality March. On the

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day of the Equality Pride in Warsaw in June, a 15-year-old was verbally harassed and then pushed off the tram for wearing a rainbow-coloured outfit. The police officer at the scene made offensive remarks to the teenager. The teenager reported the perpetrator and the police officer. Several rainbow flags were set on fire by Life and Family Foundation (Fundacji Życie i Rodzina) members during the march.

In July, Attorney General and Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro released a neo-nazi organiser who had served one of three years of her sentence for assaulting a Pride participant and taking away her rainbow-decorated purse. In August, Ziobro requested that the National Council of the Judiciary examine court rulings he thought to have been political and biased, and allegedly lenient towards leftist and LGBT people but strict against conservatives.

PORTUGAL

An exhibition about LGBTI+ issues in a church in Évora was vandalised by three men in June. The incident was condemned by the church and the city and the police are investigating.

ROMANIA

A queer person was verbally and physically attacked at a gas station in Bucharest.

This year, ACCEPT filed eight criminal complaints for hate crimes - six of them for threats, one for destruction and one because at the end of the Bucharest Pride march, in front of the Pride Park stage, someone threw irritants, caused three people to go to the first aid tent. In addition, 30 people received legal counselling as victims of hate crimes.

ACCEPT is still challenging in court the refusal of the Romanian Police to provide their methodology on recording hate crime cases which should also cover sexual orientation according to the criminal legislation.

RUSSIA

Hate crimes against LGBTI people, including murder, physical violence and extortion were committed again this year (see here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here). The authorities failed to classify them as anti-LGBTI hate crimes.

UCD Dublin published 'A decade of violence: monitoring anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in Russia', documenting over 1000 attacks between 2010-2020.

Coming Out published its 2022 annual report finding unprecedented crackdowns on civil society and human rights and highlighting the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Russian LGBT people.

Several people became victims of fake dates again this year. One such victim told Coming Out privately that a group of young men had assaulted him on a fake date and also accused him of paedophilia.

Coming Out filed a case at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) concerning the failure of the authorities to investigate the death of Yelena Grigoryeva, a well-known LGBT activist who was murdered in St. Petersburg in 2019. The case was rejected. In August 2023, the media reported that Yelena's murderer had been buried with honours in St Petersburg, after dying in the war with Ukraine.

Russia recognised the view of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as binding for the first time. In 2016, a homophobic attack was committed against two women in St. Petersburg. It was not investigated. CEDAW recognised this as a violation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Russia paid 30,000 rubles each to the two women, recognising the view of CEDAW.

SERBIA

Hate crimes continued to take place on a regular basis and largely with impunity. Da se zna! shared that close to 90% of victims, who reported an anti-LGBT attack to the authorities, do not have any information about the steps the police took. Between August and March 2023, Da se zna! documented 94 hate crimes .

In late February, a man was stabbed and two others were attacked with a bottle in a park in Belgrade by a group of young men. All three victims were hospitalised. A few days later, a man was assaulted at a club by the security guards. Brankica Jankovic, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, condemned the attacks and called for an effective police response. The perpetrators are being investigated and the Prosecutor filed charges. Following the attacks, civil society organisations held a protest with the slogan 'Hate Kills' in March and called on the police to find and sanction the perpetrators and on institutions to protect and support victims. The organisers also demanded an emergency meeting with the Minister of Interior. Riot police were present to protect the participants, but no incidents were recorded.

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In June, singer Ema Radujko was harassed, pelted with bottles and kicked off the stage for her support for LGBT+ rights.

Noa Milivojev, an 18-year-old trans woman, was murdered in June. Her body was found three weeks after she disappeared.

A vigil was held in her memory, but the memorial site was later vandalised and trans flags were violently removed from it. A protest was organised as part of “Serbia against violence” protest, and an opposition leader holding a trans flag was verbally attacked by two men, who were promptly removed by organisers. CSOs filed a criminal complaint, but the police have not taken action. 29 civil society organisations demanded the harshest sentence – the suspect faces aggravated murder charges. Civil society reiterated its urgent call for effective police protection and sanctions against perpetrators.

In its annual hate crime report, Da se zna! documented the highest number of anti-LGBT incidents since 2017.

The Belgrade Pride Info Centre was attacked and vandalised in May and August. This brings the total number of attacks on the Centre to 19 over the past few years. Police have only sanctioned two of the attacks. The rainbow flag outside the Centre was removed several times this year (see here and here for instance).

A sculpture commemorating Serbian queer artist Merlinka was vandalised in October, three days after it was installed.

Two police officers were acquitted despite assaulting a gay man in 2022.

SLOVAKIA

Presented in January, Inakost’s study found that 13% of respondents had been physically or sexually assaulted and 23% had experienced domestic violence. 80% are afraid in public places.

12 October marked the one year anniversary of the deadly anti-LGBTI+ terrorist attack in the capital. Commemorations were held to remember the two queer people murdered. President Zuzana Čaputová expressed her solidarity again. A report about the attack concluded that the killer did not act alone and the manifesto he shared, and which he said would hopefully inspire other attacks, was most likely co-written by others.

CSOs and the community feel betrayed and disappointed

that instead of proactively protecting the community, politicians have continued their anti-LGBTI+ backlash. Over 100 civil society organisations and 33,000 individuals have signed the Ide nám o život /Our lives are at stake call, launched in 2022, demanding sanctions against hate speech by politicians, prevention and prosecution in hate crimes, support for safe spaces and support services, and other key actions.

Since the attack, several bars and other venues that host LGBTI+ events have installed security cameras and hired security staff.

SLOVENIA

(See also under Freedom of Assembly)

Several hate crimes were recorded again this year, but victims remain reluctant to report incidents to the authorities. Legebitra documented a total of nine hate crimes and three cases of vandalism this year.

As of 27 November, TransAkcija documented 77 cases of reporting of direct transphobic violence or discrimination by a victim of violence, and an additional 47 cases where the person reporting the violence was a witness to the attack.

Several people were assaulted and organisers and venues were targeted before, during, and after the Ljubljana Pride march on 17 June and the Maribor Pride march on 16 September (see more under Freedom of Assembly).

Pride organisers expressed serious concern that at the Ljubljana march, the police failed to intervene in any of the attacks, failed to identify, detain, or stop the perpetrators, and discouraged the victims from reporting, saying such attacks are “just the way it is” on the day of Pride. Several civil society organisations condemned the police’s lack of action, called for hate crimes to be recorded, investigated, and perpetrators held to account, and demanded firmer responses from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, the former taking three days to react and the latter not making any statements. A few days after Pride, LGBTIQ+ organisations held a press conference about the attacks, warning about the increase in hate. Several passersby made anti-LGBT remarks.

In early July, the Commission for Petitions, Human Rights and Equal Opportunities convened an emergency meeting on homophobic and transphobic violence, concluding

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that the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities should prepare and adopt the National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ people.

In late July, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities held a meeting with LGBTIQ+ organisations on how to best respond to the increase in anti-LGBT hate crimes. The Ministry also discussed the National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ people as part of this effort (see more under Equality and Non-discrimination).

The government adopted an amendment to the Penal Code which would increase sanctions on hate crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation and a number of other non-GIGESC grounds.

SPAIN

The Ministry of Interior documented 459 anti-LGBT hate crimes in 2022 (2021: 466), the second most common type after racist attacks. Another survey from the LGTBI+ State Federation showed that 8,6% of LGBTI+ people have suffered aggression in the last five years. NGOs continued the awareness-raising campaign to 'Stop the Hate'.

Coruña's Observatory against LGBTI-phobia published its fifth annual report, finding a 17% decrease in cases in 2022 compared to 2021. The Observatory against Homophobia of Catalonia also documented fewer anti-LGBTI hate crimes in the same period, but those were more violent than before. It also found a significant increase this year, 18% in the first half of 2023. Barcelona announced that it would provide free legal advice to victims of anti-LGBTI+ violence. The Non-Discrimination Office of Valencia is putting in place a hate crime documentation system.

Countless hate crimes took place again this year, all across Spain (see here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here), including cases of family violence where parents mistreated their children for their SOGI. A trans woman was murdered in Barcelona in February.

A memorial for a popular trans icon was yet again vandalised in May in Madrid and rainbow flags were torn down again.

Several perpetrators of anti-LGBT hate crimes, including murder and sexual violence, were convicted this year (see here, here, here, here, here and here).

SWEDEN

A group of young Pride participants were verbally harassed on their way to Helsingborg Pride in July. The city reported the case to the police.

In February, the police issued a warning that several people were lured on fake dates on a gay dating app, and were then robbed and assaulted.

Neo-nazis tried to block a touring drag show musical for children in Jönköping, but the event was held without disturbance.

Children's right organisation ECPAT's report Consent is KEY found that LGBTQIA+ children are more likely to suffer sexual violence than their peers and are five times more likely to 'sell sex'.

SWITZERLAND

Anti-LGBT attacks continued to be an issue (see here, here, here), and several rainbow flags were set on fire (see here and here). The centre for queer young people in Chur was attacked and vandalised several times this year, sparking fear in the community.

The perpetrator in a homophobic assault in 2022 was sentenced to 80 days in prison.

The tribunal of Martigny fined one perpetrator of verbal and physical homophobic violence, citing physical injury, discrimination and hate speech, and another one who spread online hate messages in relation to the first perpetrator's attack. Together, the two had to pay additional 2,500 CHF (2,630 EURO) to the victims for reparation.

The annual joint report by TGNS, LOS, and Pink Cross documented 134 cases of violence and discrimination against LGBTQ people in 2022, the highest number to date. Almost a third of the victims were trans people and among them most were non-binary.

Under the new sexual criminal law, enacted in June, the gender and sex of perpetrators and victims in a case of rape will no longer be relevant.

TAJIKISTAN

Civil society reports that violence against LGBTQI+ people

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continues to be carried out on a daily basis. ECOM's annual Report on Violations of LGBT People's Rights in Tajikistan in 2022 [documents](#) 22 cases. ECOM shared that other organisations documented over 70 cases.

While the Tajik authorities continue to [deny](#) that the community faces harassment or persecution, the police [arrested](#) ten men in Dushanbe in February based on allegations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that they infected over 80 people with HIV.

LGBT people are persecuted by law enforcement agencies because of their HIV status. Law enforcement authorities use Article 125 of the Criminal Code (intentional transmission of HIV) to extort and search for other representatives of the LGBT community in the country. More than 20 LGBT people were detained and tested for HIV against their will. Under pressure from law enforcement officials, LGBT people were forced to out other people from the LGBT community. Some of them were convicted under this article and are serving time.

TURKEY

Kaos GL's annual monitoring report [found](#) that 2022 again was characterised by widespread police violence, torture and ill-treatment, and unlawful detention, particularly at demonstrations. At least 571 LGBTI+ activists were detained in one year. At the same time, the police failed to protect LGBTI+ people from hate crimes and most attacks remained without sanctions. 2022 was also a year where the government made relentless efforts to eliminate LGBTI+ people and topics from the public sphere, through bans and censorship.

A trans woman was [murdered](#) in her home in Ankara in August. A trans woman was [found](#) dead in Kocaeli in November.

Countless hate crimes were documented throughout the year.

On 5 January 2023, in the early hours of the morning in the Alsancak district of Izmir, trans woman [Ecem Seçkin](#) was murdered with a hate motive.

In İzmir Alsancak, trans woman [Melis Yağmur Hanzade](#) was attacked by a group wandering the streets, calling for the observance of the Islamic faith. There is no information that the perpetrators were caught.

A group attacked a trans woman waiting at a bus stop with a fire extinguisher. Those arrested said they did it 'as a joke' (see [here](#)).

Reactionary and anti-LGBTI+ groups tried to attack a breakfast organised by the LGBTI+ Rights Commission of the Izmir Bar Association as part of Pride Week activities. The group raised the takbir and used insulting and threatening words against the lawyers. The police did not intervene against the group (see [here](#), [here](#)).

In June, 154 journalists and press workers [published](#) a joint statement 'We do not want to write any more news about violence and prohibition against LGBTI+ people!'

A number of court cases, focusing on anti-LGBTI+ attacks or murder, continued to be pending or deliberately stalled this year (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#)) - some for over [15 years](#).

UKRAINE

Anti-LGBTI hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year. Nash Svit [documented](#) eight homophobic/transphobic attacks throughout the year. In July, the prominent Ukrainian designer Kostya Omelya was the victim of a homophobic attack in Kyiv. A trans soldier from the Ukrainian armed forces was attacked while on leave in Kyiv.

Bullying and harassment also [remained an issue](#) in the armed forces. Hate crimes [remained common](#) in the occupied territories as well, where LGBTI people reported cases of extortion, torture, kidnapping, harassment, imprisonment, and violence, including sexual violence at the hands of Russian soldiers.

The Lutsk Community Centre for the LGBTI community, [run](#) by Insight, was [broken into](#) in June. The suspect is facing charges.

In May, the Committee on Law Enforcement [recommended](#) that the parliament adopt [bill](#) no. 5488, which would criminalise hate crimes committed on the grounds of, inter alia, sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill was first introduced in 2021 and was one of the measures in Ukraine's Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2023), but the adoption process had been stalled since. By September the bill was [prepared](#) for consideration in parliament Nash Svit documented more than 27 hate crimes in the first six months of 2023.

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In November for the first time in Ukraine, an anti LGBTI hate crime offender was punished under Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine: “Violation of the equality of citizens depending on their race, nationality, religious beliefs, disability and other grounds”, regarding grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This judgement pertained to the [assault](#) on a trans soldier in Lviv in August 2023.

In November the Podilskyi Court of Kyiv passed a judgement regarding a homophobic attack that took place at the end of May. For the first time the Court applied Article 67 of the Criminal Code in relation to a [homophobic crime](#), which includes gender as an aggravating circumstance. The offenders were sentenced to imprisonment for two years.

UNITED KINGDOM

A rainbow crossing in Derry was [vandalised](#) in August, in what the mayor [called](#) an attack against the entire city.

The UK Home Office’s annual hate crime statistics [highlighted](#) that homophobic hate crimes decreased by 6% in England and Wales the past year, the first fall in numbers since 2013. Transphobic hate crimes increased by 11%, [marking](#) the highest number of anti-trans crimes (4732) since 2012. The report attributes the rise in transphobic hate crimes in part to anti-trans media reporting and discussion about trans issues by politicians.

In October however, Galop’s 2022 Hate Crime Report [highlighted](#) that over the past year there was a 65% increase in LGBT+ victims of hate crime reaching out for support. Galop also noted that while a 11% increase sounds small, anti-trans attacks have nearly doubled since 2020/21; that victims do not have access to adequate support; and that the police are failing in holding perpetrators to account.

The new Scottish [hate crime law](#), which covers LGBTI people as protected groups and strengthens protections was given a provisional [commencement](#) date of April 1, 2024. The Crown Office (COPFS) published its annual [Hate Crime in Scotland](#) report in June, finding that the number of homophobic hate crimes increased by 2% and transphobic crimes had decreased since last year (from 86 to 55) but still remain the second highest since 2010.

In Northern Ireland, the annual police report [shared](#) that homophobic incidents and crimes fell; transphobic

incidents increased but crimes fell the past 12 months.

Several young trans people committed suicide this year (see [here](#) and [here](#)).