

>THEMES

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

GEORGIA

Regarding the implementation of the 2020 ECtHR judgement in [Agldgomelashvili and Japaridze v. Georgia](#), in October, WISG, the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), and the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) [submitted](#) a report to the Committee of Ministers showing the lack of follow-up action by the government. Since the decision of ECtHR in 2020 and despite ongoing investigation, no one has been brought to criminal justice yet

RUSSIA

Salman Mukayev, who was detained, imprisoned and torture for allegations of being gay, [shared](#) his story in an interview.

LGBT people in Chechnya continued to be targeted and subjected to enforced disappearances. Idris Arsamikov, a gay refugee, was [arrested](#) in Moscow in February when returning for his father's funeral from the Netherlands. Arsamikov had previously been persecuted and tortured in Chechnya. He was returned to Chechnya. His whereabouts are [unknown](#), but civil society [reports](#) he may have been sent to the front.

In September, the European Court of Human Rights [ruled](#) in [Lapunov v. Russia](#) that Russia [violated](#) the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment (Art. 3) and non-discrimination (Art. 14) based on sexual orientation, when arresting, detaining, and torturing an openly gay man in Chechnya in 2017. In the same month, the Court [ruled](#) in [Romanov and Others v. Russia](#) that Russia violated Art. 3, Art. 5, Art. 11 and Art. 14 when the police failed to protect LGBT rights activists from private individuals assaulting them at a peaceful protest in 2013.

TURKMENISTAN

The UN Human Rights Committee reviewed Turkmenistan in March. During the interactive dialogue, the government [alleged](#) that Kasymberdi Garayev, a gay man who civil society considers to have disappeared after he was persecuted, is living with his parents in their home residence. Despite the official statement, Garaev's location has not been confirmed by other sources.

The law continues to allow for arrest, intimidation, extortion, blackmail, violence and torture against LGBT

people and particularly against gay men. Most cases remain undocumented, but mass raids on gay people are routinely carried out. Officials continue to fabricate cases to detain LGBT and human rights activists, extort money, and to abuse and imprison gay men. Police routinely go through the phones of gay men and interrogate people on their contact lists.

UZBEKISTAN

State actors continued to threaten, intimidate, psychologically and physically torture, and detain LGBT people. The 2022 US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices Uzbekistan, [published](#) in March, documented cases of forced anal exams, so-called 'conversion practices', mandatory HIV testing, and other abuses targeting the community.

During his country visit in March, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk [encouraged](#) Uzbekistan to repeal [Article 120](#) of the Criminal Code, which criminalises consensual same-sex conduct between men with up to three years in prison, and Article 113, which criminalises the transmission of HIV and is used to persecute LGBT people. Those detained and charged under Article 120 continued to be subjected to mandatory HIV tests.

Three young LGBT people [shared](#) their experiences this year after having been convicted to one to two-and-a-half years in prison under Article 120. These included torture, including solitary confinement, forced anal examination, electric shock, rape, beating, forced HIV testing, extortion, blackmail, theft of personal property and money, humiliation, verbal abuse, and inhumane conditions.

In March, on an official visit to Uzbekistan, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk [noted](#) [human rights violations in Uzbekistan](#) and called on the government to refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to create conditions under which human life would be free from suffering and fear.

On October 4, the European Parliament [published a resolution on Uzbekistan](#), condemning the fact that consensual same-sex sexual relations between men are still criminalised, and expressing deep concern about the prevalence of intimidation, harassment, violence and stigma against LGBTIQ people in the country.