



TAJIKISTAN

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Living costs, including goods such as food, medication, or transport have increased significantly, making life difficult also for members of the LGBT community. The cost of flight tickets also went up, which made it difficult for many LGBT people to leave.

Every year, prices for goods and services increase, which worsens the life of LGBT people in the country. In particular this applies to those representatives of the LGBT community who do not have a regular income or have returned from migration from Russia and do not have a regular income in the country

ASYLUM

Due to stigma and discrimination in society and family, as well as many cases of violations by law enforcement agencies, such as extortion, cases of blackmail, etc., many representatives of the LGBT community are forced to seek asylum in European countries. There are more than five cases where representatives of LGBT communities received asylum in European countries.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Civil society reports that violence against LGBTQI+ people 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.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In 2023 many LGBT people were charged with "illegal production and circulation of pornographic materials or

objects" (Article 241 of the Criminal Code) after police detained them and found photos and videos on their phones that were deemed to be [pornographic](#). Typically, police took the phones by force, without a court sanction, after threatening the detainees with reprisals.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

LGBT bloggers living abroad were targeted by intimidation and threats online. Their families back home were also harassed by police.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Activists continued to report being pressured, harassed, and detained by the authorities, often under false charges. In July, UN human rights experts [issued](#) a joint statement condemning the treatment of human rights defenders in the country. In late 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders [visited](#) Tajikistan - her report has not been published yet.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

At least two trans men and one trans woman were able to change their documents this year, through a court procedure. Civil society highlighted that there is no transparent procedure for LGR.

*Some of the information about Tajikistan was shared with ILGA-Europe by activists who for safety reasons need to stay anonymous.



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