



TURKMENISTAN

ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD

The complex and difficult social and economic situation continued, having a dire impact, including on LGBT people. The country is in serious crisis – people are struggling with food shortages, rising prices and hunger. In some areas, residents have had no access to food rations for months, and then received flour infested by insects. Unemployment also remained critical.

ASYLUM

The government's control over people trying to leave the country continued to grow. The waiting time to apply for an international passport is currently a year and the provision of appointments was suspended in October. Turkey detained and deported many back to Turkmenistan, including human rights defenders, and some of them have reportedly gone missing since. Thousands of Turkmen migrants left Turkey for Russia this year.

Civil society also reported that visas in general have been close to impossible to get and that even visa holders risk being stopped at the border.

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

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.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Most social media sites continue to be blocked and TV channels are censored.

HEALTH

HIV transmission remains criminalised, and there continues to

be no data about people living with HIV/AIDS in the country. Activists report that medical staff have negative attitudes and little knowledge of people living with HIV. The government maintains that HIV, STIs, and COVID-19 do not exist in the country, which causes suffering among those affected.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The authorities continue to detain critics of the government, who express or, even hint at dissent. Several activists were detained again this year, or disappeared, due to their political opinion or LGBT identity.

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



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