



UNITED NATIONS

On 11 April, following a country visit to the United Kingdom, the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (IE SOGI) [issued a press statement](#) calling for the country to fulfil its promise to ban conversion practices, noting the serious human rights violations faced by LGBT asylum seekers, noting a significant increase in bias-motivated speech, calling for LGBT people to have equal access to the rights to health, education, and housing, and noting the specific marginalisation faced by LGBT older persons. On 1 November, Graeme Reid [took over the mandate](#) of the IE SOGI.

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended [Finland](#), [Sweden](#) and the [UK](#) to strengthen mental health services in schools, and communities, including LGBTI. It also recommended ensuring an adequate number of qualified professionals, tailored to the specific needs of various groups, including LGBTI children and addressing the prevalence of mental health issues among children.

CRC recommended [France](#) and [Ireland](#) to provide adequate social, medical and psychological services to intersex children and families. It also recommended educating professionals on diversity and consequences of such interventions.

[Ireland](#) and [Finland](#) also received recommendations from CRC to ensure access to accommodation, health care, education, and a decent standard of living for vulnerable groups including LGBTI children and implementing monitoring and impact assessments. It also recommended tailoring mental health services for girls, asylum-seeking and refugee children, low-income households, children with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ children, and providing protection and support to children facing gender identity-related bullying, discrimination, or harassment.

During its last UPR, [Switzerland](#) received a recommendation to provide families with intersex children with adequate counselling.

ASYLUM

On 11 April, following a country visit to the United Kingdom, the IE SOGI [issued a press statement](#) noting serious issues facing LGBTI asylum seekers in the country.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

On 22 May, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, released a statement, alleging that women with anti-trans beliefs are being silenced or “cancelled” and calling for their right to freedom of expression.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

The Committee against Torture (CAT) recommended [Kazakhstan](#) to ensure that all allegations of violence against detainees, including violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, are thoroughly investigated, and to prosecute suspected offenders, with specific attention to violence against female detainees. Additionally, it recommended adopting specific legislative and other measures to criminalise and prevent domestic violence, as well as violence based on SOGI; taking effective measures to prevent violence on the basis of actual or perceived SOGI; ensuring prompt, effective, and impartial investigation and prosecution of all acts of violence; and bringing perpetrators to justice and providing victims with redress.

During their recent Universal Periodic Review (UPR), [Czechia](#) and [Montenegro](#) received recommendations to ensure that victims of hate crimes, particularly those motivated by hate towards LGBTIQ+ persons, receive the same protection as victims of other hate-motivated crimes. [Romania](#) was recommended to investigate and punish human



rights violations and hate crimes committed against persons in vulnerable situations, paying special attention to LGBTI people. [Serbia](#) received recommendations to investigate and prosecute crimes involving gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, and crimes targeting LGBTI individuals.

BODILY INTEGRITY

CAT recommended [Luxembourg](#) to continue efforts to end irreversible medical acts on intersex children, especially surgical operations without full, free, and informed consent, and to strengthen access to effective remedies for victims. It also recommended improving the collection of statistics on this issue.

CRC recommended [Finland](#), [France](#), [Sweden](#) and the [UK](#) to prohibit unnecessary medical or surgical treatments on intersex children and ensure informed consent. It also recommended educating and training medical professionals on the topic, as well as providing reparations and support for those who received unnecessary treatments, and access to justice without hindrance from any statute of limitations.

[France](#), [Luxembourg](#) and [Switzerland](#), during their last UPR received recommendations to prohibit non-emergency, invasive, and irreversible surgery or treatments with harmful effects on infants and children with variations in sex characteristics, and to ensure that these surgeries or treatments are postponed until the children can meaningfully participate in decision-making and give their informed consent.

On 17 July, a group of UN Special procedures mandate holders [welcomed the decision](#) of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Semenya v. Switzerland*, involving an international-level intersex athlete who was required to take hormone treatment to decrease her natural testosterone level, in order to be able to take part in international competitions in the female category.

DATA COLLECTION

Under its recent UPR, [Liechtenstein](#) received recommendation to commission a study on discrimination and other issues faced by LGBTI persons, developing meaningful measures to improve their situation.

EDUCATION

CRC recommended [Sweden](#) and the [UK](#) to ensure all children receive age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education, including education on gender equality, sexual diversity, sexual and reproductive health rights, and violence prevention. CRC also recommended the [UK](#) to ensure children facing discrimination, bullying, or harassment related to sexual orientation or gender identity receive protection and support; implement targeted anti-bullying measures; and increase efforts to eliminate discrimination and bullying, including cyberbullying, in the school context, focusing on race, sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics, disability, migration, or other status.

Under their recent UPR, [Luxembourg](#) and [Switzerland](#) received recommendations to ensure that LGBTI individuals are protected from bullying and discrimination in the educational system and online.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

During the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Finland, Chile, South Africa, and Australia led a group of more than 56 States from all regions of the world, [calling](#) to “increase efforts to combat violence, harmful practices and discrimination on the basis of sex characteristics”.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recommended [Lithuania](#) to take legislative measures to ensure the statutory recognition of gender identity as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

CRC recommended [France](#), [Ireland](#), [Sweden](#) and the [UK](#) to strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against various groups, including LGBTI children.



During the recent UPR, [Czechia](#), [Romania](#) and [Serbia](#) received recommendations to undertake legal, policy and administrative reforms to guarantee non-discrimination of LGBTI persons. [Switzerland](#) received recommendations to introduce specific legislation prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or sex characteristics. A similar recommendation was also received by [Montenegro](#). [Romania](#) was also specifically recommended to amend ordinance No. 137/2000 on preventing and sanctioning all forms of discrimination to include gender identity as one of the grounds of discrimination.

FAMILY

CESCR recommended [Lithuania](#) to develop a legal institution, such as registered partnership or civil union, that provides protection equivalent to marriage to those in same-sex relationships.

Under their recent UPR, [Czechia](#) and [Liechtenstein](#) received recommendations to reform the Civil Code to allow equal marriage of same-sex couples and enact legislation ensuring equal rights for same-sex couples, including access to social security protection and joint adoption. [Switzerland](#) received recommendations to continue efforts to achieve full equality for all couples, including the recognition and protection of the rights of children with same-sex parents, and align legislation on equal marriage at both federal and cantonal levels, to eliminate potential discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. [Romania](#) was recommended to consider introducing legislation to officially recognise same-sex relationships. [Serbia](#) received recommendations to recognise same-sex partnerships.

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

CRC recommended the [UK](#) to prohibit the promotion, facilitation and delivery of so-called ‘conversion practices’ aimed at changing the sexual orientation and gender identity of children, in line with its commitment made in 2018, with particular attention paid to the vulnerabilities of children who may be subject to such harm.

Under UPR, [Liechtenstein](#) and [Luxembourg](#) received recommendations to ban so-called ‘conversion practices’.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Under its recent UPR, [Serbia](#) received recommendations to ensure the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of expression for LGBTI persons and for civil society organisations and secure the protection of both the public events and gatherings that they organise.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On 21 June, the IE SOGI presented a [report](#) to the Human Rights Council, finding that protection of the rights of LGBT persons is not incompatible with protection of the right to freedom of religion and belief.

HEALTH

CRC recommended [Finland](#) and [Sweden](#) to strengthen efforts to prevent suicide among children, including, transgender children and set up inter-agency child death review teams. Both countries were also recommended to strengthen mental health services and programs for children, ensuring availability, qualified professionals, and tailored services for specific needs, including LGBTI children.

CRC also recommended the [UK](#) to urgently address the long waiting times faced by transgender and gender-questioning children in accessing specialised health-care services, improve the quality of such services, and ensure that the views of such children are taken into account in all decisions affecting their treatment.

During its last UPR, [Romania](#) was recommended to depathologise gender identity and ensure that essential



trans-specific health-care services are part of national health insurance schemes. [Serbia](#) received recommendations to secure trans and intersex affirming health care, in line with international human rights standards and best practices.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In December, in response to the [Russian Federation](#) classifying the “international LGBT movement” as “extremist” and prohibiting its activities with Russia, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the IE SOGI, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and members of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, wrote to express concern and call for the repeal of the classification. On 30 November, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also [condemned](#) the classification.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

On 17 May, for IDAHOT+, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a [statement](#) pledging support to LGBTIQ+ activists and calling for solidarity. Additionally, 38 Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts, members of five Working Groups, and members of one Expert Mechanism, issued a [Joint Statement](#) calling on States to tackle racism and anti-LGBT stigma collectively, noting that a holistic approach is vital for ending systemic marginalisation.

INTERSECTIONALITY

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to [Russia](#) and [Portugal](#) to develop and adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting racial profiling and racially motivated violence, especially against specific vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people.

CRC recommended [Finland](#) to adopt measures, including awareness campaigns, to promote equality In the media, promote messages that contribute to changing conduct and behaviour, aiming to transform social norms that lead to discrimination, particularly based on ethnicity, immigration status, discrimination, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recommended [Georgia](#) to institute legislative and policy measures at the national and municipal levels to address the situation of persons with disabilities in rural areas; to Include time-bound targets and indicators of progress; and to implement measures to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons with disabilities.

During its UPR, [Montenegro](#) received recommendation to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against transgender persons.

On 14 June, a group of Special Procedures mandate holders released a [statement](#) calling for more robust data collection on the experiences of older persons, including with disaggregation on the grounds of SOGIESC.

On 25 July, the IE SOGI [presented a report](#) to the General Assembly, discussing the impact of colonialism and decolonial efforts on the rights and protections of LGBT people, and issued a [press release](#) on the same topic on 27 October, calling for colonial anti-LGBT laws to be repealed.

On 27 October, in commemoration of the International Day on Older Persons, a [Joint Statement](#) was released by the United Nations Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the United Nations IE SOGI.

On 26 October, the United Nations IE SOGI, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with



Disabilities issued a [joint statement](#) giving guidance in relation to LGBT persons living with disabilities.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

CAT recommended [Kazakhstan](#) to revoke the mandatory reassignment surgery requirement (Family and Marriage Code, Article 257(13)) and the psychiatric diagnosis requirement; establish non-discrimination and voluntary legal gender recognition (LGR) procedures; and ensure impartial counselling services and psychosocial support.

CRC recommended [Ireland](#) to amend the Gender Recognition Act of 2015 to allow LGR for children aged 16 and 17 through a simplified procedure, and conduct research on gender recognition for under-16s in consultation with transgender children.

CRC also recommended the [UK](#) to recognise the right to identity of LGBTI children and implement measures for adolescents' freedom of expression, respecting their physical and psychological integrity, gender identity, and emerging autonomy. Regarding gender recognition for children, it recommended consulting closely with transgender children, ensuring alignment with children's rights, including the right to be heard and to identity, with free and informed consent and appropriate safeguards.

Under their recent UPR, [Czechia](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Montenegro](#), [Romania](#) and [Serbia](#) received recommendations to reform the legal framework in the light of international standards for gender recognition based on a process of self-determination. Czechia was recommended abolishing the requirement for sterilisation in the process of LGR.

In August, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, the IE SOGI, and members of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls wrote to the [Russian Federation](#), encouraging reversal of the bill banning LGR and trans-specific healthcare.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

On 31 October, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, IE SOGI, members of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and members of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises issued a [statement](#) calling for LGBT and intersex inclusion in sport.

On 5 December, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights [spoke](#) at the Sporting Chance Forum, calling out the exclusion that trans and intersex athletes face.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

During its UPR, [Romania](#) received recommendations to provide systematic training for law enforcement to identify, investigate and prosecute hate crimes, and enhance cooperation between police and people in marginalised situations, especially Roma and LGBTI communities; and create and employ a common methodology for law enforcement officials in order to effectively investigate and prosecute hate crimes, especially against LGBTI persons and Roma people. [Serbia](#) received recommendations to enhance training programmes for law-enforcement and judicial authorities to protect the rights of LGBTI persons in exercise of their fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful protest

PUBLIC OPINION

CESCR recommended [Lithuania](#) to redouble its efforts to take specific, deliberate and targeted measures, including additional awareness-raising campaigns, to combat stigmatisation and discrimination affecting LGBTI persons.



CRC recommended [Sweden](#) to ensure that measures include awareness-raising and media campaigns to change social norms and behaviours that contribute to discrimination, in particular on the basis of ethnicity, migration status, disability, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity.

During its UPR, [Romania](#) was recommended to demonstrate ongoing political commitment to create an environment where minority groups, especially Roma and LGBT persons, can be confident and open in their identity.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

CRC recommended [Finland](#) to adopt a comprehensive and effective gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and raise awareness amongst the health community about the health of LGBTI children and adolescents, particularly trans adolescents.

The committee also recommended [Sweden](#) to ensure that all children receive age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education that includes education on gender equality, sexual diversity, sexual and reproductive health rights and violence prevention.

During its UPR, [France](#) received recommendation to allow medically assisted reproduction for transgender men by including them in the law on bioethics.

On 25 September, in recognition of World Contraception Day and International Safe Abortion Day, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, IE SOGI, and members of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls issued a [statement](#) calling for SRHR to be protected in times of crisis, noting the particular marginalisation of young LGBTIQ+ persons, among others.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

CESCR recommended [Lithuania](#) to provide effective protection against all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, which hinders the enjoyment by victims of their economic, social and cultural rights.