



KYRGYZSTAN

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In 2023 and 2024, Kyrgyzstan adopted two discriminatory laws targeting the LGBTI community and restricting the activities of LGBTI organisations. These laws were introduced alongside a media campaign filled with homophobic and transphobic statements from Kyrgyz politicians. Multiple MPs expressed fears that initiatives such as a [bill](#) to guarantee equality and protection against discrimination, as well as Kyrgyzstan's [application](#) to a Global Fund program focused on HIV prevention, could potentially be indirectly to advance LGBTI rights.

DATA COLLECTION

A report by Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), which included data from their database and open-source analysis, revealed high levels of stigma and discrimination, particularly from law enforcement and healthcare workers, against LGBTI individuals. The findings highlighted numerous cases of abuse of power by police forces, leading LGBTI people to often avoid seeking justice due to fear of further victimisation. For what concerns healthcare, the report underscored multiple instances of healthcare workers engaging in discriminatory practices against LGBTI patients.

FAMILY

In March, Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration released a [revised Family Code](#) for public review. The draft reinforces the Constitution's view that family is a societal cornerstone, emphasising protection for family, parenthood, and child development. It defines marriage as a voluntary union between a man and a woman over 18, explicitly barring same-sex marriages under Article 15 of the draft.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

On July 22, the Supreme Court [upheld](#) the lower court's decision to maintain the ban on peaceful rallies and protests, which was introduced in March 2022, rejecting an appeal by activists who sought to overturn it.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In March, Kyrgyzstan's parliament passed the "[foreign agents](#)" bill introducing reporting requirements for foreign-funded NGOs, severely hampering their operations and threatening media freedom. The legislation, modelled after Russia's 2012 law, aims to curb what it describes as undue foreign influence and political interference by requiring detailed annual audits and employee disclosures from NGOs, which could potentially drive many to shut down due to the high compliance costs. The bill was [signed into law](#) in April.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Since 2021, trans people in Kyrgyzstan have been unable to obtain legal recognition due to amendments made to the Law on Civil Acts. In 2024, the Kyrgyz government further restricted trans rights by adopting new amendments to existing laws, including changes to the Law "On the Protection of the Health of Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic," specifically in Article 47, which concerns the "Change and Correction of Gender Identity." Under the new legislation, trans people can no longer undergo medical examination or treatment related to gender transition until the age of 25. Previously, individuals could begin the process at 18.

In November, Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Health proposed a [draft regulation](#) on the medical examination of trans people. The draft regulation, now open for public discussion, aims to address discrimination against trans and gender-diverse people, ensuring their rights to healthcare and legal gender recognition. The Ministry explained that the regulation is necessary to establish clear and fair procedures, provide access to qualified medical care, and support social integration for trans citizens.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

In Kyrgyzstan, trans women are particularly vulnerable, with many turning to sex work due to societal discrimination and lack of opportunities. Although sex work itself is not criminalised, the Kyrgyz Criminal Code contains provisions prohibiting the operation of brothels, which law enforcement often uses as a pretext to raid the homes of trans women. These raids are frequently accompanied by extortion, as officers demand money from the women under threat of further legal action. The vulnerability of trans women has been further exacerbated by recent amendments to the Criminal Code on June 26, 2024, which regulate webcam studios. Since many trans women in sex work connect with clients through the internet, these amendments directly target them. Law enforcement officials exploit their gender identity for blackmail, intimidation, and extortion, using their status to pressure them for money. Furthermore, personal information about trans women is often shared among law enforcement officers, leading to continued violations of their rights and further harassment for personal gain.



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