

NORWAY

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In November, a drag bingo event organised at the Inferno Metal Festival sparked a wave of incitement and online [threats](#).

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In May, the police published its annual [report](#) on hate crimes. The number of reported crimes continues to rise, being 18% higher in 2023 compared to the year before. The largest increase percentage-wise is crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and antisemitism.

Zanfar Matapour was [found guilty](#) of aggravated terrorism by the Oslo District Court for his role in the mass shooting during Oslo Pride on June 25, 2022. Matapour was sentenced to 30 years in prison, the strictest penalty under Norwegian law. State prosecutor Aud Kinsarvik Gravås [expressed satisfaction](#) with the court's decision in the case. Gravås highlighted that the court's ruling aligns with the prosecution's recommendations, which sought to fully understand and address the events surrounding the attack. Matapour has [appealed](#) the court decision. Not long after, the Borgarting Court of Appeal [rejected](#) Arfan Bhatti's appeal against further detention in connection with the same terrorist shooting. Bhatti, who has been in detention since May 4, with both a letter and visitation ban, had previously appealed the extension of his detention. The Court of Appeal ruled that there was a risk of Bhatti evading justice and a potential for evidence to be lost, which justified his continued detention.

In the beginning of August, two people were subjected to a knife [attack](#) by a group of youths, which the police are investigating as a hate crime.

BODILY INTEGRITY

In April, regional professional directors representing the Ministry of Health and Care [classified](#) trans-specific healthcare for individuals under 18 as experimental based on recommendations from the Norwegian Healthcare Investigation Board. However, this decision has yet to be implemented, as the specialised team at Oslo University Hospital is still working on practical guidelines for its application. This classification stands in stark contrast to international standards, such as those outlined in the World Health Organisation's ICD-11 diagnostic manual and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's Standards of Care 8.

DATA COLLECTION

A [report](#) published by Verian in June highlighted that over half of Norway's population over the age of 15 have experienced some form of sexual harassment in the past year. The report

identified young people, queer people, and women with minority backgrounds as the most vulnerable groups.

A [survey](#) by Verian, conducted for the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights (NIM), showed that four out of ten Norwegians have witnessed incitement and hate speech against queer individuals in the past year.

A [survey](#) conducted by the Norwegian Association of Journalists revealed concerning statistics about harassment and threats faced by journalists from marginalised groups. The survey noted that LGBTI journalists reported the highest rates of sexual harassment.

A government-commissioned [report](#) on people's experiences with employment in State bodies, found that trans people experience barriers while finding and maintaining employment. The report proposed a number of different actions to combat these difficulties, among which the promotion of gender-neutral changing rooms/toilets/uniforms, the establishment of guarantees for the correct use of personal pronouns, and the promotion of competency-building courses for staff.

EDUCATION

In November, a proposal introduced by members of the Christian Democratic Party, Representative Proposal 156 S, sought to remove teaching about gender identity in schools. The proposal was met with significant opposition, including a detailed consultation [response](#) from FRI, the Norwegian association for gender and sexual diversity, which emphasised the importance of accurate and respectful education on gender identity to prevent bullying and support queer youth. Ultimately, the Storting [rejected](#) the proposal, with 86 representatives voting against it and 13 in favour.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In June, the Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombudsperson has published a [summary](#) of previous discrimination cases regarding gender identity and gender expression, to help with potential future cases and also function as a practical guide.

In September, the Lyngdal municipality [banned](#) the rainbow flag on its premises.

HEALTH

Across Norway, four new regional [centres](#) for trans-specific care opened, offering therapy and access to prosthetics but not medical or surgical services, as that is still under the control of the national treatment centre in Oslo, contrary to the guidelines. The last to open was the [centre](#) in Bergen on February 15.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The Ministry of Culture and Equality commissioned the Directorate for Children, Youth and Families to develop a national guide on gender diversity to foster greater understanding and recognition among public service providers. Scheduled for release in spring 2025, this guide aims to improve conditions for non-binary people and builds on the recommendations in the 2023 report on a potential third legal gender category. The measures proposed in the guide include the removal of the gender indication numbers from citizens' social security numbers.

In the revised national budget, the Socialist Left Party secured funding for a support group following the terror attack during Oslo Pride on June 25, 2022. For 2025, the party also secured funding for two national programs: Pink Competency Child Welfare, aimed at employees in the child welfare system, and Pink Competency Justice, focused on police employees with an emphasis on hate crimes.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

In April, following the submission of a report to the government detailing Norwegian support for the introduction of a third legal gender, the Minister of Culture and Equality issued a statement indicating the issue may not be addressed until 2032 due to upcoming changes in the personal identification system.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL LIFE

Alex Ramstad Døsvik was ordained as the first non-binary priest in Norway.

In June, the Riddu Riđđu Festival organised the first-ever Indigenous drag show, which brought together four indigenous drag artists from around the globe.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

In July, the Oslo District Court upheld a fine of NOK 65 million imposed by the Norwegian Data Protection Authority against the app Grindr for having shared sensitive user data with numerous commercial entities without consent. Grindr has appealed the case.



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