

# UZBEKISTAN

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In Fergana, a young man was stripped, beaten, and forced to endure severe abuse by a group of LGBTI-phobic men.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In Uzbekistan, trans individuals face severe discrimination, harassment, and violence, exacerbated by both societal and governmental homophobia. A trans woman shared with Ozodlik having to present as male in public due to her official documents, which list her as male. As part of her testimony she cited encounters with law enforcement that often mock, humiliate, and physically abuse trans people.

The Uzbek government remains opposed to legalising same-sex relationships, citing concerns about public backlash and preserving the country's image within the Muslim world. Uzbekistan, with its close ties to Russia and historical tendencies to emulate Russian legislation, may use the Russian criminalisation of LGBTI identities to further marginalise LGBTI people. Russian and Georgian laws reinforce a narrative that could gain traction in Uzbekistan, where same-sex relations between men are already criminalised under Article 120 of the Criminal Code.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In November, Alisher Qodirov, leader of Uzbekistan's Milliy Tiklanish (National Revival) party, announced that a draft law banning the discussion of LGBTI topics was being prepared in Uzbekistan. He shared this news on his Telegram channel, where he also referenced a social media post by Ivanka Trump, daughter of President Donald Trump, who supported her father's plan to cut federal funding for schools promoting "inappropriate sexual content" and "transgender ideology."

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The situation of LGBTI people in Uzbekistan has drawn international concern, with human rights organisations condemning the ongoing persecution of sexual minorities under the country's harsh laws.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

In Uzbekistan, homosexuality is criminalised, with penalties of up to three years in prison. However, the law does not recognise trans identities, leading to further mistreatment as trans people are often misclassified and persecuted as gay men.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL LIFE

From November, in Uzbekistan, all films, TV series, cartoons, and musical works—both domestic and international—will undergo a "spiritual examination" before being aired. This was announced by Otabek Khasanov, head of the Centre for Spirituality and Enlightenment. The expert group will assess whether content aligns with state policies, national and universal values, and moral criteria, with particular focus on scenes promoting immorality or obscenity that could negatively influence personal qualities.

## PUBLIC OPINION

Political figures in Uzbekistan have made derogatory remarks against the LGBTI community. Alisher Kadyrov, leader of the National Revival party and vice-speaker of the Legislative Chamber, suggested stripping LGBTI people of citizenship to force them to emigrate. Rasul Kusherbayev, an adviser to the Minister of Natural Resources, declared that legalising same-sex relationships would mark "the day of our death."

## POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ozodlik documented an incident where police in Samarkand set a dog on a group of trans people.

In another case, a trans woman was imprisoned on charges of sodomy, having returned from Moscow to change her passport.



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