

ARMENIA

In July, a café owner publicly outed a gay customer in front of other customers, subjected him to insults, and ultimately denied him service, forcing him to leave the establishment. The individual reported the incident to law enforcement, but the ensuing criminal investigation did not address the element of discrimination based on sexual orientation. The details of the case were brought to light by Pink NGO, which documented the incident and will include its details in its annual report in early 2025.

AZERBAIJAN

In April, Azerbaijani author Nazli Chalabi published an LGBTI-themed novel titled *Blue Fear*, which is available for sale on the Azerbaijani market.

CROATIA

The Municipal State Attorney's Office in Zadar has charged a 66-year-old man with violating human rights and fundamental freedoms for refusing to honour an accommodation reservation made by a Brazilian gay couple. According to the indictment, the incident occurred on August 5, 2018, when the man cancelled the couple's booking at his property in Zadar, citing their sexual orientation as the reason.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Several same-sex couples reported difficulties accessing basic services, particularly around residency and 'legal' documentation. A same-sex couple contacted Queer Cyprus about a residence permit for a non-Cypriot partner. The couple reported that the officer dealing with their case requested additional, previously unrequired documents, citing a recent system change as the reason when justification was requested.

GEORGIA

The foreign agents law endangers provision of services to the LGBTI community in Georgia. At the time of writing, none of the LGBTI community organisations have registered as foreign agents, in protest of the law. Therefore, organisations could be fined and might have to file for bankruptcy, which would disrupt the available services. Additionally, the anti-LGBTI law has led to the erosion of trust and safety needed for the LGBTI community to seek out services. Thus, there is a decrease in applications for services, despite the need possibly increasing. (See also under Equality and Non-discrimination and Freedom of Association)

GREECE

The marriage equality law (5089/2024) entailed the establishment of a series of guarantees for equal treatment regardless of

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) in the provision of goods and services, education, healthcare and housing. (See more under Family.)

HUNGARY

Erste Bank set up an initiative to help trans people whose identity does not align with the name or gender marker listed on their identity documents by providing them the possibility of using a given name chosen from the list of Hungarian first names.

In March, the local community centre in Kecskemét refused to rent rooms to Labrisz Lesbian Association for a movie screening, arguing that Labrisz is an "ideology-based civil society organisation". Labrisz challenged the refusal in court, and the proceedings are pending.

IRELAND

In May, the Irish energy company SSE Airtricity partnered with the League of Ireland and LGBT Ireland to [raise awareness](#) for the National LGBTI Helpline during football matches nationwide, in anticipation of Pride month.

In September, Outhouse, in partnership with Bank of Ireland, launched a series of financial wellbeing [workshops](#) at its Dublin centre. The initiative came after a Bank of Ireland [survey](#) revealed that fewer than half of LGBTI people feel secure about their financial future over the next year. Additionally, according to the survey, only 59% of LGBTI respondents believed they could cover unexpected expenses, compared to 62% of heterosexuals, and 25% of LGBTI respondents felt they could raise over €3,000 for an emergency, compared to 29% of heterosexuals.

ITALY

In June, [a gay couple](#) in Modena was denied a rental home because the landlord specified a preference for a 'traditional family' consisting of a man, woman, and child.

KAZAKHSTAN

In January, a [petition](#) was initiated by a group of 135 Kazakhstani parents to ban or restrict Kazakhstan's first website dedicated to Selftanu, which aimed to share resources for LGBTI youth. In February, the Ministry of Culture and Information [announced](#) the banning of the website. The Ministry claimed that the measure was enacted to protect children's rights and to align with Kazakhstan's cultural and traditional values.

LITHUANIA

In March, the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice hosted an [event](#) on the needs of hate crime victims, Organised by the National LGBT

Rights Organisation (LGL). The event focused on examining the needs of hate crime victims, highlighting the systemic lack of existing targeted LGBTI victim support measures in Lithuania.

MALTA

In June, the Government of Malta announced the restoration of a government-owned building on Old Bakery Street in Valletta to be converted into a community centre for LGBTI people and their families.

In July, the government launched psycho-social services for LGBTI individuals, offering personalised and group support sessions at the Wellbeing Hub in A3 Towers, Paola, with plans to relocate to the Old Bakery Street building in Valletta once its renovation is complete.

ROMANIA

In January, Romania's National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) ruled in favour of a printing house that refused to print leaflets on lesbian rights. The CNCD justified the decision by prioritising the Constitutional freedom of conscience over anti-discrimination laws. Although the legislative framework allows for the publishing, distribution, and sale of materials that advocate for or raise awareness about the human rights of LGBTI persons and explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, the refusal was based on the grounds that the content did not align with "Christian principles."

In October 2024, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) issued a landmark ruling in Case C-4/23 Mirin, which clarified that Romania must automatically transcribe any changes in name and gender marker made through legal gender recognition in another EU Member State, without requiring additional internal procedures, reinforcing their rights to free movement.

RUSSIA

In 2024, access to goods and services for LGBTI people in Russia deteriorated significantly due to intensified state repression and societal discrimination.

In April, the Kino TV channel was penalised by the St. Petersburg district court under Part 2 of Article 6.21.2 of the Russian Administrative Code. The penalty was awarded for broadcasting a film depicting "non-traditional sexual relations" labelled with a "16+" rating, thus allegedly making it accessible to minors.

In May, administrative protocols were filed against the online cinemas Wink and KinoPoisk under the Russian law prohibiting the promotion of LGBTI content, as reported by RIA Novosti.

In September, Moscow's Tagansky District Court fined the online cinema Kinopoisk twice in one day, for a total of 10 million roubles (99,000 Euro) for the screening of the film 'Love' by French director Gaspard Noe. The online cinema was found guilty under the Protocol on "propaganda of paedophilia" on the Internet (Part 2 of Article 6.21.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations) and fined 7 million roubles (69,000 Euro). In addition, Kinopoisk was fined 3 million roubles (29,000 Euro) under the protocol on "propaganda of LGBT and sex change" (Part 3 of Article 6.21.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences).

A joint study by the Sphere Foundation and the human rights organisation Civic Control shows that the prosecution of streaming services and TV channels for showing films or videos under the 'propaganda' law was the second largest group of court cases between December 2022 (when the new propaganda law comes into force) and March 2024.

In June, Reuters reported that Duolingo, the language learning app, removed references to "non-traditional sexual relations" from its content in Russia. The removal followed a warning from Russia's communication regulator, which had flagged the LGBTI content as "extremism."

SERBIA

In Serbia, trans people face challenges accessing testosterone due to supply chain disruptions, with shortages of Testosteron Depo, a critical HRT medication. Advocacy groups are working with Galenika, the manufacturer, to address these issues and ensure consistent availability.

TURKEY

In April, Turkey's Treasury and Finance Ministry denied claims that the cooperation loans between Turkey and the World Bank would be linked to the Istanbul Convention or LGBTI issues. The Ministry stated that the loans will focus on sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and support for vulnerable groups affected by green transformation and financial barriers.

UKRAINE

In 2024, access to goods and services for LGBTI people in Ukraine remained a critical issue, influenced by both the ongoing conflict and societal attitudes.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has exacerbated the already difficult circumstances for many trans people. Rising inflation and the economic downturn have made access to medical treatment increasingly inconsistent, with the costs of hormone therapy escalating significantly.

During the first half of the year, five cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity were reported by the Nash Svit Centre. These included: refusals of service, denial of rental agreements, illegal evictions, biased treatment, as well as insults, humiliation, and threats.

The Handbook on Preventing and Combating Discrimination by Iryna Fedorovych was published, to support civil servants and service providers in Ukraine, as part of the Combating Hate Speech in Ukraine initiative under the Partnership for Good Governance project.

In August, CARE International, in collaboration with the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG), released the Rapid Gender Analysis Ukraine (RGA). It highlighted the gendered impacts of the ongoing war, particularly the compounded vulnerabilities of women, children, Roma communities, and LGBTI people, and underscored the need for gender-sensitive humanitarian programming.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester City Council has approved plans to develop a LGBTI care home in the city.

In October, Craig Jones, Campaign Director for Fighting With Pride, noted that while in opposition, Labour committed to debating reparations for LGBTI veterans who suffered under the UK's historical "gay ban" before it was lifted in 2000. In October, after reports emerged that LGBTI veterans affected by the ban fear the Labour government may not fulfill its promises of reparations, a Ministry of Defence spokesperson reaffirmed its commitment to providing appropriate financial redress. They stated that the government is working with experts to finalize the details of the compensation scheme. Labour MP for Burnley Oliver Ryan, claimed that the allocated £50 million compensation scheme fund would inadequately compensate the estimated 4,000 LGBTI veterans and those affected by discriminatory practices.