

ALBANIA

The situation for intersex people in Albania remains uncertain, as the country lacks legislation that enforces a comprehensive ban on non-consensual and non-therapeutic surgeries on intersex infants and precise data regarding the number of intersex babies born is unclear. While a series of laws mandates that individuals undergoing surgical interventions must provide expressed consent, intersex infants often undergo such procedures at a very young age, before they have the legal capacity to give consent. Surveys conducted by Aleanca LGBTI between 2020 and 2024 revealed that approximately 2% of respondents, out of around 420 surveyed, reported having been subjected to non-consensual interventions as infants.

AUSTRIA

The Association of Intersex People of Austria (VIMÖ) submitted an [alternative report](#) to the United Nations 8th Periodic Report of Austria by the Convention Against Torture (CAT). The report revealed that over 1,000 children and adolescents with variations of sex characteristics – corresponding specific DSD diagnoses – are discharged from hospitals annually. This means that a large number of these children can be expected to undergo operations classified as Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM) every year.

VIMÖ was invited to speak in front of the Committee for Children's Rights at the Federal Council alongside paediatric endocrinologist Dr. Stefan Riedl, who opposes a ban of IGM. After the hearing, the motion for a resolution titled "[protect children's rights of intersex children and adolescents - ban medically unnecessary operations](#)" by the Federal Councillor Daniela Gruber-Pruner of the SPÖ and colleagues was discussed in the Council. Upon discussion, the motion was postponed by the governing parties, ÖVP and the Greens.

BELGIUM

In February, Ecolo-Groen submitted a [proposal](#) of a bill to protect intersex children from unnecessary medical interventions. The proposed legislation mandated that any treatment or procedure on individuals with variations in sexual characteristics must be preceded by explicit, informed consent from the person concerned, in line with patient rights. Nonetheless, the proposal did not make it to the parliament before the June election cycle.

In February, the Flemish Parliament [voted](#) unanimously to provide better support and care for intersex people by establishing a Flemish centre of expertise for intersex people capable of providing appropriate information, awareness-raising and training to professionals.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ECRI [recorded](#) conflicting information concerning the extent of

medically unnecessary surgeries carried out on intersex children. ECRI particularly noted that in BiH no official guidance or rules exist to regulate the issue, leaving it up to individual medical professionals to decide on the matter.

CZECHIA

In October a [lecture](#) on "curing" homosexuality took place in the church of St. Lawrence in Řečkovice, Brno. The event featured Victor Novitchi, a Moldovan man, who shared his personal story of how he supposedly "cured" himself of homosexuality. Parish priest Michal Seknička introduced the event by comparing the healing process to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, implying a divine transformation.

The lecture was part of a wider effort by conservative fringes, backed by financial support, to promote conversion therapy practices for LGBTI people.

DENMARK

In its [2023 Concluding Observations](#) on Denmark's eighth periodic report, the Committee Against Torture (CAT) expressed concern over the unnecessary and irreversible surgeries performed on intersex children without informed consent. The committee recommended that Denmark enforce existing legislation that prohibits irreversible surgeries on intersex children for cosmetic reasons and conduct studies to better understand the issue. Doctors have used the existence of legislation against plastic surgery on children under 18 to assert that surgeries on intersex children are already prohibited. However, this is not the case as these surgeries are often categorised as necessary for the child, despite clear and repeated [documentation](#) to the contrary.

The UN has further [recommended](#) that "all persons who experience severe pain and suffering as a result of unnecessary medical procedures conducted without their consent should have access to effective remedies." Additionally, the UN urged that "the State party should also ensure that all intersex persons receive the same level of specialised care, regardless of their conformity with the gender they were assigned at birth." Despite these recommendations, no legislative improvements have been noted.

In December, Rigshospitalet was reported to the police over regulatory breaches in a research project involving boys under two years old. The project, which was stopped by the Danish Medicines Agency, revealed serious procedural failures, including the use of expired drugs and lack of parental consent. This incident raised further questions about oversight and transparency in medical practices affecting children.

In March, Denmark signed a [UN draft resolution](#) aimed at combating discrimination, violence, and harmful practices against intersex people. However, no concrete steps have been taken to implement the commitments outlined in this resolution so far.

FINLAND

In June, the Finnish Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee rejected a citizens' initiative to ban conversion therapies. The motion was defeated 6–9, and the committee's forthcoming report does not propose new legislation.

FRANCE

In May, the Senate reviewed and approved on first reading a bill by Senator Jacqueline Eustache-Brinio, which proposed banning hormone treatments for minors. After the dissolution of the National Assembly and the reconstitution of the new government, the bill was re-registered at the National Assembly and was sent to the Commission of Social Affairs to be examined before a formal vote in the Hemicycle.

ICELAND

On January 1st, a law banning conversion therapy for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression took effect. The law was passed on the 9 June, 2023 with 53 out of parliamentarians voting in agreement.

IRELAND

In June, leading mental health organisations in Ireland and LGBT Ireland, as the chair of the banning conversion practices coalition, issued a joint memorandum rejecting conversion therapy.

In August, the Sinn Féin party openly declared its support to the UK-led temporary suspension of puberty blockers for children and young people in Northern Ireland. In response, activists from several LGBTI organisations gathered outside the party's headquarters in Dublin to protest the party's support of the ban.

KAZAKHSTAN

According to reports by Education Community, a young lesbian woman was stripped of her legal rights when she was falsely diagnosed with schizophrenia as a result of conversion therapy efforts by her mother. The woman's partner managed to obtain guardianship over her, but she was left dependent for several years until the legal opportunity came for medical re-evaluation.

MALTA

In March, it was reported that gender-affirming care was being delayed at the Gender Wellbeing Clinic since July 2023, due to the resignation of the psychiatrist. In October, the Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement (MGRM) staged a demonstration outside the Ministry of Health, calling on authorities to address ongoing and critical delays in gender-affirming care, which left new patients without the essential healthcare services that were promised by the government.

NETHERLANDS

In April, Bert-Jan Ruissen and Diederik van Dijk, politicians from a Dutch political party SGP (Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij), went to Rome to sign an international declaration condemning surrogacy.

NORWAY

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.

PORTUGAL

In January, President de Sousa signed a decree banning forced conversion practices for LGBTI people. Furthermore, the decree imposes penalties of up to three years in prison or fines for those involved in such practices. In cases of "irreversible modifications" to the body, the sentence can be extended to up to five years in prison. As part of the provision, the decree establishes that the convicted may face professional and legal restrictions, especially in activities that involve contact with minors. The law entered into force on 1 March, 2024.

ROMANIA

Romania still has no regulation concerning medically unnecessary treatments performed on intersex children, which is still a common practice in the medical field.

There is no specific law banning conversion practices in Romania, and efforts to introduce broader protections for LGBTI people have been limited. Professional bodies, including the Romanian College of Psychologists, do not issue guidelines prohibiting conversion therapy and, as many of these practices occur within conservative or religious communities, they are often disguised as religious or medical interventions. The spokesperson for the Romanian Orthodox Church, until early 2024, made statements promoting the idea that "homosexuality is reversible," reflecting a broader conservative stance that hinders the acceptance of LGBTI rights and complicates efforts to end conversion practices.

RUSSIA

According to Sever.Reality St. Petersburg, Russian authorities are

using abusive methods, including beatings, prayers, and forced injections, to “treat” LGBTI people.

In May, Russia’s first trans politician, Roman Alyoshin, announced his intention to detransition amid an intensifying crackdown on the rights of LGBTI people.

SWITZERLAND

In February, the National Council supported a motion by the Legal Affairs Committee of the Council of States, calling for the swift development of medical-ethical guidelines by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) on the diagnostics and treatment of children born with variations in sex characteristics. Organisations representing intersex persons are to be actively included in this process.

In April, reports from the Zurich Tages-Anzeiger revealed allegations of abuse of power at the Sozialwerk.LGBTI social centre. The allegations were linked to a series of incidents involving two individuals who were accused of engaging in inappropriate sexual relationships with queer adolescents in their care. The investigation into these allegations remains open.

In August, the parliament of the Zürich Canton voted - with a one-vote difference - against the demand for a report on full financial coverage of the support for intersex children and their parents. The report should have focused on psychosocial and psychotherapeutic support, self-support groups, and shared-decision making at hospitals in order to strengthen human-rights compatible alternatives to surgeries.

In November, following the approval of a ban on conversion therapies in the canton of Neuchâtel, the Valais Grand Council also approved a ban on conversion therapies as part of a partial revision of the Health Act.

TURKEY

In November, the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency introduced a new regulation requiring an e-prescription to access certain hormones. The regulation specifically affects hormones used by trans masculine individuals, as well as those used to treat diabetes. While the regulation is aimed at standardising the distribution and use of hormones to ensure safer procurement and treatment, it highlights the existing barriers to healthcare for trans people, particularly in accessing trans-specific healthcare services.

UNITED KINGDOM

In January, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on detailed proposals to ban conversion practices in Scotland,

covering sexual orientation and gender identity. The results analysis is expected to be published early in 2025. The Law Society of Scotland (solicitors’ professional body) welcomed the proposed legislation, as did the Church of Scotland, but both emphasised that clarity is needed in the law as, according to their perspective, non-directive counselling should not be banned.

In September, the Scottish Government announced that they would discuss the ban on conversion practices with the new Labour UK Government, and then decide whether to legislate in the Scottish or UK Parliament.

In March, Equalities Minister Maria Caulfield announced that draft legislation on the criminalisation of conversion therapies in England and Wales would be introduced. Caulfield stated that the initiative would develop following the completion of a review on gender identity services for children and young people - known as the Cass Report.

In July, following delays in the efforts promised by the Sunak-led cabinet, the newly appointed UK government reintroduced a plan to outlaw conversion therapy.

In the King’s Speech, Sir Keir Starmer’s administration announced a draft Conversion Practices Bill aimed at a comprehensive ban, including protections for trans people.

In October, the Labour government replaced the Equality Hub with the newly established Office for Equality and Opportunity, announcing several “key immediate priorities,” including the introduction of a full, trans-inclusive ban on so-called ‘conversion therapy.’ The government emphasised that the new office would be focused on breaking down barriers, promoting opportunities, and ensuring that equality remains central to all of its missions.