

## ALBANIA

On May 19, two lesbian women held a symbolic marriage ceremony on the terrace of Tirana City Hall, marking the first unofficial same-sex marriage in Albania. The couple had previously submitted a marriage declaration request to the Office of Civil Status, citing their constitutional right to marry as per Article 53, despite the Family Code reserving this right for heterosexual couples. The ceremony, officiated by British Methodist Church pastors, sparked a surge of hate speech from the Pro-Family and Life Coalition and various religious organisations.

In September, Aleanca LGBTI started the first strategic litigation case concerning the legal recognition of a lesbian couple by filing a request for marriage before the Civil Registry Office. The case was presented before the Administrative Court of First Instance in December.

## ARMENIA

In April, Armenia's parliament passed amendments to strengthen the country's domestic violence law, including the recognition of "partners" in civil unions and extending protections to LGBTI people. Each year, approximately 50% of the documented cases of discrimination and human rights violations against LGBTI people reported by Pink NGO involve domestic violence, encompassing physical, emotional, economic, and other forms of violence perpetrated by family members. Despite the prevalence of these cases, only a small number of people choose to report the incidents to the police, with currently only one case having reached the domestic courts. The changes came into force in July, criminalising domestic violence and recognising children who witness such violence as victims. Since then, at least two cases of partner abuse and violence have become known, in which those affected chose not to report these incidents to law enforcement agencies out of a desire to avoid further harm and mistreatment.

## AZERBAIJAN

In May, a woman from Krasnoyarsk forcibly transported her 18-year-old daughter to Baku, confiscating her documents, phone, and antidepressants after she revealed her sexual orientation. Her current whereabouts are unknown.

## BELARUS

A new concept of National Security has been adopted, emphasising the protection and promotion of the traditional family, defined strictly as a union between a woman and a man by birth.

A trans man from Belarus reported having to flee the country after his son started experiencing bullying at school due to his father's

gender identity, and he was subjected to an investigation that could have resulted in the loss of parental rights due to his gender expression.

## BELGIUM

The legislation regarding surrogacy remains unclear, leading to discrimination against same-sex families, as the absence of a clear legal framework leads local administrations to employ different methods/practices concerning the registration of children born through surrogacy.

The current adoption procedure allows the child's birth families to specify that they refuse their child to be adopted by same-sex couples, which constitutes clear discrimination.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Same-sex partnerships still cannot be legally registered in the country. The Federal Ministry of Health is intentionally blocking the appointment of their expert as part of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for drafting the Law on Same-Sex Partnership of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This blockade has been ongoing since June 2023.

## BULGARIA

The appeal by two Bulgarian women, Boyana and Anelia, to have both their names listed as parents on their Austria-born child's Bulgarian birth certificate was upheld by the Administrative Court of Kardzhali. The Court overturned the municipality's earlier refusal to issue the certificate and instructed its issuance, citing Bulgaria's obligations under the CJEU's "Baby Sara" ruling (C-490/20), which requires member states to recognise the parental rights of same-sex couples as parents.

The Bulgarian Migration Directorate continues to refuse visas for the third country family members of Bulgarian citizens, contrary to the Coman ruling of CJEU.

## CYPRUS

In January, the archbishop of Cyprus stated that LGBTI marriages infringe on God's predicaments, expressing support for the Church of Greece's opposition to LGBTI marriage and childbearing. This followed the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece's unanimous decision to strongly oppose the Greek government's proposed bill on same-sex marriage and adoption.

## NORTHERN CYPRUS

Reports to the Queer Cyprus' Solidarity Line highlighted ongoing cases of family and social pressure against LGBTI people. A lesbian woman was subjected to intense scrutiny and control by her parents after they accessed her private messages

without consent, demanding that she distance herself from her partner. Similarly, trans people faced rejection and threats from their families, further perpetuating a culture of fear and marginalisation.

## CZECHIA

The equal marriage bill remained a contentious issue in the Czech Parliament throughout 2024, gathering significant public support. This was highlighted by a petition that garnered 170,000 signatures in favour of marriage equality; endorsements from 30 childcare professional organisations; an open letter to all Members of Parliament from children raised in rainbow families; and a letter to the Prime Minister signed by 119 companies, 27 university student associations, and youth organisations from most political parties represented in Parliament, alongside support from over 1,700 teachers. Despite this strong public backing, the Parliament did not pass the equal marriage bill. Instead, it enacted [legislation](#) that establishes a new legal framework for same-sex couples, termed “partnership.”

President Pavel, who has publicly advocated for equal marriage, signed this new partnership law, which will take effect on January 1, 2025. The partnership status will confer all the rights and obligations associated with marriage and will be treated the same as marriage under legal regulations, with the exception of joint adoptions. Nonetheless, the law allows for successive adoptions, meaning that one partner can adopt a child while the other partner can co-adopt.

## DENMARK

Starting in February, public fertility clinics in Denmark began offering [intrafamilial egg donations](#) to couples where both have a uterus by setting up a system in which one partner donates an egg, which is then fertilised with donor sperm and implanted into the other partner’s uterus.

In February, the Danish government, along with most opposition parties, reached an [agreement](#) regarding surrogacy that aims to simplify the recognition of parenthood for Danish parents utilising surrogacy, whether domestically or abroad. A corresponding bill was presented in a [public hearing](#). Under the new framework, the requirement for second-parent adoption will be eliminated, with the primary focus being the child’s benefit from the recognition. A bill is currently being drafted, and the law is expected to take effect on January 1, 2025.

In August the Government held a [public hearing](#) on a draft bill regarding partner egg donation. Since 2017 women can donate an egg to their female partner, but only if the partner could not get pregnant with their own eggs. The new bill lifts this restriction.

In August, the Danish Government issued a [press release](#) outlining

the willingness to take steps towards enhancing opportunities for LGBTI families, recognising diverse family structures and extending some legal consequences of parenthood to more than two persons. Former Minister for Equality Marie Bjerre announced eight initiatives aimed at supporting families with three or four parents, emphasising the need for legal recognition and involvement in parenting.

In September, the [amendments](#) to the Children’s Act took effect, incorporating provisions for home insemination. This change allows couples to conceive privately, outside of fertility clinics, and facilitates the registration of both parents upon the child’s birth. The updated framework maintains the 2013 model, involving three parties: the birthing individual, their female partner, and the sperm provider. The birthing individual is automatically acknowledged as the legal parent, while decisions regarding the second legal parent—either the female partner or sperm provider—are made in advance. This amendment [eliminates](#) the necessity for second-parent adoption for rainbow families in Denmark. Furthermore, despite the continued use of gendered language in the Children’s Act, trans parents are now recognised according to their legally-recognised gender at the time of the baby’s birth.

## ESTONIA

In January, a [law](#) recognising same-sex marriage and joint adoption by LGBTI couples came into effect in Estonia. Initially approved in June 2023, the law also outlines the option for same-sex couples in registered partnerships to convert their status to marriage.

## FINLAND

Starting in March, new legislation allows parents to [update their parental title](#) (mother/father) on the population information system website based on self-determination.

In June, the government announced a [draft proposal](#) to partially compensate private fertility treatments through public health insurance. However, many rainbow families would likely be excluded from these compensations due to the absence of “medical” grounds to justify treatment. At the beginning of December, the proposal remained stuck in the Parliament’s Social Affairs and Health Committee.

## FRANCE

In January, the Conference of Bishops of France (CEF) [advocated](#) for “a broad and unconditional welcome” in response to the Vatican’s openness to bless LGBTI people.

## GEORGIA

Previously, there was no legal recognition for same-sex couples

living together, and the [anti-LGBTI law](#) further excludes individuals who have undergone gender transition from any recognition in the context of marriage.

The law also prohibits the adoption or foster care of minors by unmarried couples or single LGBTI people, allowing this only for married heterosexual couples or single heterosexual people. (See also under Equality and Non-discrimination.)

## GERMANY

In January, the then Federal Minister of Justice Buschmann [presented](#) key points for a [reform](#) of the right of descent, aiming to improve rights for LGBTI families by abolishing stepchild adoptions for two-mother families and introducing parenting agreements. Until September, [no draft was made available](#). In October, a draft was discussed with the Ministries of Justice of the federal states. Following the coalition split in early November, no further steps will be taken on the current measures and legislative reform will now be postponed and addressed in the next legislative period.

In October, Germany's Federal Justice Minister Marco Buschmann of the Free Democrats (FDP) [announced](#) new plans to reform adoption and family law. The proposed reforms aim to allow adults in unmarried partnerships to adopt a child together and permit just one adult in a marriage to legally adopt a child, addressing gaps in current laws. Currently, both married and unmarried heterosexual and same-sex couples can adopt, but married couples must both legally adopt the child, while only one adult in an unmarried partnership can do so. The proposed reform would allow a more flexible approach, aligning the law with the realities of family life today. No proposal was presented by the time the government coalition broke up in November.

## GREECE

In February, Greece became the first Orthodox-majority country to [legalise same-sex marriage](#). The bill [passed](#) with the support of 176 out of 300 MPs, also allowing same-sex couples to adopt children and granting equal parental rights to both partners. However, the bill does not include provisions for [surrogacy](#) for same-sex couples. Furthermore, while it abolishes the requirement of being unmarried to access legal gender recognition, it does not include any provision to modify a parent's name and gender on the birth certificate of their children after legal gender recognition.

The mother of a trans child was [deprived of custody](#) (also [here](#)) after a local court ruled that she was trying to "push the child towards female gender expression" instead of "gender neutralisation".

## HUNGARY

On judicial review, six decisions declaring people unsuitable for adoption in recent years with reference to their sexual orientation and/or the fact that they live with a same-sex partner, were overturned. However, the guardianship authorities have so far failed to implement the judgments, forcing clients to repeatedly judicial review. Although LGBTI people are not explicitly excluded from individual adoption, guardianship offices either discourage them, or refuse their suitability for adoption based on discriminative grounds.

In January, the National Tax Authority [issued a statement](#) confirming that de facto children also inherit without the duty to pay inheritance tax. In practice, this means that children of de facto partners are to be treated equally as the children of spouses or registered partners.

In February, Hungary's Constitutional Court [confirmed](#) the refusal to register a child adopted abroad by a same-sex couple. Despite attempts to have the adoption registered and the child naturalised as Hungarian, the court upheld the rejection, citing that the matter is res iudicata considering that the applicant started a fresh procedure after getting divorced from his same-sex partner.

In May, the Hungarian State Treasury updated the [childcare fee application forms](#) to clarify that same-sex registered partners are also eligible to claim its benefits.

In May, a woman co-parenting three children with her same-sex partner—one being her biological child and two her partner's biological children—applied for family allowance (családi pótlék) for all three. Her request was denied, with authorities arguing that she has no legal relationship with her partner's children, despite the law stating that registered partners should be treated the same as spouses. The case is the subject of ongoing legal proceedings.

In July, the website [csalad.hu](#) containing detailed information on all family support schemes was amended, clarifying that registered partners are to be treated in the same way as married couples for the purposes of family allowance (családi pótlék).

In October, child welfare authorities have once again [rejected](#) the suitability for adoption of a gay applicant, despite a previous court ruling that had annulled a discriminatory decision from the District Guardianship Office. The court had ordered the guardianship authority to begin a new procedure, emphasizing that the authority should send the applicant's case to the Minister for Children and Youth Policy for final approval. However, despite these clear instructions from the Metropolitan Court of Budapest, the guardianship authority issued another negative decision. While it acknowledged that the applicant met all criteria, the

authority continued to raise concerns about the applicant's sexual orientation, citing a restrictive interpretation of family roles and the absence of a maternal role model.

## IRELAND

In January, the Labour party introduced a new bill, aimed at addressing legal gaps and ensuring equality by targeting key issues in the legal framework affecting same-sex families.

In June, the Irish Dáil approved the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill, which addresses surrogacy and family relationships, and was signed into law in July. In October, the Irish Government agreed to introduce a second Bill aimed at addressing remaining gaps in existing legislation. Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly secured approval to draft amendments to the current Assisted Human Reproduction Act, focusing on providing legal clarity for Irish residents and citizens who undergo donor-assisted human reproduction (DAHR) procedures abroad. This legislation seeks to ensure that families formed through these procedures outside of Ireland are afforded the same legal recognition and protections as those established within the country, addressing concerns about legal parentage and other associated rights.

## ITALY

The Court of Bergamo ruled against the National Institute for Social Services (INPS) for failing to allow same-parent families to apply for parental leave, citing this as an unjustified discrimination against same-sex parents. INPS was given two months to update its portal accordingly. However, instead of complying, the institute appealed the ruling and did not modify its IT system for handling administrative requests.

In February, the Court of Appeal of Milan ruled that only the biological mother can be recognised on the birth certificates of children of same-sex couples, obliging the non-biological parent to pursue adoption for legal recognition. Earlier, the court had invalidated the registration of a birth certificate for a child born to a male couple via surrogacy, deeming it illegitimate. However, this ruling established that even in cases where women use assisted reproduction, only the biological mother is entitled to be listed on the birth certificate. A few days later, the Court of Appeal of Brescia took a contrasting stance. In the ruling, the court upheld the validity of the birth certificate for a child with two mothers, arguing that an "evolutionary interpretation" of existing laws is necessary to address the gaps in legal protection for children.

In February, the Court of Appeal of Rome ruled against the Ministry of the Interior, who in 2019 put out a decree mandating the use of the terms 'mother' and 'father' on documents. The court ruled that electronic identity cards for minors should reflect the actual family structure by using "parents" or a similar inclusive term.

In March, the Padua court upheld the validity of birth certificates recognising children as having two mothers. In doing so, the court rejected a previous appeal from the Prosecutor's Office that sought to erase the legal recognition of non-biological mothers or those who had not given birth. The decision emphasised that protecting the minors' legal status and familial recognition takes precedence over the Prosecutor's appeal.

In June, the Lucca court raised a constitutional question regarding articles 8 and 9 of Law 40/2004 and article 250 of the Civil Code, which currently limit legal parenthood status to the biological parent by excluding the non-biological mother from the birth records of children born through IVF. The deliberation was anticipated for early December 2024, but no official statements or rulings have been released to date.

In June, the Ministry of the Interior and the Venice Attorney General's Office filed a complaint with the Venice Court of Appeal against the 39 decrees of the civil judges in Padua. In July, the Venice Court of Appeal "froze" the proceedings in Padua, pending the Constitutional Court's decision on a similar case in Lucca.

In July, the Constitutional Court affirmed the status of de facto cohabitants as full family members, declaring Article 230-bis of the civil code unconstitutional.

## KAZAKHSTAN

In an interview with Ulys Media, Askhat Aimagambetov, Deputy of the Majilis and Chairman of the Committee on Social and Cultural Development, shared insights on various pressing social issues in Kazakhstan. Notably, Aimagambetov cited LGBTI adoption rights as a contentious topic that he believes to be often instrumentalised to create divisions between society and the authorities.

## KOSOVO

In April, Prime Minister Albin Kurti revealed plans to legalise same-sex partnerships as part of the country's bid to join the Council of Europe. Nonetheless, the Civil Code has remained stagnant since March 2022, with no progress on its submission to parliament.

In September, Eman Rrahmani and Visar Korenica, MPs from the ruling LVV party, decided to leave the party and form a new coalition called the "List for Family." This move is in protest of the Draft Civil Code, which they aim to block from being voted on, claiming that it would promote laws concerning the rights of LGBTI persons that would be 'unacceptable even for Europeans'.

## KYRGYZSTAN

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.

## LATVIA

In early July, Latvia's law recognising civil unions for same-sex couples came into force. The bill, passed in November 2023, grants registered couples equal rights in household management, tax benefits, social security, and emergency hospital access.

In July, a Latvian gay couple became the first same-sex couple to register their union under the November 2023 law recognising same-sex partnerships. The couple was followed swiftly by six more couples.

In August, Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvičs, the EU's first openly gay head of state, stated that the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Latvia is not imminent. Rinkēvičs emphasised that the government is not yet ready to push for any immediate changes to the country's marriage laws.

In September, a "singing" protest advocating for marriage equality took place in front of the Saeima (National Parliament) in Latvia. Several dozen people, including a queer choir, gathered to remind lawmakers and the public that, despite the introduction of partnership registration three months earlier, the law remains inadequate. Protesters highlighted key issues, such as the lack of inheritance rights and the inability of partnerships to secure residency permits for foreign partners, emphasising the need for full marriage equality to ensure equal protection for all families.

## LITHUANIA

In March, four same-sex couples filed a complaint with the ECtHR, seeking the registration of a civil partnership, the inclusion of a foreign marriage in Lithuania's civil registry, and the recognition of a same-sex marriage that took place in the country.

In May, the Government made an appeal to the Constitutional Court requesting an evaluation of the constitutionality of the current legal regulations related to partnership institutions. This move is seen as a step towards potentially recognising same-sex partnerships in Lithuania. In June, the Constitutional Court accepted the request and will proceed with examining the matter to determine whether these provisions conflict with Lithuania's Constitution. During the drafting of the new government's programme, Gintautas Paluckas, the leader of the Nemunas Dawn party, communicated that the Partnership Law will not be in the government's programme.

In November, Lithuania's Civil Registry Department refused to register the marriage of a same-sex couple married in Belgium. The department cited a legal ban on same-sex marriage in Lithuania, stating that the marriage could not be included in the country's records.

In December, the Vilnius District Court issued a historic ruling by recognising two mothers for a child born from a same-sex couple.

## MOLDOVA

In April, the Râșcani sector court dismissed the case of a same-sex couple seeking to have their marriage registered after the Public Services Agency also rejected the couple's initial request.

## MONTENEGRO

3 years after the adoption of the law on same-sex partnerships, the government and parliament have yet to take action to align other laws with the Law on Same-Sex Partnership, and thus ensure the law's proper implementation. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior continues to deny citizenship to children of same-sex couples, in clear violation of the law, perpetuating discrimination against these families.

## NETHERLANDS

Starting January 1, a law came into effect making it possible for children to receive the surnames of both parents.

In October, the Dutch government submitted three reports to Parliament concerning the development of legislation for multi-parent families. In one report, the Child Protection Board stated it has changed its position and is now in favor of a law providing the option of parental custody and multi parenthood for intentional multi-parent families. Similar advice was issued by the Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles. A report on values and wishes concerning a law for multi parent families was also sent to parliament and, in the accompanying letter, the government wrote that it is still awaiting several other reports.

## POLAND

In January, the Polish government initiated work on the Civil Partnership Act, by sketching out public consultations with civil society representatives. Poland's Minister for Equality announced the government's intention to legalise same-sex marriage, criticising the previous PiS government's persecution of women and LGBTI people.

In April, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that the government has prepared a bill on civil partnerships. However, he stated that the proposal will not be introduced until there is



certainty that the parties within the ruling coalition will support it. The Minister of Equality, during an interview on TVP Info, [announced](#) that all necessary preparations regarding the Civil Partnership Act have already been completed.

In May, the Civic Coalition [intensified](#) efforts to persuade the Polish People's Party (PSL) to support the civil partnership bill. Amnesty International, along with the Campaign Against Homophobia and the Love Does Not Exclude association, also [called](#) on PSL politicians to back the bill amid disagreements with the section on [same-sex adoptions](#).

In June, the Minister of Equality [confirmed](#) that the draft law on civil partnerships would be introduced by the [government](#) instead of the parliament. This process entails preparation and approval by the relevant ministry and the Council of Ministers before its presentation to the Sejm. In mid-October, the proposal was eventually [submitted](#) by the Government. The proposal seeks to [introduce](#) the possibility for couples to register their partnerships at the Registry Office, responding to the needs of same-sex couples who lack access to marriage, as well as different-sex couples in informal relationships who, for various reasons, cannot or choose not to marry. Throughout the month of November the bill was the subject of public consultations but the perspectives of CSOs have not been made public at this time.

In February, a Civic Platform (PO, EPP) MP Agnieszka Pomaska [noted](#) a growing shift towards supporting LGBTI rights in Poland. Nonetheless, she also acknowledged the long way to go before legalising same-sex marriages.

In May, Warsaw witnessed the first [public blessing of a same-sex couple](#) in Poland.

In September, the ECtHR [ruled](#) against Poland in a legal case involving two same-sex couples. The court ordered Poland to recognise the marriages of the couples, who had married in the UK and Denmark. Poland's government had previously resisted this, citing national laws that only recognise heterosexual marriages.

## PORTUGAL

In May, former Minister of Education João Costa [announced](#) the launch of his book, "Manifesto pelas Identidades e Famílias (Manifesto for Identities and Families)". In the introduction, Costa clarified that the book is a direct response to the controversial "Identidade e Família (Identity and Family)" collection, edited by former Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho. Costa criticises what he perceives as an "attack on conquered rights" and an effort to impose a particular moral view on those who do not share it. He argued that movements opposing gender ideology

and euthanasia, as presented in Coelho's collection, represent a "regression in civilisational advancement and an imposition of a singular moral perspective".

## ROMANIA

In Romania there is still no legal recognition and protection of same sex families and there continues to be no implementation of the Coman [judgement](#), despite the [pre-infringement procedure](#) launched by the European Commission in 2020. A working group coordinated by the Romanian Ombudsperson in cooperation with ACCEPT Association was created to identify solutions to implement ECtHR and CJEU judgments related to LGBTI rights.

In February, the AUR party launched an [initiative](#) to amend the Constitution to define family strictly as a union between a man and a woman, replacing the term "spouses" with "man and woman." The initiative sparked [protests](#) by the LGBTI community at the AUR headquarters in Bucharest and was widely condemned by a consortium of LGBTI organisations, which highlighted the ongoing attacks on civil rights and freedoms in Romania. The initiative required 500,000 signatures from at least half of Romania's counties by August 1, 2024. Despite high-profile campaigns and endorsements by parties, the proposal [failed](#) to meet the required threshold, marking the second such failure in recent years. In February, the Minister of Family, Youth, and Equal Opportunities, Natalia Intotero, announced plans to draft a new Family Law aimed at encouraging the birth rate and defining the family. Despite the legislation's potential impact on diverse family structures, including same-sex families, LGBTI rights organisations were excluded from the consultation process, leading 30 NGOs to submit a letter to the Ministry expressing concerns about the exclusion of same-sex families in favour of religious groups like the Christian Office for Rights and Freedoms (OCDL).

More than one year after the ECtHR judgment in the [Buhuceanu And Others V. Romania](#) case became final, stating that Romania is obliged to ensure a legislative framework so that same-sex families are protected and recognised, no action plan for its implementation has been put in place and the draft plan only states that the Government translated the decision and sent it to other institutions and authorities. At the time, Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, now a presidential candidate, publicly stated that he does not intend to respect the judgment, stressing that Romania is not ready to recognise same-sex families. Romania's deadline to submit an action plan addressing the ECtHR's judgment was March 25. The final document lacked specific measures and included only the translation, dissemination, and internal discussions of the judgment.

In October Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu sparked [controversy](#) when he questioned the need to introduce civil

partnerships for same-sex couples, claiming that LGBTI citizens already enjoy equal rights. The MozaiQ Association strongly criticised Ciolacu's remarks, asserting that they reflect a misunderstanding of the needs of LGBTI citizens. They pointed out that without civil partnerships, same-sex couples lack critical legal rights, including inheritance, medical decision-making, access to a partner's pension, and joint property ownership.

## RUSSIA

In April, in Tula, the mother of an underage girl was reported to the Juvenile Affairs Commission for failing to meet parental responsibilities under part 1 of article 5.35 of the Administrative Code. The daughter was also registered with the police department for minors due to her posts on a Telegram channel, which, according to the law enforcement, included symbols of a 'banned extremist LGBTI organisation' and other illegal content.

In September, in Tula, police conducted a "preventive visit" to a 17-year-old boy for distributing 'symbols of the banned extremist LGBT organisation' in a Telegram channel. They forced him to delete the content, and registered him with the juvenile affairs department. Additionally, his mother was charged with 'failure to fulfil or improper fulfilment of parental duties' under part 1 of article 5.35 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offences.

In September, Russian MPs voted in favour of a bill that would prohibit the adoption of Russian children by citizens of countries that allow legal gender recognition. In November 2024, a court in Moscow dissolved a de facto same-sex marriage for the first time despite the fact that same-sex marriages are not recognised in Russia. The marriage was dissolved between a cis-male and a transgender man who had changed his documents after entering into a same-sex marriage.

## SERBIA

In March, the Green-Left Front (ZLF) in Serbia proposed a bill for civil partnerships, aiming to grant same-sex couples equal rights, including inheritance, property relations, and healthcare access. Highlighting systemic discrimination and lack of government support, ZLF emphasised that the bill aligns with human rights principles and addresses widespread public support for such measures, as seen in prior surveys. They also criticised the government's silence during Pride week and urged legislative and societal change to recognise LGBTI partnerships as legitimate families. As of December, the bill had not been adopted.

## SLOVAKIA

In March, a Slovak citizen who had married a British national in a same-sex marriage and subsequently obtained British citizenship, was informed that his Slovak citizenship was being revoked.

Subsequently, the Slovak Constitutional Court took on the case for further consideration.

## SWEDEN

In July, an option was introduced to transfer parental allowance to another relative. Before, parents could waive parental allowance to, for example, a cohabitant, but not to certain other close relatives, such as a co-parent without custody not living in the household. According to the new regulations, parents with joint custody of a child are given the opportunity to hand over 45 days of parental benefit each to someone else who is insured for parental benefit. Parents with sole custody of a child may hand over 90 days of parental allowance to another insured.

## TAJIKISTAN

In Tajik society, a family member's sexuality or gender identity becoming publicly known is often perceived as a profound source of shame for the family. Consequently, "coming out" is rarely a viable option for LGBTI people, as it risks subjecting their families to public ridicule, social isolation, and damage to their reputations. This often leads to sham marriages or marriages of convenience. In one specific case, an individual's family discovered their sexual orientation and proceeded to beat them, tie them up in a room, leaving them without food for days. Ultimately, they were forcibly married to a man they had never met. Upon reporting the situation to the police, no action was taken. The victim was eventually manipulated by their family into dropping the accusations, leaving them without legal protection.

## TURKEY

In May, the Ministry of Family and Social Services unveiled its Vision Document and Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family. The plan characterised LGBTI people as part of "harmful trends and habits" that pose a threat to the family unit, and describing them as components of a "desexualisation project."

The Action Plan outlined several strategic objectives, including "increasing international efforts to defend and reinforce the family," "protecting family values in media and digital platforms," and "promoting and expanding access to family-friendly media content."

Sabah newspaper reported that the Ministry of Family and Social Services is drafting a detailed roadmap for implementing the Action Plan.

In September, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan addressed the 79th General Assembly of the United Nations, where he declared, "The issue of desexualisation is no longer a matter of orientation but a global imposition, a war against the sacred and against human nature."

In September, the final [report](#) from the “Family Institution Workshop,” organised under the leadership of Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli, was released. During the event, MHP Deputy Chairman Ahmet Selim Yurdakul presented proposals for anti-LGBTI constitutional amendments. Yurdakul advocated for revising the definition of family in the Constitution, suggesting that it should explicitly include the terms “woman” and “man” to reinforce a traditional understanding of family structure. Following the release of the report, MHP Deputy Chairman Ahmet Selim Yurdakul [outlined](#) the party’s anti-LGBTI stance. In a statement to the press, Yurdakul referred to the LGBTI community’s calls for equality, freedom, and justice as “propaganda” and a “threat.”

In October, the 2025 Central Government Budget Proposal, signed by President Erdoğan, was [submitted](#) to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM). Discussions on the proposal began on October 22 in the TBMM Plan and Budget Commission and are expected to continue for about two months. The budget includes an allocation of 16 billion liras for the “protection and strengthening of the family.”

## UKRAINE

In March, [Draft Law No. 9103](#) on the Institute of Registered Partnerships was introduced, aiming to allow couples of any gender to gain legal recognition similar to that of close relatives. Since then, the bill has received endorsements from five parliamentary committees. Approval of the law would align the Ukrainian legal system with the ECtHR [decision](#) in Maimulakhin and Markiv v. Ukraine, which found Ukraine’s lack of legal recognition for same-sex couples to be a violation of Articles 8 and 14 of the ECHR. In June, the Legal Policy Committee included the bill on registered partnerships in its agenda. However, rather than addressing it procedurally, committee members engaged in extensive debate, voicing numerous objections and effectively stalling the bill’s progress. The committee then decided to postpone further discussion, leaving the bill in limbo and potentially shifting its fate to be decided behind closed doors. In August, the Parliamentary Committee on National Health, Medical Assistance, and Medical Insurance also [endorsed](#) the proposal.

In November, a new draft was registered in the Verkhovna Rada. [Draft Law No. 12252](#), which introduced a framework for registered civil partnerships, allowing both same-sex and different-sex couples to formalise their relationships. The bill aims to address long-standing gaps in legal protections, such as inheritance rights, medical decision-making, and property ownership, which disproportionately affect same-sex couples. Despite its alignment with international human rights standards and recommendations from the European Commission, the draft has yet to progress through parliamentary committees or be included in the legislative agenda.

In 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers [revised](#) the procedure for awarding one-time financial benefits to the families of deceased military personnel, theoretically enabling same-sex partners of deceased soldiers to receive financial compensation. However, the requirement to prove their relationship in court highlights the state’s ongoing discriminatory approach toward same-sex couples. The war has amplified the urgency for [legal recognition](#) of same-sex partnerships, particularly for LGBTI military personnel, whose partners lack legal [protections](#) in cases of injury or death. Metropolitan Epiphany, the head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), [declined a proposal](#) to follow Pope Francis’ lead in permitting priests to bless same-sex couples. He noted that even the Roman and Greek Catholic bishops in Ukraine do not support this stance taken by the Pope.

## UNITED KINGDOM

In June, the Court of Appeal heard [claims](#) that same-sex male couples in Northern Ireland are experiencing unlawful discrimination when seeking publicly funded fertility treatment.