

BELARUS

In March 2024, the Central District Court of Minsk declared the informational materials of TG House, a trans-led organisation, including its online resources and social media accounts, as extremist. This marked the first instance in Belarusian history where an LGBTI organisation was officially labelled that way. The court's decision highlights the increasing pressure on the LGBTI community and the State's efforts to suppress any forms of association and expression related to the protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

CROATIA

This year, Croatia recorded a total of four Pride marches, including the first in Pula, the 23rd in Zagreb, the 13th in Split, and the second in Karlovac.

In June, the 23rd Zagreb Pride received support from politicians and local officials, including Zagreb's Mayor Tomislav Tomašević and proceeded without disturbances.

In October, the fifth Pride Ride took place in Zagreb, receiving support from local officials and the city administration. It proceeded without disturbances.

GEORGIA

In May, Georgia's parliament passed the "Transparency of Foreign Influence" law, which requires organisations receiving over 20% of their funding from abroad to register as "organisations pursuing the interests of a foreign power." While the law is widely known as the foreign agents law, the 2024 version removed the term "agent" and replaced it with the less controversial-sounding phrasing. The law compels civil society groups and independent media to submit their internal documents for government inspection.

Although Georgian authorities have not yet taken direct action against non-compliant organisations, methods of intimidation and harassment have been used, particularly ahead of the 26 October elections. These tactics included an attempt to block organisations from monitoring the elections, though this was reversed after international backlash.

In June 2024, the bill was signed into law by Speaker of Parliament Shalva Papuashvili, following the legislature's rejection of a veto by President Salome Zourabichvili and the law began to be implemented. The deadline for registration under the law expired on September 2, with only 476 organisations expressing interest in complying, which is approximately 1.5% of all registered CSOs in Georgia. In November, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) registered a case against the law. The passage of the law is part of a broader crackdown on democratic freedoms by the ruling Georgian Dream party, drawing inspiration from a similar foreign agent law introduced in Russia in 2012.

HUNGARY

In December 2023, the Act on the protection of national sovereignty was passed. In February 2024, the Sovereignty Protection Office was set up with the ability to carry out investigations relating to 'any activity that is foreign-funded and that may influence the outcome of elections, the will of voters or supports such activities'. In October, the European Commission decided to launch an infringement procedure against Hungary, identifying that the law violates several fundamental rights enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: the right to respect for private and family life, the freedom of expression and information, the freedom of association, the right to legal professional privilege, as well as the presumption of innocence, which implies the right not to incriminate oneself.

KAZAKHSTAN

In October, the feminist initiative Feminita organised a conference in Almaty. On the opening day, the booked venues were reportedly denied the bookings, allegedly due to a blacklist targeting Feminita. The group accused the Almaty Akimat (city administration) of pressuring businesses to cancel the event. Despite these challenges, the organisers managed to secure an alternative location. However, shortly after the event commenced, the power was cut off.

MONTENEGRO

In October 2024, the For the Future of Montenegro (ZBCG) coalition, which includes the Democratic Front, announced plans to urgently propose a Law on Foreign Agents. This initiative was met with criticism from civil society and embassies. As of now, the proposal remains in the early stages, with no formal draft law.

RUSSIA

In March, the Federal Financial Monitoring Service added the "LGBT movement" to its list of terrorists and extremists.

In May 2024, a second criminal case on LGBTI extremism was opened in Russia - against Artem Fokin, the head of the LGBT initiative 'Irida' (Samara). He faces up to 10 years in prison for leading an LGBT initiative. This is the only criminal case against the head of an LGBT initiative in Russia so far.

In October 2024, the European Court of Human Rights ruled against Russia's "foreign agents" law, condemning it as a violation of fundamental rights. The Court found that the law infringed on the right to freedom of association for the LGBT organisation Social Information Centre Action in St. Petersburg.

In 2024, Russian LGBT initiatives minimised offline events due to the criminalisation of LGBTI extremism by Russian authorities.

SAN MARINO

The country's first LGBTI organisation, "121," was established as a committee and later formalised as a legal association. Its mission is to raise awareness, advocate for community representation, and provide a support network addressing legal, psychological, and health-related needs of the LGBTI community.

SPAIN

Events in Valencia have raised significant concerns about freedom of association, particularly regarding Lambda, the principal LGBTI organisation in the Autonomous Region of Comunidad Valenciana. A high-ranking official from the regional government issued threats to Lambda, indicating that all funding for LGBTI organisations could be revoked. In response to this threat, LGBTI organisations in the region severed ties with the government and proceeded to organise an independent Pride event, free from the involvement of regional political institutions.

TURKEY

In March, Fatih Erbakan, the President of the New Welfare Party, vowed to close 17 LGBTI associations, emphasising his commitment to preventing what he described as "LGBTI perversion" in Turkey.