

Bias-Motivated Violence

ANDORRA

Andorran police confirmed they recorded an average of two to three bias-motivated incidents each month. Diversand NGO highlighted incidents during Pride celebrations in June and called the need for a formal system to register and classify bias-motivated violence, so that it can be recognised as hate crime and inform appropriate prevention and response measures. Such a system would allow for the recognition of LGTBI-phobic violence as hate crimes and the creation of preventive mechanisms alongside appropriate penalties for aggressors.

ARMENIA

Investigative and judicial practice continued to raise concerns, with authorities frequently failing to recognise bias based on sexual orientation or gender identity as an aggravating factor, contributing to impunity (see also under Police and Law Enforcement).

In May, the Yerevan First Instance Court sentenced a man to 10 years in prison for the murder of a trans woman. Despite efforts by the victim's representative to request the case to be examined as a hate-motivated crime, the investigative body did not examine this aspect and the court relied solely on the scope of the indictment in its judgement.

In June, nearly seven years after the 2018 attack on nine persons perceived to be LGBTI in the village of Shurnukh, the Syunik Region First Instance Court overturned the decision to terminate the investigation, citing serious procedural failings, arguing that the inquiry had been neither timely nor thorough. The court thereby rejected the argument that the incident was unrelated to the victims' identities, criticised the failure to acknowledge a possible violation of the principle of equality, and ordered a reinvestigation. At the time of writing, the investigation was still ongoing and no significant step had been taken.

In July, a trans woman was found dead in her apartment. Although the police did not identify any sign of physical violence, they are reportedly evaluating the possibility of incitement to suicide. No outcome of the investigation has been made public.

In 2025, Pink Armenia documented 56 violations of human rights in conjunction with discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, 30 of which constituted domestic violence cases. The other incidents included physical and mental abuse, including in the army, sexual harassment, blackmailing, threats, abuse of authority, as well as discrimination in the workplace.

AUSTRIA

In March, Austrian authorities uncovered a neo-Nazi network responsible for orchestrating attacks against gay and bisexual men using fake dating profiles. The group allegedly lured victims to meeting locations under false pretences, where they were then ambushed, beaten, and humiliated by masked assailants. The attacks were filmed and disseminated online. Investigators reported that the perpetrators falsely accused their victims of being paedophiles.

In May, a total of 30 LGBTI organisations from Austria demanded a national action plan against hate crimes.

In July, the Linz Regional Court convicted two men for a series of hate-motivated attacks in Upper Austria's Mühlviertel region, in which they lured victims via dating apps, threatened them with weapons, and extorted money. One of the attackers received an unconditional prison sentence of 33 months; the other was sentenced to 21 months, of which 14 must be served. The convictions include aggravated robbery, extortion, dangerous threats, and property damage. The verdict is not yet final.

In August, a 64-year-old man in Vienna was convicted for threatening a neighbor with homophobic violence. The Vienna Regional Court sentenced him to five months in prison, suspended under a three-year probation due to his prior record. The court confiscated a knife involved in the threats and ordered the defendant to pay symbolic damages of 200 euros to the victim. The judgment is not yet final, as the defendant did not have legal representation during the trial.

AZERBAIJAN

In November, a 19-year-old was stabbed to death in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. According to

Azerbaijani Qiy Vaar organisation, the victim had previously moved to Turkey to escape family pressure but was forced to return to Azerbaijan after his residence permit expired. During his stay in Turkey, he was threatened by his cousin and told friends that his family was looking to kill him upon his return to Azerbaijan.

BELGIUM

In 2025, Belgian civil society organisations highlighted a continued rise in cases of bias-motivated violence in Belgium compared with previous years. They pointed to a marked increase in ambushes arranged through dating app, growing rates of attacks against LGBTI spaces, greater levels of workplace harassment, and expanding social-media-driven disinformation campaigns targeting and antagonising LGBTI people. At the same time, reporting rates remained low, with only 14% of assaulted LGBTI people in Belgium reporting incidents to the police.

For what concerns LGBTI-phobic ambushes, in April, the trial of several individuals accused of assaults linked to entrapments opened in Brussels, with the sentencing of two of the accused taking place in May. Similarly, in November, a 31-year-old man was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment for the assault of a man at a gay cruising site. The incident occurred in August 2024, when the perpetrator filmed himself repeatedly striking the victim while uttering homophobic remarks.

The judgment explicitly recognised the homophobic motive as an aggravating factor in the offence. Finally, in December, prosecutors in Leuven reported that four minors were arrested in connection with an attempt to lure two victims to a secluded place through a dating app to assault them and rob them, leading to one of the victims sustaining serious injuries.

The first half of 2025, the Rainbowhouse of Verviers was subjected to several attacks, including its rainbow flag being ripped from the facade and torn, stones being thrown against the door, and the defacement of a mural. It took several messages including public call-outs, for the local authorities to finally react. In February, three men appeared before

a Belgian court in connection with a homophobic assault committed in 2024, when they attacked two individuals after perceiving them to be a same-sex couple. Also, in February, Georgian journalist Lucas Ablotia and a trans friend were assaulted on a bus in Brussels after assailants confronted them and asked whether they were gay.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In January, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH (HJPC BiH) issued a notice to relevant judicial institutions regarding updates to the National Judicial Case Management System (CMS/TCMS) for what concerns hate crimes. The update enables systematic data collection on the motives of attacks and on the belonging of injured parties to protected characteristics, including SOGI elements. The amendment entered into force on January 27.

In June, two LGBTI persons were attacked following their participation in the 2025 BiH Pride March, due to the fact that they were wearing rainbow symbols.

BULGARIA

In April, in the centre of Sofia, a trans woman was attacked by a man wielding a machete. The incident occurred late at night, while the victim was returning from a gathering with friends. She was approached by a man with a bicycle who started hurling threats at her, saying that "freaks like her should not live" before slashing her on the head and legs. Once she fell to the ground, he continued by kicking her repeatedly. She has since filed a complaint with the police.

CROATIA

In September, Zagreb Pride warned of an escalation in organised homophobic violence in Zagreb and its surroundings from July 2024 to the end of August 2025, with at least ten cases of attacks on LGBTI men lured through a dating app reported. Several organised criminal groups created fake profiles to entrap LGBTI men. All the cases documented by Zagreb Pride, as well as those reported by the Zagreb Police Department, follow a similar pattern: upon arriving at the arranged meeting place, the victim is ambushed by a group of young men, subjected to homophobic slurs, and then brutally beaten and robbed.

In May, a 22-year-old man was beaten and hospitalised after an attempted robbery arranged via Grindr; this case was formally reported with legal assistance, and a criminal investigation is ongoing.

In July, eight minors were investigated for four violent crimes, including robbery and grievous bodily harm, after luring multiple men through a gay dating application in the Zagreb and Vrbovec areas. The police have arrested eight minors suspected of involvement in two of the attacks, while the other cases remain unsolved.

In September, [Zagreb Pride](#) called on authorities to classify the attacks as hate crimes. In October, the Municipal Criminal Court in Zagreb issued a non-final [ruling](#) sentencing three perpetrators for a homophobic hate crime committed against a same-sex couple in May 2016. The defendants were convicted of causing bodily harm, threats, and violent conduct, with the crimes legally qualified as motivated by bias against sexual orientation. Each received prison sentences ranging from eight months to one year, suspended for a probationary period of five years. The judgment followed a seven-year process, with law enforcement initially classifying the incident as a misdemeanor disturbance of public order rather than a bias-motivated crime.

After the European Court of Human Rights' 2021 judgement in *Sabalić v. Croatia*, which ruled that Croatia had failed to adequately investigate a 2010 violent homophobic attack on Pavla Sabalić the Constitutional Court of Croatia ordered the reopening of proceedings. It found violations of the constitutional rights to physical and mental integrity and non-discrimination, explicitly acknowledging the procedural dimension of state responsibility. The Municipal Criminal Court ultimately resolved the case through an expedited criminal order procedure.

CYPRUS

In May, Cypriot police [arrested](#) one individual in connection with the assault and verbal abuse of a 17-year-old in Nicosia. The incident occurred when the teenager was approached by two individuals who allegedly insulted and physically attacked him. While reports suggested possible homophobic or

racist motives, police stated that the case is being investigated solely as an incident of assault and verbal abuse.

In May, the House Human Rights Committee in Cyprus [reported](#) a rise in racially motivated crimes. Deputy Police Chief Ioannis Georgiou stated that over the past two years, 51 attacks were recorded against food delivery drivers, while 54 racist incidents were documented in 2023. Georgiou also noted an increase in reported crimes against LGBTI people, with 14 incidents recorded in 2022 and 17 in 2023.

In June, a group of Cypriot secondary school students visiting the city were involved in a homophobic and transphobic incident, as [reported](#) by Thessaloniki Pride. According to an open letter sent to Cyprus's Education Minister Athena Michaelidou, around 20 students verbally attacked a trans woman and a gay man. Following the report, Minister Michaelidou requested an official account of the incident, with the Ministry's Director of Secondary Education, Nicholas Yiasoumi, confirming that an inquiry was underway.

DENMARK

In June, a court in Odense [convicted](#) two teenage boys, aged 15 and 16, for [assaulting](#) three gay men they had lured into an ambush via a dating app. The attacks involved kicking, beating, and filming the victims while shouting slurs. Despite these elements, the court acquitted the perpetrators of having a hate motive, prompting concern from LGBT+ Denmark about the effectiveness of Denmark's hate crime legislation and calls for the prosecution to appeal. Two other defendants were acquitted, while the convicted teenagers received prison sentences of eight and seven months, with one month unconditional.

FINLAND

In November, [data](#) released by Finland's Police University College indicated that reported hate crimes reached record levels in 2025, marking a significant increase compared with previous years. Police recorded a total of 1,808 suspected hate crime cases, representing a 13 per cent rise since 2023. While the majority of recorded incidents were motivated by racist hostility, with nearly 70

percent of reports linked to the victim's ethnic or national background, the data also identified sexual orientation and gender identity as recurrent motivating factors (12% of the total cases reported).

FRANCE

In 2025, [official data](#) indicated that anti-LGBTI violence and discrimination remained present in France. [A study](#) published by the Observatoire des inégalités reported more than 3,000 anti-LGBTI crimes and offences in 2024, compared with around one third of that number in 2016. According to the study, people under the age of 29 accounted for half of recorded victims and men for nearly three-quarters. [Data released in May](#) by the Departmental Statistical Service for Internal Security (SSMSI) recorded 4,800 anti-LGBTI offences in 2024, representing a 5% increase compared with 2023. The recorded offences included physical violence, threats, insults and entrapments linked to contacts initiated through dating applications.

Several cases of bias-motivated assaults were reported during the year. In January, a boy under 15 was [assaulted](#) in Harfleur (Seine-Maritime) in an attack that involved an attempted aggravated rape and the theft of his mobile phone. The case remained under investigation at the end of the year and no judicial outcome has been reported. In the same month, a 19-year-old man was [assaulted](#) in Caen by a group of around 15 individuals, while a 22-year-old man was [attacked](#) on a bus in Marseille by three individuals who directed homophobic insults, spat on him and threatened him with a knife – the main suspect was charged with death threats and public insults motivated by bias against sexual orientation. In February, a 20-year-old man was [assaulted](#) in Ambarès-et-Lagrave (Gironde) by seven teenagers who beat him while directing verbal abuse linked to his sexual orientation. In April, a man from Arras was [verbally harassed](#) and spat on in Béthune before being physically assaulted in a nearby parking area. In the same month, two trans teenagers were [attacked](#) in Le Havre (Seine-Maritime) by a group of minors who punched and kicked them while shouting transphobic insults. In June, a worker was [assaulted](#) at his home in Chantilly (Oise) by two colleagues who beat and humiliated him in acts reported as

motivated by his sexual orientation. In July, a 21-year-old man was [assaulted](#) in Le Mans shortly after

the city's Pride march. In September, the director of a primary school in Moussages, in the Cantal department, [died](#) by suicide after being subjected to persistent lesbophobic harassment not receiving adequate institutional support.

A number of cases also involved entrapments arranged through dating apps. In February, an LGBTI activist in Nice was [lured](#) and assaulted in what investigators described as a homophobic ambush. In March, in Bordeaux, a man was contacted via a dating site, confronted by a minor and two accomplices and [forced](#) to withdraw €1,000. At the end of March in Dijon, three men were [attacked](#) in separate incidents after being approached in a known cruising location and were beaten and robbed.

Several court decisions during the year concerned incidents involving similar methods. In January, the Le Havre Criminal Court [sentenced](#) three men aged 19 to 21 to prison terms ranging from one to three years for an assault committed in December 2023 against a young man targeted because of his sexual orientation. In February, the Lille Children's Court [sentenced](#) a teenager to 11 years' imprisonment for three attempted murders committed in August 2020, two of which were considered to have a homophobic motive. In March, the Charente Juvenile Court [sentenced](#) a man to 18 months' imprisonment for the extortion of a homosexual man whom he had lured to a meeting in 2023, where the victim was beaten, placed in a car trunk, taken to a field and robbed. In the same month, in Martinique, an assize court [opened](#) the first trial for assault and battery causing permanent disability, [sentencing](#) a defendant to 13 years' imprisonment for armed robbery accompanied by homophobic aggravating circumstances. In May, two men aged 19 and 20 were [convicted](#) for luring and assaulting a gay man in Étapes via a false meeting arranged on Snapchat. The Créteil Criminal Court [sentenced](#) two men aged 21 for attacking two gay men after arranging a meeting with the intention of stealing their cars. In June, the Nîmes Criminal Court [convicted](#) two men aged 18 and 19 for luring victims through a dating application using false profiles and ambushing them

at their homes. In July, four individuals were arrested in Malesherbois (Loiret) in connection with a series of attacks in which victims were directed to buildings where they were beaten, threatened with a weapon and forced to hand over money or make bank transfers. In October, the Bobigny Juvenile Court found five teenagers guilty of violence and attempted theft – with the aggravating circumstance linked to sexual orientation – after they used the Grindr app to arrange meetings with men who were then assaulted and robbed. A further hearing to determine sentencing was scheduled for January 2026, and the court ordered educational measures and compensation for the victims. In December, the Essonne assize court sentenced a 28-year-old man to eight years' imprisonment for a series of armed extortions committed in Paris in 2022 against men contacted through dating applications and lured to a cellar where they were threatened with weapons and robbed; on appeal he acknowledged the homophobic insults accompanying the attacks.

GEORGIA

In 2025, the continued prevalence and systemic nature of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity remains one of the most pressing challenges faced by the LGBTI community in Georgia. Nonetheless, a mismatch between the official statistics and reality was induced by the obstacles hindering the effective prevention and investigation of SOGI-based hate crimes – such as delays in launching investigations, granting victims the status of 'aggrieved party', or properly qualifying criminal cases, combined with the lack of sensitivity and awareness among police officers, prosecutors, and investigators.

In July, the Tbilisi Court of Appeals upheld the life sentence of Beka Jaiani, convicted of murdering trans woman Kesaria Abramidze. The original sentence, handed down on April 16, found Jaiani guilty of premeditated murder committed with particular cruelty, with the motive determined to be related to the victim's gender identity.

This was the last case in which "gender identity" was recognized as a hate crime motive in Georgia, following the removal of "gender identity" from the

list of protected grounds in the country's hate crime provisions under the Criminal Code and the anti-discrimination law in 2025.

GERMANY

In May, the Federal Criminal Police Office, together with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, published the latest statistics on politically motivated crime in Germany. A total of 84,172 such offences were recorded – the highest figure ever documented and more than 40 percent above the previous year's levels. The majority of these crimes were attributed to far-right extremism. Among the categories of hate crimes, 1,765 offences targeted individuals on the basis of sexual orientation, representing a 17.75 percent rise, while 1,152 offences were linked to gender diversity, an alarming 34.89 percent increase.

In 2023, the Conference of Interior Ministers signed off on a report from its working group on combating homophobic and transphobic violence, endorsing a set of recommendations and recognising that existing protections for LGBTI people remain inadequate. To date the report has not been made public, although federal and state authorities were asked to present progress updates by autumn 2025. Ahead of that deadline, the LSVD* surveyed all 16 state interior ministries and the federal police about their implementation efforts. Their responses indicate that many states have taken few concrete steps or have offered little transparency, despite the persistence of violence targeting queer people.

GREECE

In July, the Mixed Jury Court of Appeal of Crete convicted three French tourists for a 2017 attack on a same-sex couple, recognising a homophobic motive and applying enhanced sentencing under Greek law. The perpetrators had approached the couple under a pretext and then assaulted them, repeatedly striking one victim in the head. The attack ceased when a passerby intervened, causing the attackers to flee. Although they left for France the next day, authorities identified them and proceeded with the case. The Court of Appeal sentenced the three attackers to seven and eight years in prison,

invoking Article 82A of the Criminal Code, which increases penalties for crimes motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. This ruling represents the first final conviction in Crete explicitly recognising a homophobic motive and is among the first in Greece.

In July, a 24-year-old man was attacked in Anthoupolis as he exited the metro by a group of around five people who physically attacked him and verbally abused him with homophobic slurs. One of the attackers recorded the assault on video. The attackers eventually left, leaving the victim on the street until a neighbor intervened to help him.

In September, a male couple was subjected to a homophobic attack in central Athens after holding hands and sharing a kiss. A passerby aggressively approached them, threw a cup of coffee at them, and shouted insults. The couple filed a complaint with the Racist Violence Department. There has been no publicly reported information by the end of 2025 on the outcome of the investigation or any charges in the case.

HUNGARY

In January, the Szentendre District Court fined a woman 375,000 forints (around €1,000) for a homophobic attack on a gay teacher. The incident happened in February 2023, when a cleaner at the teacher's rural school refused to clean his classroom, reportedly for prejudiced reasons. Later that day, the cleaner returned with his mother, who shouted homophobic insults and threats in front of students and staff, saying they would not allow him to teach their children and threatening to have him dismissed by the mayor. Police initially treated the case only as defamation and discontinued proceedings, but following intervention by Háttér Society, the victim's legal representative, it was reclassified as a hate crime. The court eventually rejected mediation, stressing the seriousness of the act, its prejudiced motive, and the fact that it occurred in a school setting before minors and colleagues.

IRELAND

Several homophobic and transphobic incidents were reported throughout 2025, reflecting ongoing hostility in public spaces and online. In February, a taxi

driver deliberately drove toward a lesbian couple while shouting homophobic abuse. In October, two drag performers were assaulted in Cork during the Jazz Festival, and police investigated a suspected homophobic attack in Limerick in which two people required hospital treatment.

Court proceedings also continued in relation to earlier incidents. In June, a judge issued a bench warrant in a case involving assault and incitement to hatred linked to a 2022 homophobic attack on a Dublin Bus, brought under legislation in force prior to the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024. In September, a 19-year-old was charged with the murder of a man he had met via a gay dating app; no further developments were publicly reported by the end of the year.

Far-right mobilisation remained a concern. In July, a member of the Irish People party appeared before court in connection with alleged harassment of a librarian during protests over the inclusion of an LGBTI-themed book in a public library. In November, following the arrests of men suspected of links to a violent far-right organisation, the Coalition Against Hate Crime warned of rising hate-driven extremism and called for a coordinated national response.

ITALY

In 2025, homophobic and transphobic violence continued to be reported across Italy, including domestic abuse, public assaults and organised entrapment schemes targeting gay men via dating applications.

In January, the father of a 15-year-old boy in Naples was arrested after threatening to kill him. This followed years of physical and psychological abuse.

In March, the Civil Court of Asti recognised, for the first time in Italy, the existence of physical and psychological harm resulting from homophobic mistreatment in a case involving prolonged abuse by a father against his son.

Several cases involved organised entrapment through dating applications. In Padova, members of a gang that lured gay men via Grindr to rob and assault

them received five-year sentences in Padova; a third suspect was arrested in September. In July, a man in Bergamo was sentenced to five years and ten months for robbery and extortion targeting gay men through Grindr, although no discriminatory aggravating circumstance was applied.

Multiple public assaults were recorded during the year. In June, two people were attacked after leaving Padova Pride Village; in Rome's Pigneto district, two men were assaulted with a baseball bat after being seen kissing; and in Vicenza, a trans man and a friend were attacked following a Pride event. In Bologna, two men in a same-sex relationship were found dead with knife wounds; a suspect was arrested, but no judicial outcome had been reported by the end of 2025.

Other attacks were reported in Catania, Trento, Rome, Ventimiglia, Parma, Milan and Treviso, including cases involving groups of perpetrators, minors among attackers, and serious injuries such as facial fractures and stab wounds. In several cases, investigations were ongoing at year's end.

In December, the Court of Appeal in Cuneo upheld a prison sentence in a homophobic assault case and confirmed the application of the discriminatory aggravating circumstance.

Civil society actors noted persistent under-reporting of incidents, particularly in Naples and suburban areas, citing fear of family pressure, blackmail and lack of autonomy among young victims.

In December, an alleged sexual assault of an 11-year-old boy in Palermo, investigated as bullying, reignited debate over the absence of comprehensive sexuality and affective education in schools amid continued political efforts to restrict such programmes.

KOSOVO

In 2025, cases of violence against LGBTI persons continued to be reported, including physical attacks, threats, and harassment. Underreporting remained a serious issue due to fear of secondary victimisation and lack of confidence in law enforcement.

KYRGYZSTAN

In January, the Qol Qabysh (Kol Kabysh) Collective reported the disappearance of one of their members. According to the group, the young man was last heard from on November 19, 2024, when he told a friend he was going home. He never arrived, and his phone was quickly switched off. He was reported missing and – as of the end of 2025 – no public update on his whereabouts or the outcome of any investigation has been reported.

In February, the Qol-Kabysh Collective reported a case in which a trans woman was subjected to physical assault and degrading treatment by members of her community. Despite reporting the incident to the police, no effective action was taken against the perpetrators. Following the attack, the victim was evicted by her landlord and excluded from a community messaging group, further exacerbating her isolation and vulnerability.

In March, a trans woman engaged in sex work was ambushed after arriving at a pre-arranged booking. Three men assaulted her, recorded the attack, subjected her to blackmail, and stole her cash and bank card, subsequently withdrawing money from her account. A week later, she was summoned to a police station and informed that the alleged perpetrators had been detained.

Between 2024 and 2025, local LGBTI organisations conducted a needs assessment of key population groups to evaluate the situation following the 2023-2024 amendments restricting so-called "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations". The findings indicated increased vulnerability for lesbian, bisexual and queer women, including reports of family-based violence, forced confinement and threats following involuntary disclosure of sexual orientation. In documented cases, individuals were reportedly removed from their place of residence by family members, subjected to restrictions on movement and communication, expelled from their homes, and threatened with serious harm.

In 2025, Qun Jelesi and members of the LGBTI movement submitted a communication to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights

defenders, outlining several emblematic cases of violence and arbitrary detention targeting LGBTI persons, including the April detention of five trans women in Osh (see also under Police and Law Enforcement). The submission raised concerns about systemic barriers to justice and intimidation of activists.

LATVIA

In 2025, a criminal case concerning the assault against two individuals in Daugavpils was still pending, following the lodging of a cassation appeal against the appellate judgment. The proceedings originate from a violent incident that occurred in 2023, when two people were attacked in Daugavpils after attending a community-organised picket held in support of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention (See also under Equality and Non-discrimination). One of the victims reportedly received more than 20 blows to the head. The assault was prosecuted as hooliganism causing bodily harm and was alleged to have been motivated by the victims' perceived association with the LGBTI community. In 2024, the court of first instance found a perpetrator guilty of the offence and sentenced him to seven months' imprisonment. The court further ordered the payment of €840 in court costs and compensation for material damage and non-pecuniary harm to the victims. The judgment was appealed by all parties, including the defendant, the victims, and the prosecutor, leading to appellate review.

LITHUANIA

In September, the Vilnius Regional Court rejected an appeal in a hate crime case on procedural grounds. The case involved a two-year pattern of homophobic and xenophobic harassment targeting a same-sex couple (one Lithuanian, one Finnish citizen), including death threats, xenophobic statements, physical assault with pepper spray, and over 30 documented police interventions. Two official forensic linguistic expert reports confirmed elements of both hate speech and death threats, explicitly identifying homophobic content and threatening language. Nonetheless, the Court dismissed the appeal based on a six-day delay in filing, calculated from electronic notification, rejecting the complainant's documented evidence of a work-related trip abroad during that period.

MALTA

In June, a rainbow flag displayed outside the Kaktus Café in Sliema was torn down and ripped, marking the third such act of vandalism against the establishment.

In March, eight teenagers aged between 15 and 17 were charged in court after admitting to luring an 18-year-old man to an abandoned hotel in Mellieħa through a dating app, where they beat him and stole his phone. The youths faced charges of aggravated theft, grievous bodily harm, and illegal detention, with the offences aggravated by hatred based on sexual orientation. All eight pleaded guilty. Magistrate Rachel Montebello, who presided over the case, banned publication of their names and granted them bail against a personal guarantee of €8,000 each. By the end of 2025, no publicly reported update on sentencing or final judicial disposition had emerged.

MOLDOVA

In January, a gay man was assaulted near his home in Chisinau. The victim believes the attack was motivated by his sexual orientation and filed a complaint with the police but expressed dissatisfaction with their response, stating that he has yet to receive any update or action regarding the case.

MONTENEGRO

In January, two attacks targeting LGBTI people took place in Podgorica. The first incident occurred when around 15 young assailants threw stones and glass bottles at two people walking down the street, while shouting homophobic insults. One person sustained minor hand injuries, while the other escaped unharmed. A few days later, the same individuals were again attacked outside their rented apartment. A group of minors armed with metal rods and stones surrounded their taxi. The attackers attempted to force open the vehicle's door and caused damage to the car. The NGO Queer Montenegro condemned the incidents and called on authorities to take measures to identify and prosecute those responsible, but no outcome has been reported by late 2025.

NETHERLANDS

In November, rapper Emirhan X and members of his band were attacked during the Popronde festival in Venlo after performing in the festival's designated queer space. According to reports, a group of young people made Nazi salutes and subsequently verbally and physically assaulted the musicians after confronting them. One band member sustained a concussion and required stitches. COC Netherlands condemned the attack and called for clarity on the incident, noting that it reflects a broader rise in violence targeting LGBTI people.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Between June and July, multiple instances of bias-motivated violence were recorded in North Macedonia, coinciding most often with Pride-related activities. In late June, a crowd of over 30 people surrounded the LGBTI Support Centre building, hurling stones, bottles, and bricks, while shouting homophobic slurs and issuing threats. Just days later, a mob gathered outside the home of an openly gay actor and activist, pelting his house with stones and shouting homophobic abuse while he and his partner were inside. In early July, unidentified assailants attempted to set fire to the LGBTI Support Centre, with police investigations revealing that tiles had been removed from the roof and petrol poured onto the beams before being ignited.

NORWAY

In its new 2025 prioritisation circular, the Attorney General has decided to remove hate crime as an explicit priority area, despite the fact that reported cases have been steadily increasing year by year. In response to questions, the Attorney General explained that even though the term no longer appears in the circular, hate crime should continue to be treated as a priority. Nonetheless, omitting it from the new circular poses a risk that this focus will be weakened, leading to reduced resources and a gradual erosion of the expertise that has been developed.

In June, In Vinje, a trans activist and organiser of Pride events, faced a potentially targeted attack when her garage burned down. The police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

In June, three teenage boys were arrested in Bodø for setting fire to a Pride flag at Hunstad Primary School.

In July, the Queerness art collective's Pride project, The Missing T, was vandalised at City Hall Square. The installation, which debuted during Pride Week, featured large letter figures initially displaying "LHB-Q+," with the "T" added on Friday, symbolising the visibility and inclusion of trans people.

POLAND

In April, President Andrzej Duda referred amendments to the Penal Code to the Constitutional Tribunal instead of signing them into law. The bill, adopted by parliament in March and previously approved by the government in November 2024, sought to extend hate crime and hate speech protections to include sexual orientation, gender, age and disability. The President argued that the provisions risked infringing freedom of expression and could lead to abuse or preventive censorship. On 30 September, the Constitutional Tribunal ruled the amendments unconstitutional, including the extension of protected characteristics and provisions covering crimes motivated by assumed or associated traits. As a result, the reform did not enter into force.

In July, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) condemned Poland for failing to properly address the homophobic motive in an attack against a same-sex couple and their friend. The case, *Bednarek and Others v. Poland*, concerned an incident in central Warsaw where the victims were subjected to homophobic insults before being physically assaulted. While Polish authorities prosecuted and convicted the attackers, the homophobic motive was disregarded in the proceedings and sentencing. The Court stressed that ignoring the discriminatory aspect "renders the essential feature of the crime invisible and without criminal significance."

In October, the District Court for Warsaw-Śródmieście delivered its judgment in a case concerning homophobic threats and calls for violence posted in 2017 under a Facebook post by a same-sex couple. Although the victims had

identified 34 individuals and submitted evidence to the prosecutor in 2017, proceedings against several suspects were discontinued due to the statute of limitations. In April 2024, a penal order was issued against seven identified authors, imposing fines and restrictions of liberty; following objections, the order was annulled and the case proceeded to a full hearing. In its October judgment, the court again found the defendants guilty but imposed lower penalties. In several instances, the legal classification was changed from public incitement to commit a crime under Article 255 §1 of the Criminal Code to insult prosecuted by private charge under Article 216, resulting in conditional discontinuations or fines replacing liberty-restricting penalties.

PORTUGAL

In March, two trans women, including a minor, were attacked in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores. Two attackers chased the women by car, hurling transphobic insults and threats. When the older woman, 18, defended herself, the assailants stopped the car and beat her with punches and kicks resulting in severe injuries. The younger woman, 16, was also endangered when the attackers threatened her with a car and brandished razors.

In early June, a trans woman was assaulted while returning home in Portimão. The attack was sudden and unprovoked, with the perpetrators targeting her immediately upon recognising her as a trans person. She sustained significant injuries to her face and hands.

RUSSIA

In December, a mass stabbing occurred at the Assumption School in Odintsovo, Moscow region. A ninth-grade student, armed with a knife, attacked classmates, fatally wounding a fourth-grader, injuring a security guard, and attempting to locate a teacher. The assailant, reportedly influenced by the Columbine school attack and holding extremist ultra-right views, attributed societal problems to Muslims, LGBTI people, Jews, anti-fascists, liberals, and political opposition.

SLOVAKIA

In March, a 13-year-old boy from Ťahanovce

near Košice died by suicide. According to the Human Rights Institute, the tragedy was linked to homophobic bullying and police confirmed they were investigating the case following reports that bullying may have contributed to the suicide. However, the city of Košice denied the claims, stating after an internal review that there was no evidence of bullying at the boy's school.

SLOVENIA

In late December 2024, an LGBTI event at the Pritličje bar in Ljubljana was targeted by two masked men, who entered the venue, performed Nazi salutes, and tore down an event poster. Ljubljana Pride Association underscored that this attack is not an isolated case but part of a wider pattern of organized hate speech and far-right intimidation.

In April, Ljubljana inaugurated Park Ada Škerl and Sonja Plaskan, the first park in Slovenia named after a same-sex couple. However, the park has since become a recurring target of vandalism. Just a month after its opening, the sign marking the park was damaged. In June, the Lesbian Quarter Festival team reported that the sign had been vandalized for a third time, describing the repeated attacks as homophobic acts against a symbol of inclusion and equality. By early September, the sign was stolen entirely. The Ljubljana City Municipality confirmed that the sign had been recovered and was being held by the Center Police Station as part of pre-trial proceedings. The municipality announced that the sign would be reinstalled and reiterated its commitment to protecting what it called an "important symbol of tolerance."

In June, the Mariborka bookstore in Maribor was once again the target of a bias-motivated attack as three men aged between 30 and 40 forcibly tore down a rainbow flag displayed behind locked doors, also destroying signage and leaving homophobic graffiti. One of the perpetrators was eventually tracked down and arrested by the police.

In December, unknown perpetrators tore down and damaged the rainbow flag displayed on the façade of Kinodvor cinema in Ljubljana during the 41st LGBT Film Festival. The incident was reported to the police.

Festival organiser ŠKUC described the act as part of a pattern of escalating vandalism targeting the LGBTIQ+ community. The Advocate of the Principle of Equality, Miha Lobnik, condemned the incident, stating that such acts can intimidate members of the community and may amount to harassment under the Protection Against Discrimination Act.

SPAIN

Courts and law enforcement authorities addressed multiple cases of anti-LGBTI violence during 2025. In January, the Provincial Court of A Coruña sentenced the main perpetrator in the 2021 murder of Samuel Luiz to 24 years' imprisonment for aggravated murder motivated by discrimination based on sexual orientation; the Spanish Supreme Court confirmed the outcome in December, bringing the proceedings to an end.

Several other cases involved assaults and harassment in public spaces. In Barcelona, a drag venue owner was repeatedly assaulted and a restraining order was issued against the alleged perpetrator. Courts in Bizkaia and Valladolid issued convictions in cases involving assaults against gay men, though in some proceedings hate motivation was upheld and in others it was not. In Andalusia, the High Court of Justice partially overturned a lower court ruling connected to an assault during the Seville Fair, reducing some convictions and acquitting several defendants.

Authorities also investigated and prosecuted incidents involving both homophobic and transphobic violence. These included the arrest of a man accused of attacking two people in the Madrid metro because of their sexual orientation; the conviction of four minors for sustained harassment and abuse of a trans boy in the Vall d'Albaida region; and arrests in Barcelona following a transphobic assault filmed by assailants. Trials were scheduled in several additional cases involving alleged hate crimes, including the burning of an LGBTI flag in Pamplona and a homophobic assault in Port de Sagunt.

A separate murder case in Bilbao involving a victim met through a dating app resulted in a conviction and a lengthy prison sentence, and authorities examined

whether the perpetrator may be linked to a wider pattern of violent crimes targeting gay men living alone.

SWEDEN

In May, the Stockholm District Court delivered its verdict in the case of a homophobic assault at Målarpaviljongen, a well-known LGBTI-run venue in the city. The incident occurred after an intoxicated client, denied further service by an employee, began shouting homophobic slurs and urged a companion to join him outside, declaring his intent to kill the staff member. Together, the two men physically assaulted the employee, while the main perpetrator shouted that the bar was "a gay place." The court concluded that these actions were motivated by hostility toward the employee's sexual orientation, while the accomplice, though central to the violence, was not found to have expressed similar homophobic remarks. Both convicted men received suspended sentences and 100 hours of community service, alongside an order to pay nearly 24,000 SEK (approximately €2,100) in damages.

In May, just days before the seventh edition of Lakeside Pride in Askersund, every Pride flag lining the city's main streets was vandalised in what officials describe as a deliberate and coordinated attack.

In July, Expressen published an investigation into a crime wave in Uppsala, where young men have systematically targeted men who have sex with men through dating apps. Under the pretense of intimate dates, victims were threatened, beaten, or extorted with the warning that their sexual orientation would be exposed to families, employers, or religious communities.

SWITZERLAND

In May 2025, the Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS), the Swiss Lesbian Organisation (LOS), and Pink Cross published their annual report on hate crimes against LGBTI people, based on cases documented through the LGBTI Helpline. The report recorded 309 incidents in 2024, corresponding to an average of nearly six hate crimes per week and representing a fivefold increase in reports since 2020. Reported incidents included physical assaults, verbal abuse,

sexual violence, and discrimination in employment, healthcare, and public institutions. According to the report, trans people accounted for approximately half of all recorded cases.

TURKEY

In January, Mustafa Fidan was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of trans woman and sex worker Ecem Seçkin in Alsancak, Izmir. Seçkin was brutally killed in January 2023. While Seçkin's lawyers demanded an aggravated life sentence, the court rejected the request and handed down a standard life term instead. The decision has been appealed, and the case file is now before the Court of Cassation for review.

In March, during the Newroz celebrations in Yenikapı Square in Istanbul, a group assaulted participants carrying LGBTI flags.

In August, a trans woman was murdered in her home in Antalya's Muratpaşa district. Following an investigation, one of the suspects confessed to committing the murder and was formally arrested on charges of intentional homicide.

In December, Pink Life reported the death of a trans man in a ward at Sincan Prison. The circumstances raised concerns as the public prosecutor reportedly only came to the prison two days later, and no witness statements were taken in the aftermath.

UKRAINE

In January, Ukrainian violinist Daniel Skrypnyk was physically attacked in Kyiv by an unidentified man. According to Skrypnyk, the assailant used homophobic language, stating that Skrypnyk "had no right to speak because he was gay," and threatened to kill him before physically assaulting him. Skrypnyk reported that he contacted the police multiple times over approximately 30 minutes before officers arrived. Despite the reported homophobic motivation and severity of the assault, the alleged perpetrator was allowed to leave the scene.

In March, a blogger and activist was subjected to harassment and threats by a group of young men in a city centre. According to the activist, the group

surrounded her and her friends, directed verbal abuse at them referencing the LGBTI community, and poured beer on her. In a video later published by the activist, the men can be heard stating that LGBTI people "have no right to stay in Ukraine" and making explicit threats of violence, including threats to kill. One individual also claimed that, upon reaching adulthood and acquiring weapons through military service, he would commit violence against LGBTI people. By the end of 2025, no public information had emerged about arrests, charges or investigative outcomes.

In May, a trans woman was physically attacked during the "Strip" festival at the Closer club in Kyiv. According to the woman, an unidentified individual threatened her with violence because of her gender identity and subsequently struck her in the face, causing her to fall down a staircase. The victim filed a complaint with the police but reported that officers initially attempted to dissuade her from pursuing the case. She also stated that the club's security later accused her of provocation, and that the venue's administration did not follow up with her after the incident.

In October, a man in Kharkiv threatened and pursued an LGBTQ+ activist with what appeared to be a firearm on a subway platform after identifying her as a member of the community. According to the activist's account, the assailant chased her while making violent threats before fleeing when police were called. The activist filed a report with police following the incident, and colleagues urged authorities to classify it as a hate-motivated offence under Ukrainian law. There are no confirmed reports how the case was classified.

UNITED KINGDOM

In January, four teenagers were jailed for luring an 18-year-old trans girl to a roller disco in Harrow, north-west London, where they stabbed and beat her while shouting transphobic slurs. The attackers later boasted about the assault on Snapchat. All admitted causing bodily harm with intent, with one also pleading guilty to possession of a knife. Nonetheless, the judge described the attack as only partly motivated by the woman's gender identity.

In early May, the Scottish government confirmed it would not introduce the bill to criminalise misogyny before the next Holyrood election in May 2026 (Scotland's parliamentary elections), citing a lack of time to draft legislation. Instead, ministers said they would amend existing hate crime laws to extend protections on the basis of sex. In August the Scottish Government started a consultation on proposed secondary legislation to do this. The proposal defined "sex" as "biological sex at birth". In January 2026, the secondary legislation was laid in the Scottish Parliament. As secondary legislation, there is very little opportunity for members of parliament to debate it. It will come to a vote in March 2026. If it is agreed by the Parliament, Scotland will be the first part of the UK to write "sex means biological sex at birth" into statute.

In October, the UK Home Office released its latest hate-crime statistics for England and Wales (year ending March 2025), including updated data on offences recorded by the police across all monitored strands, such as sexual orientation and trans identity. According to the report, police forces outside London's Metropolitan Police Service recorded 115,990 hate crimes during the year, a 2% increase compared with the previous year. Race-based offences rose by 6%, while religiously motivated hate crimes increased by 3%. By contrast, recorded hate crimes linked to sexual orientation fell by 2%, disability-related offences by 8%, and crimes targeting trans people by 11%.

In late December, UK police leaders indicated that the current system of recording "non-crime hate incidents" could be abolished, arguing that it is no longer fit for purpose. A forthcoming review by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing will recommend replacing the category with a new, more limited framework based on what they describe as a "common-sense" approach. Under the proposed model, only the most serious cases would continue to be formally logged, and then as antisocial behaviour rather than as a separate hate-incident category. Non-crime hate incidents refer to behaviour perceived as motivated by hostility or prejudice towards characteristics such as race or gender but which does not meet the legal threshold for a criminal offence.

UZBEKISTAN

Independent research conducted by local civil society organisations on the situation of LGBTI people in Uzbekistan indicated that, even when cases of violence are formally registered, investigations and court proceedings are frequently affected by bias. Documented cases from 2025 showed that perpetrators of violence against LGBTI people were often subjected to minimal penalties, while the victim's sexual orientation was reportedly treated as a mitigating factor for offenders. In one recorded incident, a young gay man was assaulted by a group of men who used homophobic insults; when police arrived, officers reportedly declined to register the attack and instead blamed the man for his appearance. In another case, during court proceedings relating to an assault against an LGBTI person, the judge reportedly attributed responsibility for the violence to the victim's visible expression of difference. The research further highlighted that domestic violence against LGBTI people remains widespread, with numerous cases occurring within the family. These included severe physical abuse, forced expulsion from the home, and instances of so-called "corrective" sexual violence against lesbian women by male relatives.

In May, a group of anonymous Telegram users published photographs of alleged gay men, inciting followers to carry out "public punishment." Two days later, the list was updated to include a local beauty specialist, who was physically attacked and injured soon after.

In August, a 19-year-old woman was compelled to marry after her neighbors spread rumors about her supposed romantic friendship with another girl. Once married, she endured repeated physical and sexual abuse from her husband and his relatives, who claimed they were "correcting" her behavior. After several months, she escaped to Tashkent and sought legal help, but officials refused to investigate, dismissing the violence as a private domestic issue.