

Freedom of Assembly

ALBANIA

In May, the annual Pride March took place in Tirana under the unifying slogan "Side by side." The event saw hundreds of Albanian citizens. The march was attended by national political figures, including the Minister of Health and Social Protection, as well as diplomatic representatives from Sweden, Canada and the European Union, underscoring growing domestic engagement alongside international solidarity.

ARMENIA

In June, the Rainbow Forum, held in Yerevan, celebrated its 10th anniversary under the theme "Resilience of the Movement," continuing to provide one of the few semi-public spaces where the LGBTI community and allies can gather, reflect, and build solidarity amid broader constraints on freedom of assembly.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In June, nearly a thousand people took part in the sixth Sarajevo Pride, highlighting the continued lack of legal recognition for same-sex marriage and adoption. Pride remains limited to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as authorities in the Republika Srpska entity have repeatedly banned such gatherings. Draško Stanivuković, mayor of the capital of the entity, previously stated that Pride in Sarajevo was sufficient, claiming such events do not align with the "spirit of the Serbian people."

CYPRUS

In May, a group dressed in black disrupted a pre-Pride march gathering, chanting homophobic slogans. The individuals carried flags featuring double-headed eagles as well as Enosis flags.

In September, the annual United by Pride event brought together LGBTI people and allies in Nicosia for a march dedicated to peace, justice, and queer liberation. Now in its fourth year, the event featured two simultaneous marches from opposite sides of the divided city, converging for a joint celebration. The organisers described United by Pride 2025 as "a beacon of hope," reaffirming their commitment to multicultural coexistence, human rights, tolerance,

and the continued struggle for peace, reunification, and queer liberation in Cyprus.

DENMARK

In June, Danish Pride organisers reported losing financial backing amid a broader climate of increasing attacks on LGBTI rights across Europe. Benjamin Hansen, chair of Copenhagen Pride, confirmed that 2025 had been particularly challenging, as numerous major companies had decided to scale back their sponsorship and support for Pride events.

In June, Copenhagen Pride drew an estimated 20,000 participants, far exceeding the roughly 8,000 who had registered beforehand. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Equality Minister Magnus Heunicke took part in the march, signalling continued political backing for the event. Nonetheless, for the second year in a row, Dansk Industri reiterated its inability to participate in supporting the march, citing concerns over the stance of Copenhagen Pride on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

GEORGIA

The Pride movement in Georgia, led by Tbilisi Pride, has constituted one of the most visible tests of equality, civic space, and democratic governance in the country. Pride initiatives have represented not only advocacy for LGBTI rights but also a broader indicator of Georgia's commitment to human rights standards and the protection of freedom of assembly. Pride-related events, including the March for Dignity in 2021 and the Pride Festival in 2023, were violently disrupted by far-right groups. Civil society organisations reported limited and ineffective protection by law enforcement authorities and, in some instances, inflammatory statements by senior public officials. As of 2025, no effective investigations had been carried out, organisers had not been granted official victim status, and those responsible for organising and perpetrating the violence had not been held accountable. In recent years, Georgia has undergone a marked authoritarian shift, characterised by increasing restrictions on civil society and non-governmental organisations, alongside intensified anti-LGBTI rhetoric. In this context, Tbilisi Pride reported that it was compelled in 2025 to largely suspend its activities, close its office,

and relocate staff, citing the inability to organise Pride Week safely under prevailing conditions.

GERMANY

Several Christopher Street Day (CSD) events in Germany this year took place under heightened police [protection](#), reflecting growing concerns about threats to the LGBTI community.

In late October, a security [report](#) by the Amadeu Antonio Foundation documented a record level of right-wing extremist attacks on Christopher Street Day (CSD) events across Germany. According to the monitoring, of 245 CSDs held in 2025, at least 110 were disrupted or attacked, with at least 53 incidents linked to organised right-wing networks, including counter-demonstrations and mobilisations by extremist parties and youth groups. Queer-hostile offences recorded by civil society and reflected in federal hate-crime statistics increased by over 40 % during the year, and eastern Germany experienced a disproportionate share of disruptions. In response to the [heightened](#) threat environment, the parliamentary group Die Linke tabled a motion in the Bundestag calling for strengthened protection of CSDs and a coherent strategy to address queer-hostile violence; the [motion](#) was debated but had not been adopted by year's end.

HUNGARY

In February, in his State of the Nation speech, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán [declared](#) that "the Pride organisers should not bother preparing this year's parade," citing the need to "protect children." Pride organisers immediately [condemned](#) the move, insisting Hungary's Fundamental Law still guarantees freedom of assembly and expression.

Soon after, MPs of the governing majority submitted a set of amendments, including a [bill](#) to amend Hungary's 2018 Assembly Act and the Fifteenth Amendment to the Fundamental Law (See also under Equality and Non-Discrimination). The amendment to the Assembly Act was rushed through the Parliament in a day, and it expanded the list of circumstances under which police may prohibit assemblies, adding that an assembly should be banned if it "violates the prohibition set forth in

Section 6/A of Act XXXI of 1997 on the protection of children and guardianship administration (hereinafter: Child Protection Act) or that displays a substantial element of the content prohibited under Section 6/A of the Child Protection Act." Section 6/A of the Child Protection Act prohibits making available to minors content that - among others - "depicts sexuality for its own sake, or promotes deviation from the self-identity corresponding to the sex at birth, gender reassignment, and homosexuality."

The amendment to the Assembly Act was criticized by [civil society organisations](#), the [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) of the Council of Europe, [embassies](#) in Budapest, and the [UN Human Rights spokesperson](#). Nonetheless, in March, Hungary became the first European Union country to [outlaw](#) LGBTI-themed assemblies, after parliament amended the Assembly Act and the Misdemeanour Act allowing fines to be imposed on both organisers and participants. Police were also [empowered](#) to use facial recognition technology to identify attendees. In response to the amendment of the Assembly Act, widespread protests [broke out](#) across the Hungarian capital. Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony also [vowed](#) to resist the ban, framing it as an attack not only on LGBTI rights but on freedom of assembly itself. In April, thousands of Hungarians [gathered](#) on Budapest's central Erzsébet Bridge to protest the reform.

Mid-May, civil society organisations notified the police of four small assemblies planned for IDAHOT and, since none of them was banned, a small [rainbow march](#) took place in the center of Budapest.

On May 24, the same group of civil society organisations [notified](#) the Budapest Police of a bigger LGBTI-themed march planned for June 1st. On May 26, the Police [banned](#) the assembly under new Section 13/A of the Assembly Act, arguing that it resembled the "previously established Pride schedule and forms of expression". The ban drew [criticism](#) from the European Commissioner for Justice, who urged Hungary to uphold the right to peaceful assembly and confirmed that the European Commission was scrutinising the law. On May 29, the CSOs [petitioned](#) the Supreme Court (Kúria) to review the ban, arguing that the Police had not properly established the facts, had failed to give adequate reasons, and had wrongly found a conflict between

the right to peaceful assembly and children's rights. In its May 31 judgment, the Court quashed the ban and ordered a repeat procedure, holding that a ban under Section 13/A is only possible if a violation of Section 6/A of the Child Protection Act is properly established. The court said the Police must fully clarify the facts and give a reasoned decision, and indicated that the "reasonably assumed" existence of grounds for a ban must be based on factual conclusions.

In the repeat procedure, on the morning of June 1st, just hours before the planned event, the Police acknowledged the march. The organisers then decided that, given the length and timing of the legal proceedings, the march could not be held "meaningfully and responsibly" that day and postponed it to June 28. The Police treated the new date as a new notification and banned the event.

The CSOs sought judicial review once more. In its June 11 judgment, the Court again quashed the Police decision and ordered a repeat procedure. It held that the Police had still not proved that the march would violate Section 6/A of the Child Protection Act. In the next repeat procedure, the Police again met the CSOs and issued a new ban. In its reasoning, the Police compared the date, time and route of the planned march with public calls for the 30th Budapest Pride. The CSOs challenged this ban as well, on 16 June. In its June 20 judgment, the Court rejected their petition and upheld the ban, making it final. The court ruled that the declared purpose of the march – to express support for the rights of transgender people to change their gender and name – raised "reasonable doubts" about compliance with the Act on Assembly and Protection of Children, which bans demonstrations deemed to promote homosexuality or gender reassignment.

Immediately after receiving the Court's ruling, the CSOs notified the Police of a new march, planned for June 28, this time explicitly to protest the unjustified restriction of freedom of assembly in breach of the Fundamental Law, the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter. On the evening of June 21, the Police banned this demonstration as well. They recognised that the organisers had cooperated and that the declared aim did not, on its own, trigger

Section 13/A. However, they relied on statements and actions linked to the Budapest Pride, and argued that acknowledging this march could allow Pride organisers to circumvent the legal consequences of holding a banned assembly. The CSOs sought judicial review and on June 27 judgment, the Court quashed the ban and ordered another repeat procedure.

On June 28, the Police again banned the march, this time explicitly applying the probability standard set by the Court and relying on "contextual facts": the organisers' previous involvement in Pride, the lack of a public call for their own event compared with prominent Pride announcements, and references to domestic and foreign participants coming for Pride. Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony announced that, despite the legislative ban, the city would host the demonstration as a municipal event. On the eve of the parade, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said police would not intend to break up the march but warned of possible legal consequences because the parade did not receive permission from the authorities. Despite the authorities' prohibition, on the day of the event organisers reported an unprecedented turnout, with between 200,000 and 470,000 participants – the largest in the history of the march. The demonstration was heavily monitored by security forces. Numerous police camera vans were deployed across the city, and according to independent MP Ákos Hadházy, facial recognition technology was actively used to track participants. Controversy emerged quickly after the march. An individual lodged a complaint with police over a drag performance that took place during the parade, alleging that children were present while drag queens performed. On 7 June 2025, the police announced that no fines would be imposed against the participants. In December, the Budapest police concluded their investigation into the organisation of Budapest Pride, resulting in a proposed indictment against Mayor Gergely Karácsony. Karácsony publicly described the charges as absurd, emphasizing that while the municipality does not have the general right to assemble, it retains the authority to organize events in its own public spaces.

On September 4, the director of the local Diverse Youth Network submitted a notification to the Pécs Police for the organisation of a march

seeking to defend the legal equality of sexual and gender minorities, to protest against the arbitrary restriction of the freedom of assembly, to remember LGBTI people murdered during the Holocaust. On September 5, the police banned the assembly on the basis of Section 13/A of the Assembly Act in conjunction with Article XVI(1) of the Fundamental Law. The organiser challenged the ban, but on September 14 the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal, finding that the police had reasonably concluded that the notification aimed to hold an assembly prohibited by law. Ahead of the event, human rights organisations publicly warned that, because the march had been banned, the organiser could face criminal liability and even imprisonment if Pécs Pride took place regardless. Despite the ban, Pécs Pride was held on October 4, and reports described the event as more peaceful and more positively received than in previous years. Shortly afterwards, however, criminal proceedings were initiated against the organiser, and on October 28 he was questioned by police as a suspect. In November, the Baranya County Police Headquarters closed the investigation into the organisation of Pécs Pride, with civil society organisations criticising the handling of the case and noting that certain propaganda newspapers were informed of the proposed indictment before the organiser himself and his lawyer.

In November, a Hungarian human rights defender, submitted an application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) following the prohibition of an assembly he planned to organise in Budapest. The prohibition was issued under amendments to Hungary's Fundamental Law and the Assembly Act, which linked so-called child protection considerations to restrictions on public activities by LGBTI persons. Police authorities invoked these provisions to prevent the event, reasoning that Léderer's sexual orientation, being publicly known, made his participation as a speaker subject to the statutory restriction under the 2021 Propaganda Act. The Kúria subsequently upheld the ban. The complaint submitted to the ECtHR contends that the ban was discriminatory and unlawfully restricted his freedoms of expression and assembly, as well as his right to privacy.

IRELAND

In May, the Labour Party was compelled to relocate its planned Marriage Equality anniversary event in Dublin due to threats from far-right protesters. The event was intended to commemorate ten years since Ireland's historic vote in favor of Marriage Equality but concerns were raised about the safety of staff and public representatives arose after a wave of online threats targeting the event and its attendees.

In May, Trans and Intersex Pride Dublin announced that Sinn Féin would be barred from participating in the city's Pride march in July due to ongoing concerns about the party's stance on trans rights. The decision followed months of dialogue in which Pride organisers sought clarification from Sinn Féin leadership on key issues affecting trans people.

ITALY

In March, LGBTI organisations in Italy convened a National Assembly of the movement in Rome, bringing together associations and activists from across the country in a format and at a scale not seen in the past decade. The Assembly led to a National Demonstration held on 17 May in Rome to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). The demonstration gathered a broad coalition of LGBTI organisations, trade unions, NGOs and political actors, and received multiple media coverage, including prime-time national television news programmes.

The mobilisation contributed to renewed public debate on LGBTI rights and discrimination in Italy. While several institutional and civil society actors publicly marked IDAHOBIT, the Prime Minister did not issue a statement in 2025, in contrast to previous years. The March Assembly and the May demonstration also fostered participating and ongoing coordination mechanisms within the Italian LGBTI movement.

In April, the Security Decree was approved, restricting the scope of dissent and redefining the relationship between citizens and authorities in a repressive manner. After parliamentary stalemate

and reservations from the President of the Republic, the government forced the process through with a decree-law ensuring immediate entry into force. As already occurred in Hungary, the measure opens possibilities for the right to ban dissent demonstrations, including Pride events.

In April, Rome hosted Italy's first [Dyke March](#), an event mobilising the LGBTI community across Europe in resistance against discriminatory policies and for lesbian and LGBTI women's visibility.

In September, approximately over 1,000 LGBTI Catholics from around the world gathered in St. Peter's Square for a dedicated [Jubilee pilgrimage](#). The group, organised by "La Tenda di Gionata," crossed the Holy Door, marking a historic moment of visibility for LGBTI believers within the Vatican.

KOSOVO

Kosovo's acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti officially opened [Pride Week](#), emphasising government support for equality and inclusion, which is more visible institutional backing than in some previous years. The event was attended by the capital's mayor, Përparim Rama, alongside several foreign ambassadors, including representatives from the UK and Germany.

KYRGYZSTAN

In June, for the first time after a two-year crisis, the feminist queer organisation "Qun Jelesi" organised a Pride Month event, bringing together activists from across the country and fostering a renewed sense of community and resilience. Qun Jelesi also [organised](#) the first open queer art exhibition in Kyrgyzstan in recent years.

LATVIA

In 2025, Pride [took place](#) amid a hostile public climate marked by political debates over the display of rainbow symbols and claims of institutional neutrality. The march, organised by the LGBTI and their Friends Association Mozaika, provided a platform for participants to assert visibility, reaffirm fundamental rights, and challenge societal prejudice. A small number of counter-protesters were present.

LITHUANIA

Baltic Pride 2025 attracted a record number of participants, with approximately 20,000 attendees, marking the first occasion on which law enforcement authorities and civil society organisations reported matching attendance [figures](#). However, an emerging trend was observed whereby anti-gender actors recruited minors to disrupt Pride events through the harassment of participants, including verbal intimidation and the throwing of objects.

MOLDOVA

In June, Moldova Pride took place in Chisinau amid significant political opposition and attempts to [restrict](#) the event. Ahead of the march, Chisinau Mayor Ion Ceban signed an order opposing the organisation of the Pride event, effectively banning the planned march scheduled for June. The national government subsequently demanded that the municipal authorities reverse the ban, arguing that it violated constitutional guarantees of freedom of assembly and expression. The State Chancellery issued a formal notification asserting that prohibiting the parade constituted an infringement of constitutional rights. Mayor Ceban rejected the demand, framing it as political pressure from the ruling PAS party.

Despite these developments, the Pride march went ahead. Following the event, police [fined](#) the organisers 1,500 lei (approximately €80) for blocking the road without authorisation. On the same day, a counter-demonstration branded as a "Family March," organised by the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) under the leadership of former President Igor Dodon, took place in Chisinau (see also under Police and Law Enforcement).

NETHERLANDS

Survey data published by EenVandaag indicated that LGBTI people continue to experience hostility in public spaces, including around Prides. Respondents reported verbal harassment, threats, and other forms of intimidation occurring in streets and other public settings, contributing to feelings of insecurity when expressing their identity openly. These findings align with government-commissioned [research](#)

from 2024 showing a sustained increase in reported incidents targeting LGBTI people, raising concerns about the safety of public participation and visibility. (See also under Data collection)

NORTH MACEDONIA

In June, the sixth [Skopje Pride](#) took place in the capital of North Macedonia under the slogan "We stand. We persist. Together!". Unlike the previous five editions, which had followed a celebratory format, this year's Pride was deliberately structured as a protest march. Ahead of the march, participants released the Skopje Pride Manifesto, denouncing "misogyny and hetero patriarchal demographic hysteria promoted by the highest echelons of government" and criticising persistent bureaucratic barriers, including the two-year suspension of legal reforms concerning gender recognition.

PORTUGAL

In June, around 60 organisations, including LGBTI, feminist, human rights and Palestinian collectives, issued a [joint statement](#) raising concerns that EuroPrideLisbon2025 risked prioritising commercial interests over genuine activism. They cited a lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the organisation of the event, questioned its representativeness, and criticised what they described as an excessive focus on tourism and branding over grassroots advocacy. The signatories cautioned that the event's promotion could amount to pinkwashing, using the LGBTI cause for marketing or political purposes rather than advancing substantive social change.

In March, the far-right group Habeas Corpus (HC) [disrupted](#) an LGBTI rights conference at the Bar Association (OA) in Lisbon. The event had barely begun when HC members attempted to interrupt it. Similarly, in May, the group [targeted](#) and disrupted a reading club organised by the Lisbon Libraries in partnership with ILGA Portugal.

ROMANIA

June 2025 marked the 20th anniversary of Bucharest Pride. For the first time, Pride was celebrated through an entire Pride Month, expanding beyond the traditional one-week format preceding the march. Despite the tense political climate following

the turbulent presidential elections, approximately [31,000 people participated](#) in the Bucharest Pride March. The march [highlighted](#) demands for civil union legislation, simplified procedures for legal gender recognition, and protection against hate speech and prejudice-based crimes. Although [counter-protests](#) were set up before the march, authorities managed to deescalate the situation quickly.

At the local level, however, restrictions persisted. In July, Oradea Pride [took place](#) despite the Municipality's renewed attempts to ban the event, continuing its pattern of obstructing Pride for the third year in a row. The local organisation Ark Oradea once again faced administrative refusals when attempting to organise the march. Although the event ultimately took place under strict conditions and heavy police supervision, nine organisers and participants were fined following the march. ACCEPT and Ark Oradea jointly lodged an application before the [European Court of Human Rights](#) concerning the repeated obstruction of Pride events in the city. The situation generated significant solidarity across civil society: 47 organisations publicly supported Oradea Pride and condemned the municipality's restrictive approach. Pride events in Cluj-Napoca, Braşov, Timişoara, and Iaşi took place without incidents, with few protesters on the side of Pride.

RUSSIA

In early December, authorities in Ulyanovsk placed three individuals under [house arrest](#) in connection with the organisation of drag events, according to regional branches of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Rosgvardia. One defendant, a 30-year-old resident of Ulyanovsk, is accused of organizing a branch of the "international LGBT movement" under Part 1 of Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code, while the other two face charges of participation under Part 2 of the same article. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, from January 2024 to December 2025, the defendants organised events at a hookah bar in the Leninsky District, promoting "non-traditional intimate relationships and preferences." Security forces documented items associated with drag performance, including costumes, heels, cosmetics, and a sewing machine.

SAN MARINO

In July, San Marino's Association 121 officially took part in Rimini's Summer Pride, carrying the voices, faces and colours of San Marino's LGBTI community for the first time.

SERBIA

In June, Novi Sad Pride Week took place under heightened police security, following an attack earlier in May when a lit flare was thrown at participants during a drag performance. Organisers described the attack as "indicative" of the broader climate in Serbia, where authorities have been accused of fostering a culture of violence and tolerating assaults on activists.

SLOVENIA

Ahead of the Pride march in Maribor on 7 June 2025, organisers warned of rising hostile rhetoric and social tensions targeting LGBTI people. During the event, a small group of counter-protesters gathered near the route, displaying banners and chanting slogans opposing the existence of LGBTI people. For the first time, the Ljubljana Pride Association systematically documented hate incidents during the Maribor Pride. Participants reported eggs and firecrackers being thrown, as well as verbal abuse directed at attendees, including minors. Groups of mainly teenage boys and other individuals remained at the margins of the event and attempted to provoke participants. While the march proceeded without major injuries, the incidents illustrate a continued pattern of hostility surrounding Pride events in Slovenia.

During the Pride Parade in Ljubljana on 14 June 2025, participants again reported eggs and other objects being thrown, rainbow flags being torn from participants, and verbal abuse. While similar incidents had been recorded in previous years, the organisers noted an increase in hostility around the main venue and in the surrounding area during the evening programme. Groups of young men repeatedly entered the area and engaged in verbal and physical harassment of attendees. Observers highlighted a pattern of increasingly visible and emboldened hostility, particularly by younger perpetrators. Civil society actors linked these developments to

broader social polarisation and a shrinking space for LGBTI people in public life.

SPAIN

In May, the mayor of Alcorcón, Candelaria Testa, announced that the courts had dismissed two lawsuits filed by Vox and the Christian Lawyers association against the City Council over a storytelling activity led by drag queens. The event, held in June 2024 at the Los Pinos Cultural Center, was part of the municipality's Pride celebrations and aimed at children aged 3 to 11.

SWEDEN

In July, members of the group Queers for Palestine Malmö staged a demonstration at Scandic Triangeln, the hotel hosting Malmö Pride's Pride House, following their participation in a seminar. Activists unfurled a Palestinian flag, displayed a banner reading "End complicity to end apartheid," and chanted slogans while distributing flyers calling on Malmö Pride to take a clear stance on Palestine. Malmö Pride later described the protest as peaceful. The demonstration ended when hotel staff and a security guard escorted the activists from the premises. Malmö Pride subsequently criticised the actions of the hotel staff and announced that it would suspend further collaboration with the establishment.

TAJIKISTAN

Throughout the year, civil society organisations advocating for human rights, including LGBTI rights, faced government monitoring, inspections, and threats that limited their ability to operate effectively. According to civil society sources, this pressure contributed to restrictions on organizing meetings and disseminating information.

TURKEY

In January, Turkey submitted its defence before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in the case brought by Kaos GL concerning bans on LGBTI marches and events in Ankara. The case combines two applications: the prohibition of the 2016 Anti-Homophobia March and the indefinite ban on all LGBTI activities imposed during the 2017 State of Emergency. The government denied discrimination,

arguing that restrictions were based solely on security concerns. It also requested the Court to dismiss third-party interventions as "political." The ECtHR asked Turkey to clarify the legal grounds for imposing an indefinite city-wide ban and whether this violated freedom of assembly and the prohibition of discrimination under the European Convention on Human Rights. The case remained pending at the end of 2025. In July, the 30-day ban imposed by the Eskişehir Governor's Office in 2023 to block Pride Week events was brought before the Constitutional Court after lower courts had upheld the prohibition. In January, Pink Life Queerfest took place despite authorities formalising a ban on both the festival and the scheduled screening of the documentary BELLEKVARİ: An Oral History of QueerFest. University Pride events also faced obstruction. In May, the 13th METU Pride March was met with heavy police and riot control presence, while private security attempted to block participants. Similarly, Hacettepe University Pride was confronted by university security and prevented by police from proceeding. In June, Ankara Pride went ahead despite repeated police attempts to block the procession. Marchers delivered their press statement and dispersed peacefully. The İzmir Governor's Office imposed a three-day ban on the 13th İzmir Pride Week in late June, prohibiting marches, press statements, sit-ins and cultural activities across the province. Activists briefly marched despite the ban but dispersed under threat of detention. In November, the İzmir 5th Administrative Court annulled the ban, finding that the governorship had failed to demonstrate a concrete and imminent danger justifying the restriction. In late October, the Çanakkale Governorship banned the Kuir-Feminist Forum organised by Çanakkale Pride and imposed a two-day prohibition on public activities, explicitly referencing LGBTI events.

In March, nearly 200 people were detained during International Women's Day mobilisations across several cities. In December, the first hearing took place in the case against trans activist Iris Mozalar, one of 112 people detained during the Feminist Night March in Istanbul. She was charged under Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. The court postponed the case to June 2026. Organisers reported that Mozalar had been singled out and released under judicial control with a travel ban. In

May, 23 people were indicted for participating in a gathering at Istanbul University commemorating the Gezi Resistance. The indictment explicitly referred to the display of LGBTI flags as evidence and sought custodial penalties. In June, prosecutors filed charges against 36 individuals for participating in the 11th Trans Pride March in Istanbul. The indictment relied on alleged violations of the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations and cited prior participation in LGBTI events and personal phone messages seized during detentions. In July, the first hearing was held in the trial concerning the 2022 METU Pride March, during which defendants described the use of rubber bullets, physical violence and threats during detention. The case was adjourned to September.

In July, 11 activists charged in connection with the 2022 Istanbul Pride were acquitted. The court declined, however, to pursue complaints regarding alleged excessive police force. Similarly, eight activists detained during the 2024 Istanbul Pride were acquitted in a separate proceeding. In October, 2 activists charged after the 2024 Trans Pride March were also acquitted by an Istanbul court.

UKRAINE

In January, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Ukraine had violated Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, protecting the right to peaceful assembly, and Article 13, guaranteeing effective legal remedies. The case arose from an LGBTI rights march planned for May 2013 in central Kyiv. The Kyiv City State Administration sought to block the event, citing Kyiv Day festivities and alleged risks to public order. Despite proposals from organisers to adjust the route, authorities instead imposed a blanket ban on the march in the city center, forcing it to relocate to the outskirts. After the march, organisers appealed the ban in Ukrainian courts. The ECtHR found that the Ukrainian authorities had imposed disproportionate restrictions and further denied the organisers an effective opportunity to defend their rights.

In March, plans to hold Lviv's first-ever Trans Day of Visibility action were cancelled under pressure from far-right groups and local authorities. The demonstration, organised by Bilkis, Cohort, and Resistance, was meant to take place in Rynok

Square and draw attention to the prejudice and discrimination that trans people continue to face in Ukraine, despite recent reforms simplifying the transition process. However, after news of the event spread online, radical groups began issuing threats and calls for violence. Local police suggested that organisers relocate but ultimately, under mounting pressure, the demonstration was called off.

In April, the Sunny Bunny LGBTQ+ film festival in Kyiv was disrupted by far-right protesters. Members of the extremist group Prava Molod ("The Right Youth") gathered to denounce the event in the name of "traditional values," sparking clashes with police. Officers detained the demonstrators to verify their identities, though it remains unclear whether charges will follow.

In April, a discussion event, held in a non-public setting, titled "LGBT+ and Christianity: In Search of Dialogue" was disrupted in Lviv when a group of masked individuals attempted to forcibly enter the private residence where the event was taking place. The organising NGO condemned the incident and rejected media characterisations of the attackers as "activists" or "concerned citizens," stating that the actions constituted intimidation and violence rather than lawful expression.

In June, over 1,500 people joined the Kyiv Pride march despite counterprotests, marking one of the most visible demonstrations for equality in wartime Ukraine. That same day, KyivPride Park – an open-air forum of public discussions, speeches, and creative performances – took place beneath the Foreign Ministry building after terrorism threats forced a venue change.

UZBEKISTAN

In March, Uzbekistan adopted Law No. ZRU-1051, amending Article 244 of the Criminal Code to criminalise the "training or financing of the organisation of mass disturbances," carrying prison sentences of five to seven years. While officially presented as a measure to combat extremism, the amendment broadens the scope for arbitrary prosecution of civil society gatherings, human rights trainings, and peaceful assemblies.