

Freedom of Association

BELARUS

In August, Belarusian authorities designated the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers (BAHRL) as an "extremist formation." In September, the LGBTI media outlet DazHip was designated as extremist by a decision of the Pukhovichy District Court of the Minsk Region. Following the designation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs added BAHRL and six lawyers allegedly associated with the organisation to the national list of individuals and entities involved in "extremist activities." Under Belarusian law, being named as part of an "extremist formation" exposes individuals to potential criminal prosecution, with penalties of up to 10 years in prison.

BELGIUM

In October, federal minister of security and internal affairs, Bernard Quintin, submitted a bill that would allow the government to issue an administrative ban on certain associations that 'pose a threat' to national security, or even dissolve them without going through court. This project has spurred concerns from civil society organisations. In an opinion issued at the end of December, however, the Council of State highlighted a series of legal flaws, which are considered too vague to enable citizens to know what behaviours are criminalised. The minister said the government would revise the text.

FRANCE

In late June, Inter-LGBT faced the suspension of regional subsidies from Île-de-France. Valérie Pécresse, President of the Regional Council, confirmed that the association would not receive the €25,000 grant initially allocated for 2023. The decision followed controversy over a poster produced for the 2025 Pride March. The poster depicts a figure with a Celtic cross tattoo, a symbol associated with the far right, being held by other march participants by the tie and arm. Pécresse criticised the image as an incitement to violence, stating that it appeared to show "the corpse of a white man hanging by his tie," while the organisers rejected that interpretation and presented the imagery as anti-extremist.

In June, Yohan Paver, founder of the masculinist and homonationalist group Eros, announced that his organisation would participate in the Paris Pride

March. In reaction, LGBTI organisations and public figures issued a public statement of condemnation and mobilised against the participation of the organisation in the march. Despite this, the Préfecture de Police – acting under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior – overruled the organisers and required that Eros be allowed to participate, invoking principles of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

GEORGIA

In April, the Georgian Parliament passed the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) in its third and final reading. The law requires that any individual or organisation deemed to act in the interest of a foreign entity – including those receiving foreign funding – register as a foreign agent and imposes penalties for non-compliance. FARA is intended to replace the 'Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence' adopted the previous year.

Almost simultaneously, the Georgian Parliament approved amendments to the Law on Grants in a third and final reading. The new provisions ban the receipt of foreign grants without prior government approval, which must be granted within ten days by the government or an authorised official. According to the law, compliance will be monitored by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, and violations will be punished with a fine equal to twice the grant amount.

More recently, further amendments to the Law on Grants expanded the law's scope to treat activities such as signing ordinary service contracts for knowledge sharing or technical assistance as equivalent to issuing a grant.

In November, independent monitoring data indicated that the Anti-Corruption Bureau expanded its oversight over civil society organisations. Since 2024, independent NGOs have been required to submit extensive documentation, including personal data, relating to their activities. In September, the bureau initiated "monitoring" of more than 80 organisations under amendments to the Law on Grants adopted in April, ordering civil society organisations to provide detailed information on activities carried out since 16 April 2025. The organisations responded stating that

the bureau's monitoring was unlawful due to the fact that the bureau did not reference specific provisions of the amended Law on Grants. Subsequently, the bureau filed motions with the Tbilisi City Court to enforce the monitoring. In mid-September, the court issued an order requiring nine organisations to comply, adopting the bureau's reasoning without independently examining the legal or factual basis of the request. At the end of 2025, related court proceedings remained ongoing, and a number of organisations challenging the monitoring measures continued to operate while being subject to active investigation.

HUNGARY

In May, Hungary's governing majority introduced the Bill on the Transparency of Public Life. Emerging in the context of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's announced "spring cleaning," the bill fits into a broader pattern of stigmatizing and threatening actors who challenge Hungary's democratic backsliding. The proposal enables the government to compile a blacklist of organisations if they are deemed to threaten Hungary's sovereignty by receiving foreign funds or engaging in activities that allegedly influence public life in ways considered hostile to the values outlined in the Fundamental Law. Once blacklisted, the affected organisations would face severe operational restrictions. Their access to foreign resources would be suspended pending investigation by the Tax Authority, their ability to obtain domestic funding would be hindered by administrative barriers, and the cumulative effect could lead to their effective dissolution. According to the amendment introduced by the governing majority, the bill would enter into force 15 days after promulgation, and the government could immediately issue a decree naming blacklisted entities, enabling the rapid deprivation of their financial resources.

Human rights organisations have called on the European Commission to respond urgently, warning that the bill, combined with previous "sovereignty protection" legislation currently challenged before the Court of Justice of the European Union, would erase remaining safeguards for democratic institutions and fundamental rights in Hungary. On

June 4 Fidesz announced to postpone the vote on the bill and return to its discussion in the fall. No such discussion took place by the end of the year, the bill is still pending in Parliament.

KAZAKHSTAN

In February, Magerram Magerramov, head of the People's Party of Kazakhstan (PPC), submitted a request to the Minister of National Economy and the Minister of Justice regarding the activities of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Magerramov demanded a full audit and the publication of reports on all funds received in Kazakhstan from international sponsors. He also called on the government to draft a bill aimed at protecting the mental, psycho-emotional, and physical health of Kazakhstani children. Citing a White House press release on "dubious projects" funded by USAID, Magerramov pointed out that between 2020 and 2024 Kazakhstan received about \$2 million from the agency for human rights and equality programs in Central Asia. According to him, the implementing partner of this program was the European International Organisation for LGBT Protection. Further details emerged on March 14, when reports indicated that USAID had canceled contracts in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. These funds had been allocated for the projects 'Strengthening Civic Participation in Kazakhstan' and 'Strengthening Human Rights and Equality', the latter of which was intended to support LGBTI organisations in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in their human rights advocacy.

MONACO

In April, Mon'Arc En Ciel Monaco became the principality's first LGBTI association. Its mission is to increase visibility for the local LGBTI community, combat social isolation, and foster dialogue on rights and inclusion.

RUSSIA

In April, Russian authorities banned the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), citing its support for LGBTI rights as grounds for the decision. The foundation has long been involved in HIV prevention and treatment programmes while also advocating for the rights of LGBTI people. Russia's prosecutor

general's office declared EJAF an "undesirable organisation," a designation that prohibits it from operating on Russian territory and places staff and partners at risk of criminal prosecution. In its statement, the office accused the foundation of promoting "non-traditional sexual relationships, western family models, and gender reassignment." In July, the State Duma adopted a package of [reforms](#) that expands the scope of Russia's anti-extremism framework. The amendments broaden the definition of "extremist organisation," no longer requiring a separate, final court ruling for such a designation. Instead, individuals convicted under Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code ("participation in an extremist community") can serve as the basis for declaring an organisation extremist.

In July, the Investigative Committee in Orenburg [announced](#) that it had transferred to court the criminal cases against three employees of the Pose gay club, accused of creating and participating in an "extremist" community. According to investigators, the club's owner, art director, and administrator organised public events in 2024 that "spread and promoted non-traditional sexual relations," allegedly with minors among the attendees. Officials framed these activities as knowing participation in the so-called "international LGBT movement," elevating what had previously been considered an administrative offense of "propaganda" into a criminal matter. The case stems from a March 2024 incident when security forces and members of the neo-Nazi group "Russian Community" raided Pose during a closed party. This was the first criminal case in Russia explicitly linked to "LGBT extremism."

SERBIA

In December 2024, members of the Movement of Socialists (Pokret Socijalista), led by Aleksandar Vulin, introduced a [draft](#) Law on the Special Registry of Agents of Foreign Influence to Serbia's National Assembly. The proposal would require non-profit organisations and media outlets receiving 50% or more of their funding from abroad to register as "foreign agents." The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) issued a [warning](#) that the draft law poses a significant threat to Serbia's democratic development and its progress toward European

Union integration, expressing concern that such legislation would severely restrict civil society, media freedom, and citizens' associational rights. The draft had not been adopted by the end of 2025 and remained pending before the National Assembly.

SLOVAKIA

In April, Slovakia's parliament passed a [law](#) on nongovernmental organisations, promoted by Prime Minister Robert Fico from the Smer – sociálna demokracia Party. Following pressure from both domestic actors and international observers, the version of the law ultimately passed removed the original classification of NGOs as 'lobbyists' but still imposed significant new obligations on NGOs, particularly in the areas of financial reporting and compliance with freedom of information requirements.

Nonetheless, in mid-December, the Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that the law violated the constitutional right to privacy and therefore repealed it. The Court held that mandatory public disclosure was not necessary to achieve the law's stated objectives of promoting transparency and preventing criminal activity, noting that these aims could be pursued through less intrusive means. Judges further concluded that the legislation was internally inconsistent and ill-suited to its declared purpose, while also posing risks to the reputation and personal dignity of both donors and the organisations concerned.

TURKEY

In June, Boysan's House – a communal and cultural space for LGBTI people in Beyoğlu and Şişli – [announced](#) its closure. Founded in 2016, the space had served as a hub for socialisation, organising, and collective memory, but volunteers explained that changing living conditions, mounting pressures, and the fragility of financial sustainability had made it impossible to continue.

In December, the Izmir 3rd Civil Court of First Instance ruled to [shut down](#) the social media account of the Young LGBTI+ Association on the grounds of "obscenity," "encouraging LGBTI+ identity," and "violating the Turkish family structure," following

a lawsuit filed by the Izmir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. At the same time, criminal proceedings were initiated against 11 activists who were former members of the association's executive and supervisory boards for violating the Associations Law.

TURKMENISTAN

In 2025, Turkmenistan remained de facto closed to international human rights NGOs, UN special procedures, and independent media. Combined with pervasive internal censorship, this near-total isolation severely restricted international oversight and made independent information-gathering extremely difficult.