

Police and Law Enforcement

ANDORRA

In May, institutional training aimed at strengthening awareness and sensitivity regarding LGBTI issues among police officers, firefighters, customs agents and prison staff was delivered in Andorra. The initiative, organised in the context of IDAHOBIT commemorations, was supported by the Andorran government and its equality structures. The training was delivered by the NGO Gaylespol in collaboration with Diversand.

ARMENIA

In November, Armenian law enforcement officers took part in a [two-day training](#) on identifying and investigating hate crimes, organised under Council of Europe and EU-Council of Europe projects. The training focused on applying Council of Europe standards and European Court of Human Rights case law, with specific attention to hate crimes affecting LGBTI communities. In 2025, based on data documented by Pink Armenia, only 8 out of 56 cases of discrimination and harassment were reported to the police. Of these, one victim later withdrew the complaint, and in another case the victim declined to pursue proceedings after the perpetrator compensated the damage. As a result, only one case ultimately proceeded to trial. At the same time, research indicates little progress in investigative and judicial practice, with courts rarely examining discrimination as a distinct legal issue. LGBTI communities continue to face significant structural, psychological, and social barriers that discourage reporting to law enforcement. In addition, police and courts frequently fail to treat bias based on sexual orientation or gender identity as an aggravating factor, allowing perpetrators to avoid liability or receive disproportionately mild sanctions.

AZERBAIJAN

In 2025, [protections](#) for LGBTI people in detention in Azerbaijan remained severely limited. Authorities continued to collect and publish no official data on LGBTI prisoners, leaving significant gaps in state oversight and reporting and forcing reliance on documentation by human rights organisations. Based on testimonies, trans women and gay men in detention were frequently placed in isolation and subjected to violence by both other detainees and

prison staff. Several accounts reported that prison administrations used sexual contact involving trans detainees as a form of punishment. Although such isolation was formally justified as being "for protection," evidence suggests it often facilitated abuse rather than preventing it.

In February, civil society organisations [reported](#) that Azerbaijani police have begun using deceptive methods to identify the residential addresses of LGBTI persons. Community members reported receiving phone calls from individuals presenting themselves as representatives of delivery services or companies such as Umico. Callers claimed that a package had arrived, that the recipient had won a gift, or that a free product was available, and requested an address for delivery. According to the reports, once an address was obtained, police officers arrived at the location, transported the individuals to a police station and demanded large sums of money. In addition to these calls, police reportedly continued existing practices of summoning individuals directly by phone to police stations, as well as arranging meetings through Instagram while posing as potential dating partners.

In late December, Azerbaijani police carried out a [large-scale raid](#) on a venue in Baku known to be frequented by LGBTI people. According to reports by independent media and local human rights organisations, approximately 100 individuals were detained during the operation. Witness testimonies indicate that those detained were subjected to arbitrary arrest, verbal abuse, and degrading treatment by law enforcement officers. Several detainees reported being questioned about their sexual orientation and gender identity, and described [being treated as criminals](#) solely on this basis. While authorities did not provide a clear legal justification for the raid, the operation was widely perceived by the community as a targeted action against queer spaces, contributing to an atmosphere of fear and further restricting the already limited freedom of assembly for LGBTI people in Azerbaijan. At the time of writing, no transparent investigation into the conduct of the police during the raid had been announced, and no official data regarding the detainees or the legal grounds for their detention had been made public.

BELARUS

In April, LGBTI psychologist and activist Marina A. was detained in Minsk by officers of the State Security Committee (KGB). She was not informed of the grounds for detention and was interrogated. Officers threatened to initiate criminal proceedings for alleged participation in an extremist formation if she refused to cooperate and provide information about LGBTI activists and organisations. Following pressure from law enforcement, she reduced her professional activities and later left Belarus due to fear of further persecution.

In July, a closed drag event in Minsk was exposed by pro-government Telegram channels through photos and videos. According to TG House, police detained at least two participants, confiscated phones, questioned them about event attendees and organisers, and released them without formal detention records. Both detainees reported that law enforcement asked personal questions about sexual orientation and involvement in other events.

Between August and October, Belarusian police officers exerted pressure on the parents of a trans man who had relocated to France after fleeing repression. Police made at least two phone calls to his parents demanding his contact details and social media accounts and visited his former place of residence, where they questioned neighbors about his whereabouts. Officers warned the parents that they could be summoned for questioning if they refused to provide information.

Between August and November, Belarusian law enforcement officers repeatedly visited the parents of a transmasculine non-binary person residing in Poland as an asylum seeker. Officers questioned the parents about his location, address, and activities, and demanded that he return to Belarus to cancel his residence registration. In October, he was reported to have been placed on a wanted list in the Russian Federation.

In August, in a city in the Vitebsk region, police officers detained a gay man without publicly stated grounds, examined the contents of his phone, including contacts and correspondence, and subsequently summoned and questioned other men whose details were found on the device. Some of those contacted reported threats of liability related to alleged sharing of intimate materials.

In September, OMON riot police raided a queer-friendly party in a Minsk club. According to TG House, officers stopped the event, forced visitors to lie on the floor or stand facing the wall, conducted searches, and detained approximately 10-15 people. Detainees reported humiliating and homophobic remarks; at least four people were charged with minor administrative offences. In November, a queer woman was subjected to doxing through pro-government resources linked to security structures. After publication of her personal data, police officers contacted her and applied pressure aimed at coercing cooperation; she subsequently left Belarus.

BELGIUM

In May, the Belgian Senate committee examined a draft resolution introduced by the Socialist Party aimed at promoting gender equality in sport, including achieving pay equality between male and female elite athletes and enhancing LGBTQIA+ inclusion in sport. The committee rejected the resolution by a vote of 7 to 3, marking the second time the majority voted against the proposals.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2025, a total of 296 participants attended a special training program on human rights with a focus on SOGIESC issues – 23 candidates for the rank of junior inspector and 273 candidates for the rank of police officer. This training was organised by the Sarajevo Open Center and in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Interior.

HUNGARY

In July, Budapest police confirmed they will not bring legal proceedings against participants in the Pride march that took place at the end of June, despite the fact that the event had been formally banned. (See also under Freedom of Assembly). Police said in their statement that no prosecutions would be launched, emphasising that participants could reasonably have believed the march was legal given both the organisers' communications and the visible involvement of the municipal government. In early August, Budapest's mayor Gergely Karácsony was nonetheless questioned over allegations that he had helped organise this year's Pride march, which the Hungarian government had officially

banned. Afterwards, Karácsony revealed that the prosecutor's office had rejected the complaint he had filed. "According to the prosecutor's office, there is also a suspicion of a crime because we stood up for diversity, equality and love – and because we did not allow the government to restrict freedom of assembly," he wrote.

In July, Hungarian police opened a criminal case against Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg for her participation in Budapest's Pride March on June 28, which had been banned by the government but nonetheless went ahead with record turnout. According to local media, the Fifth District Council of Budapest announced on July 11 that police had initiated proceedings, though no official details were provided on the precise grounds for the case. The case was discontinued.

ITALY

In July, serious allegations of sexual violence and abuse emerged at La Dogaia prison in Prato, prompting an investigation by the Prosecutor's Office into reported cases of abuse, threats, and torture within the facility. Among the victims was a gay man imprisoned for the first time, who reportedly suffered prolonged physical and sexual violence at the hands of other inmates. Investigators described the situation in the prison as having become severely out of control.

KYRGYZSTAN

Throughout the year, multiple instances of arbitrary arrest and alleged mistreatment by police and other law enforcement authorities were reported in Kyrgyzstan. In late January, police in Osh detained a trans man on drug-related charges. Civil society organisations were repeatedly denied permission to deliver a parcel to him until, after weeks of advocacy and coordination with human rights defenders, the parcel was ultimately delivered in late February.

Several incidents reported during the year concerned the arbitrary arrest and detention of trans and non-binary people. In March, a video circulated on social media showing police officers at the apartment of a trans woman. After she opened the door and requested identification, three uniformed officers entered, pushed her out of the

apartment, and led her away without presenting a warrant or documents explaining the grounds for detention. The footage showed her being taken to an office where she was questioned and asked to sign documents.

In April, two trans women were detained following the circulation of a video showing a physical altercation with a man after he allegedly refused to pay for sex work. All parties were initially taken to a police station. The man later signed a reconciliation letter and was released, while the two women were fined 20,000 soms (approximately €200). The following day, they were detained again, transferred from a police station to a drug treatment centre and then brought before the Leninsky District Court. The court sentenced them to three days of administrative detention on charges of petty hooliganism.

In April, five trans women and an LGBTI activist were detained in Osh following a confrontation reportedly linked to a livestream by one of the activists. According to civil society groups, masked individuals entered apartments without presenting warrants, assaulted those present, and transferred them to police custody. The detainees were reportedly denied access to legal representation and subjected to physical mistreatment and compulsory medical examinations. An administrative court sentenced all five trans women to five days of detention for "minor hooliganism" under Article 126.

Additional incidents during the year involved arbitrary arrests, compulsory drug testing, and discriminatory treatment of trans and non-binary people by police, including detentions in Osh in late April, June and August.

In late April, June and August, several trans women were detained in Osh and reported being subjected to discriminatory treatment by police, including derogatory remarks, compulsory drug testing and administrative detention.

In July, Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security (SCNS) carried out raids on three Bishkek nightclubs, closing them down on accusations of corrupting young people through alleged drug use and involvement in the LGBT community. Authorities framed the closures in the context of Kyrgyzstan's

2023 children's information security law which bans the promotion of non-traditional sexual relations and material deemed harmful to traditional family values.

MALTA

In February, a 30-year-old Brazilian man reported that police officers stopped him from kissing another man during carnival celebrations on St Anne Street in Floriana. The victim said he and a male friend shared what he described as a normal kiss. Two police officers then approached them and told them such behaviour was not allowed in a public place.

In June, Moldovan police intervened in Chisinau to ensure the Pride march could proceed and to prevent clashes with counter-demonstrators. The counter-march, organised by PSRM and attended by several thousand participants, was monitored by law enforcement. Police also imposed an administrative fine on Pride organisers for a traffic-related violation following the event (see also under Freedom of Assembly).

NORWAY

In June, the Oslo Police District launched an appeal for victims to come forward following reports of harassment outside Pride Park. According to the operations manager, the police are seeking to identify individuals who had their Pride flags forcibly taken and were spat on near the festival area.

In June, the Minister of Justice, Astri Aas-Hansen from the Labour Party, addressed concerns over the placement of two trans women convicted of rape in a women's prison. She clarified that while Norwegian guidelines generally direct trans women to serve time in women's prisons, exceptions can be made if such placement would threaten the safety of the individual or other inmates, or otherwise appear clearly inappropriate. There was no publicly reported outcome tied to the case by the end of 2025.

During this year's Oslo Pride, London Pub praised the Oslo Police for their strengthened cooperation, which contributed to a heightened sense of safety for clientele. The focus on safety has been particularly important since the terror attack on June 25, 2022, with nightclub clientele and Pride attendees seeking reassurance when returning to spaces that can be triggering or traumatic.

In November, prosecutors requested a 30 – year prison sentence for Anfan Bhatti, whom they describe as the driving force behind the 2022 terrorist attack against Oslo Pride. In their closing arguments before the Oslo District Court, state prosecutors Sturla Henriksbø and Aud Kinsarvik Gravås argued that Bhatti played a decisive role in enabling the mass shooting outside the London Pub and Per på Hjørnet, where two people were killed and several others injured. They stressed that Bhatti shows no remorse, poses a high risk of reoffending, and should therefore receive the maximum penalty under Norwegian law—30 years, with a minimum term of 20 years.

RUSSIA

In January, reports surfaced that Russia's Interior Ministry is preparing to establish an electronic database of LGBTI people, in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling designating the so-called "international LGBT movement" as an extremist organisation. The system would draw on administrative violations, such as fines issued under Russia's propaganda laws, to populate the registry. Human rights monitors note that immediately after LGBTI people were officially labelled as "extremists," security services began actively seeking access to the medical records of trans people.

At the end of 2024, Russian authorities carried out raids on multiple venues associated with LGBTI people. In St. Petersburg, police stormed the independent art space Appellance. Officials described the event held as linked to the so-called "International LGBT Movement" and reported the presence of "dozens of participants, including transsexuals, transgenders, and feminists." The crackdown extended to Moscow the same weekend, with security forces raiding clubs. Authorities claimed to have found prohibited substances, stage costumes, and BDSM equipment, framing it as evidence of "non-traditional" gatherings.

SLOVAKIA

In March, a joint police operation in Austria and Slovakia led to the arrest of 15 people suspected of luring and assaulting queer men. Around 400 law enforcement officers carried out 23 house searches detaining 12 men and three women aged 14 to 26. According to investigators, the suspects

created fake online profiles to arrange meetings under the pretence of sex. Instead, the men were ambushed by groups of four to eight masked attackers, who robbed, beat, and humiliated them. Videos of the assaults were then shared in closed online groups and forums. Police confirmed at least 17 victims, noting cases of serious bodily harm and even an attempted murder.

SLOVENIA

In February, Slovenia's Ministry of the Interior acknowledged that police officers in Maribor had acted unlawfully and inappropriately in their response to a series of hate-motivated incidents targeting the LGBTI community. The incidents originated in June, during Pride Month, after a rainbow flag displayed at the Mariborka bookstore prompted escalating acts of hostility, including verbal abuse, Nazi salutes, spitting, vandalism, attempted theft, intimidation, and direct threats against staff (see also under Bias-motivated violence). Despite the seriousness of the situation, officers responding to the scene failed to secure evidence or initiate formal proceedings and instead attributed responsibility to the bookstore.

In November 2025, following a fatal violent incident in Novo mesto involving members of the Roma community and heightened public and political pressure to strengthen security measures, the National Assembly adopted the Law on urgent measures for ensuring public safety. The law expanded police powers, including broader use of surveillance tools and simplified procedures for action in designated "security-risk areas". Human rights experts and civil society actors criticised the law as a disproportionate response that weakens safeguards and risks undermining fundamental rights in the name of public security. Shortly after its adoption, the Metelkova area in Ljubljana was classified as a high-risk zone. Metelkova is home to key LGBTI cultural and nightlife venues, including Klub Tiffany and Klub Monokel. The designation raised concerns about intensified policing and surveillance in one of the country's central LGBTI spaces, illustrating how security-driven legislative responses can have wider implications for minority communities and for freedom of assembly and expression more broadly.

SPAIN

In March, a Barcelona court acquitted an LGBTI activist who faced a two-year prison sentence for allegedly assaulting a police officer during a protest that ensued in front of a bookstore promoting a transphobic publication. The court considered that the identification did not offer sufficient reliability and could not be deduced that it was the accused who assaulted the police officer involved in the altercation.

In March, the Provincial Court of Alicante began proceedings against two local police officers accused of humiliating and insulting a trans woman because of her gender identity while on duty in a patrol car. The Prosecutor's Office has requested prison sentences of two years and two months for each officer on charges of a hate crime. The incident took place in May 2020, when one officer directed degrading remarks at the woman, including mocking her appearance and making offensive comments about sex work.

In July, the NGO Irídia filed an indictment before the Provincial Court of Barcelona against two plainclothes Mossos d'Esquadra officers for what it describes as a "serious homophobic assault" in the Raval district in December 2020. The organisation accuses the officers of torture as well as injuries, all with the aggravating factor of discrimination based on sexual orientation, and is seeking penalties of up to six years in prison and 12 years of disqualification from public office. According to the victim's account, the officers never identified themselves as police, but physically subdued him, seized his phone and attempted to take his backpack, leading him to believe he was being robbed. He reports being punched in the face, beaten with batons on his leg, and insulted with homophobic slurs. Nonetheless, in late July, the Prosecutor's Office requested the shelving of the case, claiming that there are insufficient indications to substantiate the alleged crimes of injuries and torture.

TAJKISTAN

ECOM documented 27 cases of human rights violations against LGBTI people in Tajikistan, with law enforcement officers identified as perpetrators in the majority of cases. The most common violations involved extortion, threats, and arbitrary

deprivation of liberty. Police frequently confiscated mobile phones and other devices without judicial authorisation, using personal messages or images to threaten prosecution under Article 241 of the Criminal Code (pornography-related offences), primarily as a means of coercion and extortion. (see also under Data collection)

Throughout the year, over 30 cases of police mistreatment targeting LGBTI persons were documented by civil society. These incidents involved arbitrary detention, harassment, extortion, and blackmail by law enforcement authorities, with some individuals being accused of distributing pornographic materials and intentionally transmitting HIV. Due to fear of reprisals, ongoing criminal investigations, and limited access to official records, many incidents went unrecorded, and organisations did not have access to all relevant cases.

Broader human rights monitoring reports further indicate that civil society organisations and human rights defenders faced heightened scrutiny, surveillance, and restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association.

TURKEY

In April, during the "Youth Standing Up" march in Ankara, police detained a trans woman using violence that bystanders reported could amount to torture. Footage of the assault quickly spread across social media but rather than condemning the brutality, the Ankara Governorship attempted to justify the police action by referring to the victim in a statement as a "so-called woman."

In April, during the protests sparked by the detention of the Mayor of Istanbul Ekrem İmamoğlu in March, reports emerged of women and LGBTI people being subjected to torture and sexual violence at the hands of police. A university student detained in Saraçhane recounted that while being transported to Vatan Police Headquarters, one of the officers attempted to grope their genitals over their clothing and mocked them with homophobic slurs.

In June, TransPride in Istanbul was violently dispersed, with 46 human rights defenders detained across the

city, five of whom now face judicial controls and travel bans. According to news outlets, police confiscated banners and sealed off the area with patrol vehicles. Activists Hivda Selen, Sinem Çelebi, and Doğan Nur were among those arbitrarily detained during the March and held in pre-trial detention on charges linked to their participation in peaceful assembly. Their first hearing is scheduled for August at the Istanbul Criminal Court of First Instance No. 51. In late June, Nur was released following a court appeal while Selen and Çelebi remained in detention (see also under Freedom of Assembly).

In August, police carried out a large-scale operation targeting trans women in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district. On the evening of July 31, watchmen surrounded several residences, preventing trans women from leaving their homes for nearly two hours. Around 30 women were detained from different parts of the district and taken to the police station, where they were held in the courtyard for about an hour. Despite repeatedly asking, they were given no explanation for their detention and were pressured to switch off their phones.

TURKMENISTAN

In 2025, enforced disappearances within Turkmenistan's prison system remained a grave concern. The 2025 review by the Committee Against Torture highlighted ongoing cases of disappearances and the absence of independent monitoring mechanisms, leaving detainees in consistently life-threatening conditions.

Throughout the year, the Ministry of National Security maintained control over the country's central internet gateway and officials blocked a wide range of websites and major social media platforms they deemed sensitive, including most VPN services used to bypass state restrictions. Reports also indicated that security services summoned some individuals who used VPNs to question them about their online behaviour. Phone inspections remained common practice, with officers routinely checking devices for messages and photos, and conducting entrapment operations as part of broader surveillance efforts.

In September, new cases of torture and mistreatment of LGBTI detainees by Turkmenistan's

prison authorities following their arrests and imprisonment were [reported](#). The report also included allegations of abuse against prisoners living with HIV. It further noted that UN bodies and NGOs have repeatedly documented the use of forced anal examinations by Turkmen authorities in an attempt to "prove" same-sex activity.

In September, two survivors who escaped Turkmenistan publicly [recounted](#) their experiences of abuse. One man stated that he had been arrested on suspicion of homosexuality, tried behind closed doors, and given a two-year prison sentence for "sodomy." He described being repeatedly beaten by police and raped by other inmates during his imprisonment, which drove him to attempt suicide. The second survivor recalled being detained in 2019, during which security officers tortured him to compel him to disclose the names of other gay men. He reported that interrogators beat him while wearing gloves – telling him it was "to avoid touching [his] blood" – and that he was sexually assaulted while in custody.

In October, it was [reported](#) that Turkmenistan's police and Ministry of National Security had intensified a coordinated campaign targeting LGBTI people. In Turkmenabad, authorities were allegedly focusing on teenagers first, using them to identify older and wealthier LGBTI people. A local resident reported that two boys aged 15–16 were located and tortured, though no charges were filed. Though not formally charged, their detention led to the identification and targeting of approximately 20 other young men. Parallel raids occurred in Ashgabat. One detainee, a 20-year-old man, was said to have been held naked for ten days in the basement of the "sixth department," beaten, and pressured into informing on others after officials reviewed his family's financial situation and concluded he was not wealthy.

UNITED KINGDOM

In April, the British Transport Police [announced](#) changes to its custody policy concerning strip searches following a ruling by the UK Supreme Court on the interpretation of "sex" under the Equality Act 2010 (see also under Legal Gender Recognition). The force stated that trans women arrested on Britain's railways would, as an interim measure, be

strip-searched by officers in accordance with sex as defined in the ruling, rather than gender recognition status. Previously, detainees holding a Gender Recognition Certificate could be searched in line with their acquired gender. British Transport Police indicated that the revised approach would apply while the implications of the judgment were under review.

In late April, following the UK Supreme Court's ruling on the Equality Act (see also under Legal Gender Recognition), authorities were [asked](#) to clarify the status of Downview's Prison transgender unit. The wing, created in 2019 after a trans prisoner sexually assaulted two women at another facility, houses trans women with a history of sexual or violent offending who hold Gender Recognition Certificates. Campaigners demanded that the eight inmates currently on the wing be transferred to the male estate, arguing the unit undermines single-sex protections, consumes scarce resources, and causes distress to female prisoners.

In July, the mother and stepfather of a trans teenager, who died by suicide after going missing in 2022, launched High Court [proceedings](#) against Sussex Police, alleging that the force's failings contributed to his death. At an inquest held last year, a jury concluded that Sussex Police had "responded inadequately" after he was reported missing. Jason was reported missing by his family, but according to their legal claim, around 10 hours passed before an officer first attended their home. His parents argue that the police "failed properly or at all to protect Jason against the risk of suicide," insisting there was a "real prospect of a different outcome" had a reasonable and timely response been made.

In November, For Women Scotland [initiated](#) legal proceedings challenging Scottish Prison Service guidance providing that trans prisoners may be accommodated in establishments matching their affirmed gender where this can be done safely, arguing that the policy is incompatible with the Equality Act as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

UZBEKISTAN

According to independent research conducted by local civil society organisations on the situation of

LGBTI people in Uzbekistan, authorities in 2025 carried out unwarranted searches of locations frequented by LGBTI people, including saunas, clubs, country houses, and rented apartments, without judicial authorisation. The research further documented the routine use of undercover informants posing as clients or community members at LGBTI gatherings. In addition, law enforcement officers reportedly accessed private messages and photographs on detainees' mobile phones during detention, raising serious concerns regarding violations of the right to privacy and the misuse of investigative powers.

According to independent civil society monitoring, Uzbek authorities conducted a nationwide campaign referred to locally as "Oriyat," involving coordinated operations by the State Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs at entertainment and hospitality venues. Monitoring reports described interrogations of hundreds of individuals, the initiation of criminal cases under Article 120, and allegations of arbitrary detention, seizure of personal devices, coerced HIV testing, and mistreatment during questioning.

In February, two young men were detained in Tashkent on charges of "indecent behaviour" and were reportedly subjected to non-consensual forensic anal examinations despite their objections. In March, two other young men were detained for kissing in a park; police forced them to unlock their phones, found intimate photos, and threatened prosecution unless they paid a bribe.