

Social Security and Social Protection

ALBANIA

Controversy erupted in Tirana after it was revealed that the municipality's new scoring formula for the social housing program "Subsidization of Loan Interest" awards two additional points to applicants who identify as part of the LGBTI community. Municipal council member Jonathan Pano denounced the measure as part of a broader political agenda, claiming it unfairly privileges one group while neglecting vulnerable segments of society.

Following public statements by Pastor Akil Pano condemning the inclusion of LGBTI persons in the 2025–2027 local social policy framework, the Municipality of Tirana removed the dedicated chapter addressing the needs of LGBTI citizens from its social plan.

The Needs Assessment of Trans People in Albania identified stable housing as the most urgent need reported by trans respondents. According to the assessment, nearly one in three respondents lived in short-term or otherwise insecure rental arrangements. Experiences of homelessness and severe housing exclusion were also documented. 17.6% of respondents reported having slept on the streets or in public spaces, while 41.2% indicated that they had relied on temporary accommodation in shelters, underscoring significant housing precarity among trans people.

AUSTRIA

In January, Austria's Supreme Court issued a ruling on the case of a trans woman who accessed legal recognition and subsequently applied for early retirement. The Pension Insurance Institution (PVA) contested the application, arguing that the applicant did not undergo hormone therapy or gender-affirming surgery and claimed that the request was pursued solely to gain retirement benefits. While a lower court initially ruled in favour of the applicant, the appeals court reversed this decision, and the Supreme Court upheld the PVA's right to challenge the request. LGBTI activists have raised concerns that the decision undermines self-determination and could lead to individuals being recognised only by their assigned sex at birth for legal and administrative purposes, including retirement eligibility.

DENMARK

In April, Denmark urged a coordinated European Union response to warnings from the United States discouraging European companies from implementing diversity programmes. The calls came after the US pledged to abolish such initiatives, prompting Danish officials to emphasise the need for a united EU stance in defending diversity and inclusion policies.

FRANCE

In late May, the Strasbourg Court of First Instance ruled in favor of a 31-year-old trans man against the Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie (CPAM) du Bas-Rhin, which had refused to cover his mastectomy. The court found this refusal discriminatory and in violation of Articles 8 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). CPAM was ordered to reimburse the cost of the surgery and to pay €3,000 in damages.

In June, the CPAM of Seine-Saint-Denis was condemned for refusing to cover medical care for two young men undergoing transitions. The court in Bobigny ruled that the CPAM had relied on an outdated 1989 protocol, which has since been abolished. It ordered both the local CPAM and the national health insurance fund (CNAM) to jointly pay €3,000 in damages to each plaintiff in recognition of the harm they suffered.

IRELAND

In April, Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Mary Butler, Minister of State for Mental Health and Government Chief Whip, presented the 2025–2027 implementation plan for Sharing the Vision. Butler highlighted the government's intention to back the strategy with sustained funding across the full spectrum of mental health services, from promotion and prevention to specialist care. She also pointed to continued support for suicide-prevention measures, including the LGBT Ireland Champions Programme, which provides cultural awareness training for health and social care services.

UNITED KINGDOM

In June, MPs urged the government to accelerate compensation for LGBTI veterans who were

persecuted under the pre-2000 "gay ban" in the armed forces. The £75 million (approximately €87.75 million) redress scheme, established in December 2024, offers payments of up to £70,000 (approximately €82,100) to acknowledge the abuse, assault, and dishonourable discharges suffered by LGBTI service members. Nonetheless, of the 1,300 who have applied, only 84 veterans have received payments so far.