



GREECE

ASYLUM

On 19 January, the County Court of Mytilene ruled that the name and gender registration of a refugee trans woman must be changed on her residence permit and travel document. The applicant was supported by NGOs Greek Transgender Support Association and HIAS Greece, a non-governmental organisation that offers legal aid to refugees and asylum-seekers. The Court's positive ruling reaffirmed a similar decision by the Thessaloniki Magistrates Court in 2018.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In January, Panos Kammenos, Minister of National Defense was sued by the Greek Helsinki Monitor for his homophobic hate speech against MP Georgios Amyras from the centrist party, To Potami. Kammenos's remarks were both homophobic and sexist. No official apology followed. Another parliamentary party condemned the hate speech, but was answered with similarly sexist language.

On 28 January, the Metropolitan Bishop of Kalabryta and Aigialeia Ambrosios was found guilty of incitement and abusing his religious function by a court in Aigio. In a statement in 2015, Ambrosios called gay people "abominations of society" and called on people to "spit on them". Ambrosios was acquitted last year, but the Aigio court gave him a seven-month suspended prison sentence.

In June, Color Youth hosted two awareness raising workshops for media professionals to prevent and address prejudicial and stereotypical portraying of LGBTI people.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

On 11 March, the building housing the Checkpoint Prevention and Examination Centers was targeted by a homophobic arson attack. The Checkpoints provide free HIV testing to vulnerable groups.

In June, the Council of Europe SOGI Unit delivered its first trainings for police officers, judges and prosecutors on addressing discrimination and hate crimes against LGBTI people.

On 2 September, two gay men were verbally harassed and physically assaulted by police officers. NGOs demanded criminal and disciplinary investigation.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The 15th Athens Pride, which took place on 8 June, was dedicated to LGBTI and HIV activist Zak Kostopoulos, who was brutally murdered by a shop owner last year (see under **Human rights defenders**). A large group of the participants marched to the shop and demanded justice for Kostopoulos, as his murderer was never convicted. On the evening of Pride, the Parliament was lit with rainbow lights in support of LGBTI rights. Counter-protesters were few in numbers.

Thessaloniki will host Europride in 2020, under the slogan "Welcome to the future where everyone can join!". This will be the first time that Europride takes place in a South East European country.

HEALTH

On 20 May, the working group of the Ministry of Health presented its conclusions on how to ensure equality and non-discrimination in healthcare and improve access to services. The conclusions set out that the relevant legislation and the Code of Medical Ethics need to be amended to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds; that trans people's access to healthcare must be improved by promptly changing their personal information in the state-run electronic system following their legal transition, with a view to protecting their privacy; that trans and intersex persons must not be pathologised and labeled as having a "mental illness"; that all gender affirming healthcare services must be fully covered by insurance; that medically unnecessary and non-consensual surgeries to change one's sexual orientation or gender identity must be banned; that blood donations by LGBTI people must be allowed; and that all laws, decrees, decisions and circulars hindering the equal treatment of LGBTI people in healthcare must be repealed or amended. The Greek Transgender Support Association was also part of the working group.