



ROMANIA

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Two trans women were sexually and verbally harassed, and later physically assaulted on 8 June in Sibiu. The women were approached by a man in a club, who later physically assaulted them in a second club. No one intervened to defend the women, while they were being beaten. They fought back and managed to escape the attacker, locked themselves in the bathroom, called the police and reported the violence. The case is currently pending, the victims have not heard back from the police.

In September, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers examined the execution of the M.C. AND A.C. v. Romania case on the basis of the state report submitted in 2018 and ACCEPT input. The Committee called on the government to swiftly adopt and implement common methods for the investigation of hate crime; to provide training to police and judicial authorities on hate crimes; to rapidly start collecting data on the prevalence of hate crimes; to assess the need for any additional or corrective action.

EDUCATION

In late November, Senator Christian Lungu submitted a draft bill banning “sex and gender proselitism” in education, aiming to exclude any information regarding sexual orientation and gender identity from Romanian schools. The bill allows police to fine anyone discussing these topics in school with up to 10,000EUR.

FAMILY

On 18 March, the Senate rejected two bills that would have introduced civil partnership for same-sex couples. The bill was a result of successful negotiations between the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD), civil society, and party representatives. Following last year’s failed referendum against same-sex families, civil society believes the Senate’s move is a sign of regression.

On 26 June, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) Deputy Adriana Tuşa submitted a draft law to regulate some legal situations of co-habiting couples, including same-sex couples. Civil society criticised the draft law and affirmed that the government should instead introduce civil partnership, thus granting adequate legal protections to same-sex couples.

“We consider this draft law unconstitutional and contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights. We remind that in the Coman-Hamilton case, in July 2018, the Constitutional Court of Romania ruled that the right of same-sex families have to be legally recognized and their rights and obligations must correspond to those of different-sex couples [...] [The draft law] is just further confirmation that the government considers same-sex families as inferior, made up of second-class citizens.” - ACCEPT Association

In April, ACCEPT Association brought a group of cases to the European Court of Human Rights, on behalf of seven same-sex couples, claiming that the lack of civil partnership violates their right to private and family life and is discriminatory on grounds of sexual orientation. Similar applications from 13 more families were made in October and December, making this the largest coordinated group effort against a member state at the level of the European Court for the recognition of rainbow families.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Pride week TM was organised in Timișoara for the first time between 3 and 9 June, by LGBTQ+ organisation Identity Education. The events included an exhibition, concerts, and discussions. Members of far-right and Christian groups tried to disturb the events, but were unsuccessful. Anti-LGBTI hatred intensified on social media and on news sites. Pride week in Cluj and Bucharest took place in the following weeks, both attracting record numbers.