



Liechtenstein

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

On 17 February, human rights NGO, Verein für Menschenrechte (VMR) held its first coordinating meeting with civil society partners, including LGBTI organisation FLAY, youth workers, and other experts. The meetings aim to support LGBTI youth. The priorities identified are urging the government to gather data on the situation of LGBTI youth; launch an information campaign; review the school curriculum; and convene future meetings outside the scope of youth work.



[LIECHTENSTEIN WEB PAGE](#)

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FAMILY

As Switzerland introduced marriage equality at the end of 2020, followed and discussed by the public, new debates on the topic are expected to start again in Liechtenstein. The country legalised civil unions back in 2011, but with limited rights, including and in particular in the area of adoption and access to assisted reproduction. Liechtenstein's governing parties said that more public debate was necessary on the topic. Elections will take place in 2021, raising hopes that some parties may include the issue on their agendas.

A series of interviews were conducted with a gay couple who had a baby in 2020, through surrogacy in the US. Surrogacy is not legal in Liechtenstein and only the biological father was recognised as a legal parent in the country. The couple filed a lawsuit for the other father's legal recognition.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

FLAY's main annual event, which is always held on the national holiday in August, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monthly meetings and other events were also cancelled. For Coming Out Day in October, FLAY published an article instead of hosting an in-person event.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

In April, the Ministry of Society affirmed in an ongoing legal gender recognition case, that the applicant does not have to go on hormone therapy, as a prerequisite of changing their legal gender. Civil society hopes that the case will be a positive precedent that others can use in the future. There is no public record of the Ministry's position.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The state court (Staatsgerichtshof) initiated a review of Article 25 of the Partnership Law, which excludes those in a civil partnership from accessing reproductive assistance. The Court will consider if this provision is constitutional.