



## Moldova

### BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Human rights experts warned in July that hate speech by politicians, including against LGBTI people, might increase before the fall elections.

On 11 September, Cojocaru Dinari, member of the Chisinau Municipal Council of the Socialist Party stated he would seek to remove a drawing of a rainbow in the city and ensure no pro-LGBT signs will be on display in the capital, saying:

*“This sign is the flag of people who promote the non-traditional family, which is not characteristic for us Christians. [We] do not tolerate such families - we want to raise a healthy family and generation.”*

On 3 November, during a press conference as part of the presidential election campaign, President Igor Dodon said about his opponent Maia Sandu:

*“I have not participated in any gay marches, like Maia Sandu has done in recent years. Think very carefully, dear parents, what we will achieve in schools with such a president.”*

### BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

A young gay person (17) was forcibly held at home and harassed by his brother for being gay. Upon the advice of local LGBTI organisation GENDERDOC-M, the boy called the police. The officers failed to intervene and instead verbally harassed and humiliated a boy for his sexual orientation. One of the officers made a video of him, and threatened to post it online. Thanks to GENDERDOC-M’s intervention, another group of officers came to the boy’s home later and escorted him to the police station so he could file a report against his brother. The first group of officers followed the boy when he left the police station, and kept harassing him. They continued the harassment against him and his family in person and on the phone in the next few days. GENDERDOC-M launched a complaint against the acting officers, and hopes that the case will be promptly investigated.

*“We insist that all four police officers who unleashed the harassment of the young man be identified, we demand that measures be taken to punish this behavior and*

*prevent such situations in the future. The police must carry out their functional duties according to the law, defend public order and the rights of citizens, regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, religion and other criteria protected by law.” - Angelica Frolov, GENDERDOC-M to Stiri.*

### EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

GENDERDOC-M launched a campaign in June, called “I’m close, but you don’t know me”, as part of which they share letters of LGBT people that they anonymously wrote to their parents, friends, loved ones - people they are not open to about their sexual orientation or gender identity. Those reading the letters out loud online included actress Victoria Roșca, journalists Mariana Rață and Anya Glazkina, musician Lilian Severin, and several other public figures.

### FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

This year’s Pride march was held online, due to the pandemic. The organisers encouraged everyone to go on their own personal march, and post live updates on social media with the hashtag #MoldovaPride2020.

### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Most civil society activities were held online this year, with in-person events cancelled.

In May, GENDERDOC-M distributed relief packages to those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. It has also provided online psychological counseling to LGBTI people, including LGBTI elders, and their families.

### LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Civil society organisations established the Coalition for Inclusion and Non-Discrimination this year, which includes GENDERDOC-M as a member. One of the aims of the coalition is that the government introduces a legal gender recognition law.

### PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

A new TV show, Efect 9.6 was launched on TV8 in September,



hosted by local LGBT activist Angelica Frolov. The show discusses existing societal conflicts in Moldova.

### **PUBLIC OPINION AND ATTITUDES**

GENDERDOC-M conducted a survey with 815 people in Chisinau about their attitudes towards LGBTI people, finding that half either supported or had a neutral stance towards LGBT people. This is a much more positive picture of the capital, than what the government has been claiming previously, saying that 98% of Moldovans were against LGBT people.



[MOLDOVA WEB PAGE](#)

MORE INFORMATION ON [WWW.RAINBOW-EUROPE.ORG](http://WWW.RAINBOW-EUROPE.ORG)

