

CZECHIA

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Brno's oldest confectionery and cafe, Zeman's has made its support for the LGBT* public and began organising events on LGBT* issues.

Czech Railways launched a new ad featuring a lesbian romance, set it on a train heading to Hungary from Czechia, which some interpreted as a criticism of the Hungarian regime. The ad was widely praised.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In November, the Municipal Court in Prague sentenced one man to pay a 20,000 crowns (836 euro) fine and another man to do community service for their homophobic attack against a student in 2021.

DATA COLLECTION

In cooperation with NGOs, the National Institute of Mental Health launched a survey on 'Being LGBTQ+ in Czechia'.

EDUCATION

Some schools have noted an increase in the number of LGBTQ+ and some psychologists have shared positive examples of how to best support children and their families, or how to for instance accommodate trans and non-binary children's wishes to be called by a different name.

Transparent became an educational institution, accredited by the Ministry of Education to hold training sessions for teachers and educators on trans and non-binary issues in schools.

EMPLOYMENT

More and more companies adopted inclusion policies and granted the same rights to registered same-sex couples as married heterosexual couples.

A symposium for the finance sector was held by Pride Business Forum and ČSOB on the inclusion of transgender and non-binary persons at the work place.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Czech Evangelical Alliance (ČEA) published a book on how to support sexual minorities in the congregation.

The Ombudsman's Office retained his unsupportive stance towards LGBTIQ+ people. Jakub Kříž, known for his stance against marriage equality and abortion, is set to be appointed as deputy Ombudsman.

FAMILY

The legal process to introduce marriage equality continued this year. By the end of the year, over 165,000 individuals signed petitions calling for equal rights. The marriage equality bill, first introduced in 2018, moved to its second reading in 2021, but was stalled due to the elections. This year, two legislative proposals, one on marriage equality and another on defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, have made it made it once more to parliament and are being discussed.

In June, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs invited Jsme Fér to be part of the advisory group working on a new Family Policy Concept, which the organisation accepted but expressed concern that some members are openly against rainbow families.

More rainbow families shared their stories with the public this year, about their love, becoming parents, fighting prejudice, and having to deal with hostile authorities. A campaign song, 'Marriage for All' was launched in the spring.

A report published in August found that the number of couples entering same-sex registered partnerships has stagnated over the past five years. Same-sex couples who want to enter a registered partnership face a number of obstacles; for example some have to travel as the process is not available in all registry offices.

In March, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended Czechia to ensure that same-sex couples have the same rights as married couples.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Prague Pride was held in person this year, and no incidents were recorded.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In July, the anti-LGBT+ organisation Alliance for Family filed another complaint against the TV station claiming that its reporting on equal marriage is biased. Jsme fér answered the complaint in a public letter.

HEALTH

Trans*parent held two-day courses for professionals working in psychology, psychotherapy, psychiatry, social work, and other areas, focusing on working with trans and non-binary clients.

PrEP continued to be available in Czechia, but reports suggest few people know about it, and for some it is unaffordable. While counselling and testing are covered, PrEP needs to be paid for out of pocket.

INTERSECTIONALITY

A number of articles and events this year addressed issue of senior homes and social care services not taking one's SOGIESC into account, following the release of a study on the topic.

An interview was shared this year with a non-binary person on the autistic spectrum, their daily life, and difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

In a regressive judgement, the Constitutional Court ruled on 31 March that the sterility requirement of legal gender recognition is not unconstitutional. Civil society in Czechia and beyond are deeply disappointed with the ruling, but an application may be filed to the European Court of Human Rights. Some MPs affirmed that they would try to change the relevant legislation, remedying the situation, as Czechia is one the last countries in Europe to require sterilisation. Newly elected Commissioner for Human Rights Klára Laurenčíková and Transparent began to actively coordinate attempts to propose legislation abolishing the current sterilisation requirement. To date, legal gender recognition remains burdensome, invasive, time-consuming, making everyday life very difficult for many trans people.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Civil society continued to support voters with information about politicians' stances on marriage equality.

Podcaster and writer Filip Titlbach's book 'Byli jsme tu vždycky' (Eng:'We were always here'), covering queer life in Czechia, was released this year.

Several pieces were shared with Daniela Špínar, the (now former) head of Drama at the National Theater, who came out as a trans woman in 2021.

PUBLIC OPINION

Public opinion has continued to be positive on marriage equality.

CZECHIA WEB PAGE

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