

IRELAND

ASYLUM

A new scheme was adopted in January enabling undocumented migrants to apply for residence, which will positively impact many LGBTQ+ migrants.

LGBT Ireland called for more visa waivers for LGBT Afghan refugees.

Civil society provided support for LGBTI+ people fleeing Ukraine.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

A study identified a dozen far-right groups that target people due to their SOGI.

Transphobic speech remained a serious issue. In May, an education conference featured a speaker known for her anti-trans views, on the topic of “managing gender issues” in school. In June, the national broadcaster, streamed transphobic content, prompting Dublin Pride to cancel its partnership with the media platform. Following Trans Writers Union, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) also cut ties with the Irish Times over its transphobic articles.

LGBTQI+ young people continued to face toxic comments, abuse, and online harassment. The new National Anti-bullying Action Plan, published in December, envisions protecting trans students in particular.

A priest called LGBT people “sinners” and later apologised. A prominent Sheikh stated that Muslims would not be affected by monkeypox as they do not engage in same-sex relations, spoke out against those who do, and linked the spread of the virus to the ‘wisdom of Allah’.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Hate crimes against LGBTQI+ people continued to be a serious issue (see here, here, here, here, and here), also affirmed by the government, the police’s annual hate crime statistics, and Dublin City where bias-motivated violence has become a particular concern.

In April, two men were murdered in separate homophobic attacks in the town of Sligo - a 22-year-old man awaits trial. Vigils were held in over 25 cities

and towns. Civil society continued working with the police to address the violence.

The Dublin City Council adopted an emergency motion to provide training to the police on anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes and Dublin’s Pearse Street police station set up a diversity officer position.

The new hate crime bill, which recognises anti-LGBTI violence as aggravated offences, passed two readings.

LGBT Ireland and the National Traveller and Roma Action Group’s report highlighted that 42% of LGBTI+ Travellers had experienced physical assault.

BODILY INTEGRITY

The ban on so-called ‘conversion therapies’ continued to be stalled, but the Taoiseach and the Minister for Children and Equality expressed clear commitment. In April, solidarity protests were held after the UK’s ban excluded trans people from its scope. In July, the Irish Association of Catholic Priests called for a complete ban. The UN Human Rights Committee echoed this call. The government commissioned a study to hear from survivors.

Intersex Ireland continued demanding a ban on medically unnecessary and non-consensual surgeries performed on intersex children. In July, the UN Human Rights Committee echoed this call.

DATA COLLECTION

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) announced that census respondents would have to mark male or female as ‘biological sex’, and if they tick both, the Census would automatically assign them one of the two available options. The CSO later launched a consultation on this and other issues.

EDUCATION

This year 57 schools stepped up to work with Belong To, to create a safe space for LGBTQI+ students in Ireland’s first whole-school community safe and supportive schools project, the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark.

In April, the Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI) urged the Department of Education to protect



teachers from harassment and assault due to their SOGI, ethnicity, and disability.

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment called for the inclusion of LGBTQI+ issues in relationship and sex education (RSE), also demanding by civil society.

After refusing to use a student's correct they/them pronouns, a secondary school teacher, who shouted at the school principal, was put on administrative leave in August. He was sentenced for refusing to stay away from the school and, since he would not agree to being put on leave, was put in custody.

EMPLOYMENT

Ibec and TENI launched a new guidance note on gender identity and expression in the workplace.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission published its report with over 60 recommendations on how Ireland's Equality Laws need to be reformed, including by protecting individuals on GIESC grounds, and ensuring that non-binary people are included in laws and policies.

In May, the Department of Justice published a 'disregard scheme' plan to exonerate gay and bisexual men who were prosecuted when 'homosexuality' was still illegal. The Department launched a public consultation on the scheme. Civil society continued to demand an official apology from law enforcement.

Several civil society organisations formed the Trans Equality Together coalition, led by TENI, Belong To and LGBT Ireland.

Dublin declared itself an LGBTQ+ Freedom Zone and Cork installed two rainbow crossings.

FAMILY

In July, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on International Surrogacy published its report with 32 recommendations, which should facilitate family recognition in the new Assisted Human Reproduction Bill. Civil society, including parents, had been advocating for parenthood recognition

and rights protections and held a protest on the day of the publication. The bill would also extend paid leave rights to LGBTQ+ families. In December, the government approved the recommendations and agreed to legislate for domestic and international surrogacy.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Dublin Pride was attended by over 50,000 people. Three people were attacked after the march in what was assumed to be a transphobic hate crime and were hospitalised. Many other Pride events were held across the country.

Over 2,000 people participated in the Trans and Intersex Pride in Dublin in July.

A large crowd turned out to support the first pride parade in the small town of Inishowen in County Donegal.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

A Drag Storytime event in Mayo in July was targeted by far-right activists who gathered outside the bookstore and threatened participants.

HEALTH

The report on Traveller and Roma LGBTI+ people found that a third have attempted and two-thirds have considered suicide.

A new study found that mental health services are not fully inclusive of LGBTQI+ people.

New resources were launched about LBQ sexual health.

The number of new HIV infections doubled compared to the previous year. Civil society highlighted the negative impact of COVID-19 restrictions on gay and bisexual men's health.

Monkeypox vaccination centres opened across the country in October.

Free STI home tests are now available nationwide.

The crisis in gender-affirming healthcare provision



continued, with youth being the worst impacted. There remains no clinic to which young trans people can be referred - the Child and Adolescent service is closed and waiting times are indefinite. In October, Ireland ranked last among EU countries on trans-specific healthcare provision.

The new blood donation rules focus on risky behaviour, removing the discriminatory deferral period that had excluded men who have sex with men.

HOUSING

LGBT Ireland and the National Traveller and Roma Action Group's report highlighted that 40% of LGBTI+ Travellers have experienced homelessness.

The new Youth Homelessness strategy calls for emergency accommodation for LGBTI+ youth; training for service providers; and privacy and safety strategies for young LGBTI+ people using emergency accommodation.

INTERSECTIONALITY

The Gay Project's 'Crossroads Report' affirmed that GBTQ+ people of colour face multiple and intersectional discrimination and violence in all areas of life.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Cork's City Council Library launched a phone line to ensure that trans and gender-diverse people's names and gender markers are correctly recorded on their library IDs, regardless of LGR.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Rugby player Nick McCarthy, supported by his team, came out as gay.

The Irish Rugby Football Union announced that trans women could no longer compete in women's contact rugby.

PUBLIC OPINION

The National LGBT Federation's public opinion study found high rates of acceptance towards LGBTQI people, with cisgender gay men being the most (89%) and non-binary people being the least (65%) accepted.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Amnesty International's report, based on 30 interviews, affirmed criminalisation's detrimental impact on sex workers.

State funding will be available for IVF treatments by 2023.

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