



# PORTUGAL

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In June, an artist performing at the Lisbon Festivities made homophobic remarks. He was immediately warned, and later issued a public apology, donating his payment to ILGA Portugal.

A professor at the University of Aveiro posted on his social media page in July that the LGBTQ+ community consists of “terrorist organisations” and called for an “inquisition to clean up this human garbage”. The university launched a disciplinary process against the professor and suspended him. He later stated, “I am certainly homophobic”.

A video of homophobic harassment on a train made news this year after several celebrities condemned the incident.

Numerous anti-gender and anti-trans articles were published in response to the TV channel Fox Life’s nationwide awareness-raising campaign ‘abclgbtqia+’.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Between January and early December this year, ILGA Portugal received a total of 830 requests for contact or immediate support in cases of violence at home, loss of income, and evictions. Of these, 268 came from people who reached out for the first time. 220 cases of domestic violence and assault were reported this year, of which 71 were cases of gender-based violence.

In June, the window of the LGBTI+ Community Centre, run by ILGA Portugal, was vandalised.

A young lesbian couple, aged 19 and 16, was abducted for over six hours and raped in Lisboa. The perpetrator was arrested and awaits trial.

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies published a booklet featuring life stories from LGBTI victims of domestic violence.

NGO Plano i published a collection of good practices on supporting LGBTI victims of domestic violence.

NGO Quebrar o Silêncio launched a guide to support MSM victims of abuse.

## BODILY INTEGRITY

The Left Bloc (BE) party presented a draft amendment to the Penal Code that would ban ‘conversion therapies’ and punish their solicitation or management with three to ten years in prison.

Civil society called for a monitoring mechanism to ensure non-consensual surgeries on intersex children are effectively banned; training for health professionals; and intersex healthcare guidelines.

## EDUCATION

A study by the University of Porto affirmed that school continues to be unsafe for many LGBTQ students, who experience disproportionate rates of bullying offline and online. Over a third of anti-LGBTQ bullying took place in classrooms and almost half of the victims thought that school interventions were ineffective. Almost half of trans and non-binary students reported feeling unsafe using changing rooms and bathrooms and almost half said teachers refused to respect their chosen name.

In December, The National Council of Ethics for Life Sciences (CNECV) presented its opinion regarding the PS and BE draft proposals to regulate self-determination issues in schools. The Council encouraged parliament to adopt a wider education anti-discrimination and anti-bullying law, advocate for mandatory gender-neutral toilets and locking rooms, increase training and awareness-raising, and inclusive policies.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The LGBTI+ plan expired in 2021 and despite a public consultation, no new action plan was proposed or adopted.

2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Portugal, which was celebrated with numerous public events.

Civil society continued to lobby for the inclusion of gender identity in the Constitution, and for the government to ensure that trans and gender-diverse people are effectively protected under the Labour Code and the Penal Code.

In November, after a legislative process initiated by the extreme-right wing party, proposals for a Constitutional revision were submitted, with political parties amending the equality principle to, namely, include gender (BE, PAN), gender identity (LIVRE, PS), gender expression and sex characteristics (LIVRE).

Funchal, the capital of Madeira, raised the rainbow flag at the city council on the occasion of IDAHOBIT in May.

## FAMILY

In September, AMPLOS - Parents of LGBTI+ persons held an international conference about challenges faced by trans and gender-diverse youth. AMPLOS launched a campaign about diversity and family support.

## FOREIGN POLICY

The LIVRE, BE and PAN condemned Portugal's representation at the Qatar World Cup.

ILGA Portugal co-launched the "Pride Stands" campaign enabling Pride visuals for online users.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The Madeira branches of Opus Gay and rede ex-aequo opened the second LGBTI+ community centre of the country, in Funchal.

Arraial Lisbon Pride was held in person this year, with an estimated 100.000 participants.

First LGBTI+ marches were held in Covilhã, Sintra, Caldas da Rainha, Vila Nova de Famalicão, Esposende and Vizela. After a ten year gap, Azores also held a march.

Lisbon will host EuroPride in 2025.

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

A group for LGBT+ Catholics, Sopro, was established this year.

Anémoma, initially a project aiming to promote and protect the health of trans and non-binary persons, was officially recognised as an association in March.

Opus Diversidades celebrated its 25th anniversary.

ILGA-Portugal celebrated the 25th anniversary of the LGBTI+ Community Centre.

## HEALTH

The Institute of Blood and Transplantation held online training courses on the implementation of the new donor criteria, for healthcare workers and the public.

In May, the Secretary of State for Health announced that two new specific health units for trans people would be established, in Lisboa and in the Algarve region.

Plano i published the toolkit 'Interdisciplinary approaches to the health and well-being of LGBTI+ people'.

Civil society warned of the harmfulness of statements linking the monkeypox virus to LGBTI people and called for more vaccines, more information, and more transparency.

GAT launched the, 'I'm HIV+ and Visible' campaign, where for the first time, ten people living with HIV, including LGBTI+ persons, shared their stories.

## INTERSECTIONALITY

In December, the first-ever conference of LGBTI+ deaf persons was held in Lisboa.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Civil society celebrated the fourth anniversary of the 2018 legal gender recognition law, which introduced self-determination. Civil society continued to lobby for the law to extend to minors, on the basis of self-determination, residents without citizenship, and non-binary persons.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The Guide "Open to Everyone" directed at public libraries, received an honorary mention of the Maria José Moura Award for best practices in municipal libraries.

The Porto City Council decided to name a street after



Gisberta Salce Junior.

For the first time, the Portuguese-French cross-cultural programme included specific LGBTI+ activities, including exhibitions and screenings.

The Municipality of Porto gave a gold merit medal to LGBTI+ activist, João Paulo.

## **POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

ILGA Portugal continued participating in trainings on diversity and inclusion for the Criminal Police and the National Republican Guard.

An investigative journalism piece on extremism within the police identified closed online social groups where almost 600 members of the Police and the National Republican Guard expressed misogynist, xenophobic and homophobic views. Parliamentary hearings were held and a formal investigation was launched.

The Directorate-General for Reintegration and Prison Services adopted a regulation to protect trans inmates and end discrimination. The guidelines are not public and in October there was a news report that the prison guards of Tires (female facility) had refused to do the mandatory initial search of a trans detainee upon her arrival at the prison.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

The Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security and other key stakeholders agreed to open a temporary emergency shelter for LGBTI+ persons.

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