



SLOVENIA

ASYLUM

Civil society organised support for LGBT people fleeing Ukraine.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Legebitra documented five cases of bias-motivated speech in 2022.

MP Boštjan Koražija from the Left called NSi's political poster "gay", but given that he is also gay, was excused by his party.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

A number of Pride posters were vandalised in the weeks leading to the festival in June.

Legebitra documented four hate crimes and two cases of vandalism.

In November, the government presented an amendment to the Penal Code which would increase sanctions on hate crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation and a number of other non-GIGESC grounds.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The ruling party SDS, led by far-right Janez Janša, which had waged a crackdown on civil society, was defeated in the April parliamentary elections. The new government is led by the Freedom Movement and has significantly increased communication with civil society.

FAMILY

Seven years after the failed referendum, the Constitutional Court legalised same-sex marriage on 8 July. In a second judgement, the Court also ruled that married couples, regardless of their gender, can adopt. The first marriages were concluded in August, some administered by Ljubljana's mayor.

"This does not diminish the importance of traditional marriage as a union of a man and a woman, nor does it change conditions under which persons of the opposite sex can marry. All it means is that same-sex partners can now marry just like heterosexual partners can".

- Constitutional Court

The Slovenian Bishops Conference criticised the judgement.

On 4 October, parliament adopted the necessary legal changes, making Slovenia the first country in the former socialist bloc to have marriage equality in place.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Ljubljana Pride was held on 11 June without any incidents and was joined by the capital's mayor. Simon Maljevac

HEALTH

The interdisciplinary group on trans healthcare, set up by the Ministry of Health and the University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana in 2020, only met once this year and continued to fail to communicate with civil society or the National Institute of Public Health.

Civil society continued advocating for the depathologisation of trans identities, training for healthcare professionals, and guidelines on trans healthcare. In October, the National Institute of Public Health stated that they support the implementation of ICD-11.

In November, TransAkcija published a public statement which is a call for depathologization addressed to the Ministry of Health alongside organising the central annual trans event in Slovenia, TransMisija, under the same theme. The event consisted of a trans artist action and round table with trans community members and a representative of the Ombudsman for Equality as speakers. The action was widely covered by the media.

TransAkcija published an online handbook on medical and social transitioning in Slovenia. TransAkcija also launched a binder exchange program in January, where trans people can more easily access and also donate binders.

Accessing medications became more difficult this year and this has impacted Nebido access as well - the hormones need to be picked up at GPs, instead of simply at pharmacies.

The blood donation deferral period was lifted this year and as of 1 July, men who have sex with men will be assessed in terms of risky behaviours, on an equal basis with others.

PrEP is now freely available for men who have sex with men and trans people.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Civil society continued to advocate for a smoother legal gender recognition process, but no major developments took place in this area this year. The working group on LGR finalised its analysis of the legal situation and it is now the Ministry of Interior's task to continue the process.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The children's book, 'My Rainbow Family' was published in Slovenian and an LGBTQ+ colouring book was released.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Legebitra concluded its cooperation with the police on hate crime training this year and the establishment of LGBTI liaison officers. Legebitra reported that the training was successful and hopes that leadership within the police will maintain and strengthen its commitment to the program.

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