

IRELAND

ASYLUM

LGBT Ireland's [report](#), commissioned by the government, [affirmed](#) Direct Provision centres continue to fail protecting LGBTQ+ asylum seekers from violence and harassment.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Transphobic speech remained a serious issue. Anti-trans speaker Posie Parker was [met](#) with hundreds of trans people and allies protesting against her transphobic and misogynistic rhetoric. The pro-trans rally greatly outnumbered Parker's crowd.

A cancer foundation [received](#) transphobic backlash after publishing a trans-inclusive article saying that prostate cancer also affects people who are not men.

Singer Róisín Murphy [published](#) a post against puberty blockers in August, followed by significant backlash. Murphy's label [announced](#) it would donate proceeds of her next album to trans charities.

Several politicians [reported](#) threats and harassment due to [being](#) LGBTQ+ or because of their support for LGBTQ+ people and migrants.

Far-right anti-government protests were [held](#) in the autumn, featuring transphobic and anti-migrant messages and criticising the hate crime bill.

A civil society campaign #StrongerTogether was [launched](#) to strengthen collaboration between different groups who are targets of far-right organisers.

LGBTQI+ young people continued to face toxic comments, abuse, and online harassment. [BelongTo's](#) study, released in March, [found](#) that a staggering 87% of young LGBTQ+ people have experienced hate and harassment online. Several drag performers were targets of transphobic online harassment (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

Dozens of civil society groups [addressed](#) Taoiseach (ed: Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar to stop enabling hate on social media sites and ensure that the Irish Data Protection Commission enforces European privacy regulations.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Hate crimes against LGBTQI+ people continued to be a serious issue (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). The

police's annual hate crime statistics [found](#) a 29% increase in reported hate crimes and related incidents in 2022, of which 22% was based on sexual orientation - the [second highest rate](#) following hate crimes based on race. Several victims were minors. In May, a brutal attack against a 14-year-old gay student was filmed and went viral on social media and [shocked](#) the country. Three minors were [arrested](#). The Taoiseach [condemned](#) the attack.

Protests and vigils were [held](#) in several cities against transphobic hate crimes after a trans teenager was killed in broad daylight in England.

The [new hate crime bill](#) passed at the Dáil, the Parliament's lower house, and it is currently before the Seanad, [third stage](#). One of the reasons of the delay is disagreements on the definition of gender. The bill recognises anti-LGBTI violence as aggravated offences. Civil society [continued](#) urging lawmakers to pass the bill.

The perpetrator in the two homophobic murders in 2022 [pleaded](#) guilty in July and was handed two life sentences, plus another 20 years for assault on another gay man.

On November 23, violent far-right riots [broke out](#) in Dublin following a knife attack that left five injured including three children. The events, spurred by online disinformation and filled with anti-immigration chants, were [seen](#) as the worst riot in decades.

In November, results of a [survey](#) carried out by the University of Limerick (UL) and Queen's University Belfast of 2,000 people from either side of the border found that 39% of people think hate crimes have risen a lot over the last five years. More specifically, 69% of respondents said that hate crime is a very serious problem for trans people followed by black people (64%) gay, lesbian, and bi people (60%), and Muslim people (60%).

BODILY INTEGRITY

Trinity College Dublin [published](#) its comprehensive report on ongoing so-called 'conversion practices' in Ireland, commissioned by the government in 2022. In February, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights [urged](#) Ireland to adopt a ban. In June, the Minister for Children and Equality again [promised](#) to pass the ban this year, which was [welcomed](#) by civil society.

No progress was made on banning medically unnecessary and non-consensual surgeries performed on intersex children.

DATA COLLECTION

Civil society continued to [advocate](#) for the 2027 census to include questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

EDUCATION

In January, the first cohort of 34 people joined a new postgraduate programme for post-primary teachers teaching Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and/or Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). In addition, between March and May, over 400 teachers attended a seminar on the new specifications for Junior Cycle SPHE.

In March, the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association [sent](#) letters to two ministries to ask that pupils are not taught about trans issues in primary schools. [Civil society](#), the [Irish National Teachers' Organisation](#) and the government all [condemned](#) the contents of the letter. The President, the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste all [expressed](#) support for informing students about gender diversity. The Minister for Children and Equality [said](#) students should “absolutely” be taught more about trans people and respect for diversity.

Civil society [welcomed](#) that the new Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) junior cycle curriculum, [published](#) by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, [includes](#) LGBTQ+ rights throughout. The primary school curriculum is currently undergoing revision. In September, a Catholic group printed 100,000 leaflets to [invite](#) parents to a meeting against the SPHE curriculum.

Enoch Burke, the teacher who was [put on administrative leave](#) in 2022 for intimidating the then-principal Wilson's Hospital School in County Westmeath by confronting her following a request to address a student who was transitioning by a new name and the pronouns they/them, continued to be fined and [held](#) in custody for refusing to stay away from the school, despite a High Court Order for him to do so. In September Burke was [jailed](#) for repeatedly turning up at the school in breach of the Court order and remained in prison at the end of 2023.

A primary school teacher [penned](#) a letter criticising Cork businesses for supporting Pride.

EMPLOYMENT

The Workplace Relations Commission [ruled](#) for financial compensation to a queer employee who was outed at work in 2021.

In March, a new bill was [passed](#) to ensure trans men who give birth have equal access to leave and benefits.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Several rainbow crossings and steps were installed again this year (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

The government [published](#) a report summarising the issues raised by the 569 submissions to the public consultation of the Review of the Equality Acts. Submissions addressed all the equality grounds, as well as proposed protections for gender identity and more.

Following a working group's [final report](#) on the issue, the government [announced](#) it would introduce a law to exonerate gay and bisexual men who were prosecuted when 'homosexuality' was still illegal. In June, the Government [issued](#) a long-awaited apology.

Trans organisations, groups and peer support initiatives [launched](#) the Trans Groups Alliance Strategic Plan (2023-2027). CSOs also [launched](#) an all Island LGBTQIA+ Forum in April.

FAMILY

In December, the government [approved](#) amendments to the new [Assisted Human Reproduction Bill](#). Civil society [welcomed](#) the decision but expressed concern over the bill still falling short in ensuring adequate protection for rainbow families.

A Private Members Bill, written by LGBT Ireland and Equality for Children and sponsored by the Labour Party, was [tabled](#) in June to ensure that all children born to female same-sex parents are treated equally, for instance by automatic parenthood recognition. The Bill will go to second stage in early 2024.

FOREIGN POLICY

Ireland [joined](#) the European Commission's infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Numerous Pride events and marches were [held](#) across the country. The 40th Dublin Pride was [attended](#) by tens of thousands in July.

A record number of 3,000 people [attended](#) Trans and Intersex Pride in Dublin in July.

[Clare](#), [Letterkenny](#), [Navan](#), and [Athlone](#) held their first Pride events this year.

Pride events in Meath were disrupted by anti-LGBTQ+ protesters.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Several protests took place across the country against LGBTQ-themed books and/or books written by trans authors in public libraries, for instance in Dublin, Cork, among other towns (see here, here, here, here and here). The far-right protesters harassed, intimidated and filmed librarians and called for the removal of the books. The cities' leadership and Ministers condemned the attacks. In July, the Cork library closed due to safety concerns after the protesters hung up a "there are only two genders" sign at the entrance. Kerry's library was stormed during a drag storytime event in July. Solidarity protests were also held (see here, here, and here) throughout the year.

Children's Books Ireland launched a new campaign, Reading Matters, in response to the hateful attacks.

Several young adult books with LGBTQ content have been reclassified by some libraries as adult content.

In December, Dublin City Council passed a motion to support libraries that provide LGBTQ literature and protect them from intimidation by far-right protesters.

HEALTH

Ireland recorded an increase in STI infections, with gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) being disproportionately affected. New monkeypox cases were also recorded among gbMSM in the spring. Several groups co-launched the Proud and Prepared campaign to encourage sexual health and wellbeing in the community.

BelongTo's annual report showed a continued need to support LGBTQ+ youth in a worsening climate of fear. In 2022, youth workers carried out 2,395 support interventions.

HIV Ireland launched a pilot peer-led rapid HIV testing programme to improve trans people's access to the service. In 2022, the number of new HIV infections doubled compared to the previous year. However, only 20% (173 people) were newly diagnosed, representing a 16% decrease compared to 2019. 62% of the new notifications in 2022 corresponded to people previously diagnosed abroad who transferred their care to Ireland.

The crisis in gender-affirming healthcare provision continued, with youth being the worst impacted. Trans groups launched

the 'Transgress the NGS' campaign in the spring, in part to demand that the NGS discourage GPs from supporting trans patients. Several protests were held this year demanding access to trans healthcare. There remains no clinic to which young trans people can be referred - the Child and Adolescent service is closed and waiting times are indefinite.

TENI launched a new training program for general healthcare professionals.

HOUSING

LGBTQ+ people continue to be disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis, with many searching for accommodation on dating sites and targeted by predators. The government announced that 'sex for rent' will be banned by law.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The government made 900,000 EURO in funding available to groups that support community services and promote the inclusion of LGBTI+ people.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

In March, the new Coimisiún na Meán (media commission) was formed. A Gender, Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity Strategy is being developed to bolster the positive portrayal and representation of LGBTI+ identities in the media.

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association approved its first trans applicant this year, implementing new guidelines.

Four runners participated in the Dublin Marathon's non-binary category.

A mural was unveiled in Dublin during Pride week.

The Irish football league carried a large campaign ahead of Pride in support of LGBT Ireland and the National LGBT+ helpline.

This Solution, a documentary-theatre piece about the gay porn industry premiered in October. A theatre piece about an Irish-born trans soldier toured this year.

After backlash in the LGBTQ community, Cork's only queer bar Chambers issued an apology after rebranding itself and removing all Pride-related decor and cancelling drag performances during the first week of the University term.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors called for the withdrawal of the new 'Gender Identity in the Workplace' policy to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all trans staff in the Gardaí, saying officers are not yet trained on GIE issues.

In November, LGBT Ireland along with representatives from Trade Unions and migrant groups, held a meeting with the Garda Commissioner to discuss the policing of far-right activities.

PUBLIC OPINION

A government-commissioned study found that the vast majority of the population accepts LGBTQ people, but trans/non-binary people are supported less than cisgender LGBTQ people.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

State funding was made available for IVF treatments this year, but completely excluding single persons, same-sex couples and other couples who require donor eggs or sperm.

The government said the eligibility criteria would later be expanded.

The government is undertaking a review of the 2018 abortion law, which still bars many from accessing services.



[IRELAND WEB PAGE](#)

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