Access to goods and services

During the Moldova Pride festival in May, organisers tried to rent buses for the Queer tour of Chisinau and the Pride March. Several companies were contacted. Initially, the companies agreed to collaborate, but a few days later they informed the organisers that they had no free buses anymore. The activists presume that the management of the company was not supportive. No complaint was filed.

Bias-motivated speech

One of the biggest challenges with regards to hate speech in Moldova, is posed by so-called satirical news websites, such as the Moldovan Dream. Although the websites explicitly say they are satirical, a large number of readers perceive them as real news. Their articles are often taken over by other media outlets and distributed widely. Their posts have been openly homophobic, inciting hate, and ridiculing political leaders and activists. No one has taken responsibility for the articles.

The Socialist Party (PSDM) continuously promoted hate speech against LGBT people this year. Civil society registered 9 cases where party leaders used hateful remarks. On 8 May, Ion Ceban, candidate for the Chisinau mayorship, said that once elected, he will ban the annual Pride march. On 22 May, President of the Republic of Moldova, Igor Dodon (PSDM) said that as Moldovan society does not accept LGBT people, the march is a provocation for violence. In a previous statement on 12 May, Dodon said that the march should be prevented by all means, because it destroys Moldova’s traditional values. Media outlets belonging to the party also published such content.

The Metropolis of Moldova (bishop), affiliated with the Russian Patriarchate, also made several anti-LGBT remarks this year, mostly during the Pride Festival and the Traditional Family Conference supported by the President.

Equality and non-discrimination

The Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2022, published in May, includes for the first time nondiscrimination on SOGI grounds, and specific measures, such as amending anti-discrimination and hate crime legislation, sensibilisation and capacity building of public officials and general population and data collection.

Freedom of assembly

The 17th LGBTI Moldova Pride Festival took place this year, including the Solidarity March on 19 May in Chisinau. The March was attacked by Orthodox Christian protesters, but the police successfully stopped them by deploying tear gas. Participants of the March were guarded by police escorts, as last year’s event was violently attacked and protection was deemed necessary. Alarming, Moldova’s President Igor Dodon congratulated the counter protesters, similar to last year.

Two days prior to the March, 22 embassies published a joint statement to show their support.

“On the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, we express our support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in the Republic of Moldova.”

Joint statement by 22 embassies in Moldova, 17 May 2018

Participation in public, cultural and political life

Angela Frolov, Lobby and Advocacy Program Coordinator of GENDERDOC-M and openly lesbian activist, is one of the participants of the OptmartSRL weekly TV show airing on the independent TV channel TV8. “OptmartSRL” focuses on problems faced by women. As an out lesbian and LGBT rights advocate, Angela Frolov aims to increase the visibility of LGBT people and has discussed issues of equality, non-discrimination, same-sex relationships, sexual education in schools, and gender equality in her interventions.

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