



Portugal



Despite promises in previous years, parliamentarians abandoned plans to open second-parent adoption to same-sex couples. Left-wing parties pledged to take up family rights again in 2015. NGOs reported numerous cases of hate speech and hate violence, and started providing training to police, health, and social security professionals, as well as staff in the judiciary.

Asylum

- Two individuals who fled Russia were granted refugee status due to their fear of persecution on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Bias-motivated violence

- ILGA Portugal's Observatory on Discrimination published a report in May, covering homophobic and transphobic hate crime in 2013. The NGO recorded 258 cases of bias-motivated speech or violence, including insults and verbal abuse (123 cases), threats and psychological violence (69 cases), and extreme physical violence (37 cases). Victims only reported 4% of these incidents to the national authorities.

Employment

- In October, Members of Parliament from the Socialist Party (PS, Labour/centre-left) submitted a bill to outlaw discrimination on grounds of gender identity in employment. A vote was scheduled for January 2015.

Family

- In January, Parliament voted to submit a draft law on second-parent adoption to a national referendum. The PSD used their majority to force a referendum, despite all other parties opposing it, bar CDS – People's Party (Christian-democratic) who abstained. The referendum was then rejected by the Constitutional Court and in March, the PSD brought the bill back to the parliament's floor, where it was eventually rejected (the governing coalition PSD/CDS-PP voted against it, while all left-wing parties and 15 PSD MPs voted in favour). ILGA Portugal announced it would continue suing Portugal before the European Court of Human Rights to align adoption laws with ECHR jurisprudence.
- In September, the Left Block (BE, socialist/anti-capitalist) announced it would put forward another proposal to allow same-sex couples to adopt. After the proposal was announced for January 2015, the Green Party and the Socialist Party introduced similar proposals, the latter adding a proposal to allow medically assisted

reproduction for single women and lesbian couples. All proposals were scheduled for discussion in 2015.

Police and law enforcement

- ILGA Portugal and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality started to deliver trainings on LGBTI issues for law enforcement agencies, health and social security professionals, and the judiciary. The trainings were carried out under the auspices of the *Fifth National Plan for Gender Equality, Rights and Non-Discrimination* and the *Fifth National Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender Violence*. They were due to continue in 2015.