Bias-motivated speech
In a parliamentary vote on 16 May, MPs voted in favour of protecting trans people against hate speech by adding “transgender identity and expression” in the list of protected grounds. Since the change affects one of the laws forming the Swedish constitution, the newly elected parliament had to vote on it for a second time. The law was successfully adopted on 14 November and entered into force on 1 January 2019.

Bias-motivated violence
On 16 May, the Swedish parliament voted to add “transgender identity and expression” to the list of protected grounds in section 29 of the general Penal Code, giving trans people legal protection against bias-motivated crimes. However, the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights RFSL and RFSL Youth noted that “gender identity and expression” would have been their preferred formulation, as they are more in line with the internationally used terms used for protecting trans people. The law came into force on 1 July.

Bodily integrity
Trans people in Sweden, who were forcibly sterilised between 1972-2013, were given the opportunity to receive paid compensation by the Swedish government, after a parliamentary decision. The government started issuing the payments, equivalent to approximately 22,500 euro per person, on 1 May.

Equality and non-discrimination
On 13 June, the Swedish parliament decided to incorporate the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) into Swedish law. The new law will enter into force on 1 Jan 2020 and hopes are that this might be an opening to end unnecessary surgical and other treatments against intersex children in Sweden.

Family
On June 13, the Swedish parliament voted in favour of a series of changes in the law on assisted reproduction. The law now allows embryo donation, i.e. fertilisation can be carried out outside the body with donated germ cells only. It also clarifies that regulations about parenthood after assisted reproductive treatment abroad are the same for same-sex and different-sex couples, including automatic second-parent recognition. If the reproductive treatment was carried out at an authorised clinic abroad, with sperm from a known donor, who can be contacted by the child in adulthood, parenthood can be established through confirmation. The new law entered into force on 1 January 2019.

However, the law introduced a discriminatory provision for parents who have changed their legal gender. A man, who has previously changed his legal gender to male, will not be automatically recognised as the father of the child, whereas a cis man would be.

On 13 June, the Swedish parliament also changed the rules for adoption, including second parent adoption, making it available for cohabiting partners, including same-sex cohabiting couples, not only married couples. The new rules came into effect on 1 September.

Freedom of assembly
Due to the increased activity of the violent neo-Nazi group Nordiska Motståndsrörelsen (NMR), several political parties took a stand in favour of changing the law to prohibit Nazi organising. The police allowed NMR to hold rallies in Visby during the politician’s week in July, a major annual political event. The rallies took place on a square directly connected to premises where RFSL was holding a week-long programme. For safety reasons RFSL Youth cancelled its participation. RFSL had to hire security guards for safety reasons. NMR activist in Visby assaulted several people during the week, and a number of police complaints against them have been filed. There were also violent incidents during the diversity parade that RFSL organised on 5 July.

Health
In 2018, PrEP was made available in most Swedish counties for men who have sex with men (MSM).

Participation in public, cultural and political life
This year’s EuroPride was held in Stockholm (27 July - 5 August) and Gothenburg (14-19 August). The Stockholm parade on 4 August gathered 60,000 participants and half a million spectators. Party leaders from six parties in Parliament, among them Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, participated. The day before
the march, RFSL hosted a debate with all party leaders about LGBTQ issues, ahead of the fall elections. In Gothenburg, the EuroPride parade on August 18 gathered 25,000 participants.

**Police and law enforcement**

On 7 June, the Swedish Supreme Court issued a judgment concerning HIV exposure. A man living with HIV was sued for causing danger to another person by having unprotected sex with another man. The person had an undetectable viral load due to treatment and HIV was not transmitted. The court dismissed the lawsuit on the grounds that there is no risk for transmission from a person with well-functioning treatment and an undetectable viral load. To convict a person of “causing danger to another person”, an actual risk for HIV transmission needs to be proven. Historically, Sweden has been one of the countries with most convictions for HIV exposure and transmission per capita.

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