

## &gt;THEMES

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS****BELGIUM**

A number of trans people won disputes after they were denied reimbursement for gynaecological exams. The refusals were allegedly due to patients' legal gender, despite regulations not restricting access on this basis. The Royal Resolution on cost coverage for contraceptives and the morning after pill exclude those who do not have the legal gender 'female'. The Ministry of Health requested the regulation to be modified.

To better inform trans people who wish to have children about their options, the Transgender Infopunt collaborated with fertility centres, the Flemish centre for adoption, and Foster Care Flanders, who added and spotlighted information for trans people [on their website](#).

**CZECHIA**

Civil society remained concerned about the future implications of the growing power of anti-choice organisations and the failure of the government to condemn the events in Poland. Incoming Prime Minister Petr Fiala [praised](#) former US President Donald Trump's fight against abortion.

**FINLAND**

Civil society [called on](#) the government to regulate surrogacy, which is an increasing demand by same-sex couples in Finland. Civil society also shared [guidelines](#) on the issue. In September, the Family Federation of Finland also published a [statement](#) in favour of making surrogacy accessible in a non-discriminatory way also to single women and men and same-sex couples.

**FRANCE**

On 25 April, the first lesbian demonstration [took place](#) in Paris, demanding medically assisted reproduction for all, including lesbians and single women.

On 30 June, the parliament [voted](#) to extend cost coverage for in vitro fertilisation to lesbians and single women, but only mentioning 'women' explicitly, [excluding](#) many trans and intersex people. The law also maintains stepchild adoption for same-sex couples, which is not a requirement for heterosexual couples who use donor gametes. The legislative process was [delayed again](#).

The European Court of Human Rights will [examine over](#) 250 sex workers' joint application about France's [2016 law](#),

which criminalises clients and has [made](#) sex workers more vulnerable.

**GERMANY**

The Free Democratic Party [presented](#) a position paper on the approval of non-commercial surrogacy and egg donation.

As of this year, same-sex couples in Berlin and Rhineland-Palatinate are [able](#) to apply for partial cost coverage for medically assisted reproduction. Civil society would like to see federal rules in place that allow all couples to be reimbursed and not just married heterosexual couples with a medical condition.

**IRELAND**

The government [announced](#) a list of almost 50 legislative priorities, including on assisted reproduction.

**ITALY**

In April, a [bill](#) for the regulation of surrogacy was filed in parliament. The [bill](#) was drafted by numerous jurists and associations for civil rights and reproductive health. Should the other two bills aiming at making surrogacy a crime, even if carried out abroad, start being discussed, this [bill](#) should be discussed too.

**KYRGYZSTAN**

KI continued its outreach and training work on sexual and reproductive rights, including by publishing a [video](#) in partnership with a known blogger, reaching over 260.000 people. KI held three gatherings for people living with HIV, including for people from Central Asia and one for women.

**MALTA**

Leading regional and national NGOs [expressed](#) support for Malta's plans to decriminalise sex work, which was first [announced](#) in 2020. The government has faced criticism from a number of NGOs in Malta who do not agree with the plan.

In October, the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner [called on](#) Malta to stop criminalising abortion.

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

Medical abortion (not surgical) is now [available](#) in Skopje.

## NORWAY

It is unclear whether under the new trans healthcare guidelines (see under **Health**) a trans man with the legal gender of 'man', or non-binary people, would be able to have their gametes frozen, or access IUI or IVF. Practice is that the preservation of gametes is allowed for trans women, but not trans men.

## POLAND

The death of a pregnant woman, whose foetus had numerous defects but was denied abortion, inspired a new wave of protests demanding reproductive rights.

The 'Stop Abortion' bill, which would have equated abortion with murder, was rejected by parliament.

## SAN MARINO

On 26 September, San Marino's referendum on abortion resulted in 77% of voters supporting legalisation. Minister of Interior Elena Tonnini called on the parliament to amend the relevant laws. On 11 October, the government requested three Secretaries of State (Interior Affairs, Justice, and Welfare) to prepare the necessary legal changes.

## SERBIA

The Ministry of Health amended the Rulebook on criteria and conditions for donating gametes or embryos, which now allows for LGBTI people to be donors.

## SPAIN

In November, the Health Ministry extended access to IVF treatments for single, lesbian and bisexual women and trans people.

## UNITED KINGDOM

Although abortions were legalised in Northern Ireland in 2020, services remain inaccessible. The Department of Health has failed to issue any guidance to health and social care trusts on the provision of abortion services, including when and in what circumstances medical staff may exercise their freedom of conscience when delivering a service.

Westminster issued a formal direction in July to the Department of Health to set up full abortion services by no

later than March 2022. The current First Minister Paul Givan MA tried to introduce a bill to prevent abortions in NI in cases of non-fatal disabilities, but this fell after a close vote in December.