



NORTH MACEDONIA

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In July, the Summer School, designed to foster friendships, support, and understanding between LGBTI youth and their straight/cisgender peers, faced intense backlash shortly after its call for participants was posted in early June. The backlash included hate speech, death threats, and calls for violence against the organisers and participants. Among those leading the backlash were Ljupco Ristevski, leader of the political party "Integra," and Gordana Godzo, a public figure. In response, Ekvallis, the organisation behind the event, filed a criminal complaint against Ristevski, Godzo, and others for spreading racist and xenophobic material, as well as for endangering public security.

DATA COLLECTION

In May, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released an LGBTIQ survey revealing that despite minor improvements, significant issues persist regarding LGBTI rights in North Macedonia. Notably, the report highlighted that only 21% of LGBTI people in the country are open about their identity, while 39% of respondents reported experiences of discrimination in various areas of their lives.



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