

ALBANIA

Amidst public consultations for a new draft law on sexual and reproductive health, the Pro-Family and Pro-Life Coalition launched a [disinformation campaign](#) against the LGBTI community. The Coalition falsely claimed that surrogacy provisions are part of an agenda to infiltrate Albanian families. Members asserted that the “aggressive gay agenda” aims to take babies from mothers and give them to trans men, accusing the LGBTI community of “playing with the blood of Albanian babies.”

On May 21st, Albania’s “Alliance Against Hate Speech,” issued a [statement](#) expressing concern over the recent surge in hate speech targeting the LGBTI community and human rights defenders. The statement noted that social and media platforms were rife with offensive language, derogatory comparisons and threats, affecting not only the IDAHOT 2024 campaign but also unrelated events. The Alliance underscored that respecting the rights of any community does not undermine the rights of others and urged responsible institutions to address hate speech, especially when propagated by public figures or those in positions of power, as it can cause significant harm.

On May 23, the Pro-Family and Life Coalition organised the “Manifesto of Life” rally following a [symbolic marriage ceremony of two women](#) at the Tirana Municipality. At the rally, the coalition began collecting signatures for a ‘Pro-Family’ petition. Participants falsely claimed that the LGBTI community aims to depopulate the country and impose hormone replacement therapies on children. The coalition filed a criminal complaint against the mayor of Tirana, seeking to open a criminal investigation. They [accused](#) him of abuse of duty, alleging that he had used his position to improperly promote the LGBTI agenda.

Aleanca LGBT has taken [proactive measures](#) against hate speech spearheaded by the anti-LGBTI movement by lodging a series of seven complaints for incitement of hatred before the Prosecutorial Services of Tirana and one discrimination and hate speech complaint before the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.

In October, the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) [reported](#) the worsening of prejudice against LGBTI people due to the rise of discriminatory comments from politicians in Albania. BIRN reported that Adriatik Lapaj, leader of the minor Shqipëria Behet party, reignited a public debate on same-sex marriage and adoption by posting discriminatory comments on Facebook in early October.

ANDORRA

Hate speech, especially against trans people, remains a concerning issue in Andorra, with governmental bodies often contributing to or spreading bias-motivated speech.

The Comú (city hall) of Escaldes-Engordany, invited the Spanish journalist [Maricel Chavarria](#) to a [conference](#), qualifying her as an expert in inclusive language and feminism. Nonetheless, Chavarria aligns herself with trans exclusionary radical feminism perspectives, as indicated by [interviews](#) she gave to several [newspapers](#) and a [video](#) uploaded on the official Escaldes-Engordany’s YouTube channel. The City Council of Escaldes-Engordany responded to [concerns raised by Diversand](#) LGBTI association by stating that Chavarria’s views were personal opinions and did not constitute hate speech. The Area of Equality Policies opened a discussion about the conference, but it clarified that it has no jurisdiction over the actions of Escaldes-Engordany’s city hall, as the decision was within the municipality’s autonomy.

ARMENIA

In alignment with the ongoing trend observed in recent years, in 2024, the LGBTI community was subjected to political manipulation by the opposition to the the Government. The discourse centred [around proposed constitutional changes](#). Another instance of discriminatory rhetoric transpired in Parliament during [discussions](#) regarding [amendments](#) to the law against domestic violence, specifically concerning the definition of the term “partner.”

Another surge of hate speech focused on Diana Ghzroyan, who represented Armenia at the “Miss Trans Star International 2024” beauty contest. Her participation incited a [wave](#) of derogatory and degrading remarks, which included threats and incitements to violence and discrimination based on her gender identity. Vahe Yeghiazaryan, who had attacked a trans woman during a livestream two years prior, directed explicit threats toward Ghzroyan and, in the aftermath of the murder of Georgian trans activist Kesaria Abramidze, certain offenders have made comments suggesting that Ghzroyan could be the next target. Despite the serious nature of these threats and the condemnations issued by non-governmental organisations, no criminal investigations have been initiated to examine the criminal elements of these messages or to hold the offenders accountable.

AUSTRIA

In May, Manfred Haimbuchner, the leader of the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) in Upper Austria, made remarks about gender diverse people as part of his opening speech at a 5,000-people party event. Haimbuchner mocked gender-diverse people and implied they do not belong in politics.

In September, the Freedom Party (FPÖ) won the parliamentary elections with 28.8% of the vote, making it the largest party for the first time. Led by Herbert Kickl, the FPÖ is staunchly

opposed to what it terms the “transgender brainwashing” of society and seeks to stop taxpayer funding for what it calls “queer experiments”. Prior to the election, representatives of the party expressed a clear willingness to promote legislation enshrining a binary understanding of gender in the country’s constitution.

Three Austrian soccer players have been removed from the national team due to their participation in an anti-gay chanting incident. The incident, reported by Outsports, showed the players and staff chanting derogatory remarks that translate to “we are not little ass-loving violets.”

AZERBAIJAN

In March, following a yearly Women’s Day march where protesters requested effective access to trans healthcare, the government-affiliated Real TV channel aired a [report](#) targeting LGBTI people with discriminatory hate speech.

BELARUS

The state-run Belarusian television channel [aired](#) an episode of the youth talk show ‘Yes, But’ which discussed potential punishments for non-normative sexual orientations and gender identities. The program equated LGBTI identities with paedophilia and labelled LGBTI community practices and identities as “a weapon in the hands of the West and the United States” and “a danger to Belarusian statehood.”

Belarusian state media is often characterised by the presence of incorrect and offensive language, as well as hate speech, with half of public communications in 2023 containing harmful language and signs of discrimination towards minorities like LGBTI people. An increase in the use of hate speech in state propaganda against the LGBTI community has been recorded by TG House in Belarus in 2024. State media often portrayed LGBTI people as criminals or a threat to traditional values, using discriminatory language, reinforcing stereotypes, and justifying repressive laws and actions against LGBTI people and organisations.

BELGIUM

In April, a coalition of human rights organisations issued an open letter urging the [revision](#) of Article 150 of the Constitution. Article 150 of the Belgian Constitution notably governs the prosecution of “press offenses,” requiring that such cases be judged by a jury in a “court of assizes”, with the exception of cases of hate speech based on racism and xenophobia, which are handled directly by criminal courts. The proposal of the coalition aims to broaden the scope of the law by including LGBTI-phobic hate speech in the list of press crimes prosecutable by criminal courts, thereby subjecting it to the same legal framework that governs racist and xenophobic speech.

Leading up to the national and regional elections in June, Vlaams Belang, a political party in Belgium, actively promoted anti-LGBTI rhetoric through hate speech and bias-motivated discourse. Party chairman Tom Van Grieken [remarked](#) that “LGBT rights are acquired rights” and stated that “Vlaams Belang does not believe that there are genders”. Van Grieken further [justified](#) ridiculing people for expressing their gender identity and asserted that proposals for legislative changes to gender markers in official documents should not be part of governmental discussions. In their program, Vlaams Belang articulated their opposition to what they termed “gender madness” in early education, specifically targeting toddler, primary, and secondary schools. In their 2023 [brochure](#) titled *Cultuurstrijd* (Culture Battle), they described the teaching of gender theories as “confusing, dangerous, and pedagogically irresponsible.”

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Throughout the year, 11 cases of hate speech based on SOGIESC were documented by the Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC). Out of these, four were related to pre-election hate speech that targeted the LGBTI community. One of the most notable cases involved the Central Election Commission [fining](#) Milorad Dodik, the President of the Republika Srpska (RS), for hate speech directed against the LGBTI community.

BULGARIA

The Bulgarian musician and performer, Mila Robert was subjected to [online harassment and death threats](#) after her performance at the Sofia Pride 2024 concert, during which she removed her dress in the colours of the Bulgarian flag to reveal another dress with a rainbow flag.

Following Single Step’s campaign for data collection on the experiences of LGBTI high school students, the organisation has been a [target of focused attacks](#), which led to several institutional checks against the foundation. Kostadin Kostadinov, leader of Vazrazhdane (Revival) party, threatened to revoke the foundation’s licence to work with minors.

The Administrative Court of Sofia [ruled](#) that the statements made by the VMRO Party against the LGBTI community after the movie ‘Snake’ was shown at the Sofia Pride Film Fest in 2021 constituted hate speech and discrimination.

CROATIA

In 2024, attacks by the anti-gender movement and the spread of disinformation continue to escalate. The public sphere is saturated with actors promoting false information, further fueling hostility.

A [recent example](#) involves Croatian politician Pavle Kalinić, who presented inaccurate data regarding the number of minors

starting the transition process, contributing to the ongoing dissemination of misleading narratives.

In November, a session titled "[Gender Ideology in Croatia and its Consequences: Myth or Reality](#)" was held in the Croatian Parliament, moderated by MP Igor Peternel from the Home and National Gathering (DOMINO) party. Panelists included Prof. Dr. Marina Katinić Pleić, Prof. Dr. Zorana Kušević, Dr. Herman Vukušić, and Darko Pavičić, speakers who have been actively spreading misinformation and harming the trans community. No representatives of LGBTI human rights organisations were invited to speak. The session was [live streamed via YouTube](#).

CYPRUS

In May, on the occasion of a televised political debate, Elam leader, Christos Christou [insinuated](#) that Diko leader Nicholas Papadopoulos might engage with LGBTI 'parties' with the objective of discrediting his opponent's stance.

Accept-LGBTI+ [documented](#) the case of a trans woman in Famagusta who allegedly endured persistent physical and verbal assaults. The perpetrators spray-painted threatening graffiti targeting her identity outside of her home.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Widespread online hate speech continued not to be effectively investigated.

CZECHIA

Numerous instances of bias-motivated speech continued to be recorded across public debate. For instance, the SPD party circulated [leaflets](#) to mailboxes prior to elections in which the party promised to "give more to families, take it away from the deviants" by taking away money from "LGBT activists so that they do not destroy family values".

After the Constitutional Court's decision to repeal a regulation that required a surgical procedure as a prerequisite for legal gender recognition (see also under Legal Gender Recognition), some politicians published transphobic statements. Among them was the Minister of Justice, who claimed that his goal is "to prevent men from giving birth". Following the Constitutional Court's decision and the subsequent debate about legal gender recognition two round tables were organised in June and October by organisations and politicians.

DENMARK

During Copenhagen Pride week, former minister of equality Marie Bjerre from the Venstre Party published an opinion piece in a major Danish newspaper which presented trans and intersex people as posing a threat to the achievement of gender equality

in the country. As part of the publication, Bjerre misrepresented trans and intersex people, in stark contrast with Danish governmental policies on LGBTI topics. Soon after the publication the Government reorganised its internal roles, leading to Bjerre's reassignment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and allowing her to avoid the need to respond to public criticism by LGBTI organisations.

FRANCE

In April, YouTuber Papacito was [sentenced](#) to a fine of €5,000 for homophobic insults and incitement to violence against a mayor of a small village in the South-West of France, who had to be placed under police protection.

In April, following the birth of twins to Simon Porte Jacquemus and his husband Marco Maestri, Marion Maréchal, MEP for Reconquête!, [challenged](#) the legitimacy of the two fathers' parenthood in a tweet.

In May, trans actress Karla Sofia Gascon [filed a complaint](#) for "sexist insult based on gender identity" after Marion Maréchal, the leading European elections candidate for Reconquête!, [criticised](#) her win at the Cannes festival, claiming the institution awarded the Best Actress prize to "a man."

In June, [a complaint](#) against Father Matthieu Raffray, accusing him of incitement to homophobic hatred and insults, was dismissed without further action. The complaint followed a video where he referred to homosexuality as a "vice" and advocated for conversion therapy.

In June, following a 2020 complaint by the associations STOP Homophobie and Mousse, the Paris Criminal Court fined Florence Besset, the editor of the online newspaper Parole de Dieu, 1000 and the payment of compensation following the newspaper's publication of an article that included biblical statements advocating the death penalty for gay people.

In July, a municipal police officer was [convicted](#) of homophobic contempt by the Dijon criminal court for a 2023 incident involving the openly gay mayor of Auxonne. During a building inspection following water damage, the officer greeted the accompanying experts with "hello gentlemen," but then intentionally addressed the mayor with a derogatory "hello ma'am."

In September, French far-right politician Éric Zemmour [faced](#) criminal charges for inciting LGBTI-phobic hatred.

In October, the president of the LGBTI association 'Bleus et Fiers' [came under threats](#) after he spoke out against homophobic chants that took place during a football match in Paris. Following

these incidents, the French Minister for Sports outlined tougher measures against homophobic behaviour during sports games.

In November, boxer Imane Khelif, who had been the target of a hate campaign and discrimination regarding her gender identity, filed a complaint following the leak of her alleged medical reports. The controversy surrounding Khelif began during the Paris Olympics, when conservative groups raised questions about her gender. (See also under Participation in Public, Cultural, and Political Life.)

GEORGIA

The spread of misinformation and rhetoric demonising the LGBTI community and instrumentalisation of anti-LGBT propaganda to distance Georgia from the West continued this year. Anti-gender rhetoric also increased this year. In a keynote speech at the ultra-conservative CPAC conference, Irakli Kobakhidze compared liberals to Bolsheviks and said liberals fight Christianity and national identity with “LGBT propaganda”. His speech was full of homophobic and transphobic narratives that liberals are against using terms such as “mother” and “father”, or “man” and “woman”.

The Georgian Elections Observatory (GEO), focusing on fact-checking pre-election narratives, analysed statements made by high-ranking members of the ruling Georgian Dream party. The analysis revealed that ‘LGBT propaganda’ was framed as being imposed by Western influences and was linked to the perceived threat of national extinction.

In March, the Charter of Journalistic Ethics investigated anti-LGBTI content aired by a national TV channel. The Charter determined that the network violated multiple ethical principles of journalistic ethics by broadcasting biased and one-sided ‘expert’ opinions to support the government’s stance on LGBTI issues.

GERMANY

In December, the sedition trial against a preacher from the “Baptistenkirche Zuverlässiges Wort Pforzheim” (BKZW) group moved to the next stage at the regional court, with the accused appealing the judgment of the Pforzheim District Court. In June 2023, the preacher had made controversial statements during a sermon, which was also shared online, claiming that LGBTI people should be “destroyed by the state” and that they were dangerous. These statements were deemed an attack on human dignity by the Pforzheim District Court, which imposed a fine of 150 daily rates at 40 euros each, resulting in a criminal record for the 32-year-old preacher.

HUNGARY

In April, the organisation Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom

(HVIM, Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement) made a complaint at the school district about a school psychologist, who is also an organiser of the Budapest Pride, arguing that she should not work with children because she is an LGBTI activist. The school district initiated an investigation and asked the teacher to refrain from her civil society engagement. This process eventually led to the termination of the employment contract by the employee. In addition, HVIM published several videos unlawfully releasing her personal data to the public. Legal proceedings are pending, aimed at holding HVIM accountable for the unlawful release of personal data and the resulting harm.

PM Orbán delivered a speech at the European Parliament on the priorities of the Hungarian presidency in which he claimed “Illegal migration has led to increasing anti-semitism, violence against women and homophobia”.

ICELAND

The chairman of the Northwest District of the political party Lýðræðisflokkurinn (Democratic Party), Eldur S. Kristinsson, is facing a legal complaint for hate speech over comments made between 2022 and 2024. These remarks included a series of inflammatory and derogatory statements targeting the LGBTI community, such as accusations that LGBTI people groom children, labeling trans women as pedophiles, and promoting harmful rhetoric against LGBTI rights.

IRELAND

In June, LGBT Ireland reported a significant increase in threatening and abusive calls, observing a rise in LGBTI-phobic threats and discriminatory prank calls.

In September, Irish Minister for Justice Helen McEntee announced that the government would remove the “incitement to violence and hatred” component of the Criminal Justice Bill due to a lack of cross-party consensus on the scope of the bill. Having successfully passed its final stage in the Dáil in April 2023, the bill encountered some setbacks as some supporters, including members of Sinn Féin, have reconsidered their initial stance, citing concerns over potential infringements on freedom of expression. In late October, the Dáil passed the amended bill with a majority vote of 78 to 52, clearing the way for President Michael D. Higgins to sign it into law. Although the amended version does not include protections against hate speech, it will enforce stricter penalties for crimes motivated by an individual’s protected characteristics, including gender identity and sexual orientation. (See also under Bias-Motivated Violence.)

In October, the Irish media regulator Coimisiún na Meán published the new Online Safety Code, setting binding standards for social media companies to enhance user protection in Ireland. The code explicitly bans content promoting terrorism, cyberbullying,

self-harm methods, and any incitement to violence or hatred, and applies to all video-sharing platforms with European headquarters in Ireland, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Udemy, TikTok, LinkedIn, X, Pinterest, Tumblr, and Reddit.

ITALY

Italy's Family Minister Eugenia Roccella criticised the declaration promoting European policies in favor of LGBT+ communities. She argued that the document's advocacy for self-identification and fluidity in gender is an "ideological constraint" and a denial of the "inherent reality of biological sex." Roccella emphasised her belief in maintaining "gender binarism," asserting that there are only men and women.

During the Olympics, a hate campaign targeted Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, while some public figures and politicians attacked trans athlete Valentina Petrillo for her participation in the Paralympics.

In Milan, homophobic graffiti targeting a teacher appeared on the walls of a middle school five times in nine months.

In September, a teacher in Treviso was insulted by a student on grounds of his sexual orientation. Although the teacher filed a complaint against the pupil for insulting a public official, the court dismissed the case due to the fact that sexual orientation does not constitute protected grounds in hate speech legislation.

KAZAKHSTAN

In February, the creators of the Selftanu website reported receiving numerous threats and bias-motivated speech, both from within Kazakhstan, and from Russia.

In May, the statement posted by the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan celebrating International LGBTI Rights Day was met with significant backlash by Kazakhstani authorities, according to NewTimes.kz.

In October, Rinat Zaitov, a member of Kazakhstan's Majilis and the AMANAT party, called for a ban on 'LGBTI propaganda' in the country, describing the LGBTI and feminist communities as enemies seeking to "poison" the nation. In a parliamentary inquiry addressed to the Prosecutor General and the Chairman of the National Security Committee, Zaitov condemned LGBTI activism as a "villainous organisation" that he claimed was corrupting the youth through its propaganda. Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov responded to the inquiry by declaring that the government of Kazakhstan is set to conduct a study on the social, psychological, and medical impact of the LGBTI movement on young people. The prime minister also noted that organisations such as Kaleidoscope, Feminita, and KazFem, which work on

LGBTI rights, have faced legal challenges, including administrative responsibility for holding unapproved public actions.

KYRGYZSTAN

In 2023 and 2024, Kyrgyzstan adopted two discriminatory laws targeting the LGBTI community and restricting the activities of LGBTI organisations. These laws were introduced alongside a media campaign filled with homophobic and transphobic statements from Kyrgyz politicians. Multiple MPs expressed fears that initiatives such as a bill to guarantee equality and protection against discrimination, as well as Kyrgyzstan's application to a Global Fund program focused on HIV prevention, could potentially be indirectly to advance LGBTI rights.

LATVIA

Following last year's investigation into former MEP Andrejs Mamikins' homophobic social media post in response to the election of President Rinkēvičs, further investigations were launched concerning his support for Russian aggression in Ukraine. Mamikins has since fled to Russia, where he has been reportedly involved in activities aligned with Russian state narratives.

LITHUANIA

In June, a Lithuanian court postponed the case against former MP Petras Gražulis, known for his anti-LGBTI rhetoric, over charges of publicly ridiculing and showing contempt for individuals based on their sexual orientation. The court instructed the prosecutor to seek permission from the Central Electoral Commission (VRK) to proceed with the prosecution before Gražulis assumed his mandate as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), which would grant him legal immunity. Following his election to the European Parliament in mid-July, the Vilnius Regional Court in early September directed the prosecutor to request the European Parliament to lift Gražulis's legal immunity, allowing the case to proceed.

MOLDOVA

During the Moldova Pride festival several people posted videos on TikTok threatening and inciting hatred towards LGBTI people. Several complaints were filed with the police. Two people were identified and fined. Three more cases are under investigation.

Several instances of hate speech occurred during the electoral campaign for the presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova. "Political affiliation", "sexual orientation/gender identity" and "sex/gender" are the criteria that have most cases of hate speech identified during this period. All pro-Russian parties used homophobic and transphobic language.

In September, two TikTokers in the Republic of Moldova were fined by the police for publishing hateful videos targeting participants from this year's Pride March. The sanctions, one for hooliganism and the other for incitement to hatred, set a legal precedent in Moldova.

In September, Ilan Shor, leader of the opposition "Victory" bloc in Moldova, vowed to ban LGBTI propaganda if the country rejects European integration in the upcoming referendum. Shor pledged to push for legislation that would prohibit LGBTI propaganda and attacks on faith, aligning his position with anti-LGBTI stances, which are part of Russia's broader agenda in the region.

In October, the Audiovisual Council of Moldova rejected appeals from the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) and Our Party, who complained that Teleradio-Moldova had refused to air their electoral messages. One of the contested messages advocated for banning LGBTI propaganda in schools.

In November, the Audiovisual Council sanctioned the regional public broadcaster Găgăuzia Radio Televizionu with a fine of 15,000 lei for violating the principles of impartiality and accurate information and was warned against broadcasting discriminatory content. This decision came after a petition by the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, which argued that the "Обсуждаем вместе" program on TV-Găgăuzia failed to respect the principles of freedom of expression, correct information, and human rights, featuring homophobic behavior, incitement to hatred, and discrimination.

MONTENEGRO

In September, during Pride in Podgorica and accompanying events, there was an extreme increase in hate speech directed at LGBTI people in the online public space during the Pride march in Podgorica, and the LGBT Forum Progres submitted 58 reports to the Police Directorate of Montenegro.

NETHERLANDS

In October, a petition calling on the Parliament to protect trans and non-binary people against hate speech garnered over 29,000 signatories.

NORTH MACEDONIA

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, Ekvalis, 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.

NORWAY

In November, a drag bingo event organised at the Inferno Metal Festival sparked a wave of incitement and online threats.

POLAND

In January, Deputy Minister of Justice Krzysztof Śmiszek announced plans for a new "hate speech" law. Modelled after existing Article 256 of the Penal Code, the new legislation will expand protections to include gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and disability. In March, a draft amendment to the Penal Code was published on the Government Legislation Centre's website. The draft introduced stricter penalties for hate speech, violence, and criminal threats, including those targeting LGBTI people.

In May, the text passed all stages at the Government Legislative Centre but the final decision for the approval was postponed pending further regulations. Instead, the Prosecutor General established a special team to analyse current responses to such crimes and draft new guidelines for law enforcement. Since then, a second bill on hate speech and hate crimes was presented at the end of October by the Ministry of Justice. One of the most notable differences between this bill and the version proposed in March is the omission of gender identity as a protected category against hate crimes or discrimination. The bill underwent only five days of public consultation before it was accepted by the government and sent to parliament. The first reading in the lower chamber, the Sejm, was scheduled for December 19. Following the first reading, the bill continues to be debated.

Adam Szczepkowski, mayor of Grunwald in Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship, has been sentenced to a suspended prison term by the court in Elbląg. The ruling followed a letter he sent in 2020 to Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, which included defamatory claims about local councillors. Among other claims, Szczepkowski notably revealed private details about the sexuality of another councillor's daughter.

In March, the National Broadcasting Council (KRRiT) imposed a fine of nearly PLN 20,000 on TVN for the transphobic remarks made by satirist Krzysztof Daukszewicz during an episode of "Szkoła Kontaktowe."

Public Television (TVP) has been condemned to issue apologies following its broadcasting of the homophobic program "Inwazja" ("Invasion") in 2019. The case, brought by KPH and activists, argued

that the program violated the personal rights of LGBTI people, activists, and organisations portrayed in a discriminatory manner. While TVP initially appealed after losing in the first instance, they eventually withdrew their appeals

In September, the Sejm Petitions Committee submitted a draft amendment to the Penal Code to the Justice and Human Rights Committee. The amendment proposes tightening penalties for disclosing someone's sexual orientation without their consent. Under the proposed regulations, those found guilty of such actions could face a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to one year. The proposed changes have not yet been enacted into law.

PORTUGAL

On the International Day to Combat Hate Speech, Minister of Youth and Modernisation Margarida Balseiro Lopes highlighted the Government's concerns over rising hate speech. Balseiro underscored the need to review legislation for better victim protection, enhance public awareness, and support victims.

In August, the organisation Corpus published a list on social media titled "LGBTIA+ terrorists heavily funded with Portuguese tax money, with the socialist propaganda machine at their service," aiming to incite violence against those named. This list is part of the organisation's ongoing campaign to expose LGBTI activists and supporters, under the guise of fighting against what they claim is the misuse of Portuguese tax money for supporting LGBTI rights.

ROMANIA

The 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections in Romania have highlighted the rise of far-right influences, also triggered an increase in hate speech against LGBTI people. Călin Georgescu's electoral score for his candidacy in the first presidential elections round provided a platform and incentive for the re-emergence of discriminatory attitudes, intensifying hate speech against the LGBTI community.

The ACCEPT Association filed a criminal complaint after a TikTok video of an interview clip of a participant in an LGBTI rights protest who was talking about marriage rights for same-sex couples, was edited to depict violent acts, suggesting physical violence as a justified response to LGBTI people talking about their rights. The video received over 200,000 views and 20,000 likes, along with hateful and dehumanising comments, with users agreeing that violent methods should be used against LGBTI people. A Zelist.ro analysis of social media and blog activity during the the elections campaign period (November 1 to December 5) revealed an increase in references to the LGBTI community. While these mentions initially rose moderately before

the first presidential round, anti-LGBT propaganda increased after candidate Călin Georgescu advanced to the second round. Georgescu advocated for a return to criminalising homosexuality under previous Article 200 in the Penal Code. His opponent, Elena Lasconi, affiliated with a progressive party, but still lacking a clear pro-LGBTI agenda, inadvertently fueled these tensions. Official social media accounts of PSD (Social Democratic Party) and AUR (Alliance for the Union of Romanians) amplified these messages, further mainstreaming discriminatory rhetoric.

The parties Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR) and SOS Romania, which acquired eight seats at the European Parliament during the latest European Elections, relied on disinformation as well as on LGBTI-phobic and ultra-nationalist discourse in their social media campaigns.

Mihai Enache, the AUR candidate for Bucharest Mayor in the 2024 local elections, is facing accusations from LGBTI activists for hate speech after making controversial statements during his electoral campaign. The ACCEPT Association filed a complaint with the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) against Enache, accusing him of discriminatory remarks. The complaint cites several Facebook posts made by Enache, in which he criticised the Central Electoral Bureau's guidelines on interacting with trans people and expressed his intention to protect children from what he referred to as "deviant ideologies". There has been a hearing on this case and the ruling is expected in 2025.

ACCEPT has filed multiple complaints with the National Audiovisual Council (CNA) regarding LGBTI-phobic comments aired on public platforms, with broadcasters failing to adequately moderate the content of political guests' statements. One significant case involved MEP Cristian Terheş, who made discriminatory remarks against non-binary people following the Eurovision Song Contest, where a non-binary artist won the top prize. ACCEPT's complaint led to sanctions against the station.

In another case, MEP Diana Ivanovici Şoşoacă, has also been active in promoting anti-EU and anti-LGBTI rhetoric, frequently sharing such views on her social media platforms.

RUSSIA

In May, former deputy for the Liberal Democratic Party and public figure Roman Khudyakov criticised interviews with feminine men and trans women. Khudyakov notably described such interviews as part of an "information war" promoting "LGBTI behaviour". As such, he called for further enforcement of anti-LGBTI legislation to criminalise the alleged promotion of LGBTI identities.

In July, the head of the Russian delegation to the Vienna talks on military security and arms control, Konstantin Gavrilov, accused

the OSCE of straying from its founding principles of arms control, expressing displeasure at the fact that the OSCE reserved part of its priorities to the protection of LGBTI people in conflicts against the backdrop of a tense international situation.

In December, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled in favor of Alexei Evtifeev, Ruslan Miniakhmetov, and Daniil Grachev, finding that Russian authorities had failed to respond adequately to homophobic statements made against them. The court determined that the Russian government had not fulfilled its obligations to protect the applicants' privacy or safeguard them from discrimination and highlighted the Russian authorities' tolerance of openly homophobic rhetoric, which contributes to impunity and an increase in hate crimes.

SERBIA

The publication "Hate Speech of Politicians Towards the LGBTIQ+ Community in Serbia" offers a detailed analysis of 70 instances of hate speech made by politicians about the LGBTI population in Serbian media between April 2023 and April 2024.

SLOVAKIA

In July, the Culture Minister, Martina Šimkovičová, Slovak National Party (SNS), attributed Europe's declining fertility rates on the LGBTI community. In an interview with Topky.sk she suggested that the excessive number of LGBTI people is contributing to Europe's demographic decline, specifically within the "white race."

SLOVENIA

In April, the Ethics Commission of Journalists ruled that journalist Rok Blažič violated the Code of Journalists of Slovenia in a series of articles published in 2023. According to the Ethics Commission, Blažič misleadingly portrayed gender reassignment as a commercialised and harmful practice.

In April, the two largest opposition parties in Slovenia, SDS and NSi, recently submitted a proposal to amend the Criminal Act to criminalise the promotion of homosexuality and trans identities, with penalties of up to three years in prison. The proposal mirrored similar laws seen in Hungary, Bulgaria, Georgia, Belarus, and Russia. However, the current government swiftly rejected the initiative, citing its incompatibility with human rights and democratic principles.

In June, a special edition of the magazine 'Demokracija' was published under the provocative title 'LGBT+ Ideology: Genocide of Childhood', featuring 76 pages primarily focused on anti-trans narratives.

In September, the second-largest opposition party, NSi, submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health to remove gender-

affirming surgery costs from coverage under compulsory health insurance. As of now, the government has not yet responded to the proposal.

SPAIN

In February, Isabel Rodriguez, the Director of the Women's Institute sparked controversy by attending an event organised by "Feminist Teachers for Coeducation", who are explicitly in favour of repealing Spain's LGBTI law and ending support for trans students. The meeting included presentations that equated trans people with paedophiles and criticised "gender ideology". In July, six months after her appointment, Rodriguez was dismissed by the Spanish Government due to suspected irregularities in several public tenders. She was replaced by Cristina Hernández.

In June, a subcommittee at the Low Chamber (Congreso de los Diputados) was set up to develop a State Pact against hate speech towards vulnerable groups.

Albert Puig, a councilor from the party Aliança Catalana, made offensive remarks about the LGBTI community, referring to gay men as "the biggest cancer Catalonia has". His comments were made just before the IDAHOBIT and followed a message from the Generalitat's Council of Equality and Feminisms inviting people to celebrate Pride.

In July, the Barcelona Court acquitted a man accused of a hate crime for directing homophobic insults at a young man during the 2019 LGBTI Pride march in Barcelona. While the court condemned the insults and humiliation, it ruled that the comments did not meet the severity required to constitute a crime under the Penal Code. Barcelona's Prosecutor Office has issued an appeal against the ruling.

SWITZERLAND

In April, the Swiss Federal Court upheld the conviction of right-wing extremist Alain Soral for homophobic hate speech. In its ruling, the Court confirmed that Soral's anti-LGBTI statements violated the anti-discrimination provisions of the Swiss Criminal Code (Article 261bis).

In September, the regional court Baden confirmed a penalty order against an employee of a bar who refused service to a lesbian couple (under Art. 261bis Criminal Code).

In October, the Council of States Law Commission voted against including "sex" into the anti-discrimination provision of the Swiss Criminal Code (Article 261bis). However, in December, the Council of States supported the parliamentary initiatives. With this decision, both chambers supported the initiatives and a legislative proposal will be presented.

In October, the Council of States' law commission supported a [parliamentary initiative](#) demanding the mandatory expulsion of foreign nationals from Switzerland if they are convicted of discrimination, including hate speech, in the sense of Article 261bis Criminal Code (Article 66a Criminal Code).

TURKEY

In January, the Human Rights Association (İHD) filed a [criminal complaint](#) with the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against Fatih Erbakan, the General Chairman of the Yeni Welfare Party. The complaint derived from a video released by the party which incited hatred and discrimination against LGBTI people.

In May, Devlet Bahçeli, leader of Turkey's Nationalist Movement Party, [described](#) the appearance of Nemo, the non-binary winner of Eurovision's 2024 edition, as "embarrassing degeneracy" and rejected it as a form of modernity. Following Bahçeli's statement, President Erdoğan further [criticised](#) the event, accusing its organisers of promoting "gender neutralisation" and threatening Turkish families by providing a platform for LGBTI performers.

In June, President Erdoğan [condemned](#) LGBTI movements, equating their advocacy to the imposition of fascism and arguing that their presence undermines the family structure and contributes to declining birth rates. In response to the statement, associations working with families of LGBTI people issued an [open letter](#) to President Erdoğan, demanding an end to policies threatening their family status and calling for a direct dialogue between authorities and civil society.

In June, members of the Republican Women's Association gathered in Konak Atatürk Square, Izmir, to collect signatures for a [proposed law](#) banning LGBTI 'propaganda'.

In September, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) [came under scrutiny](#) for broadcasting the promotion of an anti-LGBTI march as a "public service announcement" on its official website. The march, organised by the Big Family Platform, was scheduled to take place on September 15 in Istanbul under the slogan "Stop this inhuman incursion." A promotional video accompanying the event portrays the fundamental rights and freedoms of LGBTI people as "socio-cultural terror" and includes footage from the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics, directly targeting the LGBTI community.

Various organisations, including the İHD Ankara Branch LGBTI Rights Commission, GALADER, DEMOS, SODAP, and DEM Party MP Özgül Saki, issued [statements](#) opposing the march and condemning the spread of hate.

In November, the first meeting of the Council for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family, organised by the Ministry of

Family and Social Affairs, featured several anti-LGBTI statements from government officials. The Minister of Interior referred to LGBTI people as "deviants" and labelled them as one of the greatest threats to the family. The Minister of Family spoke about a global responsibility to combat "desexualisation," which she described as a "harmful trend against the family." The President of Religious Affairs described marriage equality as part of a "global siege of the family" and referred to LGBTI rights as a "perverted understanding."

In November, President Erdoğan spoke at the TRT World Forum 2024, where he targeted LGBTI people, referring to them as "the enemy of the family." He criticised media representations of diversity, alleging that they "normalise deviant and perverse relationships." At the fourth International NGO Fair, Erdoğan further implied that LGBTI rights are not human [rights](#) and reiterated his government's opposition to what he called "the anti-family structure called [LGBT](#)."

UKRAINE

In March the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting [determined](#) that the online publication of an article entitled 'LGBT Movement and Pedophilia: A Historical Connection' by the movement All Together! violated the Law on media, following a complaint from Nash Svit Centre. Article 36 of the law prohibits the dissemination of content that incites discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The Council has required the organisation to address these violations. On March 14, All Together! challenged this order by appealing to the Kyiv District Administrative Court, which has yet to rule on the case.

UNITED KINGDOM

In March, a judge faced [disciplinary action](#) after referring to a trans rights campaigner as a "stupid, condescending fool." The judicial conduct investigations office conducted an inquiry, resulting in the judge being found guilty of misconduct for failing to uphold the standards expected of his position.

In April, Scotland's new [Hate Crime and Public Order Act](#) took effect. The act seeks to criminalise behaviours that are threatening or abusive, and intended to incite hatred against individuals based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics. Within two days of the Act taking effect, over 3,000 complaints were lodged under it to police. Some of these were related to JK Rowling's [comments](#), which referred to prominent trans women activists as "men", but these were deemed not to infringe the new law.

In November, Tottenham Hotspur was [charged](#) by the Football Association (FA) over homophobic chanting by their fans during a 3-0 victory against Manchester United on 29 September. The club faces two charges under FA Rule E21, which relates to the behavior of supporters at matches, specifically "misconduct in relation to crowd control."