

ALBANIA

An [annual questionnaire](#) by Aleanca LGBTI revealed that 42% of the LGBTI respondents personally experienced violence or discrimination in the past year. Notably, 71.3% of these incidents were linked to their being LGBTI. Likewise, 32% of respondents were acquainted with another LGBTI person who faced similar issues. Despite the provisions put in place by the law “On Protection from Discrimination”, public education on protection against discrimination remains notably low. Over 63% of respondents were unaware of the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination’s existence. Equally noteworthy, 85% of respondents who encountered discrimination never lodged a discrimination complaint with the Commissioner’s office.

In May, a trans woman [was attacked](#) by a group of men near Tirana municipality.

Also in May, a group of minors threw stones at the representative of the LGBTI Alliance in Tirana. A participant in Tirana Pride 2024 faced similar violent behaviour.

A couple of lesbian activists faced [stoning attacks](#) twice near their neighbourhood. Despite filing official complaints, the victim’s efforts to seek justice were unsuccessful.

ARMENIA

In January, the Court of General Jurisdiction of Ararat and Vayots Dzor [overturned](#) the prosecutor’s decision not to pursue charges against a father who had abused his son due to his sexual orientation.

The court found the investigation inadequate, deeming it a violation of the victim’s rights. The court also ruled that the constitutional prohibition against discrimination, which includes “personal or other social circumstances,” extends to sexual orientation, affirming its protection under the Constitution.

In February, two individuals attacked a gay man, an American citizen, with the explicit intention to physically harm him because of his perceived sexual orientation. For the first time in Armenian history, the investigative body [acknowledged](#) hatred as a biased motivation during the criminal proceedings when determining the charges against the offenders. Initially, the preventive measure imposed on the offenders was a signature requirement to ensure they did not leave the country. However, one of the offenders continued to engage in criminal activities despite this measure, leading to the escalation of the preventative measure to formal arrest.

In June, a trans woman and sex worker was attacked in her own apartment by a client, as documented by the Right Side NGO.

AZERBAIJAN

In March, the murder of a trans woman in Baku was met with a police response that lacked a comprehensive investigation process, sparking community-wide requests for a thorough examination.

BELGIUM

According to European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) [LGBTIQ survey](#), in Belgium, 15% of LGBTI respondents reported being [assaulted](#) in the five years prior to the survey. Over the past year, 6% experienced assault, and more than half reported being harassed.

In May, the Brussels Criminal Court [sentenced](#) a man to one year in prison and to pay €5,000 in compensation for harassment with aggravating circumstances relating to discrimination against Samantha Warginaire, a trans woman from Brussels and candidate for regional elections.

In June, the Liège Assize Court [handed](#) Jérémy Davin a 30-year prison sentence for the homophobic killing of 43-year-old Mbaye Wade. Wade was fatally stabbed fifteen times at his residence on September 17, 2020, allegedly as an act of vengeance following a previous encounter. The aggravating circumstance of homophobia was retained by the jury against Davin, who identified as bisexual and was deemed by the court to have been influenced by ‘internalized homophobia’ in his actions.

In late August, Grindr issued a [warning](#) to its users about the risk of homophobic violence following a shooting in Ixelles. The incident, which left a 57-year-old man dead and his son and wife injured, occurred after the son was lured into a fake date arranged through the dating app, where the attackers had set up the meeting to ambush him. Several other [complaints](#) were lodged with the Brussels police regarding homophobic attacks. According to Le Soir, the attacks followed a consistent pattern with victims being contacted through a popular dating app using a fake account to arrange meetings before ambushing them.

In September, the Bruges Criminal Court [sentenced](#) a couple to 15 years in prison for multiple terrorism-related offences. According to judge Amélie Van Belleghem, there were concrete and elaborate plans to carry out attacks in various locations in Antwerp, including the Jewish neighbourhood, an LGBTI bar, a police station, and a NATO building.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Throughout the year, eight instances of bias-motivated violence were documented by SOC, but only two of them were reported to the police/prosecutor’s office. Out of these 8 documented cases, two took place in educational settings.

BULGARIA

In 2024, no criminal proceedings were initiated based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) amendments in the Penal Code introduced in 2023.

CROATIA

In June, in Pula, the inaugural Pride march organised by Proces, faced challenges despite receiving support by private security and the local police. The day before the march, unknown individuals disrupted volunteers at the Karlo Rojc Community Centre who were preparing banners. Additionally, in the village of Punta, derogatory signs were displayed, while an unidentified person removed a rainbow flag from the yard of the community centre on Gajeva Street, leaving it on the ground before fleeing. The Istrian Police Department has confirmed it will investigate the matters and identify the perpetrators. The city's mayor reaffirmed the commitment of the administration to the protection of LGBTI rights.

A gay couple was assaulted at Bačvice beach in Split. In a video they described how, after being harassed by a group of children and teenagers, they were approached by a man who punched one of them and rammed his head into a tree. Following the attack, the Split police department announced that it had undertaken a formal investigation and arrested the perpetrator. Between August and September, Zagreb Pride received six reports on homophobia-motivated attacks against gay men in Split and in Zagreb. In three of these cases the attacks were premeditated traps on dating applications that resulted in bashing and theft by a group of younger men. Only one of these attacks has been reported to the police, mostly due to fear and lack of trust in the law enforcement bodies by LGBTI people.

At the end of 2023 two sixteen-year-olds were arrested for their involvement in the preparation and planning of terrorist attacks against LGBTI people and venues, and in September of this year, they were convicted.

CYPRUS

During a meeting of the House Human Rights Committee, representatives of an LGBTI organisation expressed concern over the rise in reported hate incidents targeting the LGBTI community in Cyprus.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Both the Pride March on 17 May and the United Pride March on 7 September were targeted by groups of underage boys who threw stones at participants in the presence of police officers. Despite witnessing the attacks, the officers remained passive and did not intervene.

CZECHIA

The government approved a proposal for an amendment to the Criminal Code, which would bring fundamental changes in the area of protection against bias-motivated crimes. The bill is about to be debated in the Parliament. The subject of the proposal is the extension of the list of bias-motivated factors for hate crimes to include disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. At the same time, the proposal entails an extension of the offences for which prejudicial motive will be taken into account as a circumstance for the application of a higher penalty rate.

The Constitutional Court's ruling weakened the position of "particularly vulnerable victims" (including victims of hate crimes) by concluding that it is possible to revise this status repeatedly during the proceedings, which means an uncertain legal position for many.

DENMARK

In July, a migrant trans woman was murdered in a hotel room in Copenhagen.

FINLAND

In October, a report by the Police Academy revealed a significant increase in hate crimes targeting LGBTI people in Finland. The report highlighted that 48% of cases involved hate motives related to sexual orientation, while 58% were linked to gender identity and expression. Hate speech, including threats, defamation, and harassment, was the most commonly reported form of hate crime, with assault crimes making up 29% of cases.

FRANCE

In May, the French Ministry of the Interior released a report showing a 13 percent increase in anti-LGBTI offences in 2023, with crimes such as assaults, threats, and harassment up by 19 percent, totalling 2,870 cases. According to the report, men are predominant among both victims (70 percent) and perpetrators (82 percent), with nearly half of the offenders being under 30 and over a third under 19.

In May, the Calvados criminal court sentenced three men to prison terms ranging from two-to-four years, for attacking three trans sex workers.

In May, three individuals were taken into custody on charges of rape, robbery with extortion by an organised gang, and acts of torture and barbarity for their involvement in the homophobic attack to a 56-year-old man in his Alès home.

In May, three minors were arrested in Barberaz, for a series of thefts and homophobic attacks that occurred last April via the dating app Grindr.

In May, an officer from the Republican Security Company (CRS) number 30 stationed in Châtel-Saint-Germain was sentenced by the Metz Criminal Court to a €500 fine, €1,000 in legal costs, and a citizenship course for making discriminatory and homophobic remarks in front of several of his colleagues.

For IDAHOBIT, the town of Bram repainted its pedestrian crossings with rainbow colours, but one of them was quickly vandalised with black paint.

In June, the Paris Assize Court sentenced three young people, aged 21 to 23, to prison terms of five, seven, and eight years for ambushing two men via dating sites in January 2022.

In June, a bakery in the Montfavet district of Avignon was partially destroyed by arson and vandalised with racist and homophobic graffiti, targeting the 17-year-old Ivorian apprentice baker.

In June, four activists from the far-right student union Groupe Union Défense (GUD), including the son of a former RN elected official, were sentenced for a homophobic attack in the 6th arrondissement of Paris.

On July 2, ten young people, six of whom are minors, were arrested in connection with multiple homophobic attacks that took place in Muret and Seysse, in the Toulouse area, during the last two weeks of June.

On the night of July 8 to 9, singer Simon Vendeme, known for his activism against LGBTI-phobia, was physically attacked in Paris by an unknown intoxicated person.

On July 9, the Reims criminal court sentenced three men for aggravated theft for luring unsuspecting gay men through a dating site before assaulting, threatening, and robbing them.

In July, the Montpellier criminal court sentenced two men and a woman for a lesbophobic attack that took place during the Festival des Fanfares in early June.

In July, two men were sentenced to prison for a series of violent, gunpoint robberies orchestrated through a gay dating app in Guadeloupe. The main suspect, with a prior conviction, received a three-year prison term, while his accomplice was given two years.

In July, France saw two instances of transfemicide within a week, with a 30-year-old Peruvian trans woman and sex worker murdered by a client in her Paris apartment, and a 55-year-old trans woman who was killed with an axe by her partner in Compiègne shortly before.

In September, a man was sentenced to thirteen years of imprisonment for a series of homophobic ambushes in Paris. In

the fall of 2022, the accused had trapped four men via dating apps and threatened them with a knife or a cleaver, forcing them to go down to a cellar at his parents' house to rob them.

GEORGIA

Just one day after the Parliament of Georgia passed the anti-LGBTI law, a celebrity trans woman, Kesaria Abramidze was found brutally murdered in her apartment. The subsequent investigation pertains to premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances of special cruelty based on gender identity.

In October, a month after Kesaria's murder, renowned trans activist Nata Talikishvili was physically attacked with a brick, resulting in a concussion. Nata Talikishvili is a recipient of Kato Mikeladze's Prize, which is given for defending women's rights.

In the spring of 2024, Tbilisi Pride office was vandalised twice by unidentified persons likely having ties with the Georgian Dream. The attackers threw eggs and left homophobic slurs written in red paint.

GERMANY

In April, two bias-motivated attacks were recorded against Afghan trans women. The first incident involved a perpetrator spraying pepper spray in the victim's face after hurling insults. A week later, four attackers targeted a group of six trans women, beating and kicking them. In both instances the police responded swiftly, quickly identifying and arresting the perpetrators.

In May, the Ministry of Interior released its yearly report on politically motivated crimes, underscoring an increase in the recorded number of crimes motivated by the victims' perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression.

Between June and September 2024, the Centre for Monitoring, Analysis and Strategy (CeMAS) documented a surge in extremist mobilisations against Pride and Christopher Street Day events across 27 German cities, involving violence and intimidation. The Federal Ministry of the Interior reported 22 protests during this period.

GREECE

In March, a violent mob of about 150 people targeted two trans people in Thessaloniki, assaulting them and hurling bottles. When the two sought refuge in a restaurant, the attackers continued their aggression by banging on the windows and taunting them. The police later apprehended 21 people, including 11 minors, in connection with the attack.

The following day, a group of around 50 masked men attacked demonstrators at a protest organised to denounce the incident and the widespread scope of anti-LGBTI violence.

Several conservative public figures, including politicians ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), [artists](#) and members of the Greek Orthodox church ([1](#), [2](#)) engaged in bias-motivated speech against the marriage equality law before and while it was being discussed in the Parliament.

The Orthodox church expressed its [official opposition](#) to marriage equality through the Holy Synod of the hierarchy.

In May, transphobic comments targeted [Nemo](#) and [Bambie Thug](#), two openly non-binary contestants in the Eurovision Song Contest.

In September, Markos Seferlis, a comedian known for expressing hate against minority groups, attempted to ridicule Nemo in a [performance](#) that portrayed non-binary identities as indecisive and a new trend.

Protests titled “Family Pride” were organised in Athens, [Thessaloniki](#) and [Chania](#) in the summer as counter-protests to Pride, conveying homophobic [messages](#) against the right of same-sex couples to marry and adopt. The protest initially expected in Athens was [cancelled](#) after the public reacted against it and citizens’ groups organised a counter-protest.

In May, two LGBTI-phobic [incidents](#) took place at a street party for Athens Pride. Witnesses reported agitators approaching the area and hurling discriminatory statements at the participants as well as spitting on some of them.

In June, a homophobic verbal attack by lawyer Alexis Kougias against Stefanos Kasselakis, the then-leader of opposition party SYRIZA, sparked the [intervention](#) of the Supreme Court prosecutor. The conservative newspaper Estia [published](#) a cover article referring to the rights of LGBTI people as “privilege”. The article interpreted the 2024 Athens Pride motto, “A law is not enough,” which called for marriage equality, as a demand for special privileges.

Shortly after the US elections, Minister for Health, Adonis Georgiadis, [blamed](#) the “woke agenda” for “making US politics pathetic” and ex-Prime Minister Antonis Samaras [expressed](#) a similar opinion.

HUNGARY

In May, a group of men physically assaulted a bar’s patron after discovering his sexual orientation. Criminal proceedings have been initiated, but the perpetrators have so far not been identified as they fled the scene after the incident.

In July, two gay men were physically and verbally assaulted in Siófok. A criminal proceeding is pending but the perpetrators have not been identified so far.

ICELAND

In 2024, eight reports of physical violence were recorded by LGBTI organisation Samtokin.

IRELAND

In late May, a woman was [beaten unconscious](#) by a soldier under the influence of alcohol after she asked him to stop hurling homophobic slurs at bystanders. He was given a [fully suspended sentence](#) for the unprovoked assault. The perpetrator’s guilty plea did not result in a prison sentence, raising concerns about the severity of the response to the attack.

In June, three gay men walking in Dublin’s Phoenix Park were [pursued](#) by six men wielding knives in what they reported as a targeted attack due to their sexual orientation. After the incident, the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit collaborated with LGBTI organisations to support the victims. The investigation eventually led to the [identification and arrest](#) of a teenager involved in the incident.

Following the announcement that the hate speech provisions of the Criminal Justice Bill would be dropped, the Irish Department of Justice [confirmed](#) that the remaining hate crime legislation would still include protections for trans and non-binary people. (See more under Bias-Motivated Speech.)

In December, three individuals were [convicted](#) of public order offenses after disrupting a drag storytime event in Tralee, Kerry, in July 2023. Two of the accused also received common assault convictions when they appeared before Tralee District Court. During the event, a group stormed the event, live streaming their disruption and assaulting event organisers and a security guard. Volunteers were also verbally abused.

ITALY

This year saw a troubling increase in the number and geographic spread of bias-motivated violence against LGBTI people in Italy compared to 2023, with incidents reported almost monthly.

In January, [six youths were surrounded and beaten](#) by a group of 12 people in Palermo, Italy, in a homophobic attack.

In March, two young men riding a scooter stopped, insulted and then [assaulted](#) another young man in Scampia, in the province of Naples. The two attackers shouted homophobic slurs at the victim before assaulting him.

In May, a 22-year-old man in Milan was [attacked and stabbed](#) for being gay. In Salero, Samir, a 32 year-old man of Honduran descent, [was physically assaulted and was subjected to homophobic slurs](#).

In June, a gay couple was cornered and assaulted by three men and a woman in Rome after their attackers noticed they were holding hands. The attackers have since expressed remorse, claiming that the confrontation stemmed from a traffic dispute rather than discriminatory or homophobic motives.

In June, a makeup artist was attacked in Foggia, while, in Rome, two young men subjected an activist and leader of the Gay Party to insults before physically assaulting and threatening him.

In July, on Pride night in Cagliari, an individual was threatened with a knife, kicked, and punched in a homophobic attack, while during Naples Pride, two girls suffered head injuries as a result of an LGBTI-phobic assault.

In August, a boy walking with his partner in Turin was punched in the face by a group of strangers.

In August, two trans women were approached and attacked by a group of about ten young men in Castiglione in Teverina, in the Viterbo province. Despite the attack occurring in a busy square, none of the bystanders intervened to assist the victims or halt the violence.

In September, a 33-year-old gay man from Palermo, Sicily, took his own life, overwhelmed by the fear of being judged and discriminated against.

In September, a drag artist was attacked in Turin while walking arm-in-arm with his boyfriend, causing him to be taken to hospital.

In September, a 42-year-old man in Cremona was subjected to homophobic insults before being struck in the face with a can.

In November, Italian content creator Sespo reported being attacked while walking on the streets of Milan.

KAZAKHSTAN

Over 80 cases of bias-motivated violence and discrimination against LGBTI people were documented in the time period from August 2023 to August 2024. Verbal violence, including hate speech, blackmail, outing and threats of outing, was most prevalent. In approximately 21% of cases, the injured person suffered material damage; in about 15%, physical damage. About 17% of the offences were linked to so-called "hate groups", including local anti-gender or xenophobic movements and other similar associations.

A trend of so-called fake dates was recorded, where an LGBTI person was lured into meeting a potential partner online, and was physically attacked upon meeting them. In five cases, attempts

were made to extort money, as the injured party was blackmailed by the fact that their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI) would be revealed to relatives and on the internet. One victim managed to achieve partial justice in such a case in court in 2024, with several perpetrators from a larger group being held accountable.

LATVIA

In July, the ECtHR ruled that Latvia mishandled the case of Denis Khanov, a lecturer who was attacked due to his sexual orientation. The ECtHR ruled that Latvia failed to properly address the hate crime he experienced and instead downgraded his case from a criminal to an administrative offence. The court emphasised that public authorities must prevent hate violence and properly investigate discriminatory motives. Following the entry of the court's judgement into force, the Prosecutor General Office reopened the criminal proceedings, which are currently pending fresh investigation.

In May, two individuals were attacked in Daugavpils due to being LGBTI. While one suspect was initially identified, the police closed the case. However, Prosecutor General Juris Stukāns questioned the legality of the police's decision and ordered the investigation to be reopened. In October, one of the offenders was found guilty of hooliganism causing bodily harm, under Article 231 of the Criminal Code, sentenced to seven months in prison and ordered to pay moral compensation, amounting to 2,500 Euro to one victim, Līvai Amareen, and 2,000 Euro to his companion. Although this case marks the first time in Latvia that a homophobic attack has been officially recognised and punished by law, the criminal proceedings were initiated on the grounds of "disturbing public peace - hooliganism" rather than under the charge of "inciting hatred/enmity against a social group" as outlined in Article 150 of the Criminal Law. Following the judgement, the prosecutor's office expressed its intention to file an appeal to seek a harsher sentence.

LITHUANIA

A participant in the Lithuanian Pride reported being attacked with pepper spray at Vingis Park after the festival's concert.

The police terminated a pre-trial investigation into one of several alleged assaults, where neighbours, including a minor, verbally and physically attacked a same-sex couple. This incident was part of a broader pattern of ongoing harassment that had taken place over an extended period.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) accepted to hear a petition for refusal to investigate a hate-motivated verbal assault in the case of Svirplys & Latvys v Lithuania, where two men were followed, harassed with homophobic slurs and threatened after being seen holding hands in public. The case was reopened in the

Lithuanian court; however, the investigation does not include hate or bias motive and the perpetrator denies the facts of the case, including the use of homophobic slurs and threats.

MOLDOVA

In January, a trans man was physically and verbally assaulted by a passenger and the conductor of a bus in Chişinău. In response, the police and the Electric Transport Authority have launched an investigation, urging citizens to respect and support each other.

In June, a lesbian woman was assaulted on public transport by an Interior Ministry guard on grounds of homophobia. A police complaint was filed and the employee was fined.

In July, a young man was attacked in the city centre by several minors. The police on patrol nearby got involved late and let the assailants go without identifying them.

On the night of July 17-18, the door of the new office of Queer café in Chisinau, which organises events for queer people, was vandalised. A police complaint was filed.

On the night of July 19-20, a young LGBTI man was stripped naked near a club and was attacked by several men nearby. The assailants threw several objects at the man and then started beating him, knocking him to the ground. Several people called the police who were patrolling nearby but they said they would not get involved. The beating continued for a significant amount of time before the police eventually arrived after several calls.

In October, a lecture on queer history in Romania and Moldova, hosted by the Cărtureşti Bookstore and led by Florin Buhuceanu, founder of the Museum of Queer History and Culture in Romania, was disrupted by a bomb alert at the National History Museum of Moldova.

MONTENEGRO

During the year, Spectra continued to provide legal assistance to a trans man during the court process of a hate crime case from 2019, when he was dragged out of his home and beaten by several attackers. Spectra pointed out the unnecessary length of this court process and is closely following its process. In addition to that, Spectra provided support to a trans woman and activist who was attacked physically, verbally and online, reporting these cases, but without any action by the state authorities.

NETHERLANDS

A number of reports of bias-motivated violence against the LGBTI community were recorded in 2024. For example, in May, a gay couple fleeing Tunisia was hospitalised after being attacked

as they exited their unit at an asylum centre in Ter Apel. The attackers started shouting derogatory terms, threatening to kill the couple, before physically assaulting them with knives.

In another instance, in August, someone set fire to an apartment in the city of Breda where a rainbow flag was hung. In Montfoort, the apartment of a same-sex couple was attacked with a firework bomb, and in Groningen, the rainbow flag that a citizen hung outside of their apartment was destroyed, and visitors to a queer party were attacked.

A report by the National Police and Anti-discrimination Bureau showed a sharp increase in reported discrimination and violence against the LGBTI community by almost 25% in one year. The report also showed a sharp increase in reported discrimination and violence against other minorities. In December, the National Statistics Bureau (CBS) reported that LGBTI people encounter almost twice the rate of violence (10%) as compared to others in The Netherlands (6%). The highest prevalence is reported for non-binary people (23.5%) and bi+ women (12.7%).

In September, the Parliament took up a hate crime bill striving to prosecute perpetrators of discriminatory violence more severely. It was adopted by the Second Chamber in December. The parliamentary procedure in the Senate is expected to continue into 2025.

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 May, the police published its annual report on hate crimes. The number of reported crimes continues to rise, being 18% higher in 2023 compared to the year before. The largest increase percentage-wise is crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and antisemitism.

Zaniar Matapour was found guilty of aggravated terrorism by the Oslo District Court for his role in the mass shooting during Oslo Pride on June 25, 2022. Matapour was sentenced to 30 years in prison, the strictest penalty under Norwegian law. State prosecutor Aud Kinsarvik Gravås expressed satisfaction with the

court's decision in the case. Gravås highlighted that the court's ruling aligns with the prosecution's recommendations, which sought to fully understand and address the events surrounding the attack. Matapour has [appealed](#) the court decision. Not long after, the Borgarting Court of Appeal [rejected](#) Arfan Bhatti's appeal against further detention in connection with the same terrorist shooting. Bhatti, who has been in detention since May 4, with both a letter and visitation ban, had previously appealed the extension of his detention. The Court of Appeal ruled that there was a risk of Bhatti evading justice and a potential for evidence to be lost, which justified his continued detention.

In the beginning of August, two people were subjected to a knife [attack](#) by a group of youths, which the police are investigating as a hate crime.

POLAND

In June, participants of the Olsztyn Equality March participating in the event's official afterparty were [attacked](#) twice. The perpetrators shouted homophobic slogans and used pepper spray. Two perpetrators were detained by the police.

In August, LGBTI activists holding rainbow flags and banners in a parade opening a pottery festival in Bolesławiec, a town in south-western Poland famous for its pottery-making traditions, were [attacked](#) by a group of men who threw bottles at them and physically [assaulted](#) them, resulting in one woman being hospitalised. The town's mayor [criticised](#) the activists' participation in the event and unsuccessfully tried to have them removed from the festival.

PORTUGAL

The Public Security Police and the National Republican Guard [reported](#) that hate crimes and hate speech in Portugal increased by 38% in 2023 compared to the previous year, with authorities documenting 347 incidents. The head of the Victim Support Association (APAV) highlighted that many incidents which should be classified as hate crimes are not adequately reported or misclassified due to inadequate recording practices.

ROMANIA

The reporting of hate crime cases remains low. In December, ACCEPT Association launched a reporting platform that makes it easier for people to report hate crimes and be referred to counseling, or just document what has happened to them.

RUSSIA

In May, a [report](#) by LGBTI groups Coming Out and the Sphere Foundation highlighted that homophobic and transphobic sentiments surged in Russia. The findings highlighted that over

43% of LGBTI people reported violence or pressure due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. According to the report 8% of respondents experienced physical violence, with the rate rising to 12% among trans people, while 24% reported threats of physical violence. Blackmail or extortion, involving threats to release personal information or photos, affected 14% of respondents.

At least 18 police raids in gay clubs and queer parties were carried out in different Russian cities during 2024, according to [one](#) of the LGBTI news channels on Telegram. Often, these raids were carried out with violence (see [here](#) and [here](#)) and the objective of humiliating, detaining and prosecuting patrons for LGBTI propaganda and extremism (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Some of the clubs targeted by these raids were subsequently [forced](#) to close. In March in Minusinsk, two students were verbally and physically [attacked](#) by a teenage boy after being questioned about their short haircuts and gender presentation.

In April, two men [beat up](#) and robbed a gay man on a fake date in Yekaterinburg.

In July, police officers in Ufa [attacked](#) a migrant trans sex worker, beating her and robbing her of 100,000 rubles. The policemen were subsequently sacked and the woman deported.

During the year, 4 anonymous reports of homophobic violence from different Russian cities were reported to Coming Out. Some cases involved regular family violence, another involved an attack by a stranger on public transport, another reported police violence.

The Russian LGBT network has recorded several cases of 'fake dates' against underage men: the perpetrators recorded sex with young gay men on video and then extorted money from them.

SERBIA

In January, the Pride Info Centre in Belgrade was [attacked](#) by a masked individual who shattered its front windows.

In September, the Pride Info Centre in Belgrade [announced](#) it would cease operations due to a lack of financial and institutional support, making its continued sustainability impossible. The centre became a symbol of resistance and hope for the LGBTI community in Belgrade, despite facing almost daily threats, insults, and over 20 attacks since 2018, none of which were properly sanctioned by the Ministry of the Interior.

SPAIN

In May, [several cases of bias-motivated violence](#) were recorded across Spain. These include the violent beating of a 14-year-old

trans girl by a peer, a homophobic attack against openly gay singer Miguel Garena, and an episode of harassment faced by a health worker who received a threatening letter accompanied by a photograph of him and his partner in the crosshairs of a gun.

In May, a man was tried and faced nearly four years in prison for threatening an Irish gay couple and telling them to return to Ireland.

In August, two transphobic attacks were reported in Valencia during the early hours of Saturday morning. The assailants shouted slurs and targeted two trans women in separate incidents, with one of the women sustaining a serious injury requiring seven stitches after being struck.

The trial concerning the murder of Samuel Luiz in 2021 on the promenade of A Coruña began in mid-October. In late November, the Court ruled that the murder was motivated by homophobic intent. The sentence is due to be announced before the end of 2024.

In December, new cases of LGBTIphobia were reported in Gijón and Valencia.

SWEDEN

In June, a woman reported that someone had set fire to the rainbow flag outside her home. The police classified the act as vandalism rather than a hate crime.

SWITZERLAND

In response to the increase in reported hate crimes against LGBTI people, the LGBTI helpline launched the “305 Votes Against Hatred” campaign. The campaign, featuring 305 mobile phones arranged in Bern’s Bundesplatz and ringing simultaneously, seeks to represent a wake-up call to the Federal Council and policymakers.

In September, the public prosecutor of Zürich-Sihl issued six summary penalty orders to members of the group “Junge Tat” in relation to their attacks on a Drag Queen Storytelling event and a Pride worship service in 2022. The summary penalty orders are not final.

The LGBTIQ helpline, in collaboration with LOS, Pink Cross, and TGNS, released a report revealing a rise in hate crimes directed towards LGBTI people. The report underscored that the number of reported incidents has more than doubled compared to last year, emphasising the need for enhanced protective measures and a more robust response to these crimes.

TAJKISTAN

Russia’s anti-LGBTI laws have significantly influenced Tajikistan, with numerous unofficial social media reports documenting detentions or prosecutions widely perceived as targeting individuals based on their sexuality or gender identity.

Visual evidence has also emerged showing LGBTI people subjected to harassment and physical attacks. These incidents have provoked strong societal reactions, further amplifying anti-LGBTI sentiments and exposing deeply rooted structural and cultural stigmas. However, many crimes against LGBTI people remain unreported due to fears of rejection or harm.

In the Sughd region, more than 10 cases have been reported this year in which law enforcement officers allegedly lured LGBTI individuals into fake meetings to trap them. These unofficial raids are used to falsely register them in a database, gather their personal information—such as social media contacts—and extort money from them.

TURKEY

In March, a lawsuit was filed against former Istanbul Security Branch Director Hanifi Zengin. The lawsuit stemmed from the beating and forced detention of Ekınsu Daniş, an advisor to Labor Party (EMEP) Istanbul Deputy İskender Bayhan, during a Women’s Rights protest.

In Alsancak, a trans woman was attacked by a group of men in the street, receiving no intervention from police or bystanders. Public reaction questioned the lack of police presence and the fact that, despite being detained, the attackers were released shortly after their statements were taken.

In June, the legal battle concerning the 2008 homophobic murder of Ahmet Yıldız reached its 40th hearing, drawing significant attention from the media and representatives of LGBTI organisations. Despite the case stretching into its 16th year with numerous changes in judiciary personnel, the primary suspect, Ahmet’s father, remains a fugitive. The next hearing is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

In July, In Izmir, a trans woman was killed in a knife attack at her home. She received nearly 50 stab wounds in the attack, 27 of which were fatal. The perpetrator is under arrest for attempted premeditated murder.

In November, a trans woman in Samsun was assaulted and robbed of her jewellery. The attacker justified his actions by claiming that the victim had mocked his masculinity, a defence often used to excuse violence against LGBTI people.

UKRAINE

Since 2021, civil society groups have advocated for Draft Law No. 5488, which aims to define “intolerance” as an aggravating factor in offences, including those based on gender and sexual orientation. Throughout 2024, organisations including Gender Stream engaged national and international stakeholders, leading to official appeals from the European Parliament and Commission. On the draft law’s third anniversary, over 35 human rights organisations issued a joint appeal to the Verkhovna Rada, urging its adoption. In October, Gender Stream, alongside the Council of Europe and Ukraine’s Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted a forum where the Ministry of Internal Affairs voiced clear support, emphasising its importance for vulnerable groups and Ukraine’s international obligations. Despite this, the draft law remains under review, reflecting ongoing legislative stagnation.

In the first half of 2024, the Nash Svit Centre reported a notable rise in homophobic and transphobic aggressions, with 29 incidents compared to 25 in all of 2023. The increase included physical violence and attacks on LGBTI centres, events, and activists.

In February, the exterior of the Zhovten cinema, which was set to show Lessons of Tolerance, was vandalised with homophobic messages and nationalist symbols. Meanwhile, in Kharkiv, a group of youths tried to obstruct the film’s screening, using similar discriminatory slogans and imagery. On February 17, a screening of the movie took place regardless of the threatening acts. In February, a lawyer from Gender Stream was assaulted by three people at a shopping mall in Kharkiv. The attackers forcibly removed an LGBTI flag patch from his clothing and issued threats of physical violence before fleeing the scene. The incident was reported to the police, who initially classified it as “hooliganism.” Despite Andriy’s appeals to have the incident reclassified as a hate crime, the Prosecutor’s Office did not find sufficient grounds to support this. The attackers remain unidentified, and no further action has been taken in the case.

In March, a gay man was violently attacked by a group of youths in a park in the capital after he declined to answer their question about his views on LGBTI issues.

In March, a gay couple residing in a Kyiv suburb was assaulted by two neighbours. The couple believes the attack was motivated by homophobia, noting that similar incidents had occurred previously.

From early April to late June, 21 incidents of bias-motivated violence across Ukraine were recorded by Freedom House.

In April a LGBTI couple was pursued and attacked in Kyiv by a

group who shouted homophobic slurs and threatened to beat the couple before physically assaulting them. Although the victims reported the incident to the police, law enforcement did not acknowledge the hate-motivated nature of the attack.

In April a LGBTI couple was attacked in Kyiv by a group who approached them and demanded to see the LGBTI badges on one of the victim’s backpacks before escalating the situation into a violent assault.

In April unknown assailants attacked a local artist on the grounds of a synagogue in Lviv. The attackers struck him in the face and attempted to use pepper spray. The victim, who had previously received homophobic threats, suspects that the assault was motivated by anti-LGBTI sentiments.

In May 2023, a trans woman in occupied Oleshki, Kherson Oblast, experienced physical violence and threats of a sexual nature by Russian military personnel.

UNITED KINGDOM

In June a 29-year-old man was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of retired Fettes College teacher, Peter Coshan after luring him to a flat in Leith using a fake profile on a gay encounter site.

In April, a group of teenagers appeared in court in connection with an attempted murder case involving a trans woman. The 18-year-old victim was reportedly stabbed 14 times on February 10, after allegedly being subjected to transphobic abuse. In late September, some of the perpetrators admitted to their involvement in the attack and pleaded guilty.

In May, police reported seeking information following an alleged homophobic attack that took place in Cardiff in April, where a drag artist and her partner were assaulted by two men after being seen holding hands.

In June, Liverpool Magistrates Court sentenced a man to 12 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, for subjecting a gay throuple to homophobic abuse.

In July, the deaths of two men were classified as a hate crime by the Metropolitan Police, which revealed that the victims, who had been in a relationship and lived together, were known to the perpetrator.

UZBEKISTAN

In Fergana, a young man was stripped, beaten, and forced to endure severe abuse by a group of LGBTI-phobic men.