

## ALBANIA

Data from Aleanca LGBT's annual questionnaire revealed that LGBTI people frequently encounter obstacles in accessing education due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics, with 30% of those unable to complete compulsory education citing discrimination and economic challenges as significant factors. The questionnaire identified educational settings as primary sites of discrimination against LGBTI people, with approximately 63% of respondents believing that teachers and school principals remain uninformed about LGBTI issues, despite efforts to train educational staff under the National Action Plans (2016-2024).

Over the past five years, Aleanca LGBT documented 25 cases of individuals leaving education due to bullying and societal pressure, with 80.2% of LGBTI victims never reporting discrimination out of fear of exposure and further mistreatment. Sex education that omits the existence of LGBTI people and doesn't provide any supportive information leaves them with fragmented knowledge on relevant issues. 93% of respondents confirmed that their school curricula lacked accurate LGBTI-related information.

## ARMENIA

Throughout 2024, LGBTI people reported multiple incidents of persistent violence and degrading treatment in educational settings. In one case, a lesbian teenager endured ongoing abuse at her college and youth centre due to her sexual orientation. The hostile environment forced her to transfer between educational institutions multiple times to continue her education safely. In another case, a gay student experienced relentless bullying from both teachers and peers. To avoid the harassment, he lied to his mother to skip school, a situation that persisted for ten years before he finally reported the abuse. Further information about these incidents among others, will be available in Pink NGO's annual report in early 2025.

## AZERBAIJAN

A [new policy](#) on equality, diversity, and inclusion was adopted by various [universities](#) in Azerbaijan, explicitly including sexual orientation and gender as grounds for protection. The policy aims to ensure clear, fair, and accessible services at university, guarantee that people are treated equally, receive the respect and dignity that they deserve, and that their diversity is acknowledged.

## BELGIUM

In January, a student at Université libre de Bruxelles publicly criticised the institution on social media following a transphobic incident in the Solbosch campus restrooms. The student notably criticized an alleged gap between the

university management's declared commitment to trans rights and the actual experiences of students.

In May, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) LGBTIQ survey published a [report](#) highlighting a troubling rise in school bullying towards LGBTI pupils, with 67% of Belgian respondents experiencing harassment or mockery.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

There is currently no system to monitor and respond to incidents of anti-LGBTI bullying in the education system put in place by law, as documented in a [recent ECRI report](#).

## BULGARIA

In August, a new law was introduced banning the representation of LGBTI identities in schools. The legislation, spearheaded by Kostadin Kostadinov, chairman of the Vazrazhdane (Revival) party, sparked significant controversy as civil society organisations underscored that the legislation would negatively impact children and adolescents by increasing bullying and legitimising discrimination by other students, and even teachers. Kostadinov defended the law by stating that "LGBT propaganda is anti-human and won't be accepted in Bulgaria."

## CROATIA

The Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences announced the intention to launch a [new study program](#) focusing on gender studies in late 2025.

## CYPRUS

In February, a [children's book](#), which had been donated to a local kindergarten by the school's parent's association, was subjected criticism because some illustrations featured two women embracing a child and two men holding another child. The backlash against these depictions led to the book being withdrawn by the school itself. Amidst criticism by prominent LGBTI organisations, the Ministry of Education [distanced itself](#) from the removal of the book from the school catalogue, pointing instead to a decision allegedly taken by the parent's association of the school.

## NORTHERN CYPRUS

The "[Rainbow Education Programme for Psychological Counsellors and Guidance Professionals](#)" series was held in collaboration with the Cyprus Turkish Psychological Counselling And Guidance Association (KT-PDR) and the Cyprus Turkish Teachers' Trade Union (KTÖS) at the Cyprus Turkish Secondary Education Teachers' Union (KTOEÖS) Office in Nicosia in March within the scope of the Rainbow Project funded by the European Union under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community and implemented by the Queer Cyprus.

## CZECHIA

As part of the [revision](#) of the framework on educational programs, primary school students will be introduced to the history of the women's and LGBTI rights movement. The curriculum will encompass topics such as the women's struggle for political and social rights and the efforts of marginalised groups to attain equality, particularly in family law. This proposal has garnered [support](#) from Minister of Education Mikuláš Bek, a member of the STAN party. In reaction, actors have begun [encouraging](#) parents to request the exclusion of their children from any instruction related to LGBTI topics, even providing [template forms](#) for these requests. The case of a mother addressing a [letter](#) to her daughter's school, requesting her daughter to be exempted from lessons about LGBTI and gender topics, sparked particular debate, leading to heated exchanges on social media. One school director publicly [supported](#) this initiative, assuring parents that their children would be exempt from discussions surrounding "LGBTI, gender ideology, or similar subjects." However, the Czech School Inspection, the state education supervision authority, has [clarified](#) that such exclusions contravene the fundamental principles of the education system.

In September, Marie Pošarová, a deputy from the right-wing party Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD), [proposed](#) adding a new item to the agenda of the Chamber of Deputies titled "We reject the promotion of LGBT in schools and kindergartens."

## DENMARK

A [study](#) by the National Research and Analysis Centre for Welfare (VIVE), commissioned by the Ministry of Children and Education, revealed that LGBTI students are twice as likely to exhibit severe anxiety and depression compared to their non-LGBTI peers. The study also found that 40% of LGBTI students aged 15 to 25 reported [self-harm](#) in the past year, a rate two to three times higher than that of their classmates. Nonetheless, the study's methodology considered the LGBTI community as a cohesive group and therefore did not allow for analyses of intersectional aspects like gender, class, ethnicity, and migration status.

A [follow-up report](#) conducted by VIVE for LGBT+ Denmark revealed discrepancies in the wellbeing of LGBTI students across Denmark on the basis of their region of residence, with LGBTI students in the capital reporting higher wellbeing compared to their counterparts in other areas of the country. Additionally, the report highlighted a significant gap between the negative experiences faced by trans students in educational settings, as well as their self-perceived quality of life, compared to cis students.

## FINLAND

In August, Finland's government proposed amendments to the Equality Act, aiming to remove the requirement for individual equality planning within early childhood education units, citing

reduced administrative burdens as the rationale. Seta [criticised](#) the proposal, highlighting that this change would weaken efforts to combat discrimination and promote equality for vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people and their families. The proposal was part of broader government plans to streamline regulations, but its potential impact on anti-discrimination measures remained a point of contention.

## FRANCE

In January, a [complaint](#) was filed against the Parisian private school Stanislas, accusing it of homophobic discrimination for expelling a student due to her criticism of homophobia among staff members.

## GEORGIA

The [anti-LGBTI law](#) restricts education on gender and sexuality by prohibiting information that promotes same-sex relationships, gender transitioning, or non-heterosexual identities in educational institutions. The Venice Commission has [condemned](#) this provision as discriminatory, warning that it creates an unsafe environment for LGBTI students and deprives all pupils of comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education. The Commission also noted that the law contradicts the right to education and may increase bullying, harassment, and health risks. (See also under Equality and Non-discrimination)

## GERMANY

Since April, discussions have centred on "gender bans" that explicitly prohibit the use of gender-sensitive language at universities and public authorities in various federal states, including Bavaria, Hesse, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt. Nonetheless, in May, a [report](#) by the Federal Anti-Discrimination Office (ADS) underscored that under these provisions there is a notable risk that institutions may contravene the prohibition of gender discrimination and infringe upon general personal rights of women, intersex people, and non-binary people. Throughout the year, several states, including Bavaria, Hesse, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt, have implemented or announced bans on the use of gender-inclusive language in multiple areas. After [protests](#) erupted at various universities, the Ministry of Science [clarified](#) that the ban would apply only to specific university functions on the basis of the alleged necessity of preserving the capacities of people with learning disabilities or with German as a foreign language.

## GREECE

Sex education material by Rainbow School was removed from the website of the Institute of Educational Policy.

The government did not issue guidelines against bullying in schools on SOGIESC grounds, after backlash by the far-right and

the church against the marriage equality law, as described in Law 5029/2023, which is in effect since March 2023.

In October, a middle school teacher in [Lavrío](#) who distributed homophobic material to his students as part of their Religious Studies course was suspended.

## HUNGARY

Due to the so-called child protection law, which requires all educational projects, including activities in schools, to be registered with a public body, an EU-funded project aimed at making schools and workplaces more inclusive for LGBTI people using informal education methods, could not implement planned in-school sessions. However, the registration process has yet to be established, and organisations running the EU-funded project have taken legal action against the Ministry of Education for failing to register the program, with the court case still ongoing.

## ICELAND

During a meeting with the [National Youth Council of Iceland](#), as part of Iceland's Parliamentary election campaign in November, two parties claimed to be against education on LGBTI topics. LGBTI-inclusive education was also the subject of [criticism](#) by the leader of the Centre Party, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson.

## IRELAND

This year 45 post-primary schools stepped up to work with Belong To, to create a safe space for LGBTI students in Ireland's first whole-school community safe and supportive schools project, the LGBTI Quality Mark.

In May, the 'Belong to Primary: New Foundations for LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Primary Schools' research, conducted by Belong To in partnership with the University of Limerick, highlighted a gap between the willingness of school staff to be LGBTI inclusive and their confidence in how to do so. The research involved over 1,000 primary educators with a view to assessing the knowledge levels, views and professional needs of primary school staff in Ireland regarding LGBTI inclusivity.

## ITALY

In May, Laura Ravetto from the Lega Nord party introduced a [bill](#) aimed at banning the teaching of "gender theories" in schools.

In September, the Culture Committee of the Chamber of Deputies approved a [resolution](#) introduced by Rossano Sasso of the party Lega, [calling](#) on the government to exclude any content related to what is referred to as "gender ideology" in schools.

In October, the Undersecretary for Education, Rossano Sasso,

[requested the closure of a course](#) at the University of Sassari on gender and queer theories. Undersecretary Sasso accused the University of Sassari of promoting "gender ideology" with public funds. The case also reached the Italian Parliament, leading to controversy.

In October, the association Provita e Famiglia and the political party Fratelli d'Italia criticised the University Aldo Moro of Bari, for hosting [a conference on same-sex parenting](#), for allegedly denying children's rights to both a mother and a father while promoting surrogacy. [Provita e Famiglia](#) also expressed outrage over the involvement of the university's Rector, Stefano Bronzini, and the university's counselling centre, which connects students with local LGBTI associations. Additionally, the association called on the Minister of University and Research, Anna Maria Bernini, to intervene and prevent Italian universities from using funds for political and ideological purposes.

## KAZAKHSTAN

In approximately 7% of cases documented by Education Community, [university administration and faculty members](#) outed pupils on the basis of their personal bias and used the stigma surrounding the exposed SOGI of the victims as an excuse for abuse, including hate speech, violations of student privacy, and deliberate grade reduction.

## LUXEMBOURG

In May, the drag character Tatta Tom was invited to give a reading at the Lycée technique agricole. Following the event, a member of parliament from the right-wing conservative party ADR harshly [criticised](#) the school's invitation and the presence of queer topics in schools in general.

In July, a public [petition](#) (No. 3.198) calling for the exclusion of LGBTI themes from educational programmes for minors gained the [support](#) of over 9,000 people. In response, civil society organisations and individuals launched counter-petitions opposing the exclusion of LGBTI content. These were combined by the Luxembourg Parliament's Petitions Commission into a single petition (No. 3281). The counter-petition [quickly gained momentum](#), collecting 4,500 signatures on its first day and surpassing the anti-LGBTI petition within two weeks.

## MALTA

According to a Eurobarometer [survey](#) on discrimination, 77% of Maltese respondents believe that school lessons and educational materials should include information about LGBTI identities. Additionally, 78% of Maltese respondents agree that school lessons should also cover sexual orientation.

## MOLDOVA

In September, a teacher at Anton Chekhov High School delivered a [speech](#) to students that included anti-European propaganda. The speech contained claims that following EU integration, children would be able to change their gender and that Ukraine had already installed urinals in girls' restrooms and legalised same-sex marriage.

## NETHERLANDS

In August, following reports from [several local](#) youth monitors about a sharp decrease in the acceptance of LGBTI identities among young people, civil society called on the government to investigate this alarming trend. In response, the Secretary for Education committed to launching a research study, which has already begun, to better understand the causes of this decline in acceptance.

The [governmental programme](#) of the new Dutch cabinet states that sexual and relational education in schools should be 'neutral' and 'age appropriate'. The new secretary for Education later [stated](#) that such a form of education is already neutral and age appropriate and that the existing policy will not be changed.

## NORWAY

In November, a proposal introduced by members of the Christian Democratic Party, Representative Proposal 156 S, sought to remove teaching about gender identity in schools. The proposal was met with significant opposition, including a detailed consultation [response](#) from FRI, the Norwegian association for gender and sexual diversity, which emphasised the importance of accurate and respectful education on gender identity to prevent bullying and support queer youth. Ultimately, the Storting [rejected](#) the proposal, with 86 representatives voting against it and 13 in favour.

## POLAND

In January, Katarzyna Kotula, Minister for Equal Opportunities, [announced](#) her endorsement of the annual "LGBT-friendly schools" ranking organised by civil society actors in collaboration with the European Commission.

In April, the government announced the introduction of a [new subject](#), "Health Education," in both primary and secondary schools.

In August, the organisation Ordo Iuris, issued a [publication](#) arguing against addressing school students by their preferred names and pronouns by school staff and faculty.

## PORTUGAL

In late January, President de Sousa [vetoed](#) a law that mandated schools to implement measures ensuring students' right to self-determination of gender identity. According to the Portuguese Presidency, the veto was issued because the decree on neutral names did not adequately align with the essential principle of personal freedom. The PAN party [criticised](#) the President for his "ideological conservatism," denouncing his decision to reject parliamentary measures designed to protect and affirm students' gender identity and expression in educational settings.

## ROMANIA

A new pre-university education law took effect at the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year, introducing the creation of a body aimed at combating discrimination within the educational system. This move sparked controversy and led to a wave of misinformation, particularly around an "Educational Contract" included in the legislation. Some sources falsely claimed that parents or school principals who refuse to sign this contract could face heavy fines or even community service penalties. Clauses promoting diversity and inclusivity are portrayed as "hidden agendas to advance gender theory and LGBTI rights", fueling a wider anti-gender and anti-LGBTI discourse. In addition, a legislative proposal was introduced by former AUR deputy Mihai Lasca, who founded Patrioții Poporului Român (Patriots of the Romanian People - PPR), to censor LGBTI issues in schools, the media, and public spaces. His proposal also aims to ban pride marches and public assemblies on related topics, claiming inspiration from Viktor Orbán's policies in Hungary.

## RUSSIA

In November 2023, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation indicated that the use of feminines—distinctively feminine forms of nouns—could suggest involvement in "LGBTI extremism." While no administrative or criminal cases have arisen on this point, the ruling has contributed to a broader chilling effect on language use. In response, the Higher School of Economics in Moscow [prohibited](#) students from using feminised terms in their written work, further curtailing linguistic expression.

In March, a trans woman reported to Coming Out that a college in Irkutsk refused to replace her education diploma after she changed the gender marker on her passport.

## SLOVAKIA

Following Hungary and Bulgaria, the government attempted to introduce [new regulations](#) aimed at restricting "LGBTQ+ propaganda" in schools. The proposed bill, introduced in September by the ruling Slovak National Party (SNS), was intended to "protect children" from influences deemed inconsistent with

the national Constitution by amending the Education Act. The bill, backed by four SNS deputies, including party leader Andrej Danko, sought to ensure that the educational processes in schools and school facilities are in accordance with the principles and standards that reflect the cultural and ethical values of Slovak society, and support education for responsible citizenship, respect for biological and social factors and the integrity of family relationships. Schools found in violation of this ban could have faced fines of up to €30,000. Proponents of the bill justified the amendment by referencing Article 41 of the Slovak Constitution, which defines marriage as the exclusive union between a man and a woman. Education Minister Tomáš Drucker firmly opposed the law, arguing that such issues often ignite emotional and ideological debates, detracting from efforts to improve the quality of education. In November, the amendment was rejected by the Slovak Parliament but representatives of the SNS stated that they would continuously resubmit the bill until its adoption.

In October, several schools  canceled  commemorative events for the victims of a terrorist attack targeting LGBTI people at the queer bar Tepláreň in 2022, following pressure from far-right politicians on social media. Prime Minister Robert Fico further fueled the controversy by declaring that people should report to him any school events promoting LGBTI ideology. Equality and non-discrimination

In June, the board of the Bibiana Revue magazine, published by the Bibiana children's art gallery, resigned. The resignation followed a dispute with the magazine's director over the planned inclusion of a review for a children's book titled Stáva sa Elu, which addresses topics related to non-binary and trans identities.

In July, Slovakia's Deputy Prime Minister, Tomáš Taraba, announced that he would skip the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics. He declared his decision was in protest against the depiction of the Last Supper presented at the opening ceremony, which he believed was filled with "LGBT ideology" and insulting to Christian symbols.

## SWITZERLAND

In June, political proposals to ensure modern and comprehensive sex education were officially submitted in nine cantons by Pink Cross, the Lesbian Organisation Switzerland, and Transgender Network Switzerland, in collaboration with parliamentarians. These initiatives also aim to protect queer teachers and students from discrimination, highlighting the need for inclusive and respectful educational environments across Switzerland.

A study conducted by the University of Bern, alongside the University of Zurich, revealed concerning insights about the school climate for LGBTI students. The study stressed that over 90% of respondents reported homophobic and transphobic remarks from their classmates. Among the respondents, more

than half faced exclusion from their peers due to bullying related to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and nearly two-thirds of trans and non-binary students experienced verbal harassment.

In May, the Canton of Valais introduced directions on the accompaniment of trans and non-binary pupils in obligatory and post-obligatory schools.

In November, the Canton of Basel-Stadt also introduced guidelines for schools to support them in accompanying trans pupils in an appreciating and non-discriminatory way. On CitizenGO, a petition against these guidelines was launched.

## TURKEY

In May, despite the recommendations from the Turkish Medical Association, the Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University Faculty of Medicine modified the oath at a graduation ceremony. The new oath removed references to "gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity," which are crucial for non-discrimination as per the Declaration.

In June, similar acts of censorship occurred at Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University and Ordu University. At Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University's Faculty of Medicine, the dean's office prohibited the inclusion of references to sexual orientation in the 'Physician Oath' before the graduation ceremony. At Ordu University's Faculty of Medicine, during the graduation ceremony on June 27, the oath was similarly censored.

In June, President Erdoğan introduced a new school curriculum focusing on family values and moral order. The curriculum received criticism from teachers' unions, who argued it promotes Islamisation of education.

## UNITED KINGDOM

In May, new draft guidance from the UK government advised teachers in England not to teach school children about gender identity and proposed banning sex education for children under nine. The then Education Secretary Gillian Keegan emphasised the importance of providing children with "the right information at the right time," while also stressing that the topic of gender identity should not be taught at all.

In August, research conducted by The Independent and Index on Censorship revealed that over half of school libraries in the UK have faced parental demands to remove books about sexual orientation and gender identity. Books such as Julian is a Mermaid', 'Heartstopper', and 'ABC Pride',, were frequently targeted, with complaints focusing on content promoting acceptance and love for LGBTI identities. In half of these cases, the complaints led to the removal of the books, with several librarians also reporting threats from parents, including demands for their dismissal if their requests were not met.