

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

ARMENIA

Two cases involving attempts of conversion therapy were documented in the past year by Pink NGO.

In the first instance, the mother of a teenage girl forcibly took her to both a psychologist and a neurologist in an effort to change her sexual orientation after the girl came out to her. One of the psychologists disclosed details about the girl's sexuality to her mother, while the neurologist promised to "treat" her. In another case, a gay person sought psychological counselling but encountered a psychologist who encouraged him to pursue experiences with women. The individual was able to promptly terminate the counselling sessions due to this inappropriate guidance. In both situations, those affected chose to report their experiences only to Pink NGO's social workers, declining to approach other specialists or authorities.

BELARUS

In April, police officers assaulted trans activist Yulia who was subsequently forced to flee the country after being subjected to relentless pressure and threats.

A trans woman reported to TG House that, before managing to flee the country, she was subjected to severe abuse during detention. She described being beaten and having to endure stun gun torture, as security forces mocked her gender identity and coerced her into making false confessions.

BULGARIA

In the Baby Sara case, the LGBTI organisation Deystvie submitted a formal complaint to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), arguing that the treatment faced by the child, whose birth certificate was denied by Bulgarian authorities, amounts to inhuman and degrading treatment.

GEORGIA

During mass protests against alleged election fraud and the halt to Georgia's European integration, several protesters, including LGBTI people, were subjected to torture and cruel treatment. Police committed human rights violations, including unlawful force, torture, and the targeting of journalists. Detained protesters have testified to widespread abuse. (See also under Police and Law Enforcement.)

ITALY

In October, a 15-year-old boy, bullied and subjected to physical violence by classmates because of assumptions about his sexual orientation, decided to take his own life. According to testimonies, the students taunted him and hit him in the genitals.

NETHERLANDS

In May, the House of Representatives voted in favour of a motion calling on the government to do everything possible to prevent non-consensual, non-emergency medical treatments on intersex children from taking place. In June, a roundtable was held by the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport as part of an exploration into the possibility of a ban. A similar exploration took place in 2019, indicating a repeated legislative process. In December, parliament adopted a second motion, explicitly calling for a legal ban on the non-consensual treatments.

POLAND

In July, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judged the case W.W. versus Poland. The case concerned the situation of a trans woman in the national prison system. According to the Court, Poland did not meet the requirements set out by art. 8 of ECtHR by failing to provide access to medication and hormonal therapy. However, the Court did not share the complainants' argumentation on the alleged violations of art. 2 and art. 3 of the ECtHR. In response, the Prison Services announced the establishment of a special team tasked with analysing the situation of trans prisoners.

In October a report by Rzeczpospolita detailed significant issues for trans people in the prison system such as the denial of continued hormone replacement therapy, lack of access to medical professionals, and even refusal of basic items like bras and headbands. The report also shed light on the harsh conditions faced by trans prisoners, including solitary confinement and harassment from both fellow inmates and prison staff. The report noted that following a ruling from the ECtHR (see above), the Polish Prison Service is expected to address and resolve these ongoing problems.

TAJIKISTAN

In 2016, Tajikistan's law enforcement agencies reportedly compiled a list of over 300 individuals from the LGBTI community, labelling them as "high risk" for HIV infection. At a press conference on February 15, 2023, Ramazon Rahimzoda, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan, categorically denied the existence of such a list, asserting that the Ministry had never compiled or published such records. However, Radio Ozodi uncovered a departmental publication from the Prosecutor General's Office in which Rahimzoda himself reported on the creation of this list. The existence of this list led to widespread human rights abuses during 2024, including torture, blackmail, and extortion, during raids and illegal detentions. Following international pressure, the situation improved temporarily, with reduced instances of violence and harassment against LGBTI people.

TURKEY

In March, the first hearing concerning the arrest of 11 people who had gathered in Kadıköy's Yeldeğirmeni District before the Istanbul Pride March in 2022 took place. While the defendants were charged with violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations, they described facing disproportionate physical violence, including being handcuffed, beaten, and verbally abused.

TURKMENISTAN

Torture and inhumane treatment remain present throughout the country. In many instances, relatives have reported that LGBTI people were subjected to torture and violence by law enforcement authorities, and several public cases of LGBTI people being forced to flee from the country to seek safety were recorded.