

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In June, Sarajevo hosted its [fifth Pride march](#), with hundreds of participants marching through the city centre. The event saw the participation of Bosnian public figures and LGBTI rights advocates from abroad. No political or national symbols were allowed at the rally.

Emerging legal frameworks addressing freedom of assembly gained significant traction across multiple cantons in 2024. According to the cantonal governments, these new laws have been carefully aligned with international and European Union standards, underscoring a commitment to uphold global human rights principles. For instance, in September 2023, the Government of the Una-Sana Canton introduced the Draft Law on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, which was formally adopted in January 2024. Similarly, the newly established Government of the Zenica-Doboj Canton oversaw the adoption of its own Law on Peaceful Assembly. Meanwhile, the Central Bosnia Canton is actively engaging the public in discussions about its proposed law on this topic. In Canton 10, updates on the adoption of the Law on Peaceful Assembly have also been published. Notably, these legislative efforts specifically focus on protecting the fundamental right to freedom of assembly, while the regulation of public events will be addressed by separate legislation.

BULGARIA

In June, the city of Varna organised its first [Queer Festival](#) with the support of the European Union.

In June, concurrently with the human rights rally and LGBTI pride march organised by the Sofia Pride organisation, conservative groups have led rival [demonstrations](#) to advocate for traditional family values.

In August, the far-right Revival party proposed a [foreign agent law](#) targeting human rights NGOs and civil society, echoing efforts previously overturned in 2022. The proposed law, along with the previously introduced education law banning the representation of LGBTI identities in schools, closely mirrored Russian legislation that criminalises the LGBTI community. In late September the proposal was [rejected](#) by the Bulgarian Parliament's Committee on Culture and Media.

CYPRUS

June 1 marked the [tenth year anniversary](#) of the Cyprus Pride march, with the participation of foreign diplomats under the 'Diplomats for Equality' banner.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

In May, on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia,

Interphobia, and Transphobia, the yearly [Pride march](#) of Northern Cyprus took place, seeing the participation of local leaders. In September, the ["United by Pride"](#) event organised by the Queer Collective CY, with the participation of Accept LGBTI Cyprus, African LGBTIQ+ Community Cyprus, LGBT Filipinas, and Queer Cyprus Association held two parallel Pride marches. The third edition of the initiative represented not just a celebration of diversity, it also emphasised the urgent need for cooperation, solidarity, and action, particularly in a politically divided Cyprus.

GEORGIA

The [anti-LGBTI law](#) severely restricts freedom of assembly, effectively outlawing public gatherings such as Pride and IDAHOT events. Before the adoption of the law, Tbilisi Pride had already [decided](#) not to hold any events in 2024 due to the increase in homophobic and transphobic speech and violence, promoted and coordinated by the government in the pre-election period. (See also under Equality and Non-discrimination.)

GERMANY

Starting in August, far-right groups and neo-Nazis began organising so-called [counter-demonstrations](#) in response to local Pride marches, with participation varying between 30 and 600 people. The police responses varied significantly, ranging from protecting the Pride marches from counter-protests, to underestimating the threat and failing to provide adequate security. As a result, incidents of hate crimes near Pride marches surged dramatically. For instance, in the period from June to September, the Centre for Monitoring, Analysis and Strategy (CeMAS) recorded right-wing mobilizations against Pride in 27 cities nationwide, some of which included attempted attacks and violence.

HUNGARY

On May 11, the Prizma Trans Community successfully organised the second Trans Pride in Budapest. The event took place without any counter-demonstration and welcomed around 250 participants.

In June, the [29th Budapest Pride Festival](#) took place, with organisers pledging to continue their opposition to the government's anti-LGBTI policies. Although the event faced minor provocations, Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony, alongside representatives from the liberal Momentum party, the socialist-democrat DK party, and U.S. Ambassador David Pressman, [spoke](#) on stage.

In July, a municipality-affiliated venue in Debrecen, with the assistance of Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, attempted to block the second Pink Piknik, an LGBTI event, organised by CivisColors. However, the event proceeded without difficulties. The police were cooperative and professional.

ICELAND

In late June, [Hinsegin Vesturland](#) held the 4th edition of the [West Iceland LGBTI Festival](#) in the town of Borgarnes. Similarly, [Hinsegin dagar í Hrísey](#), in the north of Iceland, also held a LGBTI festival in the same period. In August, the Family Rainbow Festival ([Regnbogahátíð](#)), held by [Hinsegin Austurland](#) in Seyðisfjörður, celebrated 10 years of Pride in the east of Iceland. Reykjavík Pride was [celebrated](#) for the 25th time, and the newly elected President of Iceland, Halla Tómasdóttir, [addressed the crowd](#).

IRELAND

In June, Wicklow Pride was forced to [cancel](#) an event for young LGBTI people due to threats from protesters. The organisers later announced that the event would be postponed until a safer location was secured; however, it has not yet taken place.

KAZAKHSTAN

In early March, the Nazarbayev University announced a ban on its yearly Women's Day march. The decision followed an unofficial warning from the mayor's office, which argued that such rallies promote non-traditional values like LGBTI rights, and potentially disrupt public order. Officials cited ["threats to public safety"](#) as one of the reasons for these refusals, approving instead another government-affiliated [rally](#). Among various proposals, this rally also [called](#) for a ban on ["feminist and LGBTI propaganda"](#) and emphasised the need to protect traditional family values.

In October, Bagila Baltabayeva, the author of a petition against ["LGBT propaganda"](#) in Kazakhstan, attempted to [disrupt](#) the ["Lesbian Kurultai"](#) event in Almaty, organised by the Feminista movement. Law enforcement took both Feminista, as well as Baltabayeva and her associates, to the police station for questioning. Feminista leaders filed a statement accusing the disruptors of petty hooliganism, clarifying that the event was legally conducted and that they had not violated any laws.

In April, members of Parliament proposed a provision to officially classify ["LGBT propaganda"](#) as a legitimate reason for [banning peaceful assemblies](#) if such gatherings were deemed to promote it. This proposal was later withdrawn, and no draft law has been submitted to introduce such an amendment.

KOSOVO

In June, hundreds participated in Pristina's eighth Pride march, advocating for LGBTI rights in Kosovo.

Blert Morina from CEL emphasised this year's motto, ["We have been, and we will be,"](#) underscoring the need for solidarity and a safe shelter for the LGBTI community.

KYRGYSTAN

On July 22, the Supreme Court [upheld](#) the lower court's decision to maintain the ban on peaceful rallies and protests, which was introduced in March 2022, rejecting an appeal by activists who sought to overturn it.

LITHUANIA

In October, members of the LGBTI community [held a protest](#) near the Lithuanian Parliament, voicing their frustration over the government's ongoing failure to legalise same-sex partnerships. Approximately 20-30 participants attended, carrying rainbow flags and posters to express their dissatisfaction with the absence of legal recognition for same-sex couples in Lithuania.

MONTENEGRO

Pride march was held in September 2024, in a peaceful atmosphere. Pride Week was organised in multiple public locations, without any incidents.

POLAND

In February, the ["Stop LGBT"](#) initiative launched a [public campaign](#) aimed at banning all gatherings that ["promote non-heterosexual orientation"](#) or ["challenge the traditional man-woman relationship."](#) This campaign was accompanied by a [bill](#) seeking to amend the law on associations in a way that would effectively prohibit Pride marches and similar events. The bill was introduced to the Sejm by a citizens' committee, and under parliamentary rules, the newly elected Sejm was obligated to continue working on it, even though legislative work typically ends with the conclusion of a parliamentary term. During the bill's presentation in the Sejm, members of the citizens' committee used inflammatory language and made derogatory remarks against LGBTI individuals, prompting the speaker of Parliament to [intervene](#) multiple times. Despite the heated rhetoric, the Sejm ultimately [rejected](#) the ["Stop LGBT"](#) bill.

ROMANIA

Extremist MPs Mihai Lasca and Dumitru Focşa (former members of AUR and current members of the Patriots of the Romanian People party) presented a proposal to forbid ["LGBTI propaganda"](#) in schools, media and demonstrations such as Pride.

Bucharest Pride march saw a record-breaking turnout of over 27,000 participants, making it the largest march to date. This year's celebrations were marked by a peaceful atmosphere, with no major incidents reported. Cluj Pride also saw a strong turnout with hundreds attending the event, despite a counter-protest by the ["Family Meeting"](#) group nearby, ensuring the event proceeded without incident. In Iasi, 1,500 people attended the Pride event

safely, and in Timisoara, 1,500 people also participated without any issues. Brasov Pride was attended safely by 200 people.

ARK Oradea, the organisation behind Oradea Pride, accused local authorities of homophobia and transphobia after repeated refusals by the city to permit their events, prompting ARK to organise a protest at the city hall. During the protest, which drew around 50 participants, both ARK Oradea and a counter-protester who incited violence were fined, as the demonstration lacked authorisation.

Attempts to thwart Pride march organisations continued from local authorities in Timișoara, such as by refusing to hold the march on religious holidays, which is a frequent justification brought up in attempts to limit LGBTI assembly.

RUSSIA

No public rallies, marches, demonstrations or pickets in defence of LGBT people were held in Russia in 2024. This is largely due to the Russian authorities' persecution of people for expressing their opinions, which has become much more severe since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

SERBIA

In September, thousands took to the streets in Belgrade for the Pride march, demanding legislation to recognise same-sex unions and gender identity rights. Participants pointed to the persistent prejudice and stereotypes that continue to affect Serbian society. During the event, police separated a group of counter-protesters opposing the march. Nonetheless, organisers criticised the silence of state bodies and institutions on the rising hardships encountered by the LGBTI community in Serbia, calling for political representatives to express their support for events like the Pride march.

SLOVAKIA

In July, the 14th annual Pride Festival gathered approximately 10,000 people in Bratislava, despite warnings of a potential terrorist attack on the march. After the event, Deputy Prime Minister Tomáš Taraba, filed a criminal complaint with the General Prosecutor's Office against the organisers, alleging defamation of the state flag. However, the prosecutor's office later dismissed the complaint, ruling that the use of the rainbow flag with the Slovak state symbol was unfounded as a legal offence.

In early July, the Slovak parliament passed a controversial law, commonly referred to as "Lex assassination" ("Lex atentát"), through an expedited legislative procedure which led it to come into effect on July 15. Human rights organisations have expressed alarm over several aspects of the law, notably the prohibition of all gatherings within 50 metres of designated sites. The law

also expands the grounds on which assemblies can be banned, introducing vague and subjective criteria that make it easier for authorities to restrict peaceful gatherings. Despite the implications of these changes, there has been no comprehensive analysis of the law's full impact, and key stakeholders, including civil society, were excluded from the legislative debate. The law places an unreasonable level of responsibility on municipalities, granting them the power to ban gatherings based on ill-defined concepts like public order or potential conflict, both of which lack clear legal guidelines. This creates the risk of inconsistent interpretation and arbitrary enforcement.

TAJKISTAN

Over the span of 18 months in 2022–2023, more than 700 NGOs were dissolved in Tajikistan, with an additional 53 liquidated in the first half of 2024 alone. Among those targeted was "Equal Opportunity," the only NGO dedicated to promoting equality and non-discrimination, including the rights of LGBTI people. This crackdown has drawn international concern, with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders underscoring that the dissolution of human rights NGOs signals a deteriorating environment for civil society and human rights defence in Tajikistan.

TURKEY

In February, following a call to action by the Istanbul Trans Pride Week Committee, the Kadıköy District Governorate imposed a one-day ban on demonstrations and gatherings, detaining several LGBTI people who attempted to make a press statement despite the ban.

On February 14, the first hearing of the case against 18 people detained during the 2023 Pride Week in Eskişehir took place. Participants emphasised that unlawful bans, which have been in place since 2015, were once again enforced, resulting in the unjust detention of the rights defenders.

In February, the Istanbul Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for two foreign students and ordered that five others be forcibly brought to the next hearing in connection with their participation in the 2022 Pride March at Boğaziçi University. In late February, Turkish police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse around 50 people who had gathered near Taksim Square in Istanbul to advocate for trans rights.

In March, a number of people gathered for the Feminist Night March in Siraselviler, near Istanbul's Taksim Square. In response to the gathering, authorities blocked off several streets to vehicle traffic, conducting identity checks at various crossings and preventing passage.

In March, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

issued a [memorandum](#) noting that the right to peaceful assembly in Turkey had been significantly undermined by systematic bans, excessive use of force, mass arrests, and frequent criminal charges against demonstrators. The memorandum specifically pointed out that these restrictions have disproportionately targeted events organised by or in support of LGBTI people, women, and environmental human rights defenders.

In Istanbul, local authorities [banned](#) events related to Pride week, using the term ‘[illegal groups](#)’ for LGBTI organisations in its decision to ban the march. On the day of the march, the Istanbul Governorship [announced the closure](#) of Taksim-Şişhane metro stations and the Taksim-Kabataş Funicular Line, forcing activists to shift the march to Bağdat Street in Kadıköy. The march lasted about ten minutes before police intervention, leading to the [arrest](#) of 11 individuals, including three minors who were handcuffed in violation of the Child Protection Law. All were released after eight hours.

In December, a criminal [case](#) was opened against eight of the involved people and the first trial was set for 8 May 2025 by the Istanbul Anadolu Assize Court under the charge of “participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations”.

In Ankara, during the June Pride march, the Pride committee [rerouted their path](#) to evade police interference, resulting in no detentions.

In Eskişehir, ten activists were [subjected to torture](#) after being detained at a Pride March. Four of these activists were initially brought to court with a demand for their arrest, but they eventually [were released under judicial control](#).

In Antalya, protests and events related to Pride week were [banned](#) by the authorities. Nonetheless, on July 14, the Pride march took place before being [attacked](#) by police, who arrested four participants.

In November, several demonstrations in Turkey were met with police [repression](#). For instance, police blocked a demonstration in Ankara marking the International Trans Day of Remembrance, which honors victims of transphobic violence. Four people, including a member of the Ankara Bar Association, were arrested.

On November 23rd, police intervened in a protest in Istanbul against a new e-prescription regulation affecting hormone access (See also under Bodily Integrity), detaining 38 individuals. They were later released after providing statements to the police.

During the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, protests erupted across Turkey. In Istanbul, the Governor’s Office banned all demonstrations for the day, and police action led to the arrest of 169 people. While most of those

arrested were released, two LGBTI persons from Azerbaijan were taken to repatriation centres and, after being subjected to severe ill-treatment, including being denied food and medications, they were forced to “voluntarily return” to Azerbaijan.

In December, a lawsuit was filed against eight people who participated in the 22nd Istanbul Pride march on June 30, 2024, for allegedly violating the Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. The indictment referred to the participants as “LGBT people” and described the Pride march as a “[so-called](#)” event. The first hearing is scheduled for 8 May 2025 at the Istanbul Anatolian Courthouse.

UKRAINE

In June Kyiv [hosted](#) its first Pride march since the Russian invasion, organised with joint efforts of Gender Stream and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The march only [covered](#) a distance of 100 metres and participants were then redirected to the underground and trains for safety. Police cited the risk of a potential air attack and the presence of radical anti-LGBTI groups in the city as reasons for the early dispersal.

In September, over 60 people participated in a Pride [event](#) organised by activists in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The event featured a car procession, with 13 vehicles driving along one of the city’s main avenues, to raise awareness about the importance of upholding human rights and to garner international support for the defence and recovery of Kharkiv.

UNITED KINGDOM

In July, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer [stated](#) that trans women with Gender Recognition Certificates should not have the right to access women-only spaces. Starmer further emphasised the need to protect “biological women’s spaces.”

In February, the group For Women Scotland lodged an [appeal](#) against the 2023 Scottish court ruling that “sex” in British equality law means sex as amended by gender recognition. They want the UK Supreme Court to rule that it only means “biological sex”. In March, the UK’s first trans judge sought permission to [intervene](#) in this appeal, but was refused. The UK Supreme Court [heard the case](#) on 26 and 27 November, and judgement will be issued in 2025.

In March, Sports Minister Lucy Frazer from the Conservative Party [urged](#) all British sporting bodies to review their policies on trans athletes in women’s sports to ensure fairness and integrity in competition. Emphasising the need for a thorough assessment of existing rules and regulations, the government has also [requested](#) an explanation from the Football Association regarding its current policy, which aims to balance inclusivity for transgender players with safety and fairness in women’s football.

In October, following the appeal, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced that trans women who have gone through male puberty will be excluded from Tiers 1 and 2 of the new women's county competition, as well as from the women's Hundred. This decision aligns the ECB's eligibility policy with that of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which introduced similar guidelines in 2023.

Shadow Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson endorsed allowing trans women who have undergone gender transitions to use female toilets, addressing concerns about safe spaces for women.

In May, a group of 26 female hospital nurses announced their intention to sue the NHS after being required to share a changing room with a trans colleague who had not yet undergone gender reassignment surgery.

In May, Scotland's deputy First Minister Kate Forbes pledged to "serve all communities" in Scotland after the Scottish Greens expressed concern over what First Minister John Swinney's decision to appoint her as his deputy could mean for LGBTI people.

In May, the UK Government proposed new regulations requiring single-sex restrooms in all newly constructed pubs, restaurants, offices, and shopping centres in England. The decision followed a public consultation conducted by the UK Government in which 81% of respondents supported separate single-sex toilets, and 82% backed universal toilets where space permits.

In June, Women and Equality Minister Kemi Badenoch criticised LGBTI advocacy groups for allegedly misusing Britain's equalities laws. Badenoch pledged to uphold the "privacy and dignity of women and girls" against interpretations of sex and gender that go beyond biological characteristics.

August marked the 18th anniversary of the UK Black Pride, with thousands of participants joining the march in Stratford.

UZBEKISTAN

In Uzbekistan, trans individuals face severe discrimination, harassment, and violence, exacerbated by both societal and governmental homophobia. A trans woman shared with Ozodlik having to present as male in public due to her official documents, which list her as male. As part of her testimony she cited encounters with law enforcement that often mock, humiliate, and physically abuse trans people.

The Uzbek government remains opposed to legalising same-sex relationships, citing concerns about public backlash and preserving the country's image within the Muslim world.

Uzbekistan, with its close ties to Russia and historical tendencies to emulate Russian legislation, may use the Russian criminalisation of LGBTI identities to further marginalise LGBTI people. Russian and Georgian laws reinforce a narrative that could gain traction in Uzbekistan, where same-sex relations between men are already criminalised under Article 120 of the Criminal Code.