THEMES HOUSING

ALBANIA

To address the economic precarity faced by LGBTI people in the country, sexual orientation and gender identity have been recognised as eligibility criteria for social housing.

The law on social housing (Law no. 22/2018, "On Social Housing") establishes a framework for providing affordable housing to vulnerable populations, including the LGBTI community. It aims to ensure access to housing, particularly for individuals facing discrimination, such as trans people, who are disproportionately affected by housing issues. Between 2019 and 2024, for instance, 22 trans women were evicted from their homes solely based on their gender identity. Many LGBTI individuals view the capital city as the only place where they can live free from violence, leading to increased demand for housing there. However, a significant barrier to accessing social housing is the lack of trust in the system, as concerns about compromised confidentiality during the application and assessment process deter many from applying. The effectiveness of this legislation is further undermined by the absence of essential bylaws, which complicates proper implementation. As highlighted by an article on portavendore.al, many institutions continue to rely on outdated provisions from previous laws when applying the current legislation, thus hindering progress and reinforcing legal gaps that continue to restrict the LGBTI community's access to adequate housing.

ANDORRA

Andorra is currently facing a challenging housing crisis, with <u>rising</u> rents that have rendered housing <u>emancipation</u> increasingly unattainable, resulting in many people living in overcrowded conditions.

In December 2023, a movement advocating for decent housing emerged, culminating in one of the largest <u>demonstrations</u> in the country's history. This mobilisation, which continued to gain momentum throughout 2024, marked a significant turning point as civil society, including the LGBTI movement, came together to demand urgent measures to address the housing crisis. Although the government is attempting to implement measures to address the situation, these efforts have largely proven inadequate. According to Diversand, the overall housing crisis disproportionately impacts LGBTI people, particularly those whose families do not accept their identity. Trans people, in particular, are at heightened risk, as the lack of supportive family environments exacerbates the challenges they face in securing safe and adequate housing.

BELGIUM

A team from the Institut de la Décision Publique, in collaboration with the Prisma Federation and the Walloon Region, is conducting <u>exploratory research</u> on the risks of precarious health and housing for LGBTI people in Wallonia. The goal of the research is to assess the current situation in the region and to develop recommendations for improving the support provided by the Walloon public authorities in addressing the specific needs of LGBTI people.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In April 2024, the first <u>Safe House</u> for LGBTI people was opened in the capital city of Sarajevo.

ITALY

In May, a LGBTI co-housing refuge was established by the Gay Centre Association in Rome, marking the third LGBTI shelter in the capital. This refuge will accommodate up to three LGBTI youths who have experienced violence and discrimination.

In December, the National Network of LGBTQIA+ Anti-Discrimination Centre was officially established during the "Spazio ai Cad" initiative. The two-day event, held on December 7 and 8, took place at Cassero in Bologna as part of the La Violenza Illustrata Festival.

LITHUANIA

Racialised LGBTI migrants consistently reported experiencing discrimination in rental housing situations.

MALTA

The first shelter providing supported accommodation for LGBTI people was completed by the Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement, and <u>inaugurated</u> by the Prime Minister and Minister for Social Accommodation in December 2024. It is expected to start receiving residents in 2025.

MOLDOVA

The GENDERDOC-M Information Centre for Assistant was approached by a trans woman who suffered domestic violence due to her gender identity. The staff helped the victim file multiple complaints with the Ministry of Social Protection, the Children's Ombudsman, and the police, prompting the formation of a commission to investigate her situation. Since she had no safe place to stay, she was accommodated in the refugee shelter operated by the GENDERDOC-M Centre until she reached adulthood.

UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine has intensified the displacement crisis, significantly impacting the LGBTI community, with many forced to flee occupied territories or frontline areas. Shelters have become essential for survival, particularly for marginalised groups within the community. Throughout the year, a dedicated shelter for trans and non-binary people continued to operate in Odesa, supported by the collaborative efforts of local LGBTI activists and civil society. Additionally, Insight Ukraine's shelters in Lviv and Chernivtsi, along with Gender Stream's shelter in Uzhhorod, remained operational, providing vital services to LGBTI people.