

## ANDORRA

Feminist LGBTI activist Vanessa Mendoza Cortés, who faced defamation charges from Andorran authorities over a report highlighting the lack of access to abortion in the country, was acquitted on January 17. She was accused of defaming her country after having presented a report on the situation of abortion in Andorra to the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the UN CEDAW committee.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Draft Law on so-called “Foreign Agents” was withdrawn from the official procedure within the National Assembly of RS in May 2024. The draft law was proposed in September 2023 and if adopted, would require non-profit organisations that receive funds from abroad to register as “agents of foreign influence” and be barred from political activity. It is not clear if adoption of this law will happen in the future.

## BULGARIA

Following amendments to the Pre-School and School Education Act, criminal and data protection proceedings were launched against the Single Step Foundation, charging them with educational efforts that support non-traditional sexual orientations and gender identities.

## DENMARK

In September, the Danish government extended the funds allocated to Global Focus’s ‘Claim Your Space’ Mechanism. The Mechanism, which will now receive 15 million DKK until 2026, aims to provide rapid financial support to civil society and human rights defenders at risk.

## FRANCE

In May, about fifty associations and over 140 public figures wrote to the then-Prime Minister Gabriel Attal to criticise the “deafening institutional silence” amid rising attacks against LGBTI people since the beginning of 2024.

## GEORGIA

Following the enactment of the foreign agents law, a coalition of NGOs is preparing to challenge the law by filing a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court of Georgia. In addition, they plan to submit a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights, seeking to suspend its implementation.  
(See also under Freedom of Association.)

## LUXEMBOURG

During Pride Week, the President of the Luxembourg Parliament received the board of the National LGBTIQ+ Association Rosa Lëtzebuerg and the managing director of its Rainbow Centre to

discuss the most pressing concerns of the LGBTI community in Luxembourg. The President of Parliament asked Rosa Lëtzebuerg to offer further training for the employees of the parliamentary administration over the next year.

## MONTENEGRO

Hostility towards LGBTI human rights defenders is on the rise, manifesting both online and in physical spaces. Many activists are refraining from reporting threats due to a widespread lack of trust in institutions, further exacerbating the vulnerability of the LGBTI community.

## RUSSIA

LGBTI activist Zhenya Morris was forced to flee Russia after security forces visited her home and her Queer Compass Telegram channel was blocked by Roskomnadzor (the Russian federal executive agency responsible for monitoring, controlling and censoring Russian mass media) and added to the list of banned sites.

## SLOVAKIA

In February of this year, the Ministry of Justice cancelled the only subsidy call for its Human Rights 2024 Program, effectively halting the provision of financial grants to human rights non-governmental organisations. The decision came just one day before the scheduled oral hearings of subsidy applicants and was made without any substantial justification from the department. These grants were a crucial source of funding for NGOs involved in informal education, supporting disadvantaged population groups, and advocating for LGBTI rights. Compounding this issue, the Ministry of Culture, under the leadership of Minister Martina Šimkovičová (SNS), also terminated all grants aimed at supporting NGOs working to protect LGBTI rights.

## SLOVENIA

Bogdan Lešnik, a prominent Slovenian psychologist, humanist, and LGBTI activist known for his contribution to the creation of a grassroots LGBTI movement in Slovenia, passed away at the age of 73.

## TURKEY

In May, the final hearing of the Kobanê case confirmed the 16-year prison term of LGBTI activist Cihan Erdal, who was initially in 2020.

## TURKMENISTAN

Human rights advocacy is heavily restricted, with international human rights defenders being barred, unregistered organisations deemed illegal and substantial hardships in registering rights groups.