



ANDORRA

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

On September 27, El Periòdic d'Andorra published a transphobic opinion piece which linked trans identities with mental illness. At DiversAnd's request, the article was removed from the website and its author issued a public apology. However, the printed version ran within the day's edition. El Periòdic's management team deflected responsibility and admitted lacking policies to identify and prevent hate speech in their publication. DiversAnd reported the case to the Ministry of Social Affairs' equality office.

Hate speech on social media remained a concerning issue.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

DiversAnd received accounts of microaggressions this year, but none of these were reported to the authorities. Both civil society and the government suspect that low reporting is due to fear.

Andorra's anti-discrimination body, the [Equality Observatory](#), created in 2020, will set up a dedicated LGBTIQ+ issues committee in 2024.

After significant delays, in February the Equality Observatory's survey, which explored world perceptions of homosexuality, based on 2018 data, was published. DiversAnd were invited to participate as an advisor in shaping the methodology for the next edition of the survey, strongly encouraging for the development of more studies that specifically focus on the experiences of LGBTIQ+ people in Andorra.

On IDAHOBIT on 17 May, the Ministry of Social Affairs [launched](#) an awareness campaign against LGBTI-phobia, which featured posters and signs on buses and traffic lights.

Civil society continued to lobby for a specific LGBTIQ+ law.

FAMILY

On 30 January, the Parliament [voted](#) in favour of amending the wording of the 2022 [Law of the Person and Family](#) in order to replace the distinction between between church marriage and civil marriage with one only one term 'matrimoni'.

This amendment implements the October 2022 [ruling](#) of the Constitutional Court, which set out that differentiating between church marriage and civil marriage, the former only being available to heterosexual couples, was discriminatory on the basis of sexual orientation. The new law [entered](#) into force on 17 February.

HEALTH

In August, DiversAnd met with the Ministry of Health to discuss the specific protocols for gender-affirming procedures that follow the regulatory [changes](#) of 2022. The organisation argued for the inclusion of puberty blockers, hormone therapy for 16-year-olds (and in some cases as young as 14), and gender-affirmation surgery for adults within the social security system's coverage. Another demand was to eliminate any delays in accessing gender-affirming care. The implementation of the [protocols](#) is planned for early 2024.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, and Equality launched a campaign against anti-LGBTI hate on IDAHOBIT (see under Equality and Non-discrimination).

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The [Law of the Person and Family](#), adopted in 2022, entered into force in February this year. The law [introduced](#) a gender marker and name change procedure for the first time, albeit not based on self-determination. The law sets out a court procedure for both name and gender marker change, [mandating](#) that the person had lived according to their gender identity over the past two years, shown by evidence and testimonials. Children over the age of 12 can only access name change with parental consent and through a court procedure. The first name change of a minor [took place](#) in March. At least [one adult](#) had their name and gender marker changed in the same month. Civil society [reported](#) that in both cases the process was quite long and difficult, and the applicants were questioned about their identities at court.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Andorra's Prime Minister, Xavier Espot publicly announced his sexual orientation on a [radio programme](#). "I'm gay. I've never hidden it," he stated. CSOs hope this will have a positive impact on younger generations and in the international arena.

In October, DiversAnd and Escaldes-Engordany city council [painted two benches](#) with the rainbow and the trans flag to mark Trans Pathologisation Month.



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