

>THEMES

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

ALBANIA

NGOs Aleanca, OMSA, PINK, PRO LGBT and Streha [held](#) 12 training sessions for all the Directorates of Police across the country. Albania has 12 directorates of police corresponding with 12 regions of the country.

ARMENIA

(See also under Equality and Non-discrimination)

The U.S. Department of State's annual report, released in March, [raised](#) concerns about the situation of LGBT+ people in Armenian prisons and detention centres. A civil society report [published](#) similar findings, sharing that LGBT prisoners are often placed in a separate cell and are subject to other discriminatory forms of treatment.

The Prison's monitoring group, attached to the Ministry of Justice and with the participation of CSOs, warned once again about the mistreatment of LGBT people in penitentiary institutions.

AZERBAIJAN

The police continued to be the main perpetrators of anti-LGBT violence, including through extortion.

BELARUS

(See also under Freedom from Torture, Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment; under Bias-motivated Violence) The testimonies of two soldiers were [shared](#) in an article, affirming that during enlisting the army [continues](#) to send 'homosexuals' to psychiatric institutions. One man spoke of verbal harassment from hospital staff.

Early in 2023, police authorities forced an LGBTQ person to film a video publicly outing themselves, expressing regret for their sexual orientation and using offensive language. The police then shared the video online, which was taken down after a few days.

In August, two gay men were arrested during protests. Police [subjected](#) them to humiliating treatment and threats, and recorded them partially unclothed in a video disseminated on government-affiliated social media channels.

BELGIUM

In March, the FPS Justice, formerly the Ministry of Justice, launched an internal recommendations guide

at the [Gender & Justice Colloquium](#) for the treatment of incarcerated trans people.

Transgender Infopunt [published](#) a trilingual self-help guide for trans people in Belgian prisons and an [info sheet](#) for correctional staff on how to support them during their detention.

Several members of the army [joined](#) Brussels Pride for the first time this year.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SOC provided a two-month training on combatting hate against LGBTI people to about 400 future police officers. This training is now part of the regular program of the Federal Police Academy.

BULGARIA

Deystvie trained 100 police officers on responding to anti-LGBT hate crimes.

GLAS and Bilitis trained over 80 prosecutors on hate crimes, legal cases and LGBTI people's needs.

CYPRUS

Accept presented a seminar in Nicosia in collaboration with the Cyprus Police. The plan is to extend the seminar to other districts in 2024. There are ongoing talks exploring the inclusion of an LGBTI-focused course in the Police Academy's curriculum.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

In late 2022, a court in Nicosia [affirmed](#) that keeping trans detainees in solitary confinement for their own protection was unacceptable. Despite this decision, in 2023 a trans woman was detained and kept in solitary confinement at the Kyrenia police station. She was then sent to prison, where she also spent time in solitary confinement.

FRANCE

The Ministry of Interior [sent](#) guidance to all police stations about how to work with trans people. The Ministry also promised to [train](#) officers of anti-LGBT hate and violence. SOS Homophobie [documented](#) almost 30 cases where trans people were mistreated by the police.

The Minister of Defense [announced](#) in May that people living with HIV will be able to [join](#) the military and the 'gendarmerie'.

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GEORGIA

WISG held training for the staff members of state-funded crisis centres and State legal aid service employees.

GERMANY

The Ministry of Justice in Baden-Württemberg, as part of creating new guidelines to give greater consideration to gender identity in prison, [shared](#) that there were eight trans and intersex prisoners in the system; that some detainees have had access to trans-specific healthcare; and that there will be a consultation on further changes that should be made.

The Ministry of Defense [launched](#) a website where soldiers can file for financial compensation if they were discriminated against in the military due to their SOGI.

ICELAND

Samtökin '78 [signed](#) an agreement with the National Police Commissioner to carry out education activities.

The prison authorities [shared](#) that no trans person was currently held in prison in Iceland. They affirmed that an individualised plan would be made for each trans inmate regarding their placement, which would take into account their gender identity.

IRELAND

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors [called for](#) the withdrawal of the new 'Gender Identity in the Workplace' policy to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all trans staff in the Gardaí, saying officers are not yet trained on GIE issues.

In November, LGBT Ireland along with representatives from Trade Unions and migrant groups, [held](#) a meeting with the Garda Commissioner to discuss the policing of far-right activities.

KAZAKHSTAN

In July, two men on a date in a legally parked car were attacked by patrol officers. The officers, without presenting badges or legal reasons, attempted to force them out of the car, demanded documents, and used derogatory homophobic language. They also threatened to distribute a potentially embarrassing video allegedly filmed on their work camera. Following a threat to file a complaint, the police left the scene, and the men later received an apology from the department.

In 2023 in Shymkent a transgender woman experienced business seizures and forced expulsion from the city by law enforcement. An attack on her in her own home occurred, and the police refused to take any action.

*Some of the information about Kazakhstan was shared with ILGA-Europe by activists who for safety reasons need to stay anonymous. These accounts were not publicly shared online or otherwise.

LITHUANIA

(See also under Freedom of Assembly)

Following the disruptions of the LGL demonstration in September, the police officers conducting the investigation insisted on obtaining information about the activists' ethnicity, failed to protect the privacy of a victim during their testimony, and did not inform them about support mechanisms available.

MOLDOVA

Soldier Marin Pavlescu, who had [suffered](#) homophobic [abuse](#) and [mocking](#) at his army base in 2021, [filed](#) a lawsuit against the [Ministry of Defense](#).

MONTENEGRO

LGBT Forum Progress, Queer Montenegro, Spectra and CeMI [trained](#) police officers, judges and prosecutors.

NORWAY

The police uniform regulations have been [changed](#), so that police employees now can wear whichever uniform they want regardless of gender. The police [will no longer allow](#) off-duty officers at Pride to wear their uniform.

SLOVENIA

In July Legebitra, Parada ponosa, ŠKUC and the DIH met with the General Deputy Director of the Police, who pledged to introduce special police information points during the next Pride parade, which will be positioned around Ljubljana and Maribor and will enable LGBTIQ+ persons or anyone who has been subjected to homophobic and/or transphobic violence, to submit a report on the spot with appropriate professional support. He also committed to reviewing existing training curricula, to ensure police are educated on topics regarding different minorities. It was agreed that it is necessary to include LGBTIQ+ organisations and their knowledge in the implementation of police training.

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SPAIN

Upon the [request](#) of Spain's Ombudsperson, the authorities [shared](#) that as of April this year, 79 trans people were held in prisons, but did not clarify what determined which gendered facilities they were placed in. [Since 2006](#), Penitentiary Institutions allow trans convicts to be accommodated in prison according to their gender.

TURKEY

In its country report on Turkey, the European Commission [highlighted](#) violence against LGBTI+ incarcerated people. Despite petitions, the authorities have [failed](#) to relocate a trans woman prisoner to a women's prison.

UKRAINE

A number of LGBT soldiers [continued](#) reporting harassment and bullying (see under Bias-motivated speech and violence), including during recruitment.

UNITED KINGDOM

A number of police commissioners and constables [apologised](#) to the LGBTQ+ community for past homophobic persecution (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

UZBEKISTAN

The police continued to be the main perpetrators of anti-LGBT violence, including through extortion.