TAJIKISTAN

ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD

The war in Ukraine had a serious impact on the country and on LGBT people in particular. Due to the unfolding economic crisis, many LGBT people had to leave the country, most heading for Russia or Turkey.

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Living costs, including goods such as food, medication, or transport have increased significantly, making life difficult for members of the LGBT community. Flight tickets were also raised, which made it difficult for many LGBT people to leave.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

'Homosexuality' is used by both the government and unofficial political parties to shame and degrade each other. For instance, unofficial opposition parties routinely use their social media to "out" people who work for the government, calling their sexuality a disgrace. They often accuse the current government of allowing and promoting 'homosexuality' in Tajikistan.

Government representatives also spread misinformation that 'homosexuals' leave the country to speak negatively about Tajikistan, and equate 'homosexuality' with terrorism.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Civil society reports that violence against LGBTQI+ people continues to be carried out on a daily basis.

Life for Tajik LGBTQI+ people remained unsafe, even in cases where they had left the country.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Tajikistan's UPR recommendations were released in January. The government was urged to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, which adequately and effectively protects LGBTI+ persons from discrimination and violence; to protect LGBTI+ people who report abuse and extortion by the police; and to tackle hate speech against LGBTI+ people. On 28 June, the Lower Chamber passed the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination bill, but the adopted text has not been made public to date. The early drafts included sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds, but the final version omits these.

In October, the UN Committee on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights highlighted with concern in its country review of Tajikistan that LGBT people face severe discrimination.

In October, a trans woman was humiliated and threatened at the border when travelling back home from Russia.

FOREIGN POLICY

Due to the continued military conflict at the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, nationals of both countries are restricted from travelling to each other. Many students from Tajikistan, some of whom are LGBT, were forced to leave their university in Kyrgyzstan.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

LGBT bloggers living abroad were targeted by intimidation and threats online. Their families back home were also harassed by police.

HEALTH

Local activists will publish a manual in 2022 to support medical professionals in providing quality care and services when it comes to trans-specific healthcare and also to legal gender recognition.

Migrants living with HIV, including LGBT migrants, can now register remotely at the Republican AIDS Centre in Dushanbe and receive free ARV drugs.

HOUSING

Due to the large influx of migrants from Russia, rental prices also increased. Many LGBT people were left homeless or were evicted because they could not pay rent.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Activists continued to report being pressured, harassed, and detained by the authorities, often under false charges.

In December, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human



Rights Defenders visited Tajikistan and spoke out against the repressive political system, condemning convictions and lengthy prison terms for journalists, lawyers, and activists.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

At least two trans men and one trans woman were able to change their documents this year, through a court procedure. Civil society highlighted that there is no transparent procedure for LGR.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Activists reported again this year that the police continue to threaten, blackmail, harass, and detain LGBT people.

**Some of the information about Tajikistan was shared with ILGA-Europe by activists who for safety reasons need to stay anonymous.*

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