

Poland



LGBTI people in Poland continued to encounter discrimination on a regular basis in 2017 – either in an individual capacity or when organising collectively as activists and in civil society groups.

From an NGO perspective, LGBTI activists remain concerned how the space that civil society occupies in Poland is gradually being eroded. They are continuing to monitor how new laws, such as the Public Assembly Bill (now deemed constitutional), will operate in practice. Worries also linger around access to funding and resources to support LGBTI activism in the coming years.

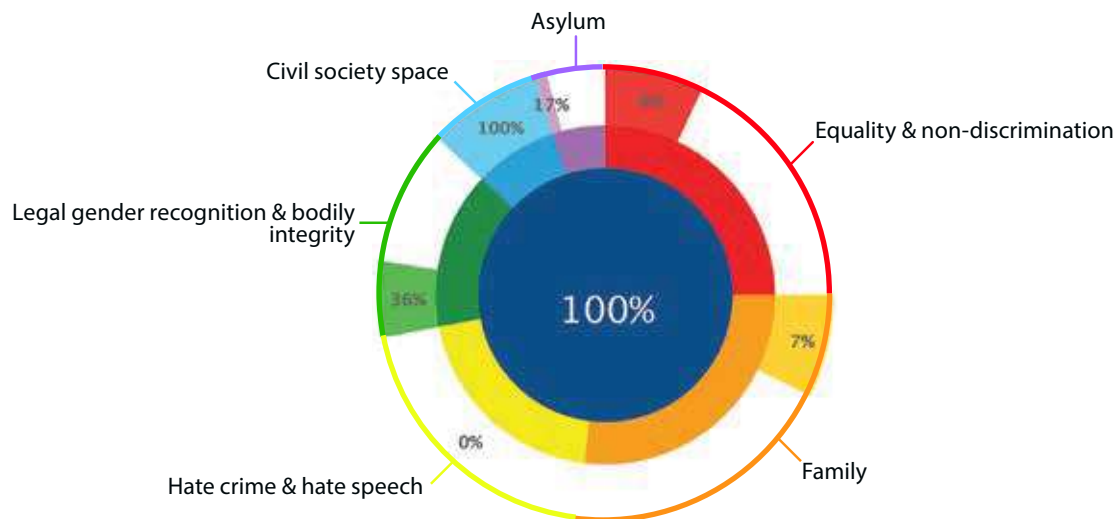
Several NGO-led studies also revealed the personal difficulties experienced by LGBTI people. The absence of any clear protocol or training for medical professionals in Poland was highlighted in a comparative study into trans-specific health needs. The recommendations of that particular report included the introduction of a legal gender recognition process based on self-determination, underlining the glaring legal gap as demonstrated in our own Rainbow Europe Map.

Thousands of LGBTI people also responded to a survey on their social lives by NGOs KPH, Lambda Warsaw and Trans – Fuzja Foundation, sharing their experiences of depression and anti-LGBTI violence. However, the same survey also contained an element of hope for the future, as the LGBTI community were shown to be very politically engaged and turn out to vote in huge numbers.

The physical attacks reported by individual LGBTI people are not just statistics. They are personal cases. (A recommendation included in last year's Annual Review called for action and legislation against bias-motivated crimes.) There was no movement on another recommendation to protect same-sex people in partnerships, motivating several couples (supported by an NGO coalition) to initiate legal action in Strasbourg before the European Court of Human Rights.

All Rainbow Europe information is available online at www.rainbow-europe.org

Legal and policy situation in **Poland** as of 31 December 2017



In order to improve the legal and policy situation of LGBTI people, ILGA-Europe recommend:

- ➡ Introducing hate crime laws that explicitly cover all bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.
- ➡ Adopting legal measures to recognise and protect same-sex couples, such as civil unions or registered partnerships.
- ➡ Introducing hate speech laws that explicitly include sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics as protected grounds.