

Czech Republic



Same-sex couples, rainbow families and their legal protection (or lack thereof) were the issues at the forefront of LGBTI activists' minds in 2017.

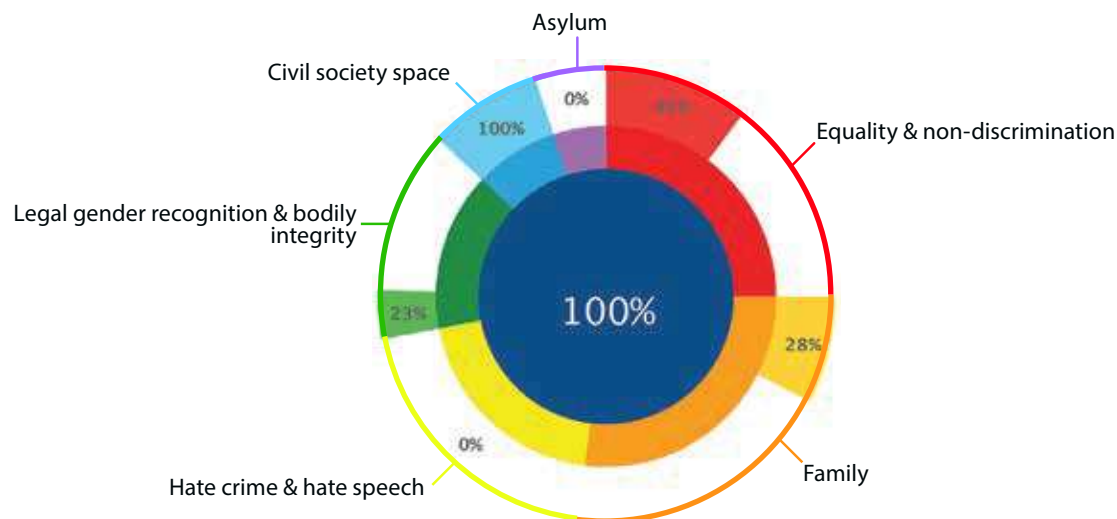
The year began on a disappointing note, as a long-awaited bill on second-parent adoption failed to be debated and was removed from the legislative agenda. (Under existing legislation, only married couples are eligible to access the adoption process.) However, there were encouraging court cases, including the recognition of a couple's parenthood of their child who had been born via surrogacy in the USA.

Importantly, the LGBTI community did not allow themselves to be discouraged by the political inaction on adoption. Five Czech NGOs grouped together under the *Jsmě fér* (We are Fair) campaign title and began a national conversation on marriage equality. Public opinion polls showed that young adults in particular are very positive about the possible introduction of equal marriage.

Trans activists were left feeling frustrated after National Geographic's Czech edition featured transphobic language and a different cover to the international version of its 'Gender Revolution' edition, while Roma LGBTI activists continued to build links with fellow NGOs through solidarity campaigns. The incident involving National Geographic and intolerant public statements by presidential candidates serve as a timely reminder that there is still an absence of hate crime and hate speech laws to explicitly protect LGBTI people from bias.

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

Legal and policy situation in **Czech Republic** as of 31 December 2017



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

- Ensuring marriage equality for all.
- Drafting and adopting legislation to allow same-sex couples to have access to adoption.
- Updating the existing legal framework for legal gender recognition, to ensure the process is based on self-determination, and is free from abusive requirements (such as sterilisation, GID/medical diagnosis, divorce or surgical/medical intervention).