

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

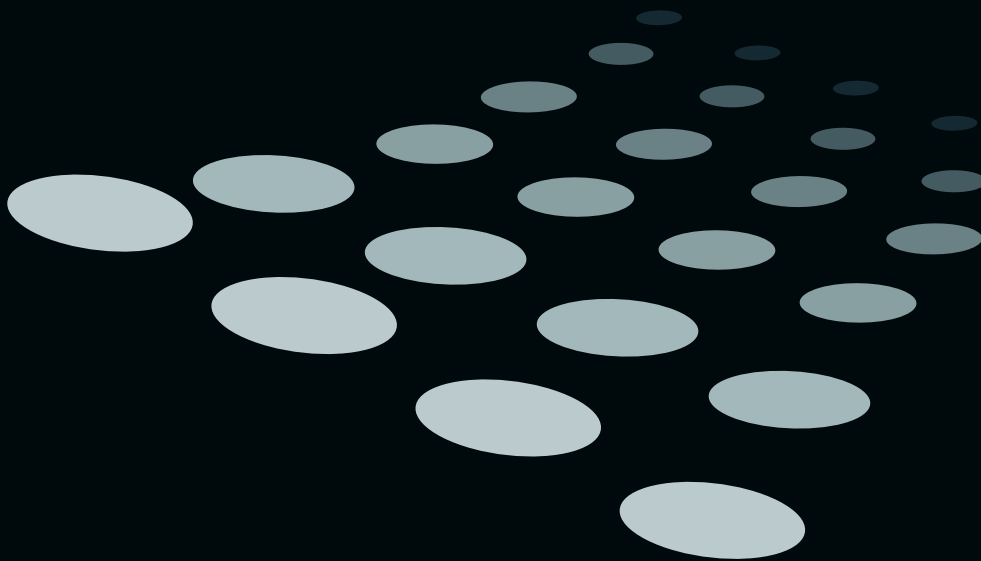
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ILGA-Europe

**Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People
in Europe**

2018



Russia



ILGA-Europe have been compiling Annual Reviews for many years and in many ways the Editorial Team thought they had seen it all. But in the spring of 2017, news began to emerge from Chechnya that shocked the LGBTI community globally.

The detention of community members in unofficial prisons and the human rights violations they suffered there, as revealed by Novaya Gazeta reporters, was difficult to comprehend. Activists in the region reported that people were being kept in illegal detention centres, tortured and even killed, based on their perceived sexual orientation.

The violence in the multiple detention centres was further compounded by the treatment that several victims received from family members following their release. In a region where traditional family customs are embedded in society (and where external pressure on families from the regime itself is also very real), many feared reprisals or even 'honour' killings, prompting many people to seek safety outside Russia. The mobilisation of local activists, NGOs and the LGBTI community around the world to support the survivors was an inspirational moment in the midst of crisis.

The efforts of investigative journalists to expose what was happening in Chechnya remind us of the importance of the fundamental freedom of expression. A bill that would allow the Russian authorities to list certain media outlets as so-called 'foreign agents' was rushed through parliament, and came into effect immediately.

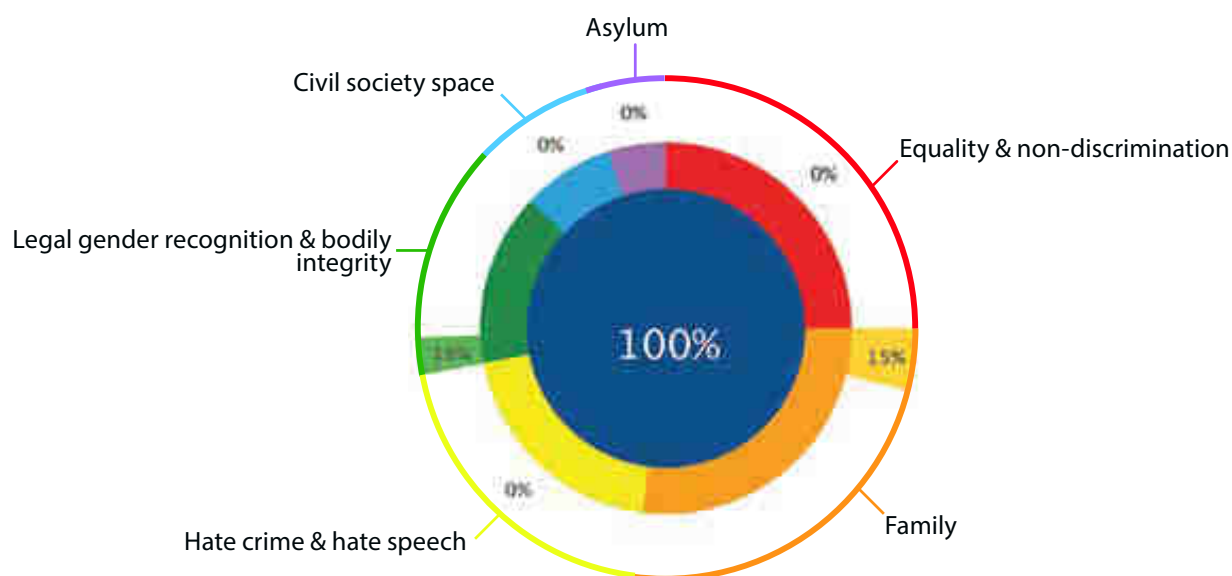
The restriction of freedom of expression was also at the core of the *Bayev v Russia* case, in which the European Court of Human Rights declared that Russia breached the rights of activists who had complained about the effects of the country's 'anti-propaganda' legislation. It was a landmark decision and the first time that the Strasbourg Court had ruled on the infamous law.

While no progress was recorded on the legal and policy front, or on the recommendations contained in last year's Annual Review, LGBTI activists persisted with their work. St Petersburg witnessed its largest Pride event since 2010 and the organisers of Queer Fest in the city reported no disruption as the festival welcomed over 1000 people. Results from the first-ever study on the rights of LGBTQIA people with disability in Russia were published and there were several positive court decisions on access to legal gender recognition.

But as this Annual Review goes to print, the shadow of Chechnya still hangs over the work of activists in the region. Despite the international condemnation, there are still major security concerns for survivors and no investigation has begun, one year on.

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

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



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

- Introducing hate crime laws and policies that explicitly cover all bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.
- Removing obstacles to the effective exercise of freedom of assembly, association and expression.
- Repealing the legislation prohibiting 'propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships'.