

FRANCE

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

A life insurance company hiked up their rate for a trans person this year but later withdrew the discriminatory move. Loan insurance has also become harder for trans people to secure, which can lower their chances of getting a mortgage.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Anti-trans speech was on the rise this year. TV channel M6 streamed a documentary on trans issues, which included an anti-trans activist, a psychiatrist, and a trans person's hostile parent. Civil society [expressed](#) deep concern about the content and complained to M6.

In May, Smaïn Laacher, president of DILCRAH's scientific committee, the interministerial anti-discrimination body, was [reported](#) to be a board member of Observatoire de la Petite Sirene (Little Mermaid Observatory), a group well-known for its anti-trans views and actions. The group had for instance [claimed](#) that trans children accessing medical care amounts to "mutilation". One member of DILCRAH's committee resigned after the news broke. Laacher later [resigned](#) from Observatoire de la Petite Sirene.

Over the summer, four newly appointed ministers were at the [centre](#) of public attention due to their homophobic [positions](#) and CSOs [demanded](#) their resignations.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year.

The Ministry of Interior [shared](#) that the number of anti-LGBTI hate crimes rose by 28% between 2020-2021. Between 2016-2021, the number of incidents doubled. 2021 saw a temporary decrease presumably due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry also highlighted that these numbers are in no way total, as a mere 20% of victims report threats and attacks to the police.

SOS Homophobie [found](#) a similar increase this year, noting the high rates of anti-trans insults and violence.

Several public spaces were vandalised this year (see [here](#) and [here](#)). A women's centre was [covered](#) in transphobic graffiti in Montreuil in June.

In January, two men were [convicted](#) in the murder case of Vanessa Campos, a migrant trans worker who was brutally killed in 2018. The men received 20 years in prison, but the transphobic motif of the murder was left unaddressed. Several other perpetrators of anti-LGBTI hate crimes were convicted this year (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

BODILY INTEGRITY

In January, the parliament [banned](#) so-called 'conversion therapies' that aim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, making the administration of these harmful interventions punishable by up to 30,000 euro or a prison sentence.

CIA - OII France welcomed the National Human Rights Institution's (CNCDH) [report](#) on LGBTI rights that features firm recommendations to ban non-consensual surgeries, develop healthcare protocols on the basis of human rights, and train medical professionals.

In March, the health authority issued its opinion on the draft decree on healthcare provision for intersex children, which is a bylaw of the [2021](#) bioethics law. The law was adopted without any consultation with intersex activists and organisations. The opinion takes issue with the fact that care decisions would be made by doctors, without the consent of the child. The authority reminded of the clear stance of international and regional human rights bodies, i.e. that non-consensual surgeries and medical interventions must be banned. CIA - OII France welcomed the opinion.

In May, the European Court of Human Rights [dismissed](#) the case of [M. v. France](#) on procedural grounds. The applicant is an intersex person, Mö, who underwent surgical interventions against their consent as a child.

ECRI [recommended](#) that France bans all non-consensual and medically unjustified interventions on intersex children; that health professionals receive training on intersex rights; and that counselling and support services are available to intersex people and their parents.



EDUCATION

In April, President Macron said that it was too early to teach students about SOGI issues in primary school. A few weeks later, he backtracked and declared support for educational programs and CSOs.

EMPLOYMENT

The first study of its kind found that more than half of lesbian and bisexual women have experienced discrimination in the workplace, and half hide their sexual orientation.

Another survey found that more than a third of LGBTI+ employees have experienced workplace discrimination.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

On IDAHOBIT in May, the National Human Rights Institution (CNCDH) published a thematic report on the human rights situation of LGBTI people in the country.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of same-sex relations in France. Senator Bourgi (Socialist Party) proposed that financial compensation be paid to the thousands convicted on the basis of their sexual orientation. CSOs remain disappointed with the Ministry of Equality's pace of implementing the National LGBT+ Action Plan (2020-2023) and the lack of cooperation with CSOs. ECRI echoed these concerns and called for a monitoring body to oversee implementation and adequate human and financial resources.

Since November, people living with HIV can join national police ranks, as the government lifted the discriminatory ban. This development does not include firefighters, military and gendarmerie ranks, which continue to not be accessible for people living with HIV.

FAMILY

Following last year's announcement, official civil status forms were adjusted to be inclusive of rainbow families.

In February, the Toulouse Court of Appeal upheld a 2021 ruling in favour of a trans woman, who changed

her gender marker after her child was born, and is now correctly featured identified as 'mother'. The civil registry office had refused the mother's claim, who then would have had to adopt her own child.

Also in February, a Paris court recognised the parental responsibility of two non-legal parents - the first ruling of its kind.

The parliament adopted the new adoption law, making it accessible to unmarried couples.

Several same-gender female couples have faced difficulty accessing early parenthood recognition in line with the 2021 PMA law. Many are unaware that they need to go through the registration process prior to undergoing fertility treatment, either in France or abroad, and risk not being automatically recognised as parents.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

In June, Bordeaux Pride was disturbed by far-right extremists who chanted anti-LGBT slogans.

In October, the town of Pau held its first Pride. Small town of Chenevelles also held a Pride march.

HEALTH

The report of two trans healthcare experts was launched in January, commissioned by the Ministry of Health. The report finds gaps in care provision, including a lack of self-determination, extended waiting times, and inequitable access in terms of location. The authors recommend healthcare provision based on self-determination, and informed consent, that recognises the diversity of transition pathways.

The new blood donation regulations lifting restrictions on men who have sex with men entered into force in March.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Prime Minister Borne announced pro-LGBTQ rights measures in August, including the promotion of decriminalisation abroad and funding for ten additional LGBT+ centres. The announcement came days after CSOs demanded the resignation of four ministers after their anti-LGBT stance was revealed.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The French Football League published an awareness-raising video on IDAHOBIT in May.

The first openly trans contestant of Miss France finished as runner-up.

PUBLIC OPINION

A number of studies were published this year, finding that two-thirds of citizens believe the government should do more for LGBT equality, that children should be taught about SOGI issues, and that LGBT children who are rejected at home should have state support.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

In July, the Constitutional Council ruled that excluding trans and intersex people, whose legal gender is not 'female', from cost coverage for in vitro fertilisation is not unconstitutional. Civil society firmly criticised the ruling.

Fertility treatment remained inaccessible to many same-gender female couples, due to waiting times, age restrictions, and a confusing bureaucratic process. Civil society called for change.

Sex worker organisations continued to lobby for decriminalisation this year.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The Paris municipality will open a shelter for those most marginalised within the LGBT+ community, including trans people and migrants.

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