

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Armenia



Armenia's legal and policy situation remained relatively unchanged at the end of 2017. Legislation continues to overlook the day-to-day experience of LGBTI people living in Armenia.

Operating in a relative legal vacuum, LGBTI NGOs continually worked to provide support to the community. From training courses on fundraising and activism for LGBTI organisers, to developing guidelines on LGBTI mental health for medical professionals, to running the first community camp for trans people, NGOs provided a wide range of vital services. A prominent LGBTI activist was also recognised for their equality work with the 2017 Hepple Equality Award.

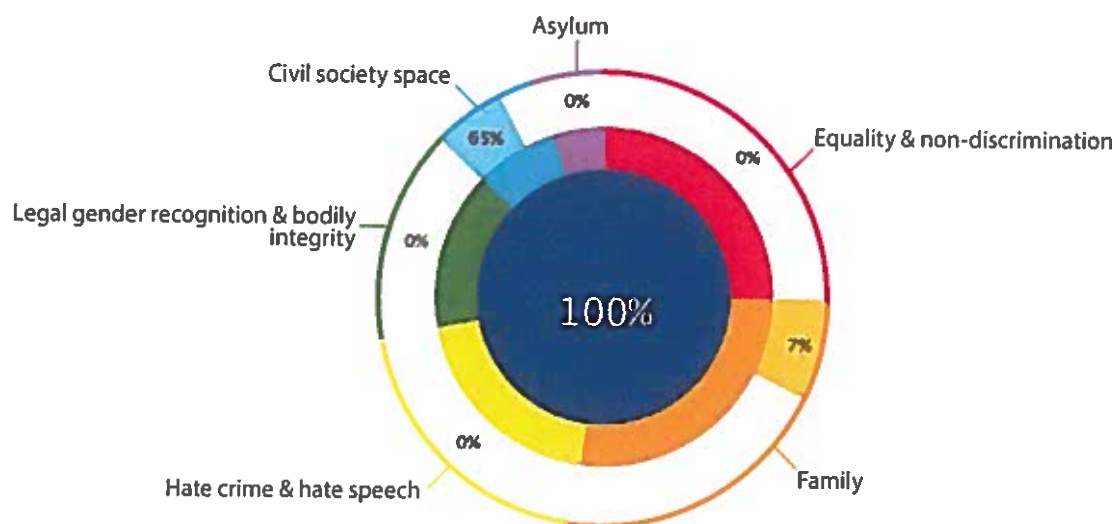
This support was often provided in a hostile environment that was not particularly encouraging for civil society. Right Side NGO was the target of attacks and had to relocate their office, but continued to work with the LGBTI community and advocate for greater legal protection for trans people throughout.

NGOs also reported that hate speech, attacks and intolerance towards LGBTI people remains commonplace. In the absence of any progress on the recommendations to policymakers made in last year's Annual Review, a significant number of LGBTI people surveyed by NGOs admitted they had made plans to leave Armenia entirely.

Several attempts to increase public awareness of LGBTI issues were thwarted during the year. The removal of NGO Pink Armenia's campaign posters from Yerevan city centre drew complaints from LGBTI activists, while two films featuring LGBTI themes were removed from the Golden Apricot International Film Festival programme without a satisfactory explanation.

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

Legal and policy situation in **Armenia** 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.
- ➡ Specifically including all SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics) grounds in legislation prohibiting discrimination in all spheres of life.
- ➡ Developing fair, transparent administrative measures for legal gender recognition, based on a process of self-determination, free from abusive requirements (such as sterilisation, GID/medical diagnosis, or surgical/medical intervention).