

Kosovo¹



The sense of community, solidarity and celebration within the LGBTI movement in Kosovo was clear for all to see in 2017 as Pristina held its first ever Pride event.

While LGBTI activists had exercised their right to peacefully assemble for public events in the past (around IDAHOT, for example), the country had never hosted a Pride before.

The 'In the Name of Love' festival was organised by 9 civil society groups, the prime minister and president were involved in the celebrations, and over 500 people joined the inaugural Pride March. Religious leaders and affiliated political parties opposed the event, but Pride passed off peacefully with no major counter-protest.

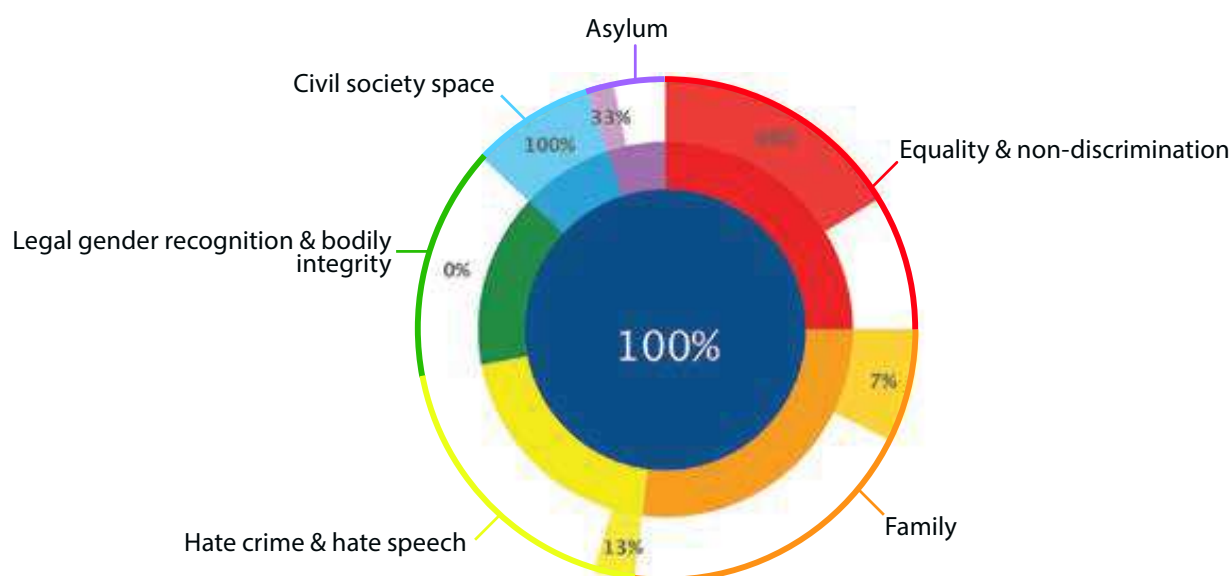
Anti-LGBTI hate speech and hate crime, such as the incidents reported to LGBTI NGOs around Pride and throughout the year, are still not adequately included in national legislation. A recommendation to provide such protection in law was included in last year's Annual Review and was also raised with the Ministry of Justice by activists in 2017. The devastating impact of LGBTIphobia was highlighted by the fact that LGBTI NGOs had to assist several LGBTI people to leave Kosovo entirely as a result of domestic violence, seeking shelter with services in Albania.

Another recommendation from last year's Annual Review focused on developing a legal basis for legal gender recognition, a process that currently is not provided for in law or administrative policy. While new laws were not forthcoming in 2017, activists did commence meetings on the subject with the relevant ministry.

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

¹ Included in this Review as a separate jurisdiction following UNSCR 1244/1999

Legal and policy situation in **Kosovo**¹ 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.
- Developing a fair, transparent legal framework 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).
- Actively implementing the existing national action plan on LGBTI equality.