

Georgia



LGBTI activists working on the ground in Georgia had to face several challenges in 2017 – not only when community members required their support, but because the activists themselves were the targets of bias-motivated attacks.

Several LGBTI activists were subjected to a hate campaign instigated by ultranationalist opponents, with violent threats being spread through social media posts and newspaper articles. Five members of the LGBTI community, including activists who worked with LGBTI NGOs, were physically attacked in Batumi city, but received no support from law enforcement officials.

These clear attempts to intimidate and make LGBTI activists cease their work is another example of the increasingly difficult climate that human rights defenders are operating in across Europe.

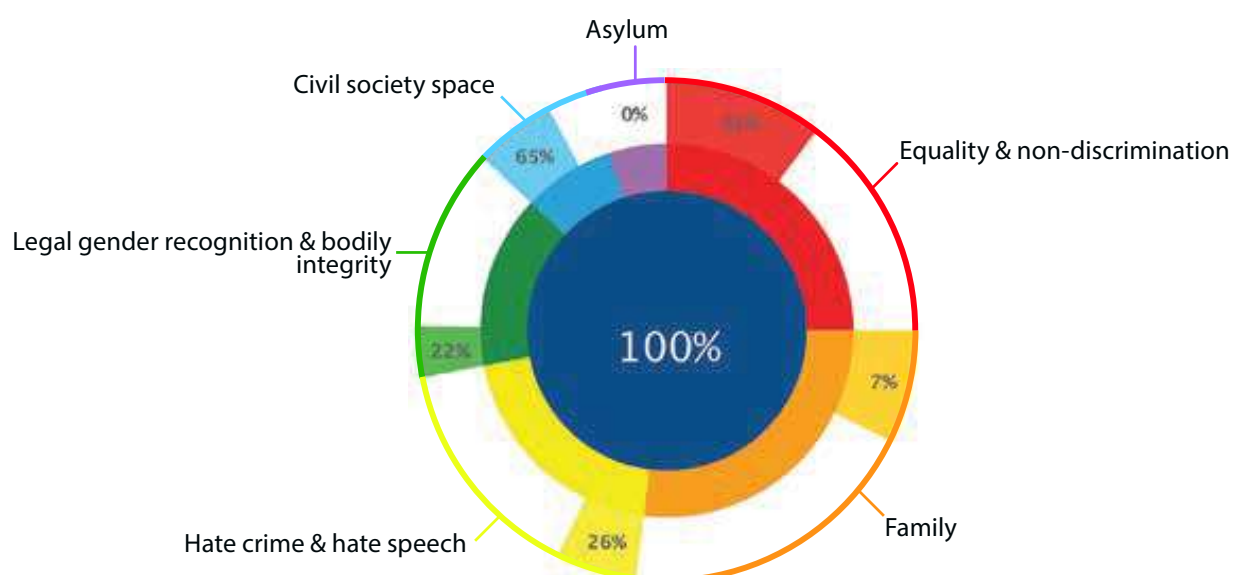
Little progress was made on the recommendations issued in the previous edition of ILGA-Europe's Annual Review. The fact that the existing legislative protections are not being fully utilised only adds to that disappointment. Zizi Shekiladze's murderer was given a 13-year prison sentence, but transphobia was not considered by the court as an aggravating circumstance, despite provision for this possibility under the country's Criminal Code.

More positive legal developments included the initiation of the first case of gender identity discrimination heard by the Public Defender since the introduction of the 2014 equality laws and the Constitutional Court's decision that the blanket ban on blood donation violated the Constitution.

In another development involving the Constitution, parliament voted to introduce a definition of marriage into the document, describing it as a union between a man and a woman. However, the Venice Commission noted that this did not rule out the possibility of legal recognition for same-sex couples.

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

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



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



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).



Adopting legal measures to recognise and protect same-sex couples, such as civil unions or registered partnership.