



# MOLDOVA

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Hate speech by politicians remained a serious issue this year. GENDERDOC-M revealed this year's anti-LGBT awards in June, featuring MP Bogdan Țirdea (Socialist Party, PSRM), member of the Chisinau Municipal Council Cojocaru Dinari (Socialist Party, PSRM), former MP Iurie Roșca, and the PSRM party itself for being the most homophobic party across the political spectrum. The satirical award ceremony was held for the third time this year.

On January 4, the newspaper '*Komsomoliskaia Pravda v Moldova*', known for its anti-LGBT views published an article called: "Let these bastards be punished as an example! How Stalin declared war on the "blues", describing Stalin's punishment of gay men, the connection between 'homosexuality' and espionage, and how the criminal punishment for 'homosexuality' was introduced.

On April 27, the leader of the Party of Socialists of Moldova, Igor Dodon, made the following statement on the show "Interview of the Week" on the TV channel 'Primul în Moldova': "In the next few weeks, PSRM will come out with an initiative to change of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova to prohibit the legalization of same-sex marriage in Moldova and to introduce criminal liability for PR for these things. And this is not new - both Russia and Hungary have included it in their constitutions."

On 13 May, MPs Alla Darovannaia, Vasile Bolea and Vladimir Odnostalco (Socialist Party, PSRM) held a press conference and spoke of LGBT people in a hateful manner, denouncing the Istanbul Convention, supporting a ban on same-sex marriage, and introducing a propaganda law. Civil society called for accountability and urged the Ombudsperson's Office and other authorities to take action.

On 14 June, the electoral block of the Communists and Socialists launched 'Family Week' to promote traditional values. Socialist Vladimir Bolocan said: "Next Sunday, Orthodox Christians celebrate Holy Sunday, one of the largest religious holidays. Namely on this day, [...] those who promote debauchery will organise the gay march. We are against putting it in the children's heads, that there is "sex 3", meaning it is still not clear what they are - the girl or the boy, and they will decide only after the age of majority".

In the lead-up to the early parliamentary elections on July 11, leaflets were distributed by the block of Communists and Socialists, saying that they support traditional values and the traditional family, while right-wing parties stand for the "propaganda of sexual minorities in schools and on the streets, discrediting and attacking the church and the faith."

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Several hate crimes took place this year and several LGBT people reported domestic violence cases to civil society.

A young lesbian woman was subjected to an attempted rape by her co-worker who wanted to "correct her sexual orientation".

M., a trans man reported the violence he and his daughter face from his parents with whom they live together.

M. is unable to gain financial independence due to discrimination he faces in the labour market due to being trans. M. was denied help from the police.

V., a gay young person reported to GENDERDOC-M that he faces verbal and physical violence from his father since he found out he was gay.

Alex is an 18-year-old trans boy, was physically assaulted by his father and thrown out of home due to his identity.

A young gay couple also turned for help to GENDERDOC-M after facing harassment, threats, and violence from one of their families.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Moldova elected its first female President, Maia Sandu, in late 2020. Sandu defeated former President Igor Dodon, who had criticised her for having participated in Pride marches. Nonetheless, the Action and Solidarity Party, which Sandu previously headed, seems to have failed those most vulnerable during the parliamentary elections this year, by hardly mentioning LGBT people, and other minorities in its program.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

This year marked Moldova's 20th Pride Festival. The event was originally planned for May, but GENDERDOC-M decided to postpone it to avoid the overlap with 'family day'. The Festival was held between 15-20 June but the organisers of 'family day' decided to move their event to



that time period as well. Most of the Pride events were held online, as a COVID-19 measure. This year's motto was "I am writing the history of this country!"

## HEALTH

This year, GENDERDOC-M made additional STI testing services available as part of its health services for LGBT+ people.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

GENDERDOC-M awarded three human rights defenders for their work and courage to promote LGBT rights in the region. Natalia Ozturk, of Moldova, organised the first public LGBT event in the country, before the existence of GENDERDOC-M.

Most civil society activities were held online this year, with in-person events being cancelled.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The civil society Coalition for Inclusion and Non-Discrimination continued its work this year, and started collaboration with the parliament and government. One of the aims of the coalition is that the government introduces a legal gender recognition law.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The TV show "Efect 9.6", hosted by LGBT activist Angelica Frolov, continued this year and has streamed four episodes with LGBT people as guests.

## POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

18-year-old soldier Marin Pavlescu suffered homophobic harassment and mockery, and a phone call with his boyfriend was circulated at the army base he is stationed at. Pavlescu released a statement online vowing not to return to the army, for which he could be fined or face up to five years in prison. In the meantime, the Ministry of Defense found no proof of homophobic harassment or discrimination, but wants to press charges against Pavlescu for having a relationship with a 17-year-old. GENDERDOC-M is alarmed by the Ministry's failure to protect Pavlescu and reminded that the age of consent is 16.



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