

FRANCE

ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD

The pandemic continued to negatively impact LGBTI people, but with lockdowns ending, sex workers were able to resume their work.

ASYLUM

Ghana, Benin, and Senegal were removed from the list of safe countries this year, but other countries unsafe for LGBTQI+ people remain.

In March, the Council of State ruled that contrary to case law, LGBTQI+ asylum seekers coming from a country that criminalises or persecutes LGBTQI+ people, should not be automatically granted status.

In December, lawyers specialised in asylum cases held a demonstration outside the national asylum court against the abusive rejections of asylum claims, including when based on sexual orientation.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Twitter will have to share detailed information about its procedures for removing hate speech.

An increase in transphobic discourse has been noticed in mainstream media, including *Le Figaro*, *Charlie Hebdo*, CNews. The magazine *Marianne* published articles attacking trans children and youth; L'express published two articles on so-called "trans ideology". The far-right weekly *Valeurs Actuelles* featured a transphobic cover page - condemned by the Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities. Two NGOs launched a formal complaint against the magazine.

Lesbian politician and writer Alice Coffin continued facing harassment.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

SOS Homophobie found a 15% decrease in anti-LGBTI hate crimes between 2019 and 2020, which civil society warned may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in terms of exposure and also how safe victims feel to report while in unsafe homes.

The FLAG! phone app, where users can report anti-LGBTI hate crimes, collected over 1,500 reports of 3,896 incidents in its first year.

A gay man was murdered in April, a lesbian couple in August, and a trans migrant sex worker woman in September. At least six trans people are known to have committed suicide due to transphobic harassment. Physical attacks were reported regularly, mostly targeting gay men (see here, here, here, and here).

The Public Prosecutor affirmed that the accused perpetrators will stand criminal trial for the 2018 murder of trans sex worker Vanesa Campos. The trial will start in 2022.

An attacker in a 2018 homophobic hate crime was sentenced to only four months probation, despite the maximum sentence of three years in prison and thousands of euro.

The Paris Criminal Court established the lesbophobic motif of a rape and sentenced the perpetrator to 14 years in prison.

A perpetrator in a 2019 homophobic hate crime was sentenced to four years in prison with 16 months probation. Two perpetrators will be tried at juvenile court.

The courts fined a man to 1,000 euro and a two-day citizenship training for painting swastikas on bars.

BODILY INTEGRITY

An amendment on banning intersex genital mutilation was tabled in January, but without consultations with intersex activists. The text only bans genital surgeries, but not hormone therapy and gonadectomies.

The most recent draft law on bioethics fails to ban on intersex genital mutilation.

The law on banning conversion therapy against minors and adults on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity was unanimously adopted by the parliament and in December, by the Senate.

EDUCATION

A 14-year-old girl committed suicide after two years of lesbophobic and islamophobic bullying.

The principal in a Lyon school was found to have discriminated against a teacher when ordering her to take



off her rainbow COVID-19 face mask.

For the past five years, SOS Homophobie has reported a steady rise in anti-LGBT discrimination and bullying in schools.

The Ministry of Education banned the use of inclusive writing in schools.

Internal guidance (circulaire) was produced by the Ministry of Education on the inclusion of trans children in schools. One concern raised by NGOs is around schools requiring parental consent for this work. This document was also challenged and instrumentalised by some political parties.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

CSOs remain disappointed with the Ministry of Equality's pace of implementing the National LGBT+ Action Plan (2020-2023) and the Ministry's lack of cooperation with CSOs.

The National Human Rights Institution launched a new portal where victims of discrimination can report incidents.

On IDAHOBIT, several ministries and public authorities launched a campaign against anti-LGBT discrimination and its impact on health.

In July, the Interministerial Delegation for the Fight against Racism and Anti-Semitism (DILCRAH) published factsheets, in collaboration with the CIA - OII France, on the rights of intersex people.

Several LGBTI people shared their experiences of sexual abuse and harassment under #MeTooGay and CSOs called for all prevention and support measures to be inclusive of LGBTI people. The LGBTI+ Federation published resources on domestic violence in lesbian couples. #metoopolitics was launched by women in politics, endorsed by public figures, such as Alice Coffin and openly lesbian senator Mélanie Vogel.

OII Europe and others called for a new draft 'Guidelines for the promotion and implementation of gender equality', which is currently based on a binary understanding of sex and gender and excludes trans, intersex, and non-binary people.

The gender neutral pronoun "iel", which combines "il" and "elle", was newly introduced in a well-known dictionary, sparking public debate.

FAMILY

The first same-sex (lesbian) priest couple were joined in marriage in a Protestant Church in Montpellier.

The government announced that official civil status forms will be adjusted to become inclusive of rainbow families as of March 2022.

In November, a court ruled in favour of a trans woman who wants to be legally recognised as the mother of the child she had before having her gender marker changed. The final judgement is expected in 2022.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Paris Pride was attended by tens of thousands in June and highlighted that President Macron's government has taken few tangible actions for the LGBTI community. Several trans women were attacked at the event by TERF activists.

HEALTH

Public Health France's study found that experiencing discrimination and violence leads to physical and mental health disparities.

The Disciplinary Chamber of the Regional Council of Physicians published a decision in a case launched by a trans adult's parents who argued that their then minor child should not have been given access to gender affirming treatment. Activists, academics and mental health professionals stood with trans young people, demanding increased support, access to healthcare and legal gender recognition. The decision was later successfully annulled by a higher authority.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Espace Santé Trans documented a continued increase of those reaching out for mental health support.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Trans, HIV, and disability rights organisations lobbied against regulations under which a disabled person can lose access to benefits if they have a partner earning more than minimum wage. Without benefits, many disabled people lose their financial autonomy, having to rely on their partner and/or stay in abusive relationships.



PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

NGOs filed a complaint against a dance school, whose teacher banned a young trans girl from attending as a girl.

Football player Antoine Griezmann spoke out against homophobia in sports and appeared on gay magazine, *Têtu*'s cover.

Paris dedicates a public garden to theorist and lesbian activist Monique Wittig.

All amendments to the Sports Law, to tackle anti-LGBTI attitudes were dropped during the first parliamentary reading.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On 25 April, the first lesbian demonstration took place in Paris, demanding medically assisted reproduction for all, including lesbians and single women.

On 30 June, the parliament voted to extend cost coverage for in vitro fertilisation to lesbians and single women, but only mentioning 'women' explicitly, excluding many trans and intersex people. The law also maintains stepchild adoption for same-sex couples, which is not a requirement for heterosexual couples who use donor gametes. The legislative process was delayed again.

The European Court of Human Rights will examine over 250 sex workers' joint application about France's 2016 law, which criminalises clients and has made sex workers more vulnerable.



FRANCE WEB PAGE
MORE INFORMATION ON WWW.RAINBOW-EUROPE.ORG