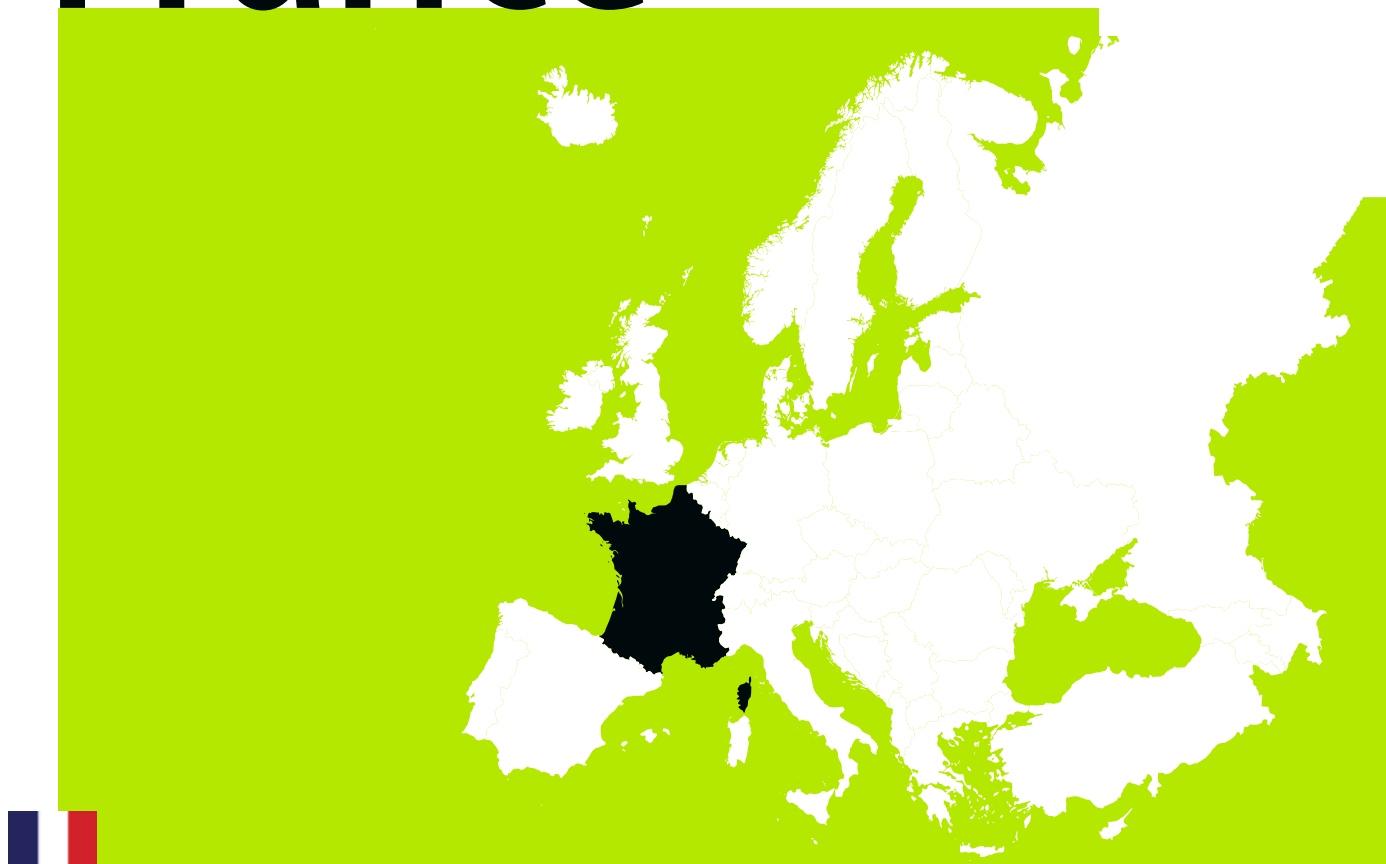


France



Many of the high-profile developments related to LGBTI equality in France during 2017 came from judicial benches as opposed to parliamentary chambers.

In a historic judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held that requiring people to be sterilised before they can access legal gender recognition was a clear human rights violation. Unfortunately, the Court did not view forced medical exams or mental health diagnosis to be a breach of the Convention, but the decision marks a major victory for LGBTI activists and should herald a swift move away from abusive requirements such as sterilisation by governments across Europe.

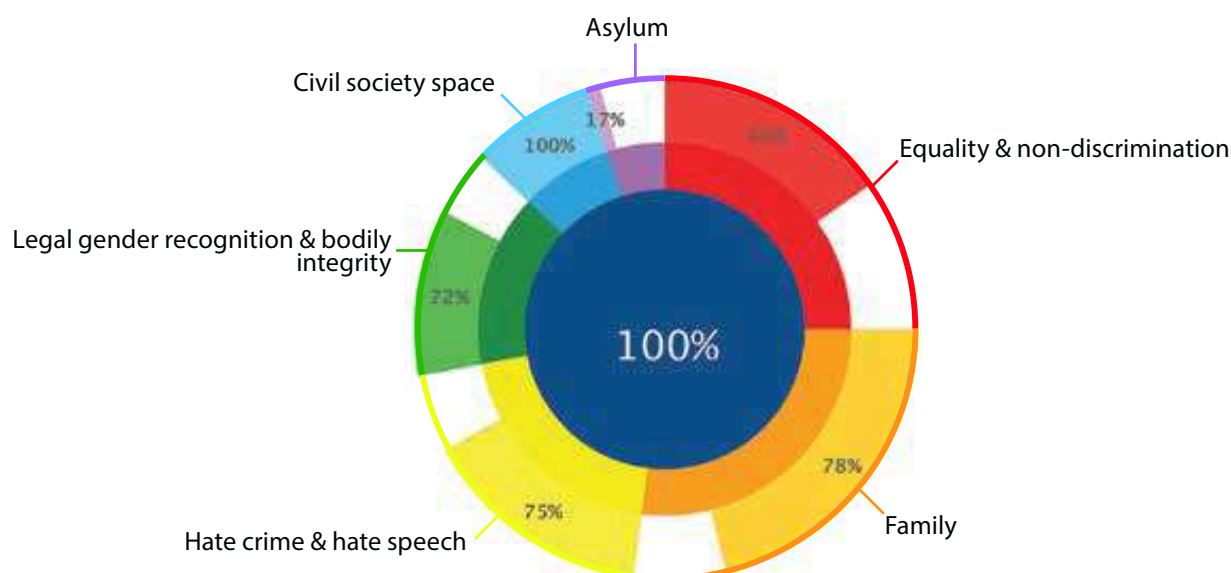
Another significant legal discussion took place in Clermont-Ferrand where an intersex man filed an official complaint against the surgeons who operated on him as a baby without consent. LGBTI activists believe this investigation by the prosecutor is the first case of its kind in France.

However, in the year after the passage of a new legal gender recognition procedure, France's highest court of appeal ruled that a gender-neutral person could not be recognised as such on any government documents, ruling out the possibility of a third gender marker.

Access to medically assisted insemination for individuals was cited by LGBTI activists as a priority in the previous edition of the Annual Review. That particular recommendation was on the agenda of legislators in 2017, following advice from the national ethics committee that access be extended to lesbian couples and single people. The minister for gender equality made a public commitment to the legislation but no legal change took place before the end of the year.

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

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



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

- ➡ **Allowing for equal access to medically assisted insemination treatments for all individuals and all couples.**
- ➡ **Introducing policies on asylum that contain express mention of all SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity sex characteristics) grounds.**
- ➡ **Allowing for automatic co-parent recognition, so that children born to couples (regardless of the partners' sexual orientation and/or gender identity) are not facing any barriers in order to be recognised legally from birth to their parents.**