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ARMENIA

ASYLUM

Civil society organisations continued to [support](#) LGBTIQ migrants who left Nagorno Karabak, Russia and Ukraine (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

The Government of the Republic of Armenia [published](#) the draft 2023-2025 Action Plan emerging from the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights, which states that an anti-discrimination law must be adopted in 2024. The plan was adopted on September 28.

Several instances of online hate speech and calls for violence against trans and LGBTIQ people were documented this year on social media sites (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). One video, which received tens of thousands of views, invited people to join a group in Yerevan that allegedly would “free the city from gays”.

After the murder of a trans woman on 20 August (see Bias-motivated Violence) a wave of hate speech started. People publicly justified the crime and called for further violence against the LGBTQ community, especially after the [murder](#) of trans woman Adriana.

In order to discredit Tigran Avinyan, the mayoral candidate in the mayoral elections of Yerevan, the media [targeted](#) him, suggesting he is gay.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

(See under Police and Law Enforcement)

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year, with several attacks documented and criminal proceedings [pending](#). Several incidents targeted trans people (see [here](#) and [here](#)). In March, for instance, over the span of a few days, a group of masked men physically [assaulted](#) two trans women and threatened to attack two others in Yerevan. In July, a man live [streamed](#) beating up a trans woman in the street. On 20 August, a trans woman was [murdered](#) in the capital and her apartment was set on fire. The suspect was arrested shortly after and a criminal investigation is ongoing. On 21 August, a candlelight vigil was held in the victim’s memory but was attacked by a group. The participants repeatedly asked for police protection, but the police allegedly just stood by.

On 23 April, police [raided](#) the techno club Poligraf and beat up several young people.

Civil society [demanded](#) investigation and accountability. The club is known to be a hub for self-expression and diversity. Pink documented 51 cases of physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as threats of violence towards LGBT people during 2022, 23 of which were committed by family members, including one by the partner. In most cases, the parents learned about the LGBT identity of the victims and then beat, harassed, threatened, or locked them up. Legal barriers hinder organisations from addressing domestic violence cases involving LGBT minors as the parents, who are often the perpetrators, must authorise representation by another person.

RightSide NGO documented 22 cases of domestic violence cases against LGBTQ+ people.

New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) registered 35 cases of violence against LGBTI people throughout 2023, including 16 cases of domestic violence.

NTC documented and addressed 42 cases of human rights violations, discrimination and violence against trans*, non-binary and gender-diverse people by unknown perpetrators (15), police (11), partner (10) and family members (6).

BODILY INTEGRITY

(See under Health)

DATA COLLECTION

Despite the recommendations from the Council of Europe and the OSCE, law-enforcement bodies have not implemented proper hate crimes data collection tools. Hate crimes are not recorded as such, as biased motivation is not considered an aggravating circumstance.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The government [took](#) no steps this past year to enact legislation that would [protect](#) people from discrimination, harassment, or violence on the basis of SOGIESC. ECRI’s report on Armenia, published in March, [noted](#) with concern that the current draft of the Equality Law, stalled since [2018](#), does not include any of these grounds. Pink Armenia’s report, The Human Rights Situation of LGBT People in Armenia During 2022, published in May, [highlighted](#) that the police are often perpetrators of abuses against LGBT people.

Pink documented 51 cases of discrimination based on SOGI this year, of which 16 were reported to law enforcement bodies. Some of these were rejected, and others have not been processed in a meaningful way.

RightSide released several interviews with LGBTQI+ people (see [here](#) and [here](#)), who shared their life stories and experiences of discrimination and violence.

RightSide held an empowerment [training](#) for LGBTQI+ youth and a rehabilitation [retreat](#) for sex workers in April, and a Gender-inclusive Empowerment [Camp](#) in August. Pink [held](#) its third Pride Camp in June. NTC [organised](#) the second edition of Armenian Gender Academy.

FAMILY

(See under Bias-motivated Violence)

FOREIGN POLICY

In May, the courts [reviewed](#) the decision of the Migration Service which could lead to the possible extradition of Salman Mukayev to Russia. Mukayev was previously detained by the authorities in Chechnya on charges of homosexuality and allegedly tortured.

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

ECOM's 'Invisible Voices' report on violations of the right to health of LGBT people in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2022 [documented](#) cases in which military medical commissions harassed, ridiculed, mistreated, blackmailed, outed, and humiliated people due to their SOGI, including examining and commenting on their genitals.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The 8th Rainbow Forum [was held](#) in Yerevan between 30 November and December 2.

HEALTH

(See also under Freedom from Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment)

Several testimonies of LGBT people who suffered harassment, mistreatment, denial of care, and so-called 'conversion practices at the hands of medical professionals were [released](#) in an article in June.

ECOM's report documented a 2022 case of a trans woman who was [denied](#) medical care by a plastic surgeon and was subjected to transphobic slurs.

HOUSING

The government provides temporary shelter for abused women and their children, but there are no existing support programs for LGBT people. Grassroots NGOs organise temporary [accommodation](#) to LGBT people subjected to violence on a case-to-case basis.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

ECRI's report on Armenia [highlighted](#) that legal gender recognition is virtually impossible to access, but that the name change process became simplified.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The online news site Epress [launched](#) a series of articles featuring the stories of LGBT students. HetQ, another online news site, launched the podcast '[Flesh and Blood](#)', a series about the LGBTQA+ community in Armenia.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

(See also under Equality and Non-discrimination)

The U.S. Department of State's annual report, released in March, [raised](#) concerns about the situation of LGBT+ people in Armenian prisons and detention centres. A civil society report [published](#) similar findings, sharing that LGBT prisoners are often placed in a separate cell and are subject to other discriminatory forms of treatment.

The Prison's monitoring group, attached to the Ministry of Justice and with the participation of CSOs, warned once again about the mistreatment of LGBT people in penitentiary institutions.



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