



SERBIA

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

In Serbia, trans people face challenges accessing testosterone due to supply chain disruptions, with shortages of Testosteron Depo, a critical HRT medication. Advocacy groups are working with Galenika, the manufacturer, to address these issues and ensure consistent availability.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

The publication "Hate Speech of Politicians Towards the LGBTQI+ Community in Serbia" offers a detailed analysis of 70 instances of hate speech made by politicians about the LGBTI population in Serbian media between April 2023 and April 2024.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In January, the Pride Info Centre in Belgrade was attacked by a masked individual who shattered its front windows.

In September, the Pride Info Centre in Belgrade announced it would cease operations due to a lack of financial and institutional support, making its continued sustainability impossible. The centre became a symbol of resistance and hope for the LGBTI community in Belgrade, despite facing almost daily threats, insults, and over 20 attacks since 2018, none of which were properly sanctioned by the Ministry of the Interior.

DATA COLLECTION

A survey conducted by Zoomer revealed widespread discrimination against trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse people in Serbia's job market. The survey highlighted that three-quarters of those surveyed fear job interviews due to anticipated discrimination, while half reported having encountered discrimination in their workplaces. The findings also indicated that one-third of respondents felt that employers were emboldened to violate their labour rights because of their gender identity.

EMPLOYMENT

Rainbow Ignite played a key role in the research "The Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Serbia," conducted by Open for Business, by offering insights and data on the socio-economic challenges faced by the LGBTI community in Serbia. The study revealed that discrimination and inadequate inclusion cost Serbia between RSD 42.8–47.3 billion (364.3–402.6 million Euro) annually, representing up to 0.70% of the GDP.

FAMILY

In March, the Green-Left Front (ZLF) in Serbia proposed a bill for civil partnerships, aiming to grant same-sex couples equal rights,

including inheritance, property relations, and healthcare access. Highlighting systemic discrimination and lack of government support, ZLF emphasised that the bill aligns with human rights principles and addresses widespread public support for such measures, as seen in prior surveys. They also criticised the government's silence during Pride week and urged legislative and societal change to recognise LGBTI partnerships as legitimate families. As of December, the bill had not been adopted.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

In September, thousands took to the streets in Belgrade for the Pride march, demanding legislation to recognise same-sex unions and gender identity rights. Participants pointed to the persistent prejudice and stereotypes that continue to affect Serbian society. During the event, police separated a group of counter-protesters opposing the march. Nonetheless, organisers criticised the silence of state bodies and institutions on the rising hardships encountered by the LGBTI community in Serbia, calling for political representatives to express their support for events like the Pride march.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

In February, Serbia's Interior Ministry announced that the Prosecutor's Office would investigate claims of police misconduct. This decision followed the alleged beating and humiliation experienced by two LGBTI people during an apartment search in Belgrade.

In February, two LGBTI individuals in Belgrade were subjected to police brutality, including abuse, torture, and sexual harassment, during a police search of their apartment. In early March, several hundred Serbian LGBTI activists and supporters gathered in Belgrade to protest the incident, demanding the criminal prosecution of the involved officers and quicker sanctions against police who commit violence.



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