

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	365
Land:	Armenien
Kilde:	ILGA-Europe
Titel:	Annual Review 2023 – Armenia
Udgivet:	20. januar 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	11. april 2024

ARMENIA

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

In March, the Administrative Court again refused to recognise Pink's 2017 campaign as a social advertisement. Activists in the room protested the judgement by wearing T-shirts saying, "Your biased decision is killing me".

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

Following the opening of the first Trans LGBTIQ Community Safe Space in August (see under *Security and Social Protection*), trans activist Lilit Martirosyan and RightSide NGO were targeted by hate speech and death threats online.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Hate crimes continued to be a serious issue this year, with several attacks being documented. Several incidents targeted trans people. In August, for instance, a trans woman was physically attacked by a far-right extremist - the perpetrator recorded and live-streamed the assault. Throughout the year, cases of family violence were reported to Pink. On IDAHOBIT, Pink held a roundtable event to address impunity in hate crime cases and launched a video on the topic. The event brought together state representatives, embassies, civil society, and the Ombudsperson's Office.

In February, the First Instance Court of Ararat and Vayots Dzor regions delivered a landmark judgment, finding the perpetrator in a homophobic hate crime, involving extortion, blackmail, physical, and sexual violence, guilty and sentencing him to seven and a half years in prison. This is the first case in years that ended with a guilty verdict and civil society hopes it will serve as an important precedent.

In May, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its first judgement on LGBTI people's rights in Armenia. In the Oganezova v. Armenia case, the court established the authorities' failure to conduct an effective investigation into a 2012 arson attack without considering the homophobic motive, and secondly, their failure to protect the applicant from the threats and harassment against her in the aftermath.

In October, two young gay men committed suicide after a photo of them kissing went viral and received endless hate messages. The suicide shook the community. A discussion was broadcast on TV afterwards, featuring anti-LGBT statements.

Pink has filed an application to the European Court in the case of a trans woman who was brutally assaulted in 2018. In that case, the authorities dropped the charges against the perpetrator, who tried to kill the woman and also set her apartment on fire.

Pink documented 27 cases of physical and sexual violence, and threats of violence and threats towards LGBT people during 2022, ten of which were committed by family members. These included beatings, stabbings, and other serious attacks. The ten recorded cases of domestic violence on grounds of SOGI were of physical, psychological and economic nature. In most cases, the parents learned about the LGBT identity of the victims, and then beat, harassed, threatened, or locked them up. One case was partner violence. Of the 27 cases of violence, seven were lesbian or bisexual women, 11 were gay or bisexual men, and 12 were trans or non-binary.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In January, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on alleged violations of the rights of LGBTI people in the Southern Caucasus, including Armenia. The resolution calls on Armenia to adopt legislation and policies that safeguard against discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC, to sanction hate crimes and hate speech against LGBTI people, to introduce legal gender recognition procedures on the basis of self-determination, to provide comprehensive sex education in schools, and depathologise 'homosexuality'.

Pink documented 44 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.



Pink's report on 2021 cases was published in May.

The Ombudsman's 2021 annual report was once again weak on violations against LGBTI people, which was strongly criticised by civil society. Civil society hopes that the new Ombudsperson will remedy this gap.

Civil society has supported LGBTIQ people who have had to flee Ukraine this year.

In October, the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) called on Armenia to tackle discrimination and violence against LGBTI women.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The CEDAW called on Armenia to ensure LGBTI women's freedom of assembly.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In May, the EU Ambassador to Armenia expressed concern about hate speech against LGBT people in Armenia and increased hatred and criticism against human rights defenders.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The CEDAW called on Armenia to ensure trans women's access to legal gender recognition.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

'Let Me Be Me' was published this year, reflecting on discrimination, stigma, and violence against trans and sex worker communities in the country. The book was launched at a roundtable event held by RightSide NGO on how to improve the situation of trans people in Armenia.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

RightSide NGO held a series of meetings focusing on "Problems of sex workers living in the Republic of Armenia, sex work and sexual violence".

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

In August, RightSide NGO opened its new office and the first Trans LGBTIQ Community Safe Space, in Yerevan.

Pink published a guide for psychologists, social workers, peer counsellors, and other professionals who work with parents of LGBT children. In January, RightSide NGO held an event for parents of LGBTIQ persons.

[ARMENIA WEB PAGE](#)

[MORE INFORMATION ON WWW.RAINBOW-EUROPE.ORG](http://WWW.RAINBOW-EUROPE.ORG)