

Lithuania



Throughout 2017, Lithuanian parliamentarians discussed a range of legislative proposals that could have a significant impact of the lives of LGBTI people – for better and for worse.

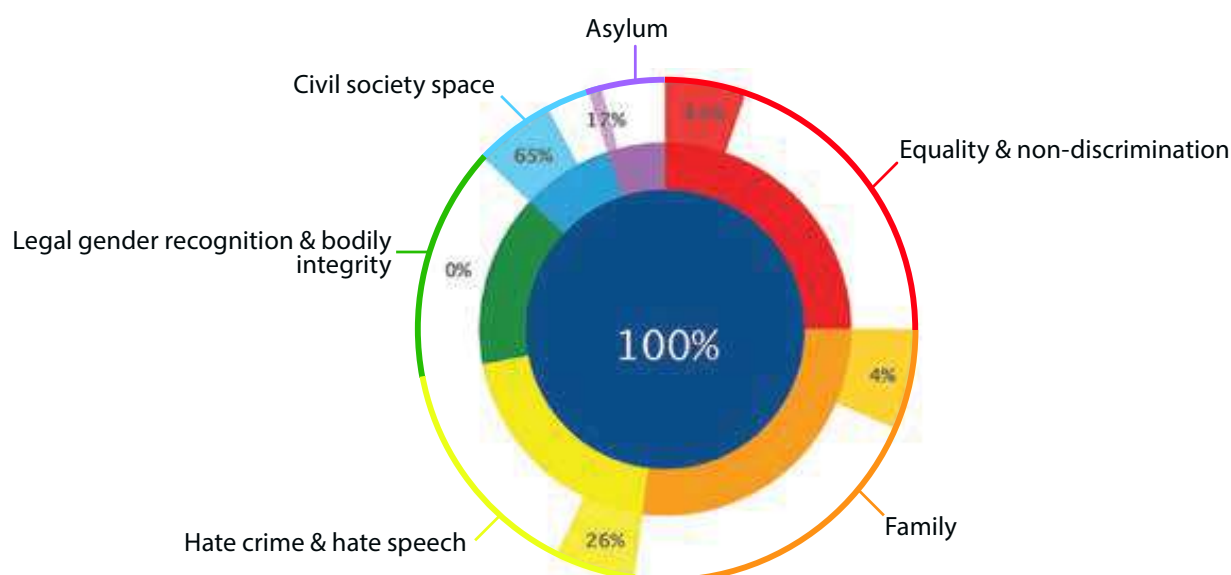
Family, its definition and the overall place of same-sex couples in Lithuanian society was the focus of several parliamentary debates. While a gender-neutral partnership suggestion was ultimately rejected by legislators, a sizable group of 29 MPs did back the proposal.

Last year's Annual Review had recommended introducing measures to protect same-sex couples but no great advances were made towards that. In fact, several laws were introduced that excluded same-sex couples from their remit – amendments to an equal opportunities law omitted registered partners of EU/EEAS citizens from its definition of 'family members'. Another law on 'strengthening family' only spoke of different-sex married couples with children in its provisions.

Another area of law and policy where major gaps remain is legal gender recognition. Again, LGBTI activists and ILGA-Europe have stressed this was a priority in the last edition of the Annual Review. At the start of the year, there were encouraging signs to suggest that these calls were being heard. Two trans people received positive court judgments, meaning that they were granted legal gender recognition without having to undergo surgery. There was also promising moves by the justice ministry, as a draft law on recognition of gender identity was opened for public consultation. However, within days, this was followed by a bill from MPs seeking to completely ban access to legal gender recognition.

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

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



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

- Developing a fair, transparent legal framework for legal gender recognition, based on a process of self-determination, free from abusive requirements (such as sterilisation, GID/medical diagnosis, or surgical/medical intervention).
- Adopting legal measures to recognise and protect same-sex couples, such as civil unions or registered partnership.
- Protecting and promoting freedom of expression for LGBTI people by repealing Article 4.2.16 of the "Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detriment Effect of Public Information".