

Slovakia



Slovakia's laws on LGBTI equality were not significantly altered since the last Annual Review was published, although there were some promising discussions initiated during 2017.

In December, LGBTI activists discussed LGBTI equality issues with President Kiska, a meeting which concluded with a call from the head of state to introduce legal protection for same-sex couples.

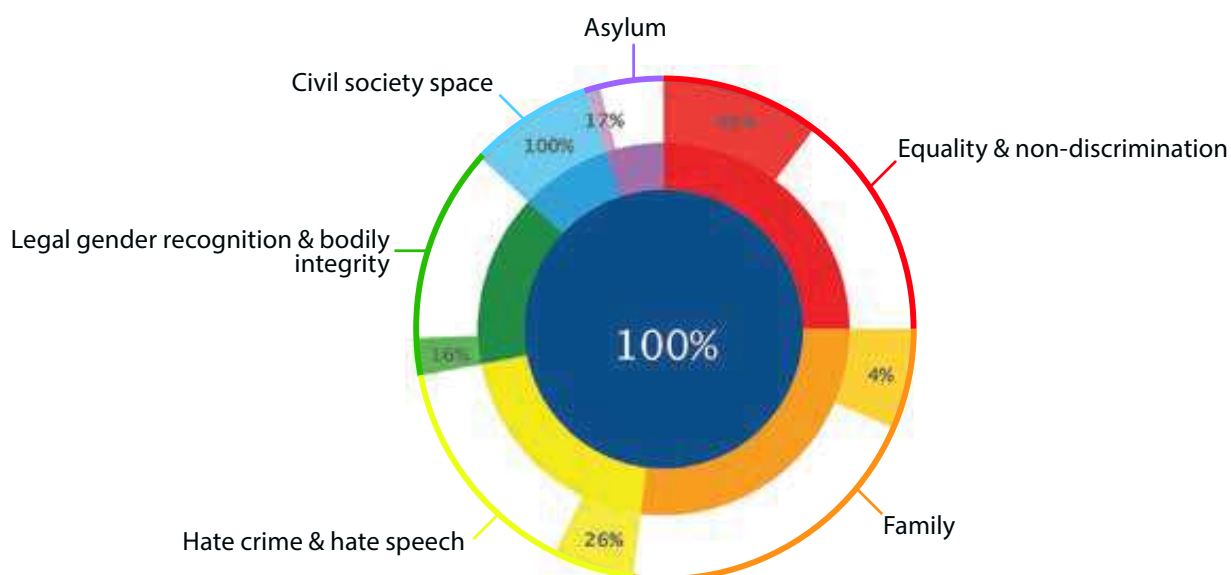
The months preceding the presidential meeting were less positive. There was no change to the laws around protection of intersex people's rights or on legal gender recognition, despite recommendations to policymakers included in the Annual Review published last year.

In the wake of the EU's Victims' Rights Directive, it was hoped that there would be greater protection for individuals against violence. The Slovak Victims' Act, introduced to implement the EU's measures, does refer to sexual orientation. However, its omission of gender as a ground means that victims of violence due to their gender identity or gender expression are excluded. This is even more concerning in light of the fact that the justice ministry also delayed ratification of the CoE's Istanbul Convention during 2017.

An Evangelical theologian who criticised the Church's exclusion of LGBTI people during a speech at Pride in Bratislava was banned from teaching his classes at Comenius University.

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

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



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



Adopting legal measures to recognise and protect same-sex couples, such as civil unions, registered partnership and/or cohabitation.



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).