

Cyprus



The recommendations for national policymakers contained in the last edition of the Annual Review dominated many of the conversations that took place between LGBTI activists and political figures in 2017.

Currently, Cyprus does not have any law in place to protect trans or intersex people, and this fact was top of the agenda for a meeting between LGBTI NGO Accept-LGBT Cyprus and President Anastasiades. Joined by Council of Europe officials, LGBTI activist highlighted the importance of legislating for trans and intersex equality.

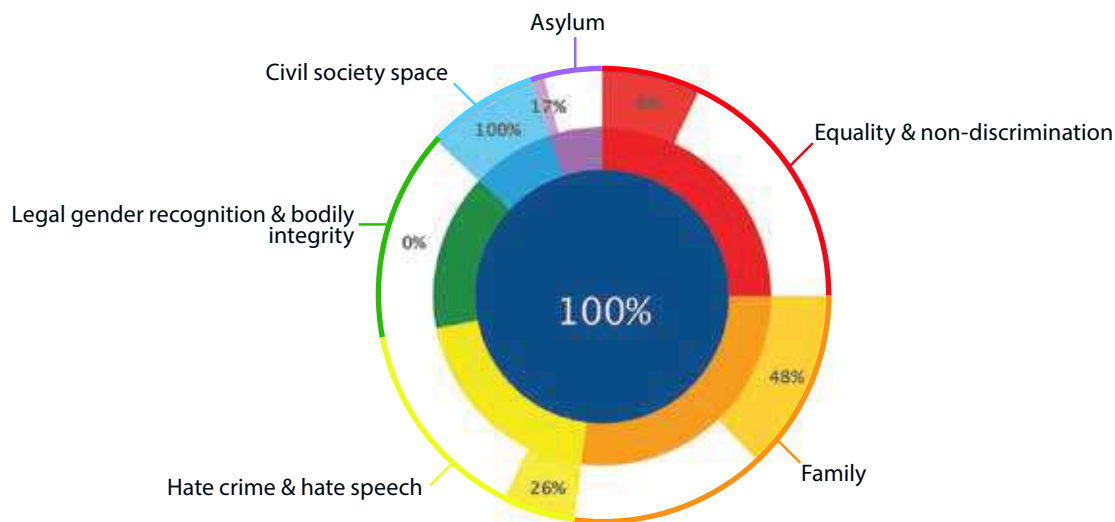
Learning from the example set by Malta, local activists worked to produce a proposed law on gender identity, expression and sex characteristics. At the time of writing, the government had not presented the law to parliament for consideration.

Another recommendation proposed in last year's Annual Review was also highlighted during the meeting between activists and the President – namely the fact that hate crime/speech laws need updating. This is not only due to the fact that many members of the LGBTI communities are excluded from the provisions but also because the hate speech laws do not work in practice, according to the experiences of activists.

On a positive note, a rainbow flag was flown by the Paphos city officials in support of Pride for the first time and the Attorney General clearly stated that children cannot be excluded from sex education classes. However, activists sounded a note of caution around the lack of a coordinated government strategy on how to deal with the rise of new HIV infections.

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

Legal and policy situation in **Cyprus** 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).
- ➡ Actively implementing existing legislation to ensure that people are protected against hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, and extend the law to cover sex characteristics.
- ➡ Drafting and adopting legislation to allow same-sex couples to have access to joint adoption.

Northern Cyprus*

- ➡ Amending labour laws to expressly protect LGBTI people against discrimination on the grounds of SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics) in employment.
- ➡ Specifically including all SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics) grounds in legislation prohibiting discrimination in the field of education.
- ➡ Specifically including all SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics) grounds in legislation prohibiting discrimination in the field of health.

*(Areas not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus)