



GENDERDOC-M

**REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE RIGHTS OF LGBT+ PERSONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
YEAR 2022**

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This report reflects the situation regarding the respect for the rights of LGBT+ people and the political and social influence on LGBT+ people, as well as homophobia and transphobia in society and positive changes for LGBT+ people in the Republic of Moldova.

The year 2022 was most influenced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which caused the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. More than 5.6 million Ukrainians left the country in the first months. Moldova has hosted more than 400,000 refugees from Ukraine. GENDERDOC-M started helping LGBT+ refugees in the first days after the invasion. The biggest problems that needed to be solved were related to border crossings for trans women who had not changed their documents.

A few months later, LGBT+ people from the Russian Federation started to come to Moldova, leaving their country because of the mobilization and the adoption of homophobic and transphobic laws. GENDERDOC-M helped with accommodation and providing the refugees with much-needed goods.

At the end of April, several explosions were reported in Transnistria. On 24 February 2022, the Moldovan authorities declared a state of emergency in the context of the regional crisis.

The state of emergency has changed the priorities of Parliament and the Government, and the refugee crisis has changed the focus of the organization for several months.

The first months after the war were also a shock for GDM employees, because of the enormous risk of a Russian invasion of Moldova.

Two more LGBTQ+ organizations "Queer Voices" and "BANG-BANG web portal dedicated to the LGBTQ community in Moldova" have been registered in the Republic of Moldova. At the initiative of the GDM, a joint network of LGBTQ+ organizations and activists was created to coordinate activities and discuss activism strategies.

The results of the latest survey carried out by Magenta Consulting, commissioned by the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, between March and April 2022, show that Chisinau residents have become more tolerant. The data obtained in this study were compared with the results of the similar study in 2019.

Thus, positive and very positive attitudes increased by 4% compared to 2019; neutral attitudes increased by 19%; very negative attitudes decreased by 13%. Currently, the number of people who have a negative or very negative attitude towards LGBT+ people is only 33% compared to 55% in 2019.

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Acceptance of affection (romantic kissing) in public spaces between two women accounted for 56% of all respondents compared to 47% in 2019, while acceptance of affection (romantic kissing) in public spaces between two men represents 10% of the total number of respondents, compared to 6% in 2019.

The number of people who would be uncomfortable around LGBT people also fell to 36% from 54% in 2019. 28% of respondents said they are interested in getting to know LGBT people (15% in 2019), and 25% (17% in 2019) are indifferent to people's sexual orientation. 20% (10% in 2019) of respondents said they have LGBT people among friends or acquaintances.

Regarding the legalization of same-sex marriages, respondents expressed their opinion as follows: 14% (5% in 2019) said such marriages should be legalized; 67% (65% in 2019) said they should be banned. The number of those who have no opinion on the subject decreased - 11% compared to 14% in 2019. The number of those who said the issue doesn't matter to them also fell - 20% compared to 26% in 2019.

The survey also found that higher income earners are more tolerant of the LGBT community: 37% compared to 10% of the lowest income segment. At the same time, people with higher education are more tolerant than people with general secondary education, 62% versus 13%.

The most tolerant sector in Chisinau is Botanica, with a 26% acceptance rate of LGBT people. In 2019 this position was occupied by Buiucani.

In 2022, there is an increase in the proportion of respondents who believe that both women and men should be involved in traditionally “male” / “female” activities.

Most believe that both men and women should be in charge of raising children - 83%, +12% compared to 2019 and making important decisions in the family, 82%, +10% compared to 2019.

There is a lack of any kind of information about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools, moreover, most school and university teachers have prejudices against LGBT+ people and other groups, and these attitudes are promoted during the lessons. These attitudes cause multiple cases of bullying and violence among students. The law to prevent bullying in schools was voted in first reading, but has been held in suspense for several months.

The GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, in partnership with Terre des Hommes Moldova, conducted a [study](#) on the analysis of the problems faced by LGBT+ adolescents in Moldova. LGBT+ teenagers aged 15 - 19 participated in the study, conducted by Magenta Consulting. Discussions took place between 25 November 2021 and 28 January 2022.

Thus, the majority of the teenagers interviewed said that they disclosed their sexual orientation/gender identity to a small circle of people - most often close friends, other LGBT+ young people, siblings, parents.

In terms of relationship and interaction with family, interviewees were more likely to report neutral or distant relationships with parents. The main problems in dealing with family are reluctance to disclose sexual orientation/gender identity to parents and parents' negative view of the LGBT+ community. At the same time, some adolescents reported that a parent or family member (sister, brother, grandmother) had a supportive and accepting attitude towards them. A few respondents mentioned that they had broken off their relationship with their parents once they had reached the age of majority, or that they planned to break it off once they had finished school and were able to secure financial independence.

The majority of interviewees said that sexual orientation and gender identity are discussed little at school. Some respondents mentioned that most colleagues are tolerant or neutral, and others indicated that most colleagues have a negative view of LGBT+ people. In contrast to the opinion that exists among peers, respondents state that most teachers hold or have held negative views about LGBT+ people.

Meanwhile, a proportion of respondents reported that their school had teachers with a neutral or supportive view of LGBT+.

Regarding issues related to public space, the main difficulty mentioned by respondents was discrimination against LGBT+ people, general negative attitudes, and threats/violence against LGBT+ people. The majority of interviewees had heard of cases where LGBT+ people had been assaulted in public spaces, and some respondents had personally been verbally assaulted and threatened in public spaces. In most cases, people did not go to the police. A majority of respondents expressed a negative opinion towards the police, stating that police officers are not tolerant towards the LGBT+ community.

It also lacks the legal framework that would allow civil partnerships, which limits the rights of LGBTQI+ people. The lack of a partnership law for same-sex couples, which would ensure equal rights with heterosexual couples, creates barriers and discrimination issues.

Takin into account the war on the territory of Ukraine where the Russian Federation is the aggressor state, most of the same-sex couples, who used to live on these conflicting territories if one of them is a citizen of the Republic of Moldova, decided to move to Moldova. In the case of heterosexual couples, the spouse of a citizen of the Republic of Moldova can apply for a residence permit on the basis of a marriage certificate. For same-sex couples the residence permit is not available. The only possibility is to apply for asylum, but this status has some prohibitions (e.g. the impossibility to visit the country of which you were a citizen), which is complicated for some people, who may have private property in their country of origin.

The fact that same-sex couples are not recognized in the Republic of Moldova creates several barriers, such as: you cannot ask for state involvement in case of divorce; you cannot inherit or leave an inheritance to your partner (especially in the case of real estate), you cannot take out joint mortgages, you cannot make decisions after your partner's death regarding burial, you cannot inflict your partner's child, etc.

Victims of LGBTI+ domestic violence, both in situations where the abuser is the partner and in situations where the abuser is the parent or both parents, are not sufficiently protected by the state, there are no specialized programs with specific approaches. LGBTI+ children, adolescents and young people who are financially and morally dependent on their parents and are subject to domestic violence suffer the most. Only GENDERDOC-M offers support to victims in such cases.

In April 2022, Felis, a trans teenager committed suicide after being systematically bullied by classmates, and numerous appeals to school authorities gave no results. This tragic case showed the urgency of change in the education system. After [the protest organized by GENDERDOC-M](#) on 15 April 2022 in front of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry published a [message](#) about the inadmissibility of discrimination against transgender people in schools and contacted GDM employees to propose collaboration in preventing such situations in the future.

As a result, two trainings were organized for 39 representatives of the Republican Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance from 28 districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Several people from the trans* support group have created an initiative group, “Felis Transgender Advocacy Group”. The goal of the group is to do trans activism.

The Pride march 2022 was one of the largest and longest in Moldova's history, even though Mayor Ion Ceban made several homophobic comments and [promises to ban](#) the march. The march was also [attended by 6 MPs](#) from the PAS parliamentary party. Police protected the marchers, no verbal or physical attacks from counter-demonstrators were recorded. Some participants reported hearing some insulting words and even observing humiliating gestures from some police officers present at the march. No one, however, wanted to lodge a complaint, even though the GDM offered support in this regard.

The President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, made a [statement](#) about discrimination against gay men in the army ([Marin Pavlescu case](#)): “We respect all citizens and must not allow abuses, especially in public institutions. I will also talk to the minister about a future reform plan”.

On 17 January 2022, the Ombudsman [ordered](#) the initiation of this ex officio investigation. The objectives of the investigation carried out by the Ombudsman were: to verify to what extent the guarantees relating to ill-treatment and physical/mental integrity were respected; to verify to what extent the guarantees against discrimination and the right to privacy were respected.

On 11 February 2022, by [decision](#) of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and for Ensuring Equality in case 274/21, Marin Pavlescu was found to have been harassed on the basis of his sexual orientation in the process of performing his military service on term. The Council established that the personnel of the 2nd Brigade knew about the sexual orientation of the soldier on duty, but also about the treatment he was subjected to by other soldiers. However, superiors took no action to protect him from harassment, even though commanders at all levels and subordinate staff bear responsibility for preventing and combating discrimination and ensuring equality.

Given that one of the objectives of the investigation itself was achieved as a result of the Council decision reiterated above, the Ombudsman proceeded to identify and analyze allegations of ill-treatment, the mechanism of protection against abuse in the military in the context of preventing such circumstances.

The period of investigation carried out by the Office of the Ombudsman was from 17 January to 7 April 2022.

On 17 January 2022 it was decided to initiate the [Special Report](#) (case of particular social importance). The Special Report was carried out with reference to the specific obligations and rights of the Ombudsman.

Conclusions of the ombudsmen:

Compulsory military service is not a form of punishment but a constitutional obligation. The duration of this compulsory service is 12 months for able-bodied young people who have reached the age of 18+. Following this, military service does not mean deprivation of fundamental rights and freedoms (with certain legal exceptions). The military public authorities have an obligation to ensure the dignified and non-discriminatory treatment, safety and security of conscripts. Any injury, trauma or other serious incident caused during the performance of military service in peacetime for reasons of revenge, abuse, violence or other forms of violence and punishment must be recorded, promptly and effectively investigated and the perpetrators held accountable.

In recent years, the National Army has often been mentioned in public on issues related to irregular relationships, violence against soldiers, desertions, discriminatory acts, deaths, suicides, etc. These facts show that there are some problems in the military system

that need to be addressed. At the same time, it is appropriate that the mechanisms for the protection of military personnel who denounce acts of abuse should be effective, safe and functional. The military victim must be confident that the matter will be dealt with promptly and appropriately and that his/her life, health and safety will not be put at risk. In the same vein, military personnel under contract must have sufficient levers of control and oversight.

Furthermore, in order to protect physical and mental integrity “States must not only refrain from inflicting ill-treatment, but also adopt/take preventive measures necessary to ensure the physical and mental integrity and well-being of persons deprived of their liberty”.

In September 2021, PACE adopted resolution 2417, “*to combat the growing hatred against LGBTI people in Europe*”. The document recognizes that while “*LGBTI rights*” are being enacted into law in various countries, there is a growing number of attacks against LGBTI people. The resolution was supported by 72 participants, with 8 abstaining. Among the 12 representatives who voted against were 2 from Russia, 2 from the UK, 2 from Germany, 2 from Poland, 2 from Turkey, 1 from Belgium and 1 from the Republic of Moldova. Action and Solidarity Party (PAS) MP Ion Groza, head of Moldova's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), is among those who voted against two recent resolutions aimed at protecting the rights of LGBT people.

The GENDERDOC-M Information Centre won two cases at the ECHR in 2022:

The case of GENDERDOC-M against the Republic of Moldova, on the file of prohibition of assemblies, which refers to the facts that took place in 2010, when the Pride March was banned. The amount of compensation paid by the State to the organization is €4500.

The case of GENDERDOC-M and M.D. against Moldova, which concerns physical and verbal violence inflicted by a group of 12-14 minors on a person on the grounds of homosexuality. The attack was filmed and published on the internet. The Court found that the Moldovan authorities had failed to fulfil their procedural obligation to investigate the attack on the applicant and to expose any basis for harm. The absence of such a meaningful investigation undermines public confidence in the state's anti-discrimination policy.

A further 12 cases sent to the ECHR are awaiting examination and decisions.

On 21.04.2022 the [Law nr LP111/2022](#) on the amendment of some normative acts on crimes and speech motivated by prejudice was voted. The law contains Article 134(21) - Bias motivated with the protected criteria “sexual orientation and gender identity”.

On 6 October, changes to the [criminal code](#) were voted, equating the penalty for same- sex rape with opposite-sex rape. Article 172 was repealed “Violent acts of a sexual nature (1) Homosexuality or satisfaction of sexual desire in perverse forms, committed by physical or mental coercion of the person or by taking advantage of the person's inability to defend himself or to express his will, shall be punished by imprisonment from 3 to 5 years” was annulled. The new provisions enter into force on 1 January 2023.

On 15 December 2022, [changes to the law 121/2012](#) amending the regulatory framework on non- discrimination and ensuring equality was approved. Among the most important provisions of the approved law is the extension of the list of protected criteria that include sexual orientation and gender identity.

On 25 May, the People's Assembly of Gagauzia [adopted the Decree](#) “On the prohibition of propaganda of non-traditional LGBT relations on the territory of ATU Gagauzia”. According to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the media is prohibited from “producing and distributing materials on the coverage and promotion of non-traditional LGBT relations on the territory of Gagauzia”.

Non-governmental media organizations have launched a public [appeal](#) expressing their concern about the attempts of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia to undermine the freedom of expression of the media, and calling for the immediate intervention of the territorial office of the State Chancellery to annul the normative act issued in this regard.

Another [appeal](#) on this subject was launched by the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Moldova, asking not to limit the freedom of opinion, peaceful demonstrations and the freedom to exercise the profession of journalist.

The media in the Republic of Moldova was monitored and all materials addressing LGBT+ issues were collected.

The total number of documented materials is 868, of which 64 are positive, 660 are neutral (83% neutral and positive), 144 (74 in Russian and 70 in Romanian) are negative. The percentage of negative material is 17%. 283 articles were documented in Russian, of which 26% are negative. In Romanian there are 585 materials, of which 12% are negative. As a percentage, the Russian media remains more homophobic and transphobic.

The high percentage of negative material was on the subject of the Moldova Pride march and the campaigns “LGBT children in your school” and “LGBT children exist”.

HATE SPEECH, INCITEMENT TO HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION

On 21.04.2022 the [Law No. LP111/2022](#) on the amendment of some normative acts on crimes and speech motivated by prejudice was voted. The Act contains Article 134(21) - Bias motive with the protected criteria “sexual orientation and gender identity”, regardless of whether the crime is committed against the person possessing such protected characteristics, against his or her property or associated with him or her, or against the person who supports or associates with persons possessing such protected characteristics, such association being real or perceived to be real.

The law also contains Article 346. Incitement to violent action on grounds of prejudice: Incitement to hatred or violence, manifested by public incitement, dissemination of information or other forms of information to the public, including through the media, in written, pictorial or pictorial form, or by means of a computer system, against a category of persons on grounds of prejudice.

Yet cases of hate speech are still not effectively sanctioned. This is particularly visible in the case of hate speech against LGBTQI+ people. In the case of speech on social media, the police do not act. Politicians and journalists are favored on the grounds of “freedom of opinion”, but hate speech actually provides the elements on which it can be proved. Politicians, including MPs, continue to incite hatred. This has recently been done even from the rostrum of Parliament.

On 16 June 2022, the MPs of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova, of the Socialist Party and the Shor Party organized a [flash mob](#) at the Parliament against the Pride march. Banners were hung on the Parliament building: “*NO to homosexual dictatorship*”, “*Moldova against Pride festival*”, “*NO to discrimination of traditional values*”, “*Moldova is not Sodom*”. A complaint was lodged with the Equality Council. Once the Council's decision is issued, a complaint to the Court will be filed.

The mayor of Chisinau, Ion Ceban, made several statements between 31 May and 22 June saying that the Pride march would be banned, accompanied by several episodes of homophobic and transphobic hatred:

On 31 May 2022, Ion Ceban, announced that the local authorities will not accept a planned march in support of the LGBT+ community in the capital in June.

Ceban made the [announcement](#) on one of his Facebook accounts ([Iv Ceban](#)), while flying back from the French city of Grenoble and following an appeal to the authorities by Moldova's Metropolitan Vladimir, who asked for a halt to the march:

“Tomorrow we celebrate Children's Day. The gay march planned by the contingent will not be accepted by the town hall. Do what you want at home, not in public”, later returning with a new message: *“Forbidden I said. You have no business on the streets of Chisinau”*. This second message was deleted from the mayor's account just minutes after posting.

On June 13, Ceban said in another [post](#) on his Facebook page:

“LGBT parade, whoever wants it, they can organize it at their home. I have not signed up to hold the parade and I will not (...) I can be criticized, blamed and called names by those in PAS who loudly defend it on social media. This is my position and that of my colleagues. This is the position of many citizens who do not want such an event. What is actually intended by this parade?

What are we promoting?

We do not violate anyone's right to work, education and in society, everyone has equal rights. What have we had in previous years at parades like this? Street riots and division of society, chaos in the streets around these parades. Children should not have to see these things right in the street”.

On 17 June, Ceban [said](#):

“As you know, there has been a public discussion about the gay march in Chisinau, I have exposed my public position and I want to make some clarifications. After having received all the approaches from all the organizers of various events, as well as what the Chisinau City Hall is doing, I would like to inform you of the following: it is impossible to hold this march on the route where it was proposed, because we have other events on the territory of Chisinau, and public transport will be redirected to that area, more than 85 units. As far as the sidewalk area is concerned, works will be carried out, so it is also not possible to hold the march, and we ask the law enforcement bodies, especially the police, to take action.

As I was saying, if they want to hold an event, there is no problem, they can hold it at home. And taking into account the fact that in this context, the strongest defenders and critics of the mayor's position have been those of the government, I reiterate the proposal that these demonstrations, this parade should be held in the premises of the following institutions: The Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament, the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova. There are no other people there on Sunday, workers, technical staff, and I don't think it can disturb anyone. And the defenders in this regard can carry out these events with very good conditions starting with security, within these institutions. We focus on other events”.

On June 20, Ceban [wrote](#) again on his Facebook page:

“Yesterday, during the day, all transport was blocked in Botanica, Buiucani, in the Centre. Nobody could cross the city centre. The government, the PAS deputies organized their parade, stole the rainbow from the children - they made a different symbol and surrounded themselves with thousands of policemen paid by the people's money to protect them. The Home Secretary should resign for his mockery of the police. No event has ever seen such mobilization, not during the refugee crisis or when other officials come. I

propose that this day of mobilization of the police should be paid for out of the PAS MPs' money, as they largely guarded them by being present at the parade.

In Chisinau, public transport was to run on Bucharest Street, because several events were to take place in the Great National Assembly Square, according to the provisions submitted, which was also agreed with the representatives of the Ministry of Interior, as is usually done in such cases. The PAS government knew that the parade on Bucharest Street was held against the law, but the gays were guarded like the eyes in the head, being provided with a corridor against the law, they had no documents as is done at various demonstrations.

What did I have? Works stopped, transport stopped, and the gays with the deputies in the lead were guarded by the entire capital police. Half of Chisinau, the historic centre of the city was paralyzed for an illegal march.

Yesterday, on Doctor's and Pharmacist's Day, no PAS MP remembered to congratulate them. Unfortunately, doctors have been left in the shadow of the parade by the GOVERNMENT. No one announced any action, pay rise or other events for doctors. Unfortunately!"

Ion Ceban's next [statement](#) was made on 22 June:

"4 million lei. That's how much, according to colleagues' estimates, the government spent when it provided security for Sunday's gay parade, which was illegal. Hundreds of police were out on the streets on a weekend day in an organized manner, which undoubtedly involves extra expenses, plus the technical and armored vehicles taken out. Plus, several public transport units were stopped and rerouted, which likewise included expenses, calculations are currently being made. We are examining the legal consequences of blocking Bucharest Street, as well as several parallel intersections without authorization from the City Hall and the organization of the event, also without authorization. In addition to the fact that in hot weather the police were equipped with backpacks and blankets provided by the incompetent government, in the end the police were also left guilty, as the organizers publicly blamed them for insulting the parade participants".

On 17 June, a letter from the General Directorate of Public Transport and Roads arrived at the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre with the following text:

"The General Directorate of Public Transport and Roads has examined the preliminary declaration concerning the road traffic stop on Bucharest Street on 19.06.2022 and we inform you of the following.

According to the provision of the Mayor of Chisinau municipality no. 267-d of 17.06.2022, on 19.06.2022 a cultural meeting dedicated to the youth of the Republic of Moldova is planned to take place in the Great National Assembly Square.

Also according to the above-mentioned provision during the period 18-19.06.2022 the public transport traffic on Stefan cel Mare și Sfânt Boulevard will be redirected to Bucharest Street (the number of trolleybuses circulating is 85 units).

At the same time, at the request of Exdrupo, Bucharest Street and adjacent streets are planned to lower the curbs, which may lead to a partial suspension of traffic on these streets.

In the light of the above, the prior declaration concerning the stopping of road traffic on Bucharest Street cannot be accepted".

The letter was signed by Vitalie Mihalache, head of DGTPCC.

The cultural gathering in the Great National Assembly Square was organized by the Mayor of Chisinau municipality and was planned after the prior request of the GENDERDOC-M Centre about the organization of the Pride March was sent. And the

construction works started on the morning of June 19, Saturday (a day off), when the march took place.

All these attempts by the mayor to prevent the march were unsuccessful, as they are contrary to the Law on Freedom of Assembly of the Republic of Moldova.

In September 2022, during [an interview](#) that Ion Ceban, Mayor of Chisinau, gave to TV8, he was asked about the amounts spent for the concert dedicated to active young people in the city center, he said:

“The concert was organized by the City Hall, from the financial sources of the City Hall and sponsors. The sponsors are yet to see if they agree to say publicly what they participated with and under what conditions. We also have sponsorships from different companies for the town's anniversary... let me put it this way, certainly at least 5 times, but I think 10 times less than the gay march... Less than the protection at the gay march, probably ten times”.

On 31 May, The head of Moldovan Church Vladimir gave an [address](#) about the Solidarity March organized by the LGBT community.

“After a two-year break, the Moldova Pride festival will take place in Chisinau, ending with the Solidarity March organized by the LGBT community.

In recent years, the Moldovan Church has repeatedly insisted that such marches should not be authorized, urging both the authorities and members, sympathizers and promoters of the LGBT community to abandon this project, which is not only a public insult to religious cults, but also to society.

According to Article 8 of the Law on Assemblies, the authorities have every right not to allow this action to take place, which is a direct attack on public morality and flagrantly violates “the freedoms of others”. At the same time, the Constitution of the country through Article 48 expressly states that “The family is founded on the freely consented marriage between man and woman, on their equality in rights and on the right and duty of parents to provide for the upbringing, education and training of their children”.

This parade of minorities abusively and publicly defies the values of the majority of our society.

The organizers of this parade and their mentors from abroad should already be aware of the realities here, from past years' experiences, as such demonstrations always cause danger, violence and altercations on both sides.

There is no legal, moral and rational reason why our local public authorities should mobilize and support such an absurd manifesto. We urge the municipal authorities to stop by all means the promotion of the manifestation of non-traditional behavior and thus of the outrageous sins that are increasingly flooding our land.

In this context, on behalf of the Orthodox Church of Moldova and the citizens of this country, we ask to stop this destructive scourge, which morally tarnishes our declared Orthodox society and supports family values.

In the hope that our appeal will be heard by the state and local public authorities, we wish you right and wise thinking in order to adopt healthy and useful decisions for nation and country”.

On June 16, 2022, the Metropolitan Church of Chisinau came with a repeated call to cancel the LGBT march. In a press release issued by the Church, it is stated that:

“the opposition of the Metropolitanate of Chisinau and the hole of Moldova was also supported by the firm attitude of more than 30 of NGOs and public associations and there is no legal, moral and rational reason that would lead to the mobilization and support

of our local public authorities for such an absurd manifesto. In this context, we ask the City Hall to stop by all means the promotion of non-traditional behaviors, and by that of the screaming hairs, which are increasingly flooding our land”.

This statement, as well as the statements of the mayor of Chisinau, Ion Ceban, and the flash mob in the Parliament, became the subject of complaints filed by GDM to the Equality Council, and later, after the Council's decision, they turned to the courts.

On 5 June, the TV8 reporter made a [report](#) in which she asked several MPs the following question: “*LGBT march, are you for or against?*”.

The answers were as follows:

Vladimir Voronin, MP, Party of Communists:

“This is contrary to physiological, biological laws, contrary to our faith, contrary to morality, this destroys morality, you can't imagine man with man, woman with woman, this is a total shame”.

Bogdat Țârdea, Socialist Party MEP:

“Personally, I don't mind who sleeps with whom, contacts whom, in what way, etc., I'm not a specialist and I don't want to... but I personally believe that our sexual fantasies should not be publicly displayed and still propagated, because we are a traditional society, a society with dozens of problems, and this irritates part of the population, and can lead to social dissensions, which we don't need right now. I want to ask you, what does this help? Will it bring inflation down from 31% to 4% as it was a year ago? Or maybe gas has gone from 18 to 5? Or maybe investors will come, let's come, that's where the gay parade is. What's the point of all this? Let's come now and do... people are starving, we're doing parades, you know. Does that seem normal, rational?”.

Vlad Bătrâncea, Socialist Party MEP:

“I am against it from the following points of view, this should not become propaganda, this should not exist in the streets, and this should not be part of the schooling that children do”.

PAS deputies Dan Perciun, Veronica Rosca and Olesea Stamati said that freedom of assembly is a right to be enjoyed equally by all Moldovan citizens.

On June 12, Bishop Markel posted a YouTube video of an address to Christians (the address was later [deleted](#)). In this address, Markel said:

“In the year 2022 the atmosphere of the celebration of the great light risks to be somehow disturbed, overshadowed, threatened by a shocking news: the word is that the bearers of the most unscrupulous sin, the sodomites, want to spend the parade of shame in our municipality. It's probably superfluous, but I'll tell you what consequences this sin brings: the word is that the sin of sodomy brings the wrath of God upon the whole of society, it spares no one, not only its bearers, but also those who indulge it, those who encourage it... Dear Baltians, dear Christians, in the name of preserving the righteous purity of soul of our children, but also of us, the adults, I urge you, on June 19 this year, at 9.00 a.m., to come together in front of the cathedral of our city of Balti, near the bell tower, to spend the way of the cross and to reject, to stand up to this shameless invasion, which wants to parade through the center of our city. Dear Christians, let us together say to them: go away from us, you wanderers, we do not want to have anything in common with you, not even tangentially. On this day let no one become indifferent or inactive, for otherwise he becomes an accomplice, a sharer, in the celebration of this sin. I especially adhere to our brave policemen... who overzealously defend these miscreants and somehow demoralize the vast majority of society in favor of a sinful and misguided minority... ...your bravery must

be shown in maintaining public order but not in the defense of members of the parade of shame. We believe that by uniting, we will prove to them that they are not wanted in our city...

...Let us stand in the way of the sodomites, not allowing them to drive Christ out of our lives”.

On 3 November, the Council for Ensuring Equality held a meeting where GENDERDOC-M filed a complaint against Citizen Mihăiescu - Bishop of Balti and Falesti Marchel. At the meeting, Mihăiescu prolonged his hate speech, using the Bible as justification and repeated “*normal people were also destroyed by God in Sodom*”, “*(Homosexuals) get out of Balti*”, and to the question “*What should LGBT people in Balti, who are born and live there, do?*” and “*Who are the normal people in Sodom and what are the other people called?*” said he refused to have a dialogue with Angela Frolov and Doina Ioana Străisteanu, the GENDERDOC-M representatives at that meeting.

Several times during the meeting, the Bishop repeated that everything he does is not done with hate, but with love, and gave biblical speeches about the sin of homosexuality, Sodom and the priest's care for Christian souls. Angela Frolov said she would prefer not to be forcibly subjected to religious preaching during the Equality Council meeting. At this protest, Council member Yevgeny Goloshaypov said that every participant in the meeting has the right to speak and if we don't like it, we can leave the meeting. After using the floor again in his closing speech, Marchel “*misguided*” about the LGBT+ community, Angela Frolov left the meeting in protest.

On 19 June 2022 Boris Gîlcă, Head of the General Directorate for Medical and Social Assistance, former Deputy Representative, Head of the Office of the United Nations Population Fund, wrote on his Facebook page:

“We in the medical community “appreciate” and will remember that the PAS Government (Government, Parliament, Presidency) organized for us the LGBT parade on our professional day - on the Day of the Medical and Pharmacist Worker. We really do regret it, even if we won't publicly admit it and give likes, because “such are the times”. We will remember that even Minister Ala Nemerenco did not intervene to make our holiday professional to be truly memorable: not to make us complicit in things we don't want for our children, things we are ashamed of in front of our parents and grandparents. By the way, have your parents and grandparents praised you for this? We want to know out of curiosity. Did you look them in the eye? Weren't you ashamed? The medical community is and remains fully committed to European values and the integration of the Republic of Moldova into the EU. But with values that are truly important for society”.

In his comments, Gîlcă added:

“Everyone knows - I have never supported this and I have never been and will never be affiliated with any party. It is true that such parades have been organized under pressure from outside for some time now, but the “most beautiful” and as never before, was this year's parade.

Truly embarrassing, when at home, in our families and in our hearts we condemn and do not accept (even in public we do not go out to “praise” such events), but we report false European values which, by the way, also divide societies in EU countries. We play the double standards theatre - we say publicly what we do not believe in, and at home we condemn.

Such “pies” divide society. It's something that brings hatred and violence. I said it before and I repeat: it is everyone's right to expression, including sexual orientation. I will fully advocate for that.

But no public parades. We need to focus on defending the rights and privacy of such people. I repeat, not in public! It is a false indicator of so-called democracy”.

Veaceslav Mulear, LGBT+ Health Program Coordinator at GENDERDOC-M asked him:

“But when you sit in a meeting or technical working group where LGBTQ+ people participate, are you not ashamed?”.

Boris Gilca replied:

“you're right - yes, I was ashamed, very ashamed!”.

GENDERDOC-M has filed a complaint with the Equality Council on hate speech and discrimination.

On 21 June, Dinari Cojocari, member of the Chisinau City Council from the PSRM, brought a Vaseline to the meeting and gave a homophobic speech:

“19 June was the Day of the medical worker and pharmacist. What a potty mouth you have to be to put the LGBT march on the Day of the Medical Worker. What is the rationale people, what level do you want to take us to? Instead of the authorities somehow thanking and congratulating doctors on this day, they have organized a LGBT march. Was the march necessary on this day? What do you want? Have you forgotten how hard the doctors in the last powers worked during the pandemic, how for days they were saving people's lives? I want to remind you that Natalia Gavrilița was also in our hospital, but she seems to have forgotten, if she spoke in support of LGBT people. You (PAS party), have sold the country for a penny, your price and it is these pennies. People should know their “heroes”. I also want to remind you that President Maia Sandu refused to sign a decree on increasing doctors' salaries.

I, as a doctor, brought you this product - I wanted to get you a medical, sterile one, but given the situation you have in your head and bring to society, it doesn't need to be sterile anymore, let it be as it is. Anyway you need it for other needs, not medical needs. As a doctor, I'm telling you, you're mentally ill.

Now I'm telling you as a father of four. Each of you have children and some of you here supported the LGBT parade, don't you think what your children will ask you? Dad, yeah where have you been? Do you want to bring us under the slogan of democratization and Europeanization other things in the Republic of Moldova? Things that are not characteristic of us? Or do you want to sell our traditions and the sacred things we have for last money?

Whatever you do, we will always be there for people, we will always support doctors and other specialists. Shame on you, PAS! You sold out the country for a few pennies. Down with Maia Sandu!”.

After this speech, the PSRM councilor also threw some coins. Vaseline left it at the rostrum and asked his colleagues not to take it, to leave it for the PAS people.

A complaint has been lodged with the Equality Council on incitement to discrimination.

On June 22, at the [meeting](#) of the Chisinau Municipal Council, PSRM Councilor Eugenia Ceban, the mother of the Mayor of Chisinau, and the deputy chair of the PAS faction, Zinaida Popa, got into an argument after the latter intervened with a proposal on the voting procedure to the chair of the meeting. Eugenia Ceban said:

“Mr. President, we are in the voting procedure, why is she intervening so much? Go to your gays and lesbians”.

On 1 August, an advertisement with a [photo](#) of the leader of the Shor party, Ilan Shor, and a quote on it was distributed on the social network Facebook:

“God punishes with expensive, drought, bad life, because we elected a lesbian president and half a gay parliament”.

On 22 September 2022, the Balti Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Balti Court of Appeals in which the President of the Sangerei Raion, Grigore Corcodel, was charged with abuse of office and willful failure to execute a court decision. Corcodel made a Facebook post with the following [content](#):

“They tochtit me!... Just for telling the truth. Long live LGBT justice in Moldova. I am a free man!!!”.

On 30 September - 1 October in Chisinau took place an international scientific conference on *“The best interests of the child: socio-cultural, normative and jurisprudential approach”*, with the support of UNHCR, UNICEF, Children's Advocate, State University of Moldova, Research Center for Criminal Sciences. On 1 October there was a presentation of the research entitled: Fidan IBRAHIMOVA, student, Faculty of International Relations and Public Relations, Diplomatic Academy of Azerbaijan, *“The influence of LGBT propaganda and gender policies on children's development”*. This paper was found to be deeply transphobic, based on unscientific, propagandistic articles and harmful to the transgender community.

GENDERDOC-M has made a scientific-explanatory analysis of this article. The analysis has been sent to UNICEF, UNHCR and the Office of the Children's Ombudsman. As a result, the article was removed from the conference and the teaching staff requested training on *“Sexual orientation and gender identity”*.

On October 6, 2022, the Bloc of Communists and Socialists MP Diana Caraman made a [speech](#) in the Parliament referring legislative changes that removes some discriminatory articles based on sexual orientation from the Penal Code.

The MEP said:

“Those changes to the Criminal Code, which the parliamentary majority will vote on today, are an attempt to morally break down our society. Thus, under the PAS proposal in the Penal Code, the punishment for violent actions and especially for homosexuality disappears. If in the current wording of the Penal Code, Article 172, it sounds like this: Violent acts of a sexual nature (1) Homosexuality or satisfaction of sexual desire in perverse forms, committed by physical or mental coercion of the person or by taking advantage of the person's inability to defend himself or to express his will, shall be punishable by imprisonment from 3 to 5 years. Well, in the new wording, this article already sounds like this:

Article 172 non-consensual violent actions, punishable only by imprisonment for 2 to 5 years. That is, such violent actions as homosexuality and other sexual perversions, in the opinion of the ruling party PAS, more is not a special type of crime. However, they openly declare that this is done under the influence of the Istanbul Convention.

Dear citizens, we remind you that the communist and socialist bloc has been talking about this danger and about the underwater stones of the famous convention, which, under the pretext of protecting women's rights, promotes the interests and propagates homosexuality since 14 February 2021.

Even then I spoke out loudly that introducing such a concept as “gender” is detrimental to our country. The very essence of the concept of gender allows people with a perverted sexual orientation to call themselves male or female, based on their

psychological rather than physiological preferences, as it was before. That is to say, any man physiologically can call himself a woman and enter into a relationship, and if he does so, and marry another man. Dear citizens, the first step in this direction was the Istanbul Convention. The second step is the open and ardent support of the gay parade on June 19, 2022, for the protection of which millions of lei have been spent from the state budget, our common money. The third step is today's draft with the changes to the Penal Code. It is a reasonable suspicion that the concept "gender" will also be explained in educational institutions across the country, and this is really frightening and blasphemous for our children, our future and our country's young generation".

A complaint has been lodged with the Equality Council about these statements on the grounds of hate speech and discrimination.

On 7 November 2022, the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre (CRIC) launched the "[LGBT Children in Your School](#)" campaign. The campaign took place online and aimed to inform and raise awareness among teachers in the Republic of Moldova about the problems faced by children from the LGBT+ community and beyond due to stereotypes and prejudices. Teachers have the opportunity to test their knowledge about children of the LGBTQI+ community and their own level of acceptance.

Members of the Socialists Party of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) have made several homophobic [statements](#) attacking the ruling party and the President of the Republic of Moldova, accusing them of "*starting a campaign for LGBT propaganda in schools*". The PSRM's intentional misrepresentation of the purpose of the campaign and the intention of the organizers, taken up and actively promoted by public figures, led to an avalanche of negative reactions and intolerant manifestations against LGBTQI+ people.

Igor Dodon, former president of Moldova [wrote](#) on his Facebook page:

"Maia Sandu's government is destroying faith, family, economy step by step. This leadership is destroying the country!

As a parent, and I think I will express a position shared by the majority of Moldovan parents on the given case, I am categorically against the propaganda of homosexuality and fornication in schools, insisted on by the current anti-national and anti-Christian leadership. The PAS have categorically opposed the teaching of Christian religion in schools, and are now launching campaigns to promote homosexuality. Maia Sandu and PAS demonstrate almost daily that they are fulfilling a foreign agenda in Moldova, which has nothing in common with our country, with our Christian people. In many schools in the republic the heat has not yet arrived, but instead LGBT propaganda has arrived.

Stop! Stop destroying the family! Don't make a mockery of faith! Leave Moldova alone.

Leave!"

After this, the PSRM also came out with a [statement](#):

"The Party of Socialists strongly condemns the initiative to launch the LGBT promotion campaign in schools in Moldova. PSRM considers LGBT propaganda in schools a direct attack on the institution of the family, our traditional values and ethical norms.

Instead of solving social-economic problems, the Moldovan authorities promote and support such initiatives by adopting various normative acts and by directly and openly supporting the LGBT community.

These include the organization of gay parades, the adoption of the Istanbul Convention in a version unacceptable to Moldovan society and other initiatives.

We call on the Ministry of Education to clearly state its position on this initiative and condemn it as unacceptable for Moldovan society, for our traditional values, family values and for our children”.

The Ministry of Education and Research came out with its own [statement](#):

“The Ministry was not consulted or informed in advance about the campaign. The MEC is concerned about ensuring a safe and protective educational environment for every child. Regarding the comments of some politicians, we consider it incorrect to politicize the subject and do not comment on these statements”.

Natalia Bzovaia, a teacher at the Waldorf High School in Chisinau, wrote:

“If a boy has long hair and a more feminine appearance, and his classmates make fun of him, make homophobic jokes or beat him up after lessons, the teacher must, should, intervene? Of course it's about stereotypes. But what if the teacher himself is homophobic and makes more bad jokes? What do we do with a child on the verge of suicide, because he is afraid of being different, and the family does not tolerate such “disorders”? Do we tell him he'll get over it? Here we really can't tell about such experiences: “when I was like you... but then I grew up and got over it”... This campaign is not about teaching sex in school”.

On 8 November, a group of parents launched a [petition](#) calling for a ban on the campaign:

“We consider it unacceptable to enoble the principles promoted by the so-called LGBT community, whose ultimate goal is the molestation of minors and, as a result, the normalization of non-traditional relationships in society”.

The petition has accumulated over 5600 signatures.

Members of the Bloc of Communists and Socialists (BCS) [demanded](#) that the Minister of Education, Anatolie Topala, be heard in the plenary of the Parliament on this campaign, but their initiative was rejected by vote.

Socialist MEP Adrian Albu said:

“A child's brain is like a sponge that absorbs any information, accepting as truth what is repeated regularly by those who are in authority for them, the teachers. The Ministry of Education and Research informs us that this campaign was not initiated or coordinated by the Ministry. In fact, it is just tilling the ground to promote so-called diversity in schools”.

In response, PAS MP Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei said that this campaign was not initiated or coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Research.

“There is no need to hear the Minister on this issue. Similarly, the Ministry was not consulted or informed by the organizers, any attempt to twist the issues of child protection and safety is malicious intent”.

At the [meeting](#) of the Chisinau Municipal Council, this campaign was also discussed. The representative of the Shor Party, Serghei Burugji, called for a ban on LGBT propaganda in schools:

“Every person has certain rights, but when someone violates the rights of other people, there are certain limits. Only the power has changed and this so-called pro-European power has come, it has come with its LGBT values in our schools. They say we have to respect everybody's rights. But who are all of them, the 7% who live here and

preach these values in Moldova? We ask you to ban any propaganda of these LGBT people in our schools. You are undermining our traditional Moldovan family values”.

Alexander Odentsov, another PSRM councilor added:

“We are waiting for a draft resolution on banning LGBT propaganda in schools”.

Valerii Klemenko, PSRM councilor commented:

“From the point of view of Orthodoxy, this is criminal and, as Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin said, people who afford this kind of activity will burn in hell. And I vote with both hands for that, to burn in hell. It is necessary to categorically ban LGBT propaganda. They are trying to impose on us a different practice, the practice of decadent Europe, where they believe that sex between a man and a man or a man with a dog is the norm. We will not allow this in Moldova, let Maia Sandu and her reoriented company know that”.

Mariana Lungu, a Liberal Party councilor said:

“The Liberal Party is for the traditional family and for the teaching of religion in schools, but any anti-claim is still a claim”.

Dinari Cojocar, PSRM councilor: *“Those who deal with gluttony, I can't put it nicer, generally have no place in society, but let's be serious, the pillar of society is the family, which is composed of mother and father. I'm running away from this vicious organization that is the PAS party and LGBT to an issue that is at home to self-solubility”.*

On 9 November, the General Directorate of Gagauz Autonomy:

“officially [declared](#) the inadmissibility of the campaign “LGBT children in your school”, we categorically oppose it and will not allow it to take place in subordinate educational institutions operating on the territory of the autonomy. The Main Directorate of Education of Gagauzia is convinced that the family and spiritual and moral education are the basis of the present and future of Moldova and ATU Gagauzia. A morally healthy and spiritually strong family is the basis of a full-fledged society. What kind of country we will be depends largely on how we raise our children? We are responsible for their future!”.

On November 9, the leader of the Shor Party, Ilan Shor, made the following [post](#):

“The country's burning, and Old Maia's scratching at... the back of her head. My dear friends, here we are living it too (...) in our country the campaign “LGBT children in your school” is launched.

It is launched for the first time, because only with the help of Maia Sandu could such an event take place in our country and just now. The devil does not feel fulfilled if he does not humiliate us to the end and steal our soul. (...) Why should the minimum wage in the economy be increased, as the trade unions demand? What good is all this if the main problem of the moment in our poor country is the problem of the gay, lesbian and transgender community!

(...) We don't want gays and lesbians to dominate the agenda of the day, but the welfare of the people! While some are fighting to save the country, being terrorized by prosecutors and enduring police caning, others are hotly promoting projects and campaigns to bring misery to this country”.

On 10 November, the Socialist and Communist Bloc [announced](#) that it had tabled a draft law banning “LGBT propaganda” in educational institutions.

The Moldovan Church has published an [appeal](#) on its official website in which it “condemns the launch of the campaign “LGBT Children in Your School” in schools, developed by the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre.

In recent years, the Orthodox Church of Moldova has repeatedly warned society about the negative developments and increased danger following the implementation of the LGBT agenda in society.

Propaganda of the LGBT agenda and its development is absolutely unacceptable, neither socially nor Christianly.

This campaign is unacceptable under any circumstances. This is despite the fact that Christianity is tolerant of homosexuals and intolerant of homosexuality.

Through this campaign there was a dangerous tendency to elevate homosexuality to the status of “normality”. But Holy Scripture states unequivocally: homosexuality is a sin.

LGBT propaganda in schools is a harsh attack on the institution of the family, moral values and ethical norms. The globalist encouragement of libertarianism among teenagers will in time only lead to the spiritual self-destruction of humanity.

We would like to emphasize that we are not trying to incite hatred against some categories of citizens of our country, but only to defend our values and traditions, in order to provide the younger generation with a healthy and dignified education, in the spirit of Christian- Orthodox teaching, which was the basis of the genesis of our people and through which we have survived over time despite the countless historical storms we have had to go through”.

On 14 November, the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child, Maia Bănărescu, [called](#) on public authorities and civil society to prioritize the best interests of the child. However, this call shifted responsibility for hate speech on behalf of many political leaders and those, who created this campaign:

“The Children's Ombudsman draws the attention of civil society and government authorities to the sensitivity of the subject discussed and recommends treating it in a holistic child-friendly way, so as not to affect the safety and development of the final beneficiaries, the children (...)

At the same time, the Children's Ombudsman also draws attention to the fact that a modern society that claims to be democratic should aim to eradicate stigma and prejudice based on stereotypes related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Thus, contemporary society should provide a climate conducive to the development of every child, regardless of their background. These actions are like a litmus paper that separates genuine democracy from the pretense of protecting children's rights. (...)

These programs should in no way be abusive or a shock to society. The responsible persons are to place messages that will not disturb society and will not create a repulsion in relation to the subject matter. At the same time, it is advisable that before launching such campaigns, a preliminary information campaign should be carried out, including for the central public authorities in the field, or neglecting the key public institutions in the field cannot be accepted and does not contribute to achieving the desired goals”.

As a result of these homophobic and transphobic reactions, another campaign was created “[LGBT children exist](#)”.

On 23 December, the following [posts](#) were published on several social networks:

“Young journalist, news anchor left homeless and credit rates forcibly increased. Rodica Cravenco is just one of the victims of the sadistic policy of our rulers. This is how young people leave the country. This is how we will all leave. This is the care for the

citizens that the 'pro-Europeans' are showing. Instead, they are taking care to legalize same-sex marriages and force us to sell our land to foreigners. Now that's Europeanisation...".

Cases reported by beneficiaries of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre

Case 1: On 7 June, Vadim Musteață, police collaborator left the following comment on the interview of Marin Pavlescu, the gay man who was harassed in the National Army:

“Go home and hold hands with all the devils, since you defile the earth”.

This comment has been reported to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The response of the MAI was:

“Thank you for the notification. We have reported the situation to the General Inspectorate of Police. The results of the service investigation will be communicated to the parties concerned. Please note that the Ministry of Internal Affairs promotes social cohesion and does not tolerate hate speech or behavior unbecoming of a civil servant”.

Case 2: On 14 June 2022, the director of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, Anastasiia Danilova, sent an invitation to several NGOs in Moldova to participate in the Pride March. A representative of the Family Federation for Unification and World Peace in Moldova, Serghei Roscot, replied with the following message:

“Hello, I am against such marches! Young people in skirts and no panties. Young women too. Ask a psychotherapist! These are consequences of childhood trauma. Have a nice day”.

This letter has been made public, including to the funders of this NGO. On the 17th, the author sent another message to the organization's address:

“I'm sorry for the message I sent. I admit it is not worthy. I apologize if I upset anyone”.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AND INCIDENTS

On 21.04.2022 the [Law No. LP111/2022](#) on the amendment of some normative acts on crimes and speech motivated by prejudice was voted.

The law contains Article 134(21) - Bias motive with the protected criteria “sexual orientation and gender identity”, regardless of whether the crime is committed against the person possessing such protected characteristics, against his or her property or associated with him or her, or against the person supporting or associating with persons possessing such protected characteristics, such association being real or perceived as real.

Art. I. - The Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova No. 985/2002, as amended, is amended as follows:

In Article 77(1)(d), the words 'social, national, racial or religious hatred' are replaced by the word 'prejudice'.

Thus, from 3 June 2022, crimes committed on grounds of prejudice will be punished more severely as an aggravating circumstance.

Cases reported by beneficiaries of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre

Case 1: Irina is a trans woman living with her parents. On 2 February, Irina told GENDERDOC-M that her parents are forcing her to stop the transition she has started or leave the house where she lives with them. Irina was consulted about her right to her living space and other rights and was assisted in filing her complaint with the Equality Council.

Case 2: M. is a 17-year-old gay man from a small town in Moldova who lives with his older sister, his parents having gone to work in the Russian Federation. On 18 April, M. complained to the organization that he was threatened and subjected to verbal and psychological violence by family members because of his homosexual orientation. His family is forcing him to “change his sexual orientation” and cut his hair, otherwise they will beat him, take away his high school documents and forcibly enlist him in the army or commit him to a psychiatric hospital, or forcibly take him to the Russian Federation.

M. has been consulted about his rights and freedoms and the actions he must take if these threats are met. At the time, M. declined help in making a complaint to the police. Likewise, M. refused the organization's representatives to take preventive measures through a meeting with the police station of the city where he lives. Later, M. approached the Centre's lawyer to start the emancipation procedure, so that she could leave home and start an independent life.

Case 3: On June 7, after several interviews with several Gagauz media following the vote on the resolution of the deputies of the General Assembly of Gagauzia, Angela Frolov, coordinator of the Lobby and Advocacy Programme of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, received a threat on the social network Facebook: *“Bitch, don't you dare speak about Gagauzia, don't you dare even step on this holy land, don't you pederasts come to Moldova, we will catch you one by one and set you on fire. Nor will this Sandu creature help you with her corrupt prosecutors and judges. We will cut you down like the last cattle, like jackals, don't you dare to come, you will gain nothing”.*

A complaint was made to the police about the threat, but nothing came of it. The police did nothing to find and punish the perpetrator.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

On 15 December 2022, during the plenary session, with the vote of 53 MPs, the draft law amending the regulatory framework on non-discrimination and ensuring equality was approved in final reading.

The draft is a set of amendments to the Contraventions Code, Law No 121/2012 on ensuring equality, Law No 298/2012 on the work of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, Law No 5/2006 on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men, aimed at eliminating legislative shortcomings detected during the 10 years of implementation.

Among the most important provisions of the approved draft are the extension of the list of protected criteria, approved by Law 121/2012, including sexual orientation and gender identity; the empowerment of the Council to conduct fact-finding visits to document acts of discrimination; the empowerment of the Council to impose fines for failure to comply with the recommendations and prescriptions issued, etc.

Marin Pavlescu, who is serving in the military, said he was harassed in the military unit after it came out that he was gay. A complaint has been lodged with the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and for Ensuring Equality (CPEDAE).

On 28 January 2022, during the hearings held by the CPEDAE in the case of Marin Pavlescu vs. Military Unit Brigade No. 2 “Stefan cel Mare” motorized infantry, Mr. Petru Corciun, the representative of the Ministry of Defense, argued that the complaint filed is not substantiated, since *“first of all the petitioner had to prove that he is homosexual on the basis of a medical certificate, a simple statement is not a basis that this person is of*

homosexual orientation. Pictures are needed to prove this... In society every day a crowd declares: one is a prince, another a king. The Council must also consider this evidence to determine whether the young man is gay or not”.

The recording of this statement was made public by Marin Pavlescu on 2 February, and was the subject of dozens of news reports in the Moldovan and Romanian media, followed by thousands of indignant and critical comments from citizens. Following these comments, the Ministry of Defense issued a [statement](#) saying:

“In connection with the spreading on social networks and some media sources of a recording of the hearing session of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality of the Republic of Moldova, with reference to the case of the “Stefan cel Mare” Brigade vs Marin Pavlescu, the Ministry of Defense communicates the following: the Ministry of Defense condemns the ideas presented and rejects any form of discrimination within its structures, as well as any interference in the private life of the military.

Minister of Defense Anatoly Nosatyi has ordered an inquiry within the Military Inspectorate to clarify the circumstances, which led to the Ministry representative expressing his personal point of view at the meeting without prior coordination.

Also, in order to prevent any form of bullying and discrimination, the Minister of Defense has ordered the undertaking of instructive-educational measures, aimed at both serving military personnel and staff of the Ministry of Defense.

The Institution reiterates the importance of full respect for fundamental rights in military service”.

On the same day, the Ministry sent a letter to the GENDERDOC-M Centre proposing a partnership for training military psychologists.

On 18 May 2022, a contract was signed with Robist Plus for the rental of their space for the Pride Park event during the Moldova Pride Festival.

On 16 June, the administrator of the company phoned one of the collaborators of the GENDERDOC-M Centre and informed her that she had learned from the media that on 18 June there would be an event “held by gays” and the organization, had not informed her about it, which is why she refused to extend the contract and, if they knew it was for gays, they would have refused from the start. Then the administrator said that a gentleman from the Writers' Union called them and told them forbidden to provide space for homosexuals. The administrator mentioned that she also knows from the press that the mayor of Chisinau, Ion Ceban, will ban the gay march and used this as another argument to refuse this contract.

Lawyer Doina Ioana Strășteanu, who went to them to clarify, was [told](#) that “*they were called by the City Hall and told that they will take away their license if they welcome gays in that place*”. The City Hall, however, refuted these statements, “*nobody has such a mandate to call*”.

A complaint has been lodged with the Council for the Equality on this case.

Cases reported by beneficiaries of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre

Case 1: On 2 October at Chisinau Airport, a non-binary person from Russia applied for asylum. At passport control he was told that there were no more places in Moldova, they called him a “faggot” and required him to sign a document that he agreed to be sent back.

After the involvement of lawyers from the Lawyers' Law Centre, the person was allowed to fill in the asylum application and then to enter the country.

THE SITUATION OF TRANS PEOPLE

According to the latest version of the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11), published by the WHO, “gender identity disorders” have been reclassified as “gender incongruity”. Gender incongruence is now included in the chapter on sexual health, instead of 'mental disorder' as in the previous classification.

However, the Republic of Moldova has not yet taken any steps to change the system in line with this decision. Trans people are still required to provide a certificate with the diagnosis "transsexuality" in order to apply for a change of gender and name on their identity documents. So far, the change of documents is only possible by decision of the courts, a process that takes around 6-12 months.

The Gender Identity Disorder Commission of the IMSP Clinical Hospital of Psychiatry, which provides this diagnosis, does not have a web page and does not provide anywhere online the contacts or at least the correct name of this commission. Therefore, the only solution is for trans people to turn to GENDERDOC-M for information.

Psychiatric investigation of trans people will be repealed when WHO member states move to mandatory use of ICD-11. Until then, doctors are obliged to follow the procedure. In the Republic of Moldova, you can have voice change surgery, orchiectomy, mastectomy. However, the medical policy only covers orchiectomy (surgery to remove one or both testicles). It is an operation that is considered necessary if the patient is undergoing hormone therapy to reduce the strain on the hormonal system.

Since 2010, through the lawyer who represents the rights and interests of transgender people in Moldova, applications have been filed with the courts to obtain a clear and predictable procedure for changing civil status documents and identity documents as a result of sex and gender identity change. As a result of these litigations, initiated in court and exposing the issue in public, the Supreme Court of Justice issued Recommendation No. 16 on the procedure for examining applications for rectification of civil status documents as a result of sex change, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova issued Order No. 1268 on 17.12.2012 on the establishment of the Gender Disorder Determination Commission. As of today, as a result of the first cases initiated in court and the multiple advocacy efforts carried out by the GENDERDOC-M Centre as a public association, only these two acts regulate the procedure of changing civil status documents for transgender persons, other legal mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova do not exist.

After 4 years of litigation, multiple challenges, retrials and appeals, the Civil Status Service has resigned itself to the explanations given by the Supreme Court of Justice, to the procedure established by the order of the Ministry of Health and has taken the position of leaving it to the discretion of the national courts to resolve applications for changes in civil status documents for transgender people. More concretely, the procedure was as follows: the transgender person submitted all the documents with the application to the civil status office in the territorial area of the Psychiatric Clinical Hospital Codru where the Commission was active, the civil status office issued the decision-refusal, the person with a lawyer challenged the act in the administrative litigation procedure, the court issued the decision of full admission of the application to the Civil Status Office and the decision came into force within 30 days from the issuance in the absence of an appeal request from the Civil Status Office. Thus, transgender persons went through an administrative and judicial procedure to change the documents, which took about 4-6 months from the submission of the application to the Civil Status Office to the issue of the judgment with the stamp “final and enforceable”.

The created situation was not ideal, but at least a clear and predictable procedure was identified for transgender people to go through in order to collect the records (including the conclusion of the Medical Commission on Gender Identity and Transsexualism) and obtain a document (irrevocable court order) under which to change their papers.

The situation changed when the Public Services Agency was set up, namely: no refusal decisions are issued for requests by transgender people to change their civil status documents, letters are issued; the court's decision to admit the claim is challenged by the Public Services Agency with an appeal; it is stated that the Ministry of Health's order nr. 1268 of 17.12.12 is unlawful and the medical certificate issued by the Commission on Gender Identity Disorder is not the "official document of sex change" as indicated in Art. 66 Law nr. 100 on Civil Status Documents; urges the courts, sometimes successfully, to dismiss the claim on the grounds that transgender persons have not proved that they have surgically changed their biological sex and that they have not submitted the "official act of sex change" within the term indicated in Art. 66 Law No. 100 on Civil Status Documents.

Although in every case since 2017, the Supreme Court of Justice, through its decision rejecting the appeal filed by the Public Services Agency or through the decision granting the appeal filed by the lawyer of the transgender person, has obliged the Public Services Agency to issue the decision approving the changes to the person's "sex" and "surname" in the birth certificate, the actions of the Public Services Agency lead to unjustified delays in the processing of the transgender person's application (from the filing of the application to the final decision of the Supreme Court of Justice takes 2 months), 5 or 3 years) and cause feelings of frustration, anxiety and humiliation because the Public Services Agency insists that without surgery on the genitals the person is not entitled to request a change in the birth certificate and thus to obtain an identity card reflecting the change and the reality in which the applicant lives.

As a result, we returned to the situation of 2010-2012, when, on the basis of the same abusive and arbitrary reasons, the Civil Status Service refused to satisfy requests for change of birth certificate and opposed the request submitted by the transgender person, by challenging court acts, involving the political factor, reviewing decisions. Further, the refused transgender people face multiple problems: refusal to open a bank account, not being able to vote, not being able to travel, problems at work, if they are employed, or employment in the labor market and others, because in deed it is a man and in fact it is a woman and looks like a woman, and vice versa.

ASP (Public Services Agency) so far is not friendly and open to changing documents for trans people. GENDERDOC-M has addressed the Equality Council complaining about discrimination from the state and the ASP on this issue. The Council gave a decision confirming the discrimination, but ASP appealed this decision in court.

So far there is no action taken by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to introduce a procedure for the transgender person to follow to obtain this "official sex change document" that the Public Services Agency is so insistent on. In the absence of any other procedure, both complainants place the impossible burden on transgender people to produce a document that no one will issue.

In 2011-2012, in a series of correspondence between lawyer Doina Ioana Străisteanu and the Civil Status Service, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice, the Moldovan Government representatives claimed that there was a draft law proposing this procedure to clarify and definitively solve the problem of changing documents for transgender people. In reality, the Government has done nothing but create a new public institution that discriminates and instigates discrimination on the basis of gender identity

against transgender people. The situation can no longer be tolerated, because no mediation or peaceful reconciliation is possible.

However, the GDM is taking several steps to promote a vote on this law as soon as possible. A working group of LGBT activists and specialists from various fields has been set up: lawyers, doctors, representatives of the Ombudsman's office. The role of the working group is to inform the state about the situation of trans people and explain the need for this law.

Several people from the trans* support group have created an initiative group, Felis Transgender Advocacy Group. The group goal is to do trans activism.