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**REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF  
LGBT+ RIGHTS IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
YEAR 2025**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation of LGBTI+ people in the Republic of Moldova during the reporting period, within a social, political, and electoral context marked by polarization, disinformation, and an increase in hate speech. The report is based on case documentation by GENDERDOC-M, thematic analyses, sociological research data, institutional positions, public statements, and information collected through legal and psychological support activities.

The findings indicate that LGBTI+ people continue to face systemic discrimination, bias-motivated violence, and social exclusion, despite the existence of a general legal framework prohibiting discrimination. Social attitudes remain largely negative, while social acceptance is limited and fragile, and highly susceptible to political and media influence.

A dedicated section examines disinformation, hate speech, and incitement to discrimination, including in the electoral context, where LGBTI+ issues were frequently instrumentalized by political actors. The report also analyzes attacks and intimidation against human rights defenders, particularly LGBTI+ activists, who were targeted by smear campaigns, threats, and online and offline harassment.

The report documents violence and bias-motivated incidents against LGBTI+ people, highlighting the widespread underreporting of such cases and the lack of an effective institutional response. Specific attention is given to the situations of transgender people, LGBTI+ children and youth, and the particularly vulnerable context of the Transnistrian region, where basic human rights protection mechanisms are absent.

The report further addresses the Moldova Pride Festival as a space for visibility, rights advocacy, and a test of freedom of assembly, as well as relevant legislative developments, including measures aimed at combating violence and harassment, particularly in the online environment. Overall, the report underscores the urgent need for systemic, coherent, and politically accountable measures to ensure effective protection of LGBTI+ rights and compliance with the Republic of Moldova's international human rights obligations.

## SOCIAL CONTEXT AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS LGBTI+ PEOPLE

The [2024 study on social acceptance](#) produced by the **Partnership for Development Center** shows that LGBT+ people remain among the most stigmatized and socially rejected groups in the Republic of Moldova, despite some gradual positive developments compared to previous years. According to the Social Distance Index, LGBT+ people record the highest level of social distance among all groups analyzed (3.8), indicating an extremely limited and largely formal level of acceptance.

The data reveal that the majority of the population is reluctant to engage in close social relationships with LGBT+ people. Approximately 85% of respondents would not accept an LGBT+ person as a family member, while more than 60% would not accept them as a neighbor, colleague, or close friend. Acceptance is most often expressed only at an abstract level, as recognition of citizenship, without a willingness to build meaningful social proximity or personal relationships.

At the same time, the comparative analysis indicates a slow but consistent improvement in social attitudes toward LGBT+ people. The Social Distance Index decreased significantly from 5.6 in 2020 to 3.8 in 2024, suggesting a shift away from total rejection toward limited forms of tolerance. According to the study's authors, this trend is linked to increased public exposure to human rights discourse, European influences, migration, and the growing visibility of LGBT+ people in the public space.

Nevertheless, social acceptance remains fragile and easily reversible, being strongly influenced by political discourse, social polarization, and narratives centered on so-called "traditional values." The study highlights that LGBT+ people are frequently instrumentalized in political and electoral debates, which reinforces negative stereotypes and entrenches perceptions of "otherness." In this context, LGBT+ people continue to be viewed as a group that is merely "tolerated" rather than genuinely accepted, with direct consequences for their safety, visibility, and the effective enjoyment of their rights.

In 2025, the **GENDERDOC-M Information Center** conducted research on "*LGBT+ experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behavior in Moldova*". The research reveals an extremely high prevalence of violence and unwanted sexual behavior among LGBT+ people in the Republic of Moldova, indicating a systemic phenomenon with serious consequences for personal safety, mental health, and trust in public institutions. The study is based on responses from 116 LGBT+ participants, predominantly young people from urban areas, with secondary and higher education levels.

The findings show that over 90% of respondents have experienced sexualized comments, jokes, or remarks that made them feel uncomfortable, with the vast majority reporting that such incidents occurred repeatedly. Nearly 70% reported non-consensual sexual touching, while two thirds were exposed to unwanted sexual content. In addition, almost half of respondents indicated that they had been propositioned for sexual activities in exchange for gifts, money, or other benefits, and over one quarter reported experiences of physical sexual coercion.

A particularly alarming finding is that many of these experiences occurred during childhood or adolescence, with most respondents indicating ages between 11 and 17 at the time of the first incident. In many cases, victims did not immediately recognize that what they experienced constituted violence or abuse, which contributed to delayed disclosure or complete non-reporting.

The research shows that perpetrators are not limited to strangers, but are frequently individuals from the victims' close social environment. According to the data, over 50% of respondents reported that the perpetrator was an unknown person; however, a substantial proportion experienced violence perpetrated by friends or peers (approximately 32%), family

members or relatives (around 24%), and, in some cases, parents or legal guardians. The study also documents incidents involving persons in positions of authority, such as teachers or educators. These findings demonstrate that violence against LGBT+ people occurs not only in public spaces but also within family and educational settings, which significantly increases vulnerability and creates additional barriers to reporting, particularly when the perpetrator is someone close to the victim.

The study highlights an extremely low level of reporting to authorities: only a very small number of respondents contacted the police or other institutions. The main reasons for non-reporting include shame, fear of not being believed, fear of being blamed, and fear of negative reactions due to sexual orientation or gender identity. Approximately 40% of respondents stated that being LGBT+ directly affected their ability to speak about their experiences.

Perceptions of public institutions are overwhelmingly negative: nearly 70% of respondents did not feel safe reporting violence, and two thirds consider public institutions to be unprepared to adequately respond to such cases. When interactions with authorities did occur, they were more often negative than positive.

The research underscores the urgent need for specialized and safe support services for LGBT+ people, with respondents prioritizing LGBT+ safe spaces, anonymous counseling, education and awareness-raising in schools, and access to legal representation. The overall conclusion of the study is that violence against LGBT+ people in the Republic of Moldova is widespread, severely underreported, and insufficiently addressed at the institutional level, while the lack of trust in authorities perpetuates a cycle of silence and impunity.

**The Annual Report of the Ombudsperson** highlights that LGBT people in the Republic of Moldova continue to face persistent discrimination, hate speech, and social marginalization. Despite the existence of a general legal framework on equality and non-discrimination, its implementation remains weak, and effective protection of LGBT people is limited in practice.

The report identifies the spread of hate speech and disinformation, including in public and institutional spaces, as a major concern affecting vulnerable groups, including LGBT people. Such narratives reinforce negative stereotypes and contribute to a hostile environment, negatively impacting safety and the enjoyment of fundamental rights.

The Ombudsperson also points to the heightened vulnerability of LGBT people in closed institutions, particularly in detention settings, where risks of discriminatory treatment, violence, and lack of adequate safeguards persist.

Overall, the report concludes that, despite isolated positive developments, LGBT people remain insufficiently protected, and stronger efforts are required to combat discrimination, prevent hate speech, and ensure effective enforcement of existing legislation.

**The Children's Ombudsperson** has identified practices involving the promotion of hate speech, discrimination, and indoctrination within educational institutions, including through the actions of certain teaching staff. In this context, the Ombudsperson highlighted the serious risks faced by LGBT children, particularly when stigmatizing messages are promoted by educators or educational authorities.

A major concern relates to the actions of local education authorities that support or adopt measures promoting hate speech against specific groups of children. In particular, the Children's Ombudsperson described the ban on so-called "LGBT propaganda" in schools, introduced through an order of the General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sport of the Chişinău Municipal Council, as an implicit call for the non-acceptance of LGBT children, regardless of whether their sexual orientation or gender identity is real or merely presumed.

Such institutional messages contribute to the creation of a hostile school environment, exposing LGBT children, as well as those who defend their rights, to increased risks of discrimination, harassment, and violence. The Children’s Ombudsperson emphasized that these practices violate the state’s obligation to ensure a safe and inclusive educational environment and may amount to incitement to discrimination, hatred, or violence, which is punishable under national legislation.

On 17 May – the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), multiple **diplomatic missions**, public institutions, and civil society organizations issued public statements supporting the rights of LGBT people in the Republic of Moldova. A joint statement by embassies expressed solidarity with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, emphasizing that they continue to face discrimination, violence, and hate speech, both in Moldova and worldwide. The statement was endorsed by a broad group of Moldova’s international partners: The diplomatic missions of **Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Switzerland, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Ukraine.**

**The European Union Delegation** to the Republic of Moldova marked IDAHOT by raising the rainbow flag and reaffirmed the fundamental principle that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights, stressing that homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia have no place in a democratic society. The EU highlighted the promotion of diversity and equal rights as essential to building a safe and inclusive society.

At the national level, the **Equality Council** reiterated its firm commitment to protecting human dignity and combating all forms of discrimination, describing IDAHOT as a call for action and solidarity.

**The Coalition for Inclusion and Non-Discrimination** further emphasized that equality, freedom, and justice must apply to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, drawing attention to the continued violence, stigmatization, and social exclusion faced by LGBTQI+ people.

**The Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children's Rights** have expressed their support for LGBTIQ+ people and drawn attention to the real risks that intolerance towards diversity generates. Intolerance can take many forms—such as xenophobia, racism, misogyny, or homophobia—all reflecting a culture of fear and exclusion that contradicts fundamental human rights principles.

## DISINFORMATION, HATE SPEECH AND INCITEMENT TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBTI+ PEOPLE

Hate speech is regulated by the [Criminal Code](#). Article 77 stipulates that prejudice-based motives, including those related to sexual orientation and gender identity, constitute an aggravating circumstance. Similarly, Article 346 of the Criminal Code punishes intentional acts of incitement to hatred on grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity. In practice, the application of these provisions is limited. The competent authorities, in particular the police and the prosecution, rarely investigate cases of incitement to discrimination, harassment, or threats as hate-motivated, even when there are clear indications of a discriminatory motive. Reported cases are frequently classified as minor offenses or ignored, and victims are discouraged from filing formal complaints.

On 6 May, the **European Court of Human Rights** delivered [its judgment](#) in *Străisteanu v. Moldova*, finding a violation of Article 10 of the Convention (freedom of expression). The case concerned Facebook posts by lawyer Doina-Ioana Străisteanu, who published video recordings documenting homophobic insults and threats directed at her because of her work defending LGBTQ+ rights.

Domestic courts ordered the removal of the posts, treating the incident as a private dispute and prioritizing the aggressor's right to private life. The ECtHR rejected this reasoning, stressing that the homophobic attacks raised an issue of public interest related to hate speech and the protection of minorities.

The Court criticized the Moldovan authorities for failing to properly balance freedom of expression and the right to private life. The judgment reaffirms that speech exposing intolerance and discrimination, even if disturbing, is protected when it contributes to public debate on human rights.

In 2025, **Promo-LEX** released the [report on hate speech and incitement to discrimination during the 2024 presidential election and constitutional referendum campaign](#) highlights that LGBTQI+ people were among the most frequently targeted groups, with 57 documented cases out of a total of 244. Hate speech directed against LGBT people included the promotion of homophobic stereotypes, narratives of social exclusion, justification of discrimination, and in some instances implicit incitement to violence. The report finds that anti-LGBT rhetoric is systematically used as a political tool, particularly during electoral campaigns, often embedded in narratives about “*traditional values*”, “*external threats*”, or so-called “*destructive ideologies*”. Several electoral messages explicitly portrayed LGBT people as a threat to family, children, or national identity, contributing to stigmatization and social polarization. Promo-LEX emphasizes that since 2018, the intensity of hate speech against LGBTQI+ people has not decreased, and some electoral campaigns have been explicitly built around anti-LGBT messaging.

Social media platforms and mobile applications emerged as the primary channels for disseminating hate speech, surpassing traditional media in both reach and frequency. At the same time, the report points to a limited response from public authorities, despite the existence of a legal framework criminalizing hate speech and incitement to discrimination. The number of official complaints remains low, and *ex officio* investigations are rarely initiated, including in cases documented by civil society organizations.

The report concludes that hate speech against LGBTQI+ people remains a structural feature of the electoral context in Moldova, with a direct negative impact on the safety, dignity, and civic participation of LGBT persons. Promo-LEX calls for stronger public

policies, effective enforcement of sanctions, and proactive engagement by authorities and political actors to combat homophobia and discrimination.

Following the inauguration of the new President of the United States in January 2025 and the announcement of public policies perceived as hostile to the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, the owners of major social media platforms — **Mark Zuckerberg** (Meta/Facebook, Instagram) and **Elon Musk** (X/Twitter) — announced changes to their content moderation policies, allowing homophobic and transphobic statements on their platforms.

Although these policy changes were presented in the context of U.S. domestic debates and legislation, their impact extended beyond the United States. In the Republic of Moldova, the announcements were followed by a noticeable increase in hate speech and hostile comments targeting LGBTIQ+ persons on social media platforms, published in both Romanian and Russian.

Such messages were posted by ordinary users as well as public figures and political actors, often justified by references to the “new rules” of the platforms or to political developments in the United States. This context contributed to the normalization of homophobic and transphobic discourse in Moldova’s online space and to the amplification of verbal attacks against LGBTIQ+ persons, activists, and organizations.

### **Cases of hate speech and incitement to discrimination recorded:**

On 20 January, **Igor Dodon**, leader of the **Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova** (PSRM) and former President of Moldova, [published](#) a Facebook post congratulating U.S. President Donald Trump on his inauguration for a second term.

In his message, Dodon explicitly praised Trump’s stance on a so-called “*return to traditional values*,” claiming that public spaces had been harmed by a “*toxic and aggressive agenda promoted by transgender and LGBT groups*”.

The statement frames LGBT people as a moral and social threat and contributes to their public stigmatization, portraying them as responsible for undermining “*normality*” and “*traditional values*”.

On 4 February, **Igor Dodon** held a [press conference](#) during which he reiterated the party’s long-standing positions. Among the principles outlined, Dodon emphasized what he described as “*traditional values*,” defining the family exclusively as a union between a man and a woman.

In his statement, Dodon declared that this position has been consistently promoted by the Socialist Party throughout more than 13 years of its activity. He further stated that PSRM demands the legal prohibition and criminal liability for any actions related to the promotion of LGBT issues in the Republic of Moldova, adding that such actions should be stopped because, in his words, they are “*not inherent*” to Moldovan society.

The statements were subsequently disseminated through media coverage and online platforms.

On 25 March, **Igor Dodon** [publicly stated](#) that he sees Moldova’s future as “*a single, sovereign, neutral country*.” He declared that although the European Union is Moldova’s neighbor, the country “*will never become a member of the EU*.”

In his statement, Igor Dodon claimed that Moldova “*does not need*” the European Union, arguing that the EU is becoming “*a military bloc*” and imposes an “*anti-Russian and LGBT methodology*” on neighboring states.

On 9 May, the “Memory March” [took place](#) in Chişinău, organized by **the Bloc of Communists and Socialists in Parliament**, with the participation of individuals affiliated with fugitive oligarch **Ilan Şor**.

During the event, **Igor Dodon** publicly addressed the topic of the LGBT community and reiterated his party’s intention to introduce criminal sanctions for the so-called “*promotion of LGBT values*.”

Igor Dodon stated: “*Moldova is an LGBT-free country. This is our position. We understand that there are people with various problems, but the socialists have submitted initiatives in Parliament multiple times, and PAS has blocked them. We want to introduce criminal liability in the Criminal Code for the promotion of LGBT values in the Republic of Moldova. To ban marches and various actions by law (...) Not to bring these values into the public space.*”

On 27 May, the **Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM)** [launched](#) a nationwide campaign entitled “If families exist, the country will exist as well!”. The campaign was described by some politically affiliated media outlets as a national campaign against the LGBTQ+ community, due to its public messaging and stated objectives.

The President of the Party, **Igor Dodon**, made the following public statement: “*In the coming weeks, we will organise hundreds of events across the country, and at the end of June – a large Family March in Chişinău. Family means the union between a man and a woman. This is how it has been and this is how it will always be in Moldova. And non-traditional values have no place in our country, and we will achieve the banning of their propaganda*”.

On 12 June, leaflets were distributed in residential mailboxes by the **Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM)**. The materials contained political messages explicitly referring to the LGBT community and to education.

The exact text of the leaflets reads as follows: “*PAS destroys families, PSRM protects them. Foreign values about family, gender, and marriage are being imposed in schools. What PSRM proposes: Laws to protect the traditional family. No to LGBT propaganda in schools and the media.*”

On 31 July, **Igor Dodon**, [stated](#) in an interview for Hotnews.ro: “*I repeat: we are in favor of good relations with the European Union, but always starting from the national interest. We are categorically against the EU’s position on promoting LGBT ideology.*”

On October 21, during the meeting of the Republican Council of the PSRM, **Igor Dodon** [announced](#) that the Socialists would “*defend the traditional family as the union between a man and a woman*” and “*oppose LGBT propaganda in schools and public spaces.*” The statement was made as part of a resolution reaffirming PSRM’s commitment to “*traditional values*” and positioning itself as a “*people’s opposition.*” The party also declared its intent to initiate parliamentary investigations and to challenge what it called “*illegal agreements with the EU and NATO,*” claiming they contradict Moldova’s constitutional neutrality.

References to the LGBT community are part of the PSRM’s broader political rhetoric, frequently used to reject equality and diversity initiatives while portraying the protection of the “*traditional family*” as a central ideological priority.

On 25 November, **Igor Dodon**, Member of Parliament and leader of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova, published a [post](#) on his Facebook page stating:

*“With the obligation to accept migrants from Africa and the obligation to recognize marriages between homosexuals, the European Union is signing its own act of demographic and identity self-condemnation. With such aberrant policies, directed against the traditional family and the sovereignty of states, the EU is becoming increasingly unattractive, and Moldovans should seriously consider whether they want to integrate into a community that is entering moral, demographic, and economic decline.”*

The post included a [link](#) to the following news item: *“EU member states are obliged to recognize a gay marriage concluded in another member state, announces the Court of Justice of the European Union.”*

A few months before the parliamentary elections in Moldova, scheduled for 28 September 2025, a massive disinformation campaign unfolded on social media, aimed at discrediting the country’s European integration path. According to an undercover [investigation](#) by **Ziarul de Gardă**, this campaign was not the work of ordinary users but rather a coordinated network of fake accounts operated from Moscow through structures linked to fugitive oligarch **Ilan Shor**.

Journalist Natalia Zaharescu, working undercover under the name “Irina Zahar,” received an invitation to a “*free social media training*” from a woman identified as Eva Sergeevna, who used a Russian phone number. Later, a coordinator shared a short video that became the basis for a flashmob called “*Dances that Warm Us*”. The video featured an activist named Inga dancing next to a Christmas tree while four key messages appeared on the screen: “*Gas at 1 leu*”; “**Ban LGBT**”; “*Fair elections*”; “*Pension supplements for retirees*”.

The so-called “*digital soldiers*” were trained and paid to produce and distribute similar TikTok videos, strictly following the assigned melody and hashtags. The campaign was designed as a combination of political disinformation, anti-LGBT propaganda, and appeals to vulnerable groups (especially pensioners), with the clear goal of shaping public opinion and destabilizing Moldova’s pro-European trajectory.

On 22 July, the [online show](#) “Mlive”, broadcast on the YouTube channel “**Morari.live**”, featured **Vasile Costiuc**, leader of the political party “**Democrația Acasă**”. During the programme, Costiuc described LGBTQ+ rights advocacy as a “*harmful propaganda*” and claimed that both in the United States and in Moldova, the majority of society opposes LGBTQ+ values.

He referred to alleged discussions with U.S. senators, stating that they had been “*afraid*” to publicly express opposition to LGBTQ+ issues until Donald Trump “*clearly stated*” such views, revealing what he described as a large majority sharing these positions. Costiuc further claimed that a similar majority exists in Chișinău, grounded in “*family, society and God*,” while people associated with the rainbow symbol are “*fewer*” and increasingly excluded from political representation.

The programme’s moderator, **Gheorghe Gonța**, endorsed the guest’s statements without critical challenge or clarification. The episode reached over 48,000 views online.

On 23 January, **Cristina Frolov**, President of the **Constantin Mimi Foundation**, [published](#) a video on Instagram commenting on announcements by Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook regarding changes to social inclusion policies.

In the video, she publicly welcomed the decision to stop promoting inclusion, stating that the topic had become “*grotesque*.” She referred to children’s gender identity, suggesting that children are allegedly encouraged not to identify as girls or boys from birth, using caricatured examples (such as identifying as a “squirrel” or other entities).

On 16 April 2025, several journalists and civil society activists in the Republic of Moldova received an email sent from the address [mihai.mitu@mfa-moldova.com](mailto:mihai.mitu@mfa-moldova.com), which falsely appeared to originate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The message was titled “Amendments to the Family Code of the Republic of Moldova” and was written in a tone imitating official governmental communication.

The email claimed that, in the context of strengthening cooperation with the European Union and advancing Moldova’s European integration process, the authorities were preparing a draft law on the legalisation of same-sex marriage in the Republic of Moldova. The text framed this alleged initiative as a necessary step toward the “*historical unification*” of Moldova with the European Union and portrayed Europe as a “*large family*” in which everyone is respected regardless of race, skin colour, or sexual orientation.

The message also called on recipients to support the “*fight against homophobia*,” to show solidarity with LGBT people, and to back the state’s commitment to improving the quality of life of all Moldovan citizens. The email ended with a forged signature, indicating the position of “*Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*,” under the name “*Mihai Mitsu*.”

It was later established that the message was not issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that the identity of a government official had been fraudulently used. The email constitutes a case of disinformation and identity impersonation, aiming to mislead recipients and to associate a highly sensitive and polarising topic—LGBT rights and same-sex marriage—with state institutions and the European integration process.

On 8 May, the **General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sport of the Chişinău City Hall** sent at least one official letter to a school in the municipality of Chişinău (with indications that similar letters may have been sent to other schools as well).

The letter contained the following wording: “*To prohibit the organization of events by persons whose aim is to undermine democracy and fundamental human freedoms, who incite hatred or revisionist opinions, violence, discrimination, or the promotion of LGBT.*”

The document was sent in the context of previous public statements and announced measures by municipal authorities regarding the prohibition of so-called “LGBT propaganda” in educational institutions.

On 26 May, **Ion Ceban, Mayor of Chişinău**, participated in the TV programme “Pe faţă” broadcast by the public television channel Moldova 1. During the show, he made the following public statement: “*This is what should be cultivated in our people (referring to the modernisation of schools and hospitals), not LGBT propaganda. If media institutions show and spread positive examples, not talk about LGBT, about all kinds of fears that are being created around people.*”

Later the same day, Ion Ceban published a [post](#) on his Facebook page commenting on his appearance on the programme: “*I was invited to the national television channel Moldova1, after a break of several years... Almost half of the Moldova 1 programme consisted of questions about the LGBT march and less about the Capital, and whenever I touched on the topic of the PAS government, it was like salt on a wound.*”

On 22 May 2025, on the social media platforms [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), a user named Saşa Rusu published a video in which he used without consent excerpts from a video spot featuring several LGBT persons from the Republic of Moldova, created as a message addressed to society.

Following the use of these images, the author issued direct threats of violence, motivated by prejudice related to the sexual orientation of the persons depicted.

The exact statement from the video is as follows: “*I am Sașa, with this shovel handle, I’ll beat your asses to show you what the ass is for and what the head is for. Fuck your gods, you’ve multiplied too much.*”

In connection with this incident, a complaint was filed with the police, and a contravention procedure was initiated.

On 30 July, [a video](#) was published on the social media platform TikTok on an account named ion.ciobanu561.

The video depicts a crow with the head of the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, flying toward the monument of Stephen the Great, while saying “*LGBT*”, “*European Union*”, and “*Human rights*”. The character is then struck and cut with a sword by Stephen the Great.

At the end of the video, the inscription “*Stephen fought for something else*” appears, accompanied by the national anthem of the Republic of Moldova playing in the background.

The video uses historical and national symbols to associate LGBT, the European Union, and human rights with an act of symbolic violence directed against a public figure and these concepts.

A complaint was filed with the Audiovisual Council regarding this video.

On 17 July, in Bălți, **municipal councillor Maxim Moroshan**, president of the territorial organization of the **Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM)**, [accused](#) the current government of having declared a “*war*” on the people and the Church. According to his statements, published by unimedia.info, Moroshan criticized alleged calls to revoke Romanian citizenship from priests who disagree with the government, describing this as a manifestation of “*democracy*” according to the PAS vision. He claimed that the authorities ignore real issues such as poverty and corruption, instead focusing on confrontation with the Church and believers. Moroshan referred to incidents at the LGBT parade in Chișinău, where, according to him, priests were allegedly insulted without any reaction from the authorities. He also mentioned the case of priest Markel, who was detained and questioned at the airport. In his view, the idea of revoking citizenship from those who support traditional values could later be extended to other categories of people holding critical views toward the government.

A politically affiliated website [published a material](#) translated and adapted from an article in the French magazine Causeur, titled “*When Aid Becomes Ideology: What France Is Really Doing in Moldova.*” The text claims that the **French Development Agency (AFD)** uses financial support for the Republic of Moldova not only for economic and energy purposes but also to “*promote a progressive agenda*” and “*Western values,*” including LGBT rights and “*diversity.*” It portrays support for minorities and anti-discrimination measures as an “*ideological Trojan horse,*” accusing NGOs funded by AFD and its partners of pushing for “*legalization of same-sex marriage,*” “*post-colonial feminism,*” and “*gender fluidity lessons*” in schools. The article criticizes the 2025 Pride Parade in Chișinău as a “*foreign-funded and imposed event*” and alleges that France and the EU are turning Moldova into a “*laboratory of social engineering.*” It further accuses President Maia Sandu of having ceded domestic political control to foreign donors and claims that the EU accession referendum was narrowly won due to diaspora votes. The article concludes by questioning the legitimacy of the “*imposed reforms*” and criticizing France’s silence on the closure of opposition TV channels, contrasting it with its enthusiasm for LGBT events.

At the end of July, several hate graffiti appeared in Chișinău, targeting the LGBT community. The messages included phrases such as “*Do you think this is normal?*”,

accompanied by graphic drawings of two same-sex couples, as well as the slogan “*Anti LGBT*”. The graffiti were displayed in public spaces and contributed to fostering a hostile environment toward LGBT people.

On 1 August, [an article published](#) on a politically affiliated platform portrayed as a “threat” an open letter sent to the President of the Republic of Moldova, **Maia Sandu**, by the Italian LGBT organization **GayLib**. The letter, published both on Italian media websites ([affaritaliani.it](#)) and on GayLib’s official page, thanks Maia Sandu for her “commitment to inclusion,” recognizes Moldova as a “regional leader in LGBT rights,” and proposes cooperation in drafting new legislation, particularly in the area of youth policy. The letter also encourages the “continuation of education for diversity” in schools and hospitals.

The politically affiliated website interprets this gesture as an attempt to introduce “*LGBT programs and legislation*” in Moldova “*under the pretext of European values,*” suggesting that such initiatives would not reflect the wishes of families in the country.

On July 28–29, 2025, Chişinău hosted the [European conservatives and sovereigntists’ meeting MEGA](#) (“Make Europe Great Again”). Before the start of the two-day conference, Moldovan border police blocked at least three invited participants from entering the country at the airport: Czech MEP **Ondřej Dostál**, Greek nationalist politician **Dimos Thanasoulas**, and U.S. anti-LGBT activist **Brian S. Brown**. Brown, listed by the **Southern Poverty Law Center** as a “*promoter of hate speech,*” was eventually allowed entry reportedly after U.S. **Embassy** intervention following an overnight stay at the airport.

The **Intelligence and Security Service (SIS)** justified the initial refusals by citing “*obscure sources of funding*” for the event and alleged links to Russia as part of efforts to destabilize Moldova. SIS warned Moldovan politicians and opinion leaders attending the conference at Hotel Leograd that their participation would serve Moscow’s interests.

In a social media post, **Igor Dodon** said he had met again with his “*old friend*” Brian Brown, president of the International Organization for the Protection of the Family, with whom he discussed the current situation in Moldova and the region, emphasizing the importance of promoting “*traditional values*” and strengthening the family as the foundation of a healthy society.

**Victor Grosu** is an individual active in the online space who has recently published several messages critical of the Metropolis of Bessarabia and the LGBT community. In some publicly shared images, he appears together with Metropolitan Vladimir.

On 14 July, Victor Grosu published a post on his Facebook page containing the following [statement](#): “*At the elections, let us cleanse Moldova of thieves, traitors and sellers of faith, nation and country, and of those with the LGBT sin. Mobilization!!!*”. The message frames the LGBT community as a “*sin*” and places LGBT people among groups portrayed as undesirable, using language of “*cleansing*”.

Following the publication of this post, a complaint was filed with the police.

On 31 August, the Telegram channel **Bălţi 24** published [a post](#) claiming that, starting 1 September, “*LGBT posters*” had appeared in Moldovan schools, featuring slogans about “*demythologizing myths.*” The authors alleged that parents were not informed, that the initiative was imposed “*from outside*” under the pretext of European integration, and that schools were being turned into sites of “*ideological experimentation.*” The post framed the issue as one of “*sovereignty*” and excluded families from the decision-making process. Most likely, these claims are part of the same disinformation campaign observed during the Moldova Pride Festival, and the posters are not connected to LGBT organizations in the Republic of Moldova.

At the beginning of October, following the adoption of the [European Commission's LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026–2030](#), several public figures and political candidates in Moldova used the event to spread manipulative narratives and hate speech on social media. The European Commission launched the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026–2030 as a renewed commitment to combat discrimination and hate across Europe. The initiative seeks to promote inclusion, safety, and equal rights for LGBTIQ+ people within the EU and in candidate countries, including the Republic of Moldova.

The launch of the strategy triggered a wave of misinformation and moral panic among Moldovan public figures, who framed it as an “imposition of an LGBT agenda” and a “threat to traditional values” and children’s rights.

**Andrei Năstase**, former Minister of Internal Affairs and independent candidate in the 2025 parliamentary elections, posted a lengthy [statement](#) on Facebook questioning “*whether minors should be allowed to choose their own gender.*” His post framed the Strategy as a *moral and social danger*, suggesting that *EU values undermine family roles and children’s protection*. While presented as a “*balanced*” reflection, his message reinforced the narrative that LGBTIQ+ equality threatens moral order and national identity.

**Gheorghe Costandachi**, who self-identifies as a “*scientific researcher and economic strategist,*” published several Facebook posts promoting false claims about an alleged “*LGBT agenda imposed by the West.*” In previous posts related to Moldova Pride 2025, he accused the government of *pushing LGBT ideology* and shared defamatory content against a police officer who had protected the Pride March. On October 10, Costandachi wrote that “*now people will have to tolerate public sex acts, or be arrested if they object,*” distorting the EU Strategy’s purpose to incite hostility and fear.

**Stela Coseliuc**, a member of the **Party of Development and Consolidation of Moldova**, shared a [post](#) sarcastically “*congratulating*” society on the EU’s new strategy. Her message falsely claimed that the EU would remove age limits for gender self-determination and ban counseling for minors experiencing gender confusion, deliberately spreading disinformation to suggest that the EU supports child endangerment.

**Tatiana Crețu**, an independent parliamentary candidate, [echoed](#) similar disinformation. In her post, she described the Strategy as a “*nonsense document*” that would “*allow children of any age to decide their gender*” and portrayed it as a threat to Moldova’s sovereignty. She cited the section on “*promoting LGBTIQ+ rights in candidate countries*” to insinuate that European integration requires the imposition of Western gender ideologies.

**Vlad Filat**, leader of the **Liberal Democratic Party**, also contributed to spreading misinformation. In a Facebook [post](#), he falsely claimed that the strategy would allow minors to “*choose their own gender at any age*” and that the EU would block funds for regions that do not align with its values. Filat combined false interpretations of the European document with populist rhetoric and sarcasm, associating LGBTIQ+ rights with unrelated topics such as environmental regulations and “*moral decay.*” His post ended on a mocking and offensive note toward the LGBTIQ+ community, using images intended to provoke contempt and moral panic.

On October 13, 2025, the **Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM)** issued an official [statement](#) regarding the implications of the European Union’s LGBTIQ Equality

Strategy 2026–2030 for Moldova. The document framed the EU initiative as a potential threat to the country’s Christian morality, national identity, and constitutional sovereignty.

The PLDM expressed “*deep concern*” that, following the 2024 constitutional amendment giving EU law primacy over national legislation, Moldova might be forced to accept “*directives that relativize the notions of family, gender, and education.*” The statement warned that such measures could “*affect the cultural and spiritual identity*” of the Moldovan people.

Throughout the declaration, the party used religious and moral rhetoric, invoking divine order and portraying gender diversity as an “*arbitrary interference in the work of God.*” The PLDM insisted that “*God created man and woman,*” and condemned “*transforming ideological agendas into moral standards.*”

While the party formally stated its opposition to “*violence or discrimination,*” it simultaneously rejected LGBTIQ+ equality as an “*ideological imposition*” and reaffirmed its commitment to “*the natural family founded on marriage between a man and a woman.*” The statement opposed gender education in schools without parental consent, describing it as “*an unacceptable intrusion into family life.*”

Finally, the PLDM urged the Moldovan government to clarify its position toward the EU Strategy, warning that its adoption could “*create a rupture between the state and its citizens.*” The document concluded with a religiously framed appeal, stating that “*Moldova will be saved not by denying God, but by returning to faith.*”

**Olesea Stamate**, independent candidate in the parliamentary elections, former Minister of Justice, published a [statement](#) reacting to the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026–2030. In her message, Stamate positioned the Strategy as an example of “*moral decline,*” arguing that it promotes “*freedom without limits*” and undermines Christian and family values.

She misrepresented the Strategy’s content, claiming that the EU “*plans to allow minors to change their gender at any age, without medical evaluation or parental consent.*” Stamate illustrated this distortion with a hypothetical example of “*a 7-year-old boy who decides to become a girl,*” suggesting that authorities would be legally required to recognize such a decision. She framed these claims as evidence that the EU “*denies God’s creation*” and “*seeks to replace divine order with human arrogance.*”

Her statement referenced Hungary, Poland, Italy, France, and Germany as examples of countries “*resisting gender ideology,*” portraying Moldova’s European path as dependent on maintaining “*Christian values.*” She cited the Romanian family referendum as a model for defending “*the natural order*” and warned that “*freedom without truth becomes chaos.*” The message concludes with explicit religious and nationalist rhetoric, calling for Moldova’s integration “*into a Christian Europe — free in truth, not ideological libertinism,*” and pledging that Moldovans will defend “*the values that define not only our nation, but all Christian Europe.*”

**Dragoş Galbur**, president of the **Moldovan National Party**, published a [statement](#) criticizing the European Commission's Strategy for LGBTIQ+ Equality, describing the document as “*inept*” and accusing European institutions of fueling a “*hybrid war*”. He argued that the strategy promotes the idea that gender is a “*personal choice*” unrelated to biology and claimed that “*self-identification*” is sufficient to change gender “*at any age.*” In his post, Galbur said that this approach would “*erode legal protections for women*” and challenged the association of gay people with trans and non-binary identities. He also described people who do not accept their bodies as “*sick*” and rejected the European Commission's position on banning conversion therapies, stating that they do not target healthy people.

On 11 December, **TVRMoldova** [published a piece](#) entitled “‘NATO is invading us’, ‘Europe is closing our churches’ – the scare tactics haunting the Republic of Moldova”, in which several experts discussed common myths related to the European Union.

**Ștefan Bejan**, expert at Watchdog, stated the following:

Context: Another topic heavily exploited by the pro-Russian opposition is the claim that the European Union imposes “*LGBT propaganda*” on society and in schools.

Bejan’s comment: “*This is a scare tactic that works very well every time. Even though there are many European Union member states that have been members for 10–20 years where sexual minorities do not enjoy rights to marriage or the right to adopt children.*”

Although the expert’s intervention is factually accurate and aims to counter disinformation about an alleged EU-imposed “*LGBT agenda*,” the wording risks being interpreted in the public space as legitimising the continued denial of rights to LGBT people. In the absence of an explicit clarification regarding states’ obligations in terms of non-discrimination and legal protection, such messages may reinforce the perception that denying rights is compatible with European integration.

### **Statements made by representatives of religious denominations:**

According to [another](#) investigation by **Ziarul de Gardă**, several churches subordinated to the **Metropolitanate of Chișinău and All Moldova** have developed a digital infrastructure for anti-EU propaganda. Clerics and activists created and coordinated online channels that disseminate disinformation and manipulative messages to hundreds of thousands of users on Telegram, TikTok, Viber, and Facebook.

In May 2025, several young people, including minors, were recruited into a Telegram group called “Lotos”. Their task was to distribute cardboard icons in public spaces, which on the reverse side had a QR code. Scanning the code redirected users to the Telegram channel “*Salt and Light*”.

This channel contains propaganda posts with pro-Russian narratives about the so-called “*Moldovan language*,” the “*traditional family*,” the LGBT community, and Moldovan history. It also frequently redistributes content from other Telegram accounts associated with dioceses under the Metropolitanate of Chișinău, which were created during the electoral campaign for last year’s presidential elections.

On 15 June 2025, the **Metropolis of Bessarabia** issued an [official statement](#) regarding the organization of the Pride March in Chișinău, „*which took place on the same day as the Orthodox celebration of All Saints’ Sunday*”. In its statement, the Church „*expressed its opposition to the values promoted by the LGBT community and stated that it does not endorse such public manifestations, citing adherence to Orthodox doctrine and tradition*”. The declaration emphasizes a distinction between individuals and conduct, asserting that the Church does not condemn persons but rejects what it defines as sinful behavior. At the same time, believers are urged not to respond with hatred or violence, but rather through prayer, fasting, and personal adherence to faith-based moral conduct.

The statement also addresses state authorities, expressing the expectation that freedom and tolerance should be balanced in a way that, from the Church’s perspective, does not lead to the normalization of practices considered incompatible with Orthodox moral teachings.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2025

The 2025 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova take place in a deeply polarized political and social context, where issues related to identity, values, and the country's geopolitical orientation are increasingly instrumentalized in public discourse. The rights of LGBTIQ+ people have become a recurrent topic in electoral debates, often framed not as a matter of human rights, but as a tool for electoral mobilization, disinformation, and fear-mongering.

In the period leading up to the elections, the public space has been marked by a significant increase in hostile rhetoric toward LGBTIQ+ people, originating from political actors, politically affiliated media outlets, social media platforms, and propaganda channels. Narratives such as the "EU-imposed LGBT agenda," the "threat to children," the "destruction of the traditional family," or "gender ideology" have been repeatedly promoted and explicitly linked to European integration, civil society activities, and foreign funding.

Within this electoral context, LGBTIQ+ individuals and the organizations representing them have become visible targets of stigmatization, demonization, and, in some cases, incitement to hatred and violence. Public statements by political leaders, restrictive legislative initiatives, coordinated disinformation campaigns, and the widespread tolerance of hate speech in online spaces have contributed to an environment of insecurity and marginalization for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Analyzing this context is essential to understanding how the 2025 parliamentary elections affect the protection of human rights, the functioning of the rule of law, and Moldova's international obligations—particularly with regard to the principles of non-discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups.

**Promo-LEX Report No. 2 "[Observation Mission for the Parliamentary Elections of September 28, 2025](#)"** identifies a significant increase in hate speech and incitement to discrimination during the monitored pre-electoral period (21 July – 19 August 2025). At least 233 cases of hate speech were documented, of which 35 were based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and 33 cases directly targeted LGBT people. These messages were disseminated mainly in a political and electoral context and generated over 2.5 million views, amplifying their negative social impact on vulnerable groups.

Compared to the 2021 parliamentary elections, the report notes a **clear negative trend**: within just one month of monitoring in 2025, approximately 54% of the total number of hate speech cases recorded throughout the entire 2021 electoral period were already identified. This points to an increasing normalization of discriminatory rhetoric, including anti-LGBT narratives, in the public and political space.

The report further shows that hate speech is predominantly generated by men aged between 35 and 50 and is often used as a tool of political mobilization, with LGBT people frequently instrumentalized as "symbolic targets" in populist and polarizing narratives. This electoral environment creates a hostile climate for the equal exercise of rights, negatively affecting the safety, visibility, and civic participation of LGBT people in the Republic of Moldova.

### **Cases of the use of homophobia and transphobia recorded during the electoral campaign:**

During the electoral period in Moldova, several citizens [received phone calls](#) inviting them to take part in a **survey**. During this survey, respondents were asked manipulative questions. One such question was: "*Are you concerned that integration into the European*

*Union could lead to a situation in Moldova where children would be taught to sue their parents or to change their sex, that is, their gender, as happens in some European countries?”*

Former People’s Advocate for Children’s Rights, **Maia Bănărescu**, has joined the **European Social Democratic Party (PSDE)**, formerly known as the Democratic Party, led by former Minister of Foreign Affairs **Tudor Ulianovski**. On 5 April, the party announced that Maia Bănărescu had been appointed head of the PSDE Women’s Organization in Chişinău.

On this occasion, Tudor Ulianovski, leader of PSDE, [stated](#) that the party is committed to protecting and promoting what it defines as core state values. In his remarks, he emphasized the concept of the family in its traditional sense, defined as a union between a man and a woman, father, mother, and children, as enshrined in the Constitution. He further stated that there are attempts to diminish the importance of the family or to alter its definition and stressed the need to prevent such developments.

During the electoral campaign for the Parliamentary elections, **PAS** party MP **Eugen Senchevici** made a [video](#) on TikTok called: *“The 5 main lies of the opposition, which did not become reality”*.

Point 2 was called the following: *“if Maia Sandu or PAS wins, gays will invade the Republic of Moldova. As you can see, gays did not invade, no kind of legalization of marriages has happened, no kind of propaganda has been done and they are just trying to bring this scarecrow to the elections, to the elections and again to the elections”*.

On 29 August 2025, **Our Party** (Partidul Nostru) officially [launched](#) its electoral campaign. During a public speech, the party leader, **Renato Usatîi**, announced that his team had already prepared 29 draft laws addressing what he described as the country’s most important sectors.

Among these initiatives, Usatîi explicitly referred to the proposal to introduce *“strict sanctions for LGBT propaganda in schools,”* presenting it as part of the party’s planned legislative agenda during the election campaign.

On 4 September 2025, [a video](#) published on the official TikTok page of **Renato Usatîi** was documented. In the video, a man directly addressed Renato Usatîi with an explicit and violent question inciting hatred: *“What should we do with these LGBT people, should we destroy them or kill them?”*

Renato Usatîi’s reaction did not involve condemnation or distancing from the statement. Instead, he laughed and replied: *“I’ll get another criminal case opened against me.”*

The video had a significant online impact, gathering over 10,000 reactions and more than 2,400 shares, demonstrating a high level of virality and a serious potential for the spread and normalization of messages inciting hatred and violence against the LGBT community. Following this incident, a complaint was filed with the police. The individual who made the statement was identified, and a case was initiated for incitement to discrimination. The case has been completed and referred to court.

A [text published](#) on the website of the **political party Alianța “Moldovenii”**, that entered the race for the parliamentary elections contains stigmatizing and discriminatory statements targeting LGBT people. The article claims that *“a man and a woman are created for each other”* and labels any deviation as *“a pathology”*. Homosexual orientation is

described as a socially acquired “*disease*”, while sexual minorities are compared to persons with disabilities, stating that “*sexual minorities cannot be helped in any way*”.

The authors argue that society should not elevate such “*diseases*” to a norm and claim that a “*healthy society*” can function without “*propaganda, marches, and processions*”. The text draws parallels between the acceptance of homosexuality and other alleged “*anomalies*,” portraying this development as a consequence of “*debauched democracy and total permissiveness*”, allegedly leading to “*total degradation and the destruction of humanity*”, and calls for ending these phenomena “*first of all, in our country*”.

In addition, **Victor Marahovschi**, the party’s Secretary General, publishes articles stating on **noi.md**: “*The world is subjected to an aggressive LGBT agenda (...) but in Moldova we must preserve traditional family and spiritual-moral values.*”

A complaint was filed with the police and the CEC for incitement to discrimination.

On October 31, **Victor Marahovski**, Secretary General of the **political party Alianța “Moldovenii”**, made [public statements](#) containing hate speech and incitement to discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people.

Commenting on a complaint filed by the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre with the police, Marahovski announced that his party would launch a petition to ban the “*promotion and dissemination of LGBT ideology*” at the legislative level, claiming it was necessary to “*protect children from corruption disguised as equality.*”

He referred to LGBT individuals as “*an insignificant minority imposing its values on the entire nation*” and accused the European Union of “*imposing homosexuality, transvestism, and gender change ideas*” on Moldova through foreign funding. Marahovski also cited the EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026–2030, misrepresenting it as a policy that would “*allow children to choose their gender at any age.*”

He concluded his remarks with the appeal: “*Stay out of our families and out of our children’s minds!*”, declaring that “*our children deserve better.*”

On 4 August, during the programme “**TEMA**” on **Primul în Moldova, Victoria Furtună**, the leader of the **political party “Moldova Mare”**, [stated](#): “*..., when in our country the LGBT movement is being promoted more than the traditional family, and representatives of the European Union come here, representatives of the ruling party come, and they tell us, and they tell the United States of America, clearly and plainly: Dear people, if we want peace everywhere, all over the world, then we must place the family first.*”

On 16 September, the Telegram channel **Бельцы 24** published a [post](#) claiming that the authorities ignore pensioners’ problems while promoting LGBT initiatives, referring to an alleged website supposedly supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection – [lgbtmoldova.support](#).

The referenced website turned out to be fake, falsely presenting itself as an official LGBT support programme and featuring a video of same-sex couples with messages thanking the authorities. It later emerged that the individuals in the video had been misled, being told they were filming for an American movie that would not be shown in Moldova, and that the filming team came from Transnistria.

A complaint was filed with the police.

On 18 September, the CONTACT Center organized [electoral debates](#) in Bălți as part of the project “*Civil Society for Informed Elections*”. Representatives of eight political parties participated. Questions were addressed by journalists and civil society representatives.

During the debates, **Constantin Cojocari**, representing the **LOC Party – League of Cities and Communes**, was asked by a journalist from Diez about the party’s position

regarding people from the queer community. Constantin Cojocari described queer identities as an “*out of the ordinary*” phenomenon that should not be regulated by law but addressed through “*treatment*,” stating that such matters should be handled by doctors rather than politics. He framed social inclusion of LGBTQ+ people as conflicting with “*normality*” and traditional values and suggested that prioritizing such issues would be discriminatory toward the majority.

Following these statements, a complaint was filed with the police. The police found no grounds to initiate administrative proceedings, even though the Equality Council said that this statement incited discrimination. The decision was challenged in court.

## ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (LGBTI+ ACTIVISTS)

Human rights defenders working on LGBTI+ rights continue to be targets of attacks, intimidation, and smear campaigns in the Republic of Moldova. In a social and political context marked by polarization, disinformation, and the instrumentalization of LGBTI+ issues in public discourse, LGBTI+ activists face heightened risks to their physical, psychological, and professional safety.

Attacks against human rights defenders take multiple forms, including hate speech, threats, online and offline harassment, coordinated defamation campaigns, and attempts to delegitimize their civic engagement. These actions not only harm the individuals concerned but also have a chilling effect on civil society as a whole, restricting civic space and undermining the exercise of freedom of expression, association, and public participation.

On 28 March, Members of Parliament **Diana Caraman, Constantin Starîș, Inga Sibova, Nicolai Rusol, Valeriu Muduc, and Vladimir Voronin** submitted for parliamentary consideration a [Draft Law on the Status of Foreign Agents in the Republic of Moldova](#). The draft law sets out criteria for identifying foreign agents, rules on registration and activity reporting, as well as control mechanisms and sanctions for violations. It defines a foreign agent as any legal or natural person receiving, directly or indirectly, at least 50% of their annual income from foreign sources and carrying out activities that influence political, economic, social, or educational life in the Republic of Moldova.

*Article 5 introduces restrictions applicable to foreign agents, who may not:*  
*finance political parties, electoral candidates, or election campaigns;*  
*carry out lobbying activities on behalf of foreign interests without notifying the competent Committee;*

*participate in educational programmes without approval from the Ministry of Education and the Committee for the Control of Foreign Influence.*

*Article 7 establishes control procedures, providing for annual inspections, unannounced inspections in cases of reasonable suspicion, and sanctions in case of violations, including written warnings, fines, suspension of activities for up to six months, or dissolution by court decision.*

The draft law was not put to a vote in Parliament.

On 28 January, during a [public interview](#), the leader of the **Our Party Renato Usatîi** made statements regarding the funding of non-governmental organisations in the Republic of Moldova, making explicit reference to the organisation **GENDERDOC-M**.

In his remarks, Usatîi stated that the United States would continue to support the Republic of Moldova, but not through NGOs, instead focusing on infrastructure projects,

education, and other direct initiatives. He claimed that certain NGOs had previously received large amounts of funding and that this type of support had come to an end.

In this context, Usatîi referred to GENDERDOC -M in a derogatory manner, suggesting that its members should seek employment abroad in low-skilled labour, such as cleaning or seasonal agricultural work. His statements included references to alleged high salaries received by NGO staff and to the termination of external funding.

The statements were made in a public setting and were disseminated to a wide audience.

On December 30th MP **Renato Usatîi**, [publicly reacted](#) after the **GENDERDOC-M Information Centre** filed a court complaint against the party, alleging incitement to hatred and discrimination during the electoral campaign.

In his response, Usatîi downplayed the complaint and used stigmatizing language, stating that LGBT people should “*kiss in secret*” and should do so “*without being seen by him or by children*.” He mocked demands for equal rights, suggesting that LGBT people should be relocated abroad and referring sarcastically to offering them “*houses in Italy*.”

Usatîi further questioned the legitimacy of the LGBT community’s legal action, claiming that allegations of discrimination are exaggerated in order to obtain foreign funding. When asked whether all citizens are equal in his view, he stated that “*everyone is equal*,” while continuing with remarks implying segregation and the exclusion of LGBT people from public visibility.

Following police intervention in a domestic violence case involving MP **Vasile Bolea**, several civil society activists, including LGBT activists, publicly expressed their views on the inadmissibility of such behaviour, particularly when committed by a member of Parliament.

On 30 April, Vasile Bolea held a [press briefing](#). At minute 9, he made the following statement: “*I am surprised that representatives of organisations of faggots and lesbians came out with certain opinions and positions. First of all, I want to tell you that this does not concern you, your time has passed, I believe you are not the ones who should be giving lessons to anyone. Mind your own business and take care of yourselves and the people you love. If that’s how you put it.*”

Later, at minute 20 of the briefing, he repeated the same message in response to a journalist’s question that was not related to LGBT organisations or to the public reactions of activists.

Following public statements made by **Angelica Frolov**, Executive Director of the **GENDERDOC-M Information Centre**, regarding the negative impact on the LGBT+ community in the Republic of Moldova of what she described as homophobic and transphobic rhetoric and policies promoted by U.S. President **Donald Trump**, as well as statements by **Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg**, several media outlets affiliated with conservative political parties published articles targeting her and the organization she represents.

The outlet Ziua.md published an [article](#) entitled: “*The head of LGBT activists in Chişinău reacts again to Trump’s traditionalist message: I care about the impact it has on Moldova.*”

The article refers to Angelica Frolov as the head of “*GENDERDOC-M, the organization of homosexuals, lesbians and transsexuals in the Republic of Moldova*,” and portrays her public position as an expression of indignation toward the new U.S. administration’s support for so-called traditional values. The text emphasizes that she allegedly stated she does not care about the choice of American voters, but is concerned about the consequences for Moldova.

The outlet Govorit.md published an [article](#) in Russian entitled: “*LGBT grant-eaters were offended by Trump and stood up for restaurants.*”

The article uses derogatory language toward LGBT NGOs and Angelica Frolov, describing GENDERDOC-M as a “*grant-funded organization*” and suggesting that its reaction is driven by concerns over the loss of external funding. The text refers to financial resources received by the organization in 2021 from foreign donors and claims that, following the official U.S. policy recognizing only two genders, LGBT NGOs would be forced to seek alternative funding sources.

On 21 January, the news portal point.md published the [article](#) titled “*LGBT activist concerned about Trump’s position: It may turn people’s lives into hell*”. The article generated 116 comments on the website and approximately 250 comments on Facebook. The majority of these comments contained hate speech based on sexual orientation, including explicit calls for violence, deportation, forced psychiatric institutionalisation, torture, and killing of LGBT activists, particularly targeting **Angelica Frolov**, Executive Director of **GENDERDOC-M**.

The comments included degrading insults, dehumanising language, direct death threats (“*to be shot*”, “*to be burned*”, “*to be crucified*”), and explicit incitement to physical violence and extermination. None of these comments were moderated or removed, either on the website or on the portal’s Facebook page.

On 16 March, the same outlet published another [article](#), “*Declaration of Moldova’s Ambassador to the USA: 45 bank accounts, apartments in London and Brussels*”, which was followed by 112 comments, again predominantly containing hate speech based on sexual orientation, including dehumanisation and stigmatization of LGBT+ people.

In both instances, the absence of content moderation enabled the continued dissemination and amplification of hate speech and incitement to violence in the public space. As a result, a formal complaint was submitted to the Equality Council (Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality).

On 22 January, an individual named **Vladimir Daki**, affiliated with the **NOI political party**, published a Facebook post targeting **Angelica Frolov**, an LGBT activist.

In the post, the author openly mocks and attacks Angelica Frolov for her advocacy work, using insulting and stigmatizing language. LGBT activism is portrayed as a “*harmful ideology*” and is explicitly compared to serious illnesses such as cancer and schizophrenia. The post further suggests that LGBT rights defenders should be subjected to “*re-education*” through hard labor.

The message includes elements of dehumanization, medicalization of sexual orientation and gender identity, and references to forced re-education and psychiatric treatment, implying that LGBT people suffer from psychological disorders requiring intervention.

On 15 May, the **LGBT Platform in Moldova** [organized](#) a public protest in front of Chişinău City Hall entitled “*Propaganda of Love*”. Activists held placards reading “*Propaganda of Respect*”, “*Propaganda of Acceptance*”, “*Propaganda of Inclusion*”, and “*Propaganda of Critical Thinking*”.

Several incidents occurred during the protest:

An elderly man approached the protesters and began insulting and threatening them. The incident was recorded on video, and a complaint was filed with the police.

A woman with a child in a stroller addressed the protesters, stating that what they were doing and promoting was a sin and that God loves them, but not their “sins.”

A young man exited a trolleybus after seeing the protest and remained next to the protesters for approximately one hour, verbally harassing **Angelica Frolov**. After being

informed that his behavior constituted harassment and that a complaint would be filed if he did not stop, he ceased verbal comments but continued to stay nearby.

**Valerii Climenco**, president of the Congress of Russian Communities, approached the protesters and stated that such people should not live in Moldova, that they are idiots, and that they should commit suicide. He also addressed **Angelica Frolov**, telling her that she should change her surname because she was disgracing Russians in Moldova. A complaint was filed with the police for insults, offense, and hate speech.

An elderly man told the protesters to go work “*in the fields.*”

A young man spat in the direction of the protesters.

In total, two complaints were filed with the police. The first concerned the actions of an unidentified man who verbally assaulted the protesters; the police stated that they were unable to identify him. The second complaint concerned the actions of Valerii Climenco, no official response from the police had been received.

**Angelica Frolov**, Executive Director of the **GENDERDOC-M Information Centre**, [became the target](#) of an online trolling campaign. On 28 May, multiple fake accounts posted comments on various news websites, under articles covering different political topics. The comments contained false allegations, claiming that Angelica Frolov intended “*to destroy patriotic traditions using foreign money*” and “*to impose a sick mindset on children in Moldova*”.

All comments referenced **Gagauzia**, stating that the region would not accept such actions.

One of the posted messages stated: “*Angelica Frolov interferes in the affairs of Gagauzia; she criticized schools in Gagauzia, our children need healthy education*”.

A website titled “**Trădătorii.live**” (“The Traitors”) has been created in 2025, presented as an “open database of public figures” that allegedly compiles information from open sources. The site claims to promote “transparency of public information” and “centralized access to data about public personalities,” while noting that it is not an official government resource.

The website hosts files on multiple individuals — including members of Parliament, ministers, journalists, and civil society activists. Among them is **Angelica Frolov**, director of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, whose personal file appears on the site. The platform lists an email address (tradatori@protonmail.com) and includes a disclaimer stating that all data are obtained from public sources such as government websites, registries, media, and user submissions.

Although the site formally denies any calls to violence or illegal actions, its nature and framing under the label “traitors” may contribute to stigmatization, harassment, or security threats against individuals listed there, particularly human rights defenders and activists.

On 10 June, **Angelica Frolov** received a message on Facebook from a user with the profile @Jonathan.matka. The message contained an extremely violent video, depicting a murdered child with a crushed head, accompanied by the following comment: “*Hahahah, faggots from Moldova will end up like this*”.

A complaint was filed with the police. The police later informed that the perpetrator could not be identified.

On 12 June, an email was distributed from a falsified address impersonating **Angelica Frolov**. The email was sent from the address angela.frolov@gdmmoldova.com and contained a message claiming to be from “*Angela Frolova, coordinator of the LGBT rights lobbying*”

*and advocacy program at GENDERDOC-M.*” The message stated that, for the annual LGBT+ community march scheduled for 15 June in Chişinău, each school was allocated a quota of 15 students and teachers to participate. It asserted that the decision was agreed with the Action and Solidarity Party, threatened negative consequences for the school’s reputation if the quota was not met, and promised that the party would cover transportation costs. The message included telephone numbers, Telegram contact links, and a link to an event channel, and referred recipients to a member of Parliament, Marina Morozova, for legal documentation and official information.

Before and during the Moldova Pride Festival, **Angelica Frolov** received multiple hate messages and threats via social media platforms. These messages included severe insults, calls for her to leave the country, and explicit death threats directed personally at her.

Among the documented messages are the following:

Message sent by Facebook user [Elena Gutcan](#): *“You, filthy slut from our country, I hope God beats you with a stick, you wretch, and all that scum who dirtied the streets of the capital. May Vlad Ţepeş come back now and put that Moldovan scum on stakes”.*

Message sent by TikTok user [Ion Braşoveanu](#): *“Filthy bitch, I would shoot you like a rabid dog”.*

Complaints were filed with the police regarding these incidents.

On 11 September, an email containing threatening and extremist content was received at the official email address of the **GENDERDOC-M Information Centre**. The message included alarming language suggestive of justification of violence, stating: *“You will regret it: because of you, heroes are in prison, enemies walk free, our hearts are full of doubt, but God will not abandon us, we will fight regardless of the fate that awaits us after our actions. At this time, not...”.*

The message was accompanied by a photograph depicting a man alongside two Nazi symbols, indicating the deliberate use of extremist iconography and raising serious concerns about intimidation, hate motivation, and potential incitement to violence.

Following this incident, a complaint was filed with the police, requesting an investigation into the threatening content and the use of Nazi symbols.

On 13 January, **Vasile Micleuşanu**, an LGBT activist and leader of **BangBang** LGBT media organisation, was subjected to death and rape threats posted by a person from his home community, in a public comment under a video published on his personal page and on the BangBang page.

Following the incident, a complaint was filed with the police.

On 16 September, [a video](#) was published on TikTok by **Victoria Furtună**, leader of the political party Moldova Mare, with the following statement: *“We included in our electoral programme the exclusion of all foreign NGOs, among them LGBTQ+, which corrupt children’s subconscious and claim that a traditional family can also be man–man or woman–woman. We do not accept this. The traditional family is made up of a mother who is a woman and a father who is a man.”*

## **VIOLENCE AND BIAS-MOTIVATED INCIDENTS AGAINST LGBTI+ PEOPLE**

Violence and bias-motivated incidents against LGBTI+ people continue to represent a serious and persistent problem in the Republic of Moldova. These acts include physical assaults, psychological violence, threats, harassment, vandalism, and other forms of degrading treatment, driven by the victims' real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Such incidents not only harm those directly affected but also contribute to a broader climate of fear and insecurity within the LGBTI+ community.

Although national legislation provides for sanctions against hate crimes and incitement to discrimination, most cases remain unreported or inadequately investigated, due to a lack of trust in law enforcement authorities, fear of stigmatization, and the risk of secondary victimization. As a result, the true scale of bias-motivated violence is significantly underestimated, and existing protection mechanisms are rarely applied effectively.

On 21.04.2022 [the Law No. LP111/2022](#) on the amendment of some normative acts on bias motivated crimes and speech was passed. The law contains the protected criteria "sexual orientation and gender identity".

The lack of specialized protocols for identifying, documenting, and investigating hate crimes based on SOGI criteria contributes to impunity and perpetuates the phenomenon.

On 10 July 2025 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the [Law No. 252](#) of to strengthen the legal framework for preventing and combating violence, including violence with a digital dimension. The law was published in the Official Gazette on 14 August 2025 and introduces substantial amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Contravention Code, and related legislation.

The law introduces, for the first time, a legal definition of "abusive digital data", covering discriminatory messages, incitement to hatred, threats, sexual or degrading content, and other forms of online harassment. It explicitly criminalizes stalking and persecution, including when committed through information technologies, increases sanctions for harassment and violence carried out online, and establishes legal mechanisms for the removal or blocking of abusive online content at the request of authorities or victims.

These provisions constitute an important step toward protecting vulnerable groups, including LGBT people, who are disproportionately affected by online violence, hate speech, and digital harassment.

On 9 June, several Telegram channels [published](#) a video showing two men kissing and engaging in intimate touching in a public park. The footage shows the two men being physically assaulted, with one of them being hit and pushed into a nearby pond.

The video spread rapidly online and generated hundreds of comments, most of which contained hate speech and incitement to violence based on sexual orientation.

Later, a man contacted the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, stating that he was a neighbor of one of the two men shown in the video and that the individual is a young person with physical and intellectual disabilities. This information was subsequently confirmed by the police, who also stated that the second man involved in the incident had been released from detention only a few days earlier.

Based on these circumstances, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the video may have been staged and deliberately used to fuel hatred and provoke violence in the public space, particularly in the period preceding the Moldova Pride March.

The police reported that they initiated an investigation ex officio and that the case is currently under examination.

## Cases reported by beneficiaries of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre

**Case 1:** On 17 January, A., a transgender person, contacted the organisation to report online blackmail by an individual threatening to publish her intimate images unless she paid a sum of money. She was advised to file a complaint with the police.

At the Ciocana police station, the duty officer adopted a victim-blaming attitude, giving her a “lesson on behaviour” and holding her responsible for what had happened. During a phone conversation with a representative of GENDERDOC-M, the officer stated that this was “not the first time” he had issues with A. and referred to her previous suicide attempts.

Although the complaint was eventually accepted after the officer was asked to act respectfully and perform his duties, he continued blaming the victim, including stating that “if she continues like this, one day they will find her hanging.”

**Case 2:** On 9 March, Liubomir Guțu, an editorialist for the Bang Bang platform, [was subjected](#) to verbal abuse and public humiliation in the courtyard of a residential building in Chișinău, solely because he was wearing socks in rainbow colours.

According to the account, a group of men under the influence of alcohol approached him and began to verbally attack him, using homophobic slurs and insults, including: “Are you from Europe?”, “fu\*k off”, “faggot”, and other similar offensive expressions.

**Case 3:** On 18 March, a beneficiary identified as J. contacted the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre seeking legal assistance. J. reported that while at high school, her mobile phone was stolen, damaged, and later discarded by other individuals.

J. informed the school administration, the perpetrators were identified, and they were required to reimburse the cost of the phone. However, the police were not notified about the incident.

J. stated that she believes the incident occurred because of her identity, identifying homophobia as the underlying motive. The beneficiary received information on how to file a complaint with the police.

**Case 4:** On 3 June, A.V., a lesbian woman, sought legal consultation. She reported that her mother had received several phone calls from a hidden number, during which she was threatened with serious bodily harm if she were to attend the Moldova Pride march. Following these threats, a complaint was filed with the police.

**Case 5:** On 10 June, queer activist Franz [received](#) insulting messages and threats of physical violence via the social media platform Instagram. The messages were sent from an account under the username [@maxim\\_chetrari](#).

At least one photograph on the sender’s profile shows the individual wearing a police uniform, which increased the victim’s sense of intimidation and perceived risk.

Following a report to the police authorities, it was established that the individual had worked in the police for only about two months, in 2020, and was subsequently dismissed from the system, no longer holding any official position within law enforcement.

**Case 6:** On 2 July, Leo Zbancă, an employee of the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, was present in the city centre of Chișinău. He noticed graffiti on a wall bearing the message “anti LGBT”.

A colleague from a partner organisation approached the wall and covered the graffiti using lipstick. At that moment, a child of approximately 10 years old asked their mother why

the message had been erased. In response, the child's mother began shouting at Leo Zbancă and the people accompanying him, accusing them of engaging in "propaganda".

**Case 7:** On 13 July, Nicholas, a young trans man, was assaulted by four men after attending an event organised by Queer Voices, held at the Scal club in Chişinău.

During the event, the four men attempted to enter the club but were denied access by security staff. They remained in the vicinity and waited until Nicholas and another queer person left the club and headed toward a nearby venue to have dinner.

In front of that venue, Nicholas was subjected to verbal abuse, including an explicit proposition for anal sex. After Nicholas responded verbally with an insult, the four men physically attacked him. Two unknown men exited the venue and intervened, managing to stop the assault.

As a result of the attack, Nicholas sustained fractures to several fingers and hematomas on his forehead and lip.

A complaint was filed with the police. A criminal case was opened under hooliganism and bodily injury. The homophobic/transphobic motive was not taken into account in the legal qualification of the case.

**Case 8:** On 2 October 2025, at Prison No. 5 in Cahul, Sercan, a person deprived of liberty, described a life trajectory marked by systemic violence linked to his sexual orientation, beginning in early childhood. He reported becoming aware of his homosexuality at the age of eight and disclosing it to his mother at nine. Her reaction was violent, involving repeated physical abuse and complete rejection. As a result of domestic violence, the child ran away from home for several months, during which time he committed minor thefts in order to survive.

After reaching the age of criminal responsibility, Sercan was placed in a juvenile detention facility. Shortly after his arrival, other detainees learned about his sexual orientation. He was subjected to extreme stigmatization within the informal prison hierarchy and was forcibly marked with tattoos applied without consent—a cross on his left ear and a curved line on the left side of his neck—symbols used to identify him as belonging to the so-called "humiliated caste," the lowest rank within the prison's informal system.

Throughout his detention, Sercan was repeatedly beaten and subjected to other forms of physical violence. Any attempt to defend himself was interpreted as a disciplinary violation and punished administratively, effectively preventing him from resisting or reporting abuse.

Following his transfer to an adult prison at the age of 21, the abuse continued and intensified. Sercan reported being forced by other detainees to wear women's clothing and makeup, subjected to public humiliation, ridicule, and sexual violence. According to his account, prison staff failed to intervene to protect him. In some instances, staff responses were mocking and degrading, including ironic remarks, jokes, and homophobic verbal provocations, such as references to International Women's Day or to the Moldova Pride events.

This case illustrates a severe and persistent pattern of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against LGBT+ persons in detention in the Republic of Moldova, as well as the tacit complicity of prison authorities, who, through inaction or degrading behavior, tolerated abusive treatment and hate-motivated violence.

**Case 9:** On November 29, D., a non-binary person, was waiting for public transport at a bus stop. A taxi driver stopped nearby and began recording a video in which D.'s gender identity was being announced. The driver watched D. to see how they would react. D. felt intimidated and pretended not to hear or notice what was happening.

## MOLDOVA PRIDE FESTIVAL

The Moldova Pride Festival has been organized annually in the Republic of Moldova since 2002, making it one of the longest-running events dedicated to the promotion of LGBTI+ rights in the region. The festival includes cultural, educational, and public awareness activities aimed at promoting equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights.

Since 2013, the Pride March has also been organized as part of the Moldova Pride Festival. The march represents a peaceful public expression and a call for visibility, dignity, and equal rights for LGBTI+ people. It has become a central element of the festival and an important indicator of the level of respect for freedom of assembly and expression for the LGBTI+ community in the Republic of Moldova.

On 2 May, the official date of the Moldova Pride March was [announced](#). On the same day, **Igor Dodon**, leader of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova and former President of the Republic of Moldova, [published](#) a message on his Facebook page regarding the event.

In his post, Igor Dodon stated: *“The Socialists have repeatedly proposed and will continue to insist on banning such marches by law and on introducing criminal liability for LGBT propaganda among children.*

*Moldova is an Orthodox country. Our family and our traditional values are sacred, and we must and will continue to defend them.*

*I call on the municipal authorities not to grant authorization for the organization of such marches in Chişinău.”*

The statement was made in the context of the public announcement of Moldova Pride and directly targets the LGBT+ community’s right to freedom of assembly and expression.

On 5 May, during a meeting of the Chişinău Municipal Council, **Ion Ceban**, Mayor of Chişinău and leader of the National Alternative Movement (MAN) party, was asked by journalists whether the municipality would comply with the request of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) to ban the Moldova Pride March scheduled for 15 June.

In his response, Ion Ceban [stated](#): *“I am against any demonstrations and activities aimed at LGBT propaganda. I requested that an order be issued to ban propaganda activities in educational institutions, in any form. Given the limited powers of the mayor, in other situations such as public events, marches, and assemblies, I have requested the drafting and presentation of a decision project at the Municipal Council meeting to ban such demonstrations on the territory of the municipality of Chişinău. I am in favor of respecting human rights and access to education, healthcare, social protection, employment, and many other things, but against LGBT propaganda, in any form.”*

On the same day, 5 May, a [post](#) was published on the Telegram channel of the **Chişinău City Hall**, stating that: *“the mayor of the capital urged everyone who will celebrate May 9 to do so peacefully and with respect and tolerance for everyone else. Every opinion must be respected. The city belongs to everyone.”*

This public message contradicts the mayor’s statements and actions regarding the LGBT community and its right to public assembly.

On 7 May, **Ion Ceban** published another [post](#) accompanied by a video, with the following text: *“Once again about LGBT propaganda.*

*The order regarding ensuring the educational and balanced nature of the educational process in general education institutions and banning LGBT propaganda in institutions has been signed.*

*Additionally, a draft decision regarding the holding of public assemblies with sensitive themes related to gender identity and sexual orientation in the municipality of Chişinău has been prepared.*

*This draft decision will be proposed at the Municipal Council meeting to be supported by the councilors.*

*I remain in favor of respecting human rights and access to education, healthcare, social protection, employment, and many other things, but against LGBT propaganda, in any form."*

On 15 May, International Family Day, **municipal councillors from the National Alternative Movement (MAN), the Party of Socialists, and the Communist Party** [adopted](#) a decision „**On the organisation of public assemblies with sensitive themes related to gender identity and sexual orientation in the Municipality of Chişinău (LGBTQ+)**". Councillors from PAS left the meeting in protest, while representatives of MAN, PSRM, and PCRM adopted the decision with 27 votes.

Prior to the vote, the [following statements](#) were made:

**Valeriu Bogdan**, representing the executive: *"This decision is drafted as a position of the executive regarding this type of demonstrations; at the same time, it is made in the public interest and for the protection of children's development, and as an administrative act it has been drafted in accordance with the legal provisions and endorsed by all, including the specialised commissions"*.

**Dinari Cojocari**, PSRM councillor: *"This project makes me happy, but I hope it is not a farce, like last year when Ion Ceban said he would not allow the march and closed Bucharest Street for green spaces, and within 30 minutes all the green space crews and vehicles disappeared and the march went ahead. I hope this will not happen again"*.

**Domeniuc Adrian**, PCRM councillor: *"The idea is very good, it's even great that we have reached such a topic and that it is being banned, because for many years many people have protested against this, and we even thank the mayor. But... ..anyway we will not be able to ban them, so on this topic we need to think how to make some kind of scheme to ban them"*.

Following these statements, a complaint was filed with the police for incitement to discrimination.

Following the adoption of the decision, Chişinău Mayor Ion Ceban published a social media post stating that, as a result of this decision, LGBTQ+ community demonstrations would no longer be allowed on the territory of Chişinău. The mayor invoked the city's "special status" and called on the Police to enforce the decision adopted by the Municipal Council.

**Ion Ceban** stated: *"Chişinău City Hall assumes that on the routes indicated by the respective organizations there will be no blockages and that the entire police force of the Republic of Moldova will not be deployed."*

Institutional reactions followed.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May the **State Chancellery** stated that the decision exceeds the legal competences of the municipal council.

The **Equality Council** also [declared](#) that the decision is discriminatory, as it explicitly targets a community based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, the decision was not overturned and remained in force.

The **Life Without Violence Coalition** [condemned](#) Ion Ceban's statements: *"We condemn the statements and actions of Mayor Ion Ceban, who is also the leader of the*

*National Alternative Movement party. They have only one purpose: to incite hatred and division against the LGBTQ+ community. It is clear that these actions are not based on any valid reasoning, but are purely populist, aimed at amplifying feelings of hatred in society."*

The **National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM)** [has condemned](#) the decision by the Chisinau Municipal Council to ban the Pride March. *"This decision contradicts the democratic values and fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and legislation of our country. We invite all young people to participate in the Pride March on June 15, demonstrating that our generation rejects discrimination and defends democracy."*

On 16 May, **Natalia Parasca**, a member of the **"Victory" political bloc**, published a [post](#) on her Facebook page addressing the LGBT community and decisions taken within the Chişinău Municipal Council.

In her statement, she declared: *"As a representative of the 'Victory' bloc, I say this openly: we are against propaganda, against the imposition of a foreign ideology on children, schools, and streets. Moldova is our home. And there will be order here."*

Natalia Parasca stated that the Legal Commission of the Chişinău Municipal Council unanimously voted to ban LGBT marches and other public actions related to gender identity and sexual orientation, saying: *"The Legal Commission of the Chişinău Municipal Council voted unanimously to ban LGBT marches and other public actions on 'gender' and sexual orientation issues. Everyone voted in favor. Zero against. My name and signature are on the official decision."*

She described this decision as a mandatory step before the vote in the Municipal Council plenary and added: *"This is a mandatory step before the council vote. And it was the commission that clearly stated: no LGBT propaganda in public space."*

In the same post, Parasca criticized the absence of PAS councillors from the commission meeting, stating: *"PAS did not come to the commission. At the moment of the vote, they ran away. Their behavior resembles an open sabotage of the will of the people of Moldova, whom they are obliged to serve."*

On 2 June, several fake posters appeared in different areas of Chişinău. The posters contained the following message: *"Moldova chooses Europe. Moldova Pride March 2025. Join the participants of the march to demonstrate in practice Moldova's intention to join European values of democracy, equality, and freedoms for the LGBT community."*

The posters included a QR code redirecting to the official page of the Moldova Pride March event.

According to [an investigation](#) conducted by **Ziarul de Gardă**, the posters were deliberately placed by individuals who confirmed that the action was part of a campaign aimed at discrediting the LGBT community. The investigation showed that the individuals involved would place the posters, photograph them, then remove and relocate them to other poles in order to create the impression that the city was widely covered with such materials. Following this, several propagandistic journalists and content creators published videos claiming that the Action and Solidarity Party (PAS) was distributing posters in support of the LGBT march and imposing *"false and dangerous values"* on society.

On June 3, young representatives of the **"Victory" bloc** [organized](#) *"a protest action in front of the EU Delegation in Chisinau against 'LGBTQ+ propaganda'"*.

Approximately 20 young people came with posters *"LGBT – train station – Brussels"*, *"For traditional family values"*, *"In Moldova there will be no Parent 1 and Parent 2"*, *"Chisinau is not a place for gay meetings"*, *"The USA is closed for Pride"*, *"The world has given up on gay propaganda. The word is Moldova's"*.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, **Tudor Ulianoschi**, president of the **European Social Democratic Party** (PSDE), [stated](#) that holding the Pride March in Chişinău on the day commemorating national poet Mihai Eminescu is “*a public offense to moral and spiritual values*” rather than an effort to defend human rights.

He claimed that LGBT activists aim to escalate tensions and provoke conflicts in society, adding that the march allegedly lacks authorization from local authorities, and organizing it without such approval would be a defiance of both the law and common sense.

Ulianoschi criticized the Government of the Republic of Moldova for supporting these events, arguing that the authorities are “*pouring fuel on the fire*” and promoting values foreign to the concerns of the people. He emphasized that „*sexual preferences belong to private life and should not be displayed publicly*”, and described such actions as “*a direct attack on the institution of the family and our children.*”

On 10 June, the **PSRM** [announced](#) the organization of a “**Family March**” scheduled for 15 June, the same day as the planned Moldova Pride March of the LGBTQ+ community. The event is presented by the organizers as a peaceful demonstration in support of “*traditional values*” and the family. Igor Dodon publicly called on citizens, including children and representatives of the church, to take part in the march in order to support the traditional family and oppose what he described as “*moral decay and degradation*”.

Igor Dodon stated: “*We will not allow LGBT propaganda imposed from outside to be promoted on the streets of the capital against the will of the majority, especially in schools and among children. We firmly oppose the destruction of morality under the pretext of ‘human rights’, when in reality foreign models and values are being imposed on our society.*”

According to the PSRM announcement, the Family March is scheduled to start at 11:00 a.m., from the front of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM).

On 12 June, a [petition titled](#) “**Petition Against the Organisation of the LGBT Parade in Chişinău**” was created. The text stated that the signatories, identifying themselves as residents of Chişinău, strongly opposed the LGBT parade scheduled for 15 June, claiming it contradicts their beliefs, way of life, and national traditions. The petition expressed concern that the country’s leadership was promoting an agenda rejected by much of Moldovan society and alleged that event organisers intended to proceed with the march despite an established ban.

The petition called for: „*The prohibition of the Moldova Pride March on 15 June in Chişinău;*

*Respect for the views of the majority of the Moldovan population and the cessation of promoting values said to “corrupt” children and youth;*

*Verification of the statements and actions of the LGBT parade organisers for compliance with Moldovan law.*

*The text concluded with the assertion that Chişinău should not be turned into a “testing ground” for children and urged authorities to follow the will of the people rather than impose “foreign values.”*

The petition was authored by Victoria Balaur and had 48 signatures, most with the names hidden.

On 12 June, the “**Future of Moldova**” Party, led by former Prime Minister **Vasile Tarlev**, [announced](#) the organization of a rally “in defense of the family” in Chişinău, scheduled for 15 June, the same day as the LGBTQ+ Pride March. The organizers described the event as “peaceful”.

In its press release, the party stated: “*The ‘Future of Moldova’ Party invites you to a peaceful rally in defense of the most sacred value of society — the FAMILY. (...) Today, more*

*than ever, we are obliged to defend our fundamental values! We must not allow the distortion of the concept of family! The family formed by a mother, a father, and children is a gift from God and the foundation of any healthy society.”*

The rally took place on 15 June, starting at 11:00 a.m., at the Triumphal Arch in the capital.

Also on 15 June, the political **party Respect Moldova**, led by **Marian Lupu**, issued [a public statement](#) regarding the events in Chişinău on that day. The statement reads:

*“Today, in Chişinău, we witnessed a new tense moment that could and should have been avoided. Two parallel marches, organized by groups with completely different views, one promoting the LGBT agenda and the other defending the traditional family, degenerated into clashes, shoving, regrettable scenes, and interventions by law enforcement.... ..It is even more serious when the state gives the impression that it favors one side over the other. A responsible leadership must ensure that the rights of every citizen are respected, while at the same time protecting the beliefs that hold a society together.*

*‘Respect Moldova’ firmly supports traditional values, the central role of the traditional family in social life, and faith as the moral foundation of a nation... ..we do not need demonstrations that increase the risk of violence or provoke tensions in society.”*

On 15 June, at 12:00, the **Moldova Pride March** took place in Chişinău. Two months in advance, a notification was submitted to the Chişinău Municipality, indicating the planned route of the march: the Ismail / Bucureşti streets intersection as the starting point and the Council of Europe Square as the final destination. These are all the legal requirements for having the right to organize a public demonstration.

At the beginning of the march, while participants were gathering, two young women appeared holding placards reading *“I take a PAS toward free love”* and *“We take a PAS toward Europe.”* They approached participants and asked them to take photos with the placards. When asked where they came from and which organization they represented, one of them stated that they had been given an assignment but did not know who had sent them. A representative of GENDERDOC-M asked them to leave the march, and the two young women complied.

At 11:45, the persons responsible for the proper conduct of the march, **Vasile Micleuşanu** from the **Bang Bang** organization and **Angelica Frolov** from the **GENDERDOC-M Information Centre**, were invited to a discussion by a representative of the **General Inspectorate of Carabinieri**. During this meeting, they were informed of a decision adopted by the Chişinău Municipal Council banning the march. The activists stated that this decision was illegal and had already been found discriminatory by the Equality Council and the State Chancellery, which had also requested its annulment. The carabinieri informed the organizers that they had not received any order to block the roadway and that the march should proceed on the **sidewalk**. The activists **refused** to comply with this request and occupied the roadway, in accordance with the notification submitted to the municipality. After several repeated requests to clear the roadway and warnings that dispersal measures could be taken, the march was ultimately allowed to proceed on the roadway, on the **condition that the route be changed** in order to prevent potential attacks by counter-demonstrators who were already heading toward the Pride march.

As a result, the march continued along Şciusev Street, which runs parallel to Bucureşti Street. Throughout the march, organizers repeatedly received information about security risks and possible confrontations.

At the intersection of Șciusev and Bănulescu Bodoni streets, an aggressive man ran toward the demonstrators but was stopped by the police. However, he managed to throw a leather belt in the direction of the participants.

At the end of the march, participants were slowly dispersing when a small group of participants remained, including a group of young people. Several young men approached them with **religious symbols** and aggressively asked them if they had participated in the march, if they used drugs, and who they were. Some of the organizers intervened to prevent possible homophobic incidents. The police were called. After a discussion with some of the organizers and adult participants in the march, the aggressive young men left.

After the march, the persons responsible for organizing it, Angela Frolov, director of GENDERDOC-M, and Vasile Micleușanu, director of BangBang, were **summoned** to the police and **charged** under Article 225. Intentional blocking of a traffic lane or transport arteries (1) Intentional blocking of a traffic lane or transport arteries that caused or could cause disruption to the normal functioning of road, rail, or river transport, under the Code of Offenses, which carries a fine of **1,500 MDL**. The report was challenged and **overturned** by a court decision.

Following the Moldova Pride March, a group of young women went to the area near the Zemstvo Museum in Chișinău and sat on one of the benches in front of the museum. The young women were wearing rainbow badges and bracelets.

At approximately 3:40 p.m., two young men dressed in sportswear, with their faces covered by masks, approached them. The men asked who they were and what they were doing there. At one point, one of the attackers kicked one of the young women in the face, after which both men fled the scene.

The incident was reported to the authorities, and a complaint was filed with the police.

In the context of Moldova Pride, the **Ministry of Internal Affairs** publicly condemned the acts of violence and deliberate provocations that occurred on 15 June during public events in Chișinău. The Ministry reported that organized groups attempted to obstruct the Pride march and provoke confrontations with law enforcement, including through the cynical use of children and vulnerable persons in areas of tension. It also noted the involvement of **religious representatives** in acts of incitement and the presence of **externally** driven mobilization aimed at fueling social tensions. As a result of these incidents, over 10 police officers and carabinieri were assaulted. The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring public order and the protection of all participants, emphasizing that violence and hate speech are incompatible with the rule of law.

**The Ombudsperson** of the Republic of Moldova, **Ceslav Panico**, noted that the public demonstrations held on 15 June 2025 in Chișinău, including the Solidarity March within Moldova Pride, took place in a relatively safe environment, enabling the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as guaranteed by the Constitution and international human rights treaties. He emphasized that any restrictions on these rights must comply with the principles of legality, proportionality, equality, and non-discrimination.

While the events were largely peaceful, the Ombudsperson strongly condemned deliberate attempts to disrupt the Solidarity March, including the organized involvement of groups seeking to provoke tensions and the instrumentalization of children and vulnerable persons. He welcomed the prompt intervention of law enforcement to prevent escalation, while reminding authorities of their obligation to use force strictly proportionally and in line with international standards.

Ceslav Panico condemned the assaults against police officers and carabinieri and expressed concern regarding reports of physical attacks against Pride participants after the event, calling for a thorough and transparent investigation. He concluded with an appeal for calm, dialogue, tolerance, and mutual respect, stressing their importance for a democratic, peaceful, and inclusive Moldova.

The **ALDE Party**, led by **Arina Spătaru**, [publicly announced](#) its support for the Moldova Pride Festival, citing legal, moral, Christian, and political arguments in favor of respecting the rights of all citizens, including the LGBTQ+ community. The statement emphasized equality before the law, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly, as well as the state's responsibility to protect minorities. The statement was removed a few hours after publication.

On 15 June, **Alexandr Stoianoglo**, politician, former candidate for the President of the Republic of Moldova, currently a member of Parliament, made the following [post](#) on his Facebook page: “*The truly ignored minority in Moldova is... the majority. Can you imagine what the country would look like if the government were as mobilized for teachers, doctors, farmers, pensioners, or large families as it is for marches with external PR?*

*We deny no one's rights. But in a country where families with many children raise money on Facebook, and young people flee because they see no future, to do politics only on issues that generate image capital in Brussels is indecent.*

*For those who save lives, educate generations, or put bread on the table no platform, no protection. They have no 'Heroic Mother Week', no 'Exhausted Farmer Day', no 'Neglected Pensioners' Parade'.*

*But for those with influence abroad everything: security, media, speeches, and if necessary the ignoring of an official decision. Even though privilege is the most perverse form of discrimination.*

*In Moldova, the majority has become... a minority.”*

On June 16, 2025, **Ion Dron**, leader of the **Political Party "For People, Nature, and Animals"** posted a [message](#) on his Facebook page criticizing the Pride March and the LGBT community. He claimed that parades with rainbow flags and “bare bottoms” have nothing to do with an individual's right to privacy, but rather are gender propaganda actions with subliminal messages targeting children and youth.

Dron argued that such propaganda, ignored by Moldovan media, has been recognized by numerous intellectuals and scientists in the West. He cited an example from France, where about 50 intellectuals (including doctors, psychiatrists, lawyers, judges, teachers, philosophers, and sociologists) protested against LGBT inclusion guidelines, claiming they could cause mental destabilization in children and adolescents, alienating them from their families and from those who do not share their views.

He also referenced the opinion of French child psychiatrist Jean Chambry, who noted that the number of requests for gender transition among adolescents in France had increased significantly — from about 10 per year a decade ago to around 10 per month in 2020, just in the Paris region.

[The Promo-LEX report on the Moldova Pride March 2025](#) examines how public authorities ensured the right to peaceful assembly for LGBT people and assesses the response of state institutions in a context marked by security risks and public opposition. The report notes that the march took place despite tensions, attempts to obstruct the event, and hostile

rhetoric, and that law enforcement intervention was crucial in preventing the escalation of violence and protecting participants.

The report highlights that the events surrounding Moldova Pride demonstrate the ongoing vulnerability of LGBT people in public spaces and stress the need for consistent and non-discriminatory enforcement of legislation on freedom of assembly, the prevention of hate speech, and the protection of participants in peaceful demonstrations.

## **EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The legal framework of the Republic of Moldova formally provides protection against discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Law No. 121/2012 [on Ensuring Equality](#) prohibits any form of discrimination in the areas of employment, education, healthcare, services, and other sectors, explicitly mentioning sexual orientation in the list of protected criteria. However, gender identity, gender expression, and intersex status are not explicitly mentioned, which limits the effective applicability of the law for a significant portion of LGBTIQ+ adolescents. To implement the law, the Council for Equality was created in 2013. Council members are appointed by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova for a five-year term. The current members are: **Ian Feldman, Victorina Luca, Gheorghina Drumea, Carolina Bagrin, Andrei Lungu.** The Council's mission is to prevent and protect against discrimination, ensure equality, and promote equal opportunities and diversity. The Council plays an important role in monitoring cases of discrimination and hate speech. However, its powers remain in the area of administrative and civil offenses, without the possibility of applying criminal sanctions. Also, few adolescents are aware of the existence of this mechanism, and access to youth-friendly procedures is limited.

In 2025, a study was conducted by the **Office of the Ombudsman** of the Republic of Moldova, in cooperation with independent experts, human rights specialists, and LGBTIQ+ activists, which revealed the following findings regarding the situation of LGBT people in detention. The study highlights a number of structural shortcomings that disproportionately affect LGBTIQ+ persons in Moldovan penitentiaries. Although the general legal framework prohibits discrimination, there are no specific policies, procedures, or protocols regulating the treatment and protection of LGBTIQ+ persons in detention, resulting in their institutional invisibility.

The study finds that LGBTIQ+ persons deprived of liberty face heightened risks of physical, sexual, and psychological violence, perpetrated both by other detainees and, in some cases, by prison staff. Prison subculture, informal inmate hierarchies, and the legacy of Soviet-type penitentiary practices further exacerbate stigmatization and exclusion. Due to the absence of individualized risk and needs assessments at admission, LGBTIQ+ detainees are often exposed to danger from the very beginning of their detention, without adequate protective measures.

A particularly critical situation is documented with regard to transgender persons, who are generally placed in detention facilities according to the sex assigned at birth rather than their gender identity. This practice exposes them to a significantly increased risk of abuse and sexual violence. As an alternative, prison administrations sometimes resort to long-term “protective” isolation, a measure that contradicts international standards and has severe consequences for mental health, while also restricting access to work, education, social interaction, and rehabilitation programmes.

The study further identifies limited access to appropriate healthcare services, including the lack of continuity of hormone treatment for transgender persons and insufficient mental health support tailored to the specific needs of LGBTQI+ detainees. In addition, there are no clear rules governing body searches, the use of chosen names and pronouns, or respect for gender identity, which frequently results in humiliating and degrading treatment.

Another major concern highlighted by the study is the absence of systematic data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity within the penitentiary system. This lack of data prevents an accurate assessment of the scope of the problem, undermines effective monitoring, and hinders the development of evidence-based public policies. Consequently, cases of violence or discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons in detention remain severely underreported, and bias motivation is rarely recognized or applied as an aggravating circumstance, despite existing legal provisions.

The study concludes that the situation of LGBTQI+ persons in Moldovan penitentiaries remains one of structural vulnerability, characterized by the lack of specific safeguards, discriminatory practices, and insufficient alignment with international standards of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. In the absence of dedicated policies, staff training, and effective mechanisms to prevent and sanction abuse, detention continues to exacerbate marginalization and seriously undermine the dignity, safety, and physical and mental health of LGBTQI+ persons deprived of liberty.

On 20 March, the **Bloc of Communists and Socialists** of the Republic of Moldova [proposed](#) adding to the Parliament's plenary agenda a draft amendment to the law on protecting children from harmful information, explicitly targeting the prohibition of so-called "LGBT propaganda" in mass media and schools.

MP **Vladimir Odnostalco** stated that the purpose of the initiative was to ensure that "there is no element related to LGBT propaganda or pornography in mass media or, in general, in any information intended for children," claiming that this is the direction taken by "civilised Europe."

The draft law was registered in July 2024, but has never been placed on the parliamentary agenda. During the 20 March session, the PAS parliamentary faction refused to include the draft law on the agenda, and the proposal was not debated or examined.

On 19 March, Members of Parliament **Vladimir Odnostalco, Alla Darovannaia, Bogdat Țirdea, Diana Caraman, Elena Beleacova, Inga Sibova, Ivanna Koxsal, Oleg Reidman, Petru Burduja, Radu Mudreac, and Tatiana Cunețchi** registered in Parliament a [draft law amending Law No. 26/2008 on Assemblies](#).

The draft law proposes to supplement Article 8 of the law with a new paragraph, letter d<sup>1</sup>), which would allow public authorities to prohibit assemblies involving "the promotion of messages aimed at increasing the visibility of LGBT persons."

This amendment would explicitly add the visibility of LGBT persons to the list of legal grounds on which public assemblies may be banned.

The Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality issued a negative opinion on the draft law, stating that the proposal contravenes national and international standards related to non-discrimination and freedom of assembly.

## Cases reported by beneficiaries of GENDERDOC-M Information Center

**Case 1:** On 21 January 2025, during a medical assessment conducted by the Medical Commission of the **Chișinău Military Commissariat**, located at 10 Milano Street, a citizen of the Republic of Moldova openly disclosed to the commission members that he is of homosexual orientation.

In response, one commission employee made mocking and offensive remarks toward the individual. These comments caused deep humiliation and significant moral harm. Although other commission members intervened, pointing out the inappropriate conduct, and the employee later apologized, the affected person considers the incident unacceptable and views it as a serious violation of human dignity and the right to non-discrimination.

A formal complaint was filed with the Ministry of Defence regarding this incident.

**Case 2:** On 22 January, a young man identified as D.V., who openly identifies as gay, went to the **National Army recruitment office**. During the interaction, he disclosed his sexual orientation and expressed concerns about his safety and well-being in the military environment.

As a result, D.V. was labeled with a diagnosis of “mental instability” and referred to a psychiatrist to obtain a medical certificate. After returning with the requested certificate, an employee of the recruitment office told him that he was “not gay,” that he was “creating these problems himself,” and that he should go to a psychiatric hospital to “get treated,” adding that he was “dangerous to society.”

**Case 3:** In May 2025, a female student at “**Academia Copiilor**” **High School in Chişinău** filed a written complaint with the school administration, reporting repeated verbal and physical harassment by a male classmate, affecting both herself and other students. One of the incidents occurred on 5 May 2025.

Under the Education Code and the anti-bullying methodology approved by the Ministry of Education (Order No. 1024/2022), the school was required to register the complaint, convene the Anti-Bullying Commission, and immediately implement protective and counselling measures.

Instead of following these procedures, the student was summoned by the deputy head of studies and subjected to an accusatory interrogation, including questions such as “Why did you submit the complaint directly to the principal and not to your class teacher?”, “What did you do to provoke him?”, and “Have you spoken to the school psychologist about your bisexuality?”.

In order to protect her rights, the student recorded the conversation as evidence. Subsequently, her class teacher contacted her parents to inquire about the meeting with the school administration, thereby breaching confidentiality and exposing the student to the risk of family reprisals.

Complaints were submitted to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. To date, no information is available regarding any measures taken by the authorities.

**Case 4:** On 24 August 2025, Franz, a queer young person, ordered a taxi with license plate KJD271 from the **company Letz**. Upon seeing Franz (who wears skirts and makeup), the driver asked discriminatory questions, saying “are you a girl or a boy, what are you?”, followed by “this is my personal car and I don’t transport people like you.”

The incident resulted in a refusal of service based on gender expression. Franz chose not to file a complaint with the Equality Council.

**Case 5:** Angela L. is a psychology student who regularly produces podcasts on various topics. For her podcasts, she contracts the **Level Up Content Creation Agency studio**.

As part of her bachelor’s thesis on stereotypes and prejudice against LGBT people, she planned a podcast episode with Angelica Frolov, an LGBT activist. When she contacted

the studio to request the recording, she received the following reply: *“Regarding the filming of the podcast with Angelica Frolov, the management cannot proceed with this step. We do not want to tarnish our name with these ideas that the guys would have to film and edit. With great pleasure, but with another person!”*

**Case 6:** On December 17th, I., a lesbian woman originally from the city of Bălți and currently residing in Brussels, returned to Moldova together with her partner. Her mother refused to allow her into the family home and placed her personal belongings outside. Following the incident, I. called the police. The police officer who responded informed the mother that she could remove I. from the household registration on the grounds that I. is a lesbian.

**Case 7:** On 22 December, a young man was removed from a shopping mall in Chişinău by security guards after entering the premises wearing a dress. According to video footage later circulated on social media, the young man told security staff that his action was part of a challenge.

The entire incident was filmed by a friend, who was streaming [live on TikTok](#). During the incident, the friend was also removed from the mall after engaging in a verbal dispute with security personnel.

The footage quickly became viral, gathering thousands of views and hundreds of reactions online. Public comments were divided and included statements such as: “Well done, security”; “Shame”; “Little Red Riding Hood”; “The pride of the country”.

## **SITUATION OF TRANS PEOPLE**

Transgender people in the Republic of Moldova face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, social exclusion, and violence, both in public life and in their interactions with state institutions. Gender identity remains insufficiently understood and inadequately recognized within public policies, while the lack of clear, accessible, and transparent mechanisms for legal gender recognition contributes to the heightened vulnerability of trans persons.

Trans people are disproportionately affected by hate speech, harassment, and bias-motivated violence, as well as by systemic barriers in accessing essential services, including healthcare, education, employment, and justice. In the absence of specific policies and adequate training of public officials, trans persons frequently experience humiliating treatment, unjustified refusals, and re-victimization.

### **Cases reported by beneficiaries of GENDERDOC-M Information Centre**

**Case 1:** Alexandru and Maxim are a couple with a child. Maxim is a trans man. Both originate from the Transnistrian region.

Maxim was forced to leave Transnistria due to conflicts with his family and problems with law enforcement authorities, who had threatened him. In the spring of 2025, the family relocated to a locality within the territory controlled by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, where they rented a house. Alexandru found work as part of a construction crew. After approximately one month, Alexandru’s employers and co-workers — one of whom is also the owner of the rented house — became aware that Maxim is a trans man. Following this, the couple was told that they must leave the rented accommodation, and Alexandru was no longer invited to work.

Alexandru does not have an employment contract, and the family does not hold a formal rental agreement for the house. The situation resulted in the simultaneous loss of employment and housing, occurring after the disclosure of Maxim's gender identity.

**Case 2:** In the summer of 2025, a transgender minor from Chişinău experienced repeated episodes of violence, abuse, and institutional neglect, both within the family and by child protection authorities.

On 28 July, the child ran away from home for the first time and sought temporary refuge with a friend's family. After being returned home, the stepfather subjected the child to insults and intimidation, including a homophobic remark: "*it's good that he is dating a girl and not a boy*", creating an environment of humiliation and fear.

On 2 August, the parents, reportedly intoxicated, attempted to forcibly take the child from a concert. Witnesses reported physical and psychological violence against the minor, and the friend was assaulted while trying to intervene. Despite police intervention, the child was left with the abusive parents. That same evening, the parents continued aggressive and threatening phone calls, prompting the child to flee again.

After 5 August, the minor was placed under strict control: isolation, confiscation of money and phone, and prohibition of contact with friends. The child expressed suicidal thoughts and temporarily sought refuge with grandparents.

On the night of 13 August, the child arrived at friends' home in a poor physical and psychological state, with bruises and traces of blood, having walked on foot from Dumbrava to Buiucani. A timely forensic medical examination was not carried out.

Although a notification was submitted to the Municipal Child Protection Directorate on 6 August, no effective protective measures followed. A social worker in Truşeni expressed a discriminatory attitude, stating that "*parents will never accept LGBT*" and suggesting restricting the child's contact with friends.

During a psychological session at **AO ADOR**, the minor was verbally abused by the psychologist, who used the following expressions: "*Choose, because if you don't, the three of us will stay here and there are no cameras, we'll give you a beating, do you know what that means? Do you know or not? Sit down, I didn't give you permission to get up, sit there. You sit down willingly or you sit down out of necessity. If you sit down willingly, I won't do anything to you, if you sit down out of necessity, I'll hurt you. Sit down there. You went to the Center because the girls there are just starting out... Sit down by yourself, girl, you know you can't mess with me.*"

The minor was temporarily placed in a residential center, where serious deficiencies in care were reported. On 18 August, complaints were submitted to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Subsequently, an interdisciplinary commission decided to return the child to the family, with no available information on preventive measures against future violence.

**Case 3:** On 16 August 2025, during the Youth Festival 2025, a group of queer youths with pro-Palestinian messages took part in the event.

Around 8:00 p.m., an unknown woman tore a Palestinian flag from a fence and attempted to leave with it. The youths followed her and demanded that she return the flag. The woman reacted aggressively, using violent gestures and attempting to push Munia Grasen, a transgender woman.

She threw the flag on the ground, stepped on it, and lifted Munia's top, asking humiliating questions related to her gender identity. Throughout the incident, the woman continued to use homophobic insults and to incite discrimination and violence.

The youths contacted the police and followed the woman until officers arrived. The police intervened and documented the incident. An official complaint is to be filed with the local police station.

**Case 4:** Igor Brumarețchi, a transgender person, served a four-year sentence at Penitentiary No. 6 in Soroca. After his release, [he reported](#) being subjected to long-term isolation, officially justified as a protection measure but involving degrading conditions, including unsanitary cells and rodent infestations.

He described repeated humiliation by prison staff, such as derogatory comments during medical checks, being publicly summoned to the gynaecology office to provoke mockery, and guards deliberately addressing him using female names. He was also denied access to work and regular prison activities, despite the absence of any court decision restricting these rights.

Although the **National Administration of Penitentiaries** officially denied any violations, the case was referred to the Ombudsperson and GENDERDOC-M, and Brumarețchi stated his intention to seek justice before national courts and possibly European ones. The case highlights systemic discrimination and institutional neglect faced by transgender persons in Moldova's penitentiary system.

**Case 5:** D., a 16-year-old transgender boy from a village in Taraclia district, died by suicide on October 23 as a result of transphobia and bullying he faced both at his vocational school and in his home community.

He had previously made several suicide attempts and had been hospitalized in a psychiatric facility at the request of his relatives. At the vocational technical school, D. was verbally harassed and bullied by classmates because of his gender identity. In a moment of distress, he reacted physically against one of his abusers, for which he was subsequently expelled.

A few days later, when summoned to the local police station regarding the incident, D. took his own life by hanging, ending a long period of abuse, rejection, and social exclusion.

## TRANSNISTRIAN REGION

The situation of LGBTI+ rights in the Transnistrian region remains extremely vulnerable and poorly documented, due to the political and legal context separate from that of the Republic of Moldova. The lack of effective control by constitutional authorities, the absence of human rights protection mechanisms, and severe restrictions on civil society activities create a hostile and unsafe environment for LGBTI+ people.

In the Transnistrian region, there is no legal framework recognizing or protecting LGBTI+ persons, and sexual orientation and gender identity are widely stigmatized. LGBTI+ people face heightened risks of discrimination, violence, harassment, and persecution, while reporting abuses is virtually impossible due to fear of reprisals and the lack of independent institutions.

On 27 January, **Andrei Safonov**, a member of the so-called parliament of the Transnistrian region, [posted](#) a public comment on social media in response to a journalist's post, making direct reference to LGBT activist **Angelica Frolov**.

In his comment, Safonov used offensive and stigmatizing language, describing the values promoted by the LGBT activist as "*rotten*" and unacceptable to what he referred to as a "*healthy majority*." He stated that such values had been rejected elsewhere and asserted that they would not be allowed in the Transnistrian region.

The comment also included derogatory references to LGBT people and activists, as well as statements implying their rejection and exclusion from public and social life. The message was published publicly and was accessible to a wide audience on the social media platform where it appeared.

On 1 April 2025, the authorities of the Transnistrian region announced the preparation of a draft law aimed at ***banning the promotion of non-traditional sexual relations, refusal of procreation, and gender transition***.

The package of legislative amendments was drafted by a group of members of the **Supreme Council** and was approved by the Committee on Education, Public Associations, and Media. One of the authors of the initiative, **Igor Buga**, stated that the proposal was motivated by developments observed “*in Europe and globally*” and argued that it was necessary to legally prohibit such forms of “*propaganda*” in Transnistria.

The draft law proposes the introduction of administrative liability for promoting so-called “*non-traditional values*” among both children and adults, including through mass media, the internet, and information and telecommunication networks.

The initiative was scheduled to be examined in first reading at the plenary session on 9 April.

On 16 July, in the Transnistrian region, a so-called “**law**” was adopted banning “*LGBT propaganda*”, including the promotion of gender transition and refusal to have children, both among children and adults.

The new provisions introduce administrative liability, setting fines of up to 1,930 MDL for individuals, 2,900 MDL for officials, and 4,830 MDL for legal entities, with the possibility of suspension of activities for up to 90 days.

Higher fines apply if the alleged “*offence*” involves minors, is committed through mass media or the internet, or concerns foreign citizens or stateless persons. The provisions are scheduled to enter into force 14 days after signing by the leader of the unrecognised Transnistrian entity, **Vadim Krasnoselski**.

The co-author of the project, Andrei Safonov, stated that the measure is necessary to prevent “*destabilisation of society*” and the proliferation of multiple “*genders*”.