



# REGIONAL REPORT

ON VIOLATIONS OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE  
IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE  
AND CENTRAL ASIA 2024

Tallinn  
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# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	3
<b>METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS</b>	4
<b>RESULTS</b>	5
Right to privacy	23
Right to bodily integrity	27
Right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment	30
Right to be free from arbitrary deprivation of liberty	31
Right to recognition as a person with legal rights	32
Right to the highest attainable standard of health	33
Right to work	34
Right to freedom of opinion and expression	36
Right to adequate housing	38
Right to effective legal protection and compensation for damages	39
Right to freedom of movement	39
Right to life	41
Right to education	41
Right to equality and non-discrimination	42
Right to seek asylum	43
Protection from violations in the field of medicine	44
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	45
Right to start a family	46
<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	47
<b>SOURCES USED</b>	49
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	
Table 1. Characteristics of cases of violatiosn of the rights of LGBT people, January-September 2024	8
Table 2. Types of rights violations against LGBT people by country of the region, January-September 2024	13
Table 3. Types of rights violations against LGBT people, by SOGI of victims, January-September 2024	18

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**AIDS** Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

**ART** Antiretroviral therapy

**ECOM** Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity

**EECA** Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**GBMSM** Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

**HIV** Human immunodeficiency virus

**LGBT people** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people

**MSM** Men who have sex with men

**NGO** Non-governmental organization

**REAct** Community-based human rights monitoring and response system,  
Rights-Evidence-Action

**SOGI** Sexual orientation and gender identity

# INTRODUCTION




The 2024 regional report on violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people (LGBT people) in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) was developed based on the results of a consolidated analysis of data on rights violations in 7 countries of the region: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

ECOM has been monitoring and documenting human rights violations against LGBT people since 2017. An analysis of documented cases of violations of the right to health allows us to identify barriers faced by LGBT people both in the EECA region as a whole and in individual countries, as well as informal behavioral practices that may be overlooked in policy analysis [1].

## ***Objectives of this analysis include:***

- identifying the nature of human rights violations faced by LGBT people in the EECA region;
- identifying the root causes of violations and the impact of legislation and law enforcement practices in the EECA region;
- providing recommendations for removing barriers and further use in advocating for the rights of LGBT people in the EECA region.

## ***The authors of the report express their gratitude to:***

-  ECOM consultants for monitoring violations of the rights of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and trans people and their work to identify and document cases;
-  the International Charitable Foundation “Alliance for Public Health” and partner organizations within the REAct system for monitoring and responding to cases of human rights violations and for providing data for analysis;
-  representatives of the LGBT community for their willingness to seek help when their rights are violated and to speak out when such situations occur.

# METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

In October-November 2024, a secondary analysis of data on violations of the rights of LGBT people documented in the REAct system between 1 January and 30 September 2024 in seven countries of the EECA region: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as case/cases) was conducted.

The analysis used descriptions of the human rights violations provided by REAct coordinators in each country: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (ECOM), Ukraine (International Charity Fund “Alliance for Public Health”) and partner organizations from Moldova. All case descriptions were pre-screened by the coordinators to ensure that ethical standards were met.

All cases were screened to determine whether sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was the grounds for the violation of rights. Cases not related to these grounds were excluded from further analysis.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Direct content analysis was used to convert qualitative data (textual descriptions of cases) into quantitative data [2]. The classification of human rights violations related to SOGI was based on the Yogyakarta Principles [3], which define the application of international human rights standards in the context of SOGI, and were previously used to analyze violations of the rights of LGBT people in the EECA region [4]. Based on the identified themes and categories, a preliminary coding set was created.

Each case description was analyzed to identify key features of the rights violations, such as the type of violator, the type of violation, and other characteristics. Contextual coding [5] allowed us to take into account the specific cultural context of each case [6], and manifest and latent coding helped to identify both obvious and latent signs of violations [7, 8].

The identified themes, categories and codes were transformed into quantitative variables for further statistical analysis. For example, if torture took place, the corresponding variable was assigned a value of “1”; otherwise, it was “0”. The report included variables such as the victims’ SOGI, the basis of the violation, type of violators, and type of violation. One case could include several types of violations or violators, which allowed for more complete coverage of all aspects of the rights violation. Insults and verbal aggression on the basis of SOGI or HIV status were not classified separately, as such cases were widespread and were included in the category of “hate speech” if the violation was limited to verbal insults.

Data for analysis were processed using Microsoft Excel and IBM SPSS Statistics 28.0.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE ANALYSIS

There are several important limitations that should be taken into account that affect the interpretation of the data presented in the report:

- 1 Data obtained from different sources may vary in quality and completeness, which makes it difficult to conduct an objective comparative analysis across all countries in the EECA region. The number of documented cases of violations of the rights of LGBT people does not always reflect reality, since it depends on the resources and capabilities of monitoring teams in each country.
- 2 The data presented in the report cannot fully reflect the extent of violations of the rights of LGBT people in the EECA region, since victims may not have been aware of the possibility of reporting violations of their rights, or decided not to report the incident or seek help [9, 10]. Moreover, the number of documented cases depends on several factors:
  - The capabilities and experience of monitoring teams, including the number of documenters in countries; this also depended on the financial resources of the projects, which did not always cover all existing needs.
  - The difference in the presence of monitoring teams between large cities and remote communities — large cities often have LGBT organizations willing to cooperate, while in remote areas access to the community may be limited.
  - The identity of the documenter also plays a role: trans staff members are more likely to have contact with trans people, while gay staff members are more likely to have contact with other gay men and MSM whose rights have been violated.
  - There was no targeted collection of data on violations of the rights of lesbian and bisexual people, although such cases were documented and included in the report.
- 3 Due to the factors discussed above, a full analysis of trends in violations of LGBT rights over the year is not possible and is not included in the report.

Due to these limitations, the number of documented cases cannot be used to accurately measure the prevalence of violations of the rights of LGBT people in the EECA region or in each individual country. However, the data presented provides an overview of the nature of violations, types of violators, and the specifics of the situation in different countries of the region.

# RESULTS

In total, 366 cases of human rights violations against LGBT people were documented in 7 countries of the EECA region in the first nine months of 2024: 108 in Ukraine, 74 in Uzbekistan, 62 in Armenia, 43 in Moldova, 30 in Kazakhstan, 27 in Tajikistan, and 22 in Kyrgyzstan (Table 1).

## SOGI OF THE VICTIMS

The vast majority of victims are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) or 75.4% of the total number of registered cases of human rights violations. The highest proportion was documented in Uzbekistan (98.6%), while in Moldova this figure is significantly lower (37.2%), where more than a third of cases were committed against the LGBT community as a whole. Transgender women make up 11.7% of the total number of victims, with their share being highest in Armenia (24.2%) and Kyrgyzstan (27.3%).

## BASES FOR VIOLATIONS

Almost all cases were related to violations on the basis of SOGI alone (89.3%). In some cases, violations were also related to other factors, such as providing sex services (6.0%), which was more common in Armenia (17.7%) and Kyrgyzstan (13.6%). Cases related exclusively to HIV account for 2.5% (9 cases), with the majority being reported in Ukraine.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF VIOLATIONS

Almost half (47.3%) of the registered cases involved multiple violations, with the highest rates in Tajikistan (92.6%) and Uzbekistan (78.4%), while this indicator was 2.3% in Moldova. Multiple types of violations were documented in 56.6% of cases — 738 violations in 366 documented cases. On average, one case involved two different types of violations (minimum — 1, maximum — 9). “Fake dates”, where offenders arrange a meeting, most often through social media, for subsequent manipulation and blackmail, were documented in 11.5% of cases. This practice is particularly widespread in Kyrgyzstan (36.4%) and Kazakhstan (26.7%).





## TYPE OF VIOLATOR

Law enforcement officers are the main violators of the rights of LGBT people, accounting for 28.1% of all cases. Their share is highest in Tajikistan (85.2%) and Uzbekistan (70.3%). In some countries, such as Moldova and Ukraine, violations by the police remain relatively rare (2.3% and 4.6%, respectively).

A significant proportion of violations are committed by unknown persons (18.6% of all cases) – such cases are particularly prevalent in Kazakhstan (43.3%) and Ukraine (18.5%). Relatives are also relatively frequent violators of human rights (10.4%): violations by relatives were most common in Armenia and Uzbekistan, where such cases were documented more frequently than in other countries in the region. Medical professionals not directly involved in the provision of HIV services were violators in 7.4% of cases. Such cases were more prevalent in Armenia (11.3%) and Moldova (11.6%). Violations by representatives of local authorities and state-run services accounted for 6.0% of cases, while in Moldova, such cases account for almost half of all violations documented in the country (46.5%). Violations by neighbors, colleagues, or landlords are less common, however, in Ukraine, violations by this type of violator were more common than the regional average.

**Table 1. Characteristics of cases of violations of the rights of LGBT people, January-September 2024**

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>SOGI of victims</b>								
Gay, bisexual and other MSM	39 (62,9%)	20 (66,7%)	14 (63,6%)	15 (34,9%)	19 (70,4%)	73 (98,6%)	96 (88,9%)	276 (75,4%)
Transgender women	15 (24,2%)	4 (13,3%)	6 (27,3%)	3 (7,0%)	2 (7,4%)	1 (1,4%)	12 (11,1%)	43 (11,7%)
Lesbian and bisexual people	6 (9,7%)	3 (10,0%)	—	6 (14,0%)	6 (22,2%)	—	—	21 (5,7%)
LGBT people as a whole	—	2 (6,7%)	1 (4,5%)	18 (41,9%)	—	—	—	21 (5,7%)
Transgender men	2 (3,2%)	1 (3,3%)	1 (4,5%)	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	5 (1,4%)
<b>Basis for violation</b>								
Only SOGI	49 (79,0%)	26 (86,7%)	17 (77,3%)	43 (100,0%)	25 (92,6%)	69 (93,2%)	98 (90,7%)	327 (89,3%)
SOGI and sex work	11 (17,7%)	2 (6,7%)	3 (13,6%)	—	—	4 (5,4%)	2 (1,9%)	22 (6,0%)
Only HIV	—	2 (6,7%)	—	—	—	—	7 (6,5%)	9 (2,5%)
SOGI and HIV	2 (3,2%)	—	2 (9,1%)	—	2 (7,4%)	1 (1,4%)	1 (0,9%)	8 (2,2%)
<b>Cases with multiple violated rights</b>	<b>29 (46,8%)</b>	<b>12 (40,0%)</b>	<b>18 (81,8%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>25 (92,6%)</b>	<b>58 (78,4%)</b>	<b>30 (27,8%)</b>	<b>173 (47,3%)</b>
<b>Cases with multiple types of violations</b>	<b>39 (62,9%)</b>	<b>13 (43,3%)</b>	<b>18 (81,8%)</b>	<b>4 (9,3%)</b>	<b>25 (92,6%)</b>	<b>65 (87,8%)</b>	<b>43 (39,8%)</b>	<b>207 (56,6%)</b>
<b>Cases with multiple types of violators</b>	<b>7 (11,3%)</b>	<b>4 (13,3%)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	<b>2 (7,4%)</b>	<b>21 (28,4%)</b>	<b>8 (7,4%)</b>	<b>44 (12,0%)</b>

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Type of violator</b>								
Members of law enforcement agencies	8 (12,9%)	6 (20,0%)	8 (36,4%)	1 (2,3%)	23 (85,2%)	52 (70,3%)	5 (4,6%)	103 (28,1%)
Strangers	16 (25,8%)	13 (43,3%)	4 (18,2%)	6 (16,3%)	—	8 (10,8%)	20 (18,5%)	68 (18,6%)
Relatives	10 (16,1%)	1 (3,3%)	3 (13,6%)	1 (2,3%)	1 (3,7%)	12 (16,2%)	10 (9,3%)	38 (10,4%)
Medical workers not involved in providing HIV services	7 (11,3%)	—	1 (4,5%)	5 (11,6%)	—	4 (5,4%)	10 (9,3%)	27 (7,4%)
Employers	2 (3,2%)	1 (3,3%)	1 (4,5%)	1 (2,3%)	2 (7,4%)	5 (6,8%)	13 (12,0%)	25 (6,8%)
Representatives of local authorities and state-run services	—	1 (3,3%)	—	20 (46,5%)	—	1 (1,4%)	—	22 (6,0%)
Neighbors	2 (3,2%)	—	—	1 (2,3%)	—	3 (4,1%)	11 (10,2%)	17 (4,6%)
Colleagues /classmates	—	—	—	—	—	3 (4,1%)	14 (13,0%)	17 (4,6%)
Military personnel / border guards	7 (11,3%)	—	2 (9,1%)	—	—	1 (1,4%)	5 (4,6%)	15 (4,1%)
Friends and acquaintances	3 (4,8%)	3 (10,0%)	—	1 (2,3%)	—	1 (1,4%)	7 (6,5%)	15 (4,1%)
Sexual partners / spouses	5 (8,1%)	1 (3,3%)	—	1 (2,3%)	1 (3,7%)	1 (1,4%)	3 (2,8%)	12 (3,3%)
Journalists and bloggers	3 (4,8%)	3 (10,0%)	—	5 (11,6%)	—	—	—	11 (3,0%)
Service workers / shops / cafes	—	2 (6,7%)	—	2 (4,7%)	2 (7,4%)	—	5 (4,6%)	11 (3,0%)

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
Staff of educational institutions	2 (3,2%)	—	—	—	—	2 (2,7%)	4 (3,7%)	8 (2,2%)
Landlords	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	—	—	7 (6,5%)	8 (2,2%)
Clients of sex workers	3 (4,8%)	—	2 (9,1%)	—	—	1 (1,4%)	—	6 (1,6%)
Medical workers providing HIV services	—	2 (6,7%)	1 (4,5%)	—	—	2 (2,7%)	—	5 (1,4%)
Specialists of non-governmental organizations	—	1 (3,3%)	—	—	—	—	2 (1,9%)	3 (0,8%)
“Fake date” cases	7 (11,3%)	8 (26,7%)	8 (36,4%)	—	4 (14,8%)	12 (16,2%)	3 (2,8%)	42 (11,5%)



## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF DOCUMENTED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Of the 366 documented cases, a third involved violations of the right to privacy (35.0%), primarily the disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI and extortion of money. Another third of the cases related to the right to bodily integrity (33.6%), most commonly involving physical violence. Detailed information on the rights violated and the types of violations is presented in Table 2.

Data on rights violations varies in type and frequency across countries, and reflects local legal, social and cultural contexts.

Armenia has a significant number of cases of sexual (14.5%) and domestic (16.1%) violence, which make up a large part of the total number of violations. The country is also characterized by frequent cases of humiliating treatment in medical institutions (11.3%). In addition, Armenia stands out for its high level of abuse of power by law enforcement agencies (19.4%), although no cases of use of force by law enforcement were documented. Six cases of violations of the right to life (9.7% of the total) were documented in the country, as well as two cases of forced marriage.

Kazakhstan is characterized by frequent cases of physical violence (30.0%), as well as disclosure or threats of disclosure of SOGI (23.3%). The country is also characterized by a prevalence of hate speech, which often comes from individuals (13.3%), as well as by barriers to holding peaceful assemblies (6.7%).

Kyrgyzstan has one of the highest rates of extortion of money (36.4%), disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI (27.3%) and physical violence (27.3%). In addition, cases involving the use of force by law enforcement agencies or abuse of their authority (40.9%) are frequently documented, which indicates serious problems concerning the actions of law enforcement agencies.

In Moldova, violations most often relate to hate speech in the media (34.9%), which distinguishes the country from others in this region, as well as to frequent refusals to grant asylum (18.6%). Violations in the sphere of personal and family life were recorded less frequently than in other countries in the region.

Tajikistan exhibits systematic rights violations, including the highest rate of violations of the right to be free from torture or ill-treatment by law enforcement in the region (70.4%). The country is characterized by unlawful arrests or detentions, which occurred in 70.4% of cases. Up to a third of all documented cases involved outing, extortion of money, and unauthorized searches or inspections.

In Uzbekistan, cases of abuse of power by law enforcement officers were frequently recorded (45.9%), as well as illegal arrests and detentions (36.5%), outing (25.7%), unauthorized searches or inspections, and extortion of money (21.6% each, respectively). Uzbekistan is the only country in this report where same-sex relations are criminalized; 2 corresponding cases were documented.

Ukraine exhibits a variety of abuses, including high levels of physical violence (23.1%), property damage or loss (14.8%), and discrimination in employment (13.0%). Compared to other countries included in this analysis, victims are more likely to be evicted or forced to leave their place of residence (14.8%), bullied in educational institutions (4.6%), denied services by private institutions, or face humiliating treatment by employees (4.6%). At the same time, there are fewer documented cases of violations by law enforcement officials, including the use of force, illegal arrests, or other abuses of power.

Differences in the types of violations are observed depending on the SOGI of the victims (Table 3). For example, GBMSM faced violations of the right to privacy (40.2%) and bodily integrity (33.0%) more often, and were also subjected to extortion of money (18.8%) and illegal arrest or detention (20.7%) more often than others. Trans women most often face violations of the right to bodily integrity (39.5%), including humiliating treatment in medical institutions (14.0%) and denial of medical services (9.3%). Lesbian and bisexual people often faced domestic violence (28.6%), disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI, and humiliating treatment in medical institutions (14.3% each, respectively). In general, LGBT people are subject to widespread hate speech in the media and from public figures (76.2%), while trans men experienced violations of their right to bodily integrity in 3 out of 5 cases.

**Table 2. Types of rights violations against LGBT people by country of the region, January-September 2024**

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to privacy</b>	<b>22 (35,5%)</b>	<b>11 (36,7%)</b>	<b>13 (59,1%)</b>	—	<b>19 (70,4%)</b>	<b>44 (59,5%)</b>	<b>19 (17,6%)</b>	<b>128 (35,0%)</b>
Disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI	15 (24,2%)	7 (23,3%)	6 (27,3%)	—	8 (29,6%)	19 (25,7%)	14 (13,0%)	69 (18,9%)
Extortion of money	9 (14,5%)	5 (16,7%)	8 (36,4%)	—	9 (33,3%)	16 (21,6%)	10 (9,3%)	57 (15,6%)
Unauthorized search of home or person	2 (3,2%)	1 (3,3%)	3 (13,6%)	—	7 (25,9%)	16 (21,6%)	1 (0,9%)	30 (8,2%)
Forced disclosure of information about partners	1 (1,6%)	2 (6,7%)	3 (13,6%)	—	3 (1,1%)	11 (14,9%)	—	20 (5,5%)
Disclosure or threat of disclosure of HIV status	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	1 (3,7%)	—	3 (2,8%)	5 (1,4%)
Unauthorized access to personal correspondence	1 (1,6%)	—	1 (4,5%)	—	—	—	2 (1,9%)	4 (1,1%)
Criminalization of MSM	—	—	—	—	—	2 (2,7%)	—	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to bodily integrity</b>	<b>28 (45,2%)</b>	<b>14 (46,7%)</b>	<b>9 (40,9%)</b>	<b>7 (16,3%)</b>	<b>4 (14,8%)</b>	<b>22 (29,7%)</b>	<b>39 (36,1%)</b>	<b>123 (33,6%)</b>
Physical violence	11 (17,7%)	9 (30,0%)	6 (27,3%)	6 (14,0%)	1 (3,7%)	9 (12,2%)	25 (23,1%)	67 (18,3%)
Domestic violence	10 (16,1%)	1 (3,3%)	3 (13,6%)	1 (2,3%)	2 (7,4%)	8 (10,8%)	8 (7,4%)	33 (9,0%)
Sexual violence or harassment	9 (14,5%)	5 (16,7%)	—	—	1 (3,7%)	6 (8,1%)	6 (5,6%)	27 (7,4%)

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to be free from torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment</b>	<b>12 (19,4%)</b>	<b>3 (10,0%)</b>	<b>9 (40,9%)</b>	—	<b>19 (70,4%)</b>	<b>37 (50,0%)</b>	<b>8 (7,4%)</b>	<b>88 (24,0%)</b>
Other abuses of power by law enforcement agencies	12 (19,4%)	3 (10,0%)	6 (27,3%)	—	18 (66,7%)	34 (45,9%)	8 (7,4%)	81 (22,1%)
Use of force by law enforcement officers	—	—	5 (22,7%)	—	5 (18,5%)	14 (18,9%)	—	24 (6,6%)
<b>Right to be free from arbitrary deprivation of liberty</b>	<b>6 (9,7%)</b>	<b>2 (6,7%)</b>	<b>4 (18,2%)</b>	—	<b>19 (70,4%)</b>	<b>30 (40,5%)</b>	<b>3 (2,8%)</b>	<b>64 (17,5%)</b>
Unlawful arrest or detention	7 (9,7%)	2 (6,7%)	4 (18,2%)	—	19 (70,4%)	27 (36,5%)	3 (2,8%)	61 (16,7%)
Coerced confession	—	—	1 (4,5%)	—	1 (3,7%)	13 (17,6%)	—	15 (4,1%)
<b>Right to recognition as a person with legal rights</b>	<b>4 (6,5%)</b>	<b>4 (13,3%)</b>	<b>5 (22,7%)</b>	—	<b>3 (11,1%)</b>	<b>5 (6,8%)</b>	<b>17 (15,7%)</b>	<b>38 (10,4%)</b>
Material or property damage	4 (6,5%)	4 (13,3%)	5 (22,7%)	—	3 (11,1%)	5 (6,8%)	16 (14,8%)	37 (10,1%)
Denial of social services due to gender transition	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (0,9%)	1 (0,3%)



Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to the highest attainable standard of health</b>	<b>8 (12,9%)</b>	<b>2 (6,7%)</b>	<b>2 (9,1%)</b>	<b>6 (14,0%)</b>	—	<b>5 (6,8%)</b>	<b>11 (10,2%)</b>	<b>34 (9,3%)</b>
Humiliating treatment in a medical institution	7 (11,3%)	—	2 (9,1%)	5 (11,6%)	—	2 (2,7%)	8 (7,4%)	24 (6,6%)
Denial of medical services	4 (6,5%)	1 (3,3%)	—	4 (9,3%)	—	2 (2,7%)	6 (5,6%)	17 (4,6%)
Disclosure of medical information related to SOGI	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	—	3 (4,1%)	—	4 (1,1%)
Disclosure of medical information related to HIV	—	1 (3,3%)	—	—	—	1 (1,4%)	—	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to work</b>	<b>1 (1,6%)</b>	<b>1 (3,3%)</b>	<b>1 (4,5%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>2 (7,4%)</b>	<b>7 (9,5%)</b>	<b>14 (13,0%)</b>	<b>27 (7,4%)</b>
Dismissal and refusal to hire	1 (1,6%)	1 (3,3%)	—	1 (2,3%)	1 (3,7%)	5 (6,8%)	10 (9,3%)	19 (5,2%)
Bullying in the workplace	—	—	—	—	—	3 (4,1%)	5 (4,6%)	8 (2,2%)
Refusal to pay salary	—	—	1 (4,5%)	—	1 (3,7%)	—	3 (2,8%)	5 (1,4%)
<b>Right to freedom of opinion and expression</b>	<b>2 (3,2%)</b>	<b>5 (16,7%)</b>	—	<b>17 (39,5%)</b>	—	—	<b>1 (0,9%)</b>	<b>25 (6,8%)</b>
Hate speech in the media and by public figures	1 (1,6%)	1 (3,3%)	—	15 (34,9%)	—	—	—	17 (4,6%)
Hate speech by private individuals	1 (1,6%)	4 (13,3%)	—	2 (4,7%)	—	—	1 (0,9%)	8 (2,2%)

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to adequate housing:</b> eviction or forced to leave place of residence	<b>5 (8,1%)</b>	<b>1 (3,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>1 (1,4%)</b>	<b>16 (14,8%)</b>	<b>23 (6,3%)</b>
<b>Right to effective legal protection and compensa- tion for damages:</b> refusal to provide legal assistance	<b>1 (1,6%)</b>	<b>4 (13,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>8 (10,8%)</b>	—	<b>13 (3,6%)</b>
<b>Right to freedom of movement</b>	—	—	<b>1 (4,5%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>2 (7,4%)</b>	<b>5 (6,8%)</b>	<b>2 (1,9%)</b>	<b>11 (3,0%)</b>
Forced departure from city or country	—	—	1 (4,5%)	—	2 (7,4%)	5 (6,8%)	1 (0,9%)	9 (2,5%)
Refusal or obstacles at border crossing	—	—	—	1 (2,3%)	—	—	1 (0,9%)	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to life:</b> murder or attempted murder	<b>6 (9,7%)</b>	—	<b>1 (4,5%)</b>	—	—	<b>3 (4,1%)</b>	<b>1 (0,9%)</b>	<b>11 (3,0%)</b>
<b>Right to education</b>	<b>2 (3,2%)</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>2 (2,7%)</b>	<b>5 (4,6%)</b>	<b>9 (2,5%)</b>
Bullying in educational institutions	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	—	1 (1,4%)	5 (4,6%)	7 (1,9%)
Expulsion or threat of expulsion from an educational institution	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	—	2 (2,7%)	—	3 (0,8%)
<b>Right to equality and non-discrimination:</b> refusal by private establishments to provide services or humiliating treatment by their employees	—	<b>1 (3,3%)</b>	—	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>1 (3,7%)</b>	—	<b>5 (4,6%)</b>	<b>8 (2,2%)</b>

Characteristic, N (%)	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to seek asylum: refusal to provide asylum</b>	—	—	—	<b>8 (18,6%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>8 (2,2%)</b>
<b>Protection from violations in the field of medicine</b>	<b>2 (3,2%)</b>	—	<b>1 (4,5%)</b>	—	<b>1 (3,7%)</b>	<b>3 (4,1%)</b>	—	<b>7 (1,9%)</b>
Forced HIV testing	1 (1,6%)	—	1 (4,5%)	—	1 (3,7%)	1 (1,4%)	—	4 (1,1%)
Forced treatment	1 (1,6%)	—	—	—	—	1 (1,4%)	—	2 (0,5%)
Forced anal exam	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1,4%)	—	1 (0,3%)
<b>Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association</b>	—	<b>2 (6,7%)</b>	—	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	—	<b>2 (2,7%)</b>	—	<b>6 (1,6%)</b>
Barriers to the work of NGOs, human rights defenders, and activists	—	—	—	1 (2,3%)	—	2 (2,7%)	—	3 (0,8%)
Barriers to holding peaceful assemblies	—	2 (6,7%)	—	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	3 (0,8%)
<b>Right to start a family</b>	<b>2 (3,2%)</b>	—	—	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>3 (0,8%)</b>
Forced marriage	2 (3,2%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 (0,5%)
Deprivation of custody of a child	—	—	—	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	1 (0,3%)

**Table 3. Types of rights violations against LGBT people, by SOGI of victims, January-September 2024**

Characteristic, N (%)	GBMSM	Trans women	Lesbian and bisexual people	LGBT people (in general)	Trans men	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to privacy</b>	<b>111 (40,2%)</b>	<b>11 (25,6%)</b>	<b>5 (28,3%)</b>	—	<b>1 (20,0%)</b>	<b>128 (35,0%)</b>
Disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI	61 (22,1%)	5 (11,6%)	3 (14,3%)	—	1 (20,0%)	70 (19,1%)
Extortion of money	52 (18,8%)	4 (9,3%)	1 (4,8%)	—	—	57 (15,6%)
Unauthorized search of home or person	27 (9,8%)	3 (7,0%)	—	—	—	30 (8,2%)
Forced disclosure of information about partners	16 (5,8%)	4 (9,3%)	—	—	—	20 (5,5%)
Disclosure or threat of disclosure of HIV status	4 (1,4%)	—	1 (4,8%)	—	—	5 (1,4%)
Unauthorized access to personal correspondence	3 (1,1%)	—	1 (4,8%)	—	—	4 (1,1%)
Criminalization of MSM	2 (0,7%)	—	—	—	—	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to bodily integrity</b>	<b>91 (33,0%)</b>	<b>17 (39,5%)</b>	<b>12 (57,1%)</b>	—	<b>3 (60,0%)</b>	<b>123 (33,6%)</b>
Physical violence	54 (19,6%)	8 (18,6%)	3 (14,3%)	—	2 (40,0%)	67 (18,3%)
Domestic violence	22 (8,0%)	4 (9,3%)	6 (28,6%)	—	1 (20,0%)	33 (9,0%)
Sexual violence or harassment	18 (6,5%)	6 (14,0%)	3 (14,3%)	—	—	27 (7,4%)

Characteristic, N (%)	GBMSM	Trans women	Lesbian and bisexual people	LGBT people (in general)	Trans men	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to be free from torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment</b>	<b>74 (26,8%)</b>	<b>10 (23,3%)</b>	<b>3 (14,3%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	—	<b>88 (24,0%)</b>
Other abuses of power by law enforcement agencies	68 (24,6%)	10 (23,3%)	3 (14,3%)	—	—	81 (22,1%)
Use of force by law enforcement officers	22 (8,0%)	1 (2,3%)	—	1 (4,8%)	—	24 (6,6%)
<b>Right to be free from arbitrary deprivation of liberty</b>	<b>60 (21,7%)</b>	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	<b>2 (9,5%)</b>	—	—	<b>64 (17,5%)</b>
Unlawful arrest or detention	57 (20,7%)	2 (4,7%)	2 (9,5%)	—	—	61 (16,7%)
Coerced confession	15 (5,4%)	—	—	—	—	15 (4,1%)
<b>Right to recognition as a person with legal rights</b>	<b>33 (12,0%)</b>	<b>4 (9,3%)</b>	—	—	<b>1 (20,0%)</b>	<b>38 (10,4%)</b>
Material or property damage	33 (12,0%)	3 (7,0%)	—	—	1 (20,0%)	37 (10,1%)
Denial of social services due to gender transition	—	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	1 (0,3%)

Characteristic, N (%)	GBMSM	Trans women	Lesbian and bisexual people	LGBT people (in general)	Trans men	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to the highest attainable standard of health</b>	<b>23 (8,3%)</b>	<b>7 (16,3%)</b>	<b>3 (14,3%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	—	<b>34 (9,3%)</b>
Humiliating treatment in a medical institution	15 (5,4%)	6 (14,0%)	3 (14,3%)	—	—	24 (6,6%)
Denial of medical services	10 (3,6%)	4 (9,3%)	2 (9,5%)	1 (4,8%)	—	17 (4,6%)
Disclosure of medical information related to SOGI	4 (1,4%)	—	—	—	—	4 (1,1%)
Disclosure of medical information related to HIV	2 (0,7%)	—	—	—	—	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to work</b>	<b>24 (8,7%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>2 (9,5%)</b>	—	—	<b>27 (7,4%)</b>
Dismissal and refusal to hire	17 (6,2%)	1 (2,3%)	1 (4,8%)	—	—	19 (5,2%)
Bullying in the workplace	8 (2,9%)	—	—	—	—	8 (2,2%)
Refusal to pay salary	4 (1,4%)	—	1 (4,8%)	—	—	5 (1,4%)
<b>Right to freedom of opinion and expression</b>	<b>5 (1,8%)</b>	<b>3 (7,0%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	<b>16 (76,2%)</b>	—	<b>25 (6,8%)</b>
Hate speech in the media and by public figures	2 (0,7%)	1 (2,3%)	1 (4,8%)	13 (61,9%)	—	17 (4,6%)
Hate speech by private individuals	3 (1,1%)	2 (4,7%)	—	3 (14,3%)	—	8 (2,2%)

Characteristic, N (%)	GBMSM	Trans women	Lesbian and bisexual people	LGBT people (in general)	Trans men	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to adequate housing:</b> eviction or forced to leave place of residence	<b>19 (6,9%)</b>	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	—	<b>1 (20,0%)</b>	<b>23 (6,3%)</b>
<b>Right to effective legal pro- tection and compensation for damages:</b> refusal to provide legal assistance	<b>13 (4,7%)</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>13 (3,6%)</b>
<b>Right to freedom of movement</b>	<b>9 (3,3%)</b>	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>11 (3,0%)</b>
Forced departure from city or country	8 (2,9%)	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	9 (2,5%)
Refusal or obstacles at border crossing	1 (0,4%)	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	2 (0,5%)
<b>Right to life:</b> murder or attempted murder	<b>9 (3,3%)</b>	<b>2 (4,7%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>11 (3,0%)</b>
<b>Right to education</b>	<b>8 (2,9%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>9 (2,5%)</b>
Bullying in educational institutions	6 (2,2%)	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	7 (1,9%)
Expulsion or threat of expulsion from an educational institution	3 (1,1%)	—	—	—	—	3 (0,8%)
<b>Right to equality and non-discrimination:</b> refusal by private establishments to provide services or humiliating treatment by their employees	<b>5 (1,8%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	<b>1 (4,8%)</b>	—	<b>8 (2,2%)</b>

Characteristic, N (%)	GBMSM	Trans women	Lesbian and bisexual people	LGBT people (in general)	Trans men	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total cases (N)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Right to seek asylum: refusal to provide asylum</b>	<b>7 (2,5%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>8 (2,2%)</b>
<b>Protection from violations in the field of medicine</b>	<b>6 (2,2%)</b>	<b>1 (2,3%)</b>	—	—	—	<b>7 (1,9%)</b>
Forced HIV testing	3 (1,1%)	1 (2,3%)	—	—	—	4 (1,1%)
Forced treatment	2 (0,7%)	—	—	—	—	2 (0,5%)
Forced anal exam	1 (0,4%)	—	—	—	—	1 (0,3%)
<b>Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association</b>	<b>2 (0,7%)</b>	—	<b>2 (9,5%)</b>	<b>2 (9,5%)</b>	—	<b>6 (1,6%)</b>
Barriers to the work of NGOs, human rights defenders, and activists	2 (0,7%)	—	—	1 (4,8%)	—	3 (0,8%)
Barriers to holding peaceful assemblies	—	—	2 (9,5%)	1 (4,8%)	—	3 (0,8%)
<b>Right to start a family</b>	<b>1 (0,4%)</b>	—	<b>2 (9,5%)</b>	—	—	<b>3 (0,8%)</b>
Forced marriage	1 (0,4%)	—	1 (4,8%)	—	—	2 (0,5%)
Deprivation of custody of a child	—	—	1 (4,8%)	—	—	1 (0,3%)





## RIGHT TO PRIVACY

In the first nine months of 2024, 128 violations of the right to privacy were documented, which accounts for a third of all recorded cases. The analyzed information shows that in all countries except Moldova, disclosure or threat of disclosure of SOGI, extortion of money, unauthorized searches of housing or persons, coercion to disclose information about partners, disclosure or threat of disclosure of HIV status, unauthorized access to personal correspondence, as well as the criminalization of MSM took place. The largest number of such violations was documented among MSM, and when disaggregating data by country, in Uzbekistan, where law enforcement agencies are the most frequent violators and same-sex relations have been criminalized since 1994. The existence of Article 120 “Sodomy” of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan [11] also establishes a basis for the persecution of MSM while preventing victims from defending their rights.



## DISCLOSURE OR THREAT OF DISCLOSURE OF SOGI (OUTING)

Was documented in 69 cases in all countries, except Moldova, and is often linked with extortion of money in exchange for not revealing victims’ SOGI.

In all 19 cases in Uzbekistan, the victims were MSM, and the violators were either law enforcement officers or people in the victims’ social circle. For example, in six cases, the police, as a result of a “fake date” or search, extorted money in exchange for silence, and threatened to open a case under Article 120 “Sodomy”, and disseminate information about the sexual orientation of the victims to family members and colleagues. In one case, the MSM victim had previously been sentenced to house arrest under this article, and the police disclosed information about the reason for his punishment, which led to an attack by unknown persons. Threats of outing also came from former partners and colleagues who demanded money in exchange for silence. In one case, a doctor raped a victim by threatening to reveal his sexual orientation to his parents and law enforcement agencies. Neighbors also told victims’ parents about seeing them kissing their partners. In one case, a teacher filed a complaint with the school administration against a student, which led to his expulsion.

In Ukraine, unlike in Uzbekistan, there are no recorded cases of outing or threats thereof by law enforcement, however, in the majority of the 15 documented cases, the violators were people in the social circles of GBMSM. Colleagues or classmates disclosed information about victims’ sexual orientation at their place of work or study, and in rare cases, demanded money for silence, Neighbors either demanded money for silence or told other residents or landlords about victims’ sexual orientation. In one case, an ex-partner threatened to disclose the victim’s SOGI as revenge for ending the relationship. In four cases, threats to disseminate information about the sexual orientation of GBMSM came from strangers extorting money in exchange for silence.

In Armenia, 15 cases were documented, of which three involved trans women and one a lesbian. In four cases, threats to disclose SOGI were linked with extortion of money in exchange for not disseminating intimate videos and the correspondence of victims providing sexual services for money. In three cases, the disclosure of the sexual orientation of GBMSM took place in military registration and enlistment offices, including subsequent outing to parents. There were also documented cases of blackmail by former partners or reports to law enforcement agencies as revenge for a breakup. In two cases, trans women were outed via social media, with the posting of intimate videos and disclosure of their SOGI during live broadcasts.



In Tajikistan, all 8 cases of outing or threats of outing were committed by law enforcement officers, while the victims were both GBMSM and lesbians (in two cases). All cases were similar to each other and took place according to one of two scenarios: law enforcement officers met with victims under various pretexts, and either demanded money in exchange for not disclosing information about their sexual orientation, or extorted the contact information of other representatives of the LGBT community. Police officers received information about SOGI in the following ways: from employees of a cafe who recorded victims' communication with partners; as a result of raids and searches linked to the existing Law "on the Regulation of Celebrations and Rituals in the Republic of Tajikistan" [12], under which people are punished for wearing clothes that are foreign to the country; or by monitoring social media. Often, after receiving victims' contact information during interrogations of their partners or acquaintances, the police then use the information to blackmail them and threaten to disclose their SOGI.


Documented cases in Kazakhstan show that disclosure of victims' SOGI takes place through the publication of photographs and information on social media. In five out of seven cases, it was either law enforcement agencies or partners extorting money by threatening to out victims.

In Kyrgyzstan, 4 out of 6 cases involved a "fake date" by law enforcement officials who threatened to reveal the victims' SOGI and disseminate videos or their correspondence unless the victims paid money. The victims were both GBMSM and a trans woman. In another case, a "fake date" was organized by strangers who forced the victim to record a video about his sexual orientation. They took away the victim's phone and threatened to out him if he turned to law enforcement. There was also one case of outing by relatives of a trans woman, which resulted in her being subjected to psychological violence within her family.

## EXTORTION OF MONEY

Documented in 57 cases, often occurs in connection with threats to disclose the SOGI of victims, as described above. At the same time, law enforcement agencies often demand payments from victims in exchange for not arresting or opening a case against them, which highlights the law enforcement practice whereby punitive laws in countries are used for the personal benefit of police officers. Depending on the country, law enforcement agencies demand money by threatening prosecution under laws such as:

-  Article 143 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic [13] "Infection with a venereal or incurable infectious disease";
-  Articles 125 «Infection with the human immunodeficiency virus» and 241 «Illegal production and circulation of pornographic materials or objects» of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan [14];

 Articles 120 “Sodomy” and 130 «Production, import, distribution, advertising, demonstration of pornographic products» of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan [11].

In Ukraine, a case was documented where strangers arranged a “fake date” and demanded money by threatening to file a complaint against the victim for engaging in sex work. In another case, a neighbor extorted money in exchange for silence after he saw the victim throwing away ART medications. In Armenia and Kazakhstan, strangers demanded money or a loan in the name of the victims during “fake dates”, including in exchange for not raping the victim.

## UNAUTHORIZED SEARCHES OF HOUSING OR PERSONS

Were documented in 30 cases, in three of which the victims were trans women from Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In Armenia, a trans woman was stopped on the street by law enforcement officers and subjected to a search without explanation, and in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, police posing as clients of sex workers arranged a “fake date” and subsequently subjected the victims to a search of their home and person.

The largest number of violations was documented in Uzbekistan (16 cases), where law enforcement officers, under various pretexts, conducted searches of MSM victims’ homes or person. These searches were carried out under various pretexts, including anonymous complaints, “suspicious behavior,” “combating extremist activity,” or “anti-terrorist operations”. In some cases, the search and inspection took place without explanation of the reason, and sometimes without the violators providing police IDs.

In other countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine) such violations were isolated. The pretexts for searches and inspections included having long or dyed hair, as well as participation in private parties.

## FORCED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ABOUT PARTNERS

Was recorded in 20 cases, half of which were in Uzbekistan. Most often, this occurred as part of the interrogation of victims who were demanded to provide the contacts of other MSM. In six cases documented in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, police officers coerced MSM or trans women providing sexual services for a fee to disclose information about their clients. In another case in Armenia, a radical group of strangers subjected a trans woman to violence and demanded she provide the contacts of her clients and other sex workers.

In Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, demands to disclose information about partners were made by healthcare workers and law enforcement agencies after GBMSM were diagnosed with HIV. In Kazakhstan, a victim went to the AIDS Center for post-exposure prophylaxis, after which the doctor demanded the name of the partner with whom he had unprotected sex.

## DISCLOSURE OR THREAT OF DISCLOSURE OF HIV STATUS

Was documented in 5 cases (three of which occurred in Ukraine):



In Armenia, during a visit to a military registration and enlistment office, the HIV status of an MSM victim was disclosed. The right to medical confidentiality of people living with HIV is enshrined in the Law of the Republic of Armenia “on the Prevention of Diseases Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” [15], a violation of which took place in the documented case.



In Ukraine, after the victim’s partner learned of his HIV status and ended their relationship, he shared the information with his new boyfriend. In another case, the victim’s neighbor notified the landlord of the victim’s HIV status, after which he was forced to move out of the apartment. There is also a documented case where a stranger threatened to reveal the HIV status of the victim if he did not pay money. These cases contravene the Law of Ukraine “on Combating the Spread of Diseases Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Legal and Social Protection of People Living with HIV” [16].

## UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Occurred in 4 cases, in which the violators were relatives or colleagues/classmates. In Kyrgyzstan, a mother discovered personal videos, which subsequently led to conflicts and violence by family members. In Armenia, a similar case occurred with an underage lesbian, whose mother accessed her phone and discovered correspondence with her partner. In Ukraine, in one case, a colleague viewed the victim’s correspondence without permission, which led to threats and extortion of money. In another case, classmates used the victim’s phone, went on social media, and spread information about the victim’s sexual orientation among other students.

## CRIMINALIZATION OF MSM

Was documented twice in Uzbekistan in relation to the GBMSM. Both victims, aged 25-26, were detained by law enforcement officers during «fake dates» and taken to the police station, after which a criminal case was opened against them under Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In one case, the trial was ongoing at the time this report was written, while in the other, the victim was sentenced to one year of house arrest.



## RIGHT TO BODILY INTEGRITY

Out of 366 cases, 123 (33.6%) involved violations of the right to bodily integrity, including sexual violence or harassment, and physical and domestic violence. The victims in these cases included GBMSM, trans people, lesbians and bisexual women. The violations occurred on the basis of SOGI, in connection with the HIV status of the victims, or their involvement in sex work.



### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Was documented in 67 cases and is often committed by groups of strangers in public places or on the street, as well as after violators find victims on social media and arrange “fake dates” with them. In some cases, physical violence was accompanied by theft, damage to property, threats, and aggressive rhetoric.

Group physical violence against GBMSM and trans women, including kicks and blows to the head, was reported in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. The reasons for the violence often varied: in Armenia, attacks were based on ethnic hatred (e.g., statements like “foreigners have no place here – they are gay and are destroying the country”), while in Kyrgyzstan, they were based on religious beliefs (“this is a Muslim country”). In some cases, attacks were also based on the victims’ appearance (e.g., blue hair) or their affiliation with the LGBT community (including wearing a military chevron with LGBT symbols in Ukraine). Overhearing telephone conversations also served as a pretext for violence.

Violence is also committed by people within the social circles of GBMSM. In Ukraine, there are documented cases of violence committed by acquaintances who accidentally saw gay pornography on the victim’s phone, as well as by neighbors in dormitories and classmates. One of the most disturbing cases was the beating of a minor in a school toilet by a group of ten people, who mocked him, simulated oral sex, and spat in his face.

The work environment is not always safe for LGBT people. In some cases, physical violence was committed by co-workers (Ukraine), as well as clients and visitors of the establishments where the victims worked (Ukraine, Uzbekistan). In some cases, violence occurred in entertainment venues: in Ukraine, a pub waiter beat up a victim, while in Tajikistan, a nightclub security guard attacked a girl “so that she does not disgrace Tajik girls.” In two cases, physical violence was committed by medical workers: in Armenia, a doctor at a psychiatric hospital where the victim was sent by his parents beat him, and in Ukraine, a male nurse beat a patient who lost consciousness during a medical procedure.

Physical violence has also been documented against trans people, primarily trans women, as well as against MSM who provide sex for a fee. Eight such cases were recorded in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. In most cases, the violence occurred during “fake dates” or at the places where clients are found. For example, in Armenia, a MSM who provided massage services, including intimate massages, was beaten up by a client. In Kyrgyzstan, a trans man faced violence from a client after providing sex services.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Was documented in 33 cases and took place in each of the countries included in the analysis, despite the existence of laws prohibiting domestic violence [17-23].

The main violators were the parents or immediate family members of the victims, while in only two cases, it was the sexual partners who committed the violence. In Armenia, the victim was subjected to violence after an argument with their partner. Thanks to the intervention of a public organization, they were referred for a forensic medical examination. With the entry into force on July 1, 2024 of amendments to the Law “on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Protection of Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence, and the Restoration of Family Solidarity” [24], such a case can be investigated as domestic violence committed by a partner, i.e. “a person with whom there is a relationship that constitutes a special romantic relationship, regardless of the circumstances of cohabitation.” [17]

In most cases, violators were the victims’ fathers, stepfathers or brothers. Violence mainly occurred after violators accidentally found videos of victims’ sexual acts, observed them having sex with partners, or after victims were outed by relatives or neighbors. In four cases, victims were subjected to physical and emotional violence, as well as threats and insults, after coming out to their parents (in Ukraine).

Domestic violence often goes beyond beatings and insults. In some cases, victims were locked indoors without food or water for a whole day (Kyrgyzstan) or held in detention for up to ten days (Armenia). In Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, cases were documented in which methods of control were used, such as prohibiting communication with certain people, deleting social media profiles, confiscating phones and documents, as well as forced visits to religious sites (mosques and churches) or threats of psychiatric treatment. In three cases in Uzbekistan, relatives (fathers and a sister’s husband) not only used physical and psychological violence, but also filed complaints about the victims’ homosexuality with law enforcement agencies, which put them at risk of criminal prosecution under Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan [11].

In six of the domestic violence cases analyzed, the victims were lesbians, including two minors. These cases were documented in Armenia and Tajikistan, and it was parents or brothers committing the violence.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR HARASSMENT

occurred in 27 cases. The offenders included both close acquaintances and complete strangers. In Ukraine, for example, cases of sexual harassment in the workplace were recorded, including actions by an employer, and attempts at forced sex by a visitor to a clothing store where the victim worked as a consultant. At the same time, Article 154 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine establishes direct criminal liability for forced sexual contact without consent, including if the victim is financially or professionally dependent on the violator [25].

GBMSM and trans women face a threat of violence not only from colleagues, but also from healthcare workers, teachers and service providers:

- 🎯 In Uzbekistan, a doctor raped a client and threatened to reveal his sexual orientation. According to Article 118 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, rape by an employee of a medical institution who is responsible for monitoring the victim is punishable by imprisonment from 10 to 15 years [11]. However, if the victim seeks legal assistance, this may result in outing by the violator during the investigation, and the victim risks being charged under Article 120.
- 🎯 In Ukraine, a teacher blackmailed a student, and forced him to have sex in exchange for passing an exam and continuing his education. This can be considered an abuse of power or official position (Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine [25]), and also falls under the Law “on the Prevention of Corruption” [26], where the undue benefit in this case is sexual relations [27].
- 🎯 In Kazakhstan, an underage trans woman was harassed by a taxi driver. Harassment and violent sexual acts against minors are regulated by Article 121 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan [28] and are punishable by, among other things, deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in corresponding activities.

Two cases of sexual violence by military personnel were documented. In Armenia, a trans woman was forced to answer sexual questions at a military registration and enlistment office by an officer who offered sexual relations in exchange for her safety in an institution where she had previously faced discrimination. In Uzbekistan, a soldier was raped multiple times by fellow soldiers. The administration of the military unit ignored his complaint, which led to him continuing to serve under conditions of constant violence.

GBMSM and trans women who provide sex services are at increased risk of sexual violence. In Uzbekistan, a trans woman was raped by law enforcement officers who arranged a fake date in order to obtain information about other sex workers and clients. In Armenia, a victim was coerced into providing free sexual services by a person whom they met through social media. Two cases of trans women being raped by clients, including a gang rape, were also documented in the country. Although in each of these cases, the law provides for punishment for gang rape [11] or “pimping” [29], administrative liability for the provision of sex services acts as a barrier to legal protection for the victims [30, 31].

GBMSM are subjected to harassment and violence during meetings with partners found via social media (Kazakhstan and Ukraine). In such cases, despite expressing reluctance to engage in intimate relations, victims often find themselves in a situation where it is impossible to avoid violence. Violators threaten to out victims if they have saved intimate correspondence or videos, or use physical force. At the same time, Article 121 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes punishment for “sodomy” or other actions of a sexual nature committed together with violence or the threat of violence, or by taking advantage of the helpless state of the victim. Such actions are punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 8 years [28].

In Armenia, two cases were documented where lesbian women were raped. In both cases, the perpetrators were male acquaintances who knew about the victims’ sexual orientation.



## RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

During the first nine months of 2024, 88 cases of violations of the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were documented, 25 of which involved the use of force by law enforcement officers. Violations of this right were documented in all countries except Moldova, and the victims included GBMSM, lesbians, and trans women. At the same time, in each of the countries included in the analysis where such cases were documented, there is a prohibition on abuse of power or official authority [11, 14, 25, 28, 29].



### USE OF FORCE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

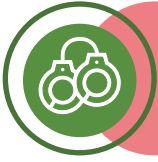
Was recorded in 24 cases in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Most frequently, documented cases involved beatings accompanied by psychological violence against victims during searches or detentions. In one case in Kyrgyzstan, law enforcement officers kicked victims, beat them with rifle butts, and twisted their arms during a search of an establishment. In one case in Uzbekistan, police officers beat a victim and broke his rib during a “fake date”, and in another, they beat him with truncheons.



### OTHER ABUSES OF POWER BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Were documented in 81 cases, 34 of which occurred in Uzbekistan. Often such cases involved abuse, verbal humiliation, psychological torture, and frequently, video recording and confiscation of phones and personal belongings without explanation. In three cases the victims were lesbians (in Tajikistan and Armenia), and in 10 cases they were trans women (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine).







## RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY

The right to be free from arbitrary deprivation of liberty, which includes both unlawful arrest and detention and coerced confessions, was documented in 64 cases, half of which took place in Uzbekistan.

### UNLAWFUL ARREST OR DETENTION

Occurred in 61 cases, 27 of which took place in Uzbekistan and another 19 in Tajikistan. Often victims were detained without explanation, including through the use of “fake dates”. Less often, the basis for detention included complaints allegedly filed against the victims, their appearance, or legislative acts in force in the countries, such as:

 Article 241 “Illegal production and circulation of pornographic materials or objects” of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan [14], or the Law “on the Regulation of Celebrations and Ceremonies in the Republic of Tajikistan” [12], which prohibits celebrating birthdays outside of one’s family and wearing clothing “foreign to the national culture”;

 Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan “Sodomy” [11].

Moreover, victims were often detained for several days, subjected to physical and psychological violence, and only released after money was extorted from them, or in rare cases, when no evidence was found that they are affiliated with the LGBT community.

### COERCED CONFESSIONS

Were documented in 15 cases, 13 of which occurred in Uzbekistan, and one each in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In Uzbekistan, law enforcement officers forced victims to testify under Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, or the article on storing and distributing pornography, or extorted money in exchange for freedom. In Kyrgyzstan, law enforcement officers first forced the victim to confess to having sex in a public place, and then demanded money from the victim. In Tajikistan, law enforcement officers arrested the victim and forced him to write a statement that he was gay and engaged in homosexual sex, but released him after the victim used his personal connections and contacted the police leadership.



## RIGHT TO RECOGNITION AS A PERSON WITH LEGAL RIGHTS

From January to September 2024, all countries analyzed except Moldova documented cases of violations of the right to recognition as a person with legal rights. Almost all incidents involved property or material damage. In one case in Ukraine, a trans woman was denied social services due to gender transition. The girl, who was in a frontline city, was denied humanitarian aid because the gender marker in her documents indicated that her gender was “male.”



## PROPERTY OR MATERIAL DAMAGE

was documented in 37 cases. The majority of these cases took place in Ukraine (16 cases). Most often, victims, including trans women, had their money, phones, jewelry or technological equipment (for example, laptops) taken away by law enforcement officers (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) or strangers (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), including during “fake dates”.

In five cases in Armenia and Ukraine, victims, after meeting up with partners from online, discovered that their phones, bank cards, and valuables, such as household appliances, had been stolen. In five cases in Ukraine, property damage was caused by neighbors after finding out about the sexual orientation of the victims: they broke windows, painted obscene phrases on the walls of houses, and hung up signs with humiliating words. There were also documented cases of deliberate damage to laptops and other material damage, such as the destruction of greenhouses in the garden or an Internet cable. Colleagues also caused material damage after finding out about the sexual orientation of GBMSM victims, including damage to clothes, technological equipment, and personal property. In isolated cases in Ukraine, there were cases where the landlord took the victim’s things after they were outed. An MSM working as a courier also had his bicycle damaged during the delivery of an order.

In other countries, isolated cases were documented where a client of trans male sex worker broke glass and other things in the victim’s home during an argument (Kyrgyzstan), and where a mother destroyed her son’s phone, laptop, and clothes after finding out about his homosexuality (Uzbekistan). In Kazakhstan, when a victim contacted the police after facing violence by strangers, law enforcement agencies did return his phone and bank card, saying that an investigation was underway, but did not provide information on when his personal belongings would be returned.



## RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH

34 cases of violations of the right to the highest attainable standard of health were documented, a third of which occurred in Ukraine. These mainly involved humiliating treatment in medical institutions, refusals to provide medical services, or the disclosure of medical data related to the victim's SOGI or HIV status.



### HUMILIATING TREATMENT IN MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

was documented in 24 cases in all countries included in the analysis, except for Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. In most cases, violators included medical workers from institutions that are not directly related to HIV. Staff of public and private hospitals, emergency medical or ambulance departments, and psychiatric hospitals allowed discriminatory and humiliating treatment of victims, including GBMSM and trans and lesbian women. The violators had a wide range of specializations: surgeons, including plastic surgeons, proctologists, psychiatrists and psychologists, family doctors, and dermatologists.

In one case in Kyrgyzstan, an epidemiologist subjected an MSM to humiliating treatment and used rude and discriminatory language after the victim was diagnosed with HIV.



### REFUSAL TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES

took place in 17 cases, 14 of which were committed by employees of medical institutions not involved in HIV-related care. For example:

- ✘ a proctologist, after examining an MSM, refused to provide assistance, stating that he does not provide care to “this category of people because he considers them to be freaks of nature” (Uzbekistan);
- ✘ During a visit to a military registration and enlistment office, staff refused to provide assistance to the victim after he became ill (Armenia);
- ✘ The victim, who was taken to a hospital with an injury, was denied surgery after an initial examination (Armenia);
- ✘ GBMSM and trans women were denied the services of a family doctor after they disclosed their SOGI (Ukraine), and lesbians were denied access to a family doctor who stated they do not accept people “whose sexual orientation is not normal” (Moldova).

In Armenia, during a consultation with a plastic surgeon, a trans woman was denied a mammoplasty after she was diagnosed with HIV, which violates the right of people living with HIV to non-discriminatory treatment, as enshrined in Article 14 of the Law “on the Prevention of Diseases Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” [15].

In Ukraine, a surgeon refused to perform a surgery because the victim was HIV-positive, in contravention of the rights of people living with HIV enshrined in law [16]. In Kazakhstan, a doctor at the AIDS Center refused to administer pre-exposure prophylaxis because she believed the victim was at low risk, thereby violating the algorithm specified in the clinical protocol for diagnosing and treating HIV [32].

## DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL DATA RELATED TO SOGI

was documented in 4 cases, three of which occurred in Uzbekistan, and one in Armenia. In Uzbekistan, the doctor called law enforcement officials after the victim went to the hospital with moderate injuries resulting from domestic violence. In two other cases, the victim's SOGI was disclosed by medical workers at the AIDS Center to law enforcement officials to investigate the circumstances of their infection with HIV [33]. In Armenia, a victim was referred to a mental health center during conscription and told the center's staff that he had his first sexual partner at age 15. The staff passed this information on to law enforcement officials, based on the fact that, according to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, sexual relations with a person under 16 years of age is considered a crime [29].

## DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL DATA RELATED TO HIV

Occurred twice in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, the victim's HIV status was reported by an epidemiologist to law enforcement agencies, an obligation enshrined in law [33]. In Kazakhstan, when an MSM asked for post-exposure prophylaxis at the AIDS Center, the doctor forced him to give his partner's first and last name, after which she checked the information in the database and disclosed his HIV-positive status.

## RIGHT TO WORK

In the countries of the region, 27 violations of the right to work were documented, which included dismissals or refusals to hire, non-payment of wages, and cases of bullying. Victims were generally GBMSM, while some cases involved a trans woman (Ukraine) and a lesbian (Tajikistan). The main violators were employers and, in some cases, colleagues. Despite existing laws prohibiting discrimination in sphere of labor [34-39], including on the basis of HIV [16] and SOGI [34, 40], implementation remains problematic, especially in Ukraine.

## DISMISSAL OR REFUSAL TO HIRE

was documented in 19 cases in all countries of this analysis, with the exception of Kyrgyzstan. Most often the situations were related to the sexual orientation of the victims. In three cases, MSM living with HIV lost their jobs after their employers found out about their HIV status. For example, in Kazakhstan this happened to an employee in the tourism industry, in Ukraine – to a waiter and a security guard. Such cases are direct violations of the law [16, 35].

In other cases, dismissal occurred due to victims' SOGI, including in shops and dining establishments. In Ukraine, a trans woman was fired from her job in a cafe and told by her employer that “people with an ambiguous orientation and gender will not work for me.” Refusal to hire after a victim's probationary period was also documented in the Pension Fund in Ukraine, where elderly clients complained of “behavior uncharacteristic of a man.” In Uzbekistan, a civil servant and a law enforcement officer were forced to leave their positions after being outed, and faced obstacles in gaining subsequent employment. In Moldova, a bisexual woman who worked as a manager was fired due to her sexual orientation, which forced her to begin providing sex services, which directly violates the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation in labor and employment established by the Law “on Ensuring Equality” [34].

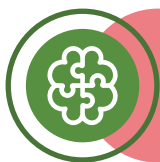
In two cases, employers refused to hire victims after checking their social media accounts, on which the candidates were open about their sexual orientation (Ukraine). In Armenia, when applying for a job at a bank, the victim was asked to present a military ID, which indicated he was dismissed from military service for homosexuality; this served as the reason for the subsequent refusal to hire him.

## BULLYING IN THE WORKPLACE

Based on sexual orientation was recorded in eight cases in relation to GBMSM. Five cases occurred in Ukraine and three in Uzbekistan. The victims' colleagues spoke inappropriately to them, mocked them, and less often, exerted physical violence and caused material damage (for example, damage to belongings). In Uzbekistan, cases of blackmail and extortion were documented, when colleagues threatened to disclose information about victims' sexual orientation, and demanded that they be fired, while stating «people like you should not work at all and die in poverty.”

## REFUSAL TO PAY SALARIES

Occurred in five cases. The victims included GBMSM in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine and a lesbian in Tajikistan. In Kyrgyzstan, the director of a fast food establishment fined an employee after a customer complained, and used obscene language about the victim's sexual orientation. In Ukraine, cases of non-payment of wages in dining establishments were documented, where employers refused to pay wages as fines for spoiled food or uniforms, or due to the unofficial nature of the victim's employment. In these cases, protecting the rights of victims can be complicated by their lack of official employment. At the same time, responsibility for this also lies with the employer.



## RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression were documented in 25 cases, the majority of which occurred in Moldova (17 cases). Manifestations of this violation frequently included hate speech in the media and statements by public figures, and less often, hate speech and public appeals by private individuals.



### HATE SPEECH IN THE MEDIA AND STATEMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Were documented in 17 cases, 15 of which involved victims in Moldova. Cases mainly related to:

- ⦿ the holding of the Equality March in the summer of 2024, when before and after the event, bloggers on social media engaged in hate speech against the LGBT community, and called for physical violence and murder (4 cases); the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova also published a statement on its social media containing hate speech and calls to take part in an anti-LGBT march “for the traditional family” [41];
- ⦿ presidential elections in the country, where candidates and parties used discriminatory rhetoric against LGBT people for their political purposes. For example, Renato Usatii, leader of the party “Our Party”, threatened to ban “LGBT propaganda” in schools, and, using the Paris Olympics as an excuse, said he would buy every LGBT person a house in Italy for one euro and get rid of everyone for 100 euros. He also mockingly mentioned the Equality March, and promised to get rid of it. The leader of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova, Igor Dodon, claimed that after the presidential elections, he would introduce quotas for the employment of LGBT people in state institutions. Parliamentarian Vasyl Bolya, running in the elections, posted hate speech against the LGBT community on his social media in order to attract homophobic voters. Political leader Ilan Shor posted his political agenda on his social media, one of the points of which is a ban on “LGBT propaganda.” Parliamentarian Bohdan Tsîrdea posted a video on social media, in which primary school students waved rainbow flags, which were presented as LGBT flags, although they were actually symbols of peace.

In Armenia, a trans woman gave an opening speech at an event dedicated to aid for refugees, where she mentioned that there are representatives of different vulnerable groups among the displaced persons. The speech was recorded by a blogger who was at the event, and later posted on social media with negative comments and hate speech towards trans people. Meanwhile, Article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia guarantees everyone the right to freedom of expression, which may be limited only by law for the purpose of protecting health and morals or honor and good name, as well as the fundamental rights and freedoms of others [42]. The prohibition of hate speech is to some extent regulated by Article 330 “Public calls for the use of violence, public justification or public propaganda of violence, as well as the dissemination of materials or objects for this purpose” of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia [29].

In Kazakhstan, a video of a lesbian talking about the realities of life for queer teenagers in the country was disseminated by a blogger on social media and accompanied by hostile comments and negative reactions.



## HATE SPEECH AND PUBLIC APPEALS BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Occurred in 8 cases, half of which were in Kazakhstan, and one each in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

In Armenia, an intimate video of a trans woman was posted on social media and accompanied by hate speech. In Kazakhstan, a trans woman faced public hate speech and insults from senior members of Kazakhstani society (participants in the December 1986 uprising) who staged a rally against the LGBT community. Also in Kazakhstan, there are documented cases of the publication of a petition demanding the consideration of a law “prohibiting LGBT propaganda” [43]), as well as aggressive comments following the launch of the first website for LGBT teenagers and the posting of a podcast featuring local gay people.

In Ukraine, a MSM in an entertainment establishment was subjected to obscene language from a woman who said that she has two children, hates gay people, and would kill one of her children if he had a non-traditional sexual orientation.

In Moldova, a man insulted and threatened to kill a gay man, and a complaint was filed against him under Article 155 «Threat of murder or causing serious bodily harm or other serious harm to health» of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova [44] with his subsequent detention. In 2022, the country adopted a new Criminal Code, which added sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for hate crimes. Following the Equality March in the country, a minor tore down the LGBT flag from the US embassy, urinated on it, and then threw it at the participants of the March.



## RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

Violations of the right to adequate housing, which entail eviction or coercion to leave one's place of residence, occurred in 23 cases in the first nine months of 2024: in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and – the largest number – in Ukraine. Violators were mainly the parents and landlords of the victims, and less frequently, neighbors. Victims were primarily MSM. The basis for most violations was the SOGI of the victims, and in one case, the victim's HIV status (in Ukraine, the owner of an apartment kicked out an MSM living with HIV and gave him three days to move out, saying that she did not want to rent the apartment to the victim because of his illness).

In 12 cases, parents, often the father or stepfather, after finding out about their child's SOGI, kicked them out of the house or created conditions whereby the victim was forced to leave home as a result of domestic violence, threats, or humiliation, which may be interpreted as domestic violence in accordance with relevant legislation. For example, in Uzbekistan, the victim's parents, after finding out about his sexual orientation, kicked him out of the house on the condition that he could return home after he became a "normal son". In two cases in Armenia and seven cases in Ukraine, parents kicked their GBMSM sons out of the house because they did not want to live with "such" a person or for "gays" to live with them in the same space. There are also documented cases where parents create unbearable conditions at home for their trans or lesbian daughters, forcing the victims to leave their home (Armenia, Kazakhstan).

Neighbors of trans women victims (Armenia) and GBMSM (Ukraine) forced the victims to leave their homes. In Armenia, neighbors threatened that "all the men in the building would gather and beat the trans woman victim half to death".

In 8 cases, one of which involved a trans man in Armenia and seven involving GBMSM in Ukraine, landlords refused to provide housing to victims because of their SOGI, while not always adhering to the terms of rental agreements (not giving sufficient notice to move) or not returning the one-month deposit left by the victims when they moved in. In most of these cases, landlords found out about the victims' SOGI as a result of outing by neighbors. In a few cases, this happened after the landlord arrived at the premises unannounced and found the victims with their partners. Despite the fact that rental issues are regulated by relevant contracts, in accordance with the legislation of both countries, termination of the contract is possible with three months' notice by landlords [45, 46]. Such cases can also be considered as discrimination. In Ukraine, there is a separate anti-discrimination law with an open-ended list of protected characteristics [47], while in Armenia, discrimination is prohibited by the Constitution [42] and the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia [29]. The draft Law "on Ensuring Equality" has not been adopted since it was first put forward in 2018 [48].





## RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE LEGAL PROTECTION AND COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES

From January to September 2024, 13 violations of the rights to effective legal protection and compensation for damages were documented. All cases involved refusals to provide legal assistance by law enforcement agencies, and in one case, by a private lawyer. The victims were GBMSM in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Of the 13 cases, eight occurred in Uzbekistan, where homosexuality is criminalized. The victims contacted law enforcement agencies after being attacked, generally by unknown groups of people, but also in connection with domestic violence or pressure or humiliation from colleagues. Instead of providing assistance, law enforcement officers:

- ⊙ excused the actions of the aggressors (“everything was done correctly, maybe now he will be normal and stop disgracing the country”, “they are doing the right thing by trying to re-educate him and make him a real man”);
- ⊙ accused the victims of provoking violence (“he’s to blame for his appearance and behavior,” “he should say thank you that they didn’t kill him, because such people shouldn’t be allowed to live”);
- ⊙ refused to intervene in cases of domestic violence, stating that it was a “family matter”;
- ⊙ threatened criminal prosecution under Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In Armenia, a victim beaten by his partner reported the crime, but police officers refused to issue a referral for a forensic medical examination due to his sexual orientation. They added that «gays and their complaints are disgusting» and that they would not assist them.

In Kazakhstan, a man went to the police after being raped, but law enforcement officers mocked him and refused to investigate.



## RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

In the first nine months of 2024, 11 cases of violations of the right to freedom of movement of LGBT people were recorded in countries in the region. In Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, cases were documented where LGBT people were forced to leave the city or country, and where they were prohibited from crossing the border. The basis for the majority of these violations was the SOGI of the victims, and in one case their HIV status. In Uzbekistan, a MSM faced a threat of criminal prosecution by law enforcement agencies after an epidemiological investigation was initiated due to a positive HIV test result. The threat of prosecution under Articles 113 and 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan forced him to urgently leave the country.

## FORCED DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY OR COUNTRY

Was documented in 9 cases, one of which involved a trans woman in Kyrgyzstan. After her family discovered her SOGI, her relatives pressured her, and after her grandfather asked her “not to show herself to her fellow countrymen”, she was forced to leave the country.

In Uzbekistan, four cases were documented in which GBMSM were forcibly displaced due to their sexual orientation and resulting pressure and violence from relatives and neighbors. In one case, a MSM was accused of “pedophilia and corrupting children” by his neighbors due to his sexual orientation, which led to the forced relocation of the victim and his parents to another city. In other cases, the homosexuality of the victims was used as a pretext for threats and blackmail, which led to their forced relocation abroad.

In Tajikistan, police have twice used Article 241 of the Criminal Code, “Illegal production and circulation of pornographic materials or objects,” [14] to prosecute GBMSM. In one case, after the police found photographs on the victim’s phone, they blackmailed and extorted money from him, and threatened to arrest him. Fearing further persecution, he was forced to leave the country.

In Ukraine, there was also a case of forced departure: a MSM from a rural area was beaten and threatened by his neighbors, who threatened to tell everyone in the village about his sexual orientation. Fearing attacks and public condemnation, he was forced to leave the village.

## REFUSAL OR OBSTRUCTION OF BORDER CROSSING

Was documented twice, in Moldova and Ukraine. In Moldova, a Russian citizen from the MSM community was denied entry despite having all the necessary documents, including a marriage certificate with a Moldovan citizen registered abroad. At his first attempt to cross the border at the Chisinau airport, he was refused entry without explanation. When he tried again to enter the country, he was again refused entry and deported, making him the only person with Russian citizenship on the flight who was denied entry.

In Ukraine, a trans woman encountered obstacles while crossing the border with Poland. Despite having all necessary documents, including a copy of the extract from the civil registry office, she was detained on a bus and subjected to a search by border guards. The officer first asked her about the procedures for trans transition, and then demanded to see her phone and old photos to confirm her current gender status. The search lasted for an hour and a half, following which she was put on another bus. She later addressed a letter to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, noting that the Unified State Demographic Register still reflected her sex at birth, which has resulted in additional checks.



## RIGHT TO LIFE

Between January and September 2024, 11 violations of the right to life were documented, including murders and attempted murders, including with the use of weapons (e.g. knives or guns). Almost half of the cases (6 out of 11) occurred in Armenia, and the main perpetrators were mostly strangers or people within the social circle (relatives and neighbors) of the victims.

Four cases occurred after the victims met the perpetrators via social media, and then organized «fake dates.» In one case in Armenia, a group of strangers stabbed the victim. However, thanks to a quick call for an ambulance and prompt surgical intervention, a tragic outcome was avoided.

In addition, in Armenia, GBMSM face the threat of violent death in public places. For example, an unknown man in a park tried to choke one of the victims. In addition, trans women providing sex services are often targets of attacks by men, including clients, including with knives (two such cases have been documented). In these cases, the victims contacted law enforcement agencies. Although Article 71 “Circumstances Aggravating Criminal Liability and Punishment” of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia does not mention SOGI directly [29], these cases can be considered as hate crimes caused by “other circumstances of a personal or public nature.”

In Uzbekistan and Ukraine, two cases were documented in which neighbors attacked GBMSM with weapons (knife or axe) after finding out about their sexual orientation. Both cases occurred in small communities where information spreads quickly and residents often harbor stereotypes about gender and sexual behavior.

In Uzbekistan, a case was recorded in which a father attempted to kill his son by strangling him after finding out about his sexual orientation, but stopped in time. In another similar case, also in Uzbekistan, a father stabbed his son to death; the son died before the ambulance arrived. A criminal case was opened under the article «Intentional murder in a state of strong emotional distress», which can be considered as a mitigation of punishment and support of hatred on the grounds of SOGI.



## RIGHT TO EDUCATION

From January to September 2024, 9 cases of violations of the right to education were documented in Armenia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. The violations included expulsions and threats of expulsion from educational institutions, as well as bullying by teachers and fellow students or classmates. Most of the incidents occurred in institutions of higher education, and two occurred in schools, but all cases related to the SOGI of the victims.



## BULLYING IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Was recorded in 7 cases, mainly in Ukraine, despite a relevant order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine adopted in 2019 [49]. In one of the incidents, a schoolboy was subjected to violence and insults by classmates. In other cases, victims faced homophobic insults from both classmates and the staff of educational institutions. For instance, one of the victims, a trans woman, was subjected to ridicule and humiliating remarks by classmates and an administrative worker, who threatened to evict her from the dormitory and demanded that she “behave according to her gender”. In Armenia, during a university entrance exam, the victim was subjected to insults and humiliation by the dean.



## EXPULSION OR THREAT OF EXPULSION FROM AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Affected 3 GBMSM students. In Uzbekistan, one of the victims, after disclosing his sexual orientation, was subjected to humiliation and psychological pressure. He was summoned to the rector’s office, where, under threat of expulsion for violating university rules, he was forced to take academic leave. In another case in Uzbekistan, a student was expelled from an educational institution after a teacher outed him. In Armenia, a schoolboy was forced to transfer to another school due to threats.



## RIGHT TO EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

*Violations of the right to equality and non-discrimination are found in a significant number of documented cases and often overlap with violations of other rights, for example, a refusal to hire on the basis of SOGI is also a violation of the right to work. For the purposes of this analysis, violations of the right to equality and non-discrimination included cases of refusal to provide services by private establishments or humiliating treatment of LGBT people by staff members. All other cases of discrimination, as with the above-mentioned example of a refusal to hire, are listed in the relevant sections of the report.*

In the first nine months of 2024, 8 cases of refusal to provide services by private establishments or humiliating treatment of LGBT people by their employees were documented. In all cases, the SOGI of the victim was the basis for the violation. Such cases occurred in Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and – the largest number – Ukraine. Victims included GBMSM and trans and lesbian women.

In Tajikistan, a club security guard aggressively forced some girls to leave the establishment, and insulted them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This violation contradicts the Law “on Equality and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination” adopted in 2022 [50]. Although this law does not mention sexual orientation, it has an open-ended list of protected characteristics and applies, among others, to private businesses, regardless of their field of activity.

In Kazakhstan, a trans woman faced ridicule from the organizers of a dance event where she performed in the category for non-binary and transgender dancers. They directed derogatory phrases at her, calling her “a boy in a skirt”. In this case, defending her rights may be complicated by the lack of a special legislative act prohibiting discrimination in the country. However, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan enshrines the principle of non-discrimination with an open-ended list of protected characteristics [51].

In two cases in Ukraine, GBMSM faced discriminatory treatment from waiters, including ridicule and refusals of service, and were told things like «homos» should leave the establishment, and «we are not a gay club, so I will not serve you.» In one of these cases, requests to call the manager did not bring the desired result and the request was ignored. There is also one documented case of humiliating treatment by a waiter, in which he accompanied the victim to the restroom, asked obscene questions about his sexual orientation, and hit the victim in the face. In addition to waiters, Ukrainian GBMSM were refused a massage for two by the manager of a massage parlor. There is a documented case in which a taxi driver humiliated passengers and kicked them out of the car, despite the fact that there was still 15 minutes remaining of the drive to the destination. All of these cases entail direct discrimination, which contravenes the existing Law “on the Principles of Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine” [47], which includes an open-ended list of protected characteristics

After the Equality March in Moldova, participants with LGBT flags and posters headed to a pizzeria. The employees closed the door in their faces, and posted a notice about inventory-taking, while other visitors were allowed in through another door. This violation is contrary to the Law “on Ensuring Equality” [34], according to which discrimination against a group of people is a serious form of discrimination. The law also prohibits discrimination in the access of persons to public services, including cultural and entertainment services.



## RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM

In the first nine months of 2024, eight cases of violations of the right to seek asylum were documented in Moldova, namely refusals to grant asylum. In one case, the victim was a trans woman. In all of the cases mentioned, the victims were from Russia and were denied asylum in Moldova by employees of the migration service, who said they were “obliged to defend the country, and evading military service does not constitute a risk of persecution,” and that “simply belonging to a social group is not a basis” for granting refugee status. Despite the migration service’s awareness of the existence of the law against “LGBT propaganda” adopted in Russia in 2022, its employees based their decisions on the fact that the victims had left the country on their own, and therefore, “were not under close scrutiny by state bodies as persons posing a national danger,” and “their country of origin does not pose a threat to life and safety.”

Often, such responses were provided using a template (for example, five refusals within one week had identical wording), but even in a case where a MSM applied for asylum due to his political activity in Russia, he was refused. In another case, the victim was provided with an explanation about his sexual orientation and the country’s position on the LGBT community, following which he was denied entry into the country, despite the fact that other Russian citizens on the same flight did not face similar problems.



## PROTECTION FROM VIOLATIONS IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE

Cases where victims faced violations in the field of medicine were documented seven times: in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These violations involved forced HIV testing, treatment, or anal examinations.

### FORCED HIV TESTING

Was documented in 4 cases, in three of which law enforcement officers forced MSM victims to undergo testing, in order to prosecute them under criminal articles on HIV infection (in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). However, the victims were released due to negative results. In Armenia, a trans woman was tested for HIV in a hospital without warning and without following the correct procedure. After the result came back positive, she was accused by medical workers of concealing her status. At the same time, the voluntary nature of HIV testing and the right to receive appropriate counseling is enshrined in the Law «on the Prevention of Diseases Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus» [15].

### FORCED TREATMENT

Was documented twice, in Armenia and Uzbekistan. Both cases involved MSM being sent to psychiatric hospitals by their parents after they discovered the victims' sexual orientation. In Uzbekistan, the MSM spent 40 days in the hospital, and was administered unknown drugs. He was forced to meet daily with a psychiatrist who used "methods to treat homosexuality". In Armenia, the victim was administered strong drugs, and practically lost his ability to speak and think.

### A FORCED ANAL EXAMINATION

Was documented in Uzbekistan, when law enforcement officers sent a detained MSM for a medical examination, including an anal examination. After the examination results did not confirm the presence of any changes, the victim was sent home.



## RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

During the first nine months of 2024, 6 cases of violations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association were recorded in the countries of the region covered by this report. These included obstacles to the work of human rights defenders and restrictions on freedom of assembly. These violations occurred in Kazakhstan, Moldova and Uzbekistan, and were committed by both unknown persons and representatives of state bodies or institutions.

### OBSTACLES TO THE WORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND ACTIVISTS

Were documented in two cases in Uzbekistan, where Article 120 “Sodomy” of the Criminal Code [11] makes it impossible to register NGOs working on LGBT issues. In one case, a human rights activist who does not support decriminalization was detained by law enforcement agencies and humiliated in a detention cell. He was forced to sign an explanatory note in which he renounced his human rights activities and stated that he was not associated with human rights organizations. The victim was threatened with criminal prosecution under Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan if he continued his work. In another case, a MSM was detained for distributing human rights materials in a social media group for GBMSM. He was charged under Article 184 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility for distributing materials that, in the opinion of the authorities, may promote national, racial, ethnic or religious hatred [52].

During the election campaign in Moldova, former President Igor Dodon accused the Information Center “GENDERDOC-M” of filing a “criminal and administrative complaint” against him, and claimed that the organization filed the complaint in response to his statements about banning LGBT propaganda in schools. The organization’s leadership denied these accusations, stating that the complaint was filed long before the start of the election campaign, and that the accusations against the organization were likely part of discriminatory rhetoric used for political purposes.

### BARRIERS TO HOLDING PEACEFUL ASSEMBLIES

Were found in Kazakhstan and Moldova. In Kazakhstan, a girl who participated in a picket in support of the March 8 March was the target of an attack. An unknown man beat her and began to insult her. In another case, local authorities refused permission for a picket in support of women’s rights, citing the threat to public order, but did not provide evidence for their concerns. Despite amendments made in 2020 to the Law “on the Procedure for Organizing and Holding Peaceful Assemblies, Rallies, Marches, Pickets and Demonstrations in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, including a change from a permission-based to a notification-based system for holding assemblies [53], local authorities continue to prohibit the holding of rallies and assemblies. Although the country does not have a law banning LGBT symbols or “LGBT propaganda», according to local authorities, feminist actions create a risk of unauthorized gatherings and violations of public order [54, 55].

In Moldova, during “Moldova Pride” in June 2024, a counter-protest was organized by supporters of the “Pobeda” group, supported by Ilan Shor. The participants of this protest, dressed in protective gear and masks, chanted anti-LGBT slogans, accused the LGBT community of spreading HIV, and called it “dirt”. At the same time, the Law “on Assemblies” is in force in the country, and requires that notification be provided about the holding of assemblies [56]. There is no formal ban on peaceful assemblies for LGBT people, and Equality Marches have been held since 2013 [57]. The documented case highlights not only the obstacles faced by LGBT activists, but also the use of discriminatory rhetoric for political purposes, as noted above.



## RIGHT TO START A FAMILY

Violations of the right to start a family were documented in three cases, in Armenia and Moldova. Two of them involved forced marriage, and one, the deprivation of custody of a child due to the sexual orientation of the victim.

In Armenia, a girl was subjected to violence due to her sexual orientation by a man she was expected to marry. Her family refused to support her.

In another case, a GBMSM who hid his sexual orientation from his parents was blackmailed by his older brother. The brother threatened to reveal the victim’s orientation to his father and create unbearable living conditions for him if he did not find a girlfriend and get married within a year.

In Moldova, a case concerned a woman whose husband initiated a divorce and tried to deprive her of custody of her child after learning that she was bisexual.


















# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the consolidated analysis of documented cases of violations of the rights of LGBT people in the EECA region, several key points can be highlighted:

- 1** The number of documented cases of rights violations in 2024 and trends in the data of previous years indicate the need to continue systemic efforts to identify and register cases of violations of the rights of LGBT people and scale up existing projects by expanding the geography of data collection (for example, not limiting it to large cities) and involving partner organizations and/or activists who have access to a particular subgroup of the LGBT community (for example, trans people). In this context, it is also important to raise awareness and legal literacy among members of the community, help draft complaints and corresponding statements, and support their desire to speak out about violations if they have occurred.
- 2** In 2024, as in previous years, cases of rights violations involving “fake dates” continue to be recorded, when radical groups or law enforcement officials meet and/or agree to meet LGBT people via social media, which is followed by physical violence, blackmail connected with the disclosure of personal data, and extortion of money. In addition, LGBT people suffer from “revenge porn,” when explicit content is distributed without their consent, which leads to disclosure of their SOGI and discrimination. In the context of SOGI-based stigma and the indifference of law enforcement in assisting victims, online platforms are becoming an important tool for community interaction and for finding partners [58, 59], demonstrating the need to raise awareness about safe online practices [60], the risks of sharing personal data, and about ways to protect yourself when meeting someone from online for the first time (e.g., avoid getting into a car with several men if you only agreed to meet one person; arrange to meet in a crowded place, etc.)
- 3** It is important to abolish repressive legislation in countries of the region and amend relevant regulations in accordance with international standards: :
  - Decriminalization of same-sex relations in Uzbekistan, where Article 120 of the Criminal Code serves as a basis for the persecution of MSM by individuals and law enforcement agencies and makes it impossible for victims to defend their rights when they are violated. As comparative studies between regions with and without criminalization show, decriminalization of homosexuality contributes to the potential slowdown of the HIV epidemic and promotes the uptake of health services [61];
  - Repeal of criminal liability for the transmission of HIV, which is often used for the personal gain of police officers (e.g. blackmail and extortion of money) or to limit the ability of victims to seek help. In 2024, such practices were documented in Kyrgyzstan (Article 143 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic), Tajikistan (Article 125 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan) and Uzbekistan (Article 113 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan);
  - Decriminalization of sex work in countries of the region, where existing legislation contributes to violations of the rights of LGBT people who provide sexual services for compensation by private individuals and law enforcement agencies. In cases of violence and threats of murder, extortion of money, and coerced disclosure of information about partners, the legal protection of victims and their willingness to seek help are limited due to the existence of punitive laws on the provision of sex services.





- 4 Expanding laws criminalizing domestic violence to include SOGI as a protected characteristic and “partners” as potential perpetrators (rather than just family members) is necessary given the number and nature of violations documented in 2024. In Armenia, following changes to domestic violence legislation, LGBT people have a legally enshrined basis to defend their rights if they face violence from partners. In Tajikistan, where the domestic violence law only applies to “family members,” LGBT people are deprived of this possibility. In addition, it is important to support victims of domestic violence and create and/or expand networks of shelters and crisis centers for LGBT people who cannot live with their families due to their SOGI and/or HIV status. Opening shelters is also relevant since LGBT people and people with HIV are often unable to independently rent housing due to the unwillingness of landlords to provide living space to such people.
- 5 The introduction of SOGI as a protected characteristic in laws prohibiting discrimination and regulating various spheres is needed in countries of the region, which currently either do not have a separate anti-discrimination law (Armenia, Kazakhstan), or the law does not directly mention SOGI (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine). In Moldova, where the anti-discrimination law includes SOGI as a protected characteristic, it is important to monitor cases of discriminatory rhetoric and hate speech towards LGBT people, especially by politicians.
- 6 Violations of the rights of LGBT people by medical workers take various forms (for example, humiliating treatment, refusal to provide services, disclosure of personal data) and are systemic in nature, since they are not limited to the actions of one medical specialist, but often reflect the general “policy” of a medical institution in relation to LGBT people. It is necessary to continue awareness-raising and educational work with medical workers to develop tolerant attitudes towards LGBT people, ensure the non-discriminatory provision of services, and to introduce relevant thematic modules into training programs for doctors. It is important to track cases of refusal to provide certain services (or the provision of services of inadequate quality), to monitor medical institutions for discriminatory attitudes towards patients on the basis of SOGI and/or HIV status, as well as to promptly respond to such cases.

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