



## **DIGEST**

**I quarter  
2023**

The first quarter of 2023 was not marked by significant attacks from pro-government media on the LGBTQ+ community.

There were usual "nods" towards the so-called collective West, which wants to destroy the "traditional values" of Belarusians. The publication "Soviet Belorussia" believes that "in the Belarusian society, the problem of the LGBT community does not exist as such."

The format of covering the LGBTQ+ agenda on the national television website is noteworthy. For the 1st quarter of 2023, there were two news on the subject under consideration and both in a neutral style. They do not have the hate speech, value judgments or author's opinion characteristic of such materials on propaganda media sites.

These news are: "[Ukraine proposes to legalise same-sex marriages between the military](#)" and "[LGBT soldiers of Ukraine's armed forces proved they "love Ukraine"](#)."

A quote from the latter news generally sets records for freedom of speech in the Belarusian pro-government media: "... the traditional values promoted by the Russian president served as an incentive for Ukrainian gays to enrol in Ukraine's armed forces and become patriots. Because of this, other Ukrainians have become more positive about gays and transgender people."

A. Lukashenka's statements during the so-called address to the people and parliament can also be regarded as an unspoken command "not to touch" the LGBTQ+ community.

Lukashenka, after the usual homophobic rhetoric, said:

"I instructed, report to me, give a description of what kind of people they are, how they work... God grant that non-gays work like them. There was not a single negative characteristic. None, I checked in different directions.

... Well, let's forbid these guys from tumbling with other men, well, what would it lead to? To nothing. Moreover, they do not create problems for us, they work well."

### GayPress Editorial Office

**P.S.** We finished 2022 with the best performance in the history of the site Gpress.info. One of the points of growth was the special project [LGBTQ migration](#). We have received tens of thousands of views of this special project's content, as well as a lively response from the audience in the form of hundreds of comments and thousands of likes.

Taking into account our social media accounts, podcast platforms and Telegram channel, we gather across all platforms a monthly audience of about 100,000 people.

In March, the site's traffic amounted to almost 60,000 unique visitors.







### Transgender people have added facial feminization to the list of operations for security reasons

"According to doctors, we are talking about a series of procedures that can change the shape of the face and its features to achieve a more feminine appearance. Doctors specialising in this procedure note that, in addition to all forms of gender-oriented care, which includes a wide range of medical services, facial transformation operations can be of paramount importance in the process of human transition."  
<https://www.autoparus.by/publication/128749>



### «It seems like I should have agreed to sex by default.» Activist Nastsia Bazar explains what can and cannot be said

We talked with a Belarusian feminist about what words and expressions should not be used in relation to representatives of the LGBTQ community, what is hostility communication and what an ideal society should be.  
<https://www.svaboda.org/a/32342205.html>



### In Ukraine, they proposed to legalize same-sex marriages between the military

"A bill on the registration of same-sex marriages has been [sent](#) to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. This was reported by Inna Sovsun, deputy from the "Holos" faction. It is implied that the document will provide legal protection to LGBT military personnel acting on the side of the armed forces of Ukraine (AFU)."  
[https://www.tvr.by/news/telegram\\_novosti/na\\_ukraine\\_predlozhili\\_legalizovat\\_odnopolnye\\_br\\_aki\\_mezhdu\\_voennymi/](https://www.tvr.by/news/telegram_novosti/na_ukraine_predlozhili_legalizovat_odnopolnye_br_aki_mezhdu_voennymi/)



### LGBT soldiers of Ukraine's armed forces proved that they "love Ukraine"

"Politico [reports](#) that the traditional values promoted by the Russian president served as an incentive for Ukrainian gays to enrol in Ukraine's armed forces and become patriots. Because of this, other Ukrainians have become more positive about gays and transgender people. "LGBTQ soldiers on the front line in Ukraine have refuted the idea that a gay man cannot be a patriot," the newspaper writes.  
[https://www.tvr.by/news/telegram\\_novosti/lgbtk\\_soldaty\\_vsu\\_dokazali\\_cho\\_lyu\\_byat\\_ukrainu/](https://www.tvr.by/news/telegram_novosti/lgbtk_soldaty_vsu_dokazali_cho_lyu_byat_ukrainu/)



### **How democratic Belarusians thought they were tolerant, but forgot to defeat Homophobia**

"Andrei Zavalei, an LGBTQ activist, read how Belarusians were stormed on Twitter by the LGBT flag next to the white-red-white flag at an anti-war rally in Sweden. He took a breath and wrote a column about why our society is still losing in the fight against homophobia: "We have been told since childhood that Belarusians are very tolerant, but let's admit: it is very easy to respect "other" people abstractly, without real contact with them."  
<https://kyky.org/pain/kak-demokratichnye-belarusy-dumali-chto-tolerantnye-no-zabyli-pobedit-gomofobiyu>



### **«Ballet in a minefield». How the Belarusian authorities destroyed civil society and who is now helping vulnerable groups**

"Belarusian women who have suffered from domestic violence are still calling former employees of the Radzislava shelter, hoping for help, but the organisation has been prohibited. Hundreds of young children from shelters and orphanages no longer receive the care of social nannies when they get to the hospital — the government has closed the crowdfunding media platform "Imena", which financed the project. The Office for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities used to consult up to 1,400 persons a year. Now it is "outlawed" itself.  
<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/37697.html#c>



### **Deputies proposed to supplement the law on mass media with a ban on LGBT propaganda**

"Responding to the initiative of the deputy that it is necessary to introduce a norm on the prohibition of LGBT propaganda in media, the minister noted that measures are already being taken in Belarus to limit the distribution of products containing propaganda information. According to him, in Belarus, "even without a binding legislative act, sufficient measures have been taken to restrict the distribution of LGBT propaganda products."  
<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/37152.html#c>

### **«People often record videos of themselves». How in Belarus political prisoners are «trumped-up» an additional criminal conviction based on pornographic articles**

"...The lawyer also confirms that the conviction based on such articles forms a specific attitude towards the prisoner in prison. The risk of ill-treatment of LGBT convicts in prison is growing."  
<https://reform.by/ljudi-chasto-snimajut-sebja-na-video-kak-v-belarusi-politzacljuchennym-bonusom-shjut-dopolnitelnuju-ugolovku-po-pornograficheskim-statjam>





**Surely you have seen this pendant in the shape of Belarus with a tear. We talked with the founder of the Belaruskicry brand**

"In the near future, the brand plans to release products in support of the LGBT community, jewelry with Belarusian ornaments, as well as in the technique of ancient Georgian enamel."

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/35857.html?c>



**«This is not a gun purchase at all» Journalists asked the St. Elisabeth Covent why they help Russian soldiers**

"...— There are people who oppose us from abroad who are homo-all sorts of LGBT communities and so on. They can't stand us because we are for traditional values. These people are the ones who write all sorts of nasty things and slander about the Covent," a nun says about the activists who oppose the Covent's trade in European cities."

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/35431.html?c>



**«Clean Internet» and «Megatask Belarus». Everyone writes about the largest leak from Roskomnadzor — we collected the main things.**

"For the Oculus system, Roskomnadzor has big plans. It is designed to search for banned photos and videos on the Internet and, as planned, will have to analyse 200 thousand images per day on the topics of "extremism", "calls for riots", "LGBT propaganda", "suicide", "drugs" and so on. For example, "calls for riots" will be searched by photos of Navalny, "burning Kremlin", "storming the Winter Palace" and the white-blue-white flag."

<https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/32283.html?c>





### **Why has the Orthodox Church in Belarus and Russia not yet come out against the war? A big interview with theologian Natalia Vasilevich**

"Oddly enough, Patriarch Kirill sees this war as the liberation of the peoples of Holy Russia from the yoke of the collective West. Because the latter wants to implant its ideology, democracy, human rights, LGBT rights everywhere. And sovereign holy Russia resists these attempts. The Patriarch does not say anywhere that the war is going against Ukraine. For him, this is a struggle against the collective West."

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/30595.html?c>

### **Pseudo-democracy, or a bleak perception of reality**

Our ancestors fought and gave their lives for equality in the world, the independence of their homeland, its future, the continuation of established traditions. Did they assume that in almost a century in the information war that has engulfed the whole world, including Belarus, one of the cornerstones will be the LGBT movement? The imposition of its ideas is a powerful weapon in the ideological struggle for world domination. This was discussed with the region's military commissar Ruslan Shkodzin.

<https://vitvesti.by/obshchestvo/psevdodemokratiia-ili-neraduzhnoe-vospriatie-deistvitelnosti.html>

### **Lukashenka compared the work of gays and straight people in power**

"The Belarusian leader believes that men are to blame for the "lesbianism" of women, and the president called gays "the last abomination." Watch the video of the president's answer to the question of LDPB leader Aleh Haidukevich after the address to the people and parliament.

He noted that there are representatives of the LGBT community in Belarus, "we have enough of these people," including in power institutions and at a very high level.

According to Lukashenka, he once asked how such people work in their positions "in the government, somewhere else, maybe in the administration there," and received an unexpected answer.

"I instructed to report to me, give a description of what kind of people they are, how they work... God grant that non-gays work like them. There was not a single negative characteristic. None, I checked in different directions," Lukashenka said

The Belarusian leader recalled the Soviet times and the famous expression that "there was no sex in the USSR," and suggested that it would be if a ban on non-traditional relationships was introduced now. ... Well, let's forbid these guys from tumbling with other men, well, what would it lead to? To nothing. Moreover, they do not create problems for us, they work well," Lukashenka noted.

<https://sputnik.by/20230331/lukashenko-sravnii-rabotu-geev-i-naturalov-vo-vlasti--video-1073889530.html>



### **Does the anime subculture promote LGBT people? The history of a Slutsk**

#### **mother and advice of psychologists**

"I am not a supporter of LGBT, we have a traditional family. We give children normal development, including clubs, sections. And there are no bad examples in our family. We do not impose our principles, but family values and traditions have always been in the first place," the woman says.

Sviatlana says that on the same evening she began to ask her friends if anyone had encountered such a problem - and found out that there were such cases. One of them led to same-sex love between high school girls."

<http://slutsk-gorod.by/novosti/item/anime>





### **Jański: LGBT propaganda in the West is already part of the educational process**

"LGBT propaganda in the West is already part of the educational process, Paweł Jański, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Emil Czeżko International Charitable Foundation, said at the press conference "Support and promotion of human rights initiatives in the European Union," BelTA correspondent reports.

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/janski-lgbt-propaganda-na-zapade-uzhe-javljaetsja-chastju-obrazovatel'nogo-protsesta-555958-2023/>



### **How the LGBT movement came out of the shadows and took over the Western world**

"In the Belarusian society, the problem of the LGBT community does not exist as such. There are several reasons for this. First, our society adheres to centuries-old traditional values, the cornerstone of which is exactly the idea of the relationship between men and women, family and children. Second, in the worldview of Belarusians, the issues on which the well-being of citizens depends are of much greater importance: stability, independence, food security."

<https://www.sb.by/articles/diktatura-radugi.html>



### **LGBT as the tip of the iceberg. Anti-trends that are imposed on society**

"... And recently a round table was held in Minsk, which was organized by the NGO "Guild of Fathers", and it was dedicated to the topic of challenges and threats to moral and family values in modern society. Based on its results, it is planned to send a transcript with an initiative to ban LGBT propaganda in all its manifestations in Belarus, as it was done in the Russian Federation."

<https://mlyn.by/04022023/lgbt-kak-verhushka-ajsberga-antitrendy-kotorye-navyazyvayutsya-obshhestvu/>



### **Trans-hysteria in Western schools**

"A 14-year-old British schoolgirl, who wished to remain anonymous, talks about girls binding breasts, lessons about the non-binary Lady Macbeth, and about ordinary "transphobic" children who are threatened with strangulation. She has reason to be afraid to tell the truth, but such a life has become unbearable, and the girl decided to "reveal to the Daily Mail the truth about life in the ongoing culture war."

<https://mediabrest.by/news/novosti-v-mire/trans-isteriya-v-zapadnyh-shkolah>



### **An asocial character takes on solving «social issues»**

"There is an addition in the dummy cabinet of fugitives. Volha Horbunova, a lesbian, joined the Lithuanian brothel from a motley group of scammers, extremists, drug addicts, alcoholics and gays. She will be in charge of "social issues" (as she says in an interview). Social! An antisocial, immoral character will teach someone about life. Well, the lower are the principles, the higher are the euro-honoraria."

<https://www.sb.by/articles/nizhe-printsipy-vyshe-evrogonorariy.html>



### **What has the West turned March 8 into and how can we prevent this from Happening**

"Please, do agree, there is no sense of special attention to women's issues and rights. And in light of the breadth and depth of the problems of another gender-deficient movement, it is generally unclear whether anyone cares about women's problems in America and Europe. They need time to please all these trans, queer, fluid, under-, over- and other genders. Having missed the moment when the LGBT minority became fully fledged and began to dictate conditions to the world, feminists are now frantically trying to escape from a situation where women's rights have become perceived as something insignificant. And the worst thing is that feminists, like the whole "progressive Western world", do not dare to object to a gender-unhealthy minority."

<https://www.sb.by/articles/8-marta-zachto-borolis.html>

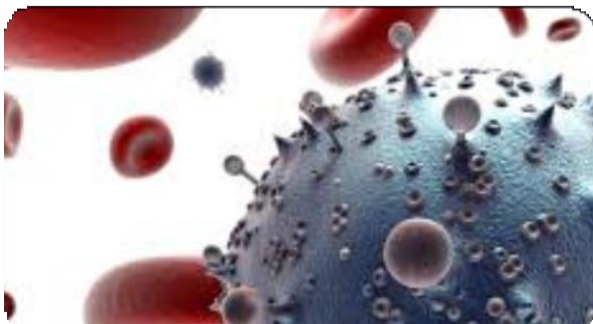


### **«The order has been given to clean up». Karpenkov told how the cells of fugitives in Belarus will be tracked down**

"... And do you remember the situation when that big fireworm walked around Minsk and those snotty homosexual drug addicts controlled it from abroad. And they all didn't know where to move about, and there was such a head that led them here and there, especially aggressive. We will use of flight devices to identify everyone, recognise and, if necessary, detain them with a certain surprise."

<https://ctv.by/otdana-komanda-na-zachistki-karpenkov-rasskazal-kak-budut-vychislyat-yacheyki-beglyh-v-belarusi>





## ORGANIZATION OF PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF STIS

"According to studies (sample epidemiological surveillance within the framework of the State Program for the Prevention of HIV Infection) conducted in Belarus, the incidence of sexually transmitted infections in risk groups (prostitutes, homosexual men) exceeds 20%." <https://minzdrav.gov.by/dlya-belorusskikh-grazhdan/profilaktika-zabolevaniy/profilaktika-vich-spid-i-ipp/organizatsiya-profilaktiki-i-borby-s-ipp.php>



## "Amazing historical facts"; The hierarchs of the BOC made strange statements about Ukraine, the «mental war» and the increased spirituality of Belarusians

"Archbishop Guriy of Navahrudak and Slonim. In his opinion, the leadership of Ukraine is "under the vigilant control of the West," which in turn seeks to "destroy Orthodoxy as the basis of Russian culture, offering instead of it LGBT, drug legalisation, so-called tolerance, corrupting society, various kinds of pseudo-culture and oblivion of the centuries-old history of ancestors."

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/31221.html#c>



## How a Hrodno smuggler became the most famous informer of the country.

### Telling the story of Olga Bondareva

"In August 2022, Bondareva did [not like](#) kites in a toy store in the Trinita shopping and entertainment mall. White unicorns with rainbow manes were perceived by the woman as propaganda of "LGBT symbols" aimed at children.

In October 2022, she was [outraged](#) by a billboard advertising headphones in the centre of Minsk. The model on it Bondareva called "transgender", and found "LGBT propaganda" in her appearance.

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/30515.html#c>

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