



## E-NEWSLETTER: LGBTQ+ IN BELARUS

01-04.2025

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### 1. CURRENT SITUATION OF BELARUSIAN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

The situation for LGBTQ+ people in Belarus remained highly alarming between January and April 2025 due to the ongoing brutal repressions in the country. The regime in power continued its [crackdown](#) on LGBTQ+ activism, with reports of increased violent police raids targeting human rights defenders and ordinary members of LGBTQ+ community.

According to the [testimonies](#) of LGBTQ+ individuals from among the former political prisoners and detainees, including a famous Belarusian blogger Vadimati, they were subjected to [tortures](#) and other [inhumane](#) and [harassing practices](#) in detention.

Similar findings were shared by the [Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus](#) at the UN Centre for Human Rights [in February 2025](#). According to the group leader [Karinna Moskalenko](#), the government of Belarus 'has committed

widespread human rights violations against the country's civilian population, *some amounting to crimes against humanity*'. Among others, the regime in power 'has been targeting brutality towards LGBTQ+ people, using physical violence and dehumanizing language' while [arbitrarily detaining them](#) and [keeping them in custody](#). It was underscored that the detainees' partners were subjected to tortures and humiliation as well.

On April 3, 2025, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a [resolution](#) on the human rights situation in Belarus. In this document, the UN body deplored the increasing discrimination, violence, and repression against LGBTI persons in the country.

These statements were supported in the annual 2024 Report on Human Rights Situation in Belarus, published by [Amnesty International](#) in April 2025. According to the international human rights watchdog, the 'LGBTI community continued to face harassment, including arbitrary arrests.' The detentions were mostly for purported 'minor hooliganism' and subscription to 'extremist' materials, but also for 'production and distribution of pornographic materials,' which is a criminal offense as per Article 343 of the Criminal Code of Belarus. (In April 2024, the Ministry of Culture of Belarus updated the official definition of 'pornography' in the governmental agency's by-law by adding 'non-traditional sexual relations and/or sexual behaviour,' clarifying that it included, among other things, *consensual same-sex and bisexual relationships*.)

The regime in power continued to 'promote' its draft 'anti-LGBTQ+ propaganda' law at the beginning of 2025. Thus, in February 2025, the Prosecutor General's Office [suggested](#) that the government should 'implement a comprehensive approach to ensure the children's information security on the Internet.' The list of articulated threats included the 'imposition of non-traditional values.' The General Public Prosecutor of Belarus Andrei Shved updated repeatedly the Belarusian MPs that 'promotion of childfree ideas and homosexuality' would be prosecuted in the country. Also, [he announced](#) that parents would face the increased legal charges in case they 'fail to fulfill their duties on upbringing and maintaining their children.' Apparently, this statement confirms real dangers of persecution for the families with queer parents and/or children in Belarus.

On *February 7, 2025*, the lower chamber of Belarus parliament [approved amendments](#) to the Law '[On the Rights of the Child](#)' in the first reading. These amendments include strict restrictions on the dissemination of information about LGBTQ+ topics. The proposed changes include prohibiting 'propaganda of homosexual relations, sex reassignment, pedophilia, and childlessness.' Information deemed 'harmful to the health and development of children' will be labeled by age category. This effectively denies adolescents and young people access to it.

Belarus was [ranked](#) 44th out of 49 countries in the latest Rainbow Map published by [ILGA-Europe](#). Among other, it was mentioned in the annual report that LGBTI individuals in the country are subjected to systemic repression, with their rights systematically targeted using discriminatory laws and acts of violence.

Facing harassment, discrimination, and high security risks, quite a few Belarusian LGBTQ+ individuals fled Belarus. However, some of them found it difficult to get international protection [abroad](#), e.g., in [Bulgaria](#).

## **2. COVERAGE OF LGBTQ+ ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN MASS MEDIA**

The state and pro-regime propagandists continued their efforts to stigmatize the Belarusian LGBTQ+ community, inciting hatred to the queer community representatives in the Belarusian society as somebody '[alien from the West](#)', applauding to the homophobic policies in other countries, e.g. [in Hungary](#), and promoting the efforts of governmental authorities to make illegal any manifestations of queerness or discussions on the SOGI issues in Belarus.

The Belarusian independent media were mostly supportive to the LGBTQ+ community within the period under review, bringing visibility to the challenges, faced by the queer community representatives in Belarus and in exile. Also, they highlighted a highly dangerous trend on inciting hatred and exercising [extreme violence](#) to the LGBTQ-people by the Belarusian authorities as well as their [attempts to make illegal](#) the whole queer community in the country.

### 3. J4T / GPRESS.INFO NEWS

The Gpress.info / Gaypress.eu Web-site continued to provide the Belarusian LGBTQ+ community inside Belarus and in exile with regular updates about the [situation development](#) for the queer community representatives, providing advice on where to get assistance and how to remain on a safe side, being inside the country, as well as [how to get to safety](#) in case of need.

Also, the Web-site editorial continued to amplify the voice of [queer civil society initiatives](#) and [activists](#), standing up in support of the LGBTQ+ community in Belarus and reaching a friendly hand to the Belarusian queer folks in the forced exile.

[Gpress.info](#) on the social media and messengers:

[TikTok](#)

[Telegram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[VK](#)

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[YouTube](#)

E-mail: [gaypresseu@gmail.com](mailto:gaypresseu@gmail.com)

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