



E-NEWSLETTER: LGBTQ+ IN BELARUS

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1. CURRENT SITUATION OF BELARUSIAN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

The situation for LGBTQ+ people in Belarus remained extremely dangerous and intimidating in *May – August 2025*. The Belarusian government carried on its crackdown on LGBTQ+ communities during this period, indulging in stigmatizing rhetoric and highlighting concrete legal threats of criminal and administrative persecution. The climate of fear and institutionalized discrimination left many LGBTQ+ individuals vulnerable to violence and exile.

It should be reminded that as per the Belarus' Ministry of Culture resolution No. 24, adopted on March 19, 2024, the mere public appearance of a queer person or public support of LGBTQ+ community and individuals is regarded as an act of 'pornography' in Belarus, punishable criminally with a jail term of up to ten years (Article 343 of the Criminal Code of Belarus).

The regime in power continued to [‘promote’](#) its draft ‘anti-LGBTQ+ propaganda’ law that includes the respective amendments to the Law [‘On the Rights of the Child’](#), adopted in the second reading by the Belarus parliament in June 2025. They expanded the list of information harmful to the health and development of a child by adding the information *‘aimed at promoting homosexual relations, sex reassignment, pedophilia, and childlessness.’* This effectively denies adolescents and young people access to information on same-sex relations and sex reassignment and makes their parents legally liable for providing their children’s with access to any information about queerness or for being queer themselves.

The amendments to the law are accompanied by draft Art. 19.16 of the Administrative Code of Belarus that will provide for administrative liability for “propaganda of homosexual relations, gender transition, childlessness, and pedophilia.”

According to the Belarusian Helsinki Committee [experts](#), *‘the discriminatory provisions concern not only the LGBTQ+ community. The state plans to prohibit all people from publicly expressing themselves on important aspects of private life. The ban could cover any forms of identity expression and LGBTQ+ positions, many feminist views, human rights positions concerning equality, protection of privacy, women’s rights and LGBTQ+ rights, as well as informational materials, particularly in the field of sex education and family planning, works of art, and much more.’*

A number of highly distinguished organizations of Belarusian human rights community, including ‘Viasna’ Human Rights Centre, Belarusian Association of Journalists, PEN Belarus and Belarusian Helsinki Committee, published a [statement](#) ‘On the inadmissibility of criminalizing freedom of expression and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people’ on **July 11, 2025**. Among other, it was mentioned in the statement that *‘including pedophilia in the same line with homosexuality, transitioning, and childlessness is a clear attempt to discredit and demonize entire social groups, which is unacceptable in a state governed by the rule of law.’* The statement authors emphasized the *‘inadmissibility of the adoption of such laws,’* since *‘they do not protect public morals, but, on the contrary, stimulate hatred, hostility, and repression against minorities in society.’*

[Pre-session materials](#) for the 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Belarus indicated a deteriorating situation for LGBTQ+ people, marked by the introduction of discriminatory laws, increased state media hate speech, and severe repression of LGBTQ+ activists and organizations.

According to the Statement, delivered by the [Coalition of Fem Queer Initiatives from Belarus](#), *'discrimination is systemic. LGBTQ+ people are denied medical care, harassed in schools, and face loss of employment because of their identity. LBTQ women face pressure from guardianship authorities and threats of losing parental rights.'*

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

The state and pro-regime media [continued to stigmatize](#) the Belarusian LGBTQ+ community in the period till the end of August 2025, justifying the efforts of governmental authorities to make illegal any manifestations of queerness or discussions on the issues of social orientation and gender identity in Belarus by such arguments as *'struggle for fertility'* and fight with demographic problems in the country as well as care for *'traditions'* and *'unique cultural identity'*.

They promoted the efforts of state ideologists to highlight the misanthropic homo-transphobic ideas during international events at such platforms as [OSCE](#), giving the floor to questionable medics and extreme right-wing politicians from the West that regard homosexuality as a kind of 'deviation' and a ['sexual liking'](#).

Some independent journalists contributed to the further stigmatization of LGBTQ+ community, too. Thus, a journalist of ['Zerkalo'](#) Website accused gay people of being the cause of ruined relationships in heterosexual couples.

However, generally, 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, including the ordeals, faced by the queer community in [the United States](#) and the [harassment of LGBTQ people and their allies, encountered in the Belarusian prisons](#).

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 with their [rights](#), providing advice on where to get assistance and how to remain in safety, being inside the country, as well as [how to get to safety](#) in case of force-major situations, including the current criminal and the looming administrative persecution for being openly gay in the country.

Traditionally, special attention was paid to the celebration of [Pride Month 2025](#) in different parts of the world, including Norway, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Poland, and Lithuania.

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

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