



E-newsletter: LGBTQ+ in Belarus

July – September 2024

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1. CURRENT SITUATION OF BELARUSIAN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Amid the impending LGBT propaganda law [under review](#), a [brutal crackdown](#) on the LGBTQ+ community has intensified in Belarus since late August 2024. At least eight transgender people were arrested, and no less than 15-20 other queer individuals were detained. Their private apartments were raided by law enforcement in many cases. Reportedly, those targeted were subjected to beatings, psychological pressure, and verbal abuse. Some were charged with hooliganism, while others faced trumped-up criminal charges related to the so-called “pornography”. (The recently adopted [decree of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus](#) criminalized any “intentional demonstration of non-traditional sexual relations and (or) sexual behavior” as “pornography”).

Subjected to harassment, lacking opportunities for socialization, facing real risks of criminal prosecution for publicly asserting one's sexual orientation and gender identity – these are today's realities of life, experienced by the LGBTQ+ community in Belarus.

Quite a few representatives of LGBTQ community continued to flee Belarus in fear for their life and safety in their home country.

Unfortunately, some of them [found it difficult](#) to get international protection. Thus, the Bulgarian authorities refused to provide asylum to a queer activist from Belarus. The person is facing a high risk of being deported to the country of origin.

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

The state and pro-regime propagandists continued their efforts to stigmatize and make scapegoats of the Belarusian LGBTQ+ community, inciting hatred to the queer community representatives in the Belarusian society.

Thus, the state-owned and pro-governmental media indulged in disseminating fake, conspiratorial, and degrading messages about the LGBTQ+ community representatives during their coverage of [the Olympic Games in Paris](#) as well as during their reporting on the adoption of anti-LGBT propaganda law [in Georgia](#) and the upcoming Presidential election [in Moldova](#). Quite often, they simply reposted xenophobic publications from the Russian state-owned propagandist media.

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 to the LGBTQ-people by the Belarusian authorities as well as the state-supported homophobic media and bloggers.

European Radio for Belarus:

[Where Does State Xenophobia Lead – Gender Gap](#)

[Belarus LGBT Community Representative May Be Deported from Bulgaria](#)

[The Purge: At Least Eight Transgender Individuals Detained in Belarus](#)

Zerkalo:

["A Trap for a Belarusian": LGBT Activist Denied Protection in Germany](#)

[Transgender community reports mass detentions and filing of criminal cases in Belarus](#)

3. J4t / GPRESS.INFO NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

J4t Awards 2024

The 'Journalists for Tolerance' Human Rights Initiative has announced its traditional annual contest for the socially responsible Belarusian journalists and media, known as

[J4t Awards 2024](#). The contest winners will be announced during the J4t's 15th anniversary event at the end of December 2024.

[Gpress.info](#)

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.

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

[TikTok](#)

[Telegram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[УКантакце](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

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