



E-NEWSLETTER: LGBTQ+ IN BELARUS

09-10.2025

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1. CURRENT SITUATION OF BELARUSIAN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Within the period of *September – October 2025*, the LGBTIQ+ people in Belarus lived in the atmosphere of overwhelming fear and approaching catastrophe of legislatively grounded repressions for the mere fact of being queer.

Belarus is currently one of the least favorable countries for LGBTIQ+ in Europe. It is holding the 44th position on the 2025 [ILGA-Europe](#) rating list, preceded by Georgia and followed by Armenia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Russia. The score trend has been dropping consistently since 2019 (15.82% of rights respected in 2019 vs. 10.16% of rights respected in 2025).

Not only the regime in power ignores the rights of LGBTIQ+ community. It also actively fights with its mere existence. Apparently, Aliaksandr Lukashenka's authoritarian regime

makes use of discrimination and stigmatization in relation to the LGBTIQ+ people as a tool for strengthening and keeping his unlimited political power in the country.

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 LGBTIQ+ community and individuals offline or on social media 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).

New amendments to the Belarus Law '*On Protection of Children*' were adopted as [the Law #87-3](#) in the second reading by the Belarusian Parliament on *July 12, 2025*. They come into force in six months, i.e. **on January 12, 2026**.

According to the legislative amendments, there was [expanded the list of information, which is regarded as harmful](#) to the ***psychological*** health and development of a child by adding the information '*aimed at promoting homosexual relations, sex reassignment, pedophilia, and childlessness*.' This effectively denies youngsters access to information on same-sex relations and sex reassignment and makes their parents, teachers, journalists and others legally liable for 'exposing' the children 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.'

*Paragraph Q of [European Parliament resolution of 22 October 2025](#) on the situation in Belarus, five years after the fraudulent presidential elections is dedicated to the situation of LGBTQ+ people in Belarus. Among other, it was mentioned there that '... the LGBTQ+ community in Belarus continues to face harassment, including arbitrary arrests; ... Belarus has conducted further attacks against the LGBTQ+ community; ... a new draft law proposes **imprisonment** for sharing information on LGBTQ+ issues.'*

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

The J4t Research Team has completed its traditional monitoring of Hate Speech in Relation to LGBTQ+ in the Belarusian media for the period of 01-10.2025.

The findings are far from being optimistic.

997 publications in 20 out of 36 selected Belarusian media were analyzed as part of the research study this year.

The situation with LGBTQ+ representation in Belarusian media continues to deteriorate. It was only one out of 25 publications on the topic that reproduced and supported stigmatizing or discriminatory attitudes toward LGBTQ+ people before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number increased to one out of four publications in 2021; and rocketed to one out of two publications in 2022-2025.

According to the J4t monitors, a major part of hostile expressions in relation to LGBTQI+ is predominantly formed in the pro-governmental media. These media use homophobic rhetoric not as an autonomous discourse component, but as part of a broader ideological complex that includes criticism of 'Western values,' democracy, and human rights.

In this context, LGBTQ+ people are represented as a symbolic category of 'outsiders' even in the situation when they are part of the same society and cultural space.

One of the most striking characteristics of these materials is the precise reconstruction of the binary opposition of '*us*' versus '*them*.' At the same time, the addressee of negative rhetoric is often blurred. Consequently, hostility is directed simultaneously at LGBTQ+ as a social group, at civil society, at political activists, and at the abstract 'West.' This blending effect creates a single image of external and internal threats.

The author's position plays an important role in this process. Journalists often do not act as neutral observers, but rather as active participants in the discourse, accompanying their materials with evaluative remarks or emotional comments.

Hence, a communication environment is formed in which hate speech becomes a normalized component of public discourse.

In independent media, the topic of LGBTQ+ is observed much less frequently than in pro-governmental media. As a rule, it appears in the form of quotes from government representatives and public actors. Thus, independent media mainly share the already existing official statements, without creating their own hostile narratives. In these publications, references to LGBTQ+ function more as a reflection of a political agenda than as a tool for forming negative meanings.

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 queer in the country.

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

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[Telegram](#)

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