

SITUATION OF LGBTI PERSONS IN CYPRUS
Brief Assessment of the Implementation of Cycle 3 of the UPR:

Previous Recommendations	Recommending State	Assessment
Include gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination in equal treatment legislation and adopt an action plan to combat homophobia and transphobia in all areas of everyday life.	Iceland	The Criminal Code Amended: Law (No. 87(I)/2015), by which public incitement to violence or hatred against a group of persons or a member of such a group based on their sexual orientation or their gender identity constitutes a criminal offence.
Take measures to combat discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and consider legal measures that would punish incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity	Canada	Law (No. 31(I)/2017), the motivation of prejudice against a group of persons or a member of such a group of persons based on race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religion or other belief, descent, sexual orientation or gender identity may be taken as an aggravating factor by the court at the sentencing stage.
Criminalize incitement to hatred for reasons of sexual orientation or gender identity	Spain	Law (No. 39(I)/2023), conversion practices and any form of conversion ‘therapies’ aimed at changing or suppressing a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression is banned and criminalised.
Continue efforts to prohibit discriminatory practices, defamation, incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence against persons because of their sexual orientation	France	No action plan was adopted to combat homophobia and transphobia in all areas of everyday life.
Take steps to protect and enforce the rights of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community	Australia	In February 2023, Cyprus and the UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Protection and Promotion of the rights of LGBTI+ people in Europe and the Commonwealth.
Provide further assistance to victims of discrimination or violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation	Malta	There is no such assistance provided specifically to victims of discrimination or violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation.
Step up efforts to enact the new legislation on transgender persons	Malta	In September 2022, the Minister of Justice announced that the legal gender recognition bill was approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the House of Representatives for discussion and voting. The Parliamentary Committee held the first reading of the bill in November 2022 and was presented by the Minister of Justice.
Increase awareness-raising programmes and campaigns aimed at deterring public incitement of acts against persons on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity	Malta	In April 2023, a two-day LGBTI+ training session took place at the Cyprus Central Prison for newly recruited prison guards. Following complaints about anti-LGBTI harassment by police, the Ombudswoman called for mandatory training for all police officers. In October 2023, two LGBTI+ training sessions took place at the Cyprus Police Academy, for newly recruited and existing police officers.

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommended that the **Cyprus parliament** to:

- 1) Adopt the legal gender recognition law based on self-determination.

We recommended that the **Ministry of Health** to:

- 2) Take immediate action to ensure that it's all citizens have equal access to the healthcare system.
- 3) Guarantee that transgenders can access free gender-affirming healthcare without discrimination or barriers, including hormone treatments and surgeries, in line with international human rights standards.

We recommended that the **Ministry of Justice and Public Order** to:

- 4) Create a unit in the Police, which is specialized in the investigation of cases of hate speech and hate crimes.
- 5) Create and implement specialized training and education programs on hate speech and hate crimes in officials of the Judicial Service.

We recommended that the **Cyprus Parliament and Council of Ministers** to:

- 6) Adopt an action plan to combat homophobia and transphobia in all areas of everyday life.
- 7) Remove the statutory restriction on adoption, surrogacy and IVF rights for same-sex couples.
- 8) Ensure the accessibility of all the legal texts by translating them into Turkish language which is one of the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus.

We recommended that the **Ministry of Interior & Law Office** to:

- 9) Recognize the marriages of same-sex couples that have been legally performed abroad.
- 10) Introduce legal regulations for the transnational recognition of rainbow families.

We recommended that the **Leaders of Both Communities and the Technical Committee on Gender Equality** to:

- 11) Mainstream and include the LGBTI+ perspective in the peace process.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS

- What measures does Cyprus foresee to prevent and punish discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ Turkish Cypriot citizens and their third-country national partners?
- Even though Turkish language is the official language of the Republic of Cyprus why legal texts and services are not provided in this language?
- How does the government intend to address the lack of specific assistance provided to victims of discrimination or violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation, as highlighted by Malta's recommendation?
- How does the government plan to ensure equal access to the healthcare system for all citizens, particularly transgender individuals, as recommended by the Ministry of Health?
- How does the government plan to address the statutory restrictions on adoption, surrogacy, and IVF rights for same-sex couples, considering their impact on equality and family rights?
- How does the government plan to integrate the LGBTI+ perspective into the ongoing peace process, and what specific mechanisms are being implemented to ensure meaningful inclusion and representation?

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