



Greece
Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

and

Thessaloniki Pride

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States, including LGBTIQ+ individuals who have experienced discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. The Advocates also partners with a global network of LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders on reporting to the United Nations.

Thessaloniki Pride is a civil society organization dedicated to promoting the social visibility and equality of LGBTIQ+ individuals, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people, and all other sexual and gender minorities. Founded in the spring of 2012 during a period of cultural renaissance in the city, the organization's initial goal was to host Thessaloniki's first Pride festival. Following the event's overwhelming success, Thessaloniki Pride expanded its mission to champion human rights across the wider region. Today, the organization's work focuses on four main pillars: The Annual Thessaloniki Pride Festival: Held every June, this is the city's premier LGBTIQ+ event and its largest human rights gathering by participation. Civil Society Networking: Thessaloniki Pride works to empower and connect the civil society sector. This involves partnering with other LGBTIQ+ organizations at the national and European levels, as well as building local coalitions within Thessaloniki. Legal Activism: The organization actively campaigns for legal protections and utilizes anti-racism legislation to report and combat incidents of hate speech.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. During its current UPR cycle, Greece has adopted several significant legislative reforms affecting LGBTIQ+ individuals, including the legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption for same-sex couples in 2024; the prohibition of so-called “conversion therapies” for vulnerable individuals; and the enactment of laws addressing discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. These measures reflect meaningful progress toward formal legal equality.
2. Despite these advances, LGBTIQ+ individuals in Greece continue to experience discrimination, harassment, and an alarming escalation in hate-motivated violence. The public and political discourse that emerged during the 2024 marriage equality debate directly fueled physical violence in the streets.
3. Greece’s legal framework for legal gender recognition continues to present substantial barriers for transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Although the repeal of the single-status requirement in 2024 removed a major obstacle, it also completely excludes non-binary individuals from formal legal gender recognition¹
4. LGBTIQ+ individuals also continue to face discrimination in healthcare settings according to survey data, a situation exacerbated by recent judicial setbacks. Furthermore, despite accepting multiple recommendations in its last UPR cycle, Greece has not adopted new laws or policies specifically aimed at protecting human rights defenders, civil society organizations, or volunteers.
5. In this report, we use the acronym LGBTIQ+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other sexual and gender minorities. These terms do not necessarily include everyone who may experience violations of their human rights on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics (“SOGIESC”), which is why we also include a “+” with the acronym. Any use of a modified acronym is intentional in that we are speaking only about certain members of the LGBTIQ+ population.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Equality & non-discrimination; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

6. In its Third-Cycle UPR, Greece received four recommendations to reform its laws and policies to promote equality and non-discrimination for, and encourage the protection of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people.² The Government accepted all four recommendations.³ Despite the Government’s formal acceptance of multiple UPR recommendations concerning the protection of LGBTIQ+ persons, as presented in this report, available evidence indicates that implementation has remained largely formalistic, with limited translation of legislative or policy commitments into effective practice. Greece has explicitly stated that it accepts recommendations even where measures are only

“envisaged,” contributing to a structural gap between commitment and execution.⁴ This pattern is reflected more broadly: ILGA-Europe continues to recommend the adoption of a “fully resourced” and effectively implemented action plan for the national LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy, including clear timelines, budgets, and monitoring mechanisms.⁵

7. Similarly, despite the existence of legal provisions addressing hate speech and hate crimes, implementation gaps persist.⁶ International monitoring highlights deficiencies in enforcement structures, victim protection, and institutional capacity, suggesting that the legislative framework has not been effectively translated into consistent practice.⁷ Furthermore, documented cases demonstrate inconsistencies even in the application of existing laws, such as failures by public authorities to implement legal gender recognition provisions in administrative practice, underscoring the gap between formal rights and their realization.⁸ Taken together, these findings suggest that while Greece has adopted legislative and policy measures aligned with its accepted UPR recommendations, these measures have, to a significant extent, remained declaratory, with limited implementation in practice.⁹
8. Greece criminalized discrimination in the provision of goods and services based on “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” or “gender characteristics” in 2015.¹⁰ Yet, 45% of Greek respondents to the 2024 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey indicated that they had been discriminated against on these bases in at least one area of life, including while patronizing a café, restaurant, retail stores, or when visiting the hospital in the year prior to the survey, compared with 37% across all 27 EU Member States.¹¹ This disparity highlights a profound enforcement gap, as the 2015 legislation failed to include “gender expression” in its original scope,¹² and administrative mechanisms for monitoring and punishment remain practically non-existent.¹³
9. Transgender and gender-diverse individuals face severe exclusionary practices, frequently reporting harassment, direct denial of services, and systematic misgendering by both private providers and public officials.¹⁴ For instance, a transgender man was denied legal services from a private lawyer simply because his gender expression did not match the deadname on his ID.¹⁵ In the public sector, civil servants routinely refuse administrative requests from trans individuals while intentionally misgendering them. Institutional transphobia is particularly glaring in healthcare and municipal services.¹⁶ Furthermore, a public hospital and the municipality of the island of Lesbos refused to respect the gender identity of a deceased trans woman.¹⁷ While covering her funeral costs as a person experiencing homelessness, authorities disregarded her lived identity and the pleas of LGBTIQ+ activists, burying her in “men's clothes.”¹⁸ These incidents demonstrate that without mandatory SOGIESC training for public servants and robust oversight, legal protections remain symbolic, leaving LGBTIQ+ people exposed to pervasive daily exclusion.
10. During the prior UPR, Greece accepted recommendations to strengthen penalties for violence toward gender-diverse individuals and undertake measures to ensure the investigation and prosecution of violence, hate crimes, and hate speech directed toward LGBTIQ+ individuals.¹⁹ Survey data, however, indicate that there is room for further progress on these issues. Specifically, 13% of Greek respondents to the 2024 FRA survey indicated that they had been attacked based on their LGBTIQ status in the five years prior to the survey, while 54% of respondents stated that they had been harassed in the year

before the survey.²⁰ Survey results also show reluctance to report violence based on their perceived LGBTIQ status, with only 9% reporting physical or sexual attacks to police and 10% reporting the same to an equality body or other organization.²¹ In a similar vein, only 14% of Greek respondents to the FRA survey believe that the Greek national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTIQ individuals, compared with 26% across all 27 EU Member States.²²

11. This low reporting rate is driven by a profound fear of secondary victimization and institutional dismissal. Data collected by the Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) reveals a consensus among victims: nearly all survivors express a deep-seated certainty that they will not be taken seriously or, worse, will be subjected to “victim-blaming” by law enforcement officers.²³ Many victims report that they perceive a police report as a futile exercise unless a “catastrophic or bloody event” has occurred; they believe that only extreme physical injury might compel the authorities to act, and even then, they remain hesitant to engage with a system they perceive as structurally hostile.²⁴ According to analysis by Greek human rights defenders (HRDs), this “culture of silence” is not a choice, but a survival strategy against an environment where specialized hate crime units are frequently bypassed, and SOGIESC-motivated attacks are routinely downgraded to simple altercations.²⁵
12. Consequently, the State’s failure to provide a safe, trauma-informed reporting mechanism has led to systemic hostility and a lack of trust, forcing civil society organizations (CSOs) to take on the burden of the State by directly intervening in the reporting process. Activists and NGO members are frequently required to physically accompany victims to police stations to ensure they receive what is sardonically referred to in the community as “privileged treatment.”²⁶ In the current context, this “privilege” is, in reality, nothing more than the basic, legally mandated professional conduct—such as being listened to without being blamed for the attack or ensuring the hate motive is actually recorded. Without this external oversight, survivors remain functionally barred from the justice system, as they are certain that on their own, they will be met with institutional apathy or open ridicule.²⁷ This forced “outsourcing” of witness protection and legal advocacy to the volunteer sector is an indictment of the police’s failure to provide a safe and accessible environment for LGBTIQ+ individuals to exercise their fundamental right to protection.
13. In 2022, Greece passed Article 62 of the Health for All, Equal and Quality Access to the National Health System Law (2022), which created a prohibition on so-called “conversion therapies” to “vulnerable persons,” including children and adults under judicial guardianship.²⁸ The law also prohibits the promotion, display, or advertising by professionals of so-called “conversion practices.”²⁹ Crucially, the law explicitly permits these harmful practices on adults if they provide “consent.”³⁰ The current framework ignores the reality of financial, emotional, and familial coercion; many young, dependent LGBTIQ+ adults are subject to blackmail with homelessness or disownment unless they consent to such interventions.³¹ Furthermore, the ban strictly targets compensated health professionals, excluding religious figures and spiritual advisors who are the primary practitioners of these so-called “therapies.”³²
14. In practice, LGBTIQ+ individuals are frequently forced by their families to visit monasteries (such as Mount Athos) for “spiritual cleansing” or are subjected to church-sanctioned exorcisms and prolonged psychological abuse framed as “religious

counseling.”³³ In the 2024 FRA survey, 38% of Greek respondents reported exposure to conversion practices, compared to 24% across all 27 EU Member States.³⁴ The current legal framework fails entirely to protect LGBTIQ+ individuals from these practices that many international human rights experts agree can amount to torture.³⁵

15. In 2023, Greece passed the Law on preventing and responding to school violence and bullying (Law No. 5029) (2023).³⁶ Under this law, bullying includes “insults, discrimination, or harassment” based on “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” “gender expression,” and “sex characteristics.”³⁷ There is a profound dichotomy, however, between this statutory framework and students’ lived reality. In practice, the implementation of these protections has stalled, as the Ministry of Education has failed to issue a SOGIESC-specific protective guidelines mandated by the law, leaving educators without an institutional mandate to intervene.³⁸ Furthermore, the national digital reporting platform, *stop-bullying.gov.gr*, contains a significant “privacy paradox”: it requires TaxisNet authentication from parents or Panhellenic School Network (PSD) credentials from students, effectively eliminating anonymity.³⁹ For LGBTIQ+ students, this creates a dangerous barrier, as reporting harassment often forces an involuntary “outing” to potentially unsupportive parents or school administrations. Consequently, student engagement with the platform is extremely low; as of late 2024, only 7.9% of total reports were initiated by students.⁴⁰
16. Despite the law’s passage, and according to the 2024 FRA survey, 69% of LGBTIQ students in Greece responded that they hid being LGBTIQ at school.⁴¹ This figure is 20% greater than the average response across all 27 EU Member States.⁴² Similarly, 70% of respondents indicated that “during their time in school they suffered bullying, ridicule, teasing, insults or threats because they are LGBTIQ.”⁴³ Consequently, this pervasive hostile environment directly infringes upon these students’ fundamental right to education.
17. Civil society research in Greece demonstrates that severe, unchecked victimization—coupled with a lack of supportive interventions from educators—frequently leads to chronic absenteeism, deteriorating academic performance, and dropouts among LGBTIQ+ youth under 18 years old.⁴⁴ For many marginalized students, abandoning their education is perceived as the only viable mechanism to escape daily psychological and physical abuse.⁴⁵ Despite the existence of Law 5029, the State is failing to guarantee safe, equal, and unimpeded access to education for LGBTIQ+ youth.⁴⁶
18. The hostile school climate is further exacerbated by “pedagogical erasure.” At the start of the 2024-2025 academic year, the Ministry of Education removed all LGBTIQ+ inclusive educational materials—specifically the “Moving Forward” program developed by the grassroots organization *Rainbow School*—from the official state platform for educators. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education has maintained a persistent “administrative silence” regarding the formal report filed by LGBTIQ+ organizations concerning this removal.⁴⁷ Despite the legal obligation of public authorities to provide reasoned and timely responses to formal inquiries, the Ministry has failed to offer any official justification or answer, leaving civil society’s concerns unaddressed for years.⁴⁸ This lack of preventative education and professional support for teachers has allowed a hostile environment to persist; according to the 2024 FRA survey, 67% of LGBTIQ+ youth in Greece still experience bullying, ridicule, or threats at school.⁴⁹

19. There is also active opposition working to undo protections for LGBTIQ+ individuals. For example, in November 2024, the People’s Democratic Patriotic Movement, a far-right political party in Greece, introduced the Bill for the Protection of Both Genders and Minors (2024), which seeks to ban so-called “LGBTQ propaganda” in schools by restricting access to educational materials and content on “sexual and gender diversity.”⁵⁰ This legislative move is part of a growing transnational anti-rights and anti-gender movement that has found influential institutional allies in Greece. An example of this hostility is the systemic harassment orchestrated by far-right political figures—such as Afroditi Latinopoulou and her “Voice of Reason” party—alongside extremist and religious groups, who frequently target cultural and educational LGBTIQ+ events.⁵¹ When CSOs hosted a reading of the children's book “The Drag Queen Who Saved Christmas” to promote inclusivity, far-right actors incited widespread outrage, mobilized aggressive protests outside the venues, and weaponized the event to falsely equate LGBTIQ+ visibility with the “endangerment of minors,” leading organizers to move the reading to a discreet location which had to be heavily guarded by police enforcement to prevent violence.⁵²
20. Concurrently, during and following the 2024 marriage equality debate, some religious leaders, including high-ranking officials in the Greek Orthodox Church, actively mobilized against the community, organizing mass rallies and openly calling for the excommunication of lawmakers and politicians who supported the equality bill.⁵³ This coordinated spread of disinformation across political and religious spheres deliberately frames LGBTIQ+ identities—particularly transgender and gender-diverse individuals—as a threat.⁵⁴ This deeply entrenched institutional and political hostility directly emboldens vigilante groups, manifesting as a documented escalation in hate-motivated physical violence and unprovoked attacks against LGBTIQ+ individuals in public spaces, as discussed further below.
21. Article 66 of Greece’s Labour Law 4808 (2021) prohibits the termination of employment contracts if “based on discrimination or retaliation against the employee on the grounds of...sexual or gender orientation...gender identity or characteristics.”⁵⁵ Despite this progress, the FRA’s 2024 survey found that 28% of respondents felt discriminated against at work or while looking for work, compared with just 19% across all 27 EU Member States.⁵⁶ In practice, workplace discrimination in Greece manifests through both structural barriers and daily interpersonal hostility. LGBTIQ+ employees frequently report a “glass ceiling” effect, where they are overlooked for promotions or leadership roles despite their qualifications, as well as a pervasive lack of inclusive benefits (such as employers denying parental leave for same-sex parents).⁵⁷ Furthermore, the workplace often constitutes a “hostile environment” characterized by normalized homophobic “jokes,” microaggressions, and the pressure to remain “closeted” to avoid social exclusion or career stagnation.⁵⁸
22. Discrimination in the workplace is most acute for transgender and gender-diverse individuals, who face systemic exclusion at the recruitment stage. Many report that job offers are abruptly rescinded the moment they are involuntarily “outed” by legal documents with their deadname.⁵⁹ Further, individuals report that when employees who disclose their sexual orientation or transition in the workplace frequently face sudden dismissal; however, employers systematically mask this SOGIESC-based discrimination behind pretextual justifications, falsely citing fabricated reasons such as “poor performance” or a

“lack of qualifications” in order to evade legal repercussions.⁶⁰ This climate of insecurity is exacerbated by the lack of specialized training for the Labor Inspection Authority (SEPE) on SOGIESC issues, leaving individuals with little confidence that reporting discrimination will lead to substantive justice.⁶¹

23. Greece requires a mandatory judicial process for individuals seeking to amend their registered gender markers, even though medical intervention is no longer a prerequisite. Law 4491/2017 marked a legislative milestone but remains structurally flawed, falling short of international human rights standards that favor administrative self-determination models.⁶²
24. CSOs criticize the current framework for its inherently pathologizing and exclusionary nature. Under Article 4 of the law, legal gender recognition (LGR) is contingent upon judicial approval following a personal declaration made before a court in a private hearing.⁶³ By requiring a court decision under “non-contentious jurisdiction,” the State treats a person’s identity as a legal dispute to be “proven” before a judge rather than a fundamental right. Applicants must appear in person and are legally required to be represented by counsel.⁶⁴ This introduces high legal fees and court costs, creating a significant “poverty trap” that effectively bars low-income transgender individuals from legal recognition. Further, the law is strictly binary, offering no legal recognition for non-binary and gender-diverse citizens.
25. The law also imposes exceptionally burdensome, pathologizing requirements on individuals under 18 years old. Under Article 3, children aged 17 may apply only with explicit parental consent. Minors aged 15-16 must additionally obtain a psychiatric opinion from a specialized, seven-member interdisciplinary medical committee (including pediatric surgeons and psychiatrists) established at the Agia Sophia Children's Hospital in Athens. This process heavily medicalizes a minor’s identity, re-traumatizing youth and deterring many families from seeking legal recognition for their children.⁶⁵
26. Firsthand monitoring by CSOs reveals that navigating this framework exposes transgender individuals to significant institutional hostility. In practice, applicants face a “judicial lottery,” where non-SOGIESC-trained judges often overstep by demanding unsolicited psychiatric evaluations or asking intrusive questions about an applicant's private life and surgical status. Moreover, data indicate that a child's gender identity is frequently weaponized in high-conflict divorce proceedings.⁶⁶ Supportive parents (predominantly mothers) have temporarily lost custody of their transgender children because courts misinterpreted their affirmation of the child’s identity as “parental instability,” effectively using the judicial system to enforce gender conformity.⁶⁷
27. The enactment of Law 5089/2024 repealed the “forced divorce” requirement of Law 4491/2017, which previously required married trans individuals to dissolve their marriages.⁶⁸ This reform, however, failed to address critical gaps, such as transgender parents remaining legally prohibited from updating their names and gender markers on their children’s birth certificates.⁶⁹ This results in a permanent state of forced “outing,” as parents are compelled to reveal their transition every time they interact with schools or hospitals.⁷⁰
28. For LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers in Greece, the reception and detention infrastructure often poses severe risks to their physical safety and dignity. One such structural deficiency is

the persistent practice of compulsory mixed housing within reception centers and camps. According to Greece's National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People, placing LGBTIQ+ individuals in close quarters with co-nationals frequently exposes them to intense hostility, threats, and violence.⁷¹ Transgender refugees are housed according to their sex assigned at birth rather than their lived gender identity, leading to documented instances of sexual harassment and assault.⁷² To survive these hostile environments, many are forced into strict identity concealment, fundamentally undermining their well-being and exacerbating their trauma.⁷³

29. The severity of these conditions extends into administrative detention facilities. In a landmark ruling in October 2025, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) condemned Greece for the degrading and inhumane treatment of an individual from Iran who had applied for asylum on the basis of his sexual orientation and religion. The Court ruled in the case of *B.F. v. Greece* that the applicant's prolonged detention in a Greek police station—lacking essential amenities and completely failing to accommodate his specific vulnerabilities related to sexual orientation—constituted a direct violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.⁷⁴

Right to health

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

30. During its last UPR, Greece received and accepted one recommendation from Portugal to “[i]mplement human rights-based mental health policies aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provide community-based mental health services, with a view to eliminating stigma, discrimination, and coercion in mental health.”⁷⁵
31. LGBTIQ+ people continue to face pervasive and systemic discrimination in healthcare. According to the 2024 FRA survey, 13% of LGBTIQ respondents in Greece felt discriminated against in healthcare in the year before the survey.⁷⁶ CSOs note that this discrimination routinely takes the form of “institutional refusal” of care, intentional misgendering, and invasive, non-relevant questioning by medical staff.⁷⁷ An example of these systemic violations exists at the Papageorgiou public hospital in Thessaloniki, where the department providing hormone therapy to transgender women is titled the “Male Reproduction Department,” functioning as a form of institutional humiliation.⁷⁸
32. In 2022, the Government enacted the Law on Medically Assisted Reproduction Reforms, Law 4958/2022, which nominally criminalizes physicians who perform unnecessary medical interventions to modify the sex characteristics of intersex minors under the age of 15.⁷⁹ If an intersex child under 15 cannot wait for a medical intervention, a physician may perform it only after receiving permission from a local Magistrate Court, which must hear the opinions of the child and an Interdisciplinary Committee. The intervention also cannot cause “future, irreversible or significant health complications.”⁸⁰ There are exceptions if there is an “immediate, absolute and urgent need... to prevent a risk to the [child’s] life or health.”⁸¹ Upon reaching 15, an intersex youth may give free and informed consent.
33. Intersex human rights advocates highlight that this legal protection remains largely illusory due to significant structural loopholes. Medical professionals who continue to pathologize

intersex bodies can exploit the medical exceptions for “health complications.”⁸² The required Interdisciplinary Committee is heavily medicalized, and Magistrate Courts often lack the specialized human rights training necessary to prioritize a child's future autonomy over parents’ or doctors’ desires for anatomical conformity. Consequently, non-consensual, medically unnecessary surgeries—often framed as “urgent” or “corrective”—continue to be performed on intersex infants and children. These irreversible procedures violate their fundamental right to bodily integrity, resulting in severe, lifelong physical and psychological trauma. Furthermore, adult intersex individuals face a profound lack of specialized, non-pathologizing healthcare services to address the long-term consequences of these early forced interventions.⁸³

34. In 2022, the Ministry of Health commendably lifted the decades-old, discriminatory blanket ban that prohibited men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood. In April 2025, however, the Supreme Administrative Court suspended this ministerial decree, citing “insufficient scientific justification” following appeals by patient associations.⁸⁴ Consequently, the highly stigmatizing screening questionnaire—which permanently defers anyone who has had “even one same-sex relationship since 1977”—has been temporarily reinstated. Further, current blood donation protocols continue to categorically exclude individuals taking Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), further stigmatizing proactive sexual healthcare.⁸⁵
35. Further, while the State has formally approved the provision of PrEP for HIV prevention, the implementation framework remains rather bureaucratic, under-resourced, and confusing for the wider public.⁸⁶ Access is heavily centralized, requiring individuals to navigate complex procedures. There is a profound lack of clear, State-sponsored information regarding eligibility and procedures.⁸⁷ The inability to receive PrEP prescriptions from general practitioners or community-based sexual health clinics creates an artificial bottleneck, limiting the accessibility of this vital preventive health measure for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Rights related to marriage & family

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

36. During its last UPR, Greece received and accepted two recommendations to pass and implement laws that recognize same-sex marriage and permit adoption.⁸⁸
37. In 2024, Greece became the first predominantly Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex marriage.⁸⁹ The same law also legalized the right for same-sex couples to adopt children in Greece.⁹⁰ Since the Parliament passed the bill in 2024, several associations sought to have the bill annulled.⁹¹ In 2025, the Council of State upheld the bill and affirmed the legal recognition of same-sex marriage and the right to build families through adoption.⁹²
38. While the passage of Law 5089/2024 is a historic milestone, its implementation remains fundamentally incomplete, as it creates a two-tier system of family rights that deliberately excludes specific LGBTIQ+ demographics.⁹³
39. The law explicitly denies male same-sex couples’ access to medically assisted reproduction and altruistic surrogacy—rights that are already legally accessible to different-sex couples

and single women.⁹⁴ The exclusion of male same-sex couples is founded on the definition of the “inability to gestate” in the law as strictly a female medical condition, rather than recognizing the natural circumstances of same-sex male couples.⁹⁵

40. The current legal framework fails to extend the automatic presumption of parenthood to same-sex spouses, subjecting them to unequal, protracted bureaucratic hurdles that heterosexual couples do not face. In the cases of lesbian couples utilizing reciprocal IVF, the non-gestational mother is stripped of her parental rights at birth, legally categorized as a stranger to her infant, and must endure an arduous second-parent adoption process in order to establish legal kinship with the child she biologically co-created.⁹⁶ During this judicial waiting period, she lacks the legal authority to consent to emergency medical procedures for the child and possesses no automatic right to custody if the biological mother becomes incapacitated or dies.⁹⁷
41. Prospective same-sex parents seeking to adopt face subjective, heteronormative biases from State social workers, who frequently use the “best interests of the child” standard to impose heavier scrutiny on same-sex couples.⁹⁸
42. Administratively, the national Citizens' Registry frequently fails to generate unified family shares for same-sex parents, sometimes forcing the child's existence into the marginalized “Observations” section of documents. This systemic software failure causes cascading bureaucratic nightmares, including the sporadic deregistration of children from the national health insurance and the denial of family tax benefits and subsidies.⁹⁹
43. Significant obstacles remain in the effective implementation of marriage equality in Greece. Reports indicate that some local administrative authorities have delayed or impeded the recognition of these rights in practice,¹⁰⁰ while hostile public rhetoric by influential actors, including representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church, has contributed to a climate of stigma and intimidation.¹⁰¹ As a result, the formal recognition of marriage equality has not yet ensured full and effective enjoyment of rights by LGBTIQ+ families.

Freedom of opinion and expression

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not Implemented

44. During its last UPR, Greece received and accepted one recommendation from Mexico to “[e]nsure the freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders, volunteers and civil society organizations.”¹⁰² Since its last UPR, Greece has not adopted any protective policies; instead, LGBTIQ+ HRDs and CSOs face an escalating climate of targeted violence, extremist terrorism, and institutional censorship.¹⁰³
45. The physical safety of HRDs is under threat from far-right and neo-Nazi groups, who often operate with impunity. Notable manifestations of this violence include the attack on the offices of the youth NGO Colour Youth by members associated with the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn.¹⁰⁴ Similarly, Thessaloniki Pride has experienced a notable rise in physical and verbal assaults during every festival from 2021 to the present.¹⁰⁵
46. Further, extremist intimidation is routinely utilized to suppress peaceful assembly. In December 2022, severe threats of physical violence specifically targeting a kindergarten forced organizers to secretly relocate a children's drag queen book reading.¹⁰⁶ This

unchecked extremist rhetoric creates a highly dangerous environment in public spaces, which culminated in the horrific March 2024 Aristotelous Square attack, where a mob of around 150-200 people openly chased and assaulted two queer individuals in the center of Thessaloniki.¹⁰⁷

47. A critical structural flaw in combating hate speech in Greece is the weaponization of parliamentary immunity. While the Anti-Racist Law (Law 4285/2014) explicitly criminalizes public incitement to violence and hatred based on SOGIESC, high-ranking political figures frequently use their constitutional immunity to bypass these provisions entirely.¹⁰⁸ The Parliament routinely refuses to lift the immunity of Members of Parliament (MPs) who are accused of deploying homophobic and transphobic rhetoric from the parliamentary podium or in public broadcasts.¹⁰⁹ This institutional shield establishes a two-tiered justice system: it guarantees impunity for State actors who generate hate speech, while leaving the LGBTIQ+ community vulnerable to the extremist violence that this rhetoric directly incites on the streets.

Freedom of association

Status of Implementation: Partially accepted, Not Implemented

48. During its last UPR, Greece received four recommendations to protect human rights defenders and humanitarian workers and accepted three of the recommendations.¹¹⁰ Greece, however, noted Cuba's recommendation to "[e]nd the intimidation, threats and harassment suffered by human rights defenders, in particular when carrying out humanitarian work."¹¹¹ Greece has not adopted any new laws or policies specifically designed to protect human rights defenders and civil society organizations.
49. On the contrary, the Government's reluctance to proactively implement anti-harassment frameworks has allowed for an environment of tolerance of discrimination that discourages the operational capacity and freedom of association of LGBTIQ+ organizations.¹¹² These conditions force civil society organizations to divert their limited resources from their main goals to basic survival measures. For example, Thessaloniki Pride had to move premises, because it found itself in a hostile neighborhood. The activists received explicit threats from the neighbors, which made them feel unsafe and unwelcome.¹¹³
50. Further, the freedom to peacefully associate and organize public events is heavily compromised by the constant threat of mob violence, especially when it comes to less mainstream groups (anarchists, queers) or events that are considered provocative (usually, when they include minors, trans or gender-queer manifestations), while law enforcement sometimes fails to establish adequate protective perimeters for LGBTIQ+ assemblies.¹¹⁴

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

51. The co-authors of this stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Greece:
 - Expand the scope of Labor Law 4808/2021 to prohibit employers from refusing to hire an individual based on their perceived SOGIESC.

- Implement robust, specialized training to combat bias for law enforcement officers responding to allegations of violence, hate crimes, and hate speech against individuals because of their actual or perceived SOGIESC.
- Replace the judicial process concerning legal gender recognition with an administrative procedure.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and adopt legislation that permits legal gender recognition and recognition of non-binary identities.
- Adopt anti-discrimination protections in mental health law.
- Establish compulsory, ongoing training programs for healthcare professionals on LGBTIQ+ inclusion and rights and the mitigation of social prejudices, stigmatization, harassment, discrimination, and violence against individuals because of their actual or perceived SOGIESC.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and adopt legislation closing the loopholes in Law 4958/2022 to strictly and unconditionally prohibit non-medically necessary interventions aimed at altering or modifying intersex minors' sex characteristics to better comply with binary understandings of male and female sex characteristics without their informed consent.
- Amend the legal framework on medically assisted reproduction to ensure equal access to altruistic surrogacy for all couples without discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or family status, including male same-sex couples
- Abolish the mandatory psychiatric evaluation and the requirement for approval by the multi-disciplinary medical committee (currently established at the Agia Sophia Children's Hospital) for minors aged 15-17 seeking legal gender recognition, ensuring a process free from medical gatekeeping.
- Amend marriage and registration laws and regulations to make marriage fully inclusive of transgender people in law and practice.
- Amend family law to explicitly allow transgender parents to update their names and gender markers on their children's existing birth certificates, eliminating the practice of State-enforced "outing" and deadnaming.
- Establish an automatic presumption of parentage for the non-gestational mother in lesbian couples at the time of birth, removing the discriminatory requirement for step-child adoption under Law 5089/2024.
- Ensure freedom of expression in education by reinstating and officially endorsing LGBTIQ+ inclusive educational materials (such as those by Rainbow School) within the national public school platforms.
- Immediately and permanently abolish the discriminatory ban on blood donation for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender individuals by issuing a new, scientifically robust ministerial decree that replaces blanket exclusions and PrEP-related deferrals with a gender-neutral, individual risk-assessment model.

- Decentralize and simplify the prescription framework for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) by expanding prescribing authority to general practitioners and community-based sexual health centers, and launch a transparent, State-sponsored public information campaign to eliminate the current bureaucratic confusion.
- Introduce mandatory, age-appropriate, and objectively scientifically-based and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) that is explicitly LGBTIQ+ inclusive across all levels of the national public school curriculum.
- End institutional censorship by the Ministry of Education by immediately reinstating the arbitrarily removed “Rainbow School” educational materials to official State platforms, and establish a transparent mechanism that prevents unnotified removals and “administrative silence” in response to civil society appeals.
- Amend the Anti-Racist Law (Law 4285/2014) and parliamentary regulations to lift political immunity for parliamentarians and high-ranking public officials who engage in SOGIESC-based hate speech or incitement to violence, ending the current culture of high-level institutional immunity.
- Enact binding protocols for healthcare, municipal, and forensic authorities to guarantee the posthumous respect of transgender and gender-diverse individuals, ensuring that burial procedures, posthumous care, and death records strictly reflect their lived gender identity, name, and presentation, regardless of their formal legal gender recognition status at the time of death.
- Implement legal protections to ensure freedom of expression and association. Including by the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive legal and policy framework for the protection of human rights defenders, including specific protection measures for LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders against intimidation, threats, harassment, violence and reprisals, and ensuring prompt investigation, accountability and effective remedies.

¹ *Recognition of non-binary gender identity by the Kallithea Magistrate’s Court*, Antivirus, Sep. 18, 2020, <https://avmag.gr/anagnorisi-non-binary-taytotitas-fyloy-apo-to-eirinodikeio-kallitheas/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.23 Strengthen the penalties for violence targeting members of national, racial, ethnic and religious minority groups, women and gender non-conforming persons, acts of antisemitism and other hate crimes (United States of America); ¶130.44 Replace the judicial process concerning gender change by an administrative procedure, through a unilateral declaration in the appropriate registry, in accordance with the recommendations of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (Spain); ¶130.45 Adopt the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) definition of hate speech crimes, and investigate, prosecute and condemn racist violence crimes and hate speech crimes against LGBTIQ+ persons (Iceland); ¶130.46 Continue to develop policies to fight hate speech crimes, including those against LGBTQI persons (Israel).

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece: Addendum*, (Dec. 16, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5/Add.1, ¶ 3.

⁴ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece: Addendum*, (Dec. 16, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5/Add.1, ¶ 1.

⁵ ILGA Europe, “RainbowMap Greece,” accessed Apr. 3, 2026, <https://rainbowmap.ilga-europe.org/countries/greece/>.

⁶ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶ 130.45 Adopt the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) definition of hate speech crimes, and investigate, prosecute and condemn racist violence crimes and hate speech crimes against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland); ¶ 130.46 Continue to develop policies to fight hate speech crimes, including those against LGBTQI persons (Israel); ¶ 130.23 Strengthen the penalties for violence targeting members of national, racial, ethnic and religious minority groups, women and gender non-conforming persons, acts of antisemitism and other hate crimes (United States of America).

⁷ Racist Violence Recording Network, *Annual Report* (2023), accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://rvn.org/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors. See also European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), *ECRI Report on Greece: Sixth Monitoring Cycle* (Sep. 22, 2022), accessed Apr. 5, 2026, <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-first-report-on-greece-adopted-on-28-june-2022-published-on-22-se/1680a818bf>.

⁸ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), *LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges* (May 14, 2024), 75, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/lgbtiq-equality-crossroads-progress-and-challenges>; The Greek Ombudsman (Synigoros tou Politi), *Special Report: Equal Treatment* (2023), 51-60, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://www.synigoros.gr/el/category/default/post/eidikh-ek8esh-2023-or-ish-metaxeirish>, (section on gender identity).

⁹ The Greek National Commission for Human Rights, *Transgender persons and legal gender recognition: Recommendations* (2015), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, https://nchr.gr/images/English_Site/DIAKRISEIS/GNCHR%20Recommendations%20on%20legal%20gender%20recognition.pdf; ILGA Europe, *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex People* (2025), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://www.ilga-europe.org/files/uploads/2025/02/Annual-Review-2025-Greece.pdf>; European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), *Greece: Anti-racism commission praises adoption of national action plans, but raises concerns about inequalities and racism in policing* (2022), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/greece-anti-racism-commission-praises-adoption-of-national-action-plans-but-raises-concerns-about-inequalities-and-racism-in-policing>; Hate Crime Report, “Greece,” accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://hatecrime.osce.org/greece>.

¹⁰ ILGA World - The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, *LGBTI Rights in Greece | ILGA World Database*, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.

¹¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

¹² European Commission, *Country Report: Non-discrimination: Greece* (2024), 40, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://www.migpolgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Greece.pdf>.

¹³ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), *ECRI Report on Greece: Sixth Monitoring Cycle* (Sep. 22, 2022), accessed Apr. 5, 2026, <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-first-report-on-greece-adopted-on-28-june-2022-published-on-22-se/1680a818bf>.

¹⁴ *They refused to serve a transgender woman at a bank because they couldn't “identify” her*, The Press Project, May 17, 2021, <https://thepressproject.gr/amithikan-na-exypiretisoun-trans-gynaika-se-trapeza-giati-den-boroussana-tin-taftopoisoun/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

¹⁵ *Complaint about denial of service to a transgender person*, Antivirus, Feb. 10, 2025, <https://avmag.gr/katangelia-gia-amisi-parochis-ypiresias-se-trans-atomo/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

¹⁶ Orlando LGBT, *We Say Goodbye to Dimitris Kalogiannis* (2021), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/apochairetoy-me-tin-ton-dimitri-kalogianni-i-ora-ton-eythnon-kai-tis-antimetopisis-toy-stigmatos-tis-trans-katastasis-kai-tis-psychikis-astheneias/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

¹⁷ Orlando LGBT, *We Say Goodbye to Dimitris Kalogiannis* (2021), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/apochairetoy-me-tin-ton-dimitri-kalogianni-i-ora-ton-eythnon-kai-tis-antimetopisis-toy-stigmatos-tis-trans-katastasis-kai-tis-psychikis-astheneias/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

¹⁸ Orlando LGBT, *We Say Goodbye to Dimitris Kalogiannis* (2021), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/apochairetoy-me-tin-ton-dimitri-kalogianni-i-ora-ton-eythnon-kai-tis-antimetopisis-toy-stigmatos-tis-trans-katastasis-kai-tis-psychikis-astheneias/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

- ¹⁹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5 ¶ 130.23 Strengthen the penalties for violence targeting members of national, racial, ethnic and religious minority groups, women and p, acts of antisemitism and other hate crimes (United States of America); ¶ 130.45 Adopt the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) definition of hate speech crimes, and investigate, prosecute and condemn racist violence crimes and hate speech crimes against LGBTIQ+ persons (Iceland); ¶ 130.46 Continue to develop policies to fight hate speech crimes, including those against LGBTIQ persons (Israel).
- ²⁰ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.
- ²¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.
- ²² European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.
- ²³ Racist Violence Recording Network, *Annual Report* (2023), accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://rvrn.org/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.
- ²⁴ Racist Violence Recording Network, *Annual Report* (2023), accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://rvrn.org/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.
- ²⁵ First-hand information by Greek NGO on file with the report authors (2026).
- ²⁶ First-hand information by Greek NGO on file with the report authors (2026).
- ²⁷ FAROS, *Stories of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people* (Dec. 2020),18, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.faros2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/D2.5_LGBTQI_stories_GR.pdf. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors. The report documents qualitative data regarding the systemic mockery, belittling, and institutional transphobia faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals within Greek police stations.
- ²⁸ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.
- ²⁹ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>; Orlando LGBTQ+ Mental Health Professionals, *Why the Concept of "Consent" in Conversion Practices for Adults is Dangerous in Practice*, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/giati-einai-epikindyni-stin-praxi-i-ennoia-tis-synainesis-se-therapeies-metastrofis-se-enilika-a-toma-miloy-n-oses-oi-a-epezisan/>.
- ³⁰ Law 4958/2022, Official Government Gazette A' 142/21.07.2022, Article 62, ¶¶ 1-2, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://search.et.gr/el/fek/?fekId=618542>.
- ³¹ First-hand information by Greek NGO on file with the report authors (2026).
- ³² Orlando LGBTQ+ Mental Health Professionals, *Criminalization of Conversion Therapies in Greece: A Positive but Timid Step with Dangerous Phrasing*, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/poinikopoiisi-ton-therapeion-metastrofis-stin-ellada-thetiko-alla-atolmo-vima-me-epikidyni-diatyposi-2/>.
- ³³ Orlando LGBTQ+ Mental Health Professionals, *Why the Concept of "Consent" in Conversion Practices for Adults is Dangerous in Practice*, accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://orlandolgbt.gr/giati-einai-epikindyni-stin-praxi-i-ennoia-tis-synainesis-se-therapeies-metastrofis-se-enilika-a-toma-miloy-n-oses-oi-a-epezisan/>. Part of the “Tell It By Its Name” campaign led by Orlando LGBT+ (2022), which explicitly details cases of LGBTIQ+ individuals subjected to psychological abuse, fasting, and coerced 'spiritual counseling' by monks in provincial monasteries.
- ³⁴ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.
- ³⁵ Law 4958/2022, Official Government Gazette A' 142/21.07.2022, Article 62, ¶¶ 1-2. Accessed Apr. 8, 2026, <https://search.et.gr/el/fek/?fekId=618542>.
- ³⁶ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.
- ³⁷ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.
- ³⁸ ILGA-Europe, *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe and Central Asia 2025* (Brussels: ILGA-Europe, 2025), Greece Country Chapter, section on Education. Available at: www.ilga-europe.org/files/uploads/2025/02/Annual-Review-2025-Greece.pdf (accessed Apr. 9, 2026).
- ³⁹ See <https://stop-bullying.gov.gr/incident/>.
- ⁴⁰ *Statistics on the stop-bullying.gov.gr platform reports*, Greek Ministry of Education: Religious Affairs and Sports, Sep. 2024, <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/news/58256-26-04-24-ypografi-ypourgiki-apofasi-gia-ta-paida-gogika->

metra-pros-antimetopisi-tis-endosxolikis-vias-kai-tou-ekfovismoy-stis-146-oi-ana-fores-stin-platforma-stop-bullying-gov-gr.

⁴¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 3, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁴² European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 3, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁴³ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁴⁴ Colour Youth – Athens LGBTQ Youth Community, *First Greek National School Climate Survey*, by Chrysoula Iliopoulou, Nikolaos Nikolakakis, Foteini Diakoumakou, and Konstantinos Grammenidis (Athens: Mar. 2020), <https://www.colouryouth.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/First-Greek-National-School-Climate-Survey-Colour-Youth.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Orlando LGBT+, *Memorandum to the Committee for the Drafting of the National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People* (Athens: Apr. 2021); see also: Neos Paidagogos, *Addressing School-Related Gender-Based Violence through School Social Work: Prevention and Intervention Strategies. The Case of Greece* (Jan. 2025), 270-271, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, neospaidagogos.online/files/46_Teyxos_Neou_Paidagogou_Ianouarios_2025.pdf. Highlighting how lack of intervention directly impacts academic performance and leads to school dropout among LGBTIQ+ youth.

⁴⁶ Colour Youth – Athens LGBTQ Youth Community, *First Greek National School Climate Survey*, by Chrysoula Iliopoulou, Nikolaos Nikolakakis, Foteini Diakoumakou, and Konstantinos Grammenidis (Athens: Mar. 2020), <https://www.colouryouth.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/First-Greek-National-School-Climate-Survey-Colour-Youth.pdf>. The findings highlight a direct correlation between high frequencies of harassment and increased rates of truancy, academic decline, and early school dropout among LGBTIQ+ youth. See also the comprehensive guidelines by Rainbow School (Πολύχρωμο Σχολείο) emphasizing the structural push-out of gender-diverse youth from the educational system due to institutional hostility: https://rainbowschool.gr/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Guidelines_lgbtqi_issues_rainbow_school.pdf.

⁴⁷ Maria Paravantes, *Greek Schools Still Unsafe for LGBTIQ+ Children*, Tovima, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://www.tovima.com/stories/greek-schools-still-unsafe-for-lgbtqi-children/>.

⁴⁸ Maria Paravantes, *Greek Schools Still Unsafe for LGBTIQ+ Children*, Tovima, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://www.tovima.com/stories/greek-schools-still-unsafe-for-lgbtqi-children/>.

⁴⁹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 2, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁵⁰ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.

⁵¹ Panos Kaissaratos, *Thessaloniki: Strong reactions to Drag Queens who will read fairy tales to children – They changed location*, In the Newspaper, Dec. 30, 2022, <https://www.in.gr/2022/12/30/greece/thessaloniki-entones-antidraseis-gia-tis-drag-queens-pou-tha-diavasoun-paramythia-se-paidia-allaksan-topothesia/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

⁵² Dimitris Politakis, *Fairy tales by drag queens and wild stories*, LiFO, Jan. 4, 2023, <https://www.lifo.gr/stiles/daily/paramythia-apo-drag-queens-kai-istories-gia-agrioyis>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

⁵³ European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), *False Claims Targeting the LGBTIQ+ Community in Greece's 2024 Marriage Equality Discussion* (2025), <https://edmo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/False-Claims-Targeting-the-LGBTQ-Community-in-Greece-2024-Marriage-Equality-Discussion.pdf>. The report outlines how the anti-gender movement, fueled by far-right politicians and religious actors, utilized coordinated disinformation (including the targeting of drag reading events) to incite moral panic and harass the LGBTIQ+ community; ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Mar. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti>.

⁵⁴ Helena Smith, *Greek Orthodox church calls for excommunication of MPs after same-sex marriage vote*, The Guardian, Mar. 7, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/07/greek-orthodox-church-calls-for-excommunication-of-mps-after-same-sex-marriage-vote>. The article documents the aggressive institutional backlash from religious authorities aimed at delegitimizing LGBTIQ+ rights and punishing political supporters.

⁵⁵ European Labor Authority, *Regulating Digital Platforms – Articles 68-72 of Law 4808/2021*. Available online at https://www.ela.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/Good-practice-fiche-EL-UDW_Regulating-the-digital-

platforms-economy.pdf (accessed Mar. 5, 2026); International Labour Organization, *Law No. 4808/2021 titled "Labour Protection – Establishment of an Independent Authority for Labour Inspection – Ratification of ILO Convention 190 – Provisions for the Protection of Work."* Available online at <https://digitallabour.ilo.org/legislation/law-no-48082021-titled-labour-protection-establishment-independent-authority-labour> (accessed Apr. 10, 2026).

⁵⁶ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 1, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁵⁷ Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 10-11, 17, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, www.primeminister.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ethniki_statigiki_gia_thn_isothta_ton_loatki.pdf. The report highlights that only 8% of LGBTIQ+ individuals in Greece are open about their identity at work, fearing discrimination and career stagnation, while administrative and HR barriers persist in implementing inclusive policies; Rainbow Families Greece, *LGBTQIA+ Parents Research Report* (2024), accessed Apr. 4, 2026, rainbowfamiliesgreece.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/LGBTQIA-Parents-Greece-Research-Report_GR.pdf.

⁵⁸ Written communication with a Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

⁵⁹ Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 10-11, 17, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, www.primeminister.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ethniki_statigiki_gia_thn_isothta_ton_loatki.pdf. The report explicitly notes the "almost total exclusion" of transgender individuals from the labor market, often pushing them toward sex work due to the lack of other options. This exclusion is reinforced by the persistent use of pathologizing language like "gender disorder" in professional and military regulations, which constitutes a direct and unjustified discrimination.

⁶⁰ Racist Violence Recording Network, *Annual Report* (2023), accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://rvrn.org/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 1, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf. This report documents that 28% of LGBTIQ+ respondents in Greece felt discriminated against in the workplace in the year prior to the survey, with many reporting that disclosure of their identity or transition leads to professional marginalization or termination under pretextual justifications; Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 10-11, 17, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, www.primeminister.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ethniki_statigiki_gia_thn_isothta_ton_loatki.pdf. Highlights that 49% of LGBTIQ+ employees in Greece remain entirely "closeted" at work—significantly higher than the EU average—due to fear of bullying and career stagnation.

⁶¹ Racist Violence Recording Network, *Annual Report* (2023), accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://rvrn.org/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023/>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors; Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTIQ+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 10-11, 17, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, www.primeminister.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ethniki_statigiki_gia_thn_isothta_ton_loatki.pdf. The Strategy identifies a structural inability of the Greek administration to implement existing anti-discrimination laws due to a severe lack of specialized training for public officials and ambiguous jurisdictions. It specifically recommends the urgent hiring and training of specialized personnel within the Ministry of Labor and social protection services to address these implementation gaps.

⁶² Greek National Commission For Human Rights, *Report on the status of Women in Greece* (2025), 92, accessed Apr. 10, 2025, www.nchr.gr/images/pdf/apofaseis/isothta_fullwn/Report_on_the_status_of_Women_in_Greece_5.pdf; See also The Council of Europe, *Resolution 2048: Discrimination against transgender people in Europe* (2015), accessed Apr. 10, 2026, <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/xref/xref-xml2html-en.asp?fileid=21736>. Sets the international standard for legal gender recognition based on self-determination without judicial intervention; See also ILGA Europe, "RainbowMap Greece," accessed Apr. 9, 2026, <https://rainbowmap.ilga-europe.org/countries/greece/>, highlighting the gap between current Greek legislation and the administrative "best practice" models.

⁶³ Law 4491/2017 also at: <https://www.taxheaven.gr/law/4491/2017>.

⁶⁴ Although Law 4491/2017 (Government Gazette A' 152/13.10.2017) does not explicitly mention legal counsel, the procedure is conducted under "non-contentious jurisdiction" (Article 4§1), which triggers Article 94§1 of the Greek

Code of Civil Procedure. This article mandates legal representation by a qualified member of the Bar for all proceedings in civil courts. Furthermore, the judicial nature of the process allows judges, under the "investigative principle" (Article 744 of the Code of Civil Procedure), to require the applicant's physical presence to verify the "stability" of their gender identity.

⁶⁵ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

⁶⁶ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

⁶⁷ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025). Such cases of supportive mothers losing custody have been documented as an emerging trend following the 2021 Family Law reform. For a specific analysis of how "parental alienation" is used against affirming parents in Greek courts. Also available at: <https://rm.coe.int/pdf-english-final-shadow-report-13022023/1680aa2e44>.

⁶⁸ Law 5089/2024 (Government Gazette A' 27/17.02.2024) on "Marriage Equality" effectively repealed the "forced divorce" requirement by amending the Civil Code and the provisions of Law 4491/2017. Specifically, Article 11 of Law 5089/2024 ensures that a person's marriage remains valid regardless of a subsequent legal gender recognition. Prior to this, Article 3§1(d) of Law 4491/2017 required applicants to be unmarried.

⁶⁹ Greek Supreme Court (Areios Pagos, Decision 323/2022).

⁷⁰ This "forced outing" is documented as a significant legislative gap in Law 4491/2017. See P Voulstos, C-E Zymvragou, M-V Karakasi, and P Pavlidis, "A qualitative study examining transgender people's attitudes towards having a child to whom they are genetically related and pursuing fertility treatments in Greece," *BMC Public Health*, Feb. 18, 2021, accessed Apr. 9, 2026, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7890100/>, noting that trans parents remain registered under their former identity on their children's certificates. See also ILGA-Europe, *Annual Review 2024: Greece*, p. 2, highlighting the daily institutional barriers in schools and hospitals caused by this inconsistency.

⁷¹ Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTQI+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTQI+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 26. See also the Joint letter for the situation for the LGBTQI Asylum Seekers in Greece, available at: <https://diotima.org.gr/en/joint-letter-situation-for-the-lgbtqi-asylum-seekers-in-greece/> (accessed April 6, 2026).

⁷² Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTQI+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTQI+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 26.

⁷³ Committee for the Drafting of a National Strategy for LGBTQI+ Equality, *National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTQI+ People* (Athens: Hellenic Republic, June 2021), 25-26. See also The Call for action by the Henrich Boll Institute, available at: <https://gr.boell.org/en/2023/12/12/lgbtqi-asylum-seekers-greece-call-intersectional-inclusivity-0>.

⁷⁴ European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), *Case of B.F. v. Greece* (Application no. 8691/24), Judgment of October 2025. Available at: <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre?i=001-245243>.

⁷⁵ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.135 Implement human rights-based mental health policies aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provide community-based mental health services, with a view to eliminating stigma, discrimination and coercion in mental health (Portugal).

⁷⁶ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU LGBTIQ Survey III: LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges: Country Data – Greece* (2024), 1, accessed Mar. 5, 2026, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbtiq_survey-2024-country_sheet-greece.pdf.

⁷⁷ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

⁷⁸ The Greek National Commission for Human Rights, *Transgender persons and legal gender recognition: Recommendations* (2015), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://nchr.gr/images/English_Site/DIAKRISEIS/GNCHR%20Recommendations%20on%20legal%20recognition.pdf; ILGA Europe, *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex People* (2025), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://www.ilga-europe.org/files/uploads/2025/02/Annual-Review-2025-Greece.pdf>; European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), *Greece: Anti-racism commission praises adoption of national action plans, but raises concerns about inequalities and racism in policing* (2022), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/greece-anti-racism-commission-praises-adoption-of-national-action-plans-but-raises-concerns-about-inequalities-and-racism-in-policing>; Hate Crime Report, "Greece," accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://hatecrime.osce.org/greece?>. Qualitative data and reports from the Transgender Support Association (SYD) and Orlando LGBT+ document widespread institutional transphobia in Greek healthcare settings, including the specific misgendering practices at Papegeorgiou Hospital and the posthumous rights violations in Lesbos.

⁷⁹ See Articles 17-20. See also The rights of intersex persons in Greece by Vasilis Sotiropoulos (Aug. 2, 2022), at <https://gr.boell.org/en/2022/08/02/ta-dika-iomata-ton-intersex-atomon-stin-ellada>.

⁸⁰ ILGA World, “ILGA database: Greece,” accessed Feb. 10, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/greece-lgbti.a.lit>.

⁸¹ Intersex Greece, *Ban on gender ‘normalization’ surgeries (IGM) on intersex children* (2022), by Nikoletta Pikramenou, accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://intersexgreece.org.gr/2022/07/25/apagorefsi-ton-epemvaseon-kanonikopoiisis-fylou-igm-sta-intersex-paidia/>; Prisma Union for LGBTQI+ Rights, “2 years after the publication of Law 4958/2022, what is the current reality?,” accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://prisma-lgbt.gr/law-intersex-medical-interventions/>; The Greek National Commission for Human Rights, *Transgender persons and legal gender recognition: Recommendations* (2015), accessed Apr. 1, 2026, chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://nchr.gr/images/English_Site/DIAKRISEIS/GNCHR%20Recommendations%20on%20legal%20gender%20recognition.pdf.

⁸² According to the legal analysis of Law 4958/2022 by Intersex Greece (Dr. N. Pikramenou), the reliance on the criteria of Law 3418/2005 regarding “urgent medical necessity” creates a significant risk. Human rights advocates argue that these provisions allow clinicians to bypass judicial oversight by reclassifying non-vital, cosmetic interventions as “urgent” to prevent perceived psychosocial risks, effectively maintaining a pathologized approach to intersex bodies. Available at: <https://intersexgreece.org.gr/2022/07/25/prohibition-of-intersex-genital-mutilation-igm-procedures-on-intersex-children-articles-17-to-20-in-law-4958-2022/> (Accessed Apr. 9, 2026).

⁸³ Intersex Greece, *Ban on gender ‘normalization’ surgeries (IGM) on intersex children* (2022), by Nikoletta Pikramenou, accessed Apr. 1, 2026, <https://intersexgreece.org.gr/2022/07/25/apagorefsi-ton-epemvaseon-kanonikopoiisis-fylou-igm-sta-intersex-paidia/>.

⁸⁴ Greek Council of State (Decision 540/2025). The Court annulled the 2022 Ministerial Decree (No. Γ2α/οικ. 1450) on the grounds of “procedural insufficiency,” effectively reinstating the 1977-based exclusion criteria. For the official legal impact, see National Action Plan for HIV (2025-2030), Ministry of Health, pp. 42-44, which acknowledges the judicial suspension and the subsequent return to orientation-based deferrals. Available at: <https://dehems.med.uoa.gr/ekar/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Ethniko-Schedio-Drasis-HIV-2025.pdf>.

⁸⁵ For civil society reactions to this regression and the ongoing exclusion of PrEP users, see statements by *Positive Voice (The Greek Association of People Living with HIV)* and reports by *Amnesty International Greece* on the systemic stigmatization within the National Blood Donation Center (EKEA).

⁸⁶ Konstantinos Protopapas, Charalampos D. Moschopoulos, Nikolaos Kalesis, and Ioannis Mameletzis, “Informal PrEP use in Greece: The long, hard road to formal programmatic implementation,” *HIV Medicine*, Nov. 28, 2025, 313, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hiv.70158>.

⁸⁷ Konstantinos Protopapas, Charalampos D. Moschopoulos, Nikolaos Kalesis, and Ioannis Mameletzis, “Informal PrEP use in Greece: The long, hard road to formal programmatic implementation,” *HIV Medicine*, Nov. 28, 2025, 313, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hiv.70158>.

⁸⁸ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.113 Consider taking steps towards the legal recognition of same-sex relationships, including marriage, and the possibility of adopting children (Malta); and ¶130.114 Pass and implement laws that recognize same-sex marriage and the possibility of adopting children (Iceland).

⁸⁹ *Greece legalizes same-sex marriage*, Deutsche Welle, Feb. 15, 2024, <https://www.dw.com/en/greece-legalizes-same-sex-marriage/a-68270509>.

⁹⁰ *Greece legalizes same-sex marriage*, Deutsche Welle, Feb. 15, 2024, <https://www.dw.com/en/greece-legalizes-same-sex-marriage/a-68270509>.

⁹¹ *Greek Supreme Court Upholds Same-Sex Marriage and Adoption Rights*, The Levant Files, May 30, 2025, <https://www.thelevantfiles.org/2025/05/greek-supreme-court-upholds-same-sex.html>.

⁹² *Greek Supreme Court Upholds Same-Sex Marriage and Adoption Rights*, The Levant Files, May 30, 2025, <https://www.thelevantfiles.org/2025/05/greek-supreme-court-upholds-same-sex.html>.

⁹³ Maria-Louiza Deftou, *Greece Achieves Marriage Equality: What About Full Parental Rights for LGBTQI Persons?*, Oxford Human Rights Hub, Apr. 11, 2024, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/greece-achieves-marriage-equality-what-about-full-parental-rights-for-lgbtqi-persons/>.

⁹⁴ Maria-Louiza Deftou, *Greece Achieves Marriage Equality: What About Full Parental Rights for LGBTQI Persons?*, Oxford Human Rights Hub, Apr. 11, 2024, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/greece-achieves-marriage-equality-what-about-full-parental-rights-for-lgbtqi-persons/>.

⁹⁵ Under Law 4958/2022 (Government Gazette A’ 142/21.07.2022), which reformed medically assisted reproduction, the right to surrogate motherhood remains restricted to “altruistic” cases involving a woman who is medically unable to gestate. Article 13 of the Civil Code, as maintained and interpreted in conjunction with Law 3305/2005, defines infertility strictly as a medical pathology of the female reproductive system. Consequently, the

"natural inability" of same-sex male couples to gestate is not legally recognized as a valid ground for accessing surrogacy, effectively excluding them from the reform. Available at: <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/tekhnete-gonimopoiese/nomos-4958-2022-phek-142a-21-7-2022.html> (accessed Apr. 6, 2026).

⁹⁶ Amnesty International, *Greece: Marriage Equality Bill is an Emblematic Step but Further Changes are Required to Ensure True Equality for LGBTQI+ Persons* (Feb. 1, 2024), 1, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/EUR2576562024ENGLISH.pdf>.

⁹⁷ *Greek same-sex couples await landmark law*, Daily Tribune, Feb. 12, 2024, accessed Apr. 6, 2026, <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/02/12/greek-same-sex-couples-await-landmark-law>.

⁹⁸ "LGBTIQ+ Families in Greece: The Experiences of Parents" (Research Report), published in March 2024 by Goldsmiths, University of London and Rainbow Families Greece participants highlighted that social workers often apply subjective criteria based on traditional gender roles. Specifically, the report (p. 36) emphasizes the urgent need for mandatory training of social workers and state officials to dismantle heteronormative "gatekeeping" and ensure that the "best interests of the child" standard is not used to enforce binary gender dynamics. Furthermore, the study (p. 27) documents the "legal invisibility" and increased scrutiny faced by non-biological parents prior to the 2024 marriage equality reform.

⁹⁹ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

¹⁰⁰ Implementation of Law 5089/2024 has faced localized administrative and judicial challenges. In Decision 392/2026, the Plenary of the Council of State (StE) dismissed legal challenges brought by various associations seeking to annul ministerial instructions regarding the update of birth and marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Furthermore, ILGA-Europe, *Rainbow Map 2026: Greece*, notes that administrative hurdles persist regarding the automatic recognition of children born via assisted reproduction abroad, often requiring lengthy court interventions to override local registry denials.

¹⁰¹ Helena Smith, *Greek Orthodox church calls for excommunication of MPs after same-sex marriage vote*, The Guardian, Mar. 7, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/07/greek-orthodox-church-calls-for-excommunication-of-mps-after-same-sex-marriage-vote>.

¹⁰² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.90 Ensure the freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders, volunteers and civil society organizations (Mexico).

¹⁰³ Written communication with Greek NGO on file with the authors (2025).

¹⁰⁴ ILGA-Europe, *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex People: Covering the period of January to December 2024: Greece*, by ILGA-Europe (Brussels: Feb. 2025), 2. Also available at <https://www.ilga-europe.org/files/uploads/2025/02/Annual-Review-2025-Greece.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵ First-hand information on file with the report authors (2026).

¹⁰⁶ Dimitris Politikis, *Fairy tales by drag queens and wild stories*, LiFO, Jan. 4, 2023, <https://www.lifo.gr/stiles/daily/paramythia-apo-drag-queens-kai-istories-gia-agrioyis>. Source originally in Greek, translated to English by the report authors.

¹⁰⁷ Victoras Antonopoulos, *In Greece, Anti-Trans Violence Puts Hate Crimes Back in Spotlight*, Inkstick, Mar. 26, 2024, <https://inkstickmedia.com/in-greece-anti-trans-violence-puts-hate-crimes-back-in-spotlight>; *9 jailed pending trial over allegedly harassing, threatening 2 transgender persons in Greece*, AP News, Mar. 10, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/thesaloniki-harassment-transgender-arrests-adc137398d61c2afa7bb913122819101>.

¹⁰⁸ Art. 62 of the Greek Constitution provides MPs with parliamentary immunity (*ακαταδίωκτο*), often shielding them from prosecution under the Anti-Racist Law (4285/2014). Despite the law's provisions against SOGIESC-based incitement, constitutional protections frequently prioritize parliamentary free speech over hate speech accountability. Available at: ://www.hellenicparliament.gr/userfiles/f3c70a23-7696-49db-9148-f24dce6a27c8/syntagma1_1.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ The Greek Parliament routinely denies requests to lift MP immunity for SOGIESC-based hate speech, citing the "political nature" of the discourse. This institutional barrier is documented in the GNCHR Strategic Recommendations (pp. 24-26) and ILGA-Europe Annual Review 2024 (Greece), p. 4, noting the consistent lack of legal consequences for inflammatory political rhetoric. See: <https://www.ilga-europe.org/report/annual-review-2024> , www.nchr.gr/images/English_Site/DIAKRISEIS/GNCHR%20Recommendations%20on%20legal%20gender%20recognition.pdf.

¹¹⁰ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.90 Ensure the freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders, volunteers and civil society organizations (Mexico).

¹¹¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Greece*, (Jan. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/5, ¶130.91 Ensure that human rights defenders and humanitarian workers and volunteers are

protected against threats, harassment and intimidation, and that they are not prosecuted for engaging in humanitarian work, including maritime search and rescue activities (Panama); ¶130.94 Redouble efforts to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, including those who carry out humanitarian work with refugees and migrants (Uruguay); and ¶130.95 Ensure that all human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers are allowed to exercise their work, in a safe and enabling environment (Austria).

¹¹² The lack of proactive anti-harassment frameworks and the persistent climate of institutional tolerance toward discrimination significantly impede the operational capacity of LGBTIQ+ organizations. According to the GNCHR Strategic Recommendations for LGBTIQ+ Equality (2022), pp. 28-30, the absence of robust protective mechanisms in public and professional spaces creates a "chilling effect" that discourages freedom of association and active participation in civil society. This is further corroborated by ILGA-Europe, *Annual Review 2024 (Greece)*, p. 5, which notes that LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders continue to operate in a hostile environment characterized by limited state protection and administrative hurdles that restrict the visibility and safety of their initiatives.

¹¹³ First-hand information with Greek NGO on file with report authors (2026).

¹¹⁴ First-hand information with Greek NGO on file with report authors (2026).