



EQUALITY INDEX.

THE POLITICAL DEMANDS OF THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN ROMANIA

Project implemented by:



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INTRODUCTION

Since the decriminalization of homosexuality and the removal of Article 200 from the Penal Code, the Romanian State has paid little attention to the problems of LGBT+ communities in Romania. There are multiple reasons for this, and they have to do with a complex set of factors, including the dramatic history of Article 200, negative social attitudes, the propagation of hate speech by Romanian politicians, the involvement of religious organizations, as well as the populism propagated by political parties. The LGBT+ community is one of the most discriminated against, vulnerable and marginalized groups in Romania, a fact which makes the coagulation of a set of political demands necessary.

In the last few decades, in the absence of state protection, the problems of the LGBT+ community in Romania have accrued and created a vicious circle that leads to the reproduction of social inequality and generates poverty, exclusion and marginalization. In relation to the other member states of the European Union, Romania is at the bottom of any classification regarding the inclusion of LGBT+ persons. Moreover, civil society organizations become the repositories of all the expectations of LGBT+ communities, but they do not have the capacity to generate systemic change.

Why should we care, still, about LGBT+ people and their social inclusion? Primarily because equal rights of all citizens are guaranteed by the Romanian Constitution, and the State has a positive obligation to deal with all social problems they face; it is the essence of the social contract. Secondly, LGBT+ individuals are taxpayers who have the right to be treated with consideration by the State. Thirdly, a functional democratic society is one in which minorities, including LGBT+ persons, are respected and are guaranteed equal rights.

Fourth, LGBT+ people contribute to the well-being of society as a whole. Fifth, an inclusive society is one which generates economic well-being and provides a means of living for all. Last but not least, Romania is part of a European community, and it has adhered to a set of fundamental values and principles, including social and political protection for LGBT+ persons.

Also in recent years, the Romanian State has been faced with a series of court decisions, both at the European and national level, which reiterate the need for the State to tackle the problems of the LGBT+ community. But judicial decisions also have their limits, and the responsibility for changing the status quo remains with political decision-makers, in the legislature, in the executive level or at the level of local authorities. It takes political courage and political will and power to generate change at the level of public policies.

The present Index is meant to offer political decision-makers a roadmap, a political agenda that sheds light on the collective demands of the LGBT+ community in Romania. The Index is the result of extensive consultations with the LGBT+ community in many cities in Romania and therefore represents the voices of the LGBT+ community. The Index is not forged in some dark office, but the response of the LGBT+ community to the realities on the ground.

Often the most visible issues, such as the need to legalize civil partnership, occupy the entire political agenda regarding LGBT+ issues. However, the realities of the LGBT+ community are much broader than any single item on the agenda. Its needs are complex; therefore the State should get involved on several levels.

The Index is not intended to be exhaustive; it is only the beginning of a conversation and it's a constantly changing document depending on the context and the historical, economic and social developments of the LGBT+ community. Over the years, we expect the Index to be updated with ever new demands.

We present this Index to the political class, political parties and state institutions without any illusion that all of its components will be immediately accepted and implemented.

We are aware that we are talking about a long-term process, which requires patience, negotiation, adaptation. But we have to start somewhere. For too long our voices have been ignored, for too long we have been ignored. We hope that in the context of the upcoming elections in 2024, but also in the following years, political parties will undertake some of the entries on this Index, thus proving that they are committed to European values and that they wish to address the needs of all citizens, including LGBT+ ones.

At the same time, this Index aims to be a monitoring and advocacy tool, so as to assist the progress which Romania will make in the coming years in terms of LGBT+ rights. Only by putting our demands on the table can we compare and evaluate who are our real allies and who are those political entities which ignore us. We hope that our approach will be a first step in a wider conversation regarding the state of democracy in Romania.

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1. www.mozaiqlgbt.ro/barometru-2023/
 2. www.ilga-europe.org/report/rainbow-europe-2023/

CONTEXT

Homosexuality was decriminalized in Romania in 2001. Our country is one of the last in Europe to take this step. Even after the 1989 Revolution, in the 90s, LGBT+ people were hunted, harassed, judged, arrested, tried, and sentenced for the sin of loving in a different way.

As a result of this dramatic history of the Romanian State in relation to the LGBT+ community, a series of realities and problems can be identified regarding the integration of LGBT+ people in society:

- The lack of legal recognition for same-sex couples
- Lack of a clear, unified, and predictable procedure regarding the legal recognition of transgender persons' gender identity
- The presence in the public space, including among politicians, of hate speech directed at LGBT+ people
- Lack of disaggregated collection procedures for hate crimes with sexual orientation as an aggravating circumstance
- Lack of an aggravating factor in the Criminal Code regarding gender identity
- Lack of legal protection for transgender people in anti-discrimination legislation
- Lack of interest in prosecuting perpetrators of hate crimes
- Lack of recognition of same-sex couples in matters of residence and immigration
- Lack of representation in the public space of LGBT+ people
- Lack of safe spaces where LGBT+ people can freely express their identities, organize activities, socialize, and mobilize themselves
- The presence of the phenomenon of bullying in the educational system and the lack of measures in this regard
- Lack of access to mental health services
- Restricting access to medical services for transgender people
- Limited access to medical services and treatment for patients living with HIV
- A ban on donating blood for LGBT+ people
- Issues related to poverty and social inequality
- Issues related to housing and access to social services for the most vulnerable LGBT+ people

METHODOLOGY

This Index is the result of extensive consultation with the LGBT+ community in Romania. Between October 2022 and March 2023, MozaiQ organized 12 community meetings with over 100 activists in Bucharest, Cluj, Timișoara, Iași, Sibiu and Brașov. These meetings had the objectives of:

The consultation process was doubled by mapping the legislative framework relevant to the LGBT+ community in Romania, but also by an analysis of the main judicial decisions on the LGBT+ theme at the European level (the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union) and at the national level (the Constitutional Court of Romania).

Part of the process of drafting this Index was also an analysis of a few official documents, including:

- Mapping the realities of the LGBT+ community in Romania
 - Creating the local context for the LGBT+ community in Romania
 - Identifying the main challenges faced by LGBT+ citizens
 - Increasing the level of understanding of the functioning processes of the state, of its institutions, of the ways to determine change in the field of public policies
 - Increasing the level of knowledge regarding the advocacy methods that citizens have in their relationship with the state and how they can influence public policies
 - Defining the main demands of the LGBT+ community in Romania in relation to the state.
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- Rainbow Europe, ILGA Europe's classification based on the legal and social situation of LGBT+ people in most European countries, available at www.rainbow-europe.org
 - The LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 of the European Commission
 - The Strategy of the Romanian Government for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority for 2022-2027
 - The National Strategy on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Treatment Between Women and Men and the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence for 2021-2027
 - The LGBT Action Plan: Improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, adopted by the British Government in 2018
 - The Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan. Building our future with pride, adopted by the Government of Canada in 2018

Analiza Indexului este una trans-sectorială, luând în calcul raportarea la mai multe domenii relevante pentru generarea de politici publice:

- The Legislature, respectively the institution of the Parliament, relevant for the field of improving the legal framework for the LGBT+ community, respectively the adoption of relevant laws, but also the institutions subordinate to the Parliament.

- The Executive, namely the Government institution in its entirety, including the ministries and institutions subordinate to them, which issue emergency ordinances, government ordinances, government decisions, ministerial orders and other decisions with executive power.

- Local authorities, namely town halls, local and county councils, as well as the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest and sector councils, which issue decisions, resolutions and other similar documents.

- The Public Ministry and the Superior Council of Magistracy in the field of access to justice for all citizens, as well as civil rights protection.

- The Constitutional Court of Romania, which guarantees that citizens' rights and freedoms are respected by the State.

- Autonomous university-type institutions that have the role of a ferment for change through education.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Presently, in Romania, LGBT+ people are protected by the following legal framework:

- Government Ordinance (GO) 137/2000 regarding the prevention and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination – the main normative act in the field of combating discrimination in Romania, whereby sexual orientation is one of the protected criteria (but not gender identity)
- Art. 77 of the Penal Code regarding aggravating circumstances – protection based on sexual orientation (but not gender identity)
- Art. 369 of the Penal Code regarding incitement to hatred or discrimination, which includes sexual orientation among other protected characteristics expressly recognized as part of discriminatory motivation (but not gender identity)
- Law 221/2019 regarding bullying, which includes sexual orientation among the protected criteria (but not gender identity)
- Law 167/2020 which complements GO 137/2000 and includes workplace harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation (but not gender identity)
- Law no. 221/2019 for the amendment and completion of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions regarding combating psychological violence/bullying and Education Laws, respectively Law 198/2023 on primary and secondary education and Law 199/2023 on higher education
- Law 122/2006 regarding asylum status offered by the State, which includes sexual orientation and gender identity as criteria that may lead to individual circumstances for which an asylum seeker requires special procedural guarantees
- The new Civil Code, Art. 98-103 and Law 119/1996 Art. 44 on the change of civil status documents for transgender persons
- The new Civil Code, Art. 297 regarding abuse in service in the exercise of a right on the basis of sexual orientation (but not gender identity)

3. [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22languageisocode%22:\[%22ENG%22\],%22documentcollectionid%22:\[%22JUDGMENTS%22\],%22itemid%22:\[%22001-224774%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22languageisocode%22:[%22ENG%22],%22documentcollectionid%22:[%22JUDGMENTS%22],%22itemid%22:[%22001-224774%22]})

4. [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#{%22fulltext%22:\[%22\%2219237/16\%22%22\],%22documentcollectionid%22:\[%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CHAMBER%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#{%22fulltext%22:[%22\%2219237/16\%22%22],%22documentcollectionid%22:[%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CHAMBER%22]})

The relevant court decisions for the LGBT+ community in Romania are:

•[Buhuceanu and others vs. Romania](#), decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) regarding the need for Romania to recognize gay couples, either in the form of gay marriages or in the form of civil partnerships

•[Accept Association and others vs. Romania](#), decision of the ECHR regarding Romania's failure to ensure the exercise of the right to assembly of the LGBT community, following the interruption of the broadcast of a film with an LGBT+ theme, in 2013, by extreme right-wing groups

•[M.C. and A.C. vs. Romania](#), ECHR decision regarding Romania's failure to protect LGBT+ citizens participating in an LGBT+ march and the refusal of the authorities to identify and sanction the aggressors of LGBT+ citizens

•[X and Y vs. Romania](#), ECHR decision regarding Romania's failure to legally recognize the gender identity of certain citizens

•[Coman and others vs. The General Inspectorate for Immigration and the Ministry of the Interior](#), decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) regarding the recognition, for immigration purposes, of a same-sex marriage officiated by a Romanian citizen, on the territory of a European Union state, with a non-EU citizen

•Decision no. 534 of July 18, 2018 of the Constitutional Court of Romania (CCR) regarding the implementation of the decision [Coman and others vs. The General Inspectorate for Immigration and the Ministry of the Interior of the CJEU](#)

•Decision no. 907 of December 16, 2020 of the CCR regarding the unconstitutionality of the law that prohibited discussions about gender identity in schools and universities

•Decision no. 562 of September 19, 2017 of the CCR regarding the recognition, in criminal cases, of unmarried same-sex couples and their assimilation to married couples

5. <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#%7B%22fulltext%22:%5B%22%22CASE%20OF%20M.C.%20AND%20A.C.%20v.%20ROMANIA%22%22%5D,%22documentcollectionid%22:%5B%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CCRHAMBER%22%5D,%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-161982%22%5D%7D>

6. <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-207364%22%5D%7D>

7. <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=202542&text=&doclang=RO&pageIndex=0&cid=6344166>

8. https://www.cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.htp_act?ida=153567

9. <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/236620>

10. https://www.cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.htp_act?ida=147083

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I. FAMILY

LGBT+ families already exist as part of society, they are a reality, they will not go away. As of the present moment there is no legal framework for the protection of these families. Romania is one of the last six countries in the European Union which do not recognize gay couples in any form. Romania was condemned by the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights for not legally recognizing gay couples. The Constitutional Court of Romania has issued decisions that the State must also recognize gay couples. Projects of laws for the legalization of civil partnerships have been in the parliamentary committees for many years, and politicians ignore them. The rights assimilated to civil partnership are: officiating civil partnerships in relation to the civil status officer, the right of inheritance in case of death of a partner, the right to take a medical decision regarding a partner, in relation to the medical system, the regime of assets accumulated during the civil partnership and their regime in the event of separation, the right to have include a partner on the other's health insurance plan, the right of immigration for partners who do not have Romanian citizenship, the use of data concerning civil partnerships for the calculation of social benefits, minimum guaranteed income, etc., rights in connection to fees and taxes, social services, criminal matters, the right to social assistance in case of incapacity to work, rights regarding survivor's pension.

We demand:

- 1. Constitutional protection of LGBT+ families**
- 2. Legalization of civil partnerships by adopting Pl-x no. 152/2019**
- 3. Recognition of transgender families by recognizing marriages of transgender people in case of changes in civil status documents**
- 4. Recognition of married same-sex couples formed legally outside Romania, in the European Union and outside the European Union**

II. LEGAL RECOGNITION OF GENDER IDENTITY

Transgender people in Romania face a complex set of problems related to the level of acceptance, access to the labour market, access to medical services, access to education. Perhaps one of the most important problems has to do with the difficulty of having their gender identity legally recognized, i.e. changing civil status documents in regard to first name, Personal Numeric Code (CNP), and the gender marker in the birth certificate on a identity card or passport. This difficulty in legally recognizing the identity of transgender people makes them even more vulnerable to discrimination. Romania was convicted at the European Court of Human Rights in the case of X and Y vs. Romania, the Court ruling that Romania violates Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, regarding private life, by conditioning the legal recognition of the gender identity of two transgender men on certain medical interventions. Moreover, says the Court, Romania does not have a clear, predictable, unitary procedure for changing civil status documents. Court decisions at the country level are not similar, differing from judge to judge, there is still no unified jurisprudence.

We demand:

5. For a process for changing civil status documents (sex, first name, Personal Numeric Code) for transgender people to be established by law, a process which is coherent, clear, and predictable, in accordance with the highest international standards, respectively the right to self-determination. This process should proceed administratively, and not through a court order.

6. Total and express elimination of the obligation to present a certificate from the National Institute of Forensic Medicine for the change of civil status documents.

7. Elimination of medical conditions (surgical interventions, sterilization) for changing civil status documents.

8. Establishing coherent, clear, predictable, and fast procedures for updating the documents of transgender people in accordance with the change of civil status documents (diplomas, certificates, appointments, etc.) in relation to state institutions.

III. ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

In terms of housing, social assistance, mental health services, LGBT+ people have difficulties in accessing social services in the direct relationship with the Romanian state. There is a high degree of discrimination and homophobic/transphobic attitudes among social workers, and often LGBT+ people do not have the ability to navigate the bureaucratic red tape of state support. According to a MozaiQ study, 66% of transgender people had trouble covering food costs over the past year, and 16% were homeless in the past year as well. The emergency shelters that exist are not enough to cover the needs of all LGBT+ people, and homophobia and transphobia are a reality. LGBT+ people are still fired from their jobs when they come out.

We demand:

9. Free, equal and unrestricted access of LGBT+ people to social services offered by the state, in areas such as housing, allowances, pensions, subsidies, guaranteed minimum income, etc.

10. Continuous training of employees of social assistance departments and employees of the state public system.

11. Establishing LGBT+ community centres as a method to reduce the isolation and marginalization of LGBT+ people, including emergency shelters for vulnerable LGBT+ people.

12. Establishing a monitoring mechanism regarding the reduction of social inequalities for LGBT+ people.

13. Ensuring access of LGBT+ people to mental health services.

IV. LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Romania prohibits today discrimination based on sexual orientation in areas such as education, access to justice, health, housing, the labour market, through OG 137/2000. Nevertheless, discrimination persists in society, a significant proportion of the acts of discrimination not being reported due to the increased degree of distrust in the institutions of the Romanian State. Moreover, there is an increased degree of ignorance of their own rights among members of the LGBT+ community. The National Council for Combating Discrimination is the institution which issues fines for acts of discrimination, but the number of cases considered to be discrimination based on sexual orientation is extremely low, while regarding gender identity a practice has not yet been formed at the level of this institution. Transgender people are not protected by the current legal framework.

We demand:

14. Amendment of GO 137/2000 for the express inclusion of gender identity among the protected criteria

15. Ensuring the free, equal and unrestricted exercise of the right to public assembly for the LGBT+ community

16. Tightening the sanctions of the National Council for Combating Discrimination when it finds acts of discrimination against the LGBT+ community

17. Implementation of information campaigns among LGBT+ people regarding their rights and discrimination reporting processes

18. Amendment of Art. 297 of the Criminal Code, regarding abuse of office and the inclusion of gender identity in the list of protected criteria.

V. HEALTH AND HIV

In the health domain, LGBT+ people often face systemic discrimination, and this discrimination increases exponentially if the person is living with HIV. The need for Romania to protect its citizens from discrimination, as well as to offer them adequate health services, is imperative and urgent. In the case of LGBT+ people, the specific health needs they face must be fully respected, and the quality of services must be raised to the level of the European Union. The approach to medical and paramedical services must be conducted according to current scientific data. In the case of transgender people, they do not have access to enough endocrinologists, and those who practice do not have uniform standards. PrEP and PEP for HIV are not affordable. People living with HIV constantly experience treatment interruptions. Conversion therapy is practiced in some places in Romania, and LGBT+ people are prohibited from donating blood. In the case of intersex people, non-consensual surgical interventions are still practiced.

We demand:

19. Funding, from the state budget, of HIV prevention programs, in accordance with the National Strategy for the Surveillance, Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS infection Cases 2022-2030.

20. Ensuring widespread access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) for people at risk of exposure to HIV.

21. Establishing unitary standards regarding the medical transition of transgender people to ensure free, equal, and unrestricted access of transgender people to medical services.

22. Ensuring free, unfettered, and equal access to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections for LGBT+ people.

23. Ensuring continued treatment for people living with HIV for longer periods of time (3 months instead of monthly).

24. Express prohibition, by law, of conversion therapy.

25. Removing the ban on donating blood for LGBT+ people based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

26. Eliminating the practice of non-consensual surgical interventions in the case of intersex people.

VI. REPRESENTATION OF LGBT PERSONS IN PUBLIC SPACES

In public spaces, the LGBT+ community lacks visibility and representation, often finding itself in the situation of being portrayed in a stereotypical and strongly stigmatizing manner. The public space is littered with anti-LGBT rhetoric that can be seen in the media, online, on the street, using subversive messages or not. In this context, the lack of an affirmative discourse that counters and balances in a fair way the discourse and representation in the public space is noted. It is the role of state authorities and political decision-makers to ensure a democratic discourse and in accordance with human rights values, as well as to publicly support the LGBT+ community through various actions that provide legitimacy and institutional recognition of the need to correct social inequities and discrimination faced by the LGBT+ community.

We demand:

27. Establishing official partnerships between local authorities and Pride-type festivals in all cities in Romania.

28. The raising, by the authorities, of the LGBT+ flag on May 17 – the International Day of the Fight Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

29. The establishment of a museum of queer culture, subordinated to either the Ministry of Culture or the local authorities.

30. Public apology from the Romanian state to the victims of Article 200, their rehabilitation, deletion of their records and initiation of discussions regarding compensation for unjust convictions.

VII. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

LGBT+ people show increased mistrust in relation to the law and order institutions of the State, creating a dissonance especially in relation to the institution of the police. This attitude was aggravated by the multiple occasions in which LGBT+ people, victims of hate-motivated violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, were brutally or discriminatorily treated by Romanian law enforcement or they were unfairly treated by the Romanian judicial system. The situation was also confirmed at the international level by the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in the M.C. and A.C. cases vs. Romania, and the *Accept Association and others vs. Romania*. The LGBT+ community does not feel protected by state law enforcement institutions, even feeling apprehensive in relation to them. The current state of justice in Romania does not take into account the needs and realities of LGBT+ people, perpetuating demeaning, discriminatory and victim-blaming attitudes.

We demand:

31. Continuous training of the staff of the Romanian Police, prosecutors' offices, courts, CNA, CNCD, lawyers in the field of hate crimes, respectively hate speech.

32. The Romanian Police, the Ministry of Public Affairs and the Ministry of Justice should coordinate the way they enter hate crimes in their statistical databases, which would allow statistical analysis of cases from the registration of the complaint to the resolution by the court.

33. Adoption of a national plan to combat discrimination of LGBT+ people.

34. Establishment of a working group within the Superior Council of Magistracy for the unification of jurisprudence in LGBT+ themed cases.

35. Ensuring the free, equal and unrestricted access to justice of LGBT+ people.

36. Ensuring free, equal and unrestricted access to asylum for LGBT+ people from areas where their lives are endangered as a result of their identity

VIII. DOCUMENTING THE SITUATION OF THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY

Romania is not at the moment thoroughly and systematically collecting statistical data regarding the LGBT+ community, and funding and institutional support for research studies on the current situation and realities of people belonging to this group are insufficient. Documenting LGBT+ lives and issues in an objective and authentic manner can be used for the future creation of custom public policies, national strategies and legislative measures which target social disparities, discrimination and inequity faced by LGBT+ people in Romanian society.

We demand:

37.The introduction in the forms filled in by citizens as part of the recurring national population census of categories and questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity (non-binary inclusive).

38.The creation of a research institute on the topic of sexual orientation and gender identity, subordinated to the Parliament.

39.Ensuring researchers' access to the files of individuals convicted under Article 200, of those under surveillance and rounded up by the Communist Security on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

IX. SAFETY OF LGBT+ CITIZENS

LGBT+ people do not feel safe on the street, in public spaces, in private premises or even in their homes and families. Violence against LGBT+ people is still a harsh reality, and the authorities do not use the mechanisms of power they have at their disposal to solve those criminal cases involving physical violence. Police, gendarmes, defence and secret service employees do not have solid knowledge of the LGBT+ community and there are also among them some who are abusers of LGBT+ people. The Penal Code does not include gender identity among the protected criteria, leaving transgender people uncovered in terms of legal protection. Romania was condemned at the ECHR for failing to protect LGBT+ people.

We demand:

40. Amendment of Art. 77 of the Penal Code, regarding aggravation, and of Art. 369, on hate speech, to include gender identity among the protected criteria.

41. Implementation of the ECHR decision in the case of M.C. and A.C. vs. Romania according to the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes.

42. Continuous training of police officers, gendarmes, defence and secret service employees on relevant topics regarding sexual orientation and gender identity by organizing specific courses.

43. Establishing clear sanctions for those police, gendarmes, defence and secret service employees who do not respect LGBT+ identities or who commit acts of abuse or violence against LGBT+ people.

44. Establishing protocols and standards for the disaggregated collection of data on hate crimes, including in relation to the Public Ministry and prosecutors.

X. EDUCATION

LGBT+ people in Romania face a series of problems in the Romanian educational system. The problem of bullying towards LGBT+ people remains one of the unaddressed problems which lead to school dropouts. Moreover, teachers and school counselors or therapists are not trained to handle cases related to LGBT+ people. At the same time, education is essential to generate systemic change at a societal level, and to guarantee the access of all, without discrimination, to the educational act. There is still too little information about LGBT+ people in universities, which means that future doctors and healthcare staff are not prepared to handle LGBT+ cases.

We demand:

45. The introduction of specific courses on the medical transition of transgender people in the academic curricula of public universities of medicine and pharmacy.

46. Continuous training of endocrinologists, psychiatrists, gynaecologists, urologists, and infectious disease specialists regarding medical issues specific to LGBT+ (and specifically transgender) people.

47. The introduction, on a large scale, of health education in schools and high schools, based on international standards of good practice and adapting the curriculum to be age appropriate.

48. Continuous training of school counsellors and school therapists on LGBT+ topics.

49. Ongoing teacher training through LGBT+ themed courses on key notions and concepts in discussing gender diversity and LGBT+, such as gender identity, romantic and sexual orientation, gender expression, gender norms, etc.

50. The introduction of courses on LGBT+ history and culture in the academic curricula of public universities.

51. Combating bullying of LGBT+ people in schools, high schools and universities: unisex facilities on campuses, display of materials (posters, banners, etc.) in public spaces supporting LGBT+ diversity, periodic information of students in relation to support and protection services which can benefit LGBT+ people facing harassment, discrimination, difficult situations caused by homophobia/transphobia, as well as in relation to their sanctions/consequences.

52. Mechanisms and procedures that allow LGBT+ students and allies to report homophobic and transphobic bullying without the risk of persecution and discrimination.

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