



The Monitoring of Repression and Discrimination Against Belarusian LGBTQ+ Community in 2025

TG House, 2026

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Introduction

In 2025, the state policy of Belarus toward the LGBTIQ+ community was characterized by a further escalation of discriminatory and repressive measures. This concerns not only the adoption and preparation of new regulatory acts, but also the expansion of law-enforcement mechanisms aimed at limiting the visibility of LGBTIQ+ people, interfering in private life, and suppressing any forms of self-expression that fall outside the norms approved by the state.

During the reporting period, a significant change in persecution tactics was recorded. Alongside formal administrative and legislative measures, the authorities increasingly resorted to informal and covert methods of pressure. Law enforcement agencies carried out raids on closed cultural events, which were accompanied by selective detentions of LGBTIQ+ people, checks of documents and mobile devices, as well as interrogations, often conducted without the drafting of formal records.

At the same time, TG House recorded an increase in the number of covert forms of persecution, including entrapment through dating applications, “preventive” interrogations, pressure on relatives, doxing, and attempts to coerce individuals into cooperation.

The situation for transgender persons further deteriorated in 2025. State healthcare institutions undertook various measures aimed at complicating and prolonging procedures related to the legal and medical recognition of gender identity. Throughout the year, cases were documented of artificially restricted access to specialized professionals, difficulties or impossibility of being registered for medical care, as well as significant delays in completing mandatory procedural stages, which together substantially limited the exercise of the rights of transgender people.

It is important to note that, in the absence of independent media and effective legal protection mechanisms, a significant proportion of violations remain undocumented. Many affected individuals refrain from making public statements due to fears of further repression, threats against relatives, or repeated violence.

For this reason, TG House publishes only those cases that can be made public. The data presented in the monitoring do not reflect the full scale of the situation; however, they make it possible to identify key trends and the systemic nature of state policy toward the LGBTIQ+ community.

1. Legislation and legal changes

In July 2025, amendments were [introduced](#) to the Law “On the Rights of the Child,” recognizing “propaganda of homosexual relations, gender reassignment, pedophilia, and childlessness” as harmful to children’s health.

According to the [Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 86-Z of 12 July 2025](#), amendments were introduced to the Law “On the Rights of the Child” of 19 November 1993. The most significant changes concern Part Two of Article 37.

Thus, in the sixth paragraph, the word “mental” was replaced with “psychological.” This change may expand the scope of application of the law, allowing a broader range of actions to be interpreted as potentially harmful to the “psychological” health of children.

The eleventh paragraph now reads: “discrediting the institution of the family and marital and family relations, aimed at the propaganda of homosexual relations, gender reassignment, pedophilia, and childlessness.”

The amendments enter into force six months after the official publication of the document, that is, from January 2026.

In October 2025, the House of Representatives (the lower house of the Belarusian parliament) [approved](#), at the first reading, a draft law introducing a new article to the Code of Administrative Offences. It provides for administrative liability (substantial fines, and in cases involving minors — administrative arrest) for “propaganda of homosexual relations, gender reassignment, childlessness, and pedophilia.”

Although this is only the first reading, the very nature of the system established in Belarus, in which the legislative branch is fully subordinated to the executive, leaves little doubt as to the swift and final adoption of this law.

According to the draft law, the Code of Administrative Offences (CAO) will be supplemented with a new Article 19.16, “Propaganda of homosexual relations, gender reassignment, childlessness, and pedophilia,” which entails the introduction of administrative liability for any forms of expression that the authorities may consider to constitute propaganda.

The [legal analysis](#) of the draft Article 19.16 of the Code of Administrative Offences notes that the concept of “propaganda” lacks clear and verifiable criteria, making it impossible to determine in advance which actions or statements may entail administrative liability. As a result, any forms of public expression may potentially fall under the scope of the article, including publications, expert opinions, human rights advocacy and educational activities, as well as statements and publications relating to private life.

The document also places same-sex relationships and gender transition on the same level as pedophilia, which is a criminal offence. Such an equation is stigmatizing in nature and, according to experts, creates grounds for arbitrary and discriminatory application of Article 19.16 against LGBTIQ+ people.

In September 2025, the Ministry of Health [introduced](#) changes to the rules governing the procedure for gender reassignment. A sexologist was removed from the composition of the commission and replaced by a psychiatrist–narcologist. In this way, the Ministry of Health effectively entrenched an approach under which transgender identity is treated as a “mental deviation.”

Human rights defenders from TG House warn that this decision pathologizes transgender identity, shifting issues of gender identity from the field of sexology into the domain of severe mental disorders and addictions. The shift of focus toward psychiatry and narcology effectively reduces the transgender transition procedure to compliance with narrow and rigid criteria of a psychiatric “illness,” thereby restricting the right to self-determination and blocking access to legal and medical transition for a significant proportion of transgender persons.

2. State policy

In 2025, the state policy of Belarus toward the LGBTIQ+ community was shaped within a persistent ideological discourse based on the opposition between so-called “traditional family values” and “Western ideology.” This approach was used to frame issues of family, reproductive choice, and gender identity as areas requiring state control and protection from “alien” influence.

This discourse was consistently reproduced in state-controlled media. For example, an article [published](#) by *SB. Belarus Segodnya (Belarus Today)*, one of the main outlets of official state propaganda, emphasizes the need to “think about the future of Belarus through the prism of the traditional family,” while alternative models of family, reproductive choice, and understandings of gender identity are portrayed as externally imposed and potentially dangerous for society.

Similar narratives were also disseminated through regional state media outlets. For instance, in a [publication](#) on the website of *Grodnenskaya Pravda* entitled “Foreign values, or how the Schneider family fled from the vaunted Western tolerance to Belarus,” the story of a family’s migration is used to contrast Belarusian “traditional values” with so-called “Western tolerance,” which is depicted as a threat to family and children. Moreover, this material was not limited to publication in a regional state media outlet: it was also posted and reposted on the websites of state-owned enterprises and institutions, including the website of the Administration of the Leninsky District of the city of Grodno, as well as the enterprise *Grodnovodokanal*. This practice indicates the coordinated dissemination of ideological content and the use of information resources of state organizations to replicate propagandistic messages.

In addition, Belarusian officials in 2025 continued hostile rhetoric toward the LGBTIQ+ community, speaking about “propaganda,” the “decaying West,” and values declared to be incompatible with the Belarusian people.

Oleg Gaidukevich, chairman of the pro-government Liberal Democratic Party, commenting in July on the relevant legislative amendments, stated that in Belarus one can speak about the idea of gender reassignment “only at a garbage dump, and even then such a person would be detained afterward.”

On 21 November, the Minister of Information, **Marat Markov**, stated at an expanded meeting of the Republican Commission for the Evaluation of Symbols, Attributes, and Information Products that a “large amount of literature” had been entering Belarus from Russia, which “may be classified as extremist.”

“Against the background of the adoption of certain regulatory acts and laws that have begun to operate in Russia and that have imposed restrictions on the propaganda of LGBT, childlessness, non-traditional sexual relations, and pedophilia, all literature produced by our ally has today flooded into the territory of Belarus,” the official said. In this regard, he called during the meeting for “the adoption of absolutely clear, concrete decisions that are important for the country and for our descendants.”

Belarusian representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church in 2025 also publicly spoke on such topics as the justification of war and the condemnation of the West for its “values.”

Thus, the spiritual adviser of the women's St. Elisabeth Convent, known for its open support of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Archpriest **Andrei Lemeshonok**, stated on the ONT television channel on 16 January that in the West an "ideology of the destruction of the individual and the family" is promoted, that children in schools are "corrupted," that there is "no morality, no freedom of opinion," and that "Europe and America have abandoned God." He referred to representatives of the LGBTIQ+ community as "sick people."

The head of the pro-government Belarusian Women's Union and director of the Belarus office of the Interstate Television and Radio Company *Mir*, **Olga Shpilevskaya**, stated in October on the program *Editors' Club* that Belarusian children should play with dolls and toys from the "Polesie Factory," which she described as "traditional toys."

"Because together with the toys that came to us from the West, that Western ideology also came. When our children were accustomed from an early age to transgender dolls," the official asserted. Thanks to sanctions, she said, "this ideological influence, this imposition of values alien to us, will fade away."

3. Persecution and violence

Unprecedented pressure on LGBTIQ+ people forces TG House to exercise the utmost caution in collecting, storing, and making public information about them. Many of those about whom we must report remain in Belarus, which in itself places their lives and health at risk. Some have managed to leave the country; however, they are not ready to speak openly about themselves, as they still have relatives in Belarus who may face persecution.

TG House has repeatedly noted that in recent years transgender people have become one of the most vulnerable groups within the LGBTIQ+ community in Belarus, and repression and persecution of transgender people continue on an ongoing basis.

Not only individual cases of persecution of people and their relatives persist, but also organized mass raids on themed parties and gatherings. We view this not merely as isolated facts of persecution, but as a clear subtext aimed at escalating fear in society, suppressing any form of “otherness,” and pushing such people out of the country.

1. Between August and October 2025, Belarusian law enforcement officers exerted pressure on the family of a **trans man** who had previously fled repression and relocated to France. His parents received two phone calls from police officers demanding that they disclose his whereabouts and provide his contact details, including social media accounts. On one occasion, law enforcement officers also came to his former place of residence and questioned neighbors. The parents were told that if they refused to provide the information, they could be summoned for a “conversation.”
2. Between August and November 2025, Belarusian law enforcement officers repeatedly visited the parents of a **transmasculine non-binary person**, an asylum seeker residing in Poland. On 18 August, a search was conducted at the parents’ home, after which the police returned several times for repeated interrogations. The last visit took place on 17 November. Officers asked where their child was located, at what address they were living, what they were doing, and why they “would not come to Belarus to cancel his residency registration in his apartment.” In addition, in October it became known that this person had been placed on a wanted list in the Russian Federation.
3. On 29 April 2025, psychologist and **LGBTIQ+ activist** Marina A. was detained in Minsk. The detention was carried out by officers of the State Security Committee (KGB) of Belarus. No official grounds for the detention were explained to her. After her detention, Marina A. was taken for interrogation, during which KGB officers threatened to initiate criminal proceedings under Article 361 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (establishment of, or participation in, an extremist formation) if she refused to cooperate and provide information about LGBTIQ+ activists and organizations supporting the community. As a result of subsequent pressure from law enforcement agencies, the woman was forced to reduce her professional activities and contacts with colleagues and later left the territory of Belarus out of fear of further repression.

4. On 31 July 2025, a closed LGBTIQ+ party took place in Minsk at the restaurant “RIO.” The event was held in the format of a drag queen show. The party was not publicly advertised; applications were selected manually, and a closed account of the organizers in social media was used. On the evening of the same day, one of the pro-government Telegram channels published eight photographs and videos from the party, on the basis of which the participation of 17 people was identified. The publication was accompanied by claims about the “disguising of the LGBT movement.” The post was shared by pro-government bloggers, including Olga Bondareva, who hinted at possible repressive consequences for the participants.

According to information from TG House, as early as August at least two participants of the party were detained by police officers. They were questioned about the event, the organizers, and other attendees. According to those detained, they were asked personal questions, including questions concerning their sexual orientation and participation in queer activities. After their phones were checked, they were released without any official records being drawn up.

5. In August 2025, in one of the cities of the Vitebsk Region, police officers detained a *homosexual man* without providing any explanation, after which checks and pressure began against other representatives of the LGBT community who were in contact with him. According to information from TG House, after the detention, law enforcement officers examined the contacts and correspondence on the detainee’s phone and later began summoning and questioning other men whose information had been found on the device.

Certain individuals received threats and warnings about possible “liability” for “sharing intimate materials” through acquaintances.

According to the source, a new department dealing with cases related to “morality” was established in this city, within the framework of which the police pay increased attention to gay and queer men. Checks and interrogations continued later as well; some individuals were detained for questioning in connection with correspondence and photographs found on the phone of the initially detained man.

6. In September 2025, 21-year-old **queer activist** Alina Shevtsova was convicted under Part 1 of Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code (creation of an extremist formation or participation therein) and sentenced to three years of imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony for her participation in the educational project “School of Leadership for Women.” The trial was held behind closed doors.
7. On 19 September 2025, following a closed **queer-friendly** party in Minsk, between **10 and 15 people** were detained. According to information received by TG House, officers of the OMON riot police conducted a raid during a cultural event at the Minsk club “Reaktor.” The music was stopped, visitors were forced to lie on the floor or stand facing the wall, after which searches and selective detentions began without any explanation of the reasons. The official pretext for the intervention by law enforcement was an alleged suspicion of drug use; however, no narcotic substances were found during the searches.

TG House emphasizes that the detentions were exclusively discriminatory in nature: law enforcement officers removed and detained primarily men with feminine gender expression and people whose appearance did not conform to conventional gender norms.

In total, as noted above, **10–15 people** were detained and held in police departments for 2–3 hours, after which some of them were released without charges. During their detention, those held were subjected to humiliating and homophobic remarks, questions about their private lives, and threats of violence, which constitutes a recurring practice of Belarusian law enforcement officers. At least **four individuals** were issued administrative offence reports under **Article 19.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Belarus (“minor hooliganism”)**.

8. In 2025, a *homosexual man* in Minsk was subjected to persecution by law enforcement agencies. He collected and shared with his acquaintances information about repression affecting queer people. This activity was regarded by law enforcement officers as “interaction with extremist structures.” The man began receiving threats, including hints at the possible initiation of a criminal case and messages stating that information about him had been passed to the “relevant authorities.” Fearing further persecution, he was forced to leave Belarus and travel to Lithuania.
9. In November 2025, a **queer woman, Yana Stasyalovich** from the city of Molodechno (Minsk Region), was subjected to doxing by law enforcement agencies. Pro-government resources linked to GUBOPiK published her personal data and details of her private life with the aim of public humiliation and pressure. Following the publication, police officers began contacting her via social media, exerting psychological pressure and attempting to coerce her into “cooperation.” Fearing further persecution, the woman was forced to leave the territory of Belarus.
10. In the summer of 2025, TG House documented two cases of entrapment “dates” involving law enforcement officers, in Minsk and in one of the regional cities. The men arranged meetings through the Hornet application; however, police officers arrived at the meeting locations, presenting themselves as narcotics control officers. They checked phones, reviewed correspondence, took statements, asked questions about gay friends, and proposed cooperation. After the interrogations, the affected individuals were released.

To verify the facts of repression, TG House conducted interviews with affected individuals. In cases where direct contact was not possible, the information was verified on the basis of testimonies from third parties (relatives, acquaintances or witnesses), as well as additional sources, including documentary evidence.

4. Discrimination and pressure in places of detention

In 2025, the situation of queer people in penitentiary institutions of the Republic of Belarus remains critical. Within the informal prison hierarchy, LGBTIQ+ detainees, as well as individuals to whom the administrations of places of detention attribute a non-heteronormative sexual orientation, are often placed in the category of “low status.” This makes them targets of constant pressure, humiliation, and violence from other prisoners. This status is also frequently used by prison administrations as a tool of control and punishment, including threats of transfer to harsher conditions of detention.

Public testimonies of former prisoners confirm the high level of risk faced by LGBTIQ+ people in places of detention. In an [interview](#) with the Lithuanian media outlet *Delfi*, former political prisoner Sergei Tikhanovsky, who was released in July 2025 after five years of imprisonment, stated that LGBTIQ+ people are subjected to extremely brutal treatment in Belarusian prisons. According to him, a queer prisoner may be not only tortured but even killed for having a non-heteronormative sexual orientation.

These statements are confirmed by testimonies of other released LGBTIQ+ former political prisoners. For example, blogger and openly homosexual man Vadim Yermashuk (Vadimati) [spent](#) three years in a Belarusian penal colony, where he was assigned the so-called “low status.” As a result, he was isolated from other prisoners, subjected to systematic pressure and torture, and his complaints about what was happening were ignored by the administration of the institution.

In 2025, TG House also received a report from an openly homosexual man from Belarus who was released from a place of detention in the same year. According to him, the assignment of a “low status” became the basis for systematic humiliation, threats of physical violence, and pressure both from other prisoners and from the administration. Complaints about what was happening were ignored, and attempts to assert his rights led to increased pressure and a deterioration of detention conditions.

As a result, LGBTIQ+ people in places of detention in Belarus are subjected to systemic discrimination based on stigmatization and the prison hierarchy. The practice of assigning a “low status” and the absence of protection mechanisms create conditions for cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, and also pose a real threat to the life and health of such prisoners.

5. Social and cultural discrimination

On 14 May 2025, ILGA-Europe presented an updated [Rainbow Map](#) assessing the state of LGBTIQ+ rights in 49 countries. Belarus ranked 45th, scoring only 10.16 out of 100 points. This is even lower than the previous year, when the score stood at 11.16%. Only Armenia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Russia ranked lower.

The organization TGEU, in its updated [Trans Rights Map](#), which covers 54 countries in Europe and Central Asia, also noted an extremely low level of respect for the rights of transgender people in Belarus. The country implements only 6 out of 32 key indicators relating to legal gender recognition, protection of transgender people, access to healthcare and family rights, as well as combating discrimination and violence.

A joint [statement](#) by the Belarusian human rights community, published on 11 July, stated that the authorities' intentions to introduce liability for the dissemination of "information aimed at forming among citizens perceptions of the attractiveness of homosexual relations, gender reassignment, and childlessness" contradict the Constitution of Belarus and the state's international obligations.

The authors describe the mention of pedophilia alongside homosexuality, transgender identity, and childlessness as "a clear attempt to discredit and demonize entire social groups, which is unacceptable in a state governed by the rule of law."

They believe that the state's policy is "consistent and deliberate" in its discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and reproductive choice.

On 15 September, during the presentation of the review "*Human Rights in Belarus: Key Trends in State Policy. May–August 2025*," Ekaterina Deikalo, an expert from the Belarusian Helsinki Committee (BHC), stated that Belarus is undergoing a process of totalitarianization and monopolization of the sphere of private life by the state.

According to the lawyer, this concerns the introduction in Belarus of administrative liability "for certain manifestations of a person's private life and identity." Moreover, the changes affect not only the LGBTIQ+ community, but also adherents of feminist views, people who do not wish to have children, and others. The mentioned provision applies to a large number of people "who are, in principle, engaged in issues of equality."

As previously noted, in October TG House became aware that the House of Representatives (the lower house of the Belarusian parliament) adopted, at the first reading, the draft law "On Amendments to the Codes on Issues of Administrative Liability." The document must now pass a second reading, be reviewed by the Council of the Republic, and be signed by Alexander Lukashenko. In Belarus, such procedures usually proceed very quickly; therefore, the final adoption of the law can be expected in the near future.

6. Information campaigns and censorship

In 2025, the policy of censorship and restrictions on the dissemination of information related to LGBTIQ+ topics continued in Belarus.

In September, the media outlet focused on gender and sexuality [DazHip](#) was designated as extremist. By a decision of the Pukhovichy District Court of the Minsk Region dated 11 September 2025, its online resources and social media accounts, including its Telegram channel and pages on Facebook and Instagram, were added to the list of extremist materials.

In May, it became known that Anatoly Norovyatkin, Director of Distribution at the publishing house *Eksmo*, and approximately 10 other individuals were detained in Moscow as part of a criminal investigation into “extremism.” The reason for the detention of those involved was cited as the “propaganda of the ‘international LGBT movement,’ recognized as extremist and banned on the territory of Russia, in books published by *Popcorn Books*” (in August 2023, *Eksmo* acquired a 51% stake in this publishing house).

On 15 May, in connection with the criminal case in Russia, the Ministry of Information of Belarus did not fail to reiterate that the reason for the detention of those involved in the case was the “propaganda of the LGBT movement.”

“These books, in the opinion of the members of the Republican Commission for the Evaluation of Symbols, Attributes, and Information Products, are a source of propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations, pornography, violence and cruelty, drug use, as well as the popularization of subcultures that are non-traditional for Belarusian society,” the ministry stated.

The Ministry of Information of Belarus demanded that book distributors “conduct an audit of the printed publications being sold.”

On 15 October, Minister of Information Marat Markov stated that in Belarus 173 publications have been “recognized by a specially established commission as harmful to the interests of the country.” According to Markov, these books are sources of “propaganda of pornography, LGBT, violence, cruelty, and so on.” A month earlier, Markov stated that the list of books banned from distribution is “not censorship in the classical sense, but an analogue of sanitary control and vaccination at the same time.”

Markov asserted that the authorities do not allow “all kinds of filth onto the shelves of our information space” and ban publications that “call for extremely dangerous, illegal, or even simply morally repugnant things.”

“The issue is not about depriving people of the right to choose. The issue is about protecting people from reading material that functions like informational poison, manipulating consciousness and destroying our traditional values,” the minister said.

7. Access to gender transition

In Belarus, the gender transition procedure is carried out by only one authorized doctor — psychiatrist-narcologist Alexandra Kuchinskaya, who practices at the Minsk Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health. Any vacation, sick leave, or other absence from her workplace results in a complete halt of the legal and medical gender transition process for hundreds of transgender people across the country.

As a result, it becomes impossible to obtain certificates confirming medical observation, referrals for examinations, and conclusions from other specialists that are required for admission to the commission.

Since July, transgender persons undergoing gender transition have been unable to undergo an examination with urologist A. A. Gres at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital (within the gender transition procedure, examinations are permitted only with doctors and in institutions specified in the official medical referral issued by Alexandra Kuchinskaya). It was initially reported that the doctor would be on sick leave from July through December; however, as of the end of December, the problem remained unresolved.

On 6 June, the first meeting of the gender transition commission in 2025 took place in Minsk. According to TG House, 30 people participated. The results showed a high rate of refusals: approval was granted to only **8 individuals** — **approximately 26%** of the total number of participants.

Of the **25 people** who applied to the first commission (for the purpose of changing documents), **only 5 received** positive decisions. Of the **5 people** who appeared before the second commission (for medical transition), approval was granted to **only 3**.

As a result, the majority of transgender persons once again faced refusals — many of them not for the first time.

According to information from TG House, members of the commission continue to ask questions that are unrelated to the substance of gender transition. These include questions about everyday skills, intimate life, and even physiological processes, which are entirely inappropriate in this context.

In the autumn, transgender people in Belarus began receiving phone calls from the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health informing them that appointments with psychiatrist-narcologist Alexandra Kuchinskaya in October and November had been cancelled due to her emergency hospitalization.

On 16 December, the second planned meeting of the gender transition commission of the year took place in Minsk. Information about its scheduling became known only on 9 December. As before, the preparation timelines were extremely tight, which, according to our information, resulted in at least two individuals being unable to participate in the commission meeting.

As a result, **36 people** ($\pm 1-2$ individuals) attended the commission. Following the meeting, **16 people** received positive decisions — **approximately 44%** of the total. This represents the highest approval rate recorded over the past three years and marks a noticeable shift compared to previous commissions, where approvals typically accounted for 20–30%.

The majority of participants applied to the first commission — the stage required for changing legal documents. Of the **28 people**, **8** received positive decisions, amounting to **less than 30%**. Although this stage remains the most unpredictable, even here the approval rate was higher than in previous years.

Eight people appeared before the second commission, which grants eligibility for medical transition. On this occasion, all of them received approval. For many, this came as a surprise, as negative decisions at the second stage of the commission had previously been issued on a regular basis.

Conclusion

Each year, in the conclusion of our monitoring, we state the systematic deterioration of the situation with the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Belarus, and this year is no exception.

In 2025, the Belarusian authorities demonstrated a deliberate policy of repression and discrimination against transgender people and the LGBTIQ+ community. This policy of repression includes legislative “pressure” that creates, albeit formal, a legal basis for persecution; law enforcement practices (arrests and detentions accompanied by cases of ill-treatment); as well as constant discriminatory rhetoric and isolation, which render the community vulnerable to stigmatization, forced emigration, and socio-economic marginalization.

Conditions are being created and intensified in the country year after year that not only render repression against vulnerable groups of people legitimate, but also introduce, at the legislative level, a division of people into “acceptable” and “unacceptable.” The result is an atmosphere of absolute fear and people’s complete lack of protection in the face of the system.

TG House emphasizes that the stronger the repression against such groups within Belarus, the more critically necessary systematic public documentation of specific cases of persecution becomes. Open documentation of cases of persecution concealed by the authorities increases international attention and contributes to a more effective response by international institutions.

TG House recommends:

- Expand international support for LGBTIQ+ and human rights organizations, including emergency assistance programs, relocation schemes, and the provision of humanitarian visas, taking into account that Belarusian authorities in many cases do not issue official rulings or other documents confirming acts of persecution;
- When examining applications for visas and international protection, take into account the specifics of the repressive context in Belarus, in which the absence of official documents cannot be regarded as the absence of a real risk, and where the evidentiary basis should include testimonies of affected individuals and other forms of indirect evidence;
- Develop and support a long-term, comprehensive strategy for the protection of the LGBTIQ+ community, aimed both at assisting people who remain inside Belarus and at supporting queer individuals in forced exile.