



Czech Republic



Public acceptance of LGBTI persons remained rather high in the Czech Republic, even though the new President made negative remarks about a scholar's sexual orientation. Respondents in the EU LGBT Survey indicated a particularly low incidence of discrimination or harassment compared to neighbouring countries, and activists hope to cooperate positively with newly elected parliamentarians, repeating previous joint work on a proposal for second-parent adoption.

Bias-motivated violence

- In its report *Because of who I am: Homophobia, transphobia and hate crimes in Europe* published in September, Amnesty International specifically underlined the Czech Republic had so far failed to include sexual orientation or gender identity as aggravating motives in its criminal law.

Data collection

- 2,469 respondents from the Czech Republic took part in the first EU-wide survey of LGBT people's experiences of discrimination, organised by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. 36% of respondents felt discriminated or harassed because of their sexual orientation in the year preceding the survey (EU average 47%; lowest 30% (Netherlands); highest 61% (Lithuania)). 13% felt discriminated against at work or when looking for employment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (EU average 20%). And 27% felt discriminated against when buying goods or accessing services, healthcare, social services, or housing (EU average 32%).

Equality and non-discrimination

- In 2013, the Czech Republic was reviewed during the UN Universal Periodic Review process and accepted taking measures to eliminate any discriminatory treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Elected President in January, Miloš Zeman implied in May that he had blocked the accession of Martin Putna to university professorship in History because of his sexual orientation or his activities as an activist for the human rights of LGBTI people. (Traditionally, universities nominate their professors, before the President formally grants them the position.) Mr Putna had also been critical of President Zeman. Politicians and academics protested this impingement on academic discretion. A few days later, Zeman said he would not block the nomination anymore, and regretted the episode. The government announced that in the future, the education minister would instead

confirm professorships. Education Minister Petr Fiala eventually presented the title to Putna.

- Early legislative elections took place in October. PROUD surveyed political parties' programmes, and found that "unsurprisingly, hardly any positive notions on this topic were found". The Green Party (SZ) and the Czech Pirate Party (PIRÁTI, libertarian) were exceptions, but none of their candidates were elected. The programme of Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO, liberal/populist), which obtained the second largest number of seats, stated generally that no group should be disadvantaged, and that they would strive to uphold the *Anti-discrimination Law*.

Family

- LGBTI NGO PROUD worked with a Liberal Democrat (LIDEM) MP, Viktor Paggio, to draft an amendment to the *Registered Partnership Act* that would allow those in a registered partnership with someone of the same-sex to adopt their partner's child, provided the child only had one legal parent. 20 MPs from across the political spectrum (ODS, VV, LIDEM, ČSSD, Top 09, and KSČM) registered the proposal in June, but it lapsed due to early parliamentary elections called in August. PROUD stated they intended to work with newly-elected MPs to resubmit the proposal.

Public opinion

- In a global survey published by Pew Research in June, the Czech Republic had the third highest percentage in Europe (80%, after Spain and Germany) and worldwide (on a par with Canada) of people agreeing that "society should accept homosexuality".