

Health

ALBANIA

ECRI [called](#) on Albania to regulate the provision of trans healthcare. (see more under Equality and non-discrimination, Family and Legal gender recognition). Trans people continued to report a lack of access to basic trans healthcare services.

Due to lockdown measures between March and May, LGBTI people living with HIV were not able to travel to Tirana for medication. Many had to discontinue their treatment.

ANDORRA

The lack of access to affordable trans healthcare in the country continued to leave many in a difficult mental and physical state of health. Two trans people [launched](#) fundraisers to collect money for their gender affirming surgeries, highlighting the issue of Andorran public insurance not covering these interventions. One of them, Monterosso Nile, a 15-year-old trans boy, who has suffered from severe depression due to his dysphoria, [said](#):

“This is not an aesthetic operation, but an operation for my health and particularly my mental health.”

AUSTRIA

The hormone ambulance at the Vienna General Hospital, the only certified medical centre to serve trans people in East Austria, closed for two months due to the pandemic and has run with half capacity since. Intersex clients are also impacted.

A study on the pandemic’s impact on access to trans healthcare [found](#) that in German speaking countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland), almost half of the respondents feared the pandemic’s impact on their access to hormones, surgeries (17%). 15% reported surgeries being cancelled. One in three respondents belonged to a risk group.

AZERBAIJAN

On 30 July, a trans woman with multiple stab wounds was [denied](#) appropriate medical help, and had to [leave](#) hospital while still bleeding.

In October a 21 year-old trans person, [passed away](#) due to a lack of appropriate medical treatment for her TB, Hepatitis C, and related health issues. Ayan was rejected by her family as a young person, and had worked as a sex worker since she was 13. Over the years, she faced arbitrary arrests, discrimination, and homelessness because of her gender identity.

BELARUS

In February, Radio Liberty [reported](#) that the Ministry of Health was planning to ban LGBT “propaganda” and raise the age of consent from 16 to 18 for those engaging in same-sex relationships. No developments have happened since.

BELGIUM

In April, çavaria [launched](#) a survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed a [set of recommendations](#) based on the findings. They recommend to include LGBTI people in all COVID-related measures, to ensure accessible healthcare services to all, to pay particular attention to the protection of asylum seekers, and to support LGBTI organisations in their efforts to support the community during the pandemic.

The pandemic had a detrimental impact on LGBTI people’s mental health. Many had to move back or stay at their unsupportive family homes. Feelings of loneliness and isolation have reportedly increased. Local trans and intersex organisation Genres Pluriels, for instance, reported that many of their beneficiaries were unable to join online counseling sessions, for fear of being overheard by their family members. Between March and May, çavaria’s hotline recorded a 65% increase of incoming calls, and twice as many calls about loneliness, fear, depression, and suicidal thoughts, as during the same period last year.

Waiting lines to access trans specific healthcare in some regions grew during the pandemic, with appointments and “non-essential” surgeries postponed. In Flanders, surgeries were continued and other appointments were moved online, saving time and money for all. TIP also released pandemic-related [resources](#) for the community.

Genres Pluriels’s trans*/inter* psycho-medico-social [network](#) continued its work this year to increase the accessibility and decentralisation of healthcare services for trans* and intersex* people. The network took part in the June parliamentary hearing on intersex issues and advocated for access to healthcare and a ban on genital mutilation.

Belgium Pride [dedicated](#) this year’s Pride events to the theme of physical and mental health.

BULGARIA

GLAS and Bilitis’ [joint study](#), gathering 420 responses, found that one in two respondents have suffered from depression and anxiety, and one in four have had panic attacks and suicidal thoughts or attempts. Another joint study later [found](#) that

28% felt their mental health deteriorate during the COVID-19 pandemic and 11% have lost their jobs.

In March, Bilitis launched #WithCareForThyself, a free online psychological support services during the pandemic.

CROATIA

Civil society launched a [website](#) to support LGBTI people with information during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the spring lockdown, Zagreb Pride recorded a clear rise in requests for psycho-social counseling and set up a team to meet the growing demand.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused large and further delays in trans healthcare. Even before the onset of the pandemic, due to a lack of clear regulations, trans healthcare continued to be inaccessible, pathologising, and influenced by the personal bias of medical professionals. Given the lack of transparent information about insurance coverage, the National Health Insurance Fund has claimed that trans healthcare costs are not covered. In some cases, NHIF warned doctors that they would have to pay for hormone costs themselves.

Trans Aid prepared a draft trans healthcare protocol, supported by the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality.

CYPRUS

The informational workshop for healthcare providers on intersex children's rights, organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DENMARK

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased isolation and loneliness in trans communities. Several people committed suicide. Many appointments and surgeries were cancelled or postponed, and waiting lists continued to grow.

A new trans healthcare clinic opened this year. However, the state monopoly on trans healthcare remained, with all three clinics being regulated by the national guidelines. These include abusive requirements such as mandatory psychiatric assessment, proof of financial stability, BMI requirements. A number of non-binary, queer, and gender non-conforming people reported being denied access due to their gender identity or expression.

The Sexological Clinic, with a monopoly on trans healthcare for minors, reverted to using the former medical model this year,

denying access to hormones and sometimes also hormone blockers to children and youth under 15 - in violation of the national guidelines. They also denied top surgeries to those under 18.

Intersex people whose gender identity does not match their gender assigned at birth continued to be denied intersex healthcare and had to access hormones and surgeries via trans healthcare services, which mandates psychological evaluations and medical exams.

Following years of parliamentary consensus, the Ministry of Health [lifted](#) the ban on men who have sex with men donating blood, introducing a four-month deferral period.

FINLAND

On 11 June, the specialised board in the Ministry for Social Affairs and Health (PALKO) [published](#) their new recommendations on trans healthcare. The PALKO recommendations fail trans people, as highlighted by local trans organisations Transfeminines, Trasek, and also Seta. Trasek published a [detailed analysis](#) of the recommendations, comparing it to the the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) guidelines.

Firstly, the recommendations continue to pathologise trans people, in clear violation of the latest, 11th edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the WPATH guidelines and Finland's international human rights law obligations. Second, they only grant access to trans healthcare to trans people who report long-lasting and serious suffering over at least two years. Third, they discriminate against non-binary trans people by prescribing them different forms of treatment. For instance, they restrict genital surgeries only to binary trans people. Fourth, they set out body mass index (BMI) limitations. Fifth, a "high level of caution" is recommended regarding care to minors. The guidelines allow for both puberty blockers and hormone treatment for those 16 or older - it is yet to be seen if trans youth will in fact be able to access services. Sixth, they discriminate against trans women, who will only be able to get breast implants "in special circumstances", while trans men will continue to have access to mastectomy.

FRANCE

The Ministry of Health [reduced](#) the abstinence period for men who sex with men (MSM) and want to donate blood, from one year to four months. The first proposal sought to abolish the deferral period altogether, but was not adopted. Civil society had urged the Ministry to abolish the ban entirely, refocusing on 'risky behavior' instead. The Ministry sees the reduction as the first step.

Local trans groups expressed concern over the French Society of Trans Care and Study (SOFECT) changing its name to FPATH this year, falsely suggesting ties to WPATH and EPATH. FPATH is considered extremely damaging by the community for their outdated approach to trans healthcare that is not compliant with human rights standards. Trans advocates fear that the new name will give incentive to the government to work with FPATH - Espace Santé Trans shared an [open letter](#) on the matter.

GEORGIA

In 2019, WISG filed five cases to the Ombudsperson on trans people's lack of access to free and quality healthcare. In June 2020, the Ombudsperson [called](#) on the Ministry of Health to draft trans healthcare guidelines and to involve trans people and their representative organisations in the process.

Ministry of Health [lowered](#) the blood donation deferral period for men who have sex with men from 10 years to 12 months.

In June, the Equality Movement [submitted](#) a proposed amendment to parliament to abolish Art. 131 of the Criminal Code and decriminalise HIV transmission.

GERMANY

The statutory healthcare providers' new [regulations](#) on cost coverage for trans healthcare [set out](#) that treatment would only be covered if it was as a last resort and if psychotherapy failed to "alleviate gender dysphoria". The regulations continue to pathologise trans people, completely erase non-binary people, and overall go against Germany's 2018 [standards of care](#).

A [study](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trans people's access to trans healthcare, [found](#) that in German speaking countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland), almost half of the respondents feared the pandemic would bar their access to hormones or surgeries (17%). 15% reported that their surgery was cancelled. One in three belonged to risk groups.

GREECE

Local civil society organisations [provided](#) free COVID-19 tests for trans and LGBTI+ people.

No developments took place in access to healthcare this year, despite the working group of the Ministry of Health having presented its conclusions in 2019 on how to ensure equality and non-discrimination in healthcare and improve access to services.

HUNGARY

In January, Hungary [abolished](#) its discriminatory regulations banning men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood, introducing a new focus on 'risky behaviour'.

ICELAND

In February, the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Landspítali hospital [announced](#) that due to budget cuts, their "trans team", as it is colloquially referred to, will end its work. The mental health unit supports trans and gender non-conforming youth, including by counseling or providing them with hormone blockers. Three mothers were [interviewed](#) in *Mannlíf* about the situation:

"There are a lot of children racing against time due to puberty. Some parents have had to look after their children due to depression, eating disorders or the risk of suicide." - María Gunnars, mother of a trans girl to [Mannlíf](#)

The announcement explained that the 48 young people already cared for will have access to a limited set of services through the hospital's outpatient department, and others will have to wait in the queue. Local organisations Trans friends, parents and guardians of trans youth and trans children, Trans Iceland, and Samtökin '78 launched a petition and [handed over](#) the signatures to the hospital director and the Minister of Health on 25 February, urging the government to provide all essential financial resources for the team to resume its work. No further developments have taken place.

Samtökin '78 reported a 40% increase in the number of young people seeking counseling and mental health support this year, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Open houses, which have previously provided a lot of support, have had difficulty staying open due to the pandemic.

IRELAND

Trans-specific healthcare was a [debated](#) issue during the parliamentary elections in February. Sinn Féin pledged that it would base trans healthcare on self-determination, which was criticised by a number of doctors arguing for the importance of psychiatric and psychological evaluations. Fine Gael stated they would adhere to WPATH Standards of Care.

On 30 November, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) launched the online action [#TransHealthcareNow](#), calling on political leaders to ensure trans and non-binary people's prompt access to healthcare services.

LGBT Ireland's helpline [recorded](#) a stark increase in calls during

the pandemic. Young people, having to stay at home with hostile family members, were among those seeking help the most. Some LGBTQI groups offered virtual community meetings on Zoom. TENI [released](#) resources on accessing trans healthcare during lockdowns.

On 24 November, civil society held a [conference](#) on LGBTI+ mental health, opened by the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, and highlighting the need for inclusive services, training for staff, prevention, and new legislation allowing 16 and 17-year-old young people to consent to mental health care.

HIV Ireland [launched](#) the first free HIV self-test service in the country, which delivers the test to a person's home upon request.

BeLonG To conducted a [national survey](#) on the impact of the pandemic on LGBTI+ youth, finding that 93% have been struggling with anxiety, stress or depression during COVID-19. This rate was 53% among the [general youth population](#). BeLonG To also found that over half of LGBTI+ youth (55%) struggled with suicidal ideation, 45% with self-harm, and 60% with loneliness. 53% said that their home environment was not a good place to be during COVID-19 restrictions.

"We are fearful that the devastating mental health impact of COVID-19 on the lives of LGBTI+ youth will live long beyond the virus. Many LGBTI+ young people experience ongoing mental health challenges and as the results of our survey show, these have been exacerbated by COVID-19" - Moninne Griffith, CEO of BeLonG To.

ITALY

Italy lost over 74,000 lives to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The crisis has dramatically affected trans sex workers, many of whom are migrants and without a supportive network in Italy. A [crowdfunding campaign](#) provided support to those most in need and without access to state support. During the pandemic, the Vatican and a local parish [provided](#) support for a group of trans sex workers from South America.

From October on, hormonal therapy for trans people will be fully [covered](#) by the National Health Service, if prescribed by a specialist and based upon a diagnosis of gender dysphoria/ gender incongruence, according to criteria laid out in the DSM 5 or the ICD-11, confirmed by a multidisciplinary team. Some NGOs [filed](#) a lawsuit against the decision.

The National Health Service [launched](#) a new information site for

trans people, developed with trans groups.

KAZAKHSTAN

During the state of emergency, army and police officers were stationed in many cities, with unlimited powers. Many trans people feared leaving their homes. Most trans healthcare services were suspended, with appointments cancelled, requests for new prescriptions denied, and hormones unavailable. It was also impossible to travel to Kyrgyzstan to access surgical care. The commission issuing medical certificates suspended its work.

On 25 November, the Minister of Health issued an order changing the rules of conduct of the commission. The resulting amendment no. 539 to the healthcare law raises the age limit for trans healthcare access from 18 to 21 and excludes those with a mental health or "behavioral disorder" diagnosis. Civil society [pleaded](#) for their withdrawal.

KOSOVO*

Border lockdowns due to COVID-19 have severely impacted trans people's access to gender affirming healthcare abroad, as Kosovo does not offer any trans healthcare services.

During the pandemic, the number of LGBTI individuals seeking psychological support increased, both online and in-person. Civil society organised group therapy sessions to combat stress and anxiety caused by the lockdown and to give tips on how to maintain healthy relationships with the outside world.

LITHUANIA

The FRA LGBTI Survey II [found](#) that more than a third (34%) of Lithuanian LGBTI respondents felt "downhearted or depressed" all the time or most of the time, the highest rate in the EU. Previous studies have also [shown](#) Lithuania has one of the highest rates of school bullying in Europe. As a response, LGL launched the first ever [emotional support platform](#) for LGBTI children and teens, where counseling is provided by trained volunteers. Parents and teachers can also access information on the platform.

LUXEMBOURG

In July youth section of the Democratic Party [called for](#) an absolute ban on conversion therapies.

MALTA

The national sexual health screening services and the gender well-being clinic were closed in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both reopened mid-June, with a backlog of appointments.

In [June](#), LGBTI organisations found the replies from the Minister

of Health vague and insufficient to HIV-related questions at a parliamentary session. In July, the Minister of Health affirmed that new HIV medications would be launched by the end of year. Civil society is not aware that they were disseminated. The Ministry said preventive PEP and PREP were “not a priority at the moment”. In early December, several people living with HIV started reporting that they had been without medication for a few days. On 11 December, NGOs jointly called this a “public health crisis” and launched crowdfunding to meet the needs. On 16 December, the Ministry of Health stated that the shortage was due to Brexit. NGOs had warned of the outdated medication for years.

MONTENEGRO

In October, the Ombudsman found that the Ministry of Health violated the rights of trans women when failing to ensure them access to hormone therapy. Estrogen is on the list of medications covered by health insurance, but was unavailable in the country. The Ministry has since been working in cooperation with Spectra to remedy the situation. A shortage of testosterone was also an issue during the lockdown, but was quickly addressed by the Podgorica Public Health Centre.

A third trans man since 2012, managed to have his gender affirming care costs covered by public health insurance.

The first ever trans healthcare guidelines were adopted by the Commission for trans health at the Clinical Centre of Montenegro, based on an individualised approach and centering full and informed consent.

Spectra launched a project on HIV prevention and harm reduction among the trans and gender diverse community.

The first study on LBTQ women’s mental health was published this year, in a study coordinated by several NGOs and mental health professionals. The study found that LBTQ women in Montenegro are ten times more likely to have anxiety or depression, compared to the general female population in the country. Many reported experiences of violence, discrimination, external and internalised stigma, and negative self-perception.

NETHERLANDS

In November, Movisie published a factsheet on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTI people, with almost a third reporting difficulties. COC published a list of resources for LGBTI, and TNN for trans people. LGBTI+ Support launched a counselling hotline.

On 2 June, trans organisations TNN and Transvisie set up a new information service for trans people.

In March, the Dutch Health Authority published a list of urgent healthcare services during the COVID-19 crisis, excluding trans healthcare. Civil society appealed to the authority. The pandemic has led to increased waiting times, despite the opening of a third gender clinic in Nijmegen. Many surgeries were postponed and the intake of new patients is now limited.

In May, the Quartermaster on trans healthcare published a report calling for freedom of choice and joint decision-making in trans healthcare. TNN welcomed this individualised approach, but called for a firmer stand for depathologisation.

NORTH MACEDONIA

A working group, set up by the Ministry of Health in 2019 to improve trans healthcare, had to postpone its activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subversive Front documented a doubling of requests for mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic. In lack of state funding, they had to raise funds to hire more service providers. In August, the organisation launched the National LGBTI Helpline, providing free counselling services for LGBTI persons, their family members, and those working with them in education, healthcare, and other key areas. The helpline is funded by the Council of Europe and the EU, and supported by the government.

Coalition Margins documented two discrimination cases - refusal of healthcare to a gay man living with HIV and harassment against a trans woman by her family doctor.

NORWAY

The public consultation on trans-specific healthcare guidelines was closed in February 2020. The new guidelines centre user participation and an individualised approach to care, which is a positive step.

Civil society expressed concern that the guidelines might maintain the state gender clinic’s monopoly in terms of knowledge and care provision. The guidelines envision the setting up of regional clinics, but it is unclear what services they would provide and who would be in charge of delivering training for their staff.

It is also yet unclear what services will be newly covered by public insurance. Although the guidelines include non-binary people in their scope, it is currently unknown what services they would be able to access. The guidelines argue a lack of evidence about the benefits for non-binary people of accessing trans healthcare. Access of trans youth to services is also not guaranteed. Civil society has criticised the guidelines on all these points.

PORTUGAL

A study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBT+ youth found that 60% of the respondents experienced emotional distress during lockdowns and 35% felt “extremely suffocated” by not being able to express themselves as LGBT+ people.

RUSSIA

COVID-19 lockdowns have dramatically impacted LGBTI people, and particularly young people. A helpline that used to run for six hours a day, now needs to stay available around the clock, as the number of LGBTI people and minors reaching out for support, has significantly increased since March.

T-Action started providing free consultations on hormonal therapy, led by endocrinologists, who can email prescriptions. The Trans* Coalition in the Post-Soviet Space [launched](#) a program to support trans people during the pandemic in the form of humanitarian aid and mental health support.

SERBIA

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact on the trans community. Doctors appointments were cancelled this year and many had to suspend their medical transition process. Similar to other countries in the region, Serbia also reported a shortage of hormones this year, due to lockdowns. Many trans people reported a loss of their income, and enduring harassment in family homes they were forced to move back to.

Several parents of intersex children have contacted XY Spectrum for support since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, about difficulties in accessing medical treatment for their children.

SLOVENIA

On 11 March, the interdisciplinary team for gender affirming care was set up by the Ministry of Health and the University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana. Despite the terms of the establishment setting out at least one meeting with NGOs Legebitra and Transakcija per year, no meetings were convened in 2020.

In the spring and autumn, Transakcija was told to leave the premises of the University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana when accompanying a trans person to use the services. As of February, people living with HIV can pick up their medication [every three months](#), instead of on a monthly basis - a change welcomed by civil society.

HIV and STI testing services were suspended during lockdowns, causing an increase of new HIV and STI infections.

SWEDEN

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected access to healthcare in a number of ways. First, waiting times for trans-specific health care have seriously increased, with a one-and-a-half to two-year wait period for a first appointment at gender clinics. Second, access to HIV testing or PrEP prescriptions has gotten worse. Third, assisted reproduction services were put on hold, in some regions.

Anti-trans discourse, especially targeted at trans youth and often by ‘parents’ groups’ has continued to [spread](#) this year. A number of articles were published, filled with misinformation and misconceptions about trans youth and their access to healthcare and other services. Due to the volume of such hostilities, several medical professionals at gender clinics for young people went on stress-related sick leave or quit. A number of surgeons have reportedly refused to perform surgeries on trans people, referencing the articles.

The hostile discourse has also resulted in school personnel reporting parents of trans youth to the social services, claiming that respecting the child’s pronouns or helping them seek gender affirming care is child abuse. Local trans and LGBTI organisations have voiced serious concern about these events.

SWITZERLAND

The global [study](#) on the impact of the pandemic on trans people’s access to trans healthcare globally has [revealed](#) that in German speaking countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland), almost half of the respondents feared that the pandemic would in some way bar their access to hormones, and 17% felt this way about surgery appointments. 15% reported that their surgery was cancelled. 1 in 3 respondents had an underlying condition placing them at higher risk of the virus.

TAJIKISTAN

An online network of LGBTIQ+ friendly doctors was set up this year, which includes psychiatrists, endocrinologists, psychologists, gynaecologists, and other medical professionals.

More than 2,800 people had access to HIV self-test kits this year, thanks to a new USAID program.

TURKEY

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented [hardships](#) on LGBTI people amidst state-run hate campaigns waged against them, some of which scapegoated them for the spread of the virus. LGBTI people have experienced increasing

difficulties in employment and healthcare since March, and faced growing levels of violence at home during lockdown. LGBTI asylum seekers have been hardest hit by the pandemic and its consequences (see under **Asylum**).

On 15 August, a doctor in an Istanbul state hospital refused to treat a man, saying “I don’t cure you, faggot!”. The Turkish Medical Association and the Istanbul Medical Chamber both established that the doctor’s behaviour was discriminatory.

TURKMENISTAN

The 2020 study (see under **Data collection and Bias-motivated violence**) found that almost all interviewees chose not to use healthcare and social services fear of discrimination and stigmatisation. They also reported a lack of awareness about HIV-related services in the country. One interviewee said that gay men in prison are held separately and many end up contracting HIV in detention.

For the entire year, the government held its position that the COVID-19 pandemic had not impacted in Turkmenistan and no cases were recorded. This denial has gravely affected those living in the country.

UKRAINE

The adoption of the new trans healthcare protocol continued to be stalled this year, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNITED KINGDOM

Local civil society organisations have made numerous materials and resources available for the community relating to the pandemic, and access to healthcare and social support.

A number of LGBTI organisations conducted research into the impact of COVID-19 on LGBTI people, including Time for Inclusive Education and LGBT Foundation.

Stonewall submitted a response to the Women and Equalities Select Committees inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on groups with protected characteristics. Stonewall also conducted a public survey on the impact of COVID-19 on LGBT people. The results are yet to be published.

In April, Northern Ireland lowered its one-year blood donation deferral period to three months, for men who have sex with men. In December, it was announced that the deferral period will be abolished throughout the UK as of summer 2021.

Access to gender affirming healthcare for trans adults in Northern Ireland continued to be almost completely non-existent, with the single adult Gender Affirming Service in the region not having accepted a new patient since early 2018. Despite the commissioning of a review of these services in late 2019, little progress was made this year, and no harm reduction measures have been adopted to support those on the waiting list or those self-medicating. Community engagement with the review has been minimal, as has uptake of input from trans-led civil society.

TransPlus, a pilot Gender Dysphoria Service, commissioned by NHS England, was launched in London in partnership with 56 Dean Street in June. Set to run for three years, the TransPlus pilot integrates specialist gender care for trans/non-binary people with a range of sexual health and wellbeing services and is the first clinic of its kind in England. A second pilot in Manchester, the Indigo Gender Service, was announced in September, in partnership with the LGBT Foundation.

As part of its response to the 2018 consultation on Gender Recognition Act reform, the UK Government has acknowledged the need to focus on improving healthcare for trans people, and pledged to take ‘meaningful action’ to reduce waiting times for Gender Identity Services. It aims to see waiting lists cut by 1600 people by 2022.

On 30 November, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) launched the online action #TransHealthcareNow in Ireland and Northern Ireland, calling on political leaders to ensure trans and non-binary people’s prompt access to healthcare services.

On 1 December, England and Wales’s High Court ruled that young people under 16 are unlikely to be capable of consenting to hormone blockers. The NHS now requires a court decision in each individual case, that would establish that it’s in the young person’s “best interest” to access treatment. Minors over 16 might need to have a similar court order to start hormones, if their doctor is unsure about their ability to consent. Civil society is extremely concerned about the judgment. The Tavistock gender identity service is appealing the ruling, which has suspended implementation for now.

UZBEKISTAN

The level of healthcare access decreased significantly as the COVID-19 pandemic reached the country, with many unable to see doctors. LGBT people continued to report that they hid their identity in healthcare settings, fearing for their safety.