

3.7.2. Societal attitudes and non-state violence

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According to an April 2025 report by LGBTIQ rights organisation Coming Out and Sphere Foundation, anti-LGBTIQ censorship and self-censorship severely affected queer people's life in Russia, with most respondents584 reporting political and social pressure that forced them to 'hide their identity or limit its expression.'585 The report noted that LGBTIQ people in Russia were in a 'vulnerable financial situation,' often facing discrimination in job recruitment, workplaces, and educational institutions. Transgender people were reportedly the most financially vulnerable group, being more likely to live below the poverty line, have unstable income, and rely on financial support.586 Additionally, LGBTIQ people faced barriers in accessing healthcare and denial of healthcare, which particularly affected transgender people 587 and residents of the North Caucasus.588

According to a November 2024 report by Levada-Center, a Russian non-governmental research organisation that conducts regular monitoring of Russian public opinion,589 negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ people in Russia has been increasing since 2013, with 44 % of respondents saying that they felt 'disgust' or 'fear' towards gay people (compared to 27 % in 2023, 28 % in 2016, and 38 % in 2021), while 15 % said they felt 'irritation' towards them. Only about 30 % believed that gays and lesbians should have equal rights to other Russian citizens.590 In June 2025, head of Centre-T, which supports transgender and non-binary people in Russia, noted to independent media outlet The Moscow Times, that 'state repression has significantly worsened public attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals in families, schools, universities and workplaces.'591

Coming Out and Sphere Foundation reported a rise in abuse and hate crime, with nearly 48 % of respondents reporting it. Elaborating on the types of threats they had received, respondents mentioned threats of outing, physical violence, sexual abuse, and even death threats, which came from strangers on the streets and in public places (often on public transport) and from acquaintances (relatives, colleagues, classmates). Online threats were equally common on social media, forums, anonymous chat rooms, and dating apps. Respondents also mentioned account hacks and blackmail.592 Transgender people were reportedly facing challenges with landlords/neighbours and abuse/hate crimes more often.593

In May 2025, a far-right organisation raided a private party, after which guests were taken to a police station and threatened with criminal prosecution.594

a) Conversion therapy

Experts interviewed by EUAA noticed that LGBTIQ people may be subjected to the so-called conversion therapy and psychiatric treatment.595 As noted by a lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, so-called rehabilitation centres operate outside of government control and thousands of people, including LGBTIQ minors, ‘can be at risk of conversion therapy.’ In North Caucasus and in other Muslim regions of Russia, there are specialised Muslim hospitals where ‘religious exorcism’ is used as a form of treatment. In other regions, there are Russian Orthodox rehabilitation centres, which also perform the enforced conversion therapy.596

In March 2024, Current Time reported that at least 12 institutions and private clinics across Moscow, Moscow oblast, Rostov oblast, the North Caucasus, and other regions, were providing conversion therapy, with many patients being sent to these facilities against their will. According to the source, treatments included isolation from the outside world, forced administration of psychotropic drugs, hypnosis, and prayer. A Russian Orthodox rehabilitation centre in Moscow region reportedly isolated LGBTIQ people for at least six months.597

b) Impact on family life

As noted by a lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues to EUAA, since 2024, LGBTIQ parents, particularly those in transgender relationships, have faced increasing threats of having their children removed from the family. The expert noted that child protection services often maintain a view that these children are ‘subjected to propaganda’ which serves as a ground to remove the children from the family, with transgender parents, whose gender markers have been changed, being particularly vulnerable. Supportive parents of an LGBTIQ child can be ‘threatened with the loss of parental rights.’598

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  Data collection took place from 2 December 2024 to 31 January 2025 via an online questionnaire and involved 6 403 respondents living on the territory of Russia. Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, pp. 8, 10

- 585

  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, p. 67

- 586

  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, p. 31

- 587

  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, pp. 32-33; Lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, Online Interview with EUAA, 26 September 2025

- 588

  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, pp. 32-33

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  Levada-Center, About Us, n.d., url

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  Levada-Center, Отношение к гомосексуальности, правам ЛГБТ-людей и "пропаганде гомосексуализма": октябрь 2024 [Attitudes toward homosexuality, LGBT rights, and “propaganda of homosexualism”: October 2024], 18 November 2024, url

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  Moscow Times (The), ‘You’re a Second-Class Citizen’: Arrests, Club Raids and Extremism Charges Define LGBTQ+ Life in Russia in 2025, 23 June 2025, url

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  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, p. 42

- 593

  Coming out and Sphere Foundation, Report on the life of LGBT+ people in Russia in 2024, url, pp. 36, 42

- 594

  Lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, Online interview with EUAA, 26 September 2025

- 595

  Marianna Muravyeva, Online interview with EUAA, 3 October 2025, Lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, Online interview with EUAA, 26 September 2025

- 596

  Lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, Online interview with EUAA, 26 September 2025

- 597

  Current Time, Журналистское расследование впервые запечатлело сеансы конверсионной терапии ЛГБТК-персон в России. Главное из фильма проекта "Система" [A journalistic investigation has captured sessions of conversion therapy for LGBTQ individuals in Russia for the first time. Highlights from the film “The System”], 4 March 2024, url; Moscow Times (The), Russian LGBTQ+ 'Conversion Therapy' Isolates Patients for Months – Report, 4 March 2024, url

- 598

  Lawyer specialising in LGBTIQ issues, Online interview with EUAA, 26 September 2025

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