

CZECH REPUBLIC

Population: 10,3 Mio

Area: 78.860 km²

Part 1: Laws concerning Homosexuality

Forbidden by law: No

Registered partnership/marriage: No

Anti-discrimination law, protecting lesbians/gays (L/G) against discrimination: Yes, since 2000.

At work: Yes

On the housing market: No

In other areas: Yes. *Comments:* It is explicitly mentioned in the anti-discrimination law of the army.

Other groups in the society protected through such a law: Yes. There exists a general anti-discrimination law formulated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedom. All kinds of discrimination are prohibited by law.

Incidents that briefly describe the situation of L/G in society:

General avoiding of law cases by supplying other reasons when laying off employees

Part 2: Situation in the Church(es)

Open L/G welcome to

Eucharist: No general answer possible. It differs in churches and individual communities, but mostly there are still many prejudices. It depends on the local priest and the parish. There are some priests and ministers who will administer the Eucharist to gays and lesbians. In some cases helpful clergy members keep their actions secret from Church authorities.

Do volunteer work: Different communities – different attitudes. The general idea is that they first of all want to welcome gays and lesbians, but only to persuade them to change their lifestyles.

Work as ordained ministers: As far as the Catholic Church is concerned sexual orientation is irrelevant because of Celibacy. As to other churches we haven't come across any official notice. Usually they cannot be open about their sexual orientation.

Other employment in church(es): No general rule. Usually the sexual orientation is kept secretly at work.

Partnership blessing/marriage possible:

No, except for some open minded individual ministers. It depends on the attitudes of individual clergy people. But it is not officially allowed.

Incidents/outspoken attitudes that describe the situation of L/G in the churches:

There are two positions we have encountered. There are those who say: "Love the Sinner, hate the Sin, and try to get people to live in celibacy, or send them for cure." The other position is: "We think the church will eventually change its position to accept you, but it will take time and you must be patient."

Part 3: Christian Lesbian/Gay Networks

Network name: Logos

Year of foundation: 1992

Web page/contact address:

Logos Praha: <http://www.logos.wz.cz/>, logos.praha@seznam.cz

Logos Brno: <http://sweb.cz/logos-brno/>, logos-brno@seznam.cz

Questionnaire filled in by Logos Brno [REDACTED]