

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Population: 4,3 Mio

Area: 33.800 km²

Part 1: Laws concerning Homosexuality

Forbidden by law: No

Comment: Homosexuality was prohibited by law and punished with 2 to 5 years imprisonment until 1995 within the provisions of the Penal Code. The reform was made under EU pressure.

Registered partnership/marriage: No

Anti-discrimination law, protecting lesbians/gays (L/G) against discrimination: No

Comments: However, the Moldovan Parliament has adopted the National Human Rights Action Plan, which includes a chapter on sexual minority rights. It puts obligations on the Moldovan government to elaborate proposals for anti-discrimination legislation for the LGBT community in Moldova by 2006.

At work: No

On the housing market: No

In other areas: No

Other groups in the society protected through such a law: Yes

The following groups are protected by law: women; national, ethnic and language minorities.

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

Olesea is 22 and a lesbian. Recently she became the head of the lesbian committee within the Moldavian gay and lesbian organisation "GenderDoc-M". Despite her young age, she knows how it feels to be raped, threatened and physically abused. The day Olesea's mother learned that her then 15 years old daughter was a lesbian she called the police: "My daughter is a lesbian, do whatever you need to correct her". Olesea spent 15 days at the police station, where she was constantly beaten, and numerous attempts were made to rape her. Unfortunately, it was not her last contact with the police.

Peter was 16 when he was beaten up and raped three times in the same year around cruising areas in the town he lives in. His classmates constantly jeer at him, calling him "pink scarf" and faggot. He has already made a suicide attempt. Life is black and white to him. His dream is to leave Moldavia for a more civilised and tolerant country.

Three guys beat up Natasha with a beer bottle after she explicitly showed her homosexuality in a night club. "We will show you what a real man is" they said and made attempts to rape her. Serghei is constantly blackmailed by the police and pays from 20 to 75 USD each time, otherwise they threaten to tell his relatives and friends about his sexual orientation. Eugene's house was robbed, but the police did not investigate the case after learning he was gay. "Why would a faggot get protected by the police?" they wondered. This is only a small slice of the life gays and lesbians live in the small country of Moldavia...

Sexual minorities in the Republic of Moldavia live in permanent fear. Although Art. 106 of the former Soviet penal code providing for prison sentences between 2 and 5 years for male homosexual intercourse was repealed in 1995, gays and lesbians hide their sexual identity even today to feel safe. Discrimination against sexual minorities is certainly only one of many problems Moldavian society faces at the moment – according to the Council of

Europe, Moldavia is the poorest country in Europe. However, this can never justify continuous discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Part 2: Situation in the Church(es)

Open L/G welcome to

Eucharist: No

Do volunteer work: No

Work as ordained ministers: No

Comments: Women are not allowed to be priests in the Russian Orthodox Church. There are gay ministers, but they are not openly gay, otherwise they would be expelled from the church.

Other employment in church(es): No

Partnership blessing possible: No

Comment: The church has made it clear through media statements that homosexuality is a sin, homosexuals are sinners, and the church will never support LGBT emancipation.

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

There have not been any recent incidents taking place. The church makes homophobic press statements and is very influential in Moldavian society. There are lots of gays and lesbians who work in churches, or do volunteer work, or become monks in monasteries. However, none of them lives openly as a lesbian or gay.

Part 3: Christian Lesbian/Gay Networks

There are no Christian LGBT networks in Moldavia.

Network name: Information Center GenderDoc-M.

Web page/contact address:

C.P. 422, MD 2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldavia

Genderdoc_m@mdl.net, www.gay.md

Questionnaire filled in by Max from GenderDoc-M