

## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

*Population:* 10,5 Mio

*Area:* 102.173 km<sup>2</sup>

### Part 1: Laws concerning Homosexuality

*Forbidden by law:* No

It was until 1994. Now it is legal, but gays have to be older than 18 years. The law says nothing about lesbians.

*Registered partnership/marriage:* No

*Differences to heterosexual marriages:* Our law does not admit same-sex couples.

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

*At work:* No

*On the housing market:* No

*In other areas:* No

*Other groups in the society protected through such a law:* No. There is no anti-discrimination law in our country.

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

In 2001 Labris, a lesbian network, organised the first gay and lesbian Pride Parade in Serbia, titled "There is space for all of us". What was supposed to be a celebration of diversity at the main square in Belgrade on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001, became a field of violence. Participants of our parade, NGO representatives, individuals and people passing by were attacked and beaten by a thousand members of nationalist and religious pro-fascist groups. With that the parade was violently interrupted and brought to an end. 40 civilians were injured.

### Part 2: Situation in the Church(es)

*Open L/G welcome to*

*Eucharist:* No

*Do volunteer work:* Yes/No

*Work as ordained ministers:* No

*Other employment in church(es):* No

*Partnership blessing possible:* No

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

The priests who support gays and lesbians openly will be expelled from the Church. Thus, if some of the priests don't hate gays and lesbians they have to do it very confidentially and discreetly. Otherwise, the Orthodox Church does not approve of homosexuality and considers it a sin. Generally, lesbians and gays have to hide their sexual identity in church.

### Part 3: Christian Lesbian/Gay Networks

In our country, we don't have any Christian lesbian/gay groups or networks. But we have a lesbian network with lesbian groups from Ex-Yugoslavia.

*Network name:* Regional lesbian networks ( KONTRA and LORI from Croatia, SKUC from Slovenia and LABRIS from Serbia and Montenegro and individual women from those countries)

*Year of foundation:* 2001

*Web page/contact address:*

[www.womenngo.org.yu/labris](http://www.womenngo.org.yu/labris) (English)

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*Questionnaire filled in by* Jasmina [REDACTED]