

# TRANS RIGHTS EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA MAP 2020

13 countries still require sterilisation of trans persons seeking recognition of their gender identity

## The Trans Rights Index & Maps

The Trans Rights Europe & Central Asia Index provides detailed information on the legal situation of all 47 Council of Europe member States and five Central Asian countries. The Index covers a total of 30 indicators in six legal categories: legal gender recognition, asylum, bias-motivated speech and violence, non-discrimination, health, and family.

The Trans Rights Europe & Central Asia Maps focus specifically on two legal gender recognition (LGR) indicators that stigmatise and violate the rights of trans people: forced sterilisation and mandatory mental health diagnosis. Each of the respective maps illustrates which countries demand these problematic LGR requirements. There were no countries in the past year that banned this abusive requirement.

Collectively, the Trans Rights Europe & Central Asia Index & Maps reflect the current legal situation in countries throughout the region. They do not claim to exhaustively portray the complex legal and social contexts in which trans people live.

## Forced sterilisation requirement

Of the 41 countries in Europe & Central Asia that have a legal gender recognition procedure in place, 13 require that trans people undergo mandatory sterilisation before changing their gender marker. 28 countries no longer list sterility as a requirement of legal gender recognition. There were no countries in the past year that banned this abusive requirement.

The United Nations have recognised the mandatory sterilisation requirement as a form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The Council of Europe has firmly established that member States must abolish this abusive requirement. In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that coerced sterilisation violates trans people's right to private and family life.

Yet, too many states continue to require sterility as a pre-condition for legal gender recognition. Legal texts can explicitly or implicitly request forced sterilisation by requiring proof of medical transition or insisting on a medical opinion that is typically provided only after gender-affirming surgery. Many gender recognition procedures are not transparent in this regard, and often medical and legal aspects are intertwined.

Learn more about legal gender recognition and what you can do to improve it:

<https://tgeu.org/issues/legal-gender-recognition/>



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The data presented reflects the legal rights of trans people based on consultation from in-country experts as of 10 May 2020.

