



# Kosovo<sup>2</sup>



**Rampant homophobia remains a serious threat for LGBTI people in Kosovo. This was illustrated by violent attacks and threats directed at LGBTI activists. While anti-discrimination legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation is in place, the impact of the law remains very limited in the absence of any proactive policy to ensure its effective implementation.**

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<sup>2</sup> Included in this Review as a separate jurisdiction following UNSCR 1244/1999

## Bias motivated violence

- In December, the launch of the Kosovo 2.0 magazine on *Sex and sexuality*, which contained articles on LGBT activism and human rights work in the Western Balkans, was disrupted by mob violence. Two days after the incident, Pristina-based LGBT organisation Libertas was attacked by a group of violent extremists who beat up one member of the community. They entered the premises of the community centre and threw a tear gas canister creating havoc. Following these attacks, death threats were repeatedly issued on the internet and by phone against individual human rights activists, including the uploading of a YouTube video showing digitally manipulated images of the editor in chief of Kosovo 2.0 and the leader of Kosova Women's Network, an openly lesbian women's rights advocate, with targets on their heads. Police responded swiftly to both incidents. The Prime Minister of Kosovo condemned the violent attacks and affirmed the constitutional rights of all citizens to freedom of expression and protection from discrimination, including on the ground of sexual orientation. He further called "to find the authors of these violent attacks and put them in front of justice".

## Enlargement

- In March, the European Parliament adopted Kosovo's latest accession report emphasising that discrimination of LGBTI people is still a serious problem in the country, and called for the government to implement a broad anti-discrimination strategy on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Kosovo holds the status of a potential candidate in the EU accession process.

## Member organisations of ILGA-Europe

Libertas  
[www.libertas-kos.org](http://www.libertas-kos.org)