



# ANTI-GENDER MOVEMENTS

IMPACT ON TRANS RIGHTS AND  
ORGANISING

PRESENTATION BY  
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# INTRO

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey knit hat and glasses, is smiling and holding a large rainbow flag. She is in a crowd of people, some of whom are also holding flags. The background is a city street with buildings.

**2020**

INCREASED ATTACKS  
AGAINST THE  
TRANS COMMUNITY  
AND ADOPTION OF  
ANTI-TRANS  
LEGISLATION DURING  
THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- **Hungary:** ban on legal gender recognition, constitutional amendment and ban on adoption by single persons and same-sex couples
- **Russia:** amendments to the Family Code
- **Romania:** ban on "propagating theories and opinion on gender identity"

A crowd of people at a protest. In the foreground, a woman with glasses and a blue face mask is looking towards the camera. Behind her, several signs are visible. One prominent sign on the left reads "PRIDE IS STILL A PROTEST" in purple and blue letters on a brown background. Other signs in the background include "TRANS RIGHTS ARE", "DEBATE", "ONLY DO ONE", "HANG IN TOILET", "TRANS MEN", "TRANS WOMEN", and "NON-BINARY".

**ANTI-GENDER ACTORS:**  
RELIGIOUS, NATIONALISTIC, AND  
CONSERVATIVE ACTORS THAT OPPOSE  
SO-CALLED "GENDER IDEOLOGY",  
"GENDER THEORY", OR "GENDERISM"

# THE STORY

- Roman Catholic church in the 1990s: advocacy to reject the concept of gender
- Anti-gender statements from religious actors
- Emergence of anti-gender campaigns in Europe in the 2000s:
  - Spain (2004, against marriage equality)
  - Croatia (2006, against sex education)
  - Italy (2007, against same-sex civil partnership)
- Successful campaigns linked to Agenda Europe members:
  - 2013, Croatia, traditional marriage referendum
  - 2015, Slovenia: petition and referendum to halt same-sex marriage
  - 2016-2017, Romania: traditional marriage petition
  - campaigns against the Istanbul Convention

# ATTACKS ON TRANS RIGHTS

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- trans civil society disproportionately impacted by shrinking civil society spaces
- foreign agent laws and "(gay) propaganda" laws
- attacks from trans-exclusionary feminist organisations:
  - UK example





# POLAND

Trans and gender-diverse people have limited legal recognition and protection in Poland. No comprehensive or partial legal regulations concerning legal gender recognition exist; based on case law, a court decision is required for an amendment to the birth certificate in a proceeding in which trans people file a case to “sue” their parents. Anti-discrimination law does not cover gender identity or expression.

**2012:** Minister of Justice opposed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention

**2015:** President Andrzej Duda vetoed the law on Gender Accordance

**2016:** #CzarnyProtest (Black Protest) and #StrajkKobiet (Women’s Strike)

**2018:** leader of PiS: “no homosexual marriages will occur; we will wait peacefully for the EU countries to sober up”

**2018:** the Equality March in Lublin is banned by the city’s mayor

**2019:** opposition to the Warsaw LGBT+ Charter, over 100 municipalities adopt “LGBT-free zone” declarations

**2020:** Wroclaw court rules that a campaign linking LGBT people to paedophilia is “informative and educational”, Family Charter signed by President, excessive arrests and police brutality following LGBT protests in August



**THANK YOU**

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