

Commission: European Court of Justice

Issue: EU 2030 zero violence objective: How to eradicate gender, homophobic, xenophobic, racist and anti-Semitic conflicts on a European scale?

Author: Romania

The Republic of Romania, a democratic state under the leadership of social-conservative President Klaus Iohannis, stands firm in its commitment to human rights. A member of the European Union since 2007, Romania embraces a rich cultural heritage and diverse linguistic landscape with Romanian as the official language. Main cities such as Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, and Timișoara showcase Romania's economic vitality and diversity. Romania recognizes the importance of addressing human rights challenges both domestically and internationally. The Romanian government is in line with the principles of the European Union and recognises the importance of the zero violence target set for 2030.

The Republic of Romania recognizes that gender-based violence, discrimination based on sexual orientation, and xenophobic and racist acts are major challenges for European society as a whole, and we are no exception. The Constitution of Romania protects human rights and highlights the principle of non-discrimination, stating that: *"Romania is the common and indivisible homeland of all its citizens, without any discrimination on account of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political adherence, property or social origin."* Romania has various laws banning discrimination. The problems in the country are not rooted in lack of legislation

Despite improvements in hate-motivated violence against the Roma people, Romania acknowledges the ongoing issues of poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination faced by this community.

Regarding LGBTQ+ rights, the decriminalization of homosexuality occurred in 2001, signaling a positive step towards equality, yet societal attitudes and discrimination still pose barriers for the community. Same-sex marriage remains unrecognized, as it does not align with prevailing conservative societal norms. Access to legal recognition of gender identity and sex change procedures is available, but the process can be complex and not always straightforward. Nonetheless, in the past, Romania has been named by the Human Rights Watch organization as one of five countries in the world that had made *"exemplary progress in combating rights abuses based on sexual orientation or gender identity."*

Gender issues, including domestic violence and sexual harassment, remain significant challenges in Romania despite efforts to address them. Romania has made progress in adopting legislation and national strategies to promote gender equality and tackle this issue.

Guided by conservative principles, Romania remains adamant on upholding traditional values while addressing human rights challenges. The country respects international treaties but also emphasizes the importance of preserving national identity. Romania has ratified numerous human rights treaties such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

In conclusion the Republic of Romania remains committed to upholding human rights and harmonizing national policies with European standards while preserving its traditional values and cultural identity. Romania advocates for solutions that balance human rights advancements with national principles, ensuring a harmonious approach to addressing societal challenges within the European Court of Justice framework.