

## EU Proposes Ground Breaking Laws in Response to Growing LGBT Discrimination

Amid a rise in homophobia, EU officials have finally taken action. Legislators announced Thursday that they will be implementing the first ever protection strategy for the LGBTIQ+ community.

The European Union has mostly embraced equality, with many government leaders identifying as LGBT. In more conservative member nations, however, intolerance has intensified. In the

Eastern Bloc, which includes Poland and Hungary, hate crimes of all forms have begun to soar.



### **Some municipalities are attempting to completely wipe out LGBT ideology.**

Due to the country's Roman Catholic beliefs, some municipalities are attempting to completely wipe out LGBT ideology. These often violent movements are leading many LGBT Poles to emigrate.

Polish President, Andrzej Duda, recently branded gay rights as more destructive than communism. He has even vowed to outlaw teaching of gay rights in schools.

Hungary's right-wing government proposed a constitutional amendment that would require children to be brought up with a "Christian" interpretation of gender roles. They hope to even outlaw adoptions by same-sex couples.

Earlier this fall, president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, promised to stamp out hatred and to create "a union of equality". She admonished Duda for promoting "LGBT Free Zones", calling them "humanity free zones" that have "no place in our Union."

Vera Jourova, European Commission V.P., announced Thursday that plans to enforce new laws include banning hate speech, ensuring the recognition of same-sex marriages, and bolstering a voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, intersex, and queer people. These new measures would also secure the legal status of families that include LGBT people when they cross borders.

Jourova then petitioned for any country without an equality strategy to devise one. The hope is that a revolutionary reform will allow everyone to "feel free to be who they are - without fear or persecution". She added, "This is what Europe is about and this is what we stand for."