



Transphobia in Costa Rica

Keeping the memory alive.

News, articles and reports concerning violence against trans,
nonbinary and gender diverse people in Costa Rica.

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About this document

This document is a compilation of news, articles, interviews and reports concerning violence against trans, nonbinary and gender diverse people specifically in Costa Rica.

Compiled and maintained by **Adri M.**

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68 entries · Covering 2012–2026

Generated on June 18, 2026

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Portada » Costa Rica » ANEP a Laura Fernández: Negar la discriminación contra personas LGBTIQ+ profundiza las desigualdades

ANEP a Laura Fernández: Negar la discriminación contra personas LGBTIQ+ profundiza las desigualdades



Public employees' union rejects president's claim that Costa Rica treats LGBTIQ+ people equally.

JUNE 09, 2026

2026 June 9

The Diversity Section of the National Association of Public and Private Employees (ANEP), one of Costa Rica's largest unions, issued a public statement rejecting President Laura Fernández's assertion that the country is "up to date" on LGBTIQ+ rights and that all people are treated equally.

ANEP Diversidad stated that "to say that in Costa Rica all people are treated equally and enjoy the same rights is a false affirmation." The group added that "real equality has not yet been achieved. Denying inequalities does not eliminate them. On the contrary, it deepens them."

The union emphasized that trans and non-binary people in particular continue to face greater obstacles in accessing dignified employment, comprehensive healthcare, and economic opportunities. It pointed to persistent gaps including the absence of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law covering sexual orientation and gender identity, insufficient labor-inclusion policies, and inadequate protections against hate speech.

The statement came amid broader concern from civil society organizations over the new administration's direction, including Costa Rica's withdrawal from the OAS LGBTIQ+ Core Group and the elimination of the LGBTI commissioner figure.

News article in Spanish:

- [ANEP a Laura Fernández: Negar la discriminación contra personas LGBTIQ+ profundiza las desigualdades - El Mundo CR](#)
- [Sindicato contradice a Laura Fernández sobre avances en derechos LGBTIQ+ - El Guardian CR](#)



President claims Costa Rica is 'up to date' on rights, plans to pull country from UN diversity forums.

JUNE 03, 2026

2026 June 3

President Laura Fernandez, defending the appointment of Boris Marchegiani as Costa Rica’s representative to the United Nations, said she no longer wants the country to participate in international forums focused on rights and diversity, claiming Costa Rica is already “up to date” on these matters. She stated: “I no longer want to see Costa Rica in those forums related to rights, diversities and those things where the country is, thank God, up to date. Here we treat all people equally without distinction of their sexual preference.” On the same occasion she declared, “I no longer want more Agenda 2030 sneaking in through the back door in Costa Rica.”

The statement signals an intent to distance Costa Rica from United Nations spaces dedicated to the promotion of human rights, equality, and diversity, extending a pattern that earlier in 2026 saw the country withdraw from the Organization of American States LGBTI Core Group.

Civil society organizations rejected the president’s characterization. The ANEP-Diversidad union section responded that “saying that in Costa Rica all people are treated equally and enjoy the same rights is a false statement,” and that “real equality has not yet been achieved.” It noted that discrimination persists in employment, education, healthcare, and housing, and that trans and non-binary people in particular face barriers to employment, healthcare, and economic opportunity. The union also pointed to the absence of comprehensive legislation specifically sanctioning discrimination based on gender identity and expression, and gaps in protection against hate speech and in the collection of data on hate-motivated violence. Giovanni Delgado, of the Pride Committee, argued in an opinion piece that the country remains far from being “up to date” on the rights of trans and other LGBTIQ+ people.

News articles in Spanish:

- [Laura Fernandez: “Ya no quiero mas Agenda 2030 colandose por la puerta de la cocina en Costa Rica” - Delfino.cr](#)
- [ANEP a Laura Fernandez: Negar la discriminacion contra personas LGBTIQA+ profundiza las desigualdades - El Mundo CR](#)
- [Sindicato contradice a Laura Fernandez sobre avances en derechos LGBTIQA+ - El Guardian CR](#)
- [Por que existe el Mes del Orgullo y por que Costa Rica aun no esta “al dia”? - Delfino.cr](#)

Where's Chaves? Former president hiding from court servers?

Court "could not" locate the former president and now super minister at Casa Presidencial to serve him a lawsuit

Court unable to serve former president Chaves in damages suit over Pride march declaration.

MAY 28, 2026

2026 May 28

A Costa Rican Administrative Court has been unable to locate former president Rodrigo Chaves to formally serve him with a civil lawsuit seeking to hold him personally liable for damages, stemming from his 2024 revocation of the cultural interest declaration granted to the Marcha de la Diversidad (Pride and Diversity March). An attempt to serve notice at Casa Presidencial on May 15, 2026 failed, and the judge ordered the parties to provide an updated address. Chaves no longer holds the presidency but serves in the current cabinet as Minister of the Presidency.

The suit was filed by activist Geovanny Delgado, who had brought the original constitutional challenge. It seeks compensation from both the State and Chaves personally, under a theory of joint and several liability; the plaintiffs have asked that any awarded funds be directed to an LGBTQ+ shelter in San José. "The Constitutional Court has already condemned him, and now the amount to be paid for damages must be finalized, and he can't be found," Delgado said.

The case rests on a November 22, 2024 ruling by the Constitutional Chamber (Sala IV, vote 2024-035183), which found that Chaves acted arbitrarily and without objective justification when, one day before the June 30, 2024 march, his government annulled the event's cultural interest declaration. The court held that the act "flagrantly violated the fundamental rights of a minority and vulnerable population." On June 29, 2024, Chaves had also dismissed the Minister of Culture and the Commissioner for Social Inclusion for authorizing the declaration without his approval, and traffic police subsequently declined to provide security for the march route.

News article in English:

- [Where's Chaves? Former president hiding from court servers? - Q Costa Rica](#)

News article in Spanish:

- [Gobierno lesionó derechos de población LGBTIQ+ por decisión "arbitraria" de dejar sin efecto declaratoria de interés cultural a Marcha de la Diversidad, resuelve Sala IV - Amelia Rueda](#)
- [Sala IV destaca arbitrariedad de Rodrigo Chaves al eliminar declaratoria de interés a "Marcha de la Diversidad" - La República](#)

- [Dirigente de Marcha de la Diversidad presenta amparo contra Rodrigo Chaves por anular declaratoria - La Nación](#)
-

América Latina

Portada > Internacional > América Latina

President insists on being called “presidente”, not “presidenta”, to reject “gender ideology”.

MAY 08, 2026

2026 May 8

On the day she was sworn in as Costa Rica’s 50th head of state, Laura Fernández announced she would reject the feminine form “presidenta” and require that she be addressed as “presidente”, a decision she framed as a repudiation of what she called “gender ideology.” Fernández, the second woman to ever hold the office, made the choice on the same day Costa Rica reached parity in the Legislative Assembly for the first time in its history (30 women out of 57 seats).

The stance aligns Fernández with Pilar Cisneros, head of the ruling Partido Pueblo Soberano caucus during the previous administration, who had adopted the same usage. Inclusive language has been a recurring target of Costa Rica’s conservative bloc; the outgoing Chaves government, in which Fernández served as Minister of the Presidency, repealed Ministry of Public Education guidelines on inclusive language and on comprehensive sexuality and affectivity at the request of evangelical pastors. During the campaign Fernández signed a written commitment with evangelical leaders pledging “education without gender ideology” among the “non-negotiable values” of her government.

María José Cascante, a University of Costa Rica political scientist specializing in gender, told reporters that “inclusive language is associated with progressivism, and is therefore in the crosshairs of this conservative sector.” Trans, nonbinary and gender-diverse Costa Ricans receive their primary symbolic recognition from the state through language and through the gender markers on official documents; the new president’s opening gesture signals continued institutional hostility to that recognition.

News article in Spanish:

- [La nueva presidenta de Costa Rica asume el Gobierno con mayoría de mujeres en el Congreso - BurgosConecta](#)
- [La nueva presidenta de Costa Rica asume el Gobierno con mayoría de mujeres en el Congreso - TodoAlicante](#)
- [Laura Fernández se compromete con líderes evangélicos a ‘venerar’ la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural - La Nación](#)
- [Laura Fernández negocia candidaturas y puestos con evangélicos - El Mundo CR](#)

Portada » Costa Rica » Pablo Sibaja propone reincorporar el sexo registral en las cédulas de identidad

Pablo Sibaja propone reincorporar el sexo registral en las cédulas de identidad

» Corrigiendo una medida implementada en 2018.



Últimas noticias

Conservative bill seeks to reinstate sex of birth on ID cards.

APRIL 30, 2026

2026 April 30

Deputy Pablo Sibaja, of the conservative party Nueva República, filed a bill in the Legislative Assembly to reinstate the sex-of-birth field on Costa Rica's national identity card (cédula). The Supreme Electoral Court had removed that field in 2018 to prevent stigmatization and protect the gender identity of trans, non-binary and intersex citizens, in line with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights advisory opinion OC-24/17.

Sibaja's proposal would make the field optional and display only "femenino" or "masculino" categories based on the birth certificate. He argued that removing the data "disrespected citizens who wished to see it" on their documents. The initiative was presented in the final weeks of the legislative period, in parallel with Nueva República's opposition to the trans identity recognition bill (file 23.809) promoted by Frente Amplio.

LGBTIQA+ advocates warned that the measure would create a visible marker exposing trans and non-binary people to workplace, housing and institutional discrimination, undoing one of the few concrete administrative protections won in the past decade.

News article in Spanish:

- [Costa Rica: Proyecto conservador busca que cédulas vuelvan a registrar el sexo de nacimiento - La Mala Fe](#)
- [Pablo Sibaja propone reincorporar el sexo registral en las cédulas de identidad - El Mundo CR](#)
- [Conservadores de Nueva República se despiden del Congreso con plan para registrar el sexo de personas en las cédulas - La República](#)
- [Proyecto haría que reaparezca información sobre sexo registral en las cédulas - Diario Extra](#)
- [Iniciativa busca que dato de sexo en la cédula dependa de cada persona - CRC 891](#)
- [Sexo registral volvería a las cédulas de identidad - Sinart / Trece Noticias](#)

Portada » Costa Rica » Coadyuvancia ante la Sala IV busca sentar precedente por discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer

Coadyuvancia ante la Sala IV busca sentar precedente por discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer



Últimas noticias

Coadyuvancia filed at sala IV to set precedent in INCOFER transphobia case.

APRIL 21, 2026

2026 April 21

Attorney Jota Vargas Alvarado and human rights defender Janekeith Durán Barberena filed a formal coadyuvancia (third-party legal joinder) before Costa Rica's Constitutional Chamber (Sala IV) in support of the amparo brought by a trans woman against the Instituto Costarricense de Ferrocarriles (INCOFER). The original amparo, filed earlier in April, challenged INCOFER security personnel who denied the woman access to the women's restroom at the Estación del Atlántico railway station in San José and ordered her to use the men's facilities, despite her presenting a valid national ID issued by the Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones.

The coadyuvancia argues that the discrimination violates Articles 33 and 40 of the Costa Rican Constitution and contravenes the inter-American human rights standards set out in Advisory Opinion OC-24/17 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which recognizes gender identity as part of the right to free development of personality. The filing asks the Constitutional Chamber to declare the amparo well-founded, formally recognize the violation of fundamental rights, and order INCOFER to adopt immediate measures — including internal protocols and human rights training for staff — to guarantee access to services consistent with users' gender identity across all of its facilities.

“Desde el Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos se han desarrollado estándares y recomendaciones” regarding the rights of trans persons, Vargas Alvarado explained, framing the case as an opportunity to set a binding precedent for public institutions throughout Costa Rica.

News article in Spanish:

- [Coadyuvancia ante la Sala IV busca sentar precedente por discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer - El Mundo CR](#)

COSTA RICA >

Gobierno de Costa Rica anuncia retiro del foro LGBTIQ+ de la Organización de Estados Americanos

La decisión comunicada por el canciller Arnoldo André responde al interés de priorizar recursos en temas

Costa Rica withdraws from OAS LGBTI Core Group.

APRIL 07, 2026

2026 April 7

The Costa Rican government announced its withdrawal from the LGBTI Core Group of the Organization of American States (OAS), ending a decade of active participation in the regional forum dedicated to advancing the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people. Foreign Minister Arnoldo André confirmed the decision, which was formally communicated to the OAS by Ambassador Alejandra Solano.

The government justified the move by claiming that Costa Rica has already reached a sufficient level of normative protection for minorities and that diplomatic resources should be redirected to issues considered more urgent. The announcement came less than a month before the end of the Chaves administration and while Costa Rica holds the presidency of the OAS Permanent Council (April 1 to June 30, 2026).

LGBTIQA+ civil society organizations rejected the decision, calling the government's claim of "full protection" for minorities false and demanding evidence. ANEP Diversidad, Frente Amplio and other groups described the withdrawal as a regression in Costa Rica's historical role as a regional reference on human rights, and pointed out that LGBTIQA+ people in the country continue to face violence, exclusion and discrimination every day.

News article in Spanish:

- [Gobierno de Costa Rica anuncia retiro del foro LGBTIQ+ de la Organización de Estados Americanos - Infobae](#)
- [Organizaciones rechazan argumentos del Gobierno tras salida de Costa Rica del Grupo Núcleo LGBTI de la OEA - Delfino.cr](#)
- [Costa Rica se retira de foro de la OEA sobre derechos de población de diversidad sexual - Semanario Universidad](#)
- [Organizaciones LGBTIQA+ tachan de "falsas" justificaciones de Cancillería sobre retiro del foro de la OEA - El Mundo CR](#)
- [Costa Rica se retira de grupo de la OEA enfocado en derechos de la comunidad LGBTI - Amelia Rueda](#)
- [ANEP Diversidad rechaza el retiro de Costa Rica del foro de la OEA y señala un retroceso en derechos humanos - ANEP](#)

Portada » Costa Rica » Denuncian discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer ante Sala IV

Denuncian discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer ante Sala IV



Últimas noticias

COSTA RICA

Transphobic discrimination at INCOFER railway station.

APRIL 07, 2026

2026 April 7

A trans woman filed an amparo (constitutional protection) before Costa Rica's Sala IV after being a victim of transphobic discrimination at the Estación del Atlántico, operated by the Instituto Costarricense de Ferrocarriles (INCOFER).

Security personnel denied her access to the women's bathroom and ordered her to use the men's. When she presented her valid national ID issued by the Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones, staff arbitrarily claimed the document was "not valid" for the institution. Her explanations about medical needs related to hormone therapy were ignored.

The legal action invokes Articles 33 and 40 of the Costa Rican Constitution and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Opinion OC-24/17 on gender identity recognition. She requested immediate provisional measures and structural changes including protocol implementation and staff training.

News article in Spanish:

- [Denuncian discriminación transfóbica en el Incofer ante Sala IV - El Mundo CR](#)

A feminist perspective on Costa Rica's upcoming vote



Feminist analysis: anti-gender agenda dominates Costa Rica's 2026 elections.

JANUARY 29, 2026

2026 January 29

Ahead of Costa Rica's February 2026 general elections, a feminist analysis published by Ojalá examines how conservative and right-wing political forces have systematically attacked gender-based violence prevention and trans rights during the Chaves administration.

The analysis documents how an alliance between the Chaves government and neo-Pentecostal parties and churches led to the elimination of secular sex and relationship education, the undermining of institutions addressing gender-based violence, and the restriction of medical abortion access.

The authors warn that "increasingly brutal violence against feminized people" has become the norm, with this agenda supported by people in power. Conservative sectors promote "fixed gender norms" where "cis women and LGBTQIA+ people are portrayed as objects to be dominated."

Leading presidential candidate Laura Fernández stated publicly that "abortion is, quite simply, murder", reflecting the broader rightward shift on gender issues in Costa Rican politics.

Article in English:

- [A feminist perspective on Costa Rica's upcoming vote - Ojalá](#)
- [A Feminist Perspective on Costa Rica's Upcoming Vote - Left Renewal Blog](#)

TODAY IN COSTA RICA Costa Rica Blocks Tárcoles Crocodile Deck Permits

Home > Topics > Crime > Costa Rica Faces Escalating Gender Violence Crisis, Ombudsman Warns

Don't Miss the Stories
That Matter

Ombudsman warns of escalating gender violence crisis.

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

2025 November 27

Costa Rica's Ombudsman (Defensoría de los Habitantes) sounded the alarm on a deepening crisis of violence against women, with 33 femicides recorded in 2025, the highest number in over a decade.

2025 ended as the most violent year for women in the country, with 85 of the 873 homicide victims being women. Since 2022, the femicide rate has climbed steadily, with intimate partner violence as the leading cause.

The Ombudsman called for stronger prevention and protection measures, including better inter-agency coordination, steady funding for support programs, a reliable national care network, easier access to work for women, and crime strategies that consider gender impacts.

The Defensoría stated that violence against women stems from deep-rooted structural inequalities, patriarchal norms, and inadequate state responses — the same systemic conditions that drive violence against trans and gender-diverse people.

News article in English:

- [Costa Rica Faces Escalating Gender Violence Crisis, Ombudsman Warns - Tico Times](#)

News in Spanish:

- [Solo dos meses del 2025, país alcanzó una tercera parte de los femicidios del año anterior - Semanario Universidad](#)

La Violencia que Ataca la Identidad: Crímenes de Odio contra la Comunidad LGBTQ+

October 29, 2025

Compartir:



La violencia armada de género también se dirige de manera específica y brutal contra las personas de la comunidad LGBTQ+ y aquellos que no se adhieren a los roles de género tradicionales. Estos crímenes, motivados por el prejuicio y la intolerancia, reflejan una forma

Fundación Arias report: hate crimes against LGBTQ+ community in Costa Rica face data gap and impunity.

OCTOBER 29, 2025

2025 October 29

The Fundación Arias para la Paz y el Progreso Humano (Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress) — the Costa Rican NGO founded in 1988 by former president and 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Óscar Arias Sánchez — published an analysis titled “La Violencia que Ataca la Identidad: Crímenes de Odio contra la Comunidad LGBTQ+” (Violence That Attacks Identity: Hate Crimes Against the LGBTQ+ Community).

The analysis frames hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people as a form of gender-based armed violence that is not limited to biological sex but attacks identity and individual expression. It states that LGBTQ+ people have a significantly higher prevalence of being victims of hate crimes, intimate partner violence, and discrimination, and that attacks frequently include extrajudicial executions and sexual violence, perpetrated with the intent of punishing those who challenge traditional norms of gender and sexuality.

Citing the annual report of Sin Violencia LGBTI, the Foundation notes that in 2023 at least 364 LGBTQ+ people were killed in Latin America and the Caribbean, with more than a third (39%) of those crimes committed with firearms. Trans women and cisgender gay men were the principal victims.

On Costa Rica specifically, the analysis emphasizes a documentation deficit: the country has neither comparable nor sufficient data to capture the reality of anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes. It cites the “Proyecto VIH-CR” review of press reports from 2000 to 2020, which revealed a pattern of murders and extreme violence against LGBTQ+ people in Costa Rica — particularly trans women and lesbians.

The Foundation argues that the Costa Rican legal system presents serious challenges in addressing these crimes. The absence of adequate mechanisms to investigate complaints and the omission of discrimination as a key factor in investigations generate impunity. Femicide motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity, it notes, is a form of violence that has been poorly documented, which renders victims invisible and obstructs the search for justice.

Analysis in Spanish:

- [La Violencia que Ataca la Identidad: Crímenes de Odio contra la Comunidad LGBTQ+ - Fundación Arias para la Paz](#)



Política

Laura Fernández se compromete con líderes evangélicos a ‘venerar’ la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural

La candidata presidencial de Pueblo Soberano suscribió carta con pastores durante actividad a puerta cerrada

Escuchar

Don't miss a thing

Laura Fernández, now president, signed pact with evangelical political group committing to 'natural family' and ministerial appointments.

OCTOBER 23, 2025

2025 October 23

Laura Fernández, then presidential candidate for the chavista party Pueblo Soberano (PPSO) and now president of Costa Rica since May 8, 2026, signed a nine-page letter of commitments with evangelical pastors of the group “Foro Mi País” at the Hilton hotel in San José. The seven written commitments include a pledge to “venerate life from conception to natural death, without concessions” and to protect “the natural family” as the irreplaceable nucleus of society — the same anti-gender ideology language used in the region to justify rolling back trans, nonbinary, and reproductive rights.

Reporting in January 2026 by Infobae and La Nación revealed that Fernández also pledged 24 deputy candidacies to figures linked to the evangelical movement, openness for the group to propose names for the Ombudsman’s office (Defensoría de los Habitantes), the Judicial branch, and embassies, and “special attention” in the designation of the Education and Health ministers — the two ministries that most directly determine trans rights in Costa Rica, including anti-bullying protocols in schools and access to gender-affirming care through the Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social (CCSS). A separate commitment promotes a “special law for religious organizations” and protections for public officials’ “conscience objection” to acts contrary to religious convictions — a clause that, if implemented, could let healthcare workers refuse gender-affirming care.

The Federación Alianza Evangélica Costarricense (FAEC) publicly distanced itself from “Foro Mi País” and rejected any political pact, but several pastors and members of evangelical political parties have been linked to the negotiations. Fernández was inaugurated on May 8, 2026, with 31 of 57 seats in the Legislative Assembly, signaling a strong governing majority for the religious-conservative agenda.

News articles in Spanish:

- [Laura Fernández se compromete con líderes evangélicos a ‘venerar’ la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural - La Nación](#)
- [Laura Fernández prometió a pastores evangélicos 24 candidaturas a diputado, así como apertura para cargos en Corte y embajadas - La Nación](#)
- [Laura Fernández habría negociado puestos en instituciones públicas con agrupaciones evangélicas - Infobae](#)

- [Laura Fernández negocia candidaturas y puestos con evangélicos - El Mundo CR](#)
- [Fotos: Laura Fernández firma pacto con evangélicos - Diario Extra](#)
- [Federación Evangélica defiende neutralidad electoral y sostiene que no negocia puestos con Laura Fernández - La República](#)



UN report: hate speech against LGBTQ+ surges 344% in one year.

AUGUST 13, 2025

2025 August 13

A UN report documented 2.1 million hate speech messages on Costa Rican social media, up 16% from 2024 and a staggering 400% increase since 2021.

Hate directed at the LGBTQ+ population saw the sharpest rise of all groups: a 344% increase in a single year, totaling 251,000 messages. Many rely on old stereotypes, tying sexual orientation or gender identity to ideas of “disease” or “indoctrination”.

The findings point to serious risks for the country’s democracy, human rights, and social bonds if these trends continue unchecked. Attacks focus heavily on politics, gender, and the LGBTQ+ community.

This follows a previous UN report from 2022 that already showed a 71% increase in hate speech over a year.

News article in English:

- [UN Report Warns Costa Rica Faces Record Surge in Social Media Hate Speech - Tico Times](#)

Related:

- [ONU: “Si Costa Rica no revierte tendencia de los discursos de odio, violencia y discriminación, los daños pueden tener un enorme costo” - UN Costa Rica](#)



State censorship of 2025 Pride March closing event.

JUNE 28, 2025

2025 June

The Public Entertainment Control and Rating Commission (CCEP) revoked the “all audiences” classification for Orgullo Costa Rica’s closing event for the 2025 Pride March, just days before the scheduled celebration. The decision came through official document CCEP-700-06-2025, overturning the prior approval CCEP-691-06-2025.

According to Orgullo Costa Rica, the government requested the event reduce its visibility, and based the reclassification on alleged audience conduct rather than actual performance content.

The organization filed a constitutional challenge seeking immediate nullification of the revocation. Dayana Álvarez Cisneros, president of Orgullo Costa Rica, stated: “This is not merely an attack on an event; it represents an assault on our very existence, our heritage, and our fundamental rights.”

This follows the pattern set in June 2024, when the current administration fired cultural officials for approving Pride March support without presidential authorization — a decision later condemned by Costa Rica’s Constitutional Court.

News article in Spanish:

- [Organización Orgullo Costa Rica denuncia censura estatal al evento de cierre de la Marcha de la Diversidad 2025 - Delfino.cr](#)



Trans women in men's prisons: Isamar Morales's testimony.

JUNE 01, 2025

Feature

Isamar Morales, a transgender woman, spent nearly four years incarcerated in Costa Rica's male prisons between 2006 and 2010. Her testimony exposes the brutal conditions trans women face in the country's penitentiary system.

During her incarceration, Isamar witnessed a fellow inmate's murder. Facilities held approximately 40 people in spaces designed for 26. Bathrooms lacked privacy, forcing her to shower exposed to other inmates, creating constant vulnerability to assault.

Prison authorities denied her basic dignity: feminine clothing and makeup were prohibited, conjugal visits refused, access to hormone therapy and appropriate healthcare denied, and her request to be classified as a woman for legal purposes was rejected.

Today, Isamar coordinates prison outreach for Transvida, a Costa Rican human rights organization. Through an agreement with the Justice Ministry, they now deliver hygiene kits, feminine clothing, and legal information to incarcerated trans women.

Article in Spanish:

- [La línea que divide la vida de la muerte de una mujer trans en una prisión de hombres - Hivos](#)

Lawmakers reject trans rights law

April 10, 2025

Lawmakers reject trans rights law.

APRIL 10, 2025

Voting 5 against and only 1 in favour, Costa Rica's lawmakers reject law 23809, "Ley de Reconocimiento de Identidades Trans, No Binarias, de Género Diverso e Intersex", effectively killing it.

Calling it "weird ideology", linking it to pedophiles, accusing it of going against women's rights, lawmakers show their ignorance on the subject and refuse the law project from going forwards.

Embed: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/hDIA94Wx02E?start=618&feature=oembed>

AMULABI submits report on conversion therapy to UN Universal Periodic Review

April 01, 2025

AMULABI submits report on conversion therapy to UN Universal Periodic Review.

APRIL 01, 2025

2025 April

AMULABI (Asociación Mulabi) submitted a report to Costa Rica's 4th Universal Periodic Review (47th session) documenting ongoing conversion therapy operations in the country, conducted by practitioners backed by US-based religious organizations.

The report highlights the legislative blocking by Nueva República's faction of bills seeking to prohibit conversion therapy, and the government's overall inaction despite documented harm to LGBTQ individuals. A bill to ban these practices had been stalled in the Human Rights Committee after facing opposition from conservative lawmakers who argued it threatened "religious freedom".

In March 2024, the embassies of the United States, Canada, Colombia, Spain and the Netherlands had jointly sent a letter to Congress supporting the prohibition of conversion therapies, arguing they "typically cause profound and lasting psychological and physical trauma".

Source document:

- [AMULABI UPR47 Costa Rica submission \(PDF\)](#)

Related news in Spanish:

- [Terapias de conversión: Comisión de DD.HH. avanza en dos mociones por freno de Nueva República - Observador CR](#)
- [¿Por qué hay un debate sobre las terapias de conversión sexual en Costa Rica? - CNN](#)

Portada » Costa Rica » CIDH evaluará situación de derechos humanos en Costa Rica

CIDH evaluará situación de derechos humanos en Costa Rica

» Organizaciones civiles expondrán preocupaciones sobre seguridad, violencia de género, niñez, pueblos indígenas, población LGBTQ y otros temas.



Últimas noticias

IACHR holds hearing on Costa Rica's human rights situation.

MARCH 05, 2025

2025 March 5

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR/CIDH) held a public hearing to examine the state of human rights in Costa Rica. Civil society organizations, including CIPAC and Alianza de Mujeres Costarricenses, raised concerns about increasing violence against the LGBTQ population, rising hate speech, and government rollbacks of protections.

The organizations urged state agents to respect democratic institutions and freedom of expression, and to avoid hate speech or delegitimization of critical voices. They recommended the creation of a protection mechanism and an investigation protocol for threats and crimes against human rights defenders.

News articles in Spanish:


- [CIDH evaluará situación de derechos humanos en Costa Rica - El Mundo CR](#)
- [La CIDH cita a Costa Rica a audiencia para examinar el estado de los derechos humanos - Infobae](#)

Related:

- [El Estado de Costa Rica responde ante la CIDH - CEJIL](#)

Chaves elimina comisionado LGTBI y deroga decreto para erradicar discriminación en instituciones contra población sexualmente diversa

El Decreto Ejecutivo 38.999 estableció la “Política del Poder Ejecutivo para erradicar de sus instituciones la discriminación hacia la población LGTBI”.

Por  Redacción El Observador

 redaccion@observador.cr

Tiempo de Lectura: 2 minutos



Chaves repeals anti-discrimination decree and eliminates LGBTI commissioner.

JANUARY 29, 2025

2025 January 29

President Rodrigo Chaves announced the repeal of Executive Decree 38.999, the “Executive Policy to eradicate discrimination toward the LGBTI population from its institutions”, and the elimination of the dedicated LGBTQ commissioner that had been established by former president Carlos Alvarado.

The Presidential Social Council would absorb these duties into a generic “vulnerability” portfolio, alongside disability and ethnicity issues. When questioned about the decision, Chaves stated: “Why should only they have a commissioner?”

The decree had been in place since 2015 and was designed to establish a policy within the Executive Branch to eliminate discrimination against the LGBTI population in public institutions.

News articles in Spanish:

- [Chaves elimina comisionado LGTBI y deroga decreto para erradicar discriminación en instituciones contra población sexualmente diversa - Observador CR](#)
- [¿Por qué solo ellos van a tener un comisionado?, cuestiona Rodrigo Chaves - El Mundo CR](#)

Tiffany Ortega Carballo dies, age 42

January 06, 2025

Tiffany Ortega Carballo dies, age 42.

JANUARY 06, 2025

Activist for trans population human rights.

No news coverage.

Link in Spanish:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1033538565466816&id=100064320476993&rdid=V4gRa59W1Tx2GrPv

News article from 2016 where she talks about her experience being a sex worker:



October. The identity of her killer(s) and motive for the attack are not known.

A person, apparently transgender, was killed with multiple stab wounds early Sunday morning in the Fecosa neighborhood in El Carmen de Cartago.

The judicial authorities received the alert at 1 am, however the Red Cross received the warning from 12:30 am

A 56-year-old [woman] with the surname Camacho was killed with multiple stab wounds. She was apparently a transgender [woman] known as Laisa. The attack occurred in the early hours of Sunday, October 27, 2024 in the Fecosa neighborhood in El Carmen de Cartago.

When rescuers arrived, they found the victim with cuts to her abdomen and legs and declared her dead at the scene. Authorities identified the victim as Camacho, 56 years old.

A Texas law requires school employees to use names and pronouns that conform to students' sex at birth.

1 2 3

reposted by TDoRInfo



What The Trans?! □□

@whatthetrans.com · 5m

□ Today, we remember and mourn the ones we have lost.

We will continue to fight for trans rights and equality while doing what we can to protect

Murder of Laisa Camacho, age 56.

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Laisa died after being stabbed multiple times early on the morning of Sunday 27th October. The identity of her killer(s) and motive for the attack are not known.

Link in English:



News coverage in Spanish:





Dayana Hernández González [photo: www.crhoy.com]

Dayana died from long-term complications caused by biopolymer injections. She was an activist, and the first trans woman to stand as a deputy to the Legislative Assembly in 2018.

Dayana Hernández González (San José, July 15, 1983 - July 1, 2024) was a trans consultant on issues related to access to health, STIs and HIV, and a Costa Rican activist for transgender rights and human rights. She was the founder and director of the Transvida organization. In 2018, she was the first trans woman to be a candidate for deputy to the Legislative Assembly.

Within activism, Hernández was a reference person in the Country Coordinating

A Texas law requires school employees to use names and pronouns that conform to students' sex at birth.

1 2 3

reposted by TDoRInfo



What The Trans?!

@whatthetrans.com · 5m

Today, we remember and mourn the ones we have lost.

We will continue to fight for trans rights and equality while doing what we can to protect

Dayana Hernandez dies, age 40.

JULY 01, 2024

Dayana Hernandez, one of Costa Rica's most important trans-rights activists, dies at age 40. She died from long-term complications caused by biopolymer injections.

She was an activist, and the first trans woman to stand as a deputy to the Legislative Assembly in 2018.

Lacking support for gender affirming care in Costa Rica's health system, trans people look for alternatives that are, most of the time, unsafe. They fall victim to systemic violence.

Link in English:



Link in Spanish:





TODAY IN COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Blocks Tárcoles Crocodile Deck Permits



Home > Topics > Arts and Culture > Costa Rica's President Fires Officials Over LGBT Pride March Support

Don't Miss the Stories
That Matter

President Fires Officials Over LGBT Pride March Support.

JUNE 30, 2024

2024 June 30

In June 2024, the government of Costa Rica fired two officials after they signed a declaration of cultural interest for the country's LGBT Pride March. The government claimed the march did not have the necessary permits, but the event organizers denied it. The Pride March organizers called the government's actions an illegal act and a populist move.

Link in English:

<https://ticotimes.net/2024/06/30/costa-ricas-president-fires-officials-over-lgbt-pride-march-support#:text=The%20decision%20was%20made%20because,government%20said%20in%20a%20statement>

Links in Spanish:

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/presidente-de-costa-rica-destituye-a-ministra-por-apoyar-marcha-lgbt/82232728>

<https://www.elpais.cr/2024/06/29/chaves-destituye-a-ministra-de-cultura-antes-de-marcha-lgtbi/>

Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT

May 17, 2024

Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT.

MAY 17, 2024

2024 May 17

Government doesn't commemorate day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the third year in a row.

Con renuncia de todos sus sueños, sus planes y la vida. Pero no nos olvidaríamos nunca
y las ganas rabiosas de vivir y re-existir abrazados por tu memoria.
#NiUnaMenos
#VivasNosQueremos



Murder of Juliana Elizondo.

DECEMBER 31, 2023

2023 December 31

Trans woman and activist Juliana “Gata” Elizondo was murdered. No news coverage.

Links in Spanish:

<https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?>

[href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0eRrTR8LALBmsmUWbhdBJcTq9udHA3MwMeDnpktScUfUk9Cch4zadESnpiLPFB6H8l&show_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0eRrTR8LALBmsmUWbhdBJcTq9udHA3MwMeDnpktScUfUk9Cch4zadESnpiLPFB6H8l&show_text=true&width=500)

<https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?>

[href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0Kxq6FZePoxYhXMehVXR4kY1oxav85DGgijxPWonqwp79Tw4TV4U62Mi8aoLyt2gAl&show_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0Kxq6FZePoxYhXMehVXR4kY1oxav85DGgijxPWonqwp79Tw4TV4U62Mi8aoLyt2gAl&show_text=true&width=500)

[No longer available] https://www.instagram.com/mujeresalertacr/p/C1ipyHmNwmU/?img_index=1



Police abuse activists at demonstration.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2023

2023 September 9

Trans rights activists physically attacked by police in Costa Rica while at a public demonstration.

Links in Spanish:



<https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?>

[href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0MST4wDibp7ZxuuJr6skH3t6jv9WKpfdCz222S1LyKi4ehZuSUzAuLXdXohjiBjWsl&show_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/sol.fp/posts/?fbid0MST4wDibp7ZxuuJr6skH3t6jv9WKpfdCz222S1LyKi4ehZuSUzAuLXdXohjiBjWsl&show_text=true&width=500)

Portada » Costa Rica » Rodrigo Chaves advierte que vetará ley trans si es aprobada por el Congreso

Rodrigo Chaves advierte que vetará ley trans si es aprobada por el Congreso



Últimas noticias

COSTA RICA

President declares he will veto trans rights law.

JULY 06, 2023

2023 July 6

Law proposal 23.809, colloquially called “trans rights law” proposed by one minority political party. Its goal is to recognize the identity, rights to education, family, health services, and work for trans, nonbinary, intersex and gender-diverse people, both adults and minors.

Costa Rica’s president declared that if the law gets to his desk, he will veto it. With comments such as “a 6-year-old wakes up saying I feel like a fish, I identify as a fish put scales on me and cut me up, those are very weird things” and “analysts say it foments pedophilia, I will not sign that law. There is no discussion about that.”

News articles in Spanish:



Video in Spanish:



ÚLTIMAS NOTICIAS

CR HOY

PRO

NACIONALES

(VIDEOS) Llenan de críticas proyecto que permite a niños de 12 años cambiar su género

Por Bharley Quiros | 28 de Jun. 2023 | 2:29 pm
bharley.quiros@crhoy.com

Compartir

Legislators talk against trans rights law.

JUNE 28, 2023

2023 June 28

"We won't let it go even one step forward."

News article in Spanish with video:

<https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/videos-llenan-de-criticas-proyecto-que-permite-a-ninos-de-12-anos-cambiar-su-genero/>

Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT

May 17, 2023

Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT.

MAY 17, 2023

2023 May 17

Government doesn't commemorate day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the second year in a row.

The image shows a screenshot of a news article and a financial data table. The article title is "Candidatos trans para elecciones municipales serán ubicados por sexo al nacer y no género autopercebido" (Trans candidates for municipal elections will be located by sex at birth and not self-perceived gender). The author is Esteban Acosta, and the date is Thursday, March 9, 2023. Below the article is a "MÁS LEÍDAS" (More to read) section with options for "DÍA", "7 DÍAS", and "30 DÍAS". To the right is a financial data table for USD/CR and MULTIMONEY.

USD/CR	
COMPRA	VENTA
452.8	476.5

MULTIMONEY	
COMPRA	VENTA
460.5	469
Conocer más	

FUENTE: BANCO CENTRAL DE COSTA RICA

Ballots will list candidates by their sex at birth, not gender identity.

MARCH 09, 2023

2023 March 9

In Costa Rica ballots must alternate between men and women candidates. Transgender people will be listed using their sex at birth. So a transgender woman must fill a man's place.

News article in Spanish:



Reference:

https://www.tse.go.cr/revista/art/30/vargas_alvarado.htm

Portada » Destacada » David Segura: Hoy quiero conmemorar a las mujeres biológicas, las mujeres de verdad

David Segura: Hoy quiero conmemorar a las mujeres biológicas, las mujeres de verdad



Últimas noticias

Legislator commemorates biological women, “real women”, on International Women’s Day.

MARCH 08, 2023

2023 March 8

Saying “Today I want to celebrate biological women, those that science clearly identifies since they are born, those that for me and the majority of costa ricans are real women.”

News article in Spanish:



Portada » Costa Rica » Decir que los hombres menstrúan es una ofensa a las mujeres, le señala David Segura a Rocío Alfaro

Decir que los hombres menstrúan es una ofensa a las mujeres, le señala David Segura a Rocío Alfaro



Últimas noticias

Legislator declares saying that some men menstruate is disrespectful to real women.

MARCH 01, 2023

2023 March 1

Speaking against a law project that intends to recognize trans men's gender identity.

News article in Spanish:



Portada » Costa Rica » Alvarado solicita a Chaves derogar decretos sobre lenguaje inclusivo para eliminar ideología de género en escuelas

Alvarado solicita a Chaves derogar decretos sobre lenguaje inclusivo para eliminar ideología de género en escuelas



Últimas noticias

Legislator asks president to derogate executive orders regarding inclusive language in schools.

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

2023 February 28

News article in Spanish:





Seguridad

Parque de Diversiones niega discriminación a personas trans: 'Solo seguimos el reglamento'

Empresa reconoció que en dos ocasiones sus trabajadores usaron pronombres incorrectos con las clientes, ya que se refirieron a ella como 'él'



SUCESOS

Líderes de 'Los Chacales' huyen tras ser alertados de

Por José Andrés Céspedes

Amusement park denies entrance to transwomen.

FEBRUARY 17, 2023

2023 February 17

Six transwomen denounced being subjected to discrimination when the Parque de Diversiones amusement park denied them entry.

The park responded they were seen using drugs and alcohol before entering.

They reply they weren't, and the amusement park has no proof.

The park declared they are not apologizing and asserted they did nothing wrong.

Costa Rica has laws against "indecentcy" that are often used as tools to discriminate.

News articles in Spanish:



UN report on the situation of women's rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica

February 13, 2023

UN report on the situation of women's rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica.

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

2023 February 13

Non-governmental Organizations Brief the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Situation of Women's Rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica.

Report by the United Nation's Human Rights Office.

Quotes from the report:

"Not only was there no guarantee of access to justice, but the Costa Rican justice system reproduced discriminatory practices against victims of violence, including State violence. Special State protection actions for minority groups, including indigenous women, rural women, and women with disabilities, among others, was also requested."

"Costa Rica should prohibit and penalise any action that sought to modify the sexual orientation or gender identity of lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer people. Costa Rica should also generate State policies aimed at promoting the employment of the transgender population. The Ministry of Labour was urged to carry out studies on complaints and administrative processes in workplaces on acts of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It should also be guaranteed that intersex people were not subjected to surgeries without their consent."

Report in English:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/02/non-governmental-organizations-brief-committee-elimination-discrimination-against>



Organizations denounce Costa Rica's failure to support gender identity.

FEBRUARY 07, 2023

2023 February 7

Report describing deficiencies in access to justice, data recollection, gender violence and health services. It applies to all women in general, but specifies trans women cases as well.

News article in Spanish:



Report in Spanish:





President promises education system “far from weird ideologies”.

FEBRUARY 06, 2023

2023 February 6

Following up his commitment to remove “gender ideology” from government and education.

News article in Spanish:



Demandan a Costa Rica por negarse a modificar el sexo de personas trans en el registro civil

[Neyssa Calvo](#) | neyssacalvoasesora@larepublica.net

Miércoles, 18 enero 2023

MÁS LEÍDAS

USD/CR	
COMPRA	VENTA
452.8	476.5

MULTIMONEY

multi money	
COMPRA	VENTA
460.5	469

FUENTE: BANCO CENTRAL DE COSTA RICA

Costa Rica sued for denying sex change in civil record.

JANUARY 18, 2023

2023 January 18

Costa Rica still doesn't allow to legally change sex or gender.

News article in Spanish:





Política

Gobierno congela plan contra terapias de conversión sexual

Ministra de Presidencia argumenta razones de 'conveniencia y oportunidad'

Por Aarón Sequeira

04 de noviembre 2022, 06:08 p. m.

Government freezes plan against conversion therapy.

NOVEMBER 04, 2022

2022 November 4

Ministra de Presidencia (equivalent Secretary of State), argues reasons of 'convenience and opportunity'.
Project is left outside of the official schedule for legislative discussion.

News article in Spanish:



Portada » Costa Rica » Alhana Chavarría denuncia que sufrió violencia transfóbica en bar de la Cali

Alhana Chavarría denuncia que sufrió violencia transfóbica en bar de la Cali



Últimas noticias

COSTA RICA

Transwoman attacked at a restaurant in San José.

OCTOBER 31, 2022

2022 October 31

On October 27, security personnel verbally and physically attacked Alhana Chavarria when she was going to use the washroom at La Destilería restaurant, in one of San José's most famous nightlife zones.

They misgendered her and grabbed her by the neck. Arguing it was a man trying to enter a women's washroom.

Comments to the article say, for example "He could at least shave!", "the nerve on those lazy s.o.b.s".

News article in Spanish:



Alhana's tweet about the incident in Spanish:

*Mis amigas y yo sufrimos acciones transfobicas en el bar La Destilería en la Cali
El jueves 27 de octubre, fuimos a visitar dicho bar en plan tranqui, cuando intentamos ingresar se nos
advierde en la entrada q sí nos ven en los baños de mujeres, nos sacan xq "somos hombres" 1/5.*

— alhanacm (@alhanacm) [October 31, 2022](#)

There are many homophobic replies on the thread, like "stay at your places" or "you deserve to be brutalized".



Lawmakers block law project intending to criminalize conversion therapy.

OCTOBER 20, 2022

2022 October 20

They compared homosexuality with drug addiction, homologated being transgender with prostitution, and read norms regarding animal violence.

News article in Spanish:



Sexual Violence in Costa Rica: A Progressive Country with Regressive Gender Policies

September 01, 2022

Sexual Violence in Costa Rica: A Progressive Country with Regressive Gender Policies

SEPTEMBER 01, 2022

2022 September 1

Article regarding gender violence in Costa Rica. It concerns mostly biological women, but mentions issues like 8th place for countries with the highest rape rate, and sexual violence happening every 80 minutes.

Quotes:

“In theory, Costa Rica currently has the laws in place to protect women against sexual violence and femicide. Nonetheless, as a culture heavily influenced by machismo, sexual violence and femicide continues to prevail in Costa Rican society. Specifically, the way machista ideologies are interwoven into the laws protects abusers rather than survivors, making prosecutions and convictions less likely”.

“In 2016, 88% of the cases filed for violence against women were not prosecuted. In 2018, there were a total of 27 femicides, but only 10 convictions under the femicide law. Regarding sexual violence, there was a clear lack of prosecution and accountability. In 2019, there were 12,348 reports of sexual violence including rape, sexual relationships with minors, pornography distribution, and sexual abuse of women over eighteen. Nonetheless, there were only 1,669 sentences, setting a conviction rate of 14%”.

Article in English:

https://minnjil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Gretzinger_v31_i2_157_185.pdf

GÉNEROS Y SEXUALIDADES

Derecha religiosa realiza “terapias de conversión” en Costa Rica

En el país se ha dado una importante discusión sobre las llamadas “terapias de conversión”, donde se lesionan los derechos de las personas LGBTI.



Gustavo Javier Molina Matute

08 de agosto 2022



Religious right performs “conversion therapy” in Costa Rica.

AUGUST 08, 2022

2022 August 8

Conversion therapy still legal in Costa Rica. This article describes how they have been performed on the population.

News article in Spanish:



Story from SOMOS >

Costa Rica’s Gentrified LGBTQ Beach Town Isn’t Very Welcoming to Queer Locals

ELIZABETH LANG

LAST UPDATED JULY 22, 2022, 6:22 AM



Costa Rica’s gentrified LGBTQ beach town isn’t welcoming to queer locals.

JULY 23, 2022

2022 July 22

Article describing how tourists live in a bubble, and local residents’ reality is very different. Being subjected to violence and abuse.

“The biggest fear any trans woman has is going out and not coming back” says one of the interviewees.

Article in English:



Discursos de odio crecen 71% en Costa Rica durante el último año

Brenda Camarillo | bcamarillo@larepublica.net

Domingo, 17 julio 2022

XENOFOBIA

MÁS LEÍDAS

USD/CR

COMPRA	VENTA
452.8	476.5

MULTIMONEY

multi money

COMPRA	VENTA
460.5	469

FUENTE: BANCO CENTRAL DE COSTA RICA

Hate speech increases 71% in Costa Rica over a year.

JULY 17, 2022

2022 July 17

Analysis of social networks by Coes, organization dedicated to information monitoring.

Politics and elections (it was an election year), sexual orientation and gender identity were the main subjects. Majority is men in the capital.

News article in Spanish:



Related article (hate speech predominant in costarricans' social networks according to the UN):



Article in English.

<https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/new-un-study-finds-hate-speech-costa-rica-grew-71>



Government institution takes away building from trans rights organization.

JULY 14, 2022

2022 July 14

The National Insurance Institute ends agreement where they lent a building to Transvida (pro trans rights organization).

Transvida labels it as a transphobic move.

Article in Spanish:



President removes figure of LGBTIQ+ commissioner

June 22, 2022

President removes figure of LGBTIQ+ commissioner.

JUNE 22, 2022

2022 June 22

Rodrigo Chavez removes the figure of LGBTIQ+ commissioner established by the previous government. He replaces it with a general commissioner in charge of “various areas”.

The figure was created in 2018 by Executive Order. It was in charge of establishing specific dialogue and follow-up on non discriminatory public policy. The current government removes it.

News article in Spanish:



Press conference video in Spanish:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=386592336784060



Government bans celebration of IDAHOBIT.

MAY 18, 2022

2022 May 18

The current government disregards a valid executive order and doesn't commemorate International day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the first time in 14 years.

Personnel received explicit orders not to do any celebration regarding that day, or put any rainbow flags.

News article in Spanish:



Comment on Costa Rica's current president, by OpenDemocracy

April 07, 2022

Comment on Costa Rica's current president, by OpenDemocracy.

APRIL 07, 2022

2022 April 7

How he is a radical change from the previous two governments, promoting right-wing values, similar to Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro. Evoking an "authoritarian tone and a really dangerous, traditional, masculine representation".

News article in English:



Red LACTRANS publishes 5th report on trans issues in the region

March 31, 2022

Red LACTRANS publishes 5th report on trans issues in the region.

MARCH 31, 2022

2022 March 31

Citing Costa Rica as the second highest country in beating rates (44%, page 15), the highest country where violence and abuse occurs on the street (71%, page 16), and second highest where abuse and violence happen in health care services (27%, page 17).

Report in Spanish:

<http://redlactrans.org.ar/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PERSEGUIDES-EN-DEMOCRACIA-CEDOSTALC-2022.pdf>



Política

Chaves se compromete con pastores a eliminar ‘ideología de género’ en educación

Acuerdo también incluye permitir que sector cristiano le proponga, si llega a mandatario, candidatos a puestos de liderazgo en Educación, Salud y Relaciones Exteriores

Por Armando Mayorga

President committed with pastors to eliminate “gender ideology” when he was a candidate.

MARCH 25, 2022

2022 March 25

Then candidate, now president, committed with evangelical pastors to remove “gender ideology” from school system.

Also allowed the christian sector to nominate candidates to leadership positions in Education, Health and International Affairs.

Reference in Spanish:



Noticias de última hora
Infórmese en nuestro canal de WhatsApp

Escaneé este QR o haga clic acá



SUCESOS

Inducen a coma a

Waiter burned alive.

FEBRUARY 06, 2022

2022 February 6

Immigrant gay waiter burned alive. Authorities deny it is a hate crime.

References (both in Spanish):





Deportes

Mujer trans perdió a su familia y el trabajo cuando cambió de sexo hace siete meses

Julia Bohemia Roberts contó todo lo que tuvo que sacrificar para poder sentirse plena

Escuchar

Por Franklin Arroyo

Transwoman loses family and job after sex change.

DECEMBER 27, 2021

2021 December 27

Interview in Spanish with Julia Bohemia.

Reference:



Therapists backed by US groups tell LGBTQ Costa Ricans that homosexuality is wrong

November 24, 2021

Therapists backed by US groups tell LGBTQ Costa Ricans that homosexuality is 'wrong'.

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

2021 November 24

Saying "only a sadistic God would create a gay person", and the government refuses to ban conversion therapy.

Reference:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/therapists-costa-ricans-homosexuality-wrong/>

From Victimization to Incarceration: Transgender Women in Costa Rica

August 01, 2021

From Victimization to Incarceration: Transgender Women in Costa Rica.

AUGUST 01, 2021

2021 August

Article in English describing how transgender women's rights are violated by direct, social and structural violence in Costa Rica. Interviews transgender incarcerated women to narrate their experience and state of vulnerability. Complemented with a socio-legal analysis of the justice framework.

Reference:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354035115_From_Victimization_to_Incarceration_Transgender_Women_in_Costa_Rica

Inicio / Archivos / Vol. 32 Núm. 1 (2021): Revista Latinoamericana de Derechos Humanos (Enero-junio) / Artículos

La violencia contra las mujeres trans en los espacios públicos: Entre el acoso sexual y la transfobia

Karol Carmona Alvarado

Ministerio de Educación Pública de Costa Rica, Costa Rica

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15359/ridh.32.1.1>



Información general

Guía de uso de lenguaje inclusivo

Violence against trans women in public spaces: Between sexual harassment and transphobia.

MARCH 04, 2021

2021 March 4

Academic article in Spanish, with summaries in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Published by Universidad Nacional, one of the main universities in Costa Rica.

Violence against trans women in public spaces: Between sexual harassment and transphobia.

Quote: "To the majority of women interviewed, public spaces are not safe places, they feel fear of being raped or hurt, be subjected to mockery and discrimination."

Reference:





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SUCESOS

Delos... noticias

Tati Quirós murdered in Playas del Coco.

DECEMBER 08, 2020

2020 December 8

Tati Quirós was murdered by gunshot near a tourist area. News coverage for shock value, disrespecting her privacy or identity.

Violence against trans people is not recognized in Costa Rica. These cases are treated as generic murder. This happened in 2020 but legality has not changed.

Original news report, violating her identity and privacy (in Spanish).



Comment on the original news article (in Spanish).



Commentary in English:





Homophobic remarks by police officer.

JULY 01, 2020

2020

A police officer launched a series of insulting and homophobic remarks towards a male couple.

Reference:





[Sobre las cookies en este sitio](#)

Report: Hate crimes due to sexual orientation and real or perceived gender identity in Costa Rica.

JULY 01, 2020

2020

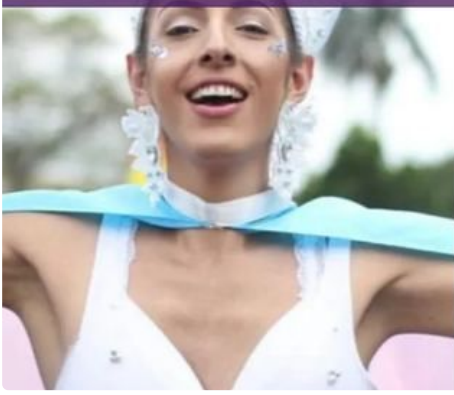
Report by Hivos America Latina (in Spanish). Describes hate manifestation, and provides examples of violence against trans people from 2016 to 2020.

It highlights how Costa Rica does not recognize gender identity and has no laws against specific transphobic hate crimes. That situation hasn't change since the report was published.

One case from 2017, for example: a transwoman was murdered, and the government did not respect her gender identity. Homicide records describe her as "a boy dressed as a woman".

Reference:

<https://america-latina.hivos.org/assets/2020/07/2020-Crimenes-de-odio-en-Costa-Rica-Acciones-e-insumos-para-la-incidencia.pdf>



#Costa Rica | «Ser mujer trans es difícil, tenemos las expectativas de vida más bajas en el mundo», activista trans Victoria Rovira

Interview with trans activist Victoria Rovira.

APRIL 01, 2020

2020 April 1

Interview in Spanish. “Being a trans woman is hard, we have the lowest life expectancy in the world”, says Victoria Rovira trans activist.

“Diversity doesn’t mean inclusion”.

Reference:



NACIONALES

**(VIDEO) Sujetos atacaron
brutalmente a mujeres trans en el
centro de San José**

HECHOS OCURRIERON EN LAS CERCANÍAS DE LA
ALIANZA FRANCESA, BARRIO AMÓN

Group of men brutally attack trans women, downtown San Jose.

MARCH 03, 2020

2020 March 3

News article in Spanish.

Two women were verbally and physically attacked. Video recordings show the men were recording themselves from a nearby car, while they yelled, touched, hit and kicked the women, all while laughing and placing bets.

Reference:

<https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/video-sujetos-atacaron-brutalmente-a-mujeres-trans-en-el-centro-de-san-jose/>

NACIONALES

Acusan a oficial de Fuerza Pública de quebrar cédula a mujer trans

"Y SI SE PONE DE MATONCITO LO QUEBRAMOS AHÍ EN EL CAJÓN", DICE VÍCTIMA QUE LE AMENAZABAN

Police officer breaks in half transwoman's Id document.

OCTOBER 30, 2019

2019 October 30

News article in Spanish.

Downtown San Jose, 2pm. Police officer violates trans woman's rights and threatens further violent action.

Reference:

<https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/acusan-a-oficial-de-fuerza-publica-de-quebrar-cedula-a-mujer-trans/>

María was murdered while working. After her death the commissioner of LGBTI Affairs of the Presidential House called for trans people to be respected in society.

San José, Mar 7 (elmundo.cr) - The commissioner of LGBTI Affairs of the Presidential House, Luis Salazar, dedicated a few words to the recent murder of a trans woman in Costa Rica.

The victim was María Paula Murillo Reyes, who was murdered on March 5 while working in the sex trade.

"Trans people walk a highly dangerous path since childhood: expulsion from their homes, school exclusion, sexual exploitation or trade, unemployment, street violence, daily discrimination to put simple examples are risk factors and exclusion that end with a project of life at a young age," Salazar added.



www.infobae.com

Hallan muerta a Constanza, conocida como la "abuela de todas las travestis" y referente histórica del movimiento trans en Bogotá
La Defensoría del Pueblo pidió a la Fiscalía adelantar de manera

Murder of Maria Paula Murillo Reyes, age 35.

MARCH 05, 2019

2019 March 5

María was murdered while working. After her death the commissioner of LGBTI Affairs of the Presidential House called for trans people to be respected in society.

Note the figure of Commissioner of LGBTI Affairs was removed by the following government in June of 2022.

Link in English:



Trans victims of silence

June 19, 2018

Trans victims of silence.

JUNE 19, 2018

2018 June 19

Video in Spanish. Trans people tell their personal experiences. One tells how she was witness to one of her friends' murder, and how police officers not only did nothing, but were disgusted to even touch her. Another one narrates how he barely escaped an attack by men, including an armed security guard.

Reference:

Embed: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/E6OKRmBaCHA?start=195&feature=oembed>



Who killed Kenisha.

JUNE 19, 2018

2018 June 19

News article (in Spanish), describing the murder of Kenisha, its aftermath and how the government dealt with it. It narrates how the government never recognized her identity, and misgendered her in all official reports. Reflects on how the lack of public policy and apathy are two of the main causes why transwomen's life expectancy on the region is 35 years.

The article includes audio and video. In the audio (in Spanish), her mother describes how she "asked 'him' to change 'his' life with the power of the Bible."

Reference:



<http://www.tn8.tv/america-latina/428296-hallan-6-cuerpos-fosa-clandestina-exclusiva-zona-mexicana-acapulco/7>

Report added: 1 Sep 2018. Last updated: 13 Jan 2021

[[Memorial Card](#) | [Download Data](#)]



A Texas law requires school employees to use names and pronouns that conform to students' sex at birth.

1 2 3

reposted by TDoRInfo



What The Trans?! □□

@whatthetrans.com · 5m

□ Today, we remember and mourn the ones we have lost.

We will continue to fight for trans rights and equality while doing what we can to protect

Murder of Kenisha, age 16.

AUGUST 15, 2017

2017 August 15

Kenisha's body was found in a wasteland by neighbours. She had been asphyxiated.

Link in English:



suspects involved and believes it might be a case of trafficking.

TvT partner organisation Centro de Apoyo a las Identidades Trans & Nacion, 04.03.2016

Report added: 18 Sep 2018. Last updated: 13 Jan 2021

[[Memorial Card](#) | [Download Data](#)]



A Texas law requires school employees to use names and pronouns that conform to students' sex at birth.

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What The Trans?! □□

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Murder of Michelle Fuentes Robles, age 30.

MARCH 03, 2016

2016 March 3

Michelle was killed at her home with multiple gunshot wounds.

Link in English:



in the face, stabbed and then shot dead.

TvT partner organisation Centro de Apoyo a las Identidades Trans: Diario Extra Online.
14.05.2012

Report added: 1 Nov 2018. Last updated: 13 Jan 2021

[[Memorial Card](#) | [Download Data](#)]



A Texas law requires school employees to use names and pronouns that conform to students' sex at birth.

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Murder, name unknown, age 30.

MAY 14, 2012

2012 May 14

The body was found on the acres of a farm, showing signs of torture. The victim was hit in the face, stabbed and then shot dead.

Link in English:



Transphobia in Costa Rica

Keeping the memory alive.



costarica.polivoxia.com

Compiled by Adri M.

For corrections, additions or inquiries:
costarica.polivoxia.com/contact

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or discrimination,
you are not alone. Reach out to local organizations for support.