

Good News in LGBTQ Rights Around the World

Lately, progress in LGBTQ rights can feel like it has been moving backwards because of what has gone in certain states around the country. It's easy to feel discouraged and forget how far the needle has moved for the global LGBTQ community, especially in the past year. Here's a roundup of the good news around the world since last year's Pride Month.

Greece Bans Conversion Therapy

In May 2022, Greece banned conversion therapy for minors. Psychologists or other health professionals will now need a person's explicit consent and will face fines and a prison term if they break the law.

Tokyo Recognizes Same-sex Unions

Tokyo, Japan will now recognize same-sex couples, allowing them access to services previously available only to married couples, like renting an apartment together. The capital has yet to recognize same-sex couples as legally married, and activists are fighting for this next step.

More Than 1,000 LGBTQ Officials Serve in the U.S.

In November 2021, the United States elected more than 1,000 concurrently serving LGBTQ officials for the first time in history.

Canada Lifts Restrictions on Blood Donations From Gay Men

Health Canada's original policy in 1992 banned gay men from donating blood. Now, screening questions will no longer ask about gender sexuality. Instead, potential donors will be asked if they have had new or multiple partners in the last few months. If so, they will be asked if they have engaged in higher-risk sexual activity. Those who have will need to wait three months after the activity before donating blood.

Baja California Approves Gender Identity Law

In Mexico, the state of Baja California approved a Gender Identity Law, which will make it easier for people to update their data on birth certificates.

New Zealand Weightlifter Becomes First Transgender Athlete to Compete at the Olympics

Laurel Hubbard, a weightlifter from New Zealand, became the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics. She competed in the super-heavyweight 87-kg category at the Tokyo Games.






Indian Court Calls For Reforms to Respect LGBTQ Rights

Judge N Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court in India ruled in favor of a lesbian couple, who had complained about harassing questions from the police. The court ordered state and federal officials to reform their policies and respect LGBTQ rights.

19 U.S. States Offer Refuge for Trans Youth

Despite the wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation in the U.S. that criminalizes the families and physicians of transgender children, many states are fighting back. So far, 19 states plan to offer legal refuge to displaced trans youth and their families.

Discussion questions for employees

-  What do you think we as a company can do to better support LGBTQ employees during times when certain segments of the media or politics are attacking them?
-  What can you do to better respond to homophobic or transphobic attitudes in the workplace?
-  What are some other examples of stereotypes or labels that are used to mischaracterize the LGBTQ community and how can you help eliminate them?
-  How can companies continue to build an atmosphere of inclusion and belonging around the LGBTQ community, regardless of personal or religious views?
-  What does it say about the United States to have so much LGBTQ legislation, while at the same time having a significant amount of LGBTQ people in public office?