

ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses the status of LGBTQ people in selected Central European countries through a discursive analysis of selected media and legislative sources. The thesis examines the development of the legal status of LGBTQ people in each state, and it also addresses the question of the impact of the phantom Iron Curtain border on the situation of LGBTQ people in each state. Through the research conducted, it has been found that in the last ten years there has been both an improvement and a deterioration in the legal status of LGBTQ people in Central Europe. Between 2014 and 2024, same-sex marriage was introduced in Germany, Austria and Slovenia, and the Czech Parliament adopted an amendment to the Civil Code in 2024, which will introduce same-sex partnerships on 1 January 2025, guaranteeing more rights for same-sex couples, including, in part, parental rights. The introduction of a similar registered partnership is expected in Poland after the change of government. Hungary is a country that has pursued a highly restrictive policy towards LGBTQ people over the past decade. The situation in Slovakia continued to deteriorate after the terrorist attack in Bratislava. Furthermore, the phantom border of the former Iron Curtain has been found to have enormous discursive power on the issue of LGBTQ rights, but its real impact on this issue is minimal. The phantom border created by the partition of Poland has a much stronger real impact on the status of LGBTQ people. It still divides Poland into a liberal (formerly Prussian) part and a conservative (formerly Austrian and Russian) part.