# Three years in prison in Turkey for "exhibiting behaviour not in line with traditional gender roles"



A draft law proposed by Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has sparked considerable concern among opposition lawmakers and human rights organisations. The legislation aims to criminalise behaviours that deviate from traditional gender norms, with potential consequences including up to three years' imprisonment for individuals found guilty of "exhibiting behaviour not in line with traditional gender roles."

This controversial bill, which has ignited fears of further discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, outlines that individuals who "encourage, praise or promote" actions seen to contravene "biological gender and common morality" could face severe penalties. Notably, the proposed legislation also seeks to impose sentences of up to four years on same-sex couples who conduct symbolic wedding ceremonies, despite same-sex marriage remaining illegal in Turkey.

In addition to these punitive measures, the draft law includes provisions aimed at tightening regulations around gender reassignment. The minimum age for undergoing such procedures may be raised from 18 to 21, alongside requirements for judicial approval and psychological assessments before any transition-related treatments can be initiated.

The ruling party has framed this legislative initiative as a means to protect the “institution of the family,” a central tenet of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's administration. This move has elicited strong reactions from various groups concerned with human rights, as it highlights an ongoing tension in Turkey regarding the treatment and recognition of LGBTQ+ rights and identities.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.turkishminute.com/2025/02/28/govt-proposes-law-restricting-gender-transition-criminalize-expression-of-lgbtq-identity3/> - This article supports the claim that Turkey's Justice Ministry has proposed a law to restrict gender transition procedures and criminalize public expression of LGBTQ+ identity, aligning with traditional gender norms and morality.
* <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-write-biological-sex-law-and-criminalise-promotion-lgbtq> - This article corroborates the proposed legislation's aim to introduce prison time for promoting LGBTQ+ rights and conducting same-sex marriage ceremonies, highlighting the government's stance on traditional family values.
* <https://msmagazine.com/2024/10/08/turkey-women-girls/> - This piece provides context on the broader societal and political environment in Turkey, where LGBTQ+ rights are increasingly marginalized, and civil liberties are under pressure from the government.
* <https://www.turkishminute.com/2025/02/28/govt-proposes-law-restricting-gender-transition-criminalize-expression-of-lgbtq-identity3/> - It further details the proposed law's provisions, including raising the age for gender reassignment and requiring judicial approval, which aligns with the government's efforts to protect traditional family structures.