

# **STUDY**

ON THE ACCESS OF TRANS PEOPLE
TO MEDICAL SERVICES,
INCLUDING HIV PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT SERVICES
AND HORMONE REPLACEMENT
THERAPY IN COUNTRIES
OF THE EECA REGION

(including information for trans migrants)

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors.

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# **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ARVT	Antiretroviral therapy
EECA	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
FMC	Family medicine centers
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy for transgender people
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer people
MAC	Medical advisory commission
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NGO (NPO)	Non-governmental (non-profit) organizations
PEP	Post-exposure prophylaxis
PR	Permanent residence
PrEP	Pre-exposure prophylaxis
RP	Residence permit
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TRP	Temporary residence permit
UN	United Nations

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) is a complex and diverse region in relation to the realization of the rights of transgender people.

Transgender people are in part characterized by their prioritization of health and medical services, which accompany both the transgender transition and the life of a transgender person if he/she/they require hormone therapy, surgical operations, and medical supervision. In addition, transgender people are at risk for HIV and STIs, which means that many trans people require prevention and treatment throughout their lives.

The diversity of the region in terms of respect for the rights of transgender people is linked, among other things, to heterogeneous political structures, the influence of the discourse of authoritarian regimes, and the full-scale invasion of Russia into the territory of Ukraine. The war has both aggravated the general political situation in the region, and affected processes related to democracy and respect for human rights, in some cases slowing them down, in some cases intensifying them. We posit that countries moving towards democratic and liberal values ensure better access to medical, healthcare, and HIV services for transgender people than countries with autocratic or authoritarian regimes.

For example, in Kyrgyzstan, since the adoption of the Law «On Civil Status Acts» in 2020, the legislation of the country does not permit changes to the birth certificates of transgender people who wish to change their gender marker<sup>1</sup>.

The legislation of Armenia does not regulate legal gender recognition: changing the gender marker in passports and medical interventions for transgender transition are not regulated by law in the country<sup>2</sup>, which complicates this process for trans people.

Tajikistan has, in part, a legally established procedure regulating medical and/or legal transition for trans people. The only document regulating transgender transition is the Law «On State Registration of Civil Status Acts»<sup>3</sup> (Chapter 9, Article 74), which provides that the relevant institution makes corrections, changes or additions to the civil registration if «a document of the established form on gender reassignment issued by a medical organization is presented». Since there is no clear mechanism for transgender transition, responsible authorities may require gender-affirming surgical operations<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National report on violations of the rights of LGBT people and MSM in Kyrgyzstan, 2023 / ECOM — Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity. — Tallinn, 2024. – 18 p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> National report on violations of the rights of LGBT people and MSM in Armenia, 2023 / ECOM — Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity. — Tallinn, 2024. — 28 p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> URL: http://www.adlia.tj/show\_doc.fwx?Rgn=7248

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> National report on violations of the rights of LGBT people and MSM in Tajikistan, 2023 / ECOM — Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity. — Tallinn, 2024. — 9 p.

This overview was compiled according to the following goals:

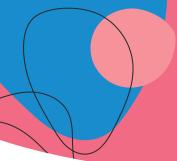
- 1 Compile a brief overview of the primary health and HIV services for trans people in 10 countries of the EECA region:
- 2 Compare and analyze the situation with respect to the rights and access to medical services of transgender people in the selected countries;
- 3 Analyze and provide the transgender community with country-by-country information for the possible selection of a country within the EECA region to migrate to.

A survey table was used as a research tool, which included possible needs and services related to trans health and HIV. The table was completed by experts from the trans community or allies in each of the selected countries and supplemented with information from external experts (doctors, activists, human rights defenders, etc.).

ΠNeeds and services were selected based on the UN practical guidance on implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programs with transgender people (the TRANSIT)<sup>5</sup> and the Comprehensive package of HIV services for transgender people in the EECA region<sup>6</sup>, which outlines the needs of trans people in relation to health and HIV, and also takes into account trans migrants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://ecom.ngo/news-ecom/bistroe-rukovodstvo-po-ispoljzovaniu-transit

 $<sup>^{6}\</sup> https://ecom.ngo/library/kompleksniy-paket-meropriyatiy-v-svyazi-s-vich-dlya-transgendernih-ludey$ 



# INFORMATION FOR TRANSGENDER MIGRANTS

The current geopolitical situation related to the full-scale invasion of Russia into the territory of Ukraine and the intensification of anti-gender and right-wing populist movements in politics have aggravated the situation of transgender people in the EECA region<sup>7</sup>. Military actions have sharply increased the number of transgender migrants and refugees in the EECA region.

The strengthening of authoritarian tendencies has significantly affected the situation in the region. A law passed in 2023 completely banning transgender transition in Russia<sup>8</sup>, followed by a declaration naming the LGBT community an extremist movement<sup>9</sup> launched a wave of migration of transgender people from Russia. After the events of 2020<sup>10</sup>, the migration of LGBTIQ+ people from Belarus also increased. In 2024, Belarus began to prepare its own law on «LGBT propaganda»<sup>11</sup>, and also recognized the transgender initiative «TG House» as an extremist group, a first among LGBTIQ+ organizations<sup>12</sup>. Representatives of the organization were forced to urgently flee Belarus. Repression in Belarus and Russia against transgender people is likely to continue and intensify.

Putin's policies negatively affect the policies of a number of other countries in the EECA region. For instance, in Kyrgyzstan, in 2023, changes to legislation were adopted that aimed to «prohibit LGBT propaganda» among children<sup>13</sup>, and in 2024, a law on «foreign agents», similar to the repressive Russian law, was passed. In Sakart-velo/Georgia, the government is vigorously promoting a similar «foreign influence» law. In Kazakhstan in 2023, some deputies proposed a ban on LGBT «propaganda»<sup>14</sup>, and in 2024 they proposed to ban the media from writing about LGBT people<sup>15</sup>.

Discrimination, pressure, repression and the threat of long criminal sentences result in significant migration of transgender people both within the EECA region and beyond. Transgender activists often feel forced to flee their countries as the attention of authoritarian regimes is more focused on them. However, ordinary representatives of the transgender community also consider migration (for example, as of July 2023, approximately 52% of trans people in Russia were considering emigration to another country<sup>16</sup>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/russias-war-lgbtq-community-continues

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/24/vladimir-putin-signs-law-banning-gender-changes-in-russia

<sup>9</sup> https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-adds-lgbt-movement-list-extremist-terrorist-organisations-2024-03-22/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/belarus

<sup>11</sup> https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belarus-prepares-law-against-lgbt-propaganda-state-media-says-2024-02-19/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://www.lrt.lt/ru/novosti/17/2248945/v-belarusi-vzialis-za-netraditsionnye-otnosheniia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://ecom.ngo/news-eeca/kirgizstan-zapret-propagand-lgbt

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://rus.azattyq.org/a/kazakhstan-various-calls-to-limit-lgbt-rights/32377014.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://www.rbc.ru/politics/05/04/2024/660f93089a7947141925f5ff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://translyaciya.com/transportrait\_after\_law\_2023

However, many transgender people, despite their desire to emigrate, cannot imagine that such an option is a possibility for them due to their poor financial situation<sup>17</sup> or other circumstances, such as family, obligations, work, fears and concerns for the future, inability to leave the country due to hostilities, etc. At the same time, for transgender people who find themselves in a war zone or under threat of violence, repression or criminal prosecution, there is often no other choice.

In addition, transgender sex workers comprise a rather larger percentage of transgender migrants, and migrate between countries in the EECA region in search of higher earnings or due to the criminalization of sex work in their home country.

Once in another country, transgender people face a number of problems, the most important of which are usually related to health. One of the basic needs of many transgender people is regular access to hormone therapy. However, in order to obtain hormone therapy in certain countries, it is necessary to undergo a number of procedures, which, due to their high cost, are often unaffordable for migrants and transgender people. Problems also arise in relation to finding work, community organizations, language, psychological assistance, obtaining legal residency, and accessing HIV and STI testing, ARVT and other HIV services due to a lack of information about obtaining such care in the new country.

In addition, there are many problems associated with living conditions, including finding a place of residence, food, and necessary medicines.

While it is often difficult for transgender people to integrate into society even in their country of birth/original residence due to their appearance not matching their gender marker, in their new country of residence, trans people often face threats and harassment, including from the police, and cannot seek help due to a lack of information about the legislative and legal system of the country.

Transgender people in EECA are unable to change their gender marker anywhere except in the country of which they are citizens. As a result, transgender migrants are forced to be at constant risk throughout their stay in a foreign country.

In order to make it easier for transgender migrants to find information, we have included country-by-country information in this review, including for trans migrants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://ecom.ngo/news-eeca/trans\_people\_in-ukraine



**Medical commissions** have been established in some countries, while in others, they are forcibly shut down or are not required (for example, in Ukraine). In some countries, commissions include a number of paid services or analyses for both residents and migrants (Tajikistan, Kazakhstan). In most countries, a person is referred to the commission by a psychiatrist. In countries without commissions, transgender transition is either completely prohibited (Armenia, Russia), or follows established procedures familiar to the community. The human right to gender self-determination without being forced into medical institutions does not exist in the 10 countries covered.

**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs** are not issued to transgender people in a number of countries, since transgender transition is prohibited (Armenia, Russia). In most countries, hormone therapy drugs can be purchased at pharmacies without a prescription. If a prescription is needed, it can usually be obtained in public and private clinics after presenting a certificate from a doctor (psychiatrist, endocrinologist, psychologist, etc.) or gaining permission from the commission. The same process also applies to migrants. It is important to note that in most countries, hormone therapy drugs officially require a prescription, but in some countries, pharmacies will sell them without a prescription. However, this is not possible in Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Russia. Prescriptions are generally needed for masculinizing therapy.

According to experts from Azerbaijan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine, in most countries, the supply of *hormone therapy* is disrupted or does not meet the needs of transgender people. In countries where transgender transition is prohibited, there is an underground market (Armenia, Russia), or even illegal production (Ukraine, Russia) of hormone therapy drugs by the community. There is no underground market for hormone therapy in Belarus.

In most countries, except Belarus and, in rare cases, Moldova, only paid *operations* are performed. In certain countries, some operations (mainly cosmetic) can be performed without special permission. In most countries, simple operations are available (orchiectomy, mastectomy, mammoplasty, etc.). For individual operations, transgender people prefer to travel to other countries. In Armenia and Russia, transgender transition is prohibited, but in Armenia, it is possible to undergo some operations (orchiectomy, hysterectomy, breast augmentation, etc.) without special permission.

The situation with HIV prevention and treatment services is much better. *HIV testing* is available in all countries through NGOs and government clinics. However, experts note that transphobic rhetoric or a lack of information on working with transgender people is quite common in public clinics (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan). However, both residents and migrants can access testing for free. At the AIDS Center in Georgia, doctors received trans-sensitive training.

**ARVT drugs** are available free of charge for HIV+ people in almost all countries, both for citizens and migrants. In Kazakhstan, ARVT for migrants is not paid for by the state, but therapy can be obtained from friendly NGOs.

**PrEP and PEP** are not always available to trans people (for example, in Azerbaijan, they are only available to trans sex workers). PrEP is not always available free of charge. Post-exposure prophylaxis can most often be obtained from AIDS Centers. In Georgia, PrEP and PEP are free and available to everyone. The requirement to go to AIDS Centers and sometimes get tested may be a barrier. As noted earlier, this may pose a problem in countries where staff of AIDS Centers may be incompetent or transphobic.

**Free condoms and lubricants** are available in AIDS Centers and NGOs in all countries except Tajikistan (risks + stigma even in HIV-service NGOs). In Tajikistan, people usually have to buy them in pharmacies. In Russia, there may be a risk of stigma even in some HIV-service NGOs.

In most countries, there are issues with finding *trans-competent endocrinologists*. In general, there are 1-3 of them per country, and such specialists are usually located in the capital of the country. However, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine are exceptions, with trans-competent endocrinologists in several cities (however, in Russia they do not have the right to prescribe drugs to transgender people and are forced to conceal prescriptions by using other diagnoses, such as hypogonadism, erectile dysfunction, etc.).

In a number of countries, such as Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Tajikistan, changing one's *gender marker* can only be done in court (without any guaranteed outcome). There are no clear algorithms for this procedure in Georgia, but several trans people have managed to change their gender marker. In Belarus and Ukraine, surgical operations are not required to change one's gender marker. In other countries where changing one's gender marker is possible, surgical operations are required. It is not possible for migrants to change their gender marker

All countries have paid and free options for *psychological assistance*. Trans-specific assistance can only be obtained through NPOs.

**Support groups** exist in countries only through HIV-service, trans, and LGBTIQ organizations. In Kyrgyzstan there are no support groups. In Belarus, support groups only operate online; in Tajikistan, they take place within closed communities. In Georgia, there is a support group for trans men, and in Kazakhstan, for trans migrants.

There are no *community centers or transgender organizations* in Azerbaijan. In Russia and Tajikistan, they operate illegally. Georgia and Ukraine have the largest number of legally operating trans organizations. In other countries, there are 1-2 trans organizations generally operating in large cities or in the capital of the country. However, in many countries, there are trans initiatives, which are often quite small, and which are not officially registered due to risks and/or the lack of funds and capacity.

All countries have *informal meeting places*, such as clubs, apartments, saunas, etc. In countries with high levels of transphobia, such events are carried out illegally and in small groups of 3-5 people, in which people know each other.

**Sex work** is criminalized in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Tajikistan. Georgia has criminalized the provision of premises for sex work. In other countries, this is partially criminalized.

There are no **shelters** for either LGBTIQ+ or trans people in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Trans shelters exist only in Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Ukraine.

In most countries, you can *gain legal residency* through employment, study, or family heritage. All countries provide short-term tourist visas. Most countries allow for visa-free stay for citizens of post-Soviet countries. In Azerbaijan, HIV+ migrants are not issued temporary residence permits, have no right to work, and no opportunity to obtain citizenship. The risk of persecution is high in Russia. Forced mobilization is possible. Therefore, residency in the country is not recommended for trans migrants due to existing threats to personal security. In general, trans people do not move to Tajikistan due to the high security risks. In Ukraine, the conditions for obtaining legal residency may change due to the war.

In almost all countries (except Ukraine), it is difficult for trans people to *find work*, and even more difficult for trans migrants. It is much easier for trans people who have amended their documents and who are not migrants to find work.

In some countries, it is possible to live and work with knowledge of the Russian *language* (in major cities of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan). In other countries, knowledge of the national language is generally required for work and communication. For unskilled labor, it is sometimes possible to get a job without knowing the state language.

According to the study, of the 10 countries analyzed, the situation related to medical services is best in Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. Meanwhile, the situation is worst in Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

The situation of transgender people is best in relation to receiving HIV prevention and treatment services.

At the same time, the analysis revealed a significant shortage of specialists, difficulties accessing PrEP and PEP, and a lack of access to a number of necessary services and qualified operations, trans-competent endocrinologists, psychological assistance, and assistance for trans sex workers, as well as a lack of trans organizations and community centers. The situation with respect to the employment of trans people is also critical.

It is especially important to highlight the difficult situation of trans migrants in the region.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS



- ① Draw the attention of donors and stakeholders to the rapidly changing situation with respect to the rights of trans people and accelerate their response to challenges.
- Call on international human rights organizations and governments of democratic countries to monitor the influence of authoritarian countries on the legislation of other countries in the region and limit this influence by using international regulatory mechanisms.
- 3 Draw the attention of donors and stakeholders to the problems of transgender migrants in the EECA region related to increasing persecution, growing risks to personal safety, prohibitions on transgender transition, etc.
- 4 Raise concerns over the difficult financial situation of trans people in the region, and of trans migrants in particular.

## TO MEET THE DEMANDS AND NEEDS OF TRANS PEOPLE

- Increase the allocation of funds for comprehensive psychological assistance for transgender people, including support groups.
- 6 Strengthen the network of trans-competent endocrinologists who speak the national languages of the region and Russian, including by training doctors, aggregating their contacts, and ensuring access and reducing barriers to receiving professional medical car.
- 7 Pay close attention to and provide jobs for transgender people in the region, especially trans migrants.
- 8 Conduct research on the situation of transgender people with respect to labor rights and access to employment.
- Develop best practices in relation to shelters and recommendations on the establishment of and support for trans shelters in the region.

## TO STRENGTHEN TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

- Increase funding for transgender organizations and initiatives, especially for trans migrants and in countries with high levels of restrictions on the rights of transgender people.
- Recommend that trans and LGBTIQ+ organizations in countries with the largest influx of trans migrants establish and maintain resources (peer counselors, guides, bots, channels, etc.), as well as an information and referral system for the provision of quality services for trans migrants.
- Recommend that organizations working with sex workers provide special support for transgender sex workers, and for migrants in particular.

#### **COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



#### **AZERBAIJAN**



**Medical commissions on transgender transition.** There is currently no procedure for gender reassignment/correction in Azerbaijan. A psychiatric diagnosis is not required to access legal gender reassignment procedures.



**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs.** It is difficult to get them at a public clinic. They may be obtained from a private clinic fairly quickly.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Pharmacies sell two drugs: testosterone enanthate and testosterone propionate. Propionate is relatively cheap, but can only be purchased with a prescription. Feminizing drugs are ordered online from abroad.



*Operations*. Operations (orchiectomy, breast augmentation, feminizing facial plastic surgery) are only available for a fee. These operations can be performed without special permission from doctors.



**HIV testing.** Testing is carried out at the AIDS Center, government clinics (possible stigma), and in NGOs. Only one NGO, «Gender and Development», provides HIV prevention services to transgender people. It is possible to take a saliva test at an NGO, but it is necessary to contact the AIDS Center for confirmation.



**ARVT drugs.** Free at AIDS Centers. Requires HIV+ status, identification document (this includes migrants who have a passport).



**PrEP and PEP.** PrEP is only available to MSM and trans sex workers. PEP is primarily for healthcare workers.



*Endocrinologists*. Most trans people do not use the services of an endocrinologist. There are «friendly» doctors, but their services are paid.



**Changing gender markers.** This can be done based on a court decision and with the relevant medical reports (medical certificates, gender-affirming surgery is a prerequisite). The court may order a forensic medical examination to confirm the surgery. Based on the court decision, documents are then amended. Many trans people hire a lawyer to help them through this legal process. Not available for trans migrants.



**Psychological counseling.** There are paid and free options. Assistance is provided by employees of the organization «Gender and Development» both online and offline.



**Support groups.** Only through HIV-service and LGBTIQ organizations. A support group is organized by the NGO «Gender and Development» and mainly held online.



*Community centers and/or local trans organizations*. There are no community centers or officially registered transgender organizations in the country.



*Informal meeting places*. Exist in the capital and major cities. There are informal meeting places, cafes, nightclubs, and apartments, where generally 3-5 people meet.



Sex work. Criminalized in the country. There is an organization that protects the rights of sex workers.



*Shelters*. There are 9 shelters in the country. There are no specific shelters for LGBTQ+ people in the country. In the shelters that exist, stigma and discrimination are possible.



**Legal residency.** It is not difficult to obtain a tourist visa; you can gain legal residency through study or employment. HIV+ migrants are not issued temporary residence permits, they have no right to work, and no opportunities to obtain citizenship (an exception is if their spouse is a citizen of Azerbaijan).



**Employment opportunities.** Trans people have difficulties finding employment.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. There are paid and free courses. Without knowing the language, it is quite difficult to find a job.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants.** There are 1-3 distribution points at AIDS Centers and NGOs in Baku and in other cities and regions. Trans people have access through the NGO «Gender and Development».



#### **ARMENIA**



Medical commissions on transgender transition. Not possible (no commission in the country).



*Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs*. Prescriptions are not issued to transgender people (transgender transition is prohibited).



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Only a few types of hormones are available in the country. Endocrinologists cannot prescribe hormone therapy for trans people. Some pharmacies sell hormones without a doctor's prescription.



*Operations*. It is possible to undergo some operations (orchiectomy, hysterectomy, breast augmentation, etc.) without special permission. These are only carried out in private clinics on a paid basis.



HIV testing. Free of charge in AIDS Centers, NGOs, and public and private clinics. Available for migrants.



**ARVT drugs**. Free of charge (covered by the state health insurance) in AIDS Centers. Available for migrants.



**PrEP** and **PEP**. PrEP and PEP are only available through the National Center for Infectious Diseases. PrEP is available only on a paid basis. PEP is provided free of charge for transgender people, including migrants.



*Endocrinologists*. There are paid and free options. It is very difficult to find and/or access trans-competent endocrinologists. Contacts of a friendly endocrinologist can be obtained from the NGO «National Trans Coalition».



**Changing gender markers**. Only if the person has undergone gender-affirming surgery and has a certificate. However, it is impossible to undergo gender-affirming surgery in Armenia. Gender markers can be changed with a surgery certificate from another country.



**Psychological counseling.** There are paid and free options. Only NGOs provide trans-specific assistance free of charge. There are options to receive counseling in Armenian, Russian and English.



*Support groups*. Only through HIV-service, trans, and LGBTIQ organizations. There are online and offline formats.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. There are community centers and offices of trans organizations in the capital and major cities.



*Informal meeting places*. Available in the capital and major cities. These include cafes and pubs as informal meeting places.



**Sex work**. Partially criminalized in the country, punishable by a fine. The law only applies to female sex workers, including trans people whose gender is indicated as female in their passport. Recruiting others for sex work is criminalized.



Shelters. LGBTIQ+ NGOs provide free short-term shelters.



*Legal residency.* Citizens of some post-Soviet countries do not require visas. Legal residency can be obtained based on work, study, family heritage, etc. It is possible to request asylum.



**Employment opportunities**. Trans people have difficulties finding employment.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. Many people speak Russian and English. You can find a job without knowing the national language.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants**. There are 1-3 points distributing condoms and lubricants based at AIDS Centers and NGOs in the capital and large cities.





*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. Free (covered by state insurance). There is only one commission for the whole country, it meets every six months, and no less than once a year, as part of the State Institution «Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health». In addition, citizens of foreign countries who have a residence permit in the Republic of Belarus can register for consideration by the commission, but each case is considered on an individual basis.



*Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs*. Hormone drugs are sold only by prescription. A prescription for hormone drugs can only be obtained from an endocrinologist after receiving permission for hormonal correction. The prescription can be obtained from both private and public healthcare institutions. Available for migrants who have changed their gender marker.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. All hormone drugs are by prescription only and are paid for by the patients. There is no underground market for hormone drugs.



*Operations*. Operations are free. Feminizing and masculinizing operations are carried out at the patient's expense and only after receiving permission from the commission. There are free mastectomies and breast augmentations for trans women (breast implants must be purchased at the patient's expense).



HIV testing. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. There are paid and free options.



**ARVT drugs**. Free (covered by state insurance) at AIDS centers. For foreign citizens, the provision of ARVT is considered on an individual basis; the existence of intergovernmental agreements, an employment contract, and a residence permit make it easier to obtain ARVT.



**PrEP and PEP**. Free through AIDS Centers. There are also paid options. PrEP can be obtained by contacting the RYOO «Vstrecha». They refer clients to a healthcare institution. After conducting tests, the infectious disease doctor issues PrEP. PEP can be obtained at the emergency room of an infectious diseases hospital. For foreign citizens, the provision of PrEP and PEP is considered on an individual basis; the existence of intergovernmental agreements, an employment contract, and a residence permit make it easier to obtain these services.



*Endocrinologists*. It is very difficult to find and/or access a trans-competent endocrinologist. If you have a referral for hormonal correction, it is easy to get an appointment. Consultations are both paid and free. You can get an appointment with an endocrinologist if you have changed your gender marker and have permission for hormonal correction. The cost of paid consultations is about 10-15 US dollars.



**Changing gender markers**. Changing gender markers is free for citizens. Gender markers can be changed without surgery following monitoring (with a certificate) by a doctor after a year of dynamic observation at the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health and subject to successful consideration by the commission. Not possible for migrants.



**Psychological counseling**. There are paid and free options. Both NGOs and government clinics offer trans-specific assistance. Such assistance is only provided to migrants by NGOs.



Support groups. There are online support groups.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. Only one HIV-service organization operates legally in the Republic of Belarus.



Informal meeting places. In the capital.



Sex work. Criminalized in the country. Migrants subject to deportation.



**Shelters**. There are no shelters in the country.



*Legal residency*. Citizens of some post-Soviet countries do not require visas. There are opportunities for legal residency based on work/study, family heritage, etc.



*Employment opportunities*. Trans people find it difficult to find employment. Work can be found with an amended passport.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. Knowledge of the Russian language is sufficient for communication and possible employment. There are also a number of foreign companies where a migrant's native language is sufficient for employment.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants.** Free condoms and lubricants are available at the RYOO «Vstrecha» and BCOO «Adaptation».



#### **KAZAKHSTAN**



*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. The commission only accepts referrals from a psychiatrist or other doctors in public medical institutions. Only in Almaty. Only for citizens of the country. The commission can be accessed from the age of 21 upon written application to a psychiatric dispensary. The commission has several complex stages, including mandatory hormone therapy and surgical procedures. The cost of the commission is more than 140 thousand tenge (more than \$300), including consultations with specialists and the necessary tests (some tests can be taken free of charge as they are covered by insurance).



*Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs*. A prescription can be obtained for free through a transgender initiative group or for a fee by visiting a friendly endocrinologist. Most of the hormone drugs available in the country are sold without a prescription.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Only paid. In most cases, hormone drugs can be bought in pharmacies without a prescription, but sometimes a prescription is required for masculinizing hormones.



*Operations*. Only paid. It is possible to undergo some operations without special permission. Only in private clinics. Orchiectomy, mastectomy, and facial feminization surgeries are available. Sometimes surgeons require a certificate with a diagnosis. Genital surgeries are not available.



*HIV testing*. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. Migrants have the opportunity to undergo extensive HIV testing through NGOs.



**ARVT drugs**. Free at AIDS Centers for citizens after registration and testing. Some drugs can be bought in pharmacies. NGOs provide ARVT to migrants, and sometimes drugs are transferred between countries through consortia. The state does not provide ARVT to migrants.



**PrEP and PEP.** Pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis are available through AIDS Centers and friendly offices. Clients must undergo testing before receiving drugs. Everything is free, clients must fill out a form, and can receive drugs the same day with the support of NGOs.



*Endocrinologists*. There are friendly endocrinologists in several cities, and HIV-service NGOs have contacts. They are also deal with migrants. Sometimes LGBTIQ NGOs pay for consultations, including for migrants.



**Changing gender markers**. Only after surgical operations have been performed (the law requires «surgical gender reassignment»). Not available to migrants.



**Psychological counseling**. There are paid and free options. Trans-specific assistance can only be obtained through NGOs or by obtaining contact details for specialists through NGOs.



*Support groups*. Only through HIV-service, trans, and LGBTIQ organizations. Support groups are held both offline and online. They mainly take place in Almaty and Astana. There are support groups for migrants.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. There are community centers and/or trans organizations in the capital and other cities. There are two trans organizations in the country operating throughout Kazakhstan.



*Informal meeting places.* In the capital and major cities. Almaty has the most: one LGBTIQ bar and 3 LGBTIQ clubs; there are 2 in Astana, and 1 in Karaganda. There are several «friendly» coffee shops and bars in Almaty and Astana.



**Sex work**. Partially criminalized in the country. There are laws against underage sex work, organizing sex work, and pimping, as well as a law against solicitation in public places, which is often applied against sex workers. There is a lot of pressure, blackmail, and violence, including from the police. Sex workers mainly work in Almaty and Astana.



*Shelters*. Only Almaty has a shelter for trans people. It is designed for short-term stays of up to 3 months. Trans people who come to the commission from other cities also stay there. Accommodation is free. There are crisis centers that trans people have difficulty accessing; refusals are mainly due their appearance.



**Legal residency**. It is possible to obtain legal residency through work/study, humanitarian visas, etc. A visa is not required. Without registration, it is possible to stay in the country for 1 month, or up to 3 months with registration. A temporary residence permit allows for a stay of up to 1 year and further extension for work/study. Consultations on legal residency are provided by NGOs, migrant organizations and the Human Rights Bureau.



**Employment opportunities**. Trans people have difficulty finding work if they do not amend their documents. There is a fairly high level of transphobia in the country. There are "friendly" places and businesses that hire trans people regardless of their documents and appearance, but these are rare.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. For the most part, the Kazakh language is not required in either employment or everyday life.



*Provision of condoms and lubricants*. There are 4-7 distribution points at AIDS Centers and HIV-service and other NGOs in all cities of Kazakhstan.



#### **KYRGYZSTAN**



*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. Free (covered by state insurance). The commission only accepts referrals from a psychiatrist or another doctor at the Republican Center for Psychiatry and Narcology. The commission meets upon request when at least 2-3 people apply. Not available for migrants.



**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs**. Prescriptions for hormone therapy are not required. For citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, a prescription can be obtained free of charge from a friendly endocrinologist at the endocrinology center of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic with an F64.0 certificate. Migrants and citizens of the country can buy drugs without a prescription at the pharmacy.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Freely sold in pharmacies without a prescription. But for both citizens and migrants, a prescription is required to obtain free hormone drugs through organizations, and is issued by an endocrinologist after undergoing proper testing. The country has problems with the availability of high-quality hormone therapy drugs.



*Operations*. Only after receiving permission from the commission. Only conducted in private clinics for a fee. Mastectomies, breast augmentation surgeries, and some feminizing surgeries are available. Conducted in private clinics. Mastectomy and breast augmentation surgery are performed only with an F 64.0 certificate.



*HIV testing*. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. Testing is free for everyone. But you must pay to obtain a certificate, such as for employment, etc.



ARVT drugs. Free (covered by state insurance) in AIDS Centers and FMCs. Available for migrants.



**PrEP** and **PEP**. PrEP is available free of charge from AIDS Centers. To obtain PEP, you need to take an ELISA test (free of charge), and then are able to get it free of charge at AIDS Centers. PrEP and PEP can also be obtained at emergency medical centers on weekends, holidays, or in emergencies. Available for migrants.



**Endocrinologists**. Only 1 trans-competent endocrinologist who accepts clients in a public clinic. Consultations are available by appointment. Consultations for citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic are free; the fee is 300-400 soms (up to \$5) for migrants.



Changing gender markers. Since 2020, changing gender markers is not possible in Kyrgyzstan.



*Psychological counseling*. There are paid and free options. Psychological counseling is provided free of charge by NGOs.



Support groups. There are no support groups in the country.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. There are 2 trans initiatives in the country, which are located in 2 large cities: Bishkek, Osh. There are 2 LGBT organizations with community centers.



Informal meeting places. Available in the capital.



*Sex work*. Partially criminalized in the country. There is no criminal liability for individual sex work, but there is for running a brothel.



*Shelters*. There is only one shelter available for trans people in the country.



*Legal residency*. Citizens of some post-Soviet countries do not require visas. Citizens of the EAEU member states (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia) can stay for a total of up to 90 days during a 180-day period from the moment of entry into the country without obtaining other documents granting the right to stay on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.



*Employment opportunities*. Trans people have difficulty finding employment. It is possible to find work if you have amended your passport.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. Knowledge of the Kyrgyz language is not required. Most of the population speaks and writes in Russian. Education is available in both Kyrgyz and Russian languages.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants**. There are many points distributing condoms and lubricants through AIDS Centers and NGOs.





Medical commissions on transgender transition. Not possible (no commission in the country).



**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs**. You need to obtain a certificate from a psychologist at the NGO «GENDERDOC-M» to receive HRT from the sole endocrinologist in the whole country (it may be paid or free). Also available for migrants.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Masculinizing hormones require a prescription, feminizing hormones do not. They are paid. It is not possible to legally purchase masculinizing hormones, since their production and sale are prohibited; they can be bought on the black market.



*Operations*. It is possible to undergo certain operations (mastectomy) without special permission, but this is quite difficult. Only in private clinics. Paid only.



*HIV testing*. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. Free «friendly» testing at the NGO «GEN-DERDOC-M».



**ARVT drugs**. Free (covered by state insurance) at AIDS centers. Including for migrants legally staying in the country.



**PrEP** and **PEP**. PrEP is available from both NGOs and AIDS Centers free of charge. PEP is available only in AIDS Centers and is free of charge. Including for migrants legally staying in the country.



**Endocrinologists**. Only 1 «friendly» endocrinologist in Chisinau (the only one in the whole country). Consultation is by appointment only; the fee is 500 lei (about \$30). The NGO «GENDERDOC-M» provides vouchers for a one-time visit to the endocrinologist.



*Changing gender markers*. Gender markers can only be changed by the courts, without the participation of doctors. The courts generally deny such requests, with the process lasting for years. Even a certificate from the previously existing commission does not guarantee a win in court. Migrants cannot change their gender marker.



**Psychological counseling**. There are paid and free options. Both NGOs and government clinics offer trans-specific assistance. There are very few «friendly» psychologists. A psychologist at the NGO «GEN-DERDOC-M» provides free psychological support.



*Support groups*. Through trans and LGBTIQ organizations. The NGO «GENDERDOC-M» (Chisinau) has support groups for trans people, gay pensioners, parents of LGBTIQ+ children, teenagers, and for people living with HIV. Meetings use a «peer-to-peer» format and take place in the office of the NGO «GENDERDOC-M»; some groups sometimes meet outside the office.



*Community centers and/or local trans organizations*. There are community centers and/or trans organizations in the capital. There are several initiatives and a platform in the country, but of these organizations only the NGO «GENDERDOC-M» operates legally and safely.



Informal meeting places. Available in the capital and major cities.



Sex work. Criminalized in the country.



*Shelters.* For trans migrants: general shelter for LGBTQI+ refugees. There is no separate shelter for trans people. The shelter provides food and necessary medications. The length of stay varies from case to case.



**Legal residency**. There are opportunities for legal residency based on work/study, humanitarian visas,



**Employment opportunities.** It is very difficult for trans people to find work; most likely it will be low-paid. Migrants can get a job only if they obtain a residence permit or permanent residence permit, but due to high taxes on foreign workers, migrants are often rejected.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. Some places require knowledge of the Romanian language. There is an opportunity to study in Russian. The majority of the population speaks Russian.



Provision of condoms and lubricants. There are 4-7 distribution points in AIDS Centers and NGOs.



#### **RUSSIA**



*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. Not possible. Transgender transition has been prohibited in the country since 2023.



*Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs*. Prescriptions are not issued to transgender people (transgender transition is prohibited). In the country, you can buy hormone therapy drugs for treatment of certain concomitant diseases with a prescription from a urologist or endocrinologist.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Masculinizing hormones require a prescription, feminizing hormones generally do not. Only for a fee. There is a black market for hormone drugs.



*Operations*. Operations for trans people are not available. Only cosmetic procedures are available.



*HIV testing*. Free in AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. HIV testing is available in many Russian cities, especially large ones. There are NGOs that conduct testing specifically for trans people or migrants.



**ARVT drugs**. Free (covered by state insurance). ARVT drugs are issued after registration at AIDS Centers. They can also be obtained from some NGOs, from "mutual aid pharmacies", or purchased from some pharmacies.



**PrEP** and **PEP**. Paid in pharmacies only. Can sometimes be bought without a prescription. They are not always available in pharmacies. PEP drugs are sometimes provided by some NGOs.



**Endocrinologists**. There are trans-competent endocrinologists in the capital of the country and some other regions. Many work illegally, but there are quite a lot of trans-competent endocrinologists in the country and regions.



Changing gender markers. Not possible due to the prohibition on transgender transition.



**Psychological counseling**. There are paid and free options. Trans-specific assistance can only be obtained through NGOs. Psychological assistance for transgender clients is provided illegally. There are quite a few «trans-friendly» psychologists in the country.



*Support groups*. Through trans and LGBTIQ organizations. Due to the risk of being labeled as extremist, support groups are mostly closed. Several such associations exist illegally. Groups are mainly conducted online by organizations and psychologists located in safe countries.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. Community centers and the offices of trans organizations operate in the country illegally.



*Informal meeting places*. In the capital and large cities, but they operate illegally. These include clubs, saunas, apartments, etc.



Sex work. Criminalized in the country.



**Shelters**. There is no separate shelter for trans people, but there is a shelter for LGBTIQ+ people, including those persecuted by the authorities.



*Legal residency*. Citizens of some post-Soviet countries do not require visas. There are opportunities for legal residency in the country, but the risk of persecution is high. Forced mobilization is possible. Not recommended for trans migrants due to high risks.



**Employment opportunities**. Not safe for trans people.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language.



*Provision of condoms and lubricants*. There are many options for obtaining condoms and lubricants, but there are risks of stigma and discrimination if your trans identity is discovered.





*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. There is no commission, but there is a psychiatrist who advises transgender people on their transition. A diagnosis of the psychiatrist is necessary for an endocrinologist to prescribe hormone therapy. The cost of a consultation varies, and there may be additional expenses; in total the cost is about 500 GEL (up to \$200).



*Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs*. Hormone therapy drugs are sold in pharmacies without a prescription.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Most drugs are available without a prescription. Nebido cannot be purchased in the country. Most other drugs are regularly available.



*Operations*. It is possible to perform some operations without special permission. Only in private clinics and for a fee. Facial feminization, mastectomy, mammoplasty, and vaginoplasty procedures are available. Surgeries are very expensive and therefore inaccessible to many trans people.



*HIV testing*. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. Free "friendly" testing in LGBTIQ+ organizations. A confirmatory test at the AIDS center is available free of charge to citizens, as well as asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants from Ukraine. For others, it is paid. At the AIDS Center, doctors received trans-sensitive training.



ARVT drugs. Free for all, including migrants.



PrEP and PEP. Available and free for all.



**Endocrinologists**. There are two «trans-friendly» endocrinologists in the country, both are located in Tbilisi. An appointment is free only in case of concomitant endocrinological diseases, and paid in other cases. There are no national guidelines for the management of transgender patients.



**Changing gender markers**. There are no clear processes for changing gender markers in the country, but several people have changed their gender markers after undergoing operations. Not available for migrants.



**Psychological counseling**. There are paid and free options. Only through NGOs. Migrants can receive assistance in Russian and English, but this is not available everywhere. There are difficulties in obtaining funding for psychological assistance provided by NGOs.



*Support groups*. There are online support groups for trans people. There are support groups for trans men. Conducted through NGOs.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. There are four organizations in the country working with the trans community: «TEMIDA», «WISG», «Tanagdoma» and «Equality Movement».



*Informal meeting places*. There are clubs, bars, and houses for meetings in the capital and large cities.



**Sex work**. Providing premises for sex work is criminalized.



*Shelters*. There is only one shelter run by the NGO "TEMIDA". Free short term accommodation. From 3 to maximum 6 months.



*Legal residency*. Migrants from some countries do not require a visa. There are possibilities of for legal residency based on work/study. Trans people can apply for asylum.



**Employment opportunities**. Trans people have difficulty finding work; most likely it will be unskilled labor. There are NGOs that help with employment (skills, resumes, lists of «friendly» employers).



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. Georgian language is mandatory for employment. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. It is sometimes possible to be hired without knowing the Georgian language.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants**. There are 8 or more distribution points at AIDS Centers and NGOs. Condoms and lubricants can also be ordered online.



#### **TAJIKISTAN**



Medical commissions on transgender transition. There is one commission in the country in Dushanbe. The commission meets at the request of trans persons; you can learn about this procedure through internal channels. The unofficial cost ranges from 200 to 400 dollars. If a trans person, especially a trans man, visits doctors with their parents, then the likelihood of receiving a certificate is higher. Not available for migrants.



**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs.** Only for a fee. A prescription for hormone drugs can be obtained from an endocrinologist, who requests an opinion from the commission. An endocrinologist can be seen in both public and private clinics (this is always for a fee).



Hormone therapy drugs. Sold freely in pharmacies without a prescription.



*Operations*. Only for a fee. It is possible to undergo some operations without special permission. Mastectomies are possible. The price is about 500 dollars. Most operations are performed illegally in private clinics.



*HIV testing*. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. There are paid and free options. HIV-service organizations that work with MSM are the only "trans-friendly" ones. There is also an anonymous online service to order rapid HIV tests. In government institutions there is a risk of disclosure of status to relatives; fears that AIDS Center staff collaborate with law enforcement agencies; stigma and discrimination on the part of staff; lack of anonymity.



**ARVT drugs**. Free (covered by state insurance) at AIDS Centers. It is necessary to undergo testing and provide your passport data. Available for migrants.



**PrEP** and **PEP**. Free in AIDS Centers. There are PEP and PrEP programs that include MSM as a key population, but not trans people. You can obtain drugs through personal contacts known to the community at the AIDS Center.



*Endocrinologists*. There are 3 trained specialists who are willing to work with trans people in Dushanbe and Khujand. You can access them through contacts in the community, but they do not prescribe hormone therapy without a certificate from the commission. Most trans people consult endocrinologists outside the country.



Changing gender markers. It can only be changed by court decision. Duration: from 1 to 3 months. For trans women, a certificate of gender-affirming procedures, a conclusion from the commission, a prescription for hormone therapy, and a forensic medical examination report are required. In practice, there were no judicial refusals. It is difficult to find a friendly lawyer. For trans men, a certificate and conclusion of the commission, a certificate from an endocrinologist that the applicant is taking hormone therapy, and a certificate of a mastectomy are required.



**Psychological counseling.** There are paid and free options. There are 4 "friendly" psychologists in the country, working through organizations and private consultations. Consultations are conducted online and offline.



*Support groups*. Groups are held only illegally within communities themselves, due to security threats.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations**. There are no community centers in the country. There is no support for trans and LGBTIQ+ people at HIV-service NGOs. There are organizations and initiative groups in the country that operate illegally. These risk being put under pressure or closed down by the state and law enforcement agencies.



*Informal meeting places*. Community representatives usually meet in apartments. There are also cruising spots and saunas, but visiting them is risky. Meetings are held behind closed doors due to security risks.



**Sex work**. Criminalized in the country. There are practically no migrants/trans sex workers in the country, as it is unsafe. Trans sex workers are recruited by law enforcement agencies.



**Shelters**. There are no shelters in the country.



*Legal residency*. Citizens of former Soviet Union countries do not require a visa. However, it is necessary to complete a temporary registration at your place of residence. For other countries, it is possible to obtain a visa upon arrival. You can obtain legal residency for study or work. Almost no trans people move to the country due to high security risks.



**Employment opportunities**. Trans people have difficulty finding work. Can be found with an amended passport. There are practically no employment opportunities for non-residents.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. The languages spoken in the country are Tajik and Russian, and sometimes Uzbek. There are educational institutions in Tajik and Russian, and several in Uzbek. In big cities, many people speak Russian, but not always in rural regions.



**Provision of condoms and lubricants**. It is possible to go to the AIDS Center, but for many it is unsafe. More often, high-quality condoms and lubricants are purchased in pharmacies. Contacting HIV-service organizations is not safe.



#### **UKRAINE**



*Medical commissions on transgender transition*. You must first obtain a diagnosis of «transsexualism» from a psychiatrist, then an endocrinologist issues a conclusion about the course of HRT needed. Then in the clinic of the medical advisory commission (MAC), you must obtain a certificate of gender change/correction. With this document, you can begin your legal transition.



**Prescriptions for hormone therapy drugs**. Issued only after a doctor gives permission for transgender transition. Formally, drugs must be dispensed in a pharmacy with a prescription, but in practice, they can be obtained without a prescription.



*Hormone therapy drugs*. Freely sold in pharmacies without a prescription. There are problems with the availability and high prices of drugs for trans-masculine people. Produced within the country by trans people themselves (there is a «black» market).



*Operations*. Only after diagnosis by a doctor. Only in private clinics. Only for a fee. Orchiectomy, mastectomy and mammoplasty surgeries are available. Available for migrants.



HIV testing. AIDS centers, NGOs, public and private clinics. Free. Available for migrants.



ARVT drugs. Free (covered by state insurance) at AIDS centers. Also free for migrants after registration.



**PrEP and PEP**. AIDS centers, NGOs, pharmacies. There are paid and free options. For migrants, it is necessary to have an identity card and legal permission from a government agency to stay in the country.



*Endocrinologists*. There are paid and free options. There are trans-competent endocrinologists in the capital of the country and in some other regions. Both public and private clinics. Available for migrants.



**Changing gender markers**. Gender markers can be changed following observation (with a doctor's certificate) without undergoing surgery. Up to 3 months of waiting to receive a birth certificate, up to 1 month for a passport. Not available for migrants.



*Psychological counseling*. There are paid and free options. Trans-specific assistance can only be obtained through NGOs.



*Support groups*. Only through HIV-service, trans, and LGBTIQ organizations. In the capital and other cities.



**Community centers and/or local trans organizations.** There are community centers and/or trans organizations in the capital and other cities/regions. There are also community centers through HIV-service and LGBTIQ+ organizations in the capital and other cities of the country (12 CCs throughout the country).



Informal meeting places. In the capital and major cities.



*Sex work*. Partially criminalized in the country. The maintenance of a brothel and massage parlors where sex services are provided has been criminalized.



*Shelters*. 1 shelter is only for trans people; another 5 shelters can also accommodate trans people. You can stay in a shelter for up to 3 months.



**Legal residency**. Legal residency is possible for work, study, business, media, family reunification, and other reasons. A residence permit is issued for 1-2 years. Conditions for legal residency may change during wartime.



*Employment opportunities*. There are job opportunities for trans people. It is difficult for trans migrants to find work, but such opportunities exist if they are in the country legally.



*Opportunities/requirements for learning national language*. There are paid and free courses. Foreigners have the opportunity to learn the language. Only Ukrainian is used in the workplace.



*Provision of condoms and lubricants*. Condoms and lubricants are distributed through AIDS Centers and NGOs in 8 or more places (Kyiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Lutsk, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy, Chernigov, Chernivtsi).



# **ECOM**

