



# Annual report Youth LGBT Ogranization Deystvie

Sofia | 2021

The background features a series of thick, light blue lines that intersect to form a grid of parallelograms. The lines are oriented diagonally, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall color palette is a clean, minimalist combination of white and light blue.

# Mission and Vision

**Deystvie is an organization dedicated to contributing to change in the lives of LGBTI people in Bulgaria through legislative change and regulation of the rights of same-sex partners and their families, incrimination of hate crimes and a legally regulated procedure for gender reassignment.**

**Our vision is to achieve full legal recognition and social inclusion of LGBTI people in Bulgarian society, in which they feel safe and acknowledged.**

## **Mission and Vision**

# Why we exist

- Mobilizing the LGBTI community
- Social change
- Amendment of the Criminal Code
- Legal recognition of the relationships of LGBTI people and recognition of the families we have created
- Establishing a legal procedure for gender reassignment

# What we achieved

We continued to expand and reorganize our Legal Program:

We launched the Deystvie legal platform which facilitates access to information for the LGBTI community and makes contacting the organization's lawyers easier and more accessible. The legal platform can be found here

<https://pravo.deystvie.org>



НАЦИОНАЛНА  
ЛГБТИ ПРАВНА  
ПРОГРАМА




## What we achieved



Deystvie was awarded a special prize for Person of the Year by the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee.

120+  
7  
30

We provided 120+ consultations on various LGBTI issues, we filed 30+ cases in domestic courts, we worked on 7+ strategic cases.



[Att. Denitsa Lyubenova and Deystvie](#) are among the winners of this year's [#CivicPride Awards and the European Civic Forum](#). Recognition for the tireless commitment to the protection of LGBTI people's rights in the context of a complex cross-border family case and a hostile environment for the LGBTI community in Bulgaria."

## What we achieved for same-sex families

We started a series dedicated to the countries where Bulgarian citizens can enter into a same-sex union

Getting married abroad:

Gibraltar

United Kingdom

Malta

We released a video for our Family for All campaign.



## What we achieved for same-sex families

We won a case before the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the issuance of a birth certificate for [baby Sara](#), born in a same-sex marriage concluded abroad - *V.M.A. v Stolichna Obsthina, Rayon 'Pancharevo'* (C-490/20), which improves the lives of over 100,000 children across the European Union.



We launched a petition for equal treatment of same-sex partners and their families.



We filed **3** cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

Two of our cases before the ECtHR were communicated to the Bulgarian Government. One of them concerns domestic violence in a same-sex couple and the Bulgarian court's refusal to provide protection under the Domestic Violence Act. The second one concerns the recognition of the legal consequences of a marriage between two Bulgarian women concluded in Great Britain.



## What we achieved In the fight against hate crimes

2021 was a particularly difficult year for the LGBTI community, as all of the 40+ events were stalked and attacked by mobilized groups.

We conducted 1 specialized training for lawyers on topics related to the protection of the rights of LGBTI people and expanded the circle of lawyers who work and support the activities of Deystvie's Legal Program; - [Training of lawyers "Hate crimes against LGBTI people"](#).



## What we achieved For trans and intersex people

We continue to handle and win cases of trans and intersex people for changing their legal gender throughout the country, and we won 6 such cases in 2021. [One of these cases is that of Daniel, a trans man from Ruse.](#)

## What we achieved

### Visibility and LGBTI rights



In June 2021, we organized the Sofia Pride Film Fest, which was held under the motto "Together Again" and was attended by over 1,500 people and despite many homophobic attacks and insults by members of the nationalist parties and the Bulgarian National Union, they failed to stifle our enthusiasm and participants' desire to be part of the change!

Our activity covers 5 regional cities – Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna and Veliko Tarnovo – and in some places, we work with local communities, local coordinators and local lawyers;



We successfully co-organized Sofia Pride 2021, which gathered over 10,000 people under the rainbow flag;

We held over **50** psychological support meetings;

We supported the local LGBTI community in organizing [Burgas Pride - the First Pride outside Sofia](#) and held [a discussion](#) to talk about the homophobic attacks that have occurred over the past few years and the experience of Pride participants.

We organized **48** community events in Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo, we made our first community event outside Bulgaria in London;

## What we achieved Visibility and LGBTI rights

### The Courage to be



We presented the book “The Courage to Be” with 11 stories of people who used the Legal Program, and we organized launches of the book in the towns of [Veliko Tarnovo](#), [Plovdiv](#) and [Varna](#):

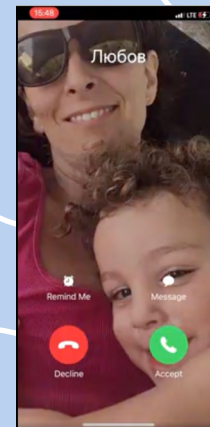


### The Courage to Be a Parent

We published the next book in the „The Courage to Be“ series - „The Courage to Be a Parent“, which is a collection of the stories of parents who share their deeply personal encounters the coming out of their children, with the financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We presented it in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas;

## Together with director Slava Doycheva, we made two short films.

One is about the lack of rights of same-sex parents - “[Mother Two](#)”.



The other one is about the violence against the LGBTI community in 2021 - “[Good Job](#)”

# Deystvie around the world

## Deystvie in London

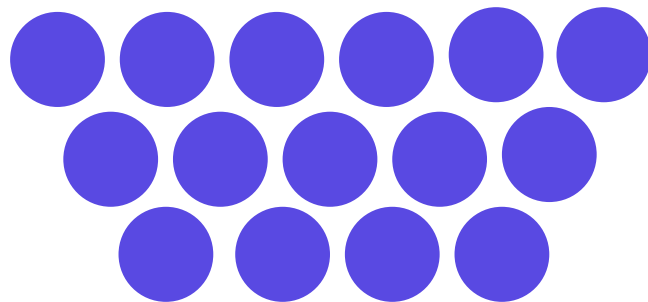
In September, Deystvie held its first formal meeting with LGBTIQ+ Bulgarians abroad. It took place at Pushkin House, London, and marked the beginning of our active work with Bulgarians abroad.



## Advisory council


With the growing interest in our legal advice by LGBTIQ+ Bulgarians living abroad and the growing number of LGBTIQ+ Bulgarians who continue to emigrate due to the inability to live a normal life in our country, we identified the need to create a formal mechanism for setting priorities for and by people with similar life experiences abroad.

This led to the formation of an advisory council of LGBTIQ+ Bulgarians living abroad, which is held twice a year to help with decision-making and offer feedback in 3 key areas: fundraising and donor mapping; assistance in events and activities abroad; contributing to the organization's long-term development goals.



# Volunteering

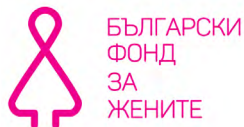
In the future, we hope to continue to systematize our approach to work with volunteers, so that by the end of 2022:



Become our  
volunteer and  
help us continue  
to change the  
world!

# Get Involved!

# our sponsors



# Contact us

[deystvie.org](http://deystvie.org)

[pravo.deystvie.org](http://pravo.deystvie.org)

[sofiahumanrightsforum.com](http://sofiahumanrightsforum.com)

**f** [/lgbtdeystvie](https://lgbtdeystvie)

**@** [/lgbtaction](https://lgbtaction)

**in** [/youth-lgbt-  
organisation-  
deystvie](https://youth-lgbt-organisation-deystvie)

Thank  
you!

