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The Delhi queer pride parade in Paul Parker today, on Jan. 8. Photographer: Dalpat Prasad/AFP/Getty Images

Equality

Where Change Is Coming for LGBTQ Rights Around the World

Activists expect positive momentum in 2023 for the community as a whole in countries from Russia to Greece, but worry about restrictions in Europe and the Middle East

By Olivia Konotey-Ahulu
January 12, 2023, 12:00 AM EST *Updated on January 12, 2023, 03:29 PM EST*

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Vice President Kamala Harris, the Biden administration's point person for LGBTQ issues in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 15. Photographer: Kevin Dietsch/UPI via Newscom

Read More: GOP Looks to Fire Up Base With Attacks on Transgender Rights

With hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills introduced at state level during 2022, campaigners are also worried about a particular focus on rolling back rights among young people and transgender people. That trend includes limiting the participation of transgender people in sports that affirm their gender identity, as well as Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" legislation, which restricts discussion of orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade.

Pressure to ban books with LGBTQ characters and themes at schools and public libraries has also increased, messaging rolled out ahead of the midterms, the GOP led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy lined anti-trans sports bills and legislation on parents' rights among the party's priorities.

Legislators in at least seven states proposed and drag bills ahead of the 2022 legislative session. These bills are often broad in nature, with lawmakers using the term "sexual orientation and gender identity (SOIG) advocates say they're worried such language could be used to target transgender people. Other proposed bills target gender-affirming healthcare, particularly for children. Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign described it as a "very concerted effort" to target LGBTQ youth from conservative legislators across the country.

The latter part of 2022 saw a surge in hostility toward the community, including the mass shooting at a LGBTQ club in Colorado, where five people were killed. The suspect now faces charges of 5 counts of murder and 46 counts of hate crime related incidents, such as demonstrations and violence, have risen twelve-fold to almost 200 since 2020, according to a report by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project in November. - Aleksa Bulic, Ella Cover and Olivia Kinney-Ishida

Updates to add detail from the U.S. government's decision to block a Scottish bill on transgender rights in the fifth paragraph. A previous version corrected Lake Elsie's job title.)

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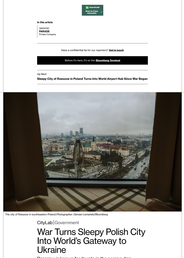
Sheep City of Ravensen in Poland Turns Into World Airport Hub Since War Began



The city of Ravensen is now a major airport hub. Photographer: Dorian Leonard/Bloomberg

Global | Government

War Turns Sleepy Polish City Into World's Gateway to Ukraine

Ravensen is known for its role in the aeronautics industry. Now it's playing a key part in the effort to thwart Vladimir Putin.

By Wojciech Stokiora

January 15, 2023, 12:00 AM EST

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Like many Polish cities, Ravensen encapsulates the turmoil of 20th century Europe and then its revival, from the horrors of Nazi occupation to the economic miracle that followed the European Union. But unlike others, it now finds itself on the front line of a new era of tension.

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The city of about 200,000 people has turned into the main gateway between Poland and Ukraine, transporting a year ago and shows signs of intensifying rather than ending.

Ravensen's sleepy airport - usually dominated by budget airline connections to the U.K. - has become one of the region's biggest hubs after doubling as an American military base. President Joe Biden passed through in March, and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was the other way en route to Washington last month. European leaders traveled to and from Kyiv in between.

Convoys of trucks packed with humanitarian aid or military equipment have been rumbling through the city's outskirts, deliverers delivering goods across the border and often on to Lviv, Ukraine's biggest western city. US Patriot missiles are visible over a green-tary perimeter fence.

The airport doesn't provide details on military traffic. But the amount of jet fuel it needed over the course of a week can now be used up in a matter of hours, according to Michal Tabisz, deputy president of the airport.

"We used to be a regional airport with 10 to 20 flights per day," Tabisz said at the office overlooking the runway. "Now we're the best landing strip on the front line of a global conflict and this isn't likely to change anytime soon." Indeed, during a half-hour interview, two C-17 military transport aircraft landed, along with an US Apache attack helicopter.

Ravensen is familiar with change given Eastern Europe's volatile history. Founded in the 14th century, it was part of Poland, then of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, under Soviet control, returned to Poland, taken over by invading German Nazis - who exterminated the jewish half of the city's population - and spent 45 years behind the Iron Curtain.

Economically, it was the main trading post between Lviv and the Baltic Sea, with a thriving port, and a hub for textile producing ceramics, jewelry and glass. More recently, it became the center of Poland's aeronautics industry with a leading technical university and scores of foreign investors, including the city's biggest employer, Pratt & Whitney.

In the first weeks of the war, Ravensen was also the first city to witness Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict. As one point in the aftermath, it was overwhelmed by an influx of about 100,000 people (population by 30%) - in the municipality as residents doubled arrivals in their own homes.

Like getting a room at the Blue Diamond, finding accommodation is no easy feat. Based on mobile phone data, the city estimates there are about 30,000 additional residents. An apartment to rent is "as rare as a miracle," Deputy Mayor Krystyna Stachowska said.

The city is now focused on issues such as catering to 1,500 Ukrainian children attending its schools and finding funds for extra garbage collection and recycling, she said. "We don't know if there's enough money to continue," she said. Ukraine's war effort was not will and and reconstruction begin." Stachowska said at Ravensen's 16th-century City Hall overlooking the main square. "But we be have to be ready."

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Ravensen has already demonstrated its ability to live with the inevitable risks. Residents put another reminder of how close they are to the war - and how quickly escalation could come - when an errant Ukrainian missile exploded in Przewodow further east along the border in November. It killed two people after unsuccessfully trying to strike down a Russian rocket.

The city has also adapted. During the first weeks of war, the Ukrainian Embassy in Warsaw was temporarily relocated to Ravensen from sleeping. While the airlift continues 10 months on, locals have gotten used to the noise, said Barczak at Blue Diamond, which sits next to the airport.

Kamil Barczak in front of the Blue Diamond Hotel before his. Photographer: Dorian Leonard/Bloomberg

As many as 10 boeing 747 jumbo jets carrying cargo land and take off during a single day, on top of regular commercial traffic. The airport also includes a medical-evacuation center, which takes wounded soldiers to specialist hospitals across western Europe. Lufthansa AG announced in December that it's restarting flights from Ravensen, reflecting demand for travel to the city.

English, French and German are regularly heard in restaurants and bars, and the cost of living has risen sharply. Average apartment rents quadrupled to 2 euro per square meter, while the price that has deliveered food during Biden's visit has a new sap either. "Spicy Jacy" on pepperoni, hot peppers and olives - decked out with a US flag on a toothpick.

Michal Tabisz, deputy president of the Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport, in Ravensen. Photographer: Dorian Leonard/Bloomberg

Ravensen's airport has become one of the region's biggest hubs

Back at Blue Diamond, Barczak said the war shook people in Rzeszow out of any complacency that Poland would be shielded from conflict as an EU and NATO member. That's why the city opened its doors so readily to refugees and the humanitarian effort, he said.

"In the early days of the war, some of my friends packed their cars with overnight bags so they would be ready to take the highway west at any moment," said Barczak. "But over time we got accustomed to where we are. People got used to the war next door."

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Wojciech Moskwa writes for Bloomberg. @econ1st

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Updating a Mid-Century Icon by a Black Modernist Master

Design: Look at That Building: A Series for the Architecturally Curious

Stately Pritzker Hall is a long way from the fanciful Theme Building at LAX, but both bear the distinctive touch of architect Paul Revere Williams. *Photos: CO Architects. Illustration: Stephanie Davidson*

CityLab | Design

After a Facelift, a Mid-Century Icon Stands Tall Again in LA

To update Paul Revere Williams's Pritzker Hall at UCLA, built in 1967, architects looked to restore the modernist master's original vision.

By Kriston Capps

January 14, 2023, 8:00 AM EST

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(This story is part of "Look at That Building," a weekly Bloomberg CityLab series about everyday – and not-so-everyday – architecture. Read more from the series, and sign up to get the next story sent directly to your inbox.)

Pritzker Hall at the University of California, Los Angeles is typical for a building designed by Paul Revere Williams, in that it doesn't much resemble anything else he ever built.

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