

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Slovakia



Survey in a nutshell

- The online survey draws on 140,000 responses from across 30 countries – the then 28 EU Member States (including the United Kingdom), Serbia and North Macedonia.
- The results from the survey present the largest international LGBTI survey of its kind.
- In-depth detailed results for Slovakia and other countries can be found in FRA's [online data visualisation tool](#).
- See our [methodology Q&A](#) for more about how FRA did the survey. Results based on a small number of responses are statistically less reliable. Thus, results based on 20 to 49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations are noted in parentheses. Results based on fewer than 20 unweighted observations in a group total are not published.
- Follow #LGBTIsurvey across social media
- Respondents' quotes from Slovakia also included.

Symbols

- ↑ Shows that the result in the country is **above** the EU-28 average
- ↓ Shows that the result in the country is **below** the EU-28 average
- Shows that the result in the country is **the same or at similar** levels (+/-5%) with the EU-28 average
- No Member State breakdown

Openness about being LGBTI

- ↑ 77% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Slovakia. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- 36% in Slovakia avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↓ 26% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in Slovakia. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

"I consider it important that in Slovakia LGBT people are allowed to be registered partnerships (they do not have to be marriages). So that people who have lived together for years could settle their property and other human rights, which now cannot be settled."
(Slovakia, Lesbian woman, 32)

- ➔ 22% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Slovakia. For the EU-28, it is 21%.
- ➔ Discrimination affects many areas of life, such as going to a café, restaurant, hospital or to a shop. Overall, in Slovakia in 2019 46% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the year before the survey. For the EU-28, it was 42%.

Harassment & violence

"In Slovakia and especially in my neighbourhood I encounter negative reactions, which generally concern homosexuality. Overall, there is a low awareness of LGBTI people's rights. I am afraid to address people in health care because I am afraid of homophobia and I also cannot find a suitable psychologist whom I could trust." (Slovakia, Gay man, 20)

- 1 in 5 trans and intersex people were physically or sexually attacked in the five years before the survey, double that of other LGBTI groups.
- ➔ 40% in Slovakia say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- ➔ 10% in Slovakia had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- ↓ 8% went to the police in Slovakia to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 6% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Slovakia. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

"It is not easy to live like a lesbian in Slovakia openly. Traditional and conservative environment, misunderstood parents, mocking at LGBTI do not allow for a fairly normal and normal life as if I were a hetero. Not accepting by parents is a very painful experience."
(Slovakia, Lesbian woman, 47)

- ➔ 37% in Slovakia say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ➔ 36% in Slovakia say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↓ 12% in Slovakia believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"Many times, not only me but my classmates, teachers at schools tried to convince themselves of their opinion, how sick it is and how people with a different orientation should be treated. After such experiences I became more closed about my sexuality and I am afraid to say it to my family or to show it in public." (Slovakia, Intersex, Bisexual, 15)

"Almost every day I experience homophobia by the family and teachers because they think I don't belong to the LGBTI community. I think the LGBTI community should be talked about in schools - in a positive way, because children should understand that this is natural and not bad." (Slovakia, Bisexual woman, 15)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ↑ 35% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Slovakia say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ↓ 38% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Slovakia say that in school someone often or always supported, defended or protected their rights as an LGBTI person. This was 48% in the EU-28.
- ↓ 49% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) say in Slovakia their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↓ 18% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Slovakia say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.

Selected quotes from LGBTI Survey II respondents

"At present, there are few doctors (psychiatrists or sexologists) in Slovakia who would be willing to help transients in their transition. It would be better to simplify the process and shorten the time or list of conditions for access to hormones and official sex change. The worst is mandatory sterilization. I understand that doctors want to avoid "men giving birth", but sterilization should be voluntary, not an obligatory part of a tranche without which neither name nor sex can be officially changed." (Slovakia, Trans man, 23)