

# EU LGBTI survey II

## A long way to go for LGBTI equality

### Country data – United Kingdom



#### 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 the United Kingdom (UK) 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 the UK 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

*"I've seen what happens to openly LGBT people and would not wish such torture upon anyone." (United Kingdom, Trans man, 16)*

*"The lack of representation of LGBT people in the media that I experienced growing up meant that I severely struggled with coming to terms with my identity, and still struggle*

*with it today, hence why I am very closed off about it in my life and not out to many people, even if I generally trust them.” (United Kingdom, Lesbian woman, 17)*

- ➔ 61% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in the UK. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- ➔ 34% in the UK avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↑ 56% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in the UK. For the EU-28 it is 47%.

## Discrimination

*“Waiting times for seeing a gender clinic in the UK are ridiculous and there is no other way to get hormones without paying a private clinic, which I cannot afford. I have been on the waiting list for over a year now and am expecting to wait another year for a first appointment.” (United Kingdom, bisexual, Trans woman, 21)*

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

*“Homophobic bullying at school has had a long-term impact on my confidence, and it still affects me today. While the situation for LGBTI people in the UK has improved considerably, the historical discrimination faced by many of us lives on.” (United Kingdom, Gay man, 38)*

- 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.
- ↑ 43% in the UK say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- ➔ 11% in the UK had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

## Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- ↑ 22% went to the police in the UK to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- ➔ 15% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in the UK. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

## Intolerance and prejudice

- ➔ 42% in the UK 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 the UK say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↑ 48% in the UK believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

## Schooling

*"Having a young child from a marriage to a man and then raising a child as a gay single parent I feel that the UK can do much for on educating children about how different families are set up. Education is the only way to create tolerance, no prejudice and equality."  
(United Kingdom, Lesbian woman, 31)*

*"LGBT+ education in schools is non-existent and needs to become law in the EU. People will keep being abused and dying in homophobic/transphobic attacks unless we educate our kids. There is no sex ed for LGBT people." (United Kingdom, Gay man, 20)*

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ↓ 20% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in the UK say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ➔ 51% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in the UK 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.
- ↑ 68% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in the UK say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↑ 46% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in the UK say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.