

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Bulgaria



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 Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria 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 hide my sexual orientation to avoid problems at work and in my social life." (Bulgaria, Lesbian woman, 18)

- ↑ 75% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Bulgaria. For the EU-28, it is 61%.

↑ 45% in Bulgaria avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

↓ 22% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in Bulgaria. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

↑ 27% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Bulgaria. 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 Bulgaria in 2019 52% 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

"I was attacked by a boy and my nose was smashed in front of the eyes of 50 men who worked in the opposite warehouse but no one did anything ... I was 15 years old .. I think if their sons were in a similar situation they would want someone to help them." (Bulgaria, Gay man, 25)

→ 39% in Bulgaria say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 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.

→ 13% in Bulgaria had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

"I had a threat of violence for being gay, which happened in front of a police station, in front of two police officers. I filed a complaint, despite the urgent requests from the police not to do so. Nine months later, there is no answer to the complaint," (Bulgaria, Lesbian woman, 33)

→ 12% went to the police in Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

↓ 34% in Bulgaria say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.

→ 38% in Bulgaria say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.

↓ 8% in Bulgaria believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"I work as a teacher in high school and hide in my workplace. Attitudes towards LGBTI people in the education system are extremely negative for both gay teachers and gay students." (Bulgaria, Gay man, 27)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ↑ 44% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Bulgaria say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28
- ↓ 41% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Bulgaria 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.
- ↓ 38% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Bulgaria say 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 Bulgaria 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

"My biggest fear is that if something happens to my partner, my child will be taken! She is the biological mother and I don't have any rights." (Bulgaria, Lesbian woman, 36)

"My life in Bulgaria is horrible mainly because of my sexual orientation and I intend to permanently leave the country to have a better quality of life elsewhere." (Bulgaria, Gay man, 18)

"I dream of changing my sex because I do not feel in the right body, but I realized that it is not possible. The effect on me is a couple of suicide attempts and depression." (Bulgaria, Trans woman, 31)