

EU LGBTIQ survey III

LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges



Country Data - Belgium

EU LGBTIQ SURVEY

- The online survey draws on 100,577 responses from across 30 countries – the 27 EU Member States, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- 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 #LGBTIQsurvey across FRA’s social media channels.
- Respondents’ quotes from Belgium are also included.

Symbols

- ↑ Shows that the result in the country is above the EU-27 average
- ↓ Shows that the result in the country is below the EU-27 average
- Shows that the result in the country is the same or at similar levels with the EU-27 average

- **Openness about being LGBTIQ**

“When I came out as Transgender at work I was not sacked but the organisation did not know how to treat me, for example sharing bathroom facilities and how other staff would interact with me. So, we agreed that I would leave without make a huge issue of it; they gave me some money to be quiet,” asexual trans woman, 62

→ 53% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Belgium. For the EU-27 it is 53%.

→ 27% in Belgium avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-27 it is 29%.

↑ 62% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTIQ in Belgium. For the EU-27 it is 51%.

- **Discrimination**

“Sometimes - at work, in my case - it is hard to tell whether there was discrimination, if the fact that I am a lesbian is a cause of discrimination. I just don't talk about it at all in my new job and avoid the topic of my personal relationship entirely,” Belgium, lesbian non-binary, 45.

→ 15% felt discriminated against at work or looking for work in the year before the survey in Belgium. For the EU-27 it is 19%.

→ Discrimination affects many areas of life, such as going to a café, restaurant, hospital or to a shop. Overall, in Belgium in 2023 32% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the year before the survey. For the EU-27 it was 37%.

- **Violence and harassment**

→ 15% of all respondents in Belgium had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-27 is 13%.

→ 6% of respondents in Belgium had been attacked in the 12 months before the survey. The EU-27 is 5%.

→ 53% in Belgium say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-27 is 54%.

- **Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination**

"I am terribly scared of the rise of hateful political discourse towards the community in general and especially trans people, and the effect it will have and has had on the general public, especially young people," Belgium, lesbian genderqueer, 22.

→ 14% went to the police in Belgium to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 11% across the EU-27.

→ 14% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Belgium. For the EU-27 it is 11%.

- **Bullying and conversion abuse or humiliation**

→ In Belgium 67% of all respondents say that during their time in school they suffered bullying, ridicule, teasing, insults or threats because they are LGBTIQ. For the EU-27 it is 67%, a steep increase compared to 2019 (43%).

→ 20% of respondents in Belgium experienced a so-called 'conversion' practice in order to make them change their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. For the EU-27 it is 24%

- **Intolerance and prejudice**

"I'm still currently homeless. When I turned 19 I had to choose either leaving my oppressive parent's place, or I killing myself for good," Belgium, Lesbian non-binary, 24

↓ 43% in Belgium say that violence against LGBTIQ people has increased. This is 59% for the EU-27.

↓ 38% in Belgium say that LGBTIQ prejudice and intolerance has risen in their country in the last five years. It is 53% across the EU-27.

↑ 55% in Belgium believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTIQ people. For the EU-27 it is 26%.

- **Health**

→ 16% of LGBTIQ respondents in Belgium felt discriminated against in healthcare in the year before the survey. For the EU-27 this is 14%.

→ 11% of LGBTIQ respondents in Belgium thought often or always of committing suicide in year before the survey. For the EU-27 this is 12%.

- **Schooling**

“A lesbian colleague of mine is regularly attacked by a group of boys from her neighbourhood but she doesn't dare file a complaint. Despite the insistence of me or colleagues, she does not. We're trying to keep an eye on her, but she's suffering. [...] A friend told me that in some traditional Catholic schools it is not wise to talk about your LGBTQ identity. Still...!” Belgium, gay man, 63.

↓ 39% of LGBTIQ students in Belgium say were hiding being LGBTIQ at school. This was 49% in the EU-27.

↑ 43% of LGBTIQ students in Belgium say that in school someone often or always supported, defended or protected their rights as an LGBTIQ person. This was 32% in the EU-27.

→ 60% of LGBTIQ respondents in Belgium say their school education never addressed LGBTIQ issues. In the EU-27 this was 62%.