

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Ireland



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 Ireland 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 Ireland 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

"Well, I've been in the closet ever since I was 13 and since then I was afraid to come out because of being afraid that my family would reject me, fear that I would be kicked out, fear that I would be met with verbal/physical violence from my peers." (Ireland, Bisexual man, 17)

*"I don't feel comfortable or safe being open about my sexuality or identity in Ireland."
(Ireland, Lesbian woman, 22)*

- 59% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Ireland. For the EU-28, it is 61%
- 31% in Ireland avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↑ 53% are now often or always open about being LGBT in Ireland. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

*"Laws are in place to protect gay people here but it's just not taken seriously and enforced properly. I feel any discrimination is downplayed when reported and not taken seriously."
(Ireland, Gay man, 34)*

- 18% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Ireland. 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 Ireland in 2019 38% 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 holding hands with my (now ex) boyfriend in public. We had bottles thrown at us, a woman spit on us, and a good few people make comments like "you two shouldn't be holding hands". (Ireland, Trans man, 19)

"I had fireworks thrown at me and my partner as we walked down a street holding hands. Homophobic slurs were also shouted in this attack." (Ireland, Lesbian woman, 17)

- 37% in Ireland say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- 11% in Ireland had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- 17% went to the police in Ireland to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- 11% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Ireland. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

- ↑ 77% in Ireland say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 10% in Ireland say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↑ 67% in Ireland believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"I was bullied for being "lesbian" in school and lost friends because they thought that I would fall in love with them because I like girls. I have to hide my sexuality from family due to fear of financial and emotional repercussions." (Ireland, Bisexual woman, 19)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ➔ 32% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Ireland say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28
- ➔ 44% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Ireland 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 Ireland say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28 this was 60%.
- ↑ 45% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.