



DANISH INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

COWI

The social situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania

March 2009

Please note that summary reports of each Member State are published in the interests of transparency and for information purposes only. Any views or opinions expressed therein in no way represent those of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). Summary reports constitute summaries of the background information used by the FRA when compiling its own studies. While the FRA provides guidelines to national contractors on data to gather, their reports include information gathered on their own initiative. Only the information, data, opinions and recommendations presented by the FRA in its own publications constitute the official views of the Agency.

Contents

A.	A summary of the Overall Situation of LGBT Persons	3
B.	The Collection of Data	3
C.	Key Findings	4
C.1.	Attitudes Toward LGBT persons	4
C.2.	Criminal Law - Hate Crime	5
C.3.	Freedom of Assembly	6
C.4.	Family and Other Social Issues	7
C.5.	The Labour Market	8
C.6.	Education	9
C.7.	Health Service	9
C.8.	Religion	10
C.9.	Sports	10
C.10.	Media	11
C.11.	Asylum and Subsidiary Protection	11
C.12.	Family Reunification	11
C.13.	Transgender Issues	12
C.14.	Multiple Discrimination	12
D.	Good Practice	13

A. A summary of the Overall Situation of LGBT Persons

- [1]. Until recently, the LGBT community and organisations were invisible in public life in Lithuania. The year 2007 was a turning point, with attempts to ban public LGBT events accumulating considerable media attention.
- [2]. The Lithuanian Law on Equal Treatment from 2005 covers discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation not only on the labour market, but also in access to goods and services and education. The *Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* also covers discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. But still, LGBT persons do not have access to several rights, including partnerships and adoption, and it has proven difficult to obtain permission for LGBT activities in public.
- [3]. Existing research on LGBT issues is limited, but the latest surveys show that although attitudes toward homosexuals have moved in a positive direction in recent years, about half the population regards homosexuality as an illness. Qualitative research indicates that most LGBT persons in Lithuania do not disclose their sexual orientation at work. However, those who are open say they often experience verbal violence and ridicule. Problems regarding access to goods and services have also been identified.

B. The Collection of Data

- [4]. The material for this report has been collected from four sources:
 - A legal country report carried out for this study by Edita Ziobiene, director of the *Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights*.¹
 - A sociological country report carried out for this study reviewing available data on the situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation by Dr. Arturas Tereskinas, associate professor of sociology, Vytautas Magnus University.²
 - Data collected through an online questionnaire sent out to stakeholders in Lithuania.

¹ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*. FRALEX.

² A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

- Data collected through interviews held in Lithuania with *The Lithuanian Gay League (LGL)*, *The Ministry of Social Affairs* and *The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson*.

[5]. The sociological researchers stated the following: ‘More comprehensive research on LGBT persons in Lithuania was started only in 2006. Previously there were only very few articles on the issue. The field of gay and lesbian studies and queer studies remain under-researched. Very few scholars work in this field.’³

C. Key Findings

C.1. Attitudes Toward LGBT persons

- [6]. The latest surveys on attitudes toward homosexuality in Lithuania demonstrate development toward a more accepting society, particularly in the acknowledgment of human rights for LGBT persons.⁴ Sixty-five per cent of Lithuanians agreed that homosexuals should have same opportunities in the labour market as heterosexuals, and 42 per cent agreed that the law should defend homosexuals from workplace discrimination. Prevailing attitudes, however, remain homophobic. Forty-seven per cent of the Lithuanian population thought that homosexuality is an illness and that homosexuals should be treated medically. Sixty-two per cent would not like to belong to any organization with homosexual members.
- [7]. Further surveys examining acceptance and attitudes toward homosexuality were carried out on a European level in 2008 and 2006.
- [8]. The 2008 *Eurobarometer* asked, ‘How would you personally feel about having a homosexual (gay man or lesbian woman) as a neighbour?’ (1 meaning ‘very uncomfortable’ and 10 meaning ‘very comfortable’). The figure in Lithuania was 6.1, with an EU average of 7.9. Romania was the lowest with 4.8.⁵
- [9]. In the 2006 *Eurobarometer*, attitudes toward same-sex marriage were examined in every Member State. Forty-two per cent of EU citizens agreed that such marriages should be allowed throughout Europe; the figure was 17 per cent in Lithuania (Netherlands scored the highest with 82 per cent and Romania the lowest with 11 per cent). With regard to adoption, the level of acceptance decreases in the EU and in Lithuania. Thirty-one per cent of Europeans felt that homosexual couples should be allowed to adopt children throughout Europe; in

³ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

⁴ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

⁵ European Commission (2008) *Special Eurobarometer 296. Discrimination in the European Union: Perceptions, Experiences and Attitudes*, chapter 9.

Lithuania the figure was 12 per cent (Netherlands scored highest with 69 per cent and Poland and Malta the lowest with 7 per cent).⁶

C.2. Criminal Law - Hate Crime

- [10]. Article 170 of the Criminal Code prohibits incitement of hate against certain groups: ‘A person who, by making public statements orally, in writing or by using the public media, ridicules, expresses contempt of, urges hatred toward or encourages discrimination against a group of residents or against a specific person, on account of his or her sex, *sexual orientation*, race, nationality, language, ethnicity, social status, faith, religion or beliefs, shall be punished with (a) a fine, (b) detention or (c) imprisonment for up to 3 years’.⁷ [emphasis added]
- [11]. The Law on the Provision of Information to the Public prohibits the publishing of information which instigates war, hatred or scorn; instigates discrimination, violence, harsh treatment of a group of people or a person belonging to it on the basis of gender, *sexual orientation*, race, nationality, language, origins, social status, religion, beliefs or standpoints (Article 19).⁸
- [12]. Statistics on hate crime are poor, partly due to the fact that motivation (homophobic or any other) is not included in the pre-trial statistical cards used by the police.⁹ Thus, homophobia is invisible in crime statistics.
- [13]. Homophobic motivation is not considered an aggravating circumstance by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania.¹⁰ Thus, the legal system does not take it into account.
- [14]. At least one case of violence against persons based on sexual orientation¹¹ was publicised by the media.¹² And, following investigations by the Ombudsperson, a case has been brought to trial against websites inciting hatred of LGBT persons. There are no official statistics on the matter, however.

⁶ Eurobarometer 66 (2006), available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb66/eb66_en.pdf, pp. 43-46.

⁷Lithuania / Lietuvos Respublikos Baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis Kodeksas. Official Publication Valstybės Žinios, 2000, Nr. 89-2741. Available in Lithuanian at http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=314141 (2008.02.14)

⁸Lithuania / Lietuvos Respublikos Visuomenės informavimo pakeitimo įstatymas. Official Publication Valstybės Žinios, 2006, Nr. 82-3254. Available in English at http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=286382 (2008.02.14).

⁹Nusikalstamumo prevencijos Lietuvoje centras, Ikitėisminio tyrimo statistinės kortelės, Available in Lithuanian at <http://www.nplc.lt/stat/kort/kort.htm> (2008.02.14).

¹⁰ Article 60 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

¹¹ The case is explained in more detail under section ‘Asylum and subsidiary protection’ of this report.

¹² N/A, ‘Spaudos apžvalga: čečėnai pabėgėlių centre muša politinio prieglobsčio norintį gėjų’, in *ZEBRA*, Available in Lithuanian at <http://www.zebra.lt/naujienos/politika/108444> (2008.02.14)

- [15]. Although the legal norms of the Penal Code are in place, their practical implementation is difficult to assess. Some data can be extracted from two studies carried out in 2002 and 2006. A small survey of LGBT persons conducted by the *Lithuanian Gay League* (LGL) in 2002 demonstrated that one in four respondents (27 per cent) was a victim of at least one hate crime due to sexual orientation.¹³ Qualitative research (42 interviews with LGBT persons) carried out within the framework of the EQUAL project ‘Open and Safe at Work’ revealed that some LGBT persons encountered hate speech in their everyday lives. In most cases, they did not receive adequate support from judicial authorities.

C.3. Freedom of Assembly

- [16]. Until recently, the LGBT community and organisations were invisible in the public sphere in Lithuania. However, 2007 was a turning point in this respect.
- [17]. The first attempt to organise a public LGBT event took place in May 2007. The Vilnius municipal administration refused to issue permission, stating that due to ‘objective information’ received from the police, there was a great possibility of violent protests and demonstrations, and that law enforcement institutions were not able to ensure public safety and order for the event. The legality of the municipality’s decision was not challenged in court.¹⁴
- [18]. The second attempt to organise the same public LGBT event took place in October 2007, but again authorisation was denied. An LGBT organisation submitted a complaint regarding this decision to the court. The court of first instance as well as the court of second instance rejected the complaint.¹⁵
- [19]. However, the interpretation of certain provisions of the Law on Assemblies by the municipality and approval by both courts raised concerns whether public LGBT events could be successfully held in the future. The interpretation of the law by courts of the first and second instance raised further concerns regarding whether their decision was in accordance with international human rights standards. An LGBT organisation is planning to challenge the decision of the national courts at international level and submit an application to the European Court of Human Rights.¹⁶
- [20]. In May, 2007 the *Lithuanian Gay League* (LGL), while implementing the EQUAL project ‘Open and Safe at Work’, planned to launch an advertising campaign. Statements like ‘A lesbian can work at school’,

¹³ Lithuanian Gay League (2002) *Sexual Orientation Discrimination in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia*.

¹⁴ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*. FRALEX.

¹⁵ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*, FRALEX.

¹⁶ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*. FRALEX.

‘A gay man can work as a police officer’ were planned to be placed on trolleybuses in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. The initiative failed due to opposition by the municipalities of both cities as well as drivers and the company running the busses. No legal arguments were made in order to justify this opposition. The banning of the campaign was not challenged in court.¹⁷

C.4. Family and Other Social Issues

- [21]. According to the law, LGBT persons have no right to marriage, partnership or adoption of children. Lithuanian law states that only heterosexual couples can marry. Without the right to register marriage or partnership, LGBT persons experience discrimination related to social benefits of marriage or partnership. They cannot inherit their partners’ property or adopt children. They are also unable to get social benefits reserved for poor families or an insurance disbursement in case of their partners’ death.¹⁸
- [22]. Furthermore, LGBT partners (either EU citizens or third-country nationals) cannot benefit from freedom of movement or the residence of their partner in Lithuania, even if they are married or under a registered partnership in another Member State. There have not been any cases of LGBT persons seeking to obtain residence in Lithuania or benefit from the freedom of movement in any form.¹⁹
- [23]. There is very little discussion about same-sex marriage in Lithuania. In the 2006 representative survey ‘Discrimination Against Various Social Groups in Lithuania’, 67 per cent of Lithuanians were opposed to same-sex marriage (21 per cent of respondents were undecided and only 12 per cent were in favour). Similarly, 70 per cent of Lithuanian respondents were against LGBT adoption (18 per cent were undecided and 12 per cent were in favour).²⁰
- [24]. The treatment of LGBT persons within families is another important issue. Research demonstrates that a large proportion of LGBT persons hide their sexual orientation from their parents and other family members. According to a 2007 online survey of 468 LGBT persons, 47 per cent reported that none of their family members knew about their sexuality.²¹

¹⁷ Field trip meeting with *Lithuanian Gay League* and the *Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson*, (Lithuania 13 March and 14 March 2008).

¹⁸ J. Samuolytė (2007) ‘LGBT teisių apsauga ir įgyvendinimas’ [Protection and Implementation of LGBT People’s Rights], in Zdanevičius, Arnas, ed., *Nematomi piliečiai: apie homofobiją ir homoseksualių žmonių diskriminaciją Lietuvoje* [Invisible Citizens: About Homophobia and Discrimination Against Homosexual People in Lithuania]. Kaunas: VDU.

¹⁹ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*. FRALEX.

²⁰ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

²¹ A. Zdanevičius ed. (2007) *Nematomi piliečiai: apie homofobiją ir homoseksualių žmonių diskriminaciją Lietuvoje* [Invisible Citizens: About Homophobia and Discrimination against Homosexual People in Lithuania], Kunas: VDU.

C.5. The Labour Market

- [25]. The Law on Equal Treatment, the most important legal act implementing directive 2000/78/EC (Employment Framework Directive) in national legislation, failed to transpose the requirements of the directive in a number of areas:²²
- The definition of discrimination narrows the scope of equal treatment so that assumed or associated discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation is not covered;
 - The prohibition of victimization does not correspond to the requirements set by the Employment Directive prohibiting not only discrimination against employees who directly file complaints, but all other employees;
 - The criteria defining which organisations could engage in judicial or administrative procedures by having a legitimate interest are not set. Thus, legal representation of discrimination victims by associations is impossible;
 - Formally, individuals cannot take advantage of the shift of the burden of proof in cases of discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in courts.
- [26]. Special judicial, administrative or conciliation procedures for cases of discrimination are not embodied in the Code of Civil Procedure or other procedural laws. Thus, in civil or administrative cases victims of discrimination must rely on general procedures, which can be difficult to apply.
- [27]. Though the Employment Framework Directive prohibits discrimination only in the field of employment, protection against discrimination on all grounds (including sexual orientation) in the Law on Equal Treatment is extended to the scope covered by the Race Directive (2000/43/EC), with the exception of social advantages and social protection. Thus, persons are protected against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in the fields of access to goods and services and education.
- [28]. The government is aware of improper implementation of the Employment framework directive 2000/78/EC and has made efforts to change the current situation. An amendment of the Law on Equal Treatment was proposed to the Parliament two times in 2007, but the Parliament has not yet approved it.²³

²² The section on The Labour Market is based on: E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*, , FRALEX.

²³ Voting was postponed to the 2008 spring session of the Parliament. Members of the Lithuanian Conservative party (Homeland Union) expressed rather homophobic remarks during this latest sitting and suggested that ways must be found how 'to adapt the EU law to Christian traditions of Lithuania'. Stenograph of the Parliament sitting

- [29]. The latest draft amendment of the Law on Equal Treatment eliminates a significant number of the weaknesses in the current implementation of the directive.²⁴ However, it also raises serious concerns for LGBT organisations. The draft amendment proposes the inclusion of a new article to the Law on Equal Treatment which would expand the list of exceptions to the scope of equal treatment and could be disadvantageous to sexual minorities in practice.
- [30]. Any citizen can file a complaint with the *Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* about violations of equal rights. However, no known official complaints have been filed by LGBT persons about discrimination in the labour market. Most complaints regard the area of goods and services.²⁵
- [31]. The situation of LGBT persons in the labour market was mapped by the project 'Open and Safe at Work'. The qualitative research shows that most LGBT persons in Lithuania avoid revealing their orientation at work because it involves two risks: Coming out might worsen their relationships with their co-workers and it may encourage them to leave their jobs because of the increased tension and discrimination. Those who are open about their sexual orientation often experience indirect discrimination, including derisive jokes and verbal violence.²⁶

C.6. Education

- [32]. There is little data on education or schools in relation to LGBT persons in Lithuania. The conclusion of *LGL* is that LGBT issues are absent or presented negatively in curricula and educational material. Sexuality education is supposed to start in Lithuanian schools from the first grade. However, the information presented to pupils depends on each teacher. A new curriculum for sexuality education has been under consideration at the *Ministry of Education* for several years. According to the 2006 survey 'Discrimination Against Various Social Groups in Lithuania', 69 per cent of Lithuanians object to gays and lesbians working in schools. Thus, in order to stay in schools, LGBT persons are likely to remain closeted.²⁷

C.7. Health Service

- [33]. Because of the level of homophobia and the number of closeted LGBT persons in Lithuania, it is difficult to describe their health

of December 18, 2007. The text in Lithuanian can be found at

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=311454

²⁴ Lithuania / Lygių galimybių įstatymo pakeitimo įstatymo projektas XP-23824(2). Available in Lithuanian at [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=310375&p_query=&p_t_r2=\(2008.02.14\)](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=310375&p_query=&p_t_r2=(2008.02.14))

²⁵ Field trip meeting with the *Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* (Lithuania, 14 March 2008).

²⁶ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

²⁷ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

conditions. There have been no official complaints by LGBT persons about their treatment in the healthcare system. It should also be emphasized that there has been no substantial research conducted on health services and LGBT persons in Lithuania.²⁸

- [34]. A small, questionnaire-based survey of LGBT persons conducted by *LGL* in 2002 indicated that LGBT persons had experienced mistreatment and discrimination in healthcare services. Four per cent of 185 respondents said healthcare workers directed homophobic statements and actions toward them. In one case, a gynaecologist refused to treat a lesbian patient because of her 'incompetence in lesbian issues.' However, the majority of respondents (64 per cent) concealed their sexual orientation to avoid healthcare professionals' mistreatment. An additional issue concerns same-sex partners not being recognised as next of kin.²⁹
- [35]. According to the statistics of the Lithuanian AIDS centre, LGBT persons (overwhelmingly gay men) comprise only a small proportion of HIV-infected persons. In the National AIDS Prevention and Control Programme of 2003-2008, LGBT persons were not considered a priority.³⁰

C.8. Religion

- [36]. Lithuania is predominantly Catholic. Although the Church is separated from the state, it still has a strong voice in public affairs, and played an active role in the process of drafting the amendment to the Law on Equal Treatment (as mentioned in section on the labour market). High church officials often express negative attitudes and condemnation for LGBT persons. There are no known cases of discrimination of LGBT at the level of official Catholic Church institutions. Most examples of homophobia can be found in the Church officials' pronouncements on LGBT issues.³¹

C.9. Sports

- [37]. There are no openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender athletes. The issue of LGBT persons in sports is invisible, and there have been no debates in this regard.³²

²⁸ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

²⁹ Lithuanian Gay League (2002) *Sexual Orientation Discrimination in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia*.

³⁰ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

³¹ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

³² Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

C.10. Media

- [38]. Several small-scale studies have been conducted on LGBT persons in Lithuanian mass media. They show that, while relatively visible in Lithuanian media, LGBT persons are constantly stereotyped and slandered. The Lithuanian press, TV and Internet often exacerbate homophobic and heterosexist definitions of LGBT persons. Although it cannot be classified as hate speech, much of this discourse can be classified as homophobic or injurious. LGBT persons are categorized negatively and described as moral degenerates.³³
- [39]. Internet commentaries have become an area of particular concern. *The Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* has initiated several investigations and cases due to anti-LGBT Web commentaries.³⁴
- [40]. On a positive note, due to the activities of Lithuanian LGBT activists, particularly *LGL* and its projects, balanced and serious coverage of LGBT issues has increased in the last five years.³⁵

C.11. Asylum and Subsidiary Protection

- [41]. There is a lack of sufficient information on LGBT asylum seekers and applications on sexual orientation grounds. The Lithuanian immigration authorities have no special guidelines dealing with LGBT asylum seekers or applications regarding persecution on grounds of sexual orientation. The 2004 Law on the Legal Status of Aliens does not include sexual orientation as grounds for a request for asylum. Theoretically, a person could submit a request for asylum due to persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation as belonging to a 'certain social group' (Article 86 of the Law).³⁶
- [42]. In 2007 there has been one known case when a Ukrainian citizen applied for asylum because he had been persecuted as a gay man. In the asylum centre he was beaten and received threats from other asylum seekers. He went to *LGL* for help and left Lithuania due to safety concerns.³⁷

C.12. Family Reunification

- [43]. LGBT persons do not have access to family reunification. Although marriages registered abroad should be recognised according to the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Article 1.25 [4]), the migration department of the *Ministry of Interior* considers norms of

³³ A. Treskinas (2007) 'Not Private Enough?' *Homophobic and Injurious Speech in the Lithuanian Media*, Lithuanian Gay League.

³⁴ Field trip meeting with *the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* (Lithuania, 14 March 2008).

³⁵ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

³⁶ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

³⁷ Field trip meeting with *Lithuanian Gay League* (Lithuania 13 March 2008).

the Civil Code as imperative only and would not recognise same-sex marriages or partnership registered abroad if a case occurred. According to the data of the migration department, there were no cases of LGBT persons requesting a residence permit for their foreign spouse or partner in Lithuania.³⁸

C.13. Transgender Issues

- [44]. The 2000 Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania for the first time provided for an individual's right to change his/her sex. To realize this right fully a law on sex change was necessary. The project for *the law on sex change in the Republic of Lithuania* was prepared in 2003. However, it has not yet been considered by the Lithuanian Parliament and has not been passed.³⁹
- [45]. Due to this legal vacuum, persons cannot change their sex by medical means in Lithuania. National legislation permits the change of documents in case of gender reassignment (including the change of name and sex in the identity documents). However, when a person applies to the competent institutions willing to change his/her documents due to gender reassignment, the gender sensitive personal code remains legally unchangeable.⁴⁰
- [46]. The discussion about transgender persons started only recently in Lithuania following transgender persons' complaints against the state for the infringements on their rights. In 2007, a transgender person initiated a case against Lithuania in the European Court of Human Rights. The Court acknowledged that the Lithuanian state violated the right to privacy because the Lithuanian Parliament still had not passed the law on sex change.⁴¹
- [47]. Transgender persons remain the least visible and discussed group among LGBT persons.

C.14. Multiple Discrimination

- [48]. No research on multiple discrimination has been conducted in Lithuania. The concept of multiple discrimination itself is relatively

³⁸ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

³⁹ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

⁴⁰ E. Ziobiene (2008) *Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in Lithuania*, FRALEX.

⁴¹ A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

unknown to researchers and policy activists. LGBT ethnic or religious minorities, youth, elders and disabled persons remain unexamined.⁴²

- [49]. With regard to LGBT disabled persons, a disability organisation refused to rent office space to *LGL* because they did not want LGBT persons on their premises. That NGOs working with other grounds of discrimination feel that cooperation with LGBT organisations may have a negative impact on their work makes it difficult for *LGL* to work with questions of multiple discrimination.⁴³

D. Good Practice

- [50]. Good practices are described in Annex 1.

⁴² A. Tereskinas (2008) *The situation concerning homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in Lithuania*, Sociological Country Report.

⁴³ Field trip meeting with *LGL* (Lithuania, 13 March 2008).