

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Finland



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 Finland 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 Finland 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

"Personally, I dare to be open and tell everyone that I have a wife but it is always difficult and still tense how people react." (Finland, Lesbian woman, 36)

- ↓ 39% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Finland. For the EU-28, it is 61%.

- ↓ 15% in Finland avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- 50% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in Finland. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

- ↓ 14% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Finland. 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 Finland in 2019 31% 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 have not experienced much harassment in Finland because of my sexuality, but sometimes people look weird if I kiss my wife on the street and sometimes we are yelled at." (Bisexual woman, 27)

"In my previous apartment, I was often harassed by my neighbours because of my sexual orientation. Threats and insults were often daily." (Finland, Lesbian woman, 25)

- ↓ 32% in Finland 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.
- 9% in Finland had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

"My personal information was circulated online. When the situation started to get out of hand, I contacted the police, but according to them, the fault was mine when I happen to be a trans member." (Finland, Trans man, 21)

- 16% went to the police in Finland to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- 8% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Finland. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

- ↑ 70% in Finland say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 11% in Finland say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↑ 61% in Finland believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"It may not apply to all schools, but at my school I was not taken seriously when I reported to teachers the homophobic behaviour of my classmates." (Finland, Lesbian woman, 18)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ↓ 25% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Finland say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ↓ 43% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Finland 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.
- ↑ 67% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Finland say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↑ 59% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Finland 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 parents cut me off when I was 21. This was entirely because of my transsexuality. They did not approve. They have also told me that they do not wish me any good in life and I am no longer their child." (Finland, Non-binary, 24)