

# EU LGBTIQ survey III

## LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges



### Country Data - Bulgaria

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 Bulgaria 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**

*“My partner and I hide our relationship in public because of stares, comments, shouting, threats and fear of being seen by someone I know who doesn't know about me and is an extremely homophobic.”*  
Bulgaria, Gay man, 26.

↑ 75% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Bulgaria. For the EU-27 it is 53%.

↑ 46% in Bulgaria avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-27 it is 29%.

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

- **Discrimination**

*“When the State doesn't stand behind equal rights and treatment, many people simply feel ‘allowed’ to reject, offend, and abuse,”* Bulgaria, Lesbian woman, 35.

↑ 28% felt discriminated against at work or looking for work in the year before the survey in Bulgaria. 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 Bulgaria in 2023 50% 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**

↑ 19% of all respondents in Bulgaria had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-27 is 13%.

→ 8% of respondents in Bulgaria had been attacked in the 12 months before the survey. The EU-27 is 5%.

↑ 60% in Bulgaria say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-27 is 54%.

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

→ 10% went to the police in Bulgaria to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 11% across the EU-27.

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

- **Bullying and conversion abuse or humiliation**

↑ In Bulgaria 72% 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%).

→ 31% of respondents in Bulgaria 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**

*“The lack of public debate, civic support and widely recognisable faces is due to the political instrumentalisation of the rights issue and the open displays of hatred towards the LGBTIQ community,”* Bulgaria, Gay man, 41.

→ 60% in Bulgaria say that violence against LGBTIQ people has increased. This is 59% for the EU-27.

↑ 59% in Bulgaria say that LGBTIQ prejudice and intolerance has risen in their country in the last five years. It is 53% across the EU-27.

↓ 6% in Bulgaria believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTIQ people. For the EU-27 it is 26%.

- **Health**

↓ 7% of LGBTIQ respondents in Bulgaria felt discriminated against in healthcare in the year before the survey. For the EU this is 14%.

↑ 17% of LGBTIQ respondents in Bulgaria thought often or always of committing suicide in year before the survey. For the EU this is 12%.

- **Schooling**

*“In my own experience schools and education facilities aren’t at all designed for queer people. The teachers and staff always openly make horrible comments about these marginalised groups and claim that LGBTQIA+ people aren’t real, natural or that it is just a choice. As a queer person myself in school I don’t feel safe to stand up to those comments,”* Bulgaria, Non-binary queer, 19.

↑ 55% of LGBTIQ students in Bulgaria say were hiding being LGBTIQ at school. This was 49% in the EU-27.

↓ 21% of LGBTIQ students in Bulgaria 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.

→ 61% of LGBTIQ respondents in Bulgaria say their school education never addressed LGBTIQ issues. In the EU-27 this was 62%.