

EU LGBTIQ survey III

LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges



EU LGBTIQ SURVEY

Country Data - Latvia

- 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 social media channels.
- Respondents' quotes from Latvia 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**

"I'm only out to very close people, but I've had to endure people (past friends, schoolmates, teachers) say backhanded or just bigoted comments about gay and trans people that made me uncomfortable and unsafe." Latvia, lesbian woman, 18

↑ 67% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Latvia. For the EU-27 it is 53%

↑ 37% in Latvia avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-27 it is 29%

↓ 35% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTIQ in Latvia. For the EU-27 it is 51%.

- **Discrimination**

"At work, senior officials tend to be blatantly abusive towards LGBTIQ people in their 'inner circle', not knowing that you, as a subordinate, belong to this LGBTIQ community." Latvia, gay man, 40

→ 19% felt discriminated against at work or looking for work in the year before the survey in Latvia. 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 Latvia 38% 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**

→ 16% in Latvia had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-27 is 13%.

→ 6% in Latvia had been attacked in the year before the survey. The EU-27 is 5%.

→ 56% in Latvia say they were harassed in the year before the survey. The EU-27 is 54%.

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

“I did not report to the police or any other law enforcement agency because in fact there were no legal means of proof that would clearly establish the link between the elements of the crime and the hate crime.” Latvia, non-binary gay man, 25

→ 15% went to the police in Latvia to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 11% across the EU-27.

→ 7% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Latvia. For the EU-27 it is 11%.

- **Bullying and conversion abuse or humiliation**

→ In Latvia 67% say that they suffered bullying, ridicule, teasing, insults or threats at school because they are LGBTIQ. For the EU-27 it is 67%, a steep increase compared to 2019 (43%).

↑ 29% of respondents in Latvia experienced had to undergo 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**

“In my opinion, life in Latvia as a queer person is rather emotionally draining. Even though for the majority of time expressing yourself as gay does not pose any physical threats, generally LGBTIQ+ people are not really accepted in Latvian society.” Latvia, gay man, 23

↓ 26% in Latvia say that violence against LGBTIQ people has increased. This is 59% for the EU-27.

↓ 21% in Latvia say that LGBTIQ prejudice and intolerance has risen in their country in the last five years. It is 53% across the EU-27.

↓ 10% in Latvia believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTIQ people. For the EU-27 it is 26%.

- **Health**

“As a queer person who can still disguise as a heterosexual person in everyday life, I am lucky that I have almost no contact with physical threats and that it is easy to hide my sexual orientation from health professionals, which I always do after a negative experience with coming out.” Latvia, asexual woman, 28

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

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

- **Schooling**

“As a school child, I often hear anti-LGBT stuff from my peers, especially towards people who are very visibly/“stereotypically” queer (i.e dyed hair, alternative fashion, rainbow accessories).” Latvia, bisexual trans man, 15

↑ 58% of LGBTIQ students in Latvia were hiding being LGBTIQ at school. This was 49% in the EU-27.

↓ 21% of LGBTIQ students in Latvia 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.

↑ 67% of LGBTIQ respondents in Latvia say their school education never addressed LGBTIQ issues. In the EU-27 this was 62%.