

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Sweden



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 Sweden 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 Sweden also included.

Symbols

- é Shows that the result in the country is **above** the EU-28 average
- è Shows that the result in the country is **below** the EU-28 average
- ẽ 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

"We let go of each other's hands when we see groups of men on the street, especially when it's dark outside." (Sweden, Lesbian woman, 29)

"I didn't really come out officially until just a few days ago. I never tried to hide it from my friends but I also didn't tell people unless it came up. Recently I have been trying to live

more honestly, being more open about not being straight. After being bullied for it in high school I really stopped talking about it (...).” (Sweden, Bisexual woman, 34)

- € 42% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Sweden. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- € 22% in Sweden avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- € 61% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in Sweden. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

“Certain government institutions seem to be less willing to process documents and applications for same sex couples than for hetero couples. (...) Six months for a marriage license compared to four weeks for a hetero couple of an otherwise similar background applying at roughly the same time.” (Sweden, Gay man, 29)

- € 15% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Sweden. 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 Sweden in 2019 32% 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

- € 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.
- € 31% in Sweden say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- € 10% in Sweden had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

“I have been involved in a sexual harassment that I was specifically exposed to because I am trans. (...) I didn't dare report it because it was word for word and I knew it would be impossible to prove what happened.” (Sweden, Trans man, 24)

- € 20% went to the police in Sweden 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 Sweden. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

“I think that acceptance for me as a trans person is generally good in society. However, many people do not understand me and my situation. I think that the care, or rather the

long waiting times, investigations and tests you have to go through before you receive care; is completely unacceptable.” (Sweden, Trans woman, 22)

“That there are so many things society could do to give me the same conditions as everyone else. I want to be able to apply for a job or education without having to give up because there are no separate (enclosed) shower rooms. I want to be able to hold my partner’s hand without being afraid of people staring, screaming or acting threateningly. I want for the state to ensure that we can live our lives with the same basic dignity as everyone else. I do not want to hide myself at my job or in contact with strangers because of fear.” (Sweden, Trans man, 27)

- € 48% in Sweden say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ê 28% in Sweden say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- é 63% in Sweden believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28 it is 33%.

Schooling

“Education about what a trans person is actually both scientific and emotional, I think is vital to countering discrimination and fear of us. After all, we are normal people.” (Sweden, Trans woman, 23)

“There still are some issues with bathrooms that are not gender-neutral in most schools in Sweden, which should be taken care of.” (Sweden, Trans man, 19)

“The biggest problem in Sweden is the tone and jargon at school, mockery and gibberish are not taken seriously by the adults. Also during my schooling there was no form of teaching that raised LGBTI issues, the subject was avoided. Few dared to be open at a young age, I was one of those, in my case, it led to mental illness that I hid for everyone.” (Sweden, Gay man, 26)

- £ Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- è 34% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Sweden say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ê 43% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Sweden 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.
- é 65% in Sweden of LGBTI teenager respondents 15-17 years old say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28 this was 60%.
- é 67% in Sweden 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%.