

# EU LGBTI survey II

## A long way to go for LGBTI equality

### Country data – The Netherlands



#### 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 Netherlands 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 the Netherlands 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

*"Being gay in the Netherlands is ok. Although I remain reluctant to walk hand in hand on the street. Then I feel the eyes look and I feel 'threatened'. That is sometimes difficult. It feels very fragile and that's why you avoid it."* (The Netherlands, Gay man, 26)

- 57% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in the Netherlands. For the EU-28, it is 61%.

- ↓ 21% in the Netherlands avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↑ 67% are now often or always open about being LGBT in the Netherlands. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

## Discrimination

*"Inappropriate curious questions about your sexuality, or something in the sense of "you just never had good sex with a man, if you had sex with me you wouldn't be a lesbian." (The Netherlands, Lesbian woman, 34)*

*"There is also a huge amount of (sexual) racism in the gay community, especially against black gay men (I am black myself). The darker you are, the harder it is for you. There are many non-black gay men who do not even want to talk to or come close to black men." (The Netherlands, Gay man, 45)*

- ↓ 14% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in the Netherlands. 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 the Netherlands in 2019 35% 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

- 38% in the Netherlands 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.
- 11% in the Netherlands had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

## Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- ↑ 22% went to the police in the Netherlands to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- 10% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in the Netherlands. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

## Intolerance and prejudice

- ↓ 30% in Netherlands say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- 36% in Netherlands say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↑ 59% in the Netherlands believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

## Schooling

*"I have the idea that the group of people it accepts has grown a lot since my high school period (coming out). This is very positive, but on the other hand it seems that the group that does not accept it, for whatever reason, is becoming ever more expressive." (The Netherlands, Gay man, 21)*

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ↓ 16% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in the Netherlands say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- 49% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in the Netherlands 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.
- ↑ 66% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in the Netherlands say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↑ 76% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in the Netherlands 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 respondent

*"Especially in contact with authorities and in the media I am disturbed by the fact that the traditional heterosexual situation is always used. There is always talk about a mom and dad and if I have contact with agencies or caregivers during my pregnancy, for example, then my husband or father is asked instead of my partner and the possible other parent of my child." (The Netherlands, Lesbian woman, 29)*

*"Our son has been in the hospital a lot since his birth (last year). We must always explain that he has two mothers, otherwise I would just be ignored." (The Netherlands, Lesbian woman, 40)*

*"At work I am out of the closet for my colleagues but not for my students. I would like to be a role model, but the previous gay teacher was known as 'that gay'. Students didn't even know his name." (The Netherlands, Lesbian woman, 33)*