

“Berlin supports self-determination and acceptance of sexual diversity” (ISV)

Berlin's action plan against homophobia and transphobia

Factsheet 03e

The Initiative for the Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity (ISV) has been in existence since 2010. It comprises numerous actions that are intended to fight homophobia and transphobia and encourage the acceptance of sexual and gender diversity in various fields of activity.

In 2009, the Berlin House of Representatives passed the first federal action plan to promote the acceptance of sexual and gender diversity and to fight homophobia and transphobia. Since 2010, measures have been consistently implemented and developed by the Berlin Senate. Alongside the various administrative Senate Departments, representatives of civil society are also involved in their implementation. The overall coordination of the measures is in the hands of the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and against Discrimination (LADS) of the Senate Department for Labour, Integration and Women's Issues.

Data and facts

An estimated 250,000 lesbians, gays and bisexuals live in Berlin. Around 40,000 of these are aged over 65 and about 80,000 are young people aged 12 to 27. There are also transgender and intersex people but their numbers cannot be estimated.

In total there are about 13,000 registered civil partnerships¹ in Berlin and about 8,000 so called rainbow-families with 12,000 children in Germany.²

Every day there are incidents of homophobic and transphobic discrimination and violence towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI). Homophobic and transphobic violence in the form of insults, threats and direct physical attacks is aimed specifically at the identity of the person concerned. If aspects such as ethnic background, skin colour or even social status also play a part, studies show that the experience of discrimination and violence increases. Many crimes are not reported and there is a large number of unrecorded cases.



¹ See Statistical Information System Berlin-Brandenburg: Details from the residents' registration statistics; census date 31.12.2013.

² Results of the 2013 micro-census: same-gender households with children.

Fields of activity of the ISV:

- Promoting education and information
- Fighting discrimination and violence
- Pushing ahead with changes in administration
- Improving the knowledge base
- Promoting dialogue
- Legal equality

Further developments at a glance:

- Development of the field of action transgender and intersex
- Development of the field of action historical documentation and persecution
- Development of the field of action international commitment
- Strengthening anti-violence work

... that there has been a contact person for victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in the **Berlin State Prosecutor's Office** since 2012.

... that on the **Berlin Advisory Board for Family Issues**, **Berlin Imprisonment Advisory Board** and the **Berlin Developmental Cooperation Advisory Board**, for example, LGBTI organisations are now also represented.

... that various stakeholders in mainstream heterosexual society such as businesses, institutions, sports clubs, etc., have come together to form an **Alliance against Homophobia**.

... that representatives from LGBTI organisations, migrants' organisations, religious communities and other associations and clubs regularly share experiences at the **Round Table on Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity**.

These are just a few examples. You will find more information about the implementation and further development of the ISV on the website of the LADS www.berlin.de/lads.

Do you know?

... that regular **advanced training courses** are being offered on LGBTI topics by the Berlin administration for schools and child and youth welfare practitioners.

... that every Berlin school has a **contact person for gender and sexual diversity**.

... that, as part of **Queer History Month** in February of every year, various campaigns are run in schools that address the history, present situation and future of LGBTI and raise awareness of the diversity of different lifestyles.

... that a **Coordinating Committee for the Documentation of the History of LGBTI** has been set up.

... that the Berlin Senate is supporting **work on the history** of legal persecution of gay men in the early Federal Republic and the GDR and has called for national rehabilitation and compensation.

... that the interests of elderly LGBTI are represented in the **Policy Guidelines for Senior Citizens** with their own field of action.

Contact

Overall coordination of the ISV:

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SELFDETERMINATION
AND THE
ACCEPTANCE
OF SEXUAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVE