

Violence and discrimination against the LGBTI community

Support, counselling and guidance

Factsheet 10e

In recent years society has come to show greater acceptance and tolerance towards different sexual orientations and gender identities. In spite of this, lesbian, gay, bisexual as well as transgender and intersex people (LGBTI) still fall victim to homophobic and transphobic violence. Every day members of this community experience discrimination in many areas of their lives, even in a city as diverse as Berlin. Most of those affected accept these incidents as a fact of life, which is why it is estimated that there are a high number of unreported cases.

Do you know?

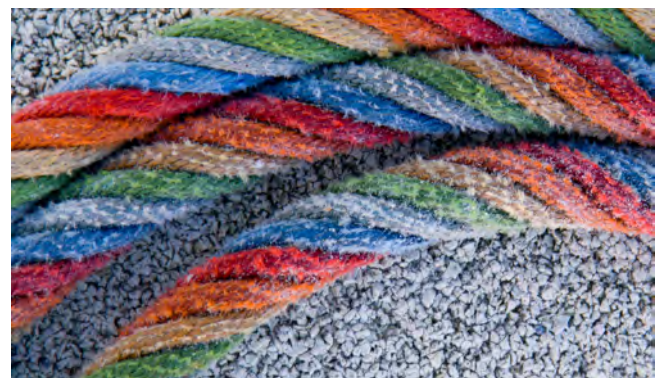
... that in 2015 Berlin's LGBTI counselling services documented roughly 540 cases of discrimination and violence against LGBTI individuals?

... that approximately half (52 %) of all members of the LGBTI community who took part in a survey conducted in Germany in 2012¹ have experienced discrimination or harassment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?

... that around one third of transgender individuals surveyed had been victims of violence or threatened with violence more than three times in 2011?

... that 41.2 % of those surveyed avoid certain public areas, establishments or venues for fear of encountering discrimination, harassment or violence?

... that fewer than one fifth (16.8 %) of those surveyed reported the most recent incident of violence they had experienced to the police?



The State of Berlin's measures to combat violence

In 2009 Berlin's House of Representatives launched an action plan titled 'Berlin supports self-determination and acceptance of sexual diversity' (ISV). This action plan is coordinated by the LGBTI Unit of the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and against Discrimination (LADS). It also includes measures to combat homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination.

Goals:

- Safeguard counselling, guidance and support services for those affected,
- tackle violence and discrimination through preventative measures,
- promote awareness about the issue among the general public, political actors and the authorities,
- encourage and empower LGBTI individuals to fight for their rights,
- increase the number of those willing to file a formal complaint,
- encourage more victims of violence to come forward.

What should you do if you experience violence or discrimination?

LGBTI counselling services: offer advice and support for victims of violence and discrimination. This also includes legal advice and support for those wishing to take legal action by asserting their rights under the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) in cases of discrimination or when reporting criminal offences such as attacks and abusive language.

LGBTI contact persons in the Berlin Police Force: duties include responding to any queries concerning LGBTI issues specifically directed towards the police, such as violence prevention or what to do after an offence. Incidents can be reported (both in person and online).

LGBTI contact persons at the Berlin State Prosecutor's Office: deals with concerns, complaints and reports of offences, and provides contact information for other relevant official bodies as well as counselling services.

Services at a glance

Lesbenberatung Berlin e. V. – LesMigraS, anti-violence and anti-discrimination counselling

Mann-O-Meter e. V. – Maneo, anti-violence project for gay men

Schwulenberatung Berlin gGmbH – Stand Up anti-discrimination project

Berlin Police Force – LGBTI contact persons

Berlin State Prosecutor's Office – LGBTI contact persons

Forms of homophobic and transphobic discrimination:

- verbal abuse in public spaces
- verbal and physical attacks when visiting pubs, clubs, swimming pools and on public transport
- violence and exclusion from one's family
- discrimination when looking for a job
- bullying at work and at school
- being refused by healthcare services



The more people report incidences of violence, abusive language or threats to the police – even if they themselves were not the victim – the easier it will be to bring homophobic and transphobic violence to light and to tackle it. Filing a report can also help someone come to terms with their experience of discrimination.

Further information and details on services can be found on the Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and against Discrimination (LADS) website [German only]
www.berlin.de/lads/lasbti



Contact

Contact person:

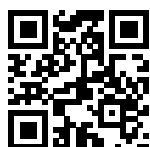
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BERLIN SUPPORTS
SELFDETERMINATION
AND THE
ACCEPTANCE
OF SEXUAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVE