

**A RESEARCH REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER PERSONS
BY THEIR RELATIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND/OR GENDER IDENTITY.**

(SHORT VERSION)

**WE CONDUCTED A SMALL STUDY
ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS,
AND EACH STORY WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER.**

RESEARCH TEAM

2023

HUMAN RIGHTS IN UZBEKISTAN.

Analyzing the overall human rights situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the concerns of the majority of human rights defenders are noted. In March 2022, at the 49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council¹, the head of Uzbekistan's delegation, Akmal Saidov², emphasized the country's commitment to high human rights standards. This is supported by introducing the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy³ for 2022-2026.

There are significant discrepancies in the assessment of the situation by human rights defenders and the official position of the authorities. Human Rights Watch's⁴ 2023 report highlights negative trends, including lack of progress in legislative reforms, restrictions on freedom of expression and brutal suppression of protests in Karakalpakstan, torture, and so on.

The 2022 Country Report on Human Rights⁵ in Uzbekistan, published by the U.S. Department of State, also notes serious human rights concerns, and covers a range of violations including torture, arbitrary arrest, unlawful or arbitrary killings, interference with freedom of peaceful assembly, serious restrictions on freedom of speech and media, corruption, the existence and enforcement of laws criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual relations between adult males.


[1] <http://pravacheloveka.uz/uploads/reports/a5ffbd0fa3c659eb9c488406b02800c1.pdf> - Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations in Uzbekistan in 2022.

[2] <http://pravacheloveka.uz/en/news/m6951> - Statement from the Press Service of the National Human Rights Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

[3] <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/5841077> - The Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

[4] <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/uzbekistan>

[5] <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/uzbekistan/> - Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2022: Uzbekistan (U.S. Department).



During an official visit to Uzbekistan in March 2023, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk⁶, also emphasized human rights concerns, calling on the government to follow the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to ensure freedom and security of human life.

On 4 October 2023, the European Parliament⁷ published a resolution on Uzbekistan. It emphasizes the ongoing human rights violations, including widespread cases of torture and inhuman treatment by state structures.

[6] <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2023/03/1438667> - Official Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to Uzbekistan.

[7] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0346_EN.html - Resolution of the European Parliament on Uzbekistan.

HUMAN RIGHTS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY.

Until 2018, the Criminal and Administrative Codes of Uzbekistan did not contain the term "domestic violence" and did not criminalize this phenomenon. As part of the Universal Periodic Review in May 2018, Uzbekistan adopted recommendations⁸ to include domestic violence offenses in the Criminal Code.

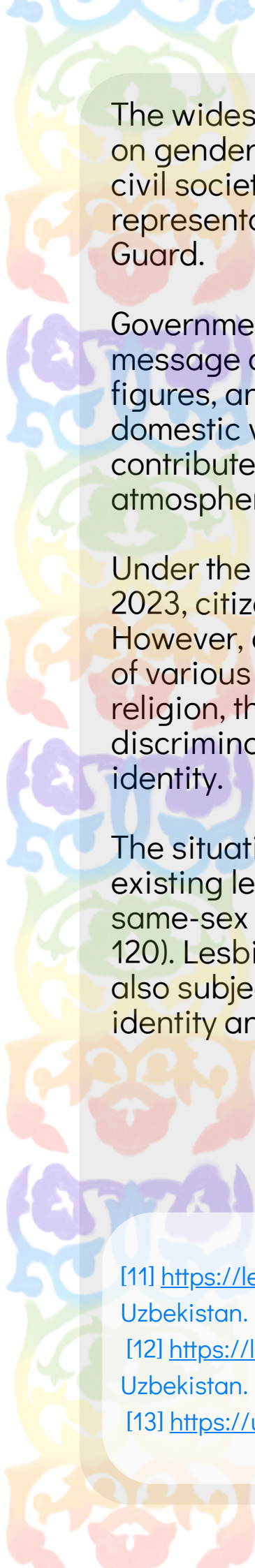
Amendments to the Criminal and Administrative Codes were adopted⁹ in April 2023, criminalizing domestic violence, and providing additional protection mechanisms for women and children. However, there is no mention of sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for protection from domestic violence.

Domestic violence remains a serious problem and the new law criminalizes only physical violence, neglecting economic, psychological, and other types. In April 2023, it was reported that law enforcement agencies recorded 20,000¹⁰ cases of domestic violence against women throughout 2023, statistics on male victims of domestic violence are not publicly available. Despite increased penalties for domestic violence, the problem is a concern due to stigmatization and lack of awareness. Victims are often stigmatized and accused of "provoking" perpetrators to violence or "deserving" this violence by family or relatives.

[8] [https://upr-info-database.uwazi.io/en/library/?q=\(allAggregations:!f,filters:\(cycle:\(values:!\(%27567eec7b-d5ab-4c36-a712-57c38fae9124%27\)\),issues:\(values:!\(%276e415998-2b91-42a8-94a5-a21859de6cdd%27\)\)\),from:0,includeUnpublished:!f,limit:30,order:desc,searchTerm:%27uzbekistan%27,sort:_score,treatAs:number,types:!\(%275d8ce04361cde0408222e9a8%27\),unpublished:!f\) - Recommendations Received by Uzbekistan.](https://upr-info-database.uwazi.io/en/library/?q=(allAggregations:!f,filters:(cycle:(values:!(%27567eec7b-d5ab-4c36-a712-57c38fae9124%27)),issues:(values:!(%276e415998-2b91-42a8-94a5-a21859de6cdd%27))),from:0,includeUnpublished:!f,limit:30,order:desc,searchTerm:%27uzbekistan%27,sort:_score,treatAs:number,types:!(%275d8ce04361cde0408222e9a8%27),unpublished:!f) - Recommendations Received by Uzbekistan.)

[9] <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/6430278> - Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Amendments and Additions to Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

[10] https://t.me/Press_Secretary_Uz/3241 - Press Service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



The widespread patriarchal mentality and stereotypical views on gender roles persist in Uzbekistan, both among members of civil society and among state officials, including representatives of law enforcement agencies and the National Guard.

Government representatives are unable to convey a consistent message of zero tolerance for domestic violence, and religious figures, and the media continue to support the idea of domestic violence as a method of control, which ultimately contributes to the rise of a culture of violence and a general atmosphere of impunity for perpetrators.

Under the new Constitution¹¹, adopted by referendum in April 2023, citizens are guaranteed expanded rights and freedoms. However, despite affirming equality before the law regardless of various criteria, including sex, race, nationality, and religion, the document does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The situation of the LGBTIQ+ community is closely linked to existing legislation. Under the Criminal Code¹², voluntary same-sex contact between adult males is criminalized (Article 120). Lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender persons are also subject to administrative penalties¹³ for expressing their identity and beliefs.

[11] <https://lex.uz/docs/111457#158188> - Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

[12] <https://lex.uz/docs/111457#158188> - Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

[13] <https://upl.uz/incidents/28762-news.html>

A 2022 analysis of legal and human rights issues¹⁴ by the Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender, and Sexual Diversity (ECOM) found a lack of effective mechanisms to protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in the face of discriminatory legislation, leaving crimes against this group virtually unpunished.

ILGA-Europe¹⁵ also notes the deteriorating situation of LGBTIQ+ people in Uzbekistan in its 2022 survey. The country's authorities, despite engagement with UN bodies, deny violations of rights based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. In addition, there is reluctance to decriminalize consensual same-sex contact, as well as a lack of measures to protect against discrimination and privacy violations.

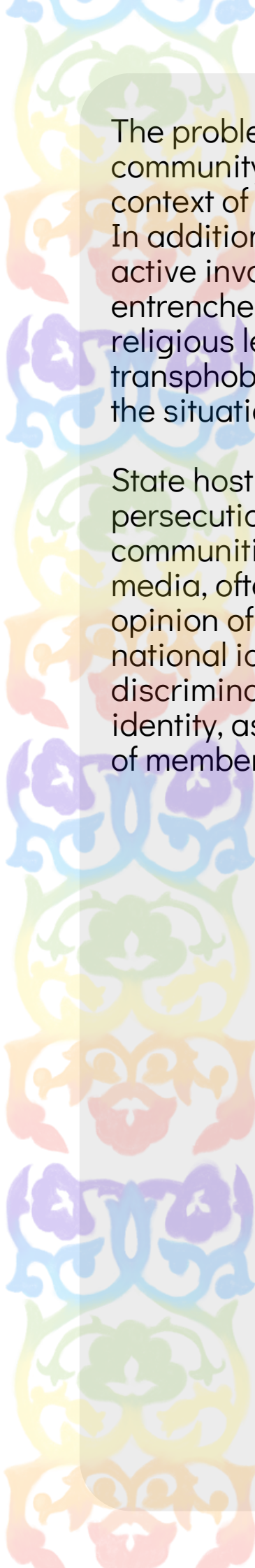
Thus, despite claims of respect for human rights, Uzbekistan maintains repressive laws and practices against LGBTIQ+ citizens, thereby maintaining high levels of stigmatization and lack of effective protection of their rights, which in turn influence the level of domestic violence against them because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity by their families or relatives.

During the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review 2023¹⁶, Uzbekistan stated that throughout 2023, 22 criminal cases were brought under Article 120, involving 27 biologically male persons, which once again shows the level of non-acceptance of homosexuality at the state level. During the discussion of the national report, Uzbekistan received 14 recommendations to decriminalize the article for voluntary same-sex contact between adult males.

[14] <https://ecom.ngo/library/uzbekistan-2022-report> - Analysis of national legislation related to the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and HIV in Uzbekistan.

[15] <https://www.rainbow-europe.org/annual-review>

[16] <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1m/k1mwmt9ocf>



The problem of violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community in Uzbekistan becomes particularly complex in the context of general violence against vulnerable social groups. In addition to this, the country has criminalizing legislation, active involvement of law enforcement agencies in violence, entrenched traditions and customs, and the influence of religious leaders. The high level of homo-, lesbian-, bi-, and transphobia by government and public structures complicates the situation for the LGBTIQ+ community.

State hostility towards LGBTIQ+ people, open hate speech, persecution of activists supporting the rights of LGBTIQ+ communities, and Islamization exacerbate the situation. The media, often state-controlled, creates a negative public opinion of LGBTIQ+ people, portraying them as a threat to the national idea. The absence of laws protecting against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as hate crime laws, maintains public rejection of members of the LGBTIQ+ community.


FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.

The relevance of the study was determined by the need to describe the types and prevalence of violations of the rights of LGBTIQ+ people based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in Uzbekistan by their relatives and families, and to examine the impact of the facts on both the prevalence of this violence and the barriers that prevent LGBTIQ+ victims of domestic violence from asserting their violated rights and freedoms.

Between 2020 and 2022, 297 cases of rights violations against LGBTIQ+ citizens were documented, including 32% cases of domestic violence by relatives. In 2023, 192 cases of rights violations were documented, including 64 cases of violence by family members. These data indicate the high prevalence of violence against the LGBTIQ+ community in the country. The climate of fear, stigma, and criminalization of consensual sexual activity between men create major barriers for LGBTIQ+ citizens in accessing protection and reporting violence. The open airing of homo-/lesbo-/bi/transphobia at the state level exacerbates this situation.

The study, conducted for the first time, aimed to identify the level of domestic violence against LGBTIQ+ persons in Uzbekistan and analyze the impact of state, civil, and religious structures on this phenomenon.

The research was conducted by a group of experts and human rights defenders from Central Asia through in-depth interviews and questionnaires with representatives of the LGBTIQ+ community permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main objectives of the research were not only to study cases of domestic violence by family and relatives against the LGBTIQ+ community, but also to describe the types of violence experienced by the LGBTIQ+ community,



to identify factors that influence the prevalence of violence against LGBTIQ+ homo- and bisexual men, and to assess the needs and access to services for the queer community.

Objective: to analyze factors influencing incidents of domestic violence, to assess barriers to accessing services for victims of violence.

The research problem was complicated by the stigmatization of homosexuality in society. The practice of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence, as well as the bullying of LGBTIQ+ people as punishment or correction of their sexual orientation or identity, has devastating consequences for their mental health and causes them to remain silent about these incidents.

The researchers covered the following accessible regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Central region -Tashkent city; Eastern region - Fergana valley; Western region -Navoi; Southern region Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions, South- Western region - Samarkand and Jizzak regions

A STUDY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY FAMILIES AND RELATIVES AGAINST GBTIQ+ , MSM IN UZBEKISTAN.

Respondents' selection

Given the situation with the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in the country, the selection of respondents was a complex process. Since, for well-known reasons, it was impossible to make an open announcement about the recruitment of respondents, a "snowball" method was used to attract interested parties. Between February and September 2023, the researchers visited the regions of Uzbekistan and conducted in-depth interviews with 25 respondents who belong to the GBTIQ+ and MSM.

In preparation for the study, a safety plan was developed for respondents, taking into account the risks and threats that may arise from the interviews, meetings were held in neutral locations that were comfortable and safe from the point of view of the interviewees.

Statistics of the project

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SURVEY	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THE RESPONDENTS:	
Gay	84%
Bisexual people	16%
GENDER IDENTITY OF THE RESPONDENTS:	
Cisgender	92%
Gender queer	8%

All interviews were anonymous, no personal information was requested.

Table of types of violence experienced by GBTIQ+ MSM group due to their SOGIE by family and relatives.

TYPE OF VIOLENCE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	% OF TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
physical	23	92%
pyschological	25	100%
economic	22	88%
sexual	16	64%
digital	21	84%
territorial	24	96%

The results of the study show that interviewed respondents have always experienced several types of violence against themselves because of their SOGI at the same time. Just over half of the cases of physical and psychological violence against respondents were perpetrated by parents, and two-thirds of the cases of economic, sexual, digital, and territorial violence against interviewed respondents because of their SOGIE were perpetrated by parents. One-third of the cases of domestic violence against interviewed respondents were by siblings.

Disclosure of respondents' sexual orientation and gender identity, including by third parties, outings, and many other reasons contributed most often to the situation.

"I was invited on a fake date, threatened, forced to give my parents' contacts, called them, and told them I was gay."

"My parents saw how after a walk with a guy he hugged me outside the house and kissed me on the cheek. After that, I was subjected to various forms of violence for a long time."

"My parents found out about my sexual orientation and relationship with my boyfriend. They checked my phone forcibly and read all my correspondence. They took away all my gadgets and forced me to leave the house."

"Neighbors started telling my parents it was time for me to get married. My father decided to find me a bride, but I refused. We had a scandal, as a result of which I admitted that I liked guys and said I was gay."

Responses of the research respondents.

Three-quarters of respondents did not seek help after physical, economic, sexual, digital, and territorial violence based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIE) at the hands of family and relatives. Less than a quarter of respondents did not seek help after psychological violence against themselves.

Respondents' refusal to seek help after domestic violence was due to various factors. The main reasons for this decision were fear of persecution by the perpetrator, fear of disclosure of their sexual orientation and gender identity, distrust of law enforcement agencies due to negative experiences in the past, and deep self-stigma.

BARRIERS TO NOT SEEKING HELP AFTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST GBTIQ+ MSM GROUPS DUE TO THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY	FREQUENCY	%
Fear of prosecution by the perpetrator	11	23%
Distrust of law enforcement, due to negative experiences in the past	6	13%
Fear of revealing their SOGIE	6	13%
Because of the deep self-stigma	5	11%
Lack of faith in the positive resolution of one's case	5	11%
It's a family, nobody's going to sort it out and help anyway.	4	9%
For fear of prosecution under Article 120	2	4%
Because of the fear of repressive laws	2	4%
Religious conviction	2	4%
I don't want to waste time and energy on asserting my rights as this process is likely to be very difficult	2	4%
Distrust of medical professionals due to negative experiences in the past	1	2%
Mistrust of psychologists, due to negative experiences in the past	1	2%
TOTAL:	47	100%

STUDY OF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY RELATIVES AGAINST LBTIQ+ WWS IN UZBEKISTAN.

Selection of respondents

Given the situation with the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in the country, the selection of respondents was a complex process. Since, for well-known reasons, it was impossible to openly announce the recruitment of respondents, a "snowball" method was used to attract interested parties. Between February and September 2023, researchers visited the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and conducted in-depth interviews with 25 female respondents who belong to the LBTIQ+ WSW group.

In preparation for the study, a safety plan was developed for the respondents, taking into account the risks and threats that may arise as a result of the interviews, and meetings were held in neutral locations that were comfortable and safe from the point of view of the interviewees

Project statistics

Statistics of the project

TYPE OF VIOLENCE	
THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF RESPONDENTS:	
Lesbian	76,2%
Bisexual people	19%
WSW	4,8%
THE GENDER IDENTITY OF FEMALE RESPONDENTS:	
Cisgender	90,9%
Transgender	9,1%

All interviews were anonymous, no personal information was requested.

Table of types of violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ WSWs group due to their SOGIES by family and relatives

TYPE OF VIOLENCE	% OF TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
physical	47,8%
pyschological	81,8%
economic	23,8%
sexual	27,3%
digital	27%
territorial	36,4%

The results of the study show that the interviewed female respondents are always subjected to several types of violence against themselves because of their SOGIE at the same time. Two-thirds of the cases of domestic violence against female respondents were by parents and brothers and/or sisters. Only one-third of the cases were by near and distant relatives.

Most often the situation was facilitated by the disclosure of the respondents' sexual orientation and gender identity, including by third parties, outings, and many other reasons.

"Husband threatened as we have good jointly pressed assets - forced me to give up my share and only then will I get a divorce."

"I was open with my mom, but she wouldn't accept me, yelled and fought me. My Stepfather decided to show what men can do, first beat me, and then in anger or passion raped me. My mom didn't believe me. I left home and dropped out of university."

"My father saw the correspondence with my girlfriend, where it is clearly shown that we are in a relationship with her. After that, he beat me up, despised me, and kept my mom quiet too. After that, he decided to marry me off."

"My brother consumed a large amount of alcohol and started first to shout that he was not satisfied with living with lesbians, and then he started to beat me. He kicked and punched, turned the whole house upside down."

Responses of female respondents in the study.

Two-thirds of respondents did not seek help after psychological, economic, and sexual violence based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIE) by family and relatives. On the other hand, more than 90% of respondents did not seek help after physical, digital, and territorial violence against themselves.

The main motives for respondents to refuse to seek help after domestic violence were fear of disclosing their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIE), fear of possible persecution by the perpetrator, lack of faith in the positive outcome of their case, and distrust in law enforcement agencies due to negative experiences in the past.

BARRIERS TO NOT SEEKING HELP AFTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTIQ+ WSWS BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY	FREQUENCY	%
Fear of prosecution by the perpetrator	4	19%
Distrust of law enforcement, due to negative experiences in the past	4	19%
Distrust of law enforcement, due to negative experiences in the past	2	10%

BARRIERS TO NOT SEEKING HELP AFTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTIQ+ WSWs BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY	FREQUENCY	%
I don't want to waste time and energy on asserting my rights as this process is likely to be very difficult	2	10%
Fear of prosecution by the perpetrator	2	10%
Because of the deep self-stigma	2	5%
Because of religious beliefs	1	5%
Distrust of medical professionals due to negative experiences in the past	1	5%
Mistrust of psychologists, due to negative experiences in the past	1	5%
For fear of prosecution under Article 120	1	5%
Due to fear of repressive laws (Article 113, sex work law, propaganda law)	1	5%
TOTAL:	21	100%

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AMONG LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES BY FAMILY AND RELATIVES.

To gain a deeper understanding of the extent of violence that the LGBTIQ+ community may have experienced at the hands of relatives and/or family, respondents were asked to provide any available information and highlight incidents of domestic violence against LGBTIQ+ people that they were aware of.

The results of the data analysis show that 74.5% of interviewed respondents reported that they were aware of incidents of physical violence against people from the LGBTIQ+ community by their family and/or immediate family members. Of the low almost every second respondent knows between 2 and 5 people who have been physically abused because of their SOGIE.

TABLE ON THE PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGIE BY RELATIVES.

	frequency	Percentage
1 person	13	35,1
2 to 5 people	17	45,9
6 to 10 people	3	8,1
More than 11 people	4	10,8
TOTAL:	37	100

Data analysis found that 76.6% of interviewed respondents witnessed incidents of psychological violence against people from the LGBTIQ+ community by their families and relatives. Categorizing these experiences, more than half of respondents (52.8%) reported 2-5 people experiencing psychological violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity at the hands of relatives.

TABLE ON THE PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGIE BY RELATIVES.

	frequency	Percentage
1 person	10	26,3
2 to 5 people	19	50
6 to 10 people	3	7,9
More than 11 people	6	15,8
TOTAL:	38	100

One third of interviewed respondents have acquaintances who were sexually abused because of their sexual orientation or gender identity by family and relatives. Within this group, 78.6% of respondents claim to be able to name only one person who has suffered sexual violence.

TABLE OF PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGIE BY RELATIVES

	Frequency	Percentage
1 person	12	75
2 to 5 people	2	12,5
More than 11 people	2	12,5
TOTAL:	16	100

The data indicate that more than half (55.6%) of interviewed respondents have acquaintances who have experienced economic violence due to their sexual orientation or gender identity from family and relatives. Within this group, 40% of respondents claim to be able to name only one person who has suffered economic violence, while 44% of respondents named between 2 and 5 acquaintances.

TABLE OF PREVALENCE OF ECONOMIC VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGIE BY RELATIVES		
	Frequency	Percentage
1 person	10	37
2 to 5 people	13	48,1
6 to 10 people	1	3,7
More than 11 people	3	11,1
TOTAL:	27	100

Less than half (42.2%) of interviewed respondents report knowing people who have experienced digital violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity by family and relatives. Within this group, 42.1% of respondents named between 2 and 5 acquaintances who have experienced digital violence.

TABLE OF PREVALENCE OF DIGITAL VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGIE BY RELATIVES		
	Frequency	Percentage
1 person	6	31,6
2 to 5 people	8	42,1
6 to 10 people	2	10,5
More than 11 people	3	15,8
TOTAL:	19	100

More than half (54.5%) of interviewed respondents claim to know people who have been subjected to territorial violence and restricted social contacts because of their sexual orientation or gender identity by family and relatives.

TABLE OF PREVALENCE OF CASES OF TERRITORIAL VIOLENCE KNOWN TO RESPONDENTS AMONG LGBTIQ+ PERSONS DUE TO THEIR SOGI BY RELATIVES

	Frequency	Percentage
1 person	17	63
2 to 5 people	7	25,9
More than 11 people	3	11,1
TOTAL:	27	100

The analysis of data on the prevalence of violence perpetrated against members of the LGBTIQ+ community by their families and relatives revealed systematic problems faced by members of the LGBTIQ+ group. Despite the limitations of the data provided, the findings become important in the context of understanding the extent of violence in this sociocultural setting. Importantly, these findings hold significant potential for shaping strategies to counter violence and make positive changes in the lives of LGBTIQ+ people.

The findings indicate that there is an urgent need for systemic change in various areas, including legislation, education, and public opinion, to create a safe and inclusive space for LGBTIQ+ citizens in Uzbekistan.

CONCLUSION.

This study provides a unique perspective on violence and violations of the rights of LGBTIQ+ citizens in Uzbekistan by family and relatives. Issues concerning forms of violent practices against gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender persons are complex and disturbing.

It must be emphasized that the primary purpose of our study was not to provide a comparative analysis of the level of violence within the LGBTIQ+ community. We oppose this comparative analysis, calling for a comprehensive response to the issues of domestic violence against all members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

The survey data is imbued with a sense of hopelessness; living in a brutally patriarchal society, devoid of rules and with laws directed against this group, leaves a deep mark on the physical, social, and psychological state of members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Respondents highlight an urgent need for psychological (100%), legal (75%), and medical (40%) support, and help in finding safe places (60%). At the same time, LGBTIQ+ people avoid seeking help from law enforcement, and medical and social authorities for fear of worsening their situation.

According to the results of the study, gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender persons in Uzbekistan face various forms of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, territorial, and digital violence from family members. This happens regardless of age, social status, and level of education, predominantly on the part of men (fathers, brothers, uncles).

Based on the data collected and analyzed, the researchers have developed specific recommendations to counteract violence against the LGBTIQ+ community by their families and relatives. These recommendations represent a systematic approach to improving the situation and protecting the rights of this group.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Taking into account the criminalization of consensual homosexual contact between adult men and the perception of these attitudes in society as a ban on the LGBTIQ+ community as a whole, having analyzed the barriers to accessing services in connection with violence due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity, having studied the factors affecting motivation to assert their violated rights and freedoms, as well as the experience of surviving violence by members of the LGBTIQ+ community, the team of researchers developed several recommendations that they believe will lead to improvements in the fight against violence against LGBTIQ+ people.

1. Abolition of Article 120 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan or introduction of a de jure and de facto moratorium on the use of this article:

- Under international standards.

2. Protection from discrimination:

- Introduction of legislation on protection against discrimination under SOGIE.

3. Criminalization of domestic violence:

- Expansion of the law criminalizing domestic violence to include the SOGIE attributes.

4. Access to assistance:

- Free medical, legal, and psychological assistance, by state structures taking into account their sexual orientation and gender identity.

5. Social support:

- Legislation on social protection for victims of domestic violence based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

6. Hate Crime:

- Introduction of the concept of "hate crime" in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the addition of SOGIE as a feature of hate crime.

7. Social measures:

- State measures against domestic violence against LGBTIQ+ people.

8. Freedom of NGOs and activists:

- Guaranteeing freedom of activity for NGOs and activists.

9. Opposition to hate speech:

- Prohibiting the use of discriminatory language.

10. International obligations:

- Implement the recommendations of the HRC, CAT, CEDAW, and CESCR, which includes SOGIE, according to the commitment of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the international arena.