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## 1. Introduction

In 2013 the Lithuanian Gay League (LGL), a national non-profit, non-governmental organization which advocates for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Lithuania, with support of the regional subdivision of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) ILGA-Europe, implemented a project “Documentation of homophobic and transphobic violence in Lithuania”. During the project, victims of hate crimes committed on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as those, who had any relevant information about such crimes, were asked to fill in a report form on LGL’s official website ([www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)) anonymously. The provided information was intended to help better understand the difficulties members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community were facing, as well as society’s and law enforcement’s response to hate crimes committed on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The main challenges taken into consideration when implementing the project were society's negative attitude towards the LGBTI community and extremely low reporting rates of hate crimes. According to the survey, conducted by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), 61% of the Lithuanian LGBT community claim they suffer from discrimination or harassment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. According to the survey, this is the highest rate of hostility towards the local LGBT community among all 28 EU Member States.<sup>1</sup> Based on the same survey, only every tenth person reports such crimes to the appropriate authorities.<sup>2</sup> One of the most commonly reported reasons for not reporting these crimes to the authorities is reluctance to disclose one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This is obviously caused by the deeply-rooted homophobic, transphobic and biphobic attitudes in the society. A similar tendency can be noticed in the reports submitted by the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson’s Office in 2012. According to the annual report of the same year, complaints referring to discrimination based on sexual orientation accounted for as little as 1 percent of all the complaints. Only 2 such complaints were received by the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson’s Office in 2012, one of them was submitted by a private person and the other by LGL.<sup>3</sup>

To take into account the above-mentioned risk factors, first of all the anonymity was ensured. People were encouraged to share information on hate crimes using online articles and banners on websites such as [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt), [www.atviri.lt](http://www.atviri.lt) and [www.gayline.lt](http://www.gayline.lt). Various leaflets and flyers providing

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<sup>1</sup> EU LGBT survey - European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey: results at a glance. European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights, 2013. P. 15.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.* P. 20.

<sup>3</sup>The Equal Opportunities Ombudsman's Office Report. 2012.

<http://www.lygybe.lt/download/92/lgkt%20ataskaita%202012%20aktuali.docx>

information were distributed during the events such as Baltic Pride 2013, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO), events held by the National Equality and Diversity Forum etc.

The aims of the project were to seek improvements to the 'Recommendations on the Conduct of Pre-Trial Investigations of Hate Crimes adopted by the Prosecution Service in 2009 (specifically inclusion of the gender identity ground and regulations on the treatment of victims and witnesses); to promote cooperation between non-governmental organizations, the Police and the Prosecution Office in order to increase the accessibility of data on the extent of hate crimes committed in Lithuania; and to encourage victims of hate crimes and those who have information about these crimes to officially report them to law enforcement institutions. The long-term goals are the inclusion of gender identity as one of the grounds of hate crimes in the Lithuanian Penal Code, and the preparation of a methodology which would provide guidelines as to how to deal with hate crime victims and witnesses.

The target group of the project consisted of people who identify themselves as LGBTI, victims of associative (when the victim is related to the LGBTI community) and perceptive (cases when a person is wrongly attributed certain characteristics) discrimination and witnesses of hate crimes. The duration of the project was from March to November 2013.

## 2. Hate crimes in Lithuania

The Recommendations on the Conduct of Pre-Trial Investigations of Hate Crimes, adopted by the Prosecution Service in 2009, define hate crimes as all forms of criminal activity against persons, society or property, committed out of prejudices, stereotypes and negative attitudes towards someone's race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, social status, disability, beliefs or opinions.<sup>4</sup> Hate crimes are not only about inciting hatred towards a particular group of people or individual persons as defined by the Criminal Law. Hate crimes also include psychological and physical abuse, and various sorts and acts of vandalism, directed towards community centres, gathering places etc.<sup>5</sup>

The recommendations point out that hate crimes differ from other forms of criminal activities in their influence and consequences (both corporeal and incorporeal) for the victims and particular groups of persons or individuals, belonging to those groups. Hate crimes are extremely harmful, influential not only physically or materially but mostly morally, and have a huge impact on the further development of one's individuality. Such criminal activities are aimed at personal characteristics that are an important part of individual identity. Freedom and dignity, which are the main values of a democratic society, are denied by such crimes. Hate pot-shots are often exceptionally offensive, violent and pushy. They also have a negative impact not only on public order and public security, but also forms (general) negative attitudes towards certain groups of people or their members. They can also instigate revenge outbreaks, mass disturbances which are definitely detrimental for the peaceful society and its members.<sup>6</sup>

Analysing the given definition of a hate crime, it is very important to note that, in order to qualify particular criminal activity as a hate crime, it is enough for the perpetrator to attribute certain characteristics to a victim. There is no difference if the motive of the hate crime has a factual base or not. In addition, it is also very important to understand, that the victim is not always able to recognize the hate motive, and therefore the individual's subjective estimation of a particular situation is not a major factor for classification.

It is also important to note that the recommendations provide a complete list of grounds of hate crimes, which do not include gender identity.

In Lithuania, responsibility for hate crimes is defined in the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania.<sup>7</sup> Article 60 (aggravating circumstances), part 1, paragraph 12 determines that a crime is

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<sup>4</sup> Recommendations on the Conduct of Pre-Trial Investigations of Hate Crimes, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> <<http://www.prokuraturos.lt/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Kr5pGEIdIAH0=&tabid=166>>. P. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. P. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. P. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, "Valstybės žinios" (Official Gazette): 2000-10-25 No.89-2741

committed under aggravating circumstances if the act is done in order to express hatred for a group of persons or an individual based on age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, religion or beliefs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the same article states that the court imposing the penalty does not consider such grounds as aggravating circumstances, if those grounds are a constituent feature of the offence. For instance the court, imposing the penalty, would not take into account the above mentioned aggravating circumstance for activities described in Article 170 of the Penal Code. Criminal liability is provided for every person, who:

- Intentionally produced, purchased, transferred, transported or kept items which express despise, initiate hatred towards or incite to discriminate a particular group of people or individual members of that group;
- Was publically despising, promoting hatred towards or initiating discrimination of a particular group of people or individual members of that group;
- Publically initiated to commit acts of violence towards a particular group of people or individual members of that group.

Since hate crimes have motives which are identified as constituent elements, the court, imposing the penalty, would not refer to Article 60, part 1, paragraph 12 of the Criminal Code. Other similar norms are as follows: Article 129 (homicide), part 2, paragraph 13; Article 135 (severe health impairment), part 2, paragraph 13; Article 138 (non-severe health impairment), part 2, paragraph 13 as well as Article 169 (discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, origin, religion or other group affiliation) and Article 170<sup>1</sup> (creation and functioning of groups that are intended to discriminate other groups of people), part 1.

It is noted that none of the national legislation prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.<sup>8</sup> However, Lithuania is committed to transposing Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council to its national legislation by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The Directive states that the violence directed at someone because of their sex or gender identity is seen as gender-based violence.

It is also important to note that definitions of hate crimes differ. As already mentioned, hate crimes in Lithuania are defined as all forms of criminal activity against society, ownership of asset as well as groundless discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, social status, disability, etc. Meanwhile, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

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<sup>8</sup> Monitoring Implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity: Documentation report. Lithuanian Gay League, 2013. P. 13.

(ODIHR) do not see incitement of hatred as hate crime.<sup>9</sup> The organizations maintain the position that a hate crime is composed of two main elements: 1) an unlawful act and 2) a motive of hate. OSCE states that in the case of hate speech, without the hate motive there's only the language element which itself is not recognized as a criminal offense. On the other hand, in the organization's view, inciting physical violence on people attributed with certain characteristics is a hate crime.<sup>10</sup>

For the purposes of this report, incidents are qualified based on the ODIHR methods, dividing them into groups of hate crimes and other hate-motivated incidents against LGBTI people.

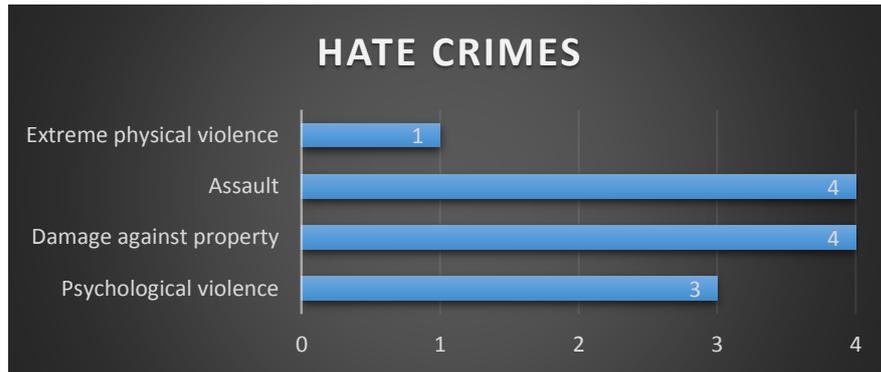
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<sup>9</sup> OSCE ODIHR „Hate crimes Laws Practical Guide“, 2009. <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/36426>> P. 25.

<sup>10</sup> Hate Speech in Lithuania: Frequently Asked Questions. Informational Guide. Human Rights Monitoring Institute, 2013. P. 25.

### 3. General statistics

During the project, 43 fully completed forms were received. 3 of them were identified as false. 24 of them were submitted by victims, and 19 by witnesses. 12 of them were identified as hate crimes that occurred during January-November 2013. There was one case of extreme physical violence, four cases of assault, four cases of damage against property and three cases of psychological violence recorded.



Men were victims in seven of the claimed cases, women in two, and a transgender in one. One organization advocating for LGBTI rights also filled a form. One company that cooperated with LGBTI organizations has also suffered from hate crimes.

One heterosexual, two bisexual, and seven homosexual persons were among the victims. The age of the victims varied from 13 to 50 years (average age was 26 years).

One of the incidents occurred at school, one in a home environment, two incidents in the workplace, one in an online space and seven in public spaces.

In three of the cases the victims sought medical assistance, and five needed psychological help. In two cases the victims contacted a psychologist, one victim contacted a support line, and two victims sought help from close friends. However, only five out of twelve cases were reported to the law enforcement authorities.

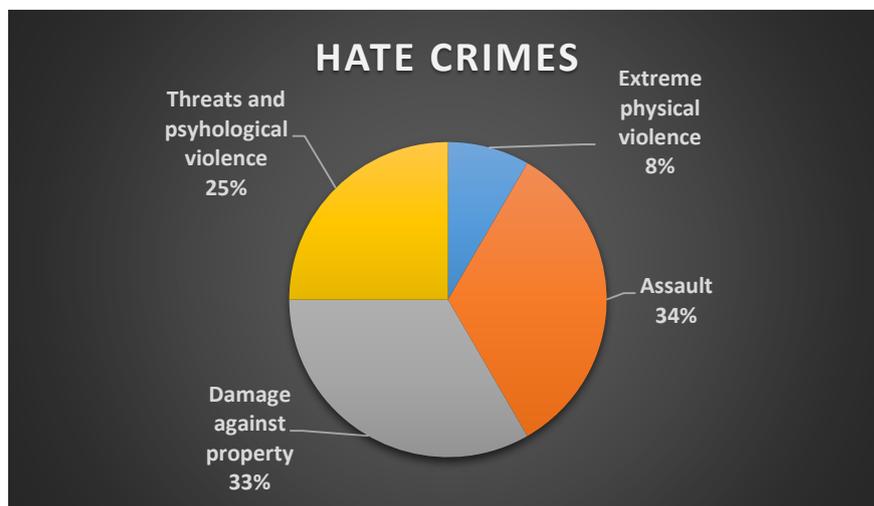
In seven cases the report was filed by the victim, in five - by the witnesses or others who had any relevant information.

## 4. Hate crimes

This group contains actions that are considered as crimes according to the national law in most European Union countries. These crimes are classified as follows: homicide, extreme physical violence, assault, damage against property, threats and psychological violence. Not all of these categories are mentioned in the report, since not all of them were reported in the survey.

It is worth noting that extreme physical violence includes sexual assault or any other attack that potentially can cause serious physical harm. Any physical attack, which does not pose a threat to life and is not serious is considered an assault. Threats and psychological violence include clear and specific threats, stalking, blackmailing, bullying, defamation and other related incidents.

As it was already mentioned, twelve cases of hate crimes were recorded during 2013: one case of rape, four assault cases, four cases of property damage and three cases of psychological violence.



### 4.1. Extreme physical violence

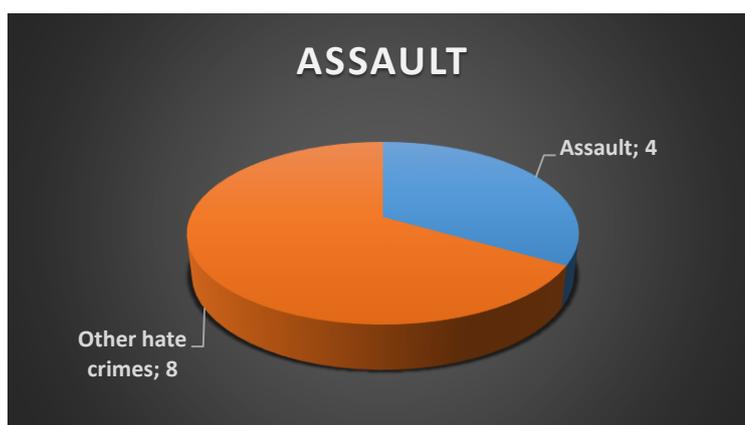
In the research on hate crimes against LGBTI persons in Lithuania, one case of extreme physical violence was identified. The injured person is a 29 year-old man, who is open about his sexual orientation. The survey questionnaire indicated that the victim was assaulted and raped by three colleagues after work. It is mentioned in the questionnaire that this was done in order to express hatred towards the victim's sexual orientation and ethnicity. Since the mentioned person is open about his sexual identity, it can be assumed that the perpetrators knew this fact in advance. This was evident from the fact that the victim was verbally abused and the verbal abuse referred to his sexual orientation. In addition, the perpetrators clearly identified the nationality of the victim. This suggests that the act has also been done in order to express hatred towards a particular ethnicity.

It should be noted that the victim did not report the crime to the police due to the reason that he and the perpetrators are work-related. Subordination or dependency at work can cause fear,

and unwillingness to report a crime is often linked to work-related consequences, such as a negative work environment, sometimes even redundancy. These circumstances also contribute to the existing problem of low rates of reported hate crimes and other hate motivated incidents.

## 4.2. Assault

Physical violence against LGBTI persons accounted for one third of all the data collected in the research on hate crimes. Four cases of physical violence have been identified towards 3 homosexual men and one lesbian woman. The age of the victims varied from 15 to 29.



One of the incidents was based on the individual's activities concerning LGBTI rights. A young woman became a victim of two men, who were black-clothed, wearing militaristic style shoes, and hiding their faces under hoods. She was grabbed by the neck, hit on the head and solar plexus, her face was smeared with makeup, and offensive vocabulary was used. Not only did the victim experience physical injuries, she also got nerve tremors and fear. The police was not informed about the incident, because the victim did not think the criminals could be identified. The victim reported the incident only to the local organization representing LGBTI rights.

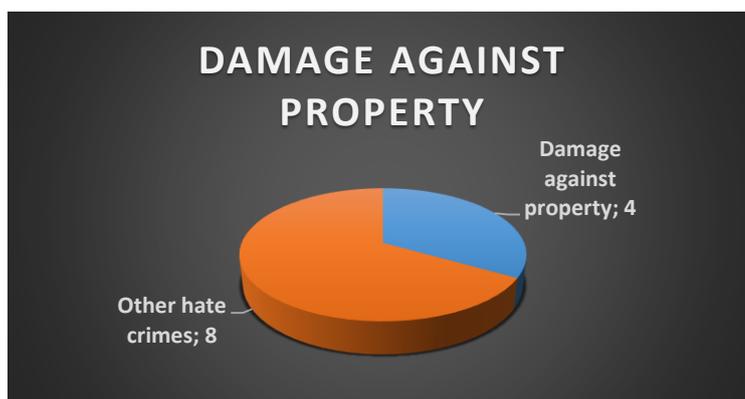
Another reported crime took place just after the Baltic Pride march "For Equality", on 27 July 2013 in Vilnius. In one of the capital city districts, a 25-year-old man was attacked by a group of around 6 to 8 people. At first, the victim was verbally threatened, and then physical violence, such as throwing stones and beating, was used. The questionnaire states that the victim is open about his sexual orientation with his family and friends; he can often be seen at places popular with LGBTI community members. From the given data it can be concluded that the victim could have been identified as a member of the LGBTI community because of his appearance. It should be noted that the crime was reported to the police, but, according to the police officers, there were no reason of writing a protocol. Most importantly, the police officers' reaction to the circumstances was scornful. Also, the people who witnessed the crime did nothing to help the victim. Sadly, public indifference and ignorance is a huge problem in society, which can cause serious consequences. Public condemnation of hate crimes could be one of the tools to fight this issue.

Ruslanas Kirilkinas, who is a well-known Lithuanian singer, has also suffered from hate crime. During a concert in Aukštadvaris on the 24th of February, a man came swearing and threw two eggs at the artist. During this incident, the singer's left temple and upper lip of the left cheek were contused. The artist was taken to the local hospital and later discharged for treatment at home. A preliminary inquiry was initiated on the incident. Such hate crimes intimidate and humiliate not only individual persons, but also the entire LGBTI community. In this case, the crime was carried out in a public space, where many people were able to see it. Since the media talked about the crime, the assumption can be made that it also causes negative public feeling towards LGBTI people. Fortunately, not all the witnesses remained passive, and some of them became urged to call the police and were agitated and irritated by the incident.

One more case is characterized by the fact that the assault took place in the home environment. This time the injured person is a 22-years-old, who also does not hide his sexual orientation from his family. The victim suffered abuse from his elder brother, who under the influence of alcohol, expressed insults, threats and used physical violence against the victim and other family members. A homophobic motive might be indicated by the verbal aggression, which insulted LGBTI community members. It should be noted that the victim does not hide his sexual orientation and has close contact with another person of the same gender. The victim sought psychological counselling online and reported the crime to the police. However, a pre-trial investigation had not been initiated.

### 4.3. Damage against property

Together with physical violence, destruction or damage of property or drawings are some of the most frequent types of hate crime, representing two-thirds of all recorded cases. Four cases of destruction or damage of property were identified during the research; three of them were directly related to the activities of LGL and LGBTI communities. In two of the cases, the victims of the crime were organizations advocating for LGBTI rights. In the rest of the cases, the victims were private persons. In the last two cases, the victims were a man (about 50 years old) and an under-aged girl identifying herself as transgender.



One of the incidents is associated with the poster campaign carried out by LGL and the international non-governmental human rights organization Amnesty International in Vilnius. Posters with a heart shaped rainbow saying "It's a human right" were placed in around forty public places in Vilnius. The very next morning four of the posters were covered in black graffiti. Finally it was discovered that nearly half of the posters were damaged in only one day. Drawings mostly consisted of inappropriate language aimed at LGBTI community members and/or persons fighting for equal rights. Obscene drawings were also found. Similar incidents kept repeating throughout the period during which posters were displayed in public. Some prints depicting anal sexual intercourse of two same gender persons were found glued to the posters. These pictures were inside a red circle crossed by a red line, representing opposition to homosexuals. The company responsible for producing the posters was informed about the incidents, and cleaning of the displays was initiated. There is no data on whether the company informed the authorities about these incidents.

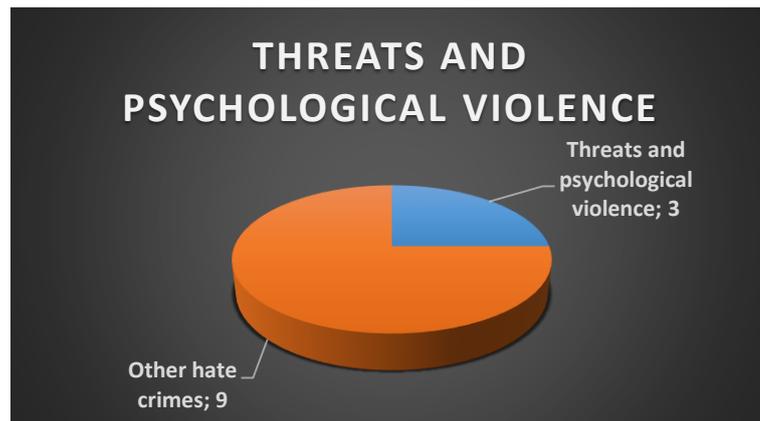
The other two cases of damage or destruction of property are also related to LGBTI rights activities. In the first case, the person was marching in the Baltic Pride 2013 march "For Equality" when someone threw eggs at him. Because of this attack, the person's suit was spoiled. Another incident occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September before a protest at the Russian embassy. The LGBTI activists were attacked while walking to the embassy by an under-aged person. This person used a knife to cut the rainbow flag carried by one of the activists. None of these incidents were reported to the police. The latter incident was reported to a local journalist. The incident was briefly reported in the media.

The last incident, recording damage against property happened in an educational institution. The questionnaire states that a 13-year-old girl suffered from verbal abuse and her property was damaged or destroyed. This might have been caused because of the victim's appearance, which possibly did not meet socially constructed feminine behaviour or appearance standards. The exact number of offenders and their ages are not identified, but it might be assumed that the offenders were older or about the same age as the victim. The accident had an impact on victim's personal and social life, and it also affected her learning conditions and atmosphere. The girl did not seek for professional psychological help, and the police was not informed.

It should be emphasized that hate crimes affect not only particular groups of people, but are also targeted against any kind of public information related to LGBTI issues. Sadly, homo-, bi- or transphobic views are often targeted towards the entire LGBTI community. Even social tolerance-promoting campaigns are met with extreme hostility.

#### 4.4. Threats and psychological violence

Among all the hate crimes, the study reports some cases that can be classified as psychological violence. Psychological violence consists of clearly expressed and realistic threats, personal stalking, unwanted calls, letters or messages, defamation, disclosure of personal details, blackmailing, bullying, etc. Three cases of psychological violence have been identified. A homosexual woman, a homosexual man and a bisexual man were affected by this kind of hate crimes. The age of the victims varied from 25 to 28.



The first crime involved releasing details of an individual's private life in an online space. The victim is a 25-years-old lesbian woman, who regularly participates in events and places popular among the LGBTI community. The woman is open about her orientation only with her friends and LGBTI community members. According to the witness, the victim was stalked on the internet, and information about her participation in an LBT women's camp and a video about it was put online and anonymously sent to her employer in order to reveal the details of the victim's personal life. Later, the victim's personal information and photos from various LGBTI events were put on an online dating site, of course, without the victim's knowledge or permission. There's no information about the perpetrator(s) because the witness does not have this information. The victim was urged by the witnesses to contact the police and to report to the incidents to LGBTI rights organizations. The psychological effects of the incident were fear and stress. The victim did not seek for professional psychological support. Support was sought among friends. The victim reported the first incident (distribution of the video) to the police. The second incident (the creation of an online dating profile) was not reported. There is no information available about the police's response to this incident.

The other two cases are related to the bullying of LGBTI community members. In one of the cases, a bisexual 27-year-old man, who hides his sexual orientation, has been bullied at his work (civil service) for a year. According to the man, rumours about his sexual orientation were spread around, he suffered massive bullying, received anonymous letters and messages, was profaned

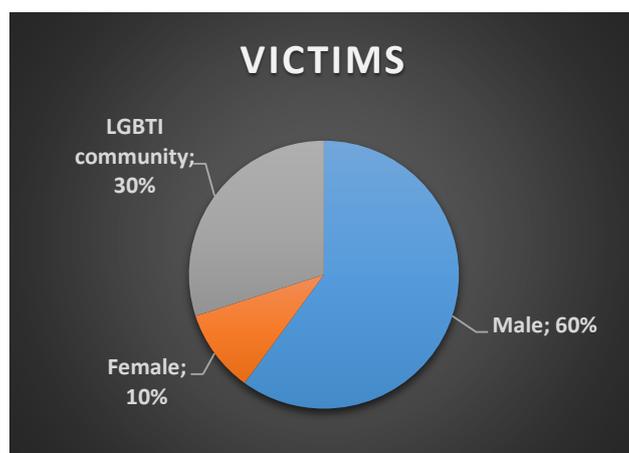
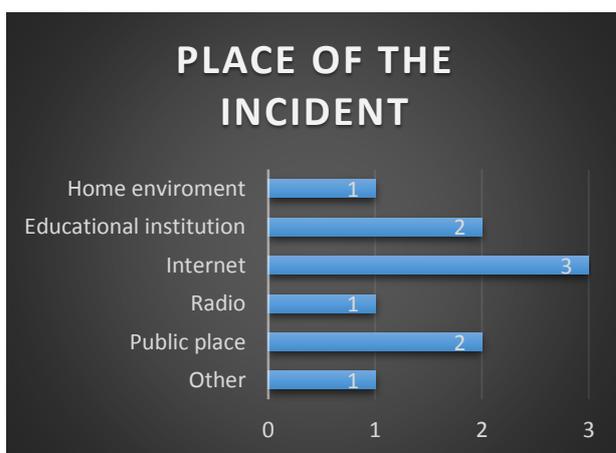
and purposely ignored. It should be noted that the victim tried to commit suicide and therefore sought professional help. The police was not informed due to a lack of hope of getting actual help.

The second case refers to regular bullying continuing for several years in the person's living area. A 28-year-old gay man reported that certain individuals have constantly insulted and threatened him. Due to the psychological effects, the victim sought professional psychological help, but does not believe that it was helpful. The victim reported the crime to the police officers, but their attitude towards the incident was described as indifferent. A pre-trial investigation has not been launched.

## 5. Other hate-motivated incidents against LGBTI people

10 cases of hate-motivated incidents against LGBTI people were recorded during the research. This category includes despising behavior, publicly or privately expressed hate speech directed against both a specific individual and the entire LGBTI community as well as offensive musical pieces, literature and manifestations of discrimination. Differently from threats and psychological violence, despising behavior in this report is considered behavior which does not meet the earlier mentioned criteria of clarity and specificity.

In all the cases, members of the LGBTI community suffered from verbal aggression (hate speech). Three of the cases were reported by the victims themselves; the rest were reported by witnesses and other persons who had information about the particular incident. Two of the incidents took place at an educational institution, one in a home environment, one on radio, three in an online space and two in public places. In one of the cases the offense was carried out by sending anonymous messages on a cell phone. Six men, one woman and the LGBTI community were victims. One of the victims sought psychological help. None of the cases were referred to the law enforcement authorities.



One of the examples that could be an incident, took place on the radio station ZIP FM on 19 June 2013. During a radio show, the audience was asked whether homosexuals should openly talk about their sexual orientation, or, in contrast, hide it. One of the listeners claimed that all the the homosexuals should be despised and set on fire. According to the witness, the speech was quite long and could be heard by many people, since the show is popular with young people and is broadcasted both on radio and the internet. Later, three more people called the radio show expressing their negative opinion about homosexuals.

During the research, LGL also monitored the web space and recorded comments made against LGBTI people. Several notifications of comments, possibly violating the Lithuanian Penal Code were sent to the General Prosecutor's Office.

It is noted that most of the cases promoting hatred towards the LGBTI community occur on the internet. More than 90% of all the acts of hostility are presented via comments in various online publications, internet forums, social networks etc.<sup>11</sup> This allows to reach a wide circle of persons.

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<sup>11</sup> Human Rights Monitoring Institute, *supra note* 10, p. 7

## 6. The reaction of police and other law enforcement authorities

As it was mentioned before, less than half of the victims, witnesses, etc. of hate motivated crimes or incidents, reported to the Law enforcement authorities. Only five out of twelve cases were reported to the police.



The reasons of not reporting are a lack of hope of getting actual help and fear that it can negatively affect personal life or relationships at work. Based on witnesses' testimonies, the reaction of the police to the situation was often noncommittal, not serious, sometimes even mocking. An appropriate law enforcement response was identified only once. No evidence was received that such incidents were classified as hate crimes. It is known that a pre-trial investigation was started once.

Reasons for not reporting	Frequency of occurrence
Lack of hope of getting actual help	2
Negative effect on personal life	1
Negative effect on working relationship	1
Other / Not specified	2

As it was already mentioned, LGL sent several reports to the General Prosecutor Office regarding various comments on the internet possibly violating LGBTI community members' rights, inciting hatred and physical violence. LGL has received eleven reports on the termination of pre-trial investigations, due to the impossibility to identify person(s) who have committed the criminal offence. Two reports of refusal to initiate the pre-trial investigation were received stating that no elements of a crime were found. Also, two preliminary investigations have been terminated. In one

case, a private prosecution procedure was required, and in the other not enough evidence that could prove the guilt of a person was collected.

It should be noted that in one case, a refusal to initiate an investigation was appealed to the Court. According to the Kaunas district prosecutor's office, comments, encouraging to castrate and beat up members of the LGBTI community cannot be considered an act of crime or misdemeanour, as it only constitutes an opinion expressed because of LGL's "obviously hostile and assertive position" regarding the Vilnius city municipality administration's decision to prevent the LGBTI community from exercising their right to peaceful assembly. According to the institution, such statements are just a "natural civil position" and every citizen has the right to express their opinion freely. Fortunately, the court stated that the important thing is the content of the comment and not the situation or information presented in the article. LGL's complaint was upheld. It was noted that those comments were directed specifically against the LGBTI community, and the Kaunas district prosecutor's decision was reversed.

Attention can also be drawn to the Marijampolė district prosecutor's decision to terminate an investigation because of one internet comment. The computer from which the comment was written was found according to the IP address, but it was still not enough to start the judicial process. The interviewed person stated that he lives in an apartment with his wife; there is one computer at his home from which the comment was possibly written. The person stated that no one else uses the computer. It was revealed that during the time when the comment was written, the interviewed person's wife was at work. It was stated that the man "most likely" wrote the comment, but since he claimed that he does not remember if he ever read the article and "surely did not write any hateful comments", the pre-trial investigation was suspended because of the lack of evidence that could prove his guilt. LGL appealed the decision, but the complaint was not upheld.

The mentioned examples show that there is a serious problem in dealing with online hate speech incidents. This situation contributes a lot to the fact that only a very small number of victims are likely to report offenses committed towards LGBTI persons. It is not only the attitude of the society, but the failure of the law enforcement officials to act in response to situations that cause this problem. It's important to keep in mind that one of the most frequently mentioned reasons for not reporting to the authorities is the lack of hope that this will resolve the situation in any way.

## **7. Conclusion and recommendations**

Information about hate crimes and other similar incidents during January to November of 2013 shows that negative provisions and stereotypes concerning LGBTI persons are still relevant in Lithuania. It is noted that the number of hate-motivated crimes grows especially during public events and social campaigns related to the LGBTI community and its legal problems.

A major concern is that only a few of the victims or persons having relevant information about incidents report them to law enforcement authorities. It is worth mentioning that such behaviour is influenced not only by the fear that it will affect the victim's personal life or work relations, but also by the fact that people often do not even expect to receive appropriate help. Even if they do apply to the law enforcement authorities, victims describe the police's behaviour as careless and sometimes mocking in particular cases.

Special attention should be paid to the disdainful statements towards LGBTI persons online. As it was already mentioned, more than 90% of all the hate-motivated offences are recorded in social networks, online forums and in the comments of online publications. However, as LGL has been recording and informing the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Lithuania about the above-mentioned incidents, it was found that a big part of the offenders remain unpunished simply because they are "hard to identify". In some cases, extra steps have to be taken in order to prove that particular criminal activity meets the norms of the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania. These aspects mentioned in the report show that the field requires specific measures to stop the hatred addressed to the LGBTI community members. This can be assured only by using applicable and, most importantly, effective measures.

Measures, which can possibly contribute to a positive change, are as follows: collaboration with non-governmental associations seeking to protect human rights as well as targeted training for law enforcement officials in the field of hate-motivated crimes and others incidents. With the help of dialogue and trainings, it should be clearly defined what acts constitute hate crimes and other similar incidents, as well as how victims and witnessed should be treated in order to provide appropriate legal and psychological help.