

Safety

All LGBTI people have the right to live in dignity. Part of that means that wherever they are, their physical and emotional safety is fully and effectively protected.

[Safety](#)

For more information, contact: [Rustam, Senior Advocacy Officer](#)

When we talk about safety for LGBTI people, we mean ensuring that they're fully protected from a range of threats to their wellbeing.

These include bias-motivated speech (both online and offline), bias-motivated violence and gender-based violence. Besides, safety also means that LGBTI victims of crime or violence receive adequate support – and that LGBTI people in asylum are never left behind.



Photo by Alexandra Perzynska

Photo by Alexandra Perzynska

Here is how we work with each of these focus areas:

1. [Bias-motivated speech](#)
2. [Bias-motivated violence](#)
3. [Gender-based violence](#)
4. [Asylum](#)
5. [Police and law enforcement](#)

Bias-motivated speech

At ILGA-Europe, we work to ensure that LGBTI people are protected from bias-motivated speech and anti-LGBTI speech based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) – both offline and online. At the same time, striking a balance with freedom of speech and expression is critical.

Specifically, we work against bias-motivated speech by advancing protections against it in national, regional and international standards. Moreover, we strengthen legal and non-legal measures at national, regional and international levels that will help us combat anti-LGBTI hate speech and disinformation.

Another part of our work has to do with raising awareness. We work to inform different stakeholders about bias-motivated speech or its specific elements – like protection gaps, LGBTI-specific challenges, underreporting and failures to investigate incidents.

Besides, ILGA-Europe works with strategic litigation, provides support to our members and networks with other civil society organisations working on the issue – like European Digital Rights ([EDRi](#)), [Access Now](#), European Network Against Racism ([ENAR](#)) and the European Disability Forum ([EDF](#)).

Bias-motivated violence

At ILGA-Europe, we work towards fully protecting LGBTI people from bias-motivated violence – and to ensure that LGBTI victims receive the support they need without discrimination. We do this in a number of ways.

First of all, we work to strengthen legal and non-legal measures at national, regional and international levels to combat violence against LGBTI people that's motivated by bias. People with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) need to be fully included in all laws protecting against hate and providing safety and support for victims.

We also strive to ensure that different stakeholders are aware of the issue and its specific elements – like the underreporting of crimes against LGBTI people, the lack of specialised support services for LGBTI victims and discrimination in criminal justice. Implementation guidelines and trainings, both for police forces and for the judiciary are key in tackling underreporting.

Last but not least, we work with strategic litigation, support our members across our region and work with other like-minded civil society organisations – like the European Network Against Racism ([ENAR](#)), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ([PICUM](#)), Victim Support Europe ([VSE](#)) and others.

Gender-based violence

It is crucial to understand that LGBTI people are at great risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence. The reason? LGBTI people are often seen as transgressing societal norms of gender and gender expression – especially in contexts where binary gender stereotypes are the rule and norm. Also, especially young LGBTI people can face hostility and violence in family settings, but to non-acceptance of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

As a result, addressing gender stereotypes and gender-based violence goes hand-in-hand with focusing on the intersections between gender and SOGIESC. Only then can we address all the implications and impacts of harmful norms – and draw out their root causes.

At ILGA-Europe, we strive to ensure that all forms of GBV and domestic violence against LGBTI people are recognised and addressed by all stakeholders at all levels. We do this in a number of ways.

First, we work to help members, stakeholders and decision-makers understand how GBV and domestic violence also affect LGBTI people and how laws and policies need to be inclusive of SOGIESC. We work to ensure that LGBTI people are protected from all forms of GBV in national, regional and international standards.

Last but not least, we support our members and network with other civil society organisations working against GBV and domestic violence.

Asylum

LGBTI asylum seekers in the region deserve safety and fair treatment. At ILGA-Europe, we particularly focus on making this a reality. Specifically, we work to advance protection for LGBTI asylum seekers in the EU and ensure they're treated fairly on national, regional and international levels. We also strive to strengthen legal and non-legal measures to combat discrimination against LGBTI asylum in host countries.

Besides, we work to raise awareness amongst different stakeholders about SOGIESC asylum. Last but not least, we strategically litigate to advance protection for asylum seekers, support our members and network with other civil society organisations working on the issue.

It's important to note that we do NOT support individual asylum applications. We do not have the resources and expertise to work on individual cases and emergencies: assisting individual asylum seekers requires a deep knowledge of national asylum law, which varies greatly from country to country.

- Join our SOGIESC Asylum Mailing List to discuss strategies, share relevant developments, materials and good practices, and to connect those working on issues around sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristic (SOGIESC) in the context of international protection in Europe.

[Join Here](#)

Police and law enforcement

Our work with police and law enforcement is focused on ensuring that, as the front line of the criminal justice system and the first point of contact for many LGBTI people, they are aware of the particular challenges the LGBTI community faces. That way, police and law enforcement can effectively identify and investigate crimes without prejudice; in particular, hate crimes against LGBTI people.

Specifically, ILGA-Europe collaborates with The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training ([CEPOL](#)), the Fundamental Rights Agency ([ERA](#)) and the High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime. We also work to raise awareness around the relationship between policing and LGBTI people – covering issues like structural discrimination and underreporting.

We also strategically litigate to change police and law enforcement practices, support our members and network with other civil society organisations working with police and law enforcement.



Subscribe for more info on this topic

LAW / POLICY PAPERS / REPORTS

Policy Paper

07.09.2021

Policy Briefing on LGBTI Refugees and EU asylum legislation

LGBTI asylum seekers are often at risk of additional danger because of their SOGIESC during their journey and upon arrival in the country where they [...]

[read more](#)

Policy Paper

01.12.2016

Protecting the rights of LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees in the reform of the Common European Asylum System

With this briefing, ILGA Europe sets out how to ensure that the proposed EU directives and regulations will protect the rights of LGBTI asylum seekers, [...]

[read more](#)

Report

05.09.2014

Good practices related to LGBTI asylum applicants in Europe

The Fleeing Homophobia research, a study on policy and practice in 25 European countries, showed huge diversity in the handling of LGBTI asylum claims in [...]

[read more](#)

Report

05.09.2014

Laying the grounds for LGBTI sensitive asylum decision-making in Europe

Transposition of the Recast Asylum Procedure Directives and of the Recast Reception Conditions Directive Directives 2013/32/EU (the recast “Procedures Directive”) and 2013/33/EU (the recast “Reception [...]

[read more](#)

Report

05.12.2013

Guidelines for transposition EU Crime Victims’ Directive and homophobic/transphobic hate crimes

In 2012, the EU adopted a Directive on the position of crime victims in criminal proceedings (Directive 2012/29, OJ 2012 L315/57; the ‘2012 Directive’), replacing [...]

[read more](#)

Report

05.06.2012

Guidelines: transposition of the Asylum Qualification Directive

In 2011, the European Union adopted the recast Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) setting out rules governing minimum standards on conditions under which international protection is granted [...]

[read more](#)



Report

05.10.2011

Toolkit for training police officers on tackling LGBTI-phobic crime

This publication is about how to devise and implement training for police forces better to tackle LGBTI-phobic hate crime.

[read more](#)



Report

05.04.2011

The legal grounds for inclusive EU legislation against bias violence and hatred

This publication is about research on legal grounds and political arguments on hate crimes in the European Union.

[read more](#)

Report

05.09.2010

Cooperation between police forces and LGBT organisations in Europe

Joining forces to combat homophobic and transphobic hate crime This publication is the result of a research conducted in 2009-2010, in the frame of a [...]

[read more](#)

Report

05.06.2008

Handbook : monitoring and reporting homophobic and transphobic incidents

This handbook is designed for LGBT and human rights organisations who intend to monitor the occurrence of homophobic and transphobic incidents and violence in order [...]

[read more](#)

See also



Blog

25.02.2022

Anti-LGBTI attacks in your country: Our A-to-Z of hate-crime across Europe and Central Asia

In ILGA-Europe's latest Annual Review, we've reported anti-LGBTI hate crime in almost every country we represent. From Finland to Turkmenistan, a wave of violence, fuelled by the rise of anti-LGBTI rhetoric from politicians and other leaders in 2021, has arisen. Read on to find out what happened in your country.

[read more](#)



News

09.12.2021

Commission includes LGBTI people in initiative to tackle hate crime and hate speech across the European Union

The European Commission has put forward a legal initiative to extend the list of EU crimes to include hate speech, both online and offline, and hate crime, with clear understanding that LGBTI people must be protected.

[read more](#)



Press Release

17.02.2021

Finland violated rights of a lesbian mothers' child by rejecting his asylum application, UN finds

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child found that Finland failed to consider the best interests of the child of a lesbian couple when assessing his asylum request. Now the country is under an obligation to provide reparation.

[read more](#)



Blog

20.11.2021

Say Their Names: The trans and gender diverse people whose murders were reported in Europe and Central Asia last year

The murders of 375 trans and gender-diverse people were reported between October 2020 and September 2021, according to the latest Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM) update, and 2021 is set to be the deadliest year for trans communities since TGEU began collecting data. We say the names of those whose lives were cut short in our region, with a view towards a world where all trans people can live in equality, freedom and peace.

[read more](#)



News

25.08.2021

Joint Statement: Current priorities for an EU response to the situation in Afghanistan

As European NGOs working on asylum and migration and Afghan Diaspora organisations in Europe, we are alarmed about the situation in Afghanistan and concerned above all about the security of the people of Afghanistan, both those within the country and those displaced and seeking protection in the region and beyond.

[read more](#)



News

18.02.2021

Joint manifesto for an inclusive and comprehensive eu gender-based violence policy for all

Together with the under-signed organisations we call on the European Union to adopt a forward-thinking and truly inclusive approach to gender-based violence – that leaves [...]

[read more](#)