



Press Release: Friday 17th May 2013

Major New EU Study shows daily life for many Irish LGBT People can be very difficult

GLEN calls on Government to develop a roadmap to promote LGBT equality in Ireland.

To mark the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (**IDAHO**) the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency publish the results of the largest survey ever undertaken of the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the EU. 93,000 LGBT people were surveyed across the 27 EU countries and Croatia, including 1,625 LGBT people from Ireland.

"The survey findings show that Irish LGBT people still face considerable levels of discrimination and harassment, and that many LGBT people cannot be themselves in their daily lives. Across the EU, many LGBT people hide their identity and live in isolation and even fear" said **GLEN Chair, Kieran Rose.**

The survey results focussing on schools clearly highlight the very difficult time that many young LGBT people experience. 93% of Irish respondents had heard negative comments or seen negative conduct in school towards a schoolmate who was perceived to be LGBT. More than four out of five young people (86%) always or often disguised being LGBT in school.

"It is critical that we protect young LGBT people and promote safe and supportive schools. Schools are places where negative LGBT experiences, societal prejudices and exclusion often begin, which can have significant mental health consequences for LGBT young people" said Rose.

"We have much to build on in Ireland, with strong political and public support for further progress. We urge the Government to develop a roadmap for LGBT equality in Ireland, linking together the work being done already and drawing in other critically important actors, such as schools and employers, to build an Ireland where LGBT people can go about their daily lives living to their full potential, free from fear, free from discrimination, free from harassment" continued Rose.

The survey results show **significant levels of harassment or discrimination experienced by LGBT people in Ireland:**

- Almost half (47%) were discriminated against in the previous 12 months because they were LGBT
- Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) were discriminated in the workplace in the previous 12 months
- Almost one in four (22%) were discriminated in a cafe, bar, restaurant or nightclub in the previous 12 months.
- 8% of Irish respondents had been physically attacked or threatened with violence in the last 12 months because they were LGBT (6% is the EU average).

The vast majority of this discrimination and harassment goes unreported (87%); the most common reason was the belief that nothing would happen or change.

Many LGBT people in Ireland are not able to be fully open about their LGBT identity. The survey found:

- the majority were not fully open about being LGBT to their families (62%)
- just over half (54%) were fully open about being LGBT amongst their friends
- only 30% were fully open in the workplace
- only a third (35%) were fully open to their healthcare providers
- three quarters of those who have a partner, would not hold their partners hand in public for fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed.

“There is good work being undertaken across Government departments and agencies in Ireland, and by LGBT groups and organisations, to support LGBT people. However it is clear that this **work urgently needs to be stepped up a number of gears, and adequately resourced, to ensure that LGBT people enjoy the same freedoms to be themselves as everyone else in Ireland**” said Rose.

“We also urge the **Government to support a similar framework for LGBT equality at the EU level**, where strong leadership is required to ensure a level playing field for LGBT people, free of harassment” concluded Rose.

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Editors Note

1. The EU Fundamental Rights Agency Summary Report and Press Release are available [here](#).
2. An online tool to explore the FRA LGBT Survey Results, including to see the results for Ireland, is available [here](#).

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GLEN: delivering equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in marriage, at home, at school, at work and in the wider community.

