

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ To revoke the Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information (2010), which states that dissemination of information having a detrimental effect on the mental health, physical, intellectual or moral development of minors (i.e. the promotion of homosexual, bisexual or polygamous relations) shall be prohibited. This makes it complicated and often impossible to display non-heterosexual relationships in the public sphere. This limitation of information makes it difficult to objectively perceive the diversity of real life. It distorts young people's worldviews and promotes the formation of various misconceptions, stereotypes and negative attitudes concerning LGBT* people.
- ➔ To amend the Law on Equal Treatment (2016, Art. 6) in order to prohibit discrimination on grounds of gender expression and identity, or variations in sex characteristics.
- ➔ To include special measures on how to tackle this discrimination or how to include content that is inclusive of LGBT* people in the curricula in the Health and sexuality and family life education programme (2017).
- ➔ To include LGBT* content in the national education curriculum.
- ➔ To ensure mandatory teacher training on LGBT* awareness.
- ➔ To enforce governmental data collection on bullying and harassment and monitoring of policies.
- ➔ To ensure LGBT*-specific national support systems, funded by the public sector.
- ➔ To raise awareness on inclusive education and homophobic bullying, provide information and guidelines for teachers and school staff.
- ➔ To provide support to LGBT* civil society organisations working in the area of education.

“My school director was very vocal about her attitude toward LGBT* people. She said that we're *unnatural* and that we should be hiding,” said one student.

WHERE CAN I GET SUPPORT?



The National LGBT* rights organization LGL is the only non-governmental organization in Lithuania exclusively representing the interests of the local LGBT* community. LGL is an advocacy organization dedicated to fighting homophobia and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Through education, support, and representation of the LGBT* community, LGL promotes an inclusive social environment for LGBT* persons.

More information:

www.lgl.lt/en

www.twitter.com/LGLLithuania

www.instagram.com/lgl.lt



Emotional support hotline „Youth Line“ is one of the largest charities providing free emotional support by telephone and internet in Lithuania.

Since 1991, “Youth Line” volunteers have answered over 1 million phone calls for help. Anyone who is in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide can contact the charity 24/7, 365 days per year.

Please note that “Youth Line” provides emotional support by phone, email or online chat in Lithuanian only.

Hotline number: 8 800 28888

Website: www.jaunimolinija.lt

Support is provided 24/7, 365 days per year.

SAFE & INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERY STUDENT

In summer, 2017 the National LGBT* rights organization LGL carried out an anonymous survey for LGBT* (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) students. In participating in LGL's survey the students spoke out about what LGBT* students who are still in the process of discovering their sexual orientation and/or gender identity experience in Lithuanian schools.

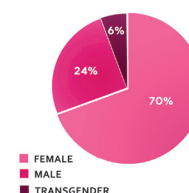


WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY?

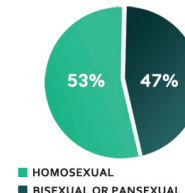
644 LGBT* students

Age of respondents: 14-18 years old

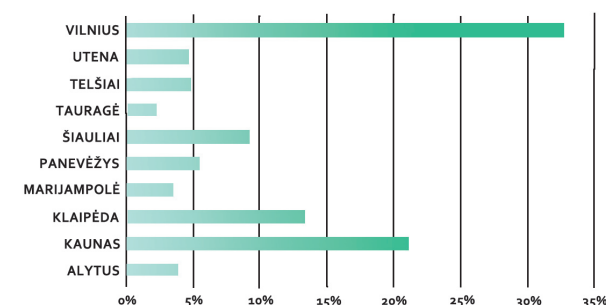
GENDER IDENTITY



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

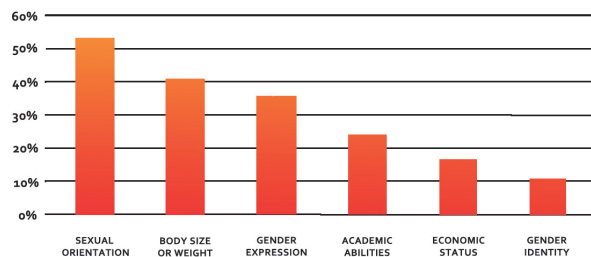


REGIONAL DIVERSITY

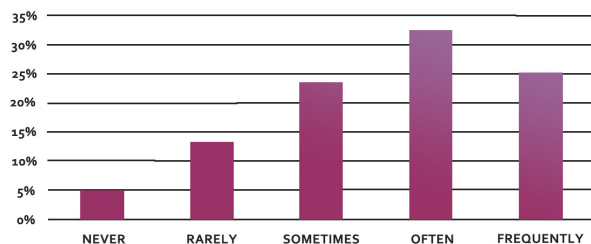


WHAT ARE THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY?

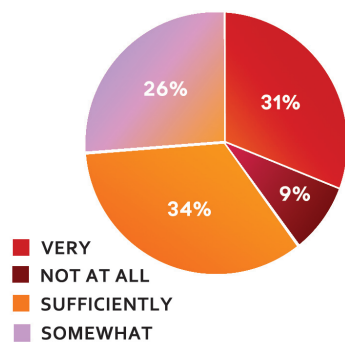
PERCENT OF LGBT* STUDENTS WHO FEEL UNSAFE AT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:



FREQUENCY OF HEARING ANTI-LGBT* REMARKS AT SCHOOL



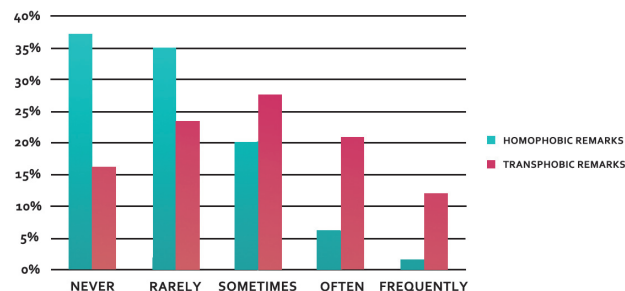
HOW MUCH HOMOPHOBIC REMARKS BOTHER OR DISTRESS LGBT* STUDENTS?



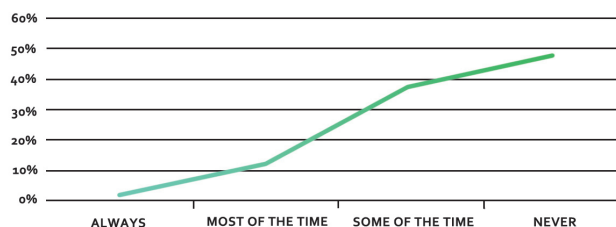
“Teachers shy away from LGBT* topics in lessons,” claimed a student who took part in the survey.

“Once during a lesson the teacher said that people of the *other* sexual orientation are *ill* and gave examples of how a person can *recover* from this,” told one student who participated in LGL’s survey.

FREQUENCY OF HEARING ANTI-LGBT* REMARKS FROM TEACHERS OR SCHOOL STAFF

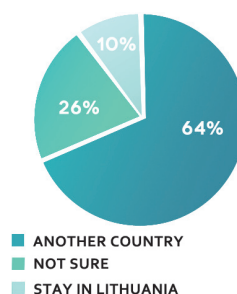


FREQUENCY OF INTERVENTION BY SCHOOL STAFF WHEN HEARING HOMOPHOBIC REMARKS



EMIGRATION INTENTIONS OF LGBT* STUDENTS

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY OR LEAVE LITHUANIA FOR EMPLOYMENT?



IGLYO'S LGBTQI INCLUSIVE EDUCATION INDEX

In 2018, the international LGBTQI youth and student organisation IGLYO launched its LGBTQI Inclusive Education Index and Report.

IGLYO's LGBTQI Inclusive Education Index and Report provide much needed qualitative data on areas such as laws, policies, teacher training, inclusive curricula to highlight both good practices and areas for development in each country and ensure that LGBTQI learners feel safe, supported and included within state educational institutions.

The LGBTQI Inclusive Education Index ranks all 47 Council of Europe Member States. The top 5 countries with the highest Index include Malta, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands and Spain. The lowest rating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, FYR Macedonia, Monaco, Poland, Russia, San Marino and Turkey. Lithuania ranks 30th out of 47 Council of Europe Member States.

The Report notes that the Lithuanian Law on Equal Treatment and the Education Law establishes the obligation to ensure equal conditions for persons regardless of their sexual orientation. Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation is also prohibited in the Health and sexuality and family life education programme. However, neither the law nor the programme mentions discrimination on grounds of gender expression and identity, or variations in sex characteristics. Situation is complicated further by the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information, which prohibits dissemination of information having a detrimental effect on minors, including the promotion of “homosexual or bisexual relations”.

“I wouldn't say I feel unsafe at school, however, that doesn't mean everything's just fine. Silence and ignorance are just as bad as bullying and violence. Schools should be obliged to allow open discussion of all themes, there shouldn't be censorship,” stated one participant of the study.

“This topic is taboo in our school. Neither teachers, nor other school staff talk about LGBT* issues and our library contains just one book from LGL about homophobic bullying,” one respondent described the situation in her school.