Public consultation

Union of Equality: 2026-2030 LGBTIQ Equality Strategy

4000 characters, which is about 700 words

Deadline: 24 June 2025

AGE Platform Europe

Older LGBTIQ people (LGBTIQ P) are a diverse group whose unique experiences and issues are often overlooked, resulting in gaps in human rights representation and protection

A joint report with ILGA-Europe analysing the 2019 FRA LGBTI Survey highlights the significant challenges older LGBTIQ P face.

- Older trans respondents from an ethnic minority face severe financial hardship: 82.27% struggle to make ends meet, compared to 33.55% of older LGBTIQ respondents overall and 56.03% of trans of an ethnic minority respondents of all ages. Older individuals in this group face significantly greater financial difficulties, with a 26% higher rate.
- Homelessness is significantly higher among older trans, intersex and non-binary people in comparison to the average for respondents of all age groups, driven by family rejection, discrimination, and long-term exclusion.
- Discrimination in healthcare and social services is widespread. Nearly half of older intersex people and trans people of an ethnic minority report discrimination. Their needs are often ignored, contributing to poorer health and access barriers.
- Violence against older LGBTIQ P, especially those with disabilities, is frequent, both in private and public settings. Older LGBTIQ P with disabilities report higher rates of violence at home in comparison with the general older LGBTIQ respondents.
- Workplace violence is also higher: older LGBTIQ P were more likely to experience violence at work than LGBTIQ respondents of all ages (4,35%), with older trans men (43.53%) and older people of an ethnic minority (23.66%) most affected.
- Older LGBTI P are twice as likely to experience violence in healthcare, with intersex people, trans women, and those from an ethnic minority at the highest risk.

Policy Recommendations

- Explicitly tackle ageism, sexism, racism, ableism, and SOGIGESC-based discrimination through targeted EU actions.
- Ensure the renewed LGBTIQ Equality Strategy aligns with other EU strategies (e.g. EU Gender Equality Strategy, the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, and the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy).
- Raise awareness of how ageism contributes to hate speech, violence, abuse, neglect and other forms of hate crimes towards older LGBTIQ P.
- Support Member States in banning conversion practices.
- Include older LBTIQ P in implementing the Directive on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- Strengthen the Victims' Rights Directive by explicitly including older persons, especially older LGBTIQ P, and addressing elder abuse. Provide training and outreach to professionals supporting victims.
- Improve data collection: the 2019 FRA LGBTI Survey only classified older people as 55+, limiting analysis. Disaggregate data by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender

expression, sex characteristics and different age groups, not limited to a certain age to reflect the diversity of older LGBTIQ P.

- Ensure research is accessible, reaching older people in care settings and those digitally excluded.
- Develop on older lesbians and bisexual women, considering intersecting forms of discrimination and include voices from rural and urban areas.
- Conduct a 4th FRA LGBTIQ Survey inclusive of older people.
- Create mechanisms for meaningful consultation with civil society organisations representing older and older LGBTIQ P.
- Provide adequate funding for civil society organisations to engage at both EU and national levels.
- Address the risks of social exclusion, poverty, and housing insecurity among older LGBTIQ P – due to stigma and discrimination – by targeting them in the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the revised EPSR Action Plan.
- Ensure robust implementation of the Directive on Violence Against Women and the Istanbul Convention by Members States and the EU.
- Design EU policies on gender-based and domestic violence to be inclusive of older LBTI women, supported through training, good practice exchange, and multi-agency coordination.