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# Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and queer women in Europe

**Report**[1]
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Monaco, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

*Summary*

Lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women face sexism and misogyny, and are subject to stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Anti-gender movements attempt to silence them or deny them legitimate place in public spaces. Some perceive the assertion of their rights as a threat.

Bias and stigma have multiple impacts, which can affect their access to employment, housing, healthcare, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and their private and family lives. LBQ women are victims of violence in the private sphere, in the public space and online.

This report advocates for inclusive educational programmes on all identities in order to fight against negative prejudices and prevent discrimination and violence. Public policies should include all dimensions of gender, making it possible to move away from a heterosexist vision of society. Politicians should guarantee everyone the opportunity to be themselves and not leave room for hatred and discrimination, in the public interest. The Parliamentary Assembly should call on member States to recognise the human rights of all and to combat discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons, including LBQ women.

1. Reference to committee: Doc. 15559, Reference 4765 of 9 October 2023.

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## A. Draft resolution[2]

1. Despite major progress on the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in recent years, attacks seeking to deny these rights or withdraw them have increased in Europe. For a long time, lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women have been sidelined and are now especially targeted by anti-gender movements, which attack women's rights and the rights of LGBTI persons, attempting to silence them or deny them their legitimate place in public spaces.

2. LBQ women experience stigma and discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and their specific identity as women who do not conform to societal expectations, stereotypical gender-related roles or so-called standards of femininity. They may be victims of physical, verbal and psychological violence including so-called "honour" crimes seeking to deny their sexual orientation, punish them for assuming it or control their bodies. Other prejudices may also interact, depending for example on racial or ethnic origin, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, disability, age and class. Prejudice and stigma can affect access to employment, housing, healthcare, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the private and family life of LBQ women. Thus, preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women is a human rights issue.

3. The Parliamentary Assembly denounces the instrumentalisation of the rights of LGBTI persons for political purposes and the hate speech targeting LGBTI persons. It deplores the actions taken by State structures to undermine LGBTI persons including LBQ women, such as support for anti-equality demonstrations and the adoption of decrees or laws seeking to restrict the rights of LGBTI persons or prevent the dissemination of information. The Assembly recognises that lesbian transgender women and racialised LBQ women are subject to particularly violent attacks, and that sexism, racism, biphobia, transphobia and lesbophobia can result in intersecting forms of discrimination. The Assembly asserts that everyone has their place in society and that attempts to impose heteronormativity and self-effacement must end. The assertion and protection of the rights of LGBTI persons including LBQ women do not remove other people's rights.

4. Policies designed to protect the rights of LGBTI persons do not always address the specific challenges faced by LBQ women. The Assembly supports the protection and promotion of the rights of LBQ women in all their diversity, and the fight against hate speech on any ground, and calls for respect for all identities. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in the fight against hate speech targeting LGBTI persons and can take part in the activities of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe. In this connection, the Assembly refers to its Resolutions 2543 (2024) "Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe", 2417 (2022) "Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe", 2465 (2022) "The fight for a level playing field – Ending discrimination against women in the world of sport" and 2395 (2021) "Strengthening the fight against so-called 'honour' crimes".

5. Promotion of respect for all, in all their diversity, can be achieved in particular through the education system, which should be a force for progress and a setting in which everyone can be themselves. Information campaigns and expressions of strong political support for measures to combat all forms of discrimination, taking account of their intersectional dimension, are needed. The Assembly stresses the importance of providing access to school programmes inclusive of diversities.

6. The national bodies responsible for equality issues play a major part in combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women. The Assembly calls for their role to be recognised and for them to be given political and financial support.

7. The Council of Europe has played a pioneering role in protecting the rights of LGBTI persons including LBQ women. The Assembly highlights the importance of implementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. It welcomes the progress made over the last ten years, including the creation of a Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC). It calls on member States to support the committee's work, including the preparation of an initial Council of Europe strategy on the protection of LGBTI persons' rights.

2. Draft resolution adopted unanimously by the committee on 12 September 2024.

8. In the light of these considerations, the Assembly calls on the member and observer States of the Council of Europe and States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status with the Assembly to:

8.1. adopt, finance and implement national strategies to protect the rights of LGBTI persons, prepared in co-operation with organisations representing LGBTI persons and including specific measures for LBQ women;

8.2. recognise the specific features related to access for LBQ women to their rights and ensure that laws on women's rights take these into account;

8.3. implement robust legislation against discrimination and ensure that it contains specific provisions on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and takes account of the intersectional dimension;

8.4. implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on the rights of LGBTI persons, including LBQ women;

8.5. adopt a zero-tolerance policy on hate crimes and hate speech against LGBTI persons, including LBQ women, to prosecute and, where appropriate, punish perpetrators of violence motivated by prejudices against them, to intensify measures to combat online anti-LGBTI hate, and prosecute the perpetrators thereof;

8.6. repeal legislative and constitutional amendments designed to restrict the rights and freedoms of LGBTI persons, including LBQ women, and to prohibit conversion practices and forced sterilisation;

8.7. guarantee access to information for all on diversity of sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics, to combat disinformation campaigns on LBQ women and to repeal "anti-LGBTI propaganda" laws;

8.8. recognise the parental rights of the second parent in same-sex couples, in the child's best interest;

8.9. recognise the right of same-sex couples to marry or at least to contract a civil union giving them access to the same rights as marriage, to recognise marriages of same-sex couples celebrated abroad so as to be able to transfer social security rights, and to guarantee the payment of survivor's pensions;

8.10. recognise fears of persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics as grounds to grant asylum and to support asylum requests from LGBTI persons forced to flee their country for these reasons.

9. With regard to assistance for LBQ women who are victims of violence and discrimination, the Assembly calls on the member and observer States of the Council of Europe and States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status with the Assembly to:

9.1. ratify, if they have not already done so, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, "Istanbul Convention") and to implement it;

9.2. implement Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech, Recommendation CM/Rec (2024)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate crime and General Policy Recommendation No. 17 of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on preventing and combating intolerance and discrimination against LGBTI persons;

9.3. train police officers, social workers and judicial authorities on the proper reception of LBQ women victims of violence or discrimination;

9.4. finance specific programmes to support LBQ women, particularly emergency shelters.

10. With regard to combating prejudice, the Assembly calls on the member and observer States of the Council of Europe and States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status with the Assembly to:

10.1. protect the freedom of expression and visibility of LBQ women in public spaces and support pride marches;

10.2. support sexuality and relationships education programmes inclusive of diversities in schools;

10.3. finance cultural and education programmes supporting respect for diversity and on the fight against sexist stereotypes and hate speech targeting LGBTI persons including LBQ women;

10.4. encourage the establishment of inclusive policies in the private and public sectors;

10.5. support research and data collection on violence and discrimination against LBQ women;

10.6. run awareness-raising campaigns on combating prejudice, discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons, including LBQ women;

10.7. support non-governmental organisations working to protect the rights of LBQ women in all their diversity and to consult them when elaborating policies regarding LBQ women.

11. With regard to access to healthcare, the Assembly calls on the member and observer States of the Council of Europe and States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status with the Assembly to:

11.1. train health professionals on the proper reception of LBQ patients and ask them to take into account the diversity of patient profiles and life journeys;

11.2. guarantee equitable access to healthcare without discrimination to all LBQ patients, including in medically assisted procreation services, and to recognise the importance of mental healthcare for all.

12. The Assembly encourages national parliaments to celebrate International Lesbian Visibility Day on 26 April and to co-operate with organisations protecting LBQ women’s rights.

## B. Explanatory memorandum by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, rapporteur

### 1. Introduction

1. In recent years, lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women have gained a higher public profile, particularly in politics and the media. The Paris 2024 Olympics were also an opportunity to shed light on LBQ athletes. Cindy Ngamba, a boxer on the Olympic refugee team, won an Olympic bronze medal. She acquired refugee status because of her sexual orientation, which prevents her from returning to her home country, Cameroon, where there is repression of LGBTI persons. The Italian judoka, Alice Bellandi, expressed her joy at winning gold by kissing her girlfriend, Jasmine Martin, who had been watching her from the stands, in front of all the spectators and the world's press. These sportswomen showed who they were and were acclaimed for their sporting prowess. Yet, lesbophobic, biphobic and transphobic attacks, insults and comments are still widespread in the world of sport, against LBQ women who are public figures and in society in general.

2. LBQ women face violence and discrimination in their everyday lives. On the one hand, they are subject to sexism and misogyny; on the other, they experience stigma and discrimination because they are perceived to have a sexual orientation that does not conform to the so-called norm. They are considered to have departed from this norm and emancipated themselves without men. They object to the control that society wishes to impose on their lives, bodies and identities.

3. These forms of hatred, prejudice and discrimination combine and intersect, so that LBQ women also face particular forms of violence and discrimination based on their specific identity as LBQ women who do not conform to societal expectations of women, gender roles and standards of femininity.[3] Sexuality or fulfilment without men is, according to some, unthinkable. Additional layers of prejudice can also interact, depending for example on racial or ethnic origin, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, disability, age and class.

4. Experiencing such cumulative prejudice has a negative impact on the lives of LBQ women, increasing the risk of violence and exposing them to specific forms of gender-based violence. Physical, sexual or psychological violence may be perpetrated by family members, current or former partners at home or outside, or by others at work, on the street and in other public spaces, including online. Violence may also be perpetrated through stalking or other in-person or online threats to safety and security. Sometimes it takes the especially egregious form of what is called "corrective" rape, based on the erroneous view that women who do not engage in sexual relationships with men are "sick" or "abnormal" and must be "corrected". In some cases, lesbophobic violence escalates to murder.[4]

5. LBQ women also face discrimination in the exercise of their human rights. Prejudice and stigma can affect their access to employment, housing, healthcare, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and their private and family life. LBQ women are also affected by the gender gap in pay and pensions linked to gender inequalities – the impact of which is doubled in same-sex households.

6. In her presentation of the results of the latest survey by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency published in May 2024,[5] the director, Sirpa Rautio, said that all LGBTI persons should feel safe in Europe and be able to play their full part in our societies. This survey, covering 100 577 people in 30 countries, found that lesbian women were the most likely amongst the groups surveyed to be open about being LGBTI, including at school. However, 42% of the lesbians and 33% of the bisexual persons surveyed had been victims of discrimination in the 12 months preceding the survey. 42% of lesbians said that they had kept their sexual orientation secret at school and 34% of lesbians and 26% of the bisexual persons surveyed had been victims of violence because of their sexual orientation at least three times in the five years preceding the survey. 45% of lesbians were still afraid to hold hands with their partners in public for fear of being assaulted (54% in 2019), and 30% avoided certain places for the same reason. In the 2019 survey, lesbian women also talked of their lack of trust in their government to combat prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI persons effectively.[6] Progress is real but fragile. Protection from violence and discrimination should be guaranteed.

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3. EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C), October 2021, "Lesbophobia: An Intersectional Form of Violence", pages 6 and 9.
4. Ibid., page 10.
5. European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), "LGBTIQ at a crossroads: progress and challenges", 14 May 2024.
6. FRA, "A long way to go for LGBTI equality – Findings Q&A", 14 May 2020.

7. The meaning of the word “lesbian” has itself been distorted, all too often being associated with shame and disgust, sexual objectification, male fantasies and pornography.[7] Bisexual and queer women are also still too often ignored. In recent years, the propagation of harmful narratives targeting primarily women and the LGBTI community has still further heightened the risk of marginalisation of LBQ women. This phenomenon has, moreover, been aggravated by the overall backsliding in human rights and democratic principles that we have been witnessing in Europe, combined with the increasing polarisation in European societies reflected in recent elections at national and European level.

8. Violence against any LGBTI person aims to undermine their dignity and fundamental rights. It serves to keep people with sexual orientations and gender identities that do not conform to a so-called social norm on the margins of society, both socially and politically. Such minorities are often invisible, underrepresented and not consulted enough on public policies that affect them.

9. The rights, needs and interests of LBQ women are rarely taken adequately into consideration in standard-setting and policy-making processes, all too frequently slipping through the net of both gender equality policies, which fail to address the specific challenges faced by LBQ women, and LGBTI equality strategies, which also often pay little or no attention to their specific needs.

10. My report aims to provide an opportunity for the Assembly to hear the voices of LBQ women, to raise the profile of their struggle for equal rights and to work towards ensuring that the challenges they face are effectively addressed.

## 2. Inclusivity and intersectionality

11. As the motion for a resolution that is at the origin of this report underlines, legislative, political and societal responses to lesbophobia require a holistic approach that takes into consideration the specificities of LBQ women, puts an end to their invisibility and takes targeted actions to understand and tackle lesbophobia.

12. I believe that an inclusive approach is essential to protecting rights effectively. My report will therefore include all cis, trans and intersex women and non-binary persons who identify within the LBQ umbrella. I have adopted an intersectional approach, striving to give space to and take account of the different experiences and challenges that LBQ women may face, depending for example on their racial or ethnic origin.

## 3. Working methods

13. At the very outset of my work, I held an exchange of views with representatives of the EL*C – EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community and ILGA-Europe. I have held virtual bilateral meetings with representatives of civil society working on these issues, and with representatives of organisations providing assistance and support to LBQ women who are victims of violence and discrimination.

14. On the occasion of the Lesbian Visibility Day, which falls annually on 26 April, the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers supported a side-event on preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe during the Assembly’s 2023 April part-session, I sponsored and took part in the event.

15. I participated in the IDAHOT+ conference in Reykjavik on 11 May 2023. I also attended the ILGA-Europe annual conference in Ljubljana from 25 to 27 October 2023, where I met many LBQ activists from different regions.

16. On 16 November 2023, I had an online discussion with two representatives of the NGO, Front d’habitat lesbien, Mathilde Kiening and Stella Noemi. I also spoke with Vera Kurtić, a Serbian lesbian activist, during an online meeting on 24 November 2023.

17. On 7 December 2023, the committee held a hearing, which allowed us to better understand the challenges faced in preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women, to hear directly from people working in this field and to learn from successful practices already in place in member States. Participants at the hearing included Ilaria Todde, Advocacy and Research Director of EL*C (EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community), Yasemin Öz, lawyer and co-founder of Kaos GL (Türkiye), Marame Kane, lesbian activist and artivist (France) and Maud Royer, President of the association “Toutes des femmes” (France).

7. EL*C (2021), op. cit., page 3.

18. On 15 May 2024, I travelled to the Hague to attend the IDAHOT+ Forum. I held a bilateral meeting there with Graeme Reid, who is the UN's independent expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I was also able to talk to representatives of various non-governmental organisations.

19. On 17 and 18 June 2024, I carried out a fact-finding visit, to Italy, where I talked to representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, the Family and Equal Opportunities, parliamentarians from several political parties and senators, and representatives of civil society. We discussed the current situation, difficulties and challenges, and measures taken to prevent and combat violence and discrimination against LBQ women. I would like to thank the secretariat of the Italian delegation for its support.

20. I also agreed to a virtual bilateral meeting with representatives of the LGB Alliance, with whom I expressed my disagreement on their decision to exclude lesbian transgender women from the LBQ women's group. I reiterated that transgender women are women.

21. On 30 July 2024, I talked to Anaïs Berrutti, co-founder of the association "Mon Arc-en-ciel" ("My Rainbow") in Monaco.

22. Lastly, I followed the media coverage of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games including that of LBQ athletes as well as the situation in European States which have been adopting and implementing laws to prohibit so-called LGBTI propaganda,[8] which is a major source of concern.

## 4. Violence and harassment

23. Gender-based violence against LBQ women is often sexualised. It ranges from street and online harassment to "corrective" rape, feminicide and so-called "honour" crimes.[9] Such violence is committed in both public and private settings.

24. Not all States collect data on hate crimes based on sexual orientation and those that do, do not always break them down according to the gender or sexual orientation of the victim. In 2021, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) reported for example that 41 OSCE participating States had submitted hate crime information to ODIHR for 2021. Of these only 23 had provided statistics disaggregated by bias motivation. 22 Council of Europe member States had provided data on LGBTI-phobic hate crime; a total of 979 LGBTI-phobic incidents (violent attacks against people, threats, or attacks against property) were reported by non-official sources in 31 member States, but again, without a specific breakdown concerning lesbophobic incidents.[10]Data for 2022 indicate that23 Council of Europe member States provided information on LGBTI-phobic violence.[11]

25. Civil society actors in France and Italy have reported high numbers of lesbophobic offences in recent years. French NGO SOS Homophobie reported that it had received 365 complaints of lesbophobic violence in 2019 – an increase of 40% on the previous year – and 300 in 2020. It considered that the increase in reports received could in part be explained by the #MeToo and #balancetonporc movements, which had helped give visibility to a previously hidden phenomenon and had encouraged victims to share their experience. In Italy, around 20 cases of lesbophobic violence have been reported in the media in 2022. Bearing in mind that hate crimes and gender-based violence tend to be under-reported both to the police and to NGOs, and that even fewer such cases are picked up by the media, these figures are cause for deep concern.

26. Home is not always a safe space for LBQ women, who may face violence from their families. According to the NGO, Counselling for Lesbians, many lesbians in Serbia still suffer psychological trauma as a result of violence from family members.[12] A 2015 survey by SOS Homophobie found that 14% of reported lesbophobic incidents took place within the family.[13] All too often, teenagers are still forced to leave their homes after coming out. There are also case of violence within LBQ couples.

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8. In Bulgaria, an amendment intended to prohibit so-called LGBTI propaganda in schools was adopted by a large majority in parliament on 7 August 2024, then promulgated by a presidential decree on 15 August despite calls from the international community. A bill of the same type was also discussed in the Georgian Parliament before the summer of 2024.

9. See also Assembly Resolution 2395 (2021) "Strengthening the fight against so-called 'honour' crimes" and the report with the same title (Doc. 15347) on which this resolution was based. Chapter 6 of my explanatory memorandum of this report specifically addresses so-called "honour" crimes against LGBTI persons.

10. OSCE, "Anti-LGBTI hate crime", 2021.

11. OSCE, "Anti-LGBTI hate crime", 2022.

12. EL*C (2021), op. cit., page 16.

27. Violence directed against LBQ women frequently aims to "punish" them because they are viewed as having a non-conforming sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to societal expectations of women, gender roles and standards of femininity. Men who perpetrate acts of lesbophobic violence are reported to do so often after having had their sexual advances rejected by a non-heterosexual woman, or when a woman has put an end to a heterosexual relationship or has otherwise shown that she is not available to respond to a man's needs or desires.[14]

28. The EL*C noted in 2021 that such cases included the murder of a young lesbian, Elisa Pomarelli, in Italy in 2019 by a man with whom she had refused to start a relationship; the killing of a lesbian couple in Belgium in 2021 by the ex-husband of one of the women; the assault of a lesbian woman outside a nightclub in Croatia after she refused a man's sexual advances, a case which led to the finding of a violation of the procedural limb of Article 3 taken in conjunction with Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (STE No. 5) in the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in Sabalić v. Croatia (application no. 50231/13, Judgment of 14 January 2021); and cases in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom where lesbian couples who had refused to kiss in front of groups of men were violently assaulted.[15]

29. Violence can also be perpetrated remotely, through online harassment and threats. The DJ Barbara Butch received lesbophobic insults and death threats after taking part in the Paris Olympics opening ceremony. She has filed a legal complaint for cyberharassment.[16]

30. In more recent years, ILGA-Europe reported that in 2022, seven out of 27 cases of LGBTI-phobic violence reported to Pink Armenia came from lesbian or bisexual women; a lesbian couple from Russia seeking asylum were physically assaulted at the asylum centre in Spuz, Montenegro. In 2021, 14 out of 18 cases of domestic violence reported to Pink Armenia concerned lesbian or bisexual women; a young lesbian couple was physically attacked by two men in Estonia in August; young lesbian girls were assaulted in Rome by teenagers, and a young lesbian received death threats from her family after being kicked out of her home in Italy.[17] These cases represent only a very small sample of the violence faced by LBQ women in Europe today.

31. This reality is also reflected in the results of surveys by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). 27% of the lesbian women surveyed had undergone conversion therapy,[18] while one in two showed no affection for their partner in public (45%) and one in three avoided public spaces for fear of violence or harassment (33%).

32. Such regular exposure to violence and discrimination forces LBQ women to manage the visibility of their sexual orientation. According to SOS Homophobie's 2015 survey on lesbophobia in France, those who reduced their visibility the most experienced fewer lesbophobic incidents.[19] Managing and therefore reducing their visibility seems to be an easier choice than exposing themselves to potential risks. Overall, LGBTI+ people only report assaults against them in 11% of cases, and 41% of those who had not reported such incidents feel that "it would not have made a difference".[20]

33. The LGBTI community, and LBQ women in particular, rarely file complaints with the police for violence or discrimination. The FRA survey reveals an alarming level of underreporting of cases of harassment or physical or sexual violence to the police or other institutions. The reasons given not to report such incidents were that "nothing would change", that "it happened all the time" and there was no use in filing a complaint, or even a fear among victims that they would be discriminated against by the law enforcement bodies themselves.

34. Cases of so-called "corrective" rape continue to be reported in the member States. The French NGO, Les Dégommeuses, has reported assisting several victims of such offences in recent years, and in 2021, a French court for the first time recognised the rape of a young lesbian woman with the explicit motive of "correcting" her sexual orientation as a lesbophobic hate crime.[21] ILGA-Europe reported in 2022 that a young

13. SOS Homophobie, "Enquête sur la visibilité des lesbiennes et la lesbophobie", 2014.
14. EL*C (2021), op. cit., page 9.
15. EL*C (2021), op. cit., page 9.
16. "La DJ Barbara Butch porte plainte pour cyberharcèlement après sa participation à la cérémonie d'ouverture des JO: une enquête ouverte", *Le Monde*, 30 July 2024.
17. ILGA-Europe Annual Reviews 2023 and 2022.
18. EU Fundamental Rights Agency, "LGBTIQ at a crossroads: progress and challenges", 14 May 2024.
19. SOS Homophobie, "Enquête sur la visibilité des lesbiennes et la lesbophobie", 2015.
20. Bolter, F., "Lutter contre les violences envers les lesbiennes, les femmes bi et les personnes trans", Fondation Jean Jaurès, 2021.
21. EL*C (2021), op. cit., page 11.

lesbian woman was subjected to an attempted rape by her co-worker who wanted to "correct her sexual orientation", and that a young lesbian couple aged 19 and 16 were abducted for over six hours and raped in Lisbon in 2023.[22] Once again, it is to be feared that these cases are only the tip of the iceberg.

35. The first round evaluation reports of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) make little reference to LBQ women and their specific needs although they do highlight the failure of States to take account of multiple discrimination and the importance of remedying this shortcoming. GREVIO has encouraged several States to promote research and data collection on gender-based violence affecting LBTI women in particular and to support the development of policies which take account of intersectional discrimination.[23]

36. In a report published in 2023 covering a total of 26 States, of which nine were Council of Europe member States, Human Rights Watch highlighted that "gender expression is a critical component of how, why, and in what circumstances LBQ+ people are attacked and have their rights violated", with many LBQ+ people naming discrimination based on masculine gender expression as an all-too-often ignored catalyst for a lifetime of forms of marginalisation, abuse and violence.[24] The report includes harrowing descriptions of such cases, including both violent acts by individuals and police brutality against masculine-presenting queer people. It also emphasises that in such cases, violence is not solely about causing physical harm but also about putting masculine-presenting queer women "in their place", proving that they are not as strong as they would hope to be. The report also underlines that violence and discrimination against Black LBQ women may be compounded due to racial stereotypes that characterise them as more hostile, ill-tempered and aggressive.

37. Harassment and insults targeting LBQ women are still commonplace in sport. In her explanatory memorandum of the report "The fight for a level playing field – Ending discrimination against women in the world of sport"[25], Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) pointed out that "LBTI women suffer from invisible and multiple discrimination in the world of sport. Their families may not support them or may actively oppose them participating in sport. They may be rejected upon arrival in a team. Their performance is constantly questioned. The media peddle negative stereotypes about LBTI athletes, who are apt to be the target of hate speech, harassment and violence".

38. Violence against LBQ women has a serious impact on physical and mental health. The need for LGBT people to conceal their identity in order to avoid stigma, and therefore to adopt different public and private personas, can in itself be enough to cause mental health problems. The concept of "minority stress"[26] was developed to describe this phenomenon of constant adjustment. 41% of lesbian women in Europe have had suicidal thoughts and 17% have already attempted suicide. The figures for heterosexual women are 17% and 4% respectively.

39. In its report of 2023 on lesbophobic violence and discrimination against lesbians (through the Observatory on lesbophobia), EL*C notes that there are major risks for LBQ women involved in politics or with a high media presence.[27] Visibility is necessary, but it can also create problems. For example, Elly Schlein, the Chair of Italy's Democratic Party, is often attacked in the media because she is bisexual and lives with another woman. There has been a surge of hatred against her online. Lesbophobic violence and hate speech have a silencing effect on public figures, be they politicians, journalists or human rights defenders. When LBQ women speak up the reactions are often extremely violent and focus on their appearance, gender expression or sexual orientation. Online hatred against LBQ women is of particular violence as it cumulates intersectional hate speech and hypersexualisation.

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22. ILGA-Europe Annual Reviews 2023 and 2022.
23. The report "Lesbianising the Istanbul Convention" prepared by the EL*C (2024) may also be consulted.
24. Human Rights Watch (2023), "This is Why We Became Activists: Violence against lesbian, bisexual, and queer women and non-binary-people", pages 85-105. The Council of Europe member States concerned are Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.
25. Resolution 2465 (2022) "The fight for a level playing field – Ending discrimination against women in the world of sport" and Doc. 15611.
26. Santé Publique France, 2021, quoting: Meyer IH. "Prejudice, Social Stress, and Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations: Conceptual Issues and Research Evidence".
27. EL*C, "Observatory on lesbophobia", 2024.

## 5. Discrimination

### *5.1. Anti-gender movement*

40. The anti-gender movement targets, first and foremost, the rights of women and LGBTI persons. It seeks to confine or return women and LGBTI persons to "traditional" gender roles. Situated as they are at the intersection of these groups, LBQ women are doubly targeted and impacted by harmful anti-gender narratives.

41. In recent months, LBQ women have been the target of hate speech in several States, including Italy, where the recognition of a second parent for children born to a lesbian couple through medically assisted reproduction has been threatened. Albania has also seen the rise of an anti-LGBTI movement specifically targeting LBQ women. There have been hate campaigns, especially online.

42. At the hearing on 7 December 2023, Maud Royer said that a political offensive was being waged against transgender people seeking to create an artificial conflict between trans women and lesbian women. Legal gender recognition was still complicated in many countries, including for lesbian trans women. She stressed the importance of gender expression that conforms to standards of femininity in order to access transition and denounced the injunction to heterosexuality made to transgender lesbian women.

43. At the IDAHOT+ Forums in 2023 and 2024, however, I heard some powerful messages of hope. Representatives from ILGA-Europe stressed that the only way to avoid going backwards is to keep moving forward. They pointed out that despite the attacks on LGBTI rights, progress is still being made in many countries.

### *5.2. Access to healthcare*

44. Healthcare systems can be misogynistic and heteronormative, thus creating an alienating experience for LBQ women that leads them to avoid seeking care that they need. The fear of being exposed to intolerant attitudes can have an impact on their general health.

45. I would also like to highlight the gynaecological violence inflicted on LBQ women. In her explanatory memorandum report on "Obstetrical and gynaecological violence",[28] Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) pointed out that "lesbian women may be stigmatised by some doctors or even humiliated during consultations, which may lead them to stop having regular medical check-ups (…) Gynaecological healthcare ought to be an ideal opportunity for prevention and screening. Yet lesbians are often denied such care or given poor advice". Care providers can presume heterosexuality and may use inappropriate language.

46. In 2016, a German study interviewed 766 lesbian women about their experiences with the country's healthcare system. 12% of the women reported experiencing or fearing discrimination. 40% of the women had chosen not to disclose their sexual orientation to their doctors, 12% of whom said this was because they feared negative consequences, although they considered this information useful for medical care planning.[29] Lesbian women have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease[30] and cancer than other women, as well as anxiety disorders, self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

47. According to Santé Publique France (2021), the "invisibilisation" of lesbian women's sexuality should also be noted. Deemed "risk-free", 60% of lesbian women surveyed in 2011 had never had a cervical smear test and 90% had never been screened for chlamydia.[31] Transgender women sometimes choose not to go to the doctor's because they fear discrimination or lack of understanding, or because they worry that the doctor is not trained to meet their medical needs. The same study also found that a quarter of transgender people had not seen a doctor in the last 12 months due to fears of experiencing discrimination.[32]

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28. Resolution 2306 (2019) "Obstetrical and gynaecological violence", adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 3 October 2019, rapporteur for the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC).
29. "Lesbian women's access to healthcare, experiences with and expectations towards GPs in German primary care", Hirsch, O., Löltgen, K. and Becker, A. (2016).
30. "La santé cardio-vasculaire des femmes lesbiennes ou bisexuelles s'avère significativement moins bonne que celle des hétérosexuelles", *Le Monde*, 25 May 2023.
31. Santé Publique France (2021), "Ampleur et impact sur la santé des discriminations et violences vécues par les personnes lesbiennes, gays, bisexuel·le·s et trans (LGBT) en France".
32. Idem.

48. Asking about sexual orientation can help ensure better access to healthcare. Studies show that when doctors know a patient's sexual orientation, they provide more information about sexually transmitted infections and are more likely to suggest screening and vaccination. It is important that patients feel safe to disclose their sexual orientation and that healthcare professionals must be open to this discussion. Communication with healthcare workers needs to be improved. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom, recommend that the question of sexual orientation be systematically raised during medical consultations. Others, such as France, publish online lists of LGBTQ-friendly healthcare professionals.[33]

49. I held a meeting with intersex LBQ women at the 2023 ILGA conference. They stressed that non-consented medical interventions were still being performed on minors on the assumption of certain kinds of sexual activity being desired in the future. These included invasive, irreversible surgical procedures (for example vaginoplasty for the purpose of heterosexual intercourse).

50. A relationship of trust between patients and healthcare providers is essential for prevention and medical care. There is an urgent need to ensure that the medical staff welcomes everyone without prejudice and in a supportive atmosphere.

51. In some countries, access to medically assisted procreation is authorised only for heterosexual couples, not for single women or for female couples. This rejection is clear discrimination against LBQ women.

### *5.3. Access to housing*

52. Homelessness is another issue that disproportionately affects LGBTI communities. LBQ women may face greater obstacles because their income is often lower than men's and can rapidly find themselves in vulnerable situations.

53. According to a report published in 2021 by ILGA-Europe in collaboration with other organisations, homelessness among LGBTI youth is widespread across Europe, with more than 60% of LGBTIQ organisations surveyed saying that they have worked with young people who have been homeless.[34] A United Nations study[35] estimates that in the 18 to 24 age group in the European Union, 24% of transgender youth, 41% of intersex youth and 17% of all LGBTI youth have experienced homelessness. LBQ women living on the streets are at high risk of violence and exploitation.

54. Emergency accommodation is often unsuitable, and staff are not trained to systematically provide an inclusive welcome. LBQ women may not feel safe in shelters. They may be harassed, threatened, robbed of their belongings, subjected to physical and sexual violence or re-experience trauma.

55. Lesbian women who have been forced into marriage in their country of origin may be at risk in the country where they have sought refuge. The Front d'Habitat Lesbien recommends funding specific shelters for LGBTI persons. It offers a flat in Paris for lesbian and transgender women in precarious situations and psychological support for those who want it.

56. In a report published in 2023, EL*C highlighted the problem of access to housing for older LBQ women.[36] The low level of pensions, increasing rent, insecure socio-economic circumstances and family rejection can place older LBQ women in a difficult situation.

### *5.4. Employment*

57. Discrimination relates to access to employment, wage levels, career development and the attitude of work colleagues. Wage equality has not yet been achieved, meaning that lesbian couples have lower incomes than heterosexual ones and fewer opportunities for them to grow in the course of their careers because of discrimination.

58. The FRA survey results show that 18% of the lesbian women and 14% of the bisexual women surveyed suffered discrimination because of their sexual orientation when jobseeking or in their workplace in the 12 months preceding the survey.[37] In the European Union, 45% of LGBTI persons surveyed said that they concealed their sexual orientation in the workplace.

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33. Idem.
34. ILGA-Europe (2021), "Perceptions: addressing LGBTI youth homelessness in Europe and Central Asia".
35. "Youth homelessness", Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2020.
36. EL*C (2023): "Making the invisible visible, a first analysis of older lesbians lived experiences".
37. FRA, "LGBTIQ at a crossroads: progress and challenges", page 31, 14 May 2024.

59. In France, 11% of lesbophobic incidents take place in the workplace, according to the SOS Homophobie survey (2015). Mocking behaviour (48%), a lack of understanding (36%) and rejection (36%) are the main forms of lesbophobia experienced.[38] Harassment and outing are also commonly reported. The perpetrators include colleagues (63%), superiors (36%) and members of management (10%). In 42% of cases, the perpetrators were men acting alone. However, the proportion of women acting alone is also higher than in other settings.

60. A survey conducted in 2022 by l'Autre cercle found that over half of lesbian or bisexual women (53%) had suffered at least one form of discrimination or hostile behaviour during their careers in France because of their sexual orientation.[39]

61. The OECD has found that in ten countries, LBQ women (and GBQ men) have less chance of being called for an interview if their CV mentions their sexual orientation.[40] More specifically, in Austria, Germany, Canada, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, lesbian women were 1.4 times less likely than heterosexual women to be called for interview following their application.[41]

62. Several studies have estimated the economic costs of discrimination against LGBTI persons. For example, a 2018 study found that a 1% decrease in the level of homophobia is associated with a 10% increase in GDP per capita.[42] Stigma and harassment of LGBTI persons lead to poor physical and mental health, which affects their productivity, as does underinvestment in human capital.

### *5.5. The situation of racialised LBQ women*

63. At the hearing on 7 December 2023, Marame Kane pointed out that "racialised LBT women are subject to varying degrees of pressure, depending on their age and their family culture, to embrace heterosexuality, heteronormativity and motherhood".

64. ILGA-Europe has published a detailed report which analyses the intersectional discrimination to which LGBTI migrants and persons from racial, ethnic and religious minorities are subject.[43] The report finds that trans and migrant women from non-EU countries and trans women from ethnic or religious minorities suffer more discrimination than the other groups of LGBTI persons surveyed in the study with regard to the labour market and the housing, healthcare and education sector and in their social and administrative lives.

65. The FRA survey also found that 40% of LGBTI persons identifying themselves as being from an ethnic or immigrant minority considered that their ethnic origin or immigrant status was an additional cause of discrimination towards them.[44] 15% of these persons also said that their skin colour was an additional cause of discrimination to the discrimination they were subjected as LGBTI persons. In the same way, 36% of LGBTI persons identifying themselves as disabled considered that their disability was an additional cause of discrimination while 28% considered religion to be an additional factor.

66. According to a representative of the association 1001 lesbiennes et queers, lesbian women of Arab-Berber-Muslim origin are doubly exposed to degrading representations. In France, the majority of lesbians out in public are white. Coming out can also be difficult as same-sex relationships may be illegal in their countries of origin. Racialised lesbian women may have difficulty accessing medically assisted procreation to start a family. There is a shortage of non-white donors. For instance, French law favours the phenotypic matching of gametes with recipients. The lack of gametes from racialised donors complicates access to medically assisted reproduction for racialised LBQ women.[45] Medically assisted procreation practices vary throughout Europe: in Sweden and Estonia, health professionals consult the parents; in Finland, couples may specify that they do not wish the donor to resemble them; and in Germany, Bulgaria and Austria, parents may make particular requests concerning the donor.

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38. SOS Homophobie, op. cit.
39. "Visibilité lesbienne au travail: Encore du chemin à parcourir", *Libération*,10 May 2022.
40. OECD, "Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators", Paris, 2019, pages 31-32.
41. Ibid., page 32.
42. "A socioecological measurement of homophobia for all countries and its public health impact", *European Journal of Public Health*, Lamontagne E. et al., Volume 28, Issue 5, October 2018.
43. ILGA-Europe, "Intersections: The LGBTI II Survey – Migrant and Racial, Ethnic and Religious Minorities Analysis", consulted on 10 April 2024, Kubanychbekov, A. & Richani, S., 2023.
44. FRA, "A long way to go for LGBTI equality, EU LGBTI II", consulted on 24 April 2024, page 35, 2020.
45. Fontenelle, E. (2023), "Pour un accès égalitaire à la PMA, la Pride des banlieues lance une pétition", Bondy Blog. consulted on 10 April 2024; Sarton, O. (2021), "La pratique d'appariement dans les PMA avec tiers-donneur", *Village de la Justice*, consulted on 10 April 2024.

## 6. Case study: the situation in Italy

67. On my fact-finding visit to Italy, I met key actors working on combating hatred against LGBTI persons, including parliamentarians, representatives of governmental institutions and NGOs, with whom we had a constructive dialogue. In particular, I met with representatives of the Central Anticrime Directorate, the Observatory for Security against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD) and the Postal Police and Cybersecurity Service, both under the Ministry of Interior. In addition, meetings took place with representatives of CIDU (Interministerial Committee for Human Rights), the Department of Equal Opportunities and UNAR (National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office). OSCAD was established within the Department of Public Security, in which both Police and Carabinieri participate. A territorial network was created in order to provide training, monitoring and analysis and work on prevention. OSCAD has recorded few acts of discrimination against LGBTI persons in recent years: 34 in 2024, 66 in 2023 and 86 in 2022. Data provided by OSCAD and UNAR do not indicate a rise in criminal acts related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Training courses are held on the proper reception of LGBTI persons in police stations and on building trust. To date, 60 570 people have attended these courses. There is also a police force guide on LGBTI persons, prepared in collaboration with non-governmental organisations.

68. A national strategy to combat discrimination against LGBTI persons was adopted in 2022 for the period 2022-2025. UNAR organises campaigns to prevent and combat discrimination. It recently launched the campaign "A + LOVE [46]", on the occasion of IDAHOT. It has established anti-discrimination Centres for LGBT + persons in 18 Italian regions. There are currently 46 centres, where about 6 500 people, including minors, have been received. In July 2024, a call for projects with a budget of €6 million was issued to fund new initiatives. Several projects are implemented with the Higher Institute of Health, such as the infotrans.it portal.

69. Homophobia has not yet been included in the anti-hate speech law as an aggravating factor. None of the draft legislation tabled in this connection has been adopted. Article 3 of the Italian Constitution provides constitutional-level anti-discrimination protections by affirming that "all citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law, without distinction of sex, race, language, religion, political opinion, or personal and social conditions". Legislative Decree No. 216/2003 aims at protecting individuals from discriminatory actions based on sexual orientation in work, social, and family settings. If a victim of discrimination is considered vulnerable, he or she is entitled to a number of additional guarantees and protection. The code red, introduced so as to implement the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, "Istanbul Convention"), is also applicable to same-sex couples.

70. There is not yet a law on marriage equality in Italy. There is a law regulating civil unions, guaranteeing parity of rights with marriage, with the exception of the rights related to filiation or adoption. In the absence of legislation, it is for the courts to fill the legal vacuum. It is not permitted to adopt children at birth or access to surrogacy. It is only possible to adopt "stepchildren" going through the courts and a relatively long procedure. In some cities, there was an interpretation of the law that allowed birth certificates obtained abroad to be registered in the civil registry with the names of both parents. This interpretation has been criticised and the Ministry of the Interior has asked for the names of mothers who had not born the child to be deleted from the registry. These mothers were informed by mail that their name would be removed. Legal proceedings have been brought against these decisions in order to protect children's interests and prevent them from being separated from one of their parents. If the mother who carried the child dies, the child would find itself without parents. In March 2024, the Court of Padua ruled that children should be able to retain a legal tie with their two mothers. The Italian government has appealed against this ruling.

71. Representatives of LBQ organisations told me that they could not live in peace and that a climate of fear was taking hold in the country. There is a willingness to make LBQ women invisible and, as in other countries, the word "lesbian" is used as an insult. Incitements to hatred are commonplace, posing a threat of "social contagion". A positive view of lesbian identity has not yet established itself. Conversion practices are not yet prohibited and still practised. Transgender persons are also the targets of attacks.

72. Access to sexual and reproductive health is a source of concern. LBQ women also told me that LBQ patients were infantilised by the medical staff in some health establishments. I was also told of a will to control LBQ women's bodies, which can lead to discrimination. NGOs talked of State-sponsored lesbophobia in Italy.

73. During my visit, I heard political messages which are a source of concern such as perplexity about self-perception of gender, hormone treatments for transgender people, the use of quotas and there being no need to treat women and LGBTI persons as separate categories. There is a fear that asserting LBQ women's rights

46. Campaign A+Love, 2024.

will undermine Italian culture and tradition. I believe that specific measures are needed to combat discrimination and violence against LBQ women effectively. In February 2024, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women asked the Italian authorities to take measures to combat hate speech against LBTI women.[47]

74. As in other States, action is required to remedy underreporting of discrimination and violence, to combat gender stereotypes, to report violence, to prosecute perpetrators and to guarantee equal rights for LBQ women.

## 7. Recommendations

75. The existing legal framework may provide remedies in cases of violence and discrimination against LBQ women or paths forward when it comes to public policy making in this field. Laws to combat hate speech and hate crime should include hatred based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as aggravating factors.

76. Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Istanbul Convention requires States Parties to implement the convention without discrimination on any ground such as sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status. This means that all women should have equal access to the protection and support guaranteed by the convention. LBQ women face specific barriers due to ignorance, stigma and prejudice, including among the professionals and support services they may turn to. Training should be organised for these professionals on proper reception for all.

77. Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity applies to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and calls on States to put in place a wide range of measures to combat discrimination against them. The implementation of this recommendation should be secured.

78. Numerous Assembly resolutions also contain relevant recommendations. These include, most recently, Resolution 2543 (2024) “Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe”, Resolution 2417 (2022) “Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe” and Resolution 2239 (2018) “Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation”, as well as relevant parts of some resolutions addressing women’s rights in specific fields, such as Resolution 2465 (2022) “The fight for a level playing field – Ending discrimination against women in the world of sport” and Resolution 2395 (2021) “Strengthening the fight against so-called ‘honour’ crimes”.

79. In November 2020, the European Commission adopted its first ever equality strategy for LGBTIQ people. It aims to tackle discrimination, ensure their safety, build inclusive societies and lead the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world.[48] It acknowledges that women in the LGBTI community face intersectional discrimination. I hope that the next Commission will continue this work and will be able to adopt a new strategy in 2025. The Council of Europe is also preparing its strategy on this subject, which is scheduled for adoption in 2027.

80. Education programmes that fail to address lesbophobic bullying or that present LBQ women and girls in a negative light also have deeply harmful effects on them while serving to perpetuate lesbophobic attitudes in society. The so-called anti-propaganda laws that aim at restricting access to sexuality education that is inclusive of LGBTI identities in schools will have long-term negative impacts. The Assembly should call once again on States which have adopted such laws to repeal them. Guaranteeing access to information is not an incitement to change sexual orientation or gender identity but can allow for discussion in a respectful setting.

81. The lack of data on lesbian, bisexual and queer women, not only in Europe but also worldwide, inevitably results in their invisibilisation, inequalities and in shortcomings in public policies to prevent and combat violence and discrimination against them, which makes them still less visible in society. There are barriers to understanding the lived experiences of LBQ women.

82. During our interview, Ms Berruti stressed the importance of recognising same-sex marriages celebrated abroad. In Monaco, there is still no legislation on marriage equality and same-sex marriages celebrated abroad are not recognised. Only the person who carried the child has rights and the co-parent in a same-sex couple has no rights over the child. Recognising equal rights would ensure stability in the event of the death of

47. CEDAW/C/ITA/CO/8: “Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Italy”.
48. European Commission (2023), “Progress report on the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025”.

the parent who carried the child and administrative peace of mind on a daily basis. I hope that this report will raise awareness of the difficulties linked to the lack of recognition of marriage and the inequalities that result from it and will be a step towards changes at the legislative level.

83. Marriage equality and other forms of legal recognition of same-sex couples have helped to change mentalities and make European societies more open. Member States should be encouraged to legislate on marriage for all, establishing equal rights and recognising marriages celebrated abroad, including those of same-sex couples.

84. Gender equality policies and strategies often fail to address the needs of LBQ women and work on the rights of LGBTI persons often pays little attention to the situation of LBQ women. Public policies must include all gender dimensions and specific research on the situation of LBQ women should be funded and carried out. It is time to move away from a heterosexist vision of society.

85. Campaigns to raise awareness about the need to prevent and combat violence and discrimination against LBQ women should be supported, especially on the International Lesbian Visibility Day, which is celebrated every year on 26 April.

## 8. Conclusions

86. LBQ women suffer multiple discrimination in Europe and lesbophobic insults are still commonplace. There must be systematic sanction of such insults and training in respect for all.

87. A change in the portrayal of LBQ women in culture is needed. A stereotyped vision of LBQ women is still used too often. They have diverse profiles, which should also be represented in the media, on television and in the cinema.

88. The climate of hate gives rise to fear to be oneself. As political leaders, we have a responsibility to guarantee everyone the right to be themselves and to leave no room for hatred and discrimination. We must protect everyone's freedom of expression and support reforms designed to achieve equal rights.

89. All political leaders who consider that diversity is a strength should feel bound to take this path. In the Assembly, this commitment can take the form of active participation in the activities of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe.

90. The philosopher Claire Marin talks of a "duty to be self-effacing" which societies impose on LGBTI persons.[49] It is time to make sure that nobody feels the need to hide themselves to escape discrimination or violence. In response to the reactionary movements which are attempting to make LBQ women invisible in our societies, we must stand firm and step up our support.

49. "Être à sa place", Claire Marin, L'Observatoire, 2022.