

5 Year Overview of Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Landscape

Contents / Agenda

1

Hate Crimes

4

Anti-LGBTQ+ Violence and Terror

2

Government and Legislative Actions

5

Online Harms

3

Book Bans

6

Tech Platform Policy and
Enforcement

Hate Crimes



Hate Crimes

On the Rise, *but...*

- Broad Increase in Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Crimes.
- People living openly rises (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2024)
- Around one in three (36 %) felt discriminated against in employment, healthcare, education, housing or other areas of life **down by 42 % in 2019.**
- In the UK, **sexual orientation hate crimes rose by 18.1%** while **anti-trans hate crimes rise by 50%** (UK police, 2020-2025).
- Most hate crimes are unreported, (particularly non-violent harassment).
- 2021 – 2022 spike: 56% in anti-trans hate crimes and 41% in sexual orientation hate crimes.

'I'm not visibly LGBTQ, and in appearance people don't think I'm gay. I'm not expressive, my partner and I go out very rarely and hide our relationship in public because of looks, comments, shouts, threats and fear that someone I know who doesn't know about me and is an extreme homophobe (there are a few) will see me.'

(Bulgaria, gay man, age 26)



'I feel like acceptance of LGB people has increased over the past years, however I believe that because trans people have become more visible, acceptance of them has decreased, which is worrying.'

(Germany, lesbian woman, age 25)



FIGURE 22: OPEN ABOUT BEING LGBTI 'OFTEN' OR 'ALWAYS', BY LGBTI CATEGORY, 2019 AND 2023 (%)

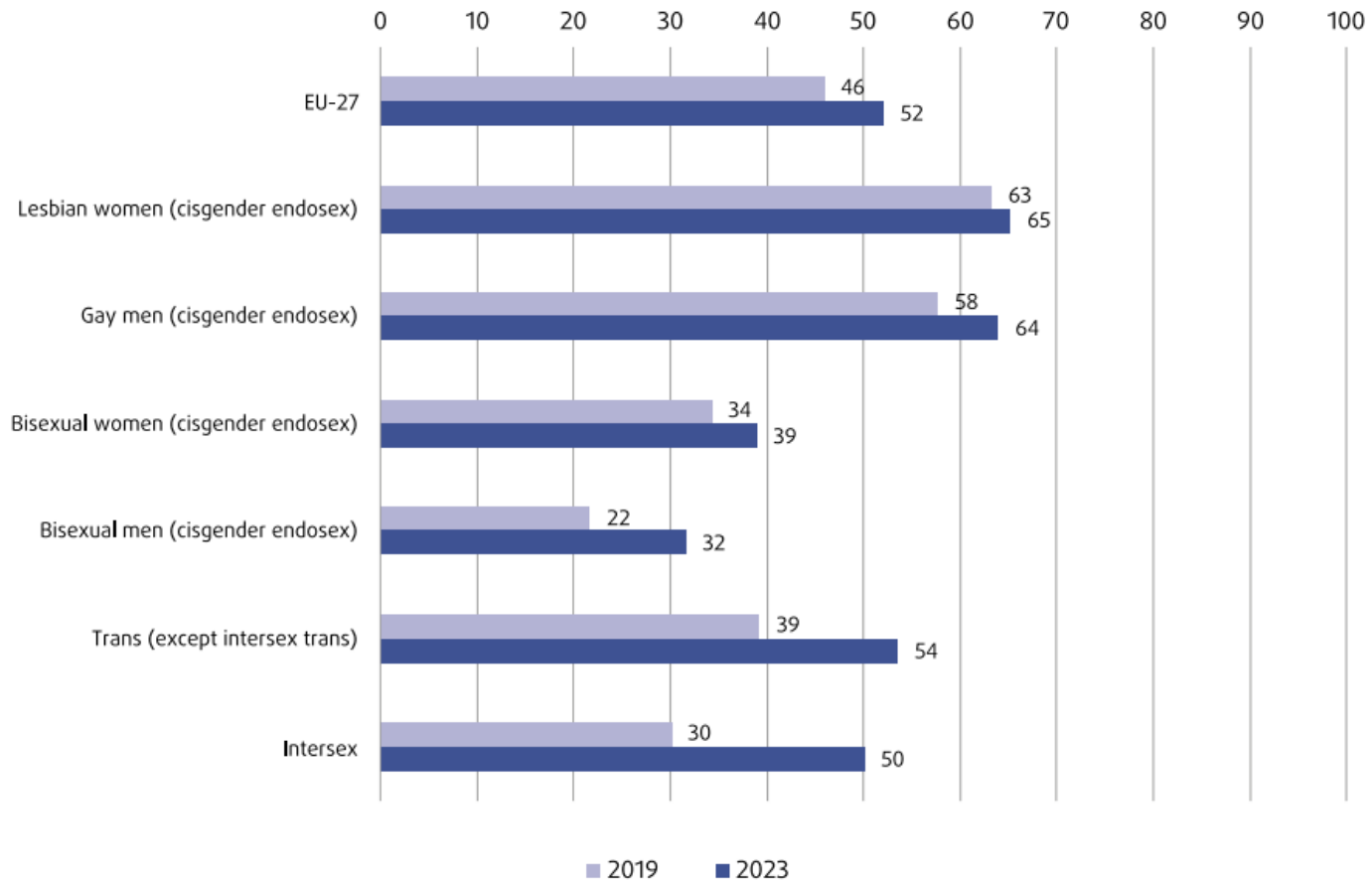
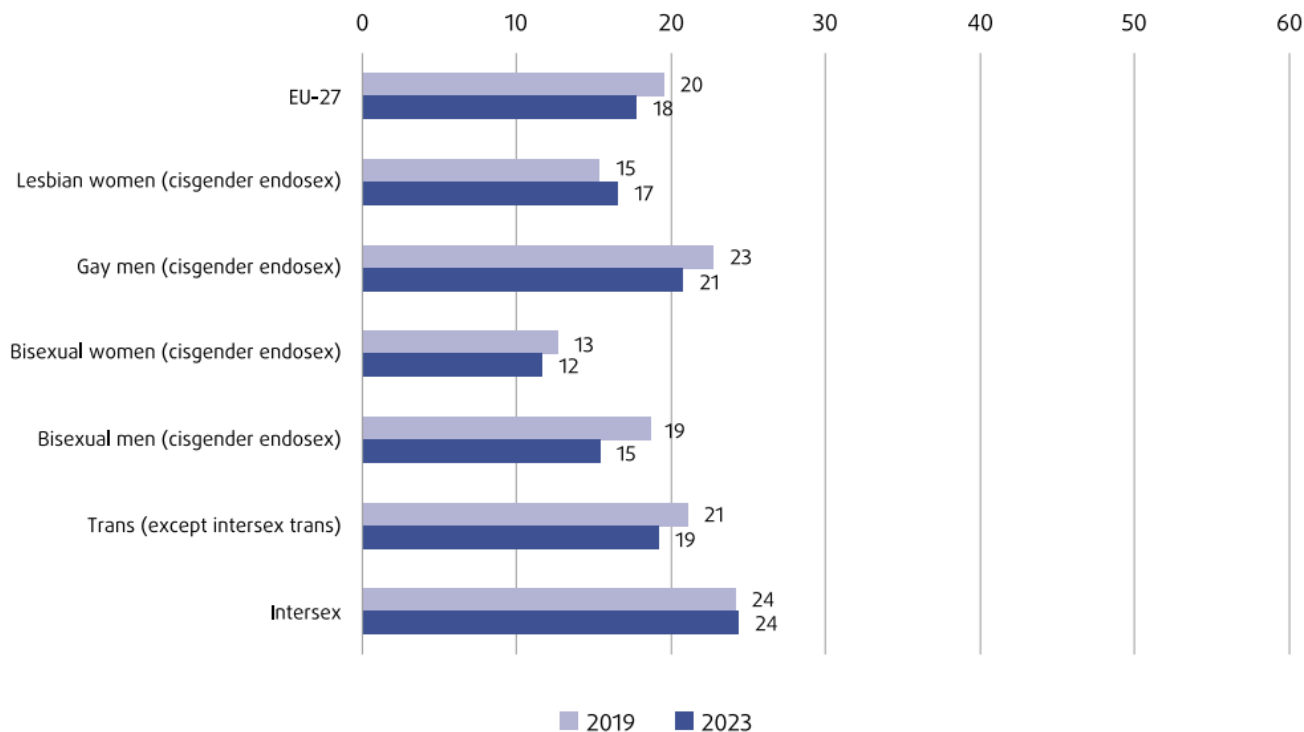


FIGURE 18: REPORTED THE MOST RECENT HATE-MOTIVATED VIOLENT INCIDENT THEY EXPERIENCED, BY LGBTI CATEGORY, 2019 AND 2023 (%)

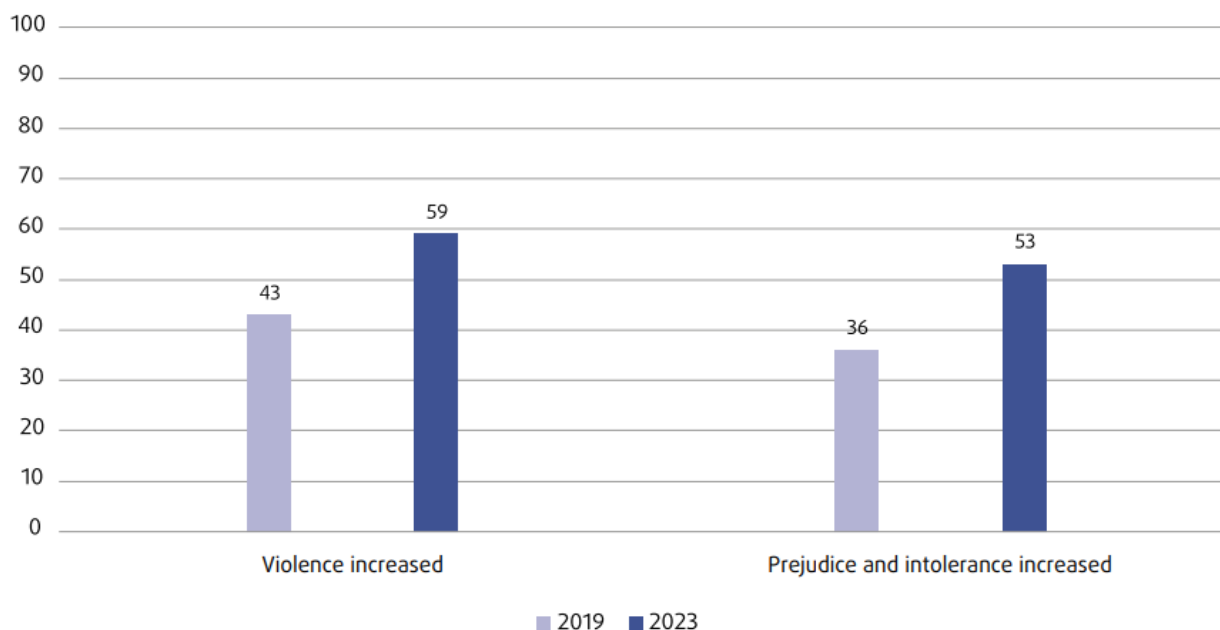


Sources: FRA, EU LGBTI Survey II (2019) and LGBTIQ Survey III (2023).

- Bullying in schools increased from 46% to 67% across the EU

- Only 18% of respondents reported attacks to an organisation, 8% reported harassment to an organisation.
- One in eight LGBTIQ respondents (13 %) in the EU said that they were physically or sexually attacked in the 5 years preceding the survey because they are LGBTIQ.
- Youngest respondents, and those who identify as another minority (i.e. disabled, migrant background, religious, in financial difficulty, etc.) are at higher risk

FIGURE 23: VIOLENCE OR PREJUDICE AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST LGBTIQ PEOPLE HAS INCREASED IN THE COUNTRY THEY LIVE IN, OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS, EU-27 AVERAGE, 2019 AND 2023 (%)



Source: FRA, EU LGBTIQ Survey III (2023).

Legislation and Government Actions

UK Legislation

- April 2025 Ruling on the meaning of sex: trans people excluded from single sex designated domestic violence/homeless shelters, medical clinics and other forms of support, no alternative support provided. Bars from sporting competitions
- Trans people are twice as likely to be victims of crime (UK, 2020)
- 14% refused non-transition-related healthcare on basis of gender identity (not related to transition) consistent in 2025, people of colour 50% more likely to be refused care; 57% avoided seeking healthcare (TransActual.UK, 2021).
- 70% had mental health concerns dismissed or attributed to gender identity, 42% encountered a GP with openly anti-trans view. 64% avoid going to their GPs, 37% avoided A&E even in emergency. (2025 Trans Actual 2025)
- Political parties look to follow US example i.e. in mandatory outing of children to parents (below, Reform manifesto).

Ban Transgender Ideology in Primary and Secondary Schools

No gender questioning, social transitioning or pronoun swapping. Inform parents of under 16s about their children's life decisions. Schools must have single sex facilities.

Russia, Eastern Europe

- **Russia**

- MangaLIB fined 160,000 Euros
- Between 2023-2024, far-right group *Russkaya Obshina* conducts 900 raids, 300 of which were backed by law enforcement (not exclusively anti-LGBTQ+).

- **Hungary's** 'child protection laws'; bookshop restrictions, Pride bans (2025) (*Unbanned, set for June 27 2026!)
- **Georgia** bans same sex marriage and adoption (2025)
- **Dagestan** and Chechnya purges

- 'Resource Centre LGBT,' based in Yekaterinburg, a major city in the Urals
- the LGBTQ+ group 'Vyhod' in St Petersburg;
- the Samara public organisation LGBTQ+ 'Irida,' from Samara, a large city on the Volga River;
- the Moscow Community Centre for LGBT Initiatives;
- the queer media outlet 'Parni+.'

The Ministry of Justice is also seeking to ban the 'Kallisto' movement in Yaroslavl, a historic city northeast of Moscow, and the organisations 'Centre T' and T9 NSK, which have supported transgender people.

Belarus's parliament [adopted a new law](#) on April 2 banning "propaganda" of same-sex relationships, of "gender reassignment," and even of "childlessness." This furthers the legal and political alignment between Belarus and Russia, which both seek to stigmatize minority groups, control public discourse, and suppress dissent.



Chronicling the Crackdown

04.06.2026

14:04 Moscow

“Centre T” has been declared an extremist organisation

27.04.2026

16:42 Saint Petersburg

The “Russian LGBT Network” has been declared an extremist org:

23.04.2026

15:49 Oryol Oblast

LGBTQ media outlet Parni+ and the Moscow Community Centre t organisations.

09.04.2026

12:56 Volgograd Oblast

20-year-old Varvara Luch from Volzhsky, a city on the Volga River, was detained over alleged “LGBT propaganda” in her social media accounts.

According to the [comment](#) from the young woman’s lawyer, the reason was an “old humorous video” featuring “a brief appearance of a photo of Olga Buzova with a colourful flag.”

[Share](#) _____

23.03.2026

18:58 Zabaykalsky Krai

The owner of a gay club in Chita, a city in eastern Siberia, has been sentenced to four years in prison.

29.01.2026

13:43 Moscow

In Moscow, two young people were fined for kissing in a public place

26.11.2025

13:51 Russia

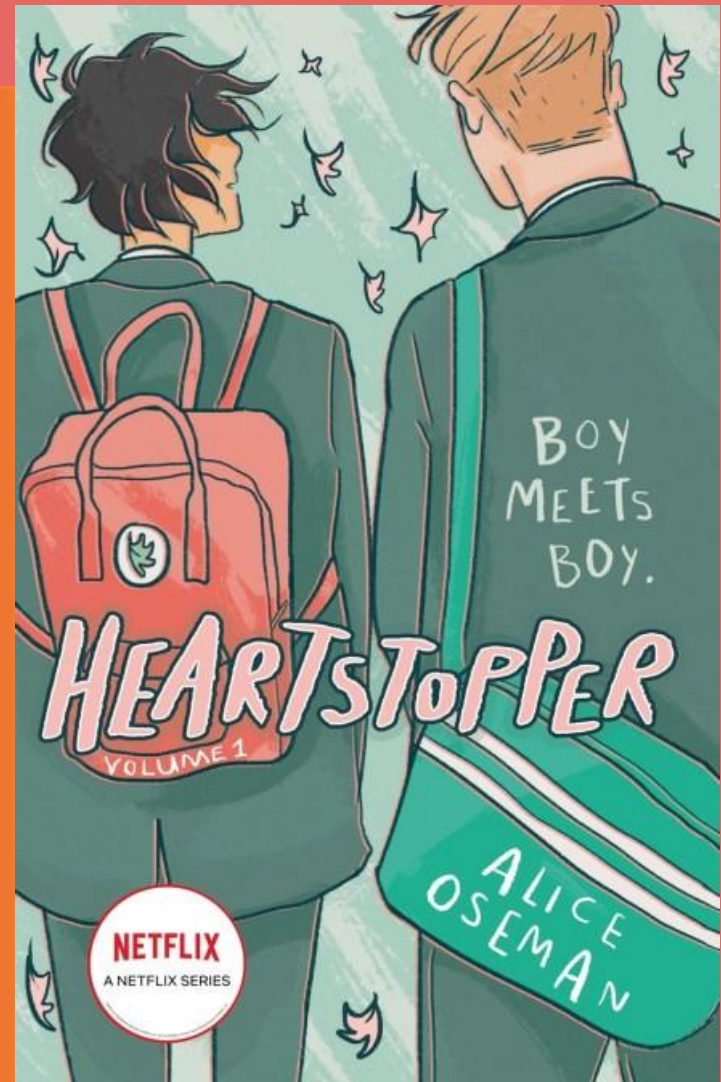
Stephen King’s novel “It” has been withdrawn from sale following complaints about the depiction of LGBT relationships.

14.11.2025

10:23 Moscow

The court has posthumously found the director of a travel agency guilty in a case concerning the organisation of trips for LGBTQ people.

Book Bans

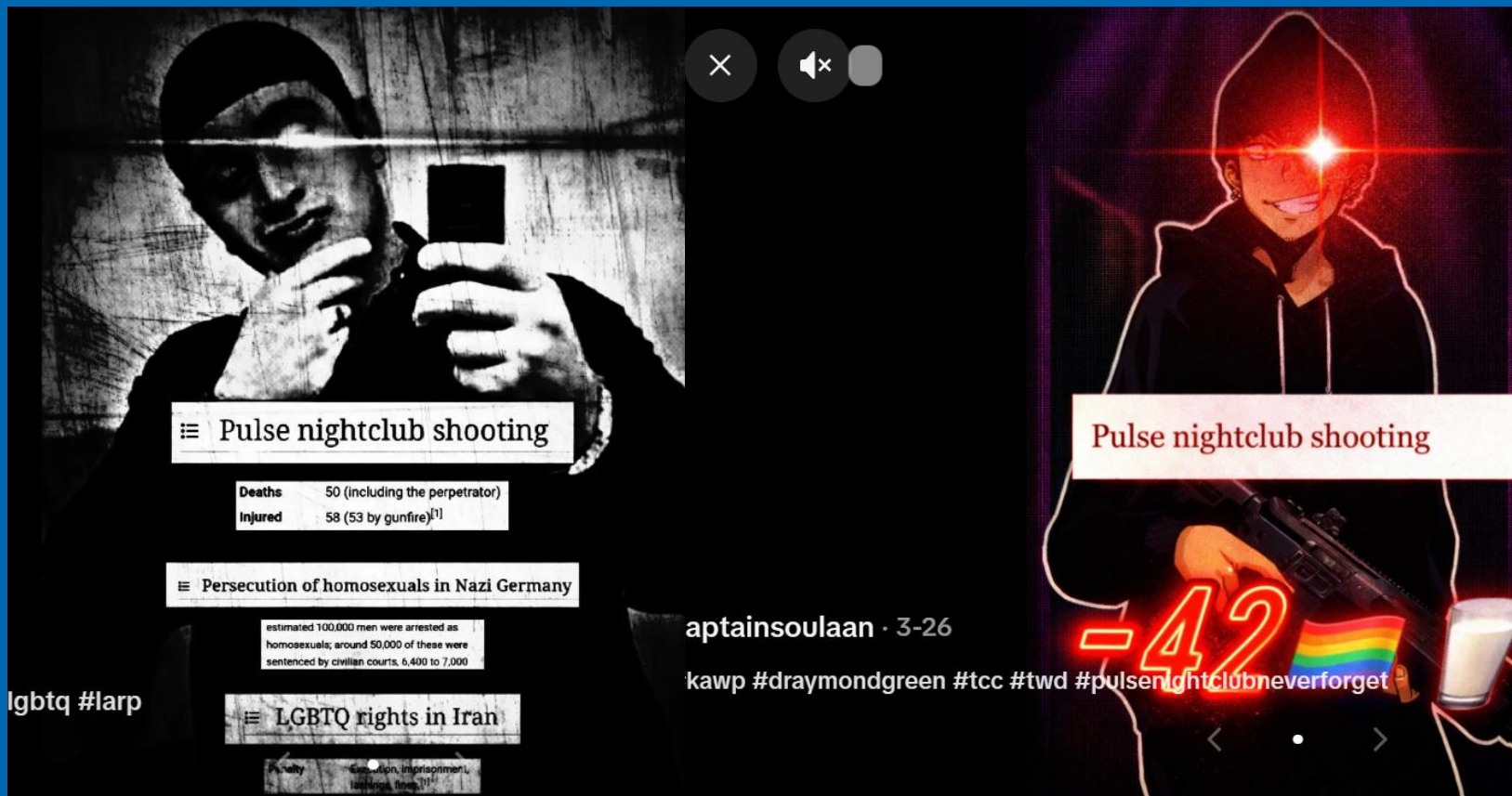


Book Bans

- In the US, between 2023-2024 alone, 10,046 books were banned. Of the most banned books, 44 percent featured characters of colour and 39 percent featured LGBTQ+ characters. (*PEN America*)
- In the UK, LGBTQ+ content is most targeted
- Self-censorship to avoid conflict
- Mix of parents and lobby groups
- Under Hungary's Child Protection Law Books moved to adult section, covered in plastic.
- Similar policies proposed in other countries, critics claim the policy is modeled on Russia's.



Anti-LGBTQ+ Violence



Anti-LGBTQ+ Violence: Across the Spectrum

- February 2020: One killed and one injured by an Islamist extremist in Dresden, Germany.
- May 2022: Two killed and at least nine injured during a shooting attack on two bars in Oslo, Norway, by a man who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group.
- October 2022: Two killed in a Terrorgram-inspired shooting attack at a queer bar in Bratislava, Slovakia.
- November 2022: Five killed and 25 injured in a neo-Nazi shooting attack at a queer bar in Colorado, US.
- May 2023: A 17-year-old Catholic integralist extremist threw an explosive device into an LGBTQ+ centre in Tours, France, but a delay in detonation averted casualties.
- June 2023: Three IS group sympathisers aged between 14 and 20 were arrested for planning to attack a Pride event in Vienna, Austria.
- June 2023: 20 members of the white supremacist group Patriot Front were arrested, and later charged with conspiracy to riot, at a Pride event in Idaho, US.
- August 2023: A woman who did not identify as LGBTQ+ was shot and killed by a Christian far-right extremist after displaying a pride flag in her shop in California.
- May 2025: A foiled plot involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at a Lady Gaga concert in Brazil specifically targeted the LGBTQ+ community and recruited minors.
- October 2025: IS- inspired attacks on Michigan gay bars foiled
- 2025 Bautzen Pride disrupted by 700 far-right extremists; 55 targeted disruptions/threats/attacks across Germany in 2024 (Amadeu Antonio Foundation)

Notably, organised groups who perpetrate anti-LGBTQ+ are often also opposed to democratic norms and pose a threat to the state.

Online Harms



Online Harms

- According to a 2022 Digital Youth Index survey, LGBTQ+ youth were twice as likely to have experienced “trolling or abuse from strangers” online.
- Increasing targeting of transgender people, online extremist activity spikes in tandem with offline developments (ISD 2025).



When asked about being harassed individually, respondents said that in the 12 months before the survey they experienced online harassment to a lesser degree (16 %) than harassment in personal encounters in daily life (52 %). 11 % said that someone posted offensive or threatening comments about them on the internet, and 9 % reported receiving offensive or threatening emails.



Online Harms: Anti-Trans Hate

- Trans people are cast as perpetrators of violence and sexual violence and as threats to women and children, mirroring other forms of hate. Overlap with other forms of hate, i.e. antisemitic.
- Disproportionate targeting of women and non-white women who do not fit gender stereotypes, particularly female athletes such as Imane Khelif.
- For Brigitte Macron (or other figures partners), attacking her is a way of attacking her husband, President Macron.
- Gender stereotypes are not *only* physical, but also relate to role, power, etc.



Figure 2. Screenshot from interview with Imane Khelif. Source: X.



Transvestigation Disinfo



Storm 1516 targets Macron

Un chirurgien lié aux rumeurs sur la transidentité de Brigitte Macron, retrouvé mort à Paris.

 AUDREY PARMENTIER · JUILLET 1, 2025



- Macron won a libel case in 2024, but Owens reignited the conspiracy theory in 2025.

Tech Platform Policy and Enforcement

“A kiss between two lovers may count as PG if between a man and a woman, but if two men are kissing, the same act can be viewed as not safe for work.”



Online Safety Actions

- FOSTA (Fight Against Online Trafficking Act, 2018)
- Disproportionate censorship of queer online spaces Youth access to queer spaces restricted (i.e. forums). Also an issue for e.g. sexual health, abuse information.
- “ambiguous rules could be weaponised to target vulnerable populations”
- Small community forums shut down for risk of violating OSA etc. queer communities are *more* at risk



Heritage Foundation 
@Heritage

...

Yes we do. Keeping trans content away from children is protecting kids.
No child should be conditioned to think that permanently damaging their
healthy bodies to try to become something they can never be is even
remotely a good idea.

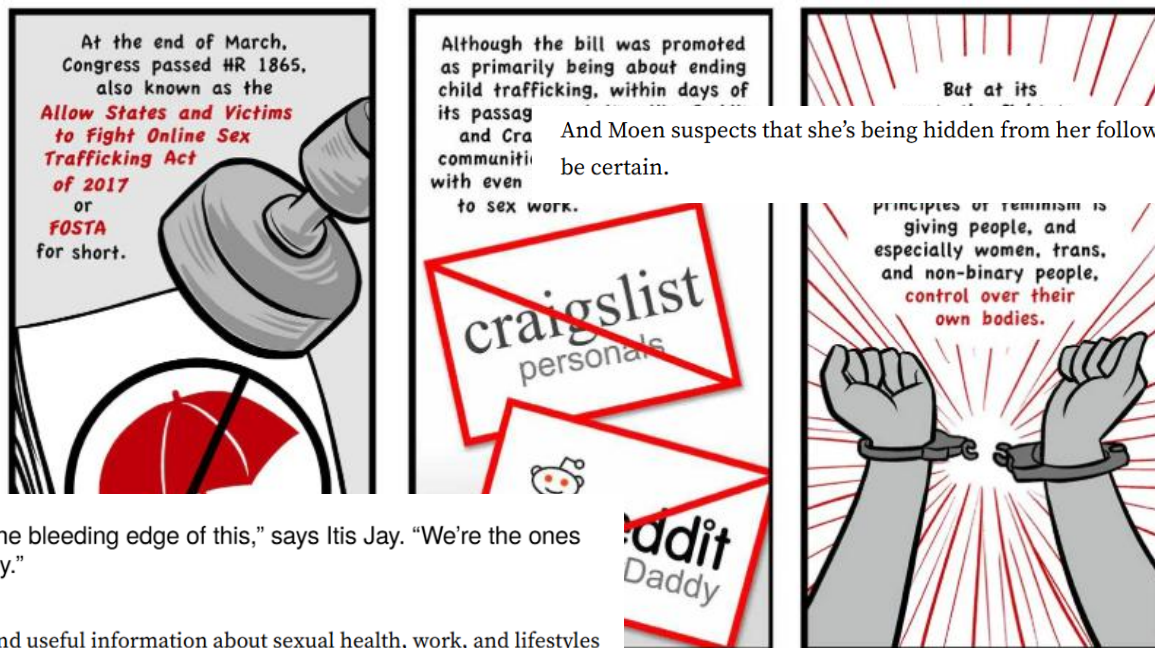
- Danger of data breaches in age verification, particularly in anti-LGBTQ+ countries.

How Queer Adult Comic Artists Are Being Silenced By FOSTA-SESTA

The legislation that helped kill adult content on Tumblr and Craigslist personals is forcing adult comics authors to self-censor.

BY MATT BAUME

April 22, 2020



“Queer folks are at the bleeding edge of this,” says Itis Jay. “We’re the ones who explore sexuality.”

The effect is that stories and useful information about sexual health, work, and lifestyles are becoming increasingly hard to find.

Erika Moon

And Moen suspects that she’s being hidden from her followers, though there’s no way to be certain.

Increasingly, artists and authors find that they must waste time obscuring their content to please unknown censors, or moving from one platform to another. Queer content creators say they’re particularly vulnerable to flagging.

“The more sexy or homo it is, the more likely it’ll get flagged or removed,” says [Bryan Knight](#), whose [Velvet Collar](#) comics document the lives of queer sex workers.

“For example, a common vernacular for sex workers is ‘escorts,’” he says. “You can’t post that on Facebook anymore. They’ll say the word isn’t acceptable. You can’t put hashtags like #sexworkerrights on Instagram.”

Automated Censorship



Figure 4. Gamers discuss the challenges of blocklist moderation (in its overlap with sexualization and capacity to offend) for queer gamers. Source: Reddit.

- Queer identifying language is either labelled potentially abusive or sexualised.
- Overcaution affects automated moderation and AI model training

Summary

- Spectrum of ideologies promote anti-LGBTQ+ hate; rising hate crimes
- Rollbacks of protections by Tech Platforms
- Book Bans
- Legislative Actions: Russia and US as models
- Online Erasure – laws ostensibly protecting children and women lead to restriction from public spaces, online and offline
- Visibility of Creators restricted by shadow-banning, dual standards, overcaution by companies
- AI exclusion



Pridemonth is cancelled - White Boy summer is started ☀️



guywitheyeyes • 10mo ago

I remember when I was a kid, my Roblox friend tried to come out as gay to me but he couldn't say the word "gay" because it kept getting censored lmao. Roblox moderation sucks.



3



Reply



Award



Share



Thank you.

Contact us:

e: gf@isdglobal@isdglobal.org
