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Free to love, free to be: the EU's new LGBTIQ+ strategy



Social acceptance of LGBTIQ+ people has increased across the EU in the last five years. Some 75% of people say they are comfortable to have gay, lesbian or bisexual colleagues. But **LGBTIQ+ people continue to experience disproportionate and unacceptable levels of hate, violence and discrimination**. Around one in three LGBTIQ+ people still report experiencing discrimination in the past 12 months.

To defend equality and inclusion whenever they are under threat, the EU has launched its **LGBTIQ+ equality strategy for 2026-2030**. It builds on the previous strategy for 2020-2025 and will go further in ensuring LGBTIQ+ equality is mainstreamed across all EU policies.

The new strategy sets out 3 key areas of action:

- **protecting** LGBTIQ+ people
 - **from hate-motivated harassment and violence** through a new action plan against cyberbullying and the creation of a knowledge hub to collect intelligence on illegal hate online
 - **from discrimination**, by enforcing relevant EU laws and by continuing to fund civil society organisations that defend the rights of LGBTIQ+ people
 - **from conversion practices**, which seek to forcibly change people's sexual orientation or gender identity, by analysing them and considering appropriate measures as well as considering the European Citizens' Initiative to ban such practices
- **empowering** LGBTIQ+ people through
 - **equality bodies**, by ensuring that they are effective in promoting LGBTIQ+ rights
 - **rainbow families**, by encouraging EU countries to adopt the Recognition of Parenthood proposal
 - **promoting inclusion at workplace**, working with the [EU Platform of Diversity Charters](#) to support LGBTIQ+ employees
- **engaging** society to advance LGBTIQ+ equality by
 - **calling on all EU countries to adopt national strategies** or actions plans on LGBTIQ+ equality
 - **improving the data collection and analysis** to better understand the real-life experiences of LGBTIQ+ people
 - **launching an “LGBTIQ+ Policy Forum”**, a direct platform for exchange between civil society and the European Commission

The Commission will publish a report on the implementation of **employment equality rules** in 2026 and continue to ensure their rigorous application. Alongside this, the Commission will set out new guidance on inclusive hiring practices.

For more information

[Actions for LGBTIQ equality](#)

[Equality and inclusion: key actions \(2020-2025\)](#)

[Equality and inclusion](#)

[Press release: Commission builds on Union of Equality with adoption of new LGBTIQ+ Equality strategy](#)

Details

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