

# OBSERVATORY ON LESBOPHOBIC VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LESBIANS

20  
25



EUROCENTRALASIAN  
LESBIAN\*COMMUNITY



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The Eurocentralasian Lesbian\* Community – EL\*C is a lesbian feminist and intersectional network. We publish our own research focused on lesbians and we are present at an institutional level with our advocacy to ensure that lesbian needs are visible, heard and considered when creating policies and laws. For more information, please visit our website: [www.lesbiangenius.org](http://www.lesbiangenius.org)

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## ABOUT EL\*C

The EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community (EL\*C) is a feminist, intersectional, pan-European network of over 250 LBQ-led and LBQ-focused civil society organisations in Europe and Central Asia, including all 27 EU Member States, as well as more than 6,000 individual members.

EL\*C use the term “lesbian” as inclusive of cis, trans and intersex women, and non-binary persons who self-identify as lesbian, bisexual and queer. For this reason, in the following report, unless otherwise specified, the term “lesbian” includes all non-heterosexual LGBTIQ women. We will also refer to “lesbian organisations” to include all groups focused on and led by LGBTIQ women.

For us, using the word “lesbian” is part of the political struggle for visibility, empowerment, and representation, having in mind that the word “lesbian” is one of the most stigmatized and invisibilised words. It has long been connected with shame and disgust, as well as sexual objectification and porn; historically hijacked and warped to distortion by the male gaze. It is time to shake off the stigma.

## INTRODUCTION

EL\*C Observatory on Lesbophobia was launched in 2022 with a first report collecting cases from 2019 to 2022 that was published in 2023<sup>1</sup>. A second<sup>2</sup> and a third<sup>3</sup> annual reports were published in 2024 and 2025 respectively. The need for an Observatory steamed from the work of EL\*C members in combating gender-based violence and hate crime against lesbians.

Lesbophobia is also often misunderstood in policy making concerning hate crime, hate speech and gender-based violence or not at all nominated because considered to be the same as homophobia. While lesbophobia and homophobia have many aspects in common, the term lesbophobia conceptualise the misogynistic and sexist expression of violence against people that identify or are perceived as non-heterosexual women

### Definition of lesbophobia

Lesbophobia is a specific form of bias that encompasses misogyny and stigma on non-conforming sexual orientation and gender expression. In particular, hate against lesbians is structured around three entrenched social norms: 1) lesbians with their sexual orientation and gender expression refute the social expectations and stereotypes concerning ‘male’ and ‘female’ gender roles, 2)

<sup>1</sup> EL\*C (2023) Observatory on Lesbophobia 2019-2022 <https://lesbiangenius.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Observatory-Lesbophobia-2019-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> EL\*C (2024): Annual report of the Observatory on lesbophobic violence and discrimination against lesbians – 2023 <https://lesbiangenius.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Report-on-lesbophobia.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> EL\*C (2025): Annual report of the Observatory on lesbophobic violence and discrimination against lesbians – 2024 [https://lesbiangenius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Observatory\\_final-report.pdf](https://lesbiangenius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Observatory_final-report.pdf)

lesbians disrupt the expectations that women are at the ‘disposal’ of men, especially because women’s sexuality is widely objectified, and 3) they compel society to confront widespread taboos related to female sexuality and to non-heterosexual sexual orientations. These biases and the resulting violence have an impact not only on the victims but also on society as a whole.

## METHODOLOGY

Building up from the methodology developed in the past three years, in 2025 the activities of the Observatory focused on collecting cases of violence from the EL\*C network.

In April 2025, EL\*C organised an advocacy meeting in Rome with 42 activists from lesbian organisations across the EU, bringing together diverse backgrounds and expertise. The session examined how lesbians were facing rising hate—online, in public spaces and within institutions—and, through contributions from speakers from Italy, France, Moldova and the UK as well as an open discussion with participants, served as a structured space to collect testimonies and concrete examples of lesbophobic incidents across Europe. The cases gathered directly fed into this report, strengthening its evidence base on patterns of lesbophobic violence and discrimination. As a result of this meeting, we chose to focus this year report on lesbophobia in the family. We also decided to raise awareness and collect data using community-based actions, especially online.

In response to this need, in the summer of 2025, EL\*C also launched the campaign *Is Home Really Safe?* campaign combined a short, intensive Instagram action with an anonymous online questionnaire to collect situated testimonies on family-based lesbophobia during the summer period. Between 21 and 28 July 2025, ELC published 78 Instagram and Facebook stories via the EL\*C accounts (@elc\_lesbiancommunity) using polls, prompts and open questions; despite the 24-hour lifespan of stories, all replies and direct messages were manually recorded, yielding 108 direct interactions, 5,382 impressions and a reach of 3,091 unique users. In parallel, a questionnaire was disseminated via newsletters to 3,620 contacts and promoted on Instagram and Facebook, gathering 110 responses between 22 July and 6 August 2025. The survey combined multiple-choice questions with open-ended items on visibility, safety and family dynamics, allowing for both basic quantitative indicators and richer qualitative accounts.

Finally, in September 2025 EL\*C collected additional cases via a call for submission targeting EL\*C members and 7 additional reports from EL\*C members were received.

In November 2025, during the Lesbian Movement Committee members, representatives from EL\*C members discussed the results of the observatory. An interactive map including all the cases of lesbophobia collected by the Observatory was prepared and will be published in 2026. The annual report was compiled in December 2025.

# 1. LESBOPHOBIA: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The data collected for the Observatory confirm that lesbophobic violence is structural and persistent, with 2025 bringing a particularly dense set of cases and several important national-level datasets. EL\*C members and partner organisations documented incidents in 13 countries – including Armenia, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine – alongside national monitoring exercises that register cases in the dozens or hundreds and, in Spain’s case, thousands of respondents. Rather than isolated “incidents”, these materials show a continuum of lesbophobic violence operating across homes, public spaces, institutions, digital environments and borders.

The 2025 data also point very clearly to two cross-cutting dimensions that run through many of the incidents: family-based lesbophobia and institutional or state-sponsored violence. Family rejection, coercion and intra-household control appear in multiple individual cases and are consistently highlighted in national datasets; because of their scope and gravity, these dynamics are examined in a dedicated chapter below.

## National data

In 2025, we observed a clear increase in national-level data on lesbophobia collected by NGOs and, in one case, by a state institution. This development is particularly significant given the chronic lack of systematic data on violence against lesbians and LGBTQ women. While the datasets use different methodologies and are not directly comparable, together they begin to sketch a more consistent picture of the scale and forms of lesbophobic violence in Europe and beyond, and provide a stronger evidence base for political and legal action.

In Armenia, Pink Armenia recorded 49 cases of violations against lesbians in 2024 and 61 further cases in the first half of 2025, many involving physical and psychological violence, coercive “treatments” and abuse targeting LGBTQ women and girls. In Italy, the 2025 Rete Medusa report documented 53 incidents of lesbophobic violence and discrimination between May 2023 and December 2024, combining media monitoring and an anonymous questionnaire; a majority of cases involved violence, and 33% occurred when victims were minors, with the home and public spaces identified as key sites of risk. In Ukraine, the organisation Gender Stream documented seven cases of lesbophobia between 2022 and mid-2025, including assaults by family members and neighbours and a case of prolonged sexual violence by Russian troops against an openly lesbian mother, after which she and her child disappeared. In Serbia, Rainbow Ignite surveyed 295 lesbians and found very high levels of violence, including nearly half of the respondents reporting abuse from their family of origin and one third intimate partner violence, with institutional responses largely absent. In Spain, a national survey of 4,362 lesbian and bisexual women finds that 81.9% of them have experienced violence because of their sexual orientation, with high levels of verbal, sexual and physical abuse. Finally, the French organisation SOS Homophobie reported 268 cases of lesbophobia in each of its last two monitoring years, with a significant proportion occurring in the family and in

the street. Together, these figures confirm that what emerges in this report is only a visible fragment of a much larger, under-reported phenomenon.

### Violence in public spaces and online

In 2025, violence and harassment in public spaces stand out as a constant across contexts. Incidents range from “classic” street and nightlife assaults – such as the young couple attacked in a Clermont-Ferrand (France) supermarket, the death-threats and beating of a couple at a festival in Emilia-Romagna (Italy), or the attacks documented in Transylvania (Romania) – to targeted aggression against clearly identified lesbian spaces and initiatives. Staff from LORI were verbally abused and had objects thrown at them while leading a queer history walk in Rijeka (Croatia); a bar in Hungary refused toilet access to a woman with rainbow-themed make-up and subjected her to slurs; and the sign of the first park named after a same-sex couple in Ljubljana (Croatia) was vandalised shortly after its inauguration. Earlier entries from 2020–2023 in multiple countries show strikingly similar dynamics, underlining the continuity of this pattern over time rather than a “spike” limited to a single year.

Online violence and coordinated hate campaigns are also clearly intensifying. In France, the feminist lesbian bookshop and NGO *Violette and Co* faced vandalism and intimidation in the premises of the organisation were combined with defamatory content and cyber-harassment and explicit death threats. In Italy, top-league volleyball players Gaia Moretto and Valentina Arrighetti received a wave of sexist and lesbophobic insults after publicly celebrating their civil union, while *Arcigay Modena* documented more than a thousand lesbophobic, sexist and anti-LGBTI posts, online comments and stories – including death threats – reacting to the publication of the news that the lesbian forum “*Saffichiamo*” would take place in Modena. EL\*C member *6rang* reports that Iranian lesbians, both in Iran and in diaspora communities such as Germany, are systematically targeted with online hate, disinformation, misgendering and rape or death threats, especially when LGBTI issues become visible in the media. Comparable patterns appear in cases recorded in earlier years and involving lesbian bars, artists, journalists and prominent athletes, confirming that online spaces are key in lesbophobic mobilisation.

### Institutional violence

The data also show clearly that institutions are not neutral bystanders. In several contexts, public authorities and state systems directly reproduce or authorise lesbophobic harm. In Kazakhstan, feminist and lesbian activist Zhanar Sekerbayeva was sentenced at the end of February 2025 to ten days of administrative detention for a peaceful protest against femicide held nine months earlier, in a timing that strongly suggests an attempt to keep her away from 8 March mobilisations. Asylum and migration systems in Germany and Moldova have denied or undermined protection to lesbian and trans women by questioning their identities or downplaying the risks they face. In other cases, collected in previous years, institutions actively police lesbian visibility: registries and prosecutors seeking to remove non-biological mothers from birth certificates in Italy, or parliaments tolerating open insults against lesbian MPs and activists without sanction.

Equally significant is institutional inaction when lesbians seek help. Two suicides documented in this Observatory make this particularly stark. In Cantal (France) school head Caroline Grandjean died by suicide after two years of lesbophobic harassment, insults and threats, during which her complaint and alerts received no meaningful response from education authorities, parents or local officials. In Sevilla (Spain), the suicide of a 14-year-old girl was reported by her family and local activists as linked to persistent school bullying, including insults such as “gorda” and “lesbiana”, in a context where the school allegedly failed to activate its anti-bullying protocol. Romanian cases also point to systemic neglect: in 2022 a woman was assaulted in the Bucharest metro for her gender expression and perceived sexual orientation and had no effective redress, with similar cases being reported also in other regions of Romania in 2025 (Transylvania).

In all these examples, the absence, delay or minimalism of institutional responses allows lesbophobic violence to continue with impunity and erodes trust in the authorities that should guarantee protection.

## 2. SPECIAL FOCUS: LESBOPHOBIA IN THE FAMILY

Across the material collected for this Observatory, the family emerges consistently as one of the main sites of lesbophobic violence. Rather than functioning as a space of protection, many homes operate as places of control, silencing and punishment when daughters, family members or mothers are (or are perceived to be) lesbians or LGBTQ. This pattern is visible both in individual cases and in national datasets.

For instance, Pink Armenia recorded 49 cases of human-rights violations in 2024 and 61 further cases by mid-2025, many involving physical and psychological violence, coercive “treatments” and family-based abuse targeting LGBTQ women and girls. In the same country, Queer Sista platform documented 19 cases of lesbian, queer women, trans and non-binary people seeking mental-health and crisis support linked to discrimination and violence; eight of these involved domestic abuse by a parent and/or sibling, and in one case a young lesbian woman became homeless for three days after being thrown out of the family home. Similar dynamics appear in Spain, where NosMesmas reported cases of family coercion and abuse against a young lesbian, and in France, where both SOS homophobie’s monitoring and demographic research show that lesbian and bisexual girls are among those most exposed to psychological, physical and sexual intra-family violence compared to heterosexual girls and their male peers.

Likewise, the Italian network Rete Medusa found that the home is the single most frequently mentioned place of lesbophobic violence in its 2025 report, with a significant share of cases occurring when victims were minors, and often involving parents or close relatives. National data from Spain’s Instituto de las Mujeres also confirm how widespread violence based on sexual orientation remains for lesbian and bisexual women, and qualitative accounts from SOS Homophobie underline that families can rapidly become sites of confinement, threats and beatings

once a daughter's sexuality is known. In several of the cases reported to the Observatory, family violence is explicitly framed as "correction": forcing women into heterosexual marriage, sending them away from cities, or pushing them into unwanted "treatment" in the hope of changing their sexuality.

Within this broader pattern, EL\*C's 2025 summer campaign *Is Home Really Safe?* offered a focused, community-based lens on how family-based lesbophobia is experienced and narrated by lesbians themselves.

### Case study – *Is Home Really Safe?* EL\*C summer campaign

As mentioned above, between 21 and 28 July 2025, EL\*C ran the *Is Home Really Safe?* campaign via Instagram and Facebook stories, complemented by an anonymous questionnaire. The aim was to document how lesbians experience family spaces during the summer holidays, a time when many are expected to "go back home" and resume closeted or strictly controlled roles. One of the main takes away of this data collection exercise was that for many lesbians returning home "does not mean rest. It means erasure, returning to the closet, becoming invisible, hiding our relationships, being policed for how we speak, dress, or exist."<sup>4</sup>

The campaign combined daily prompts, polls and open questions (78 stories in total) accompanied by a public questionnaire that gathered 110 responses. Although this is not a representative sample, the information obtained should be seen as "situated" data<sup>5</sup>: the 110 testimonies are politically located knowledge, produced within a lesbian space that has built enough trust for people to speak even in contexts of risk.

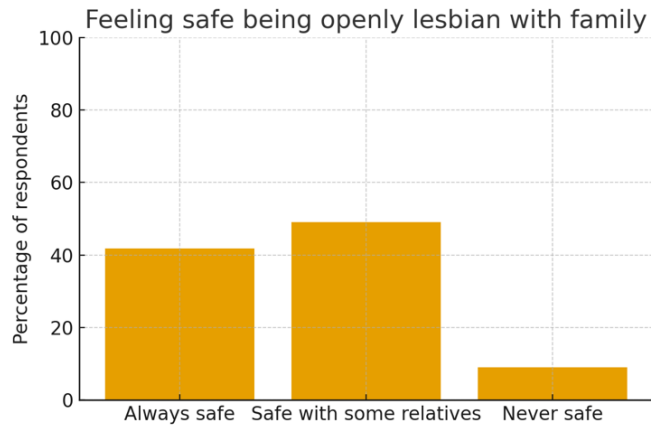
### **Key findings**

The survey data and stories interactions reveal a continuum of family-based lesbophobia, ranging from everyday silencing to direct pressure to change sexuality. A constant element is "identity management": the feeling that safety depends on carefully limiting openness about one's sexuality, avoiding bringing a partner home, and constantly monitoring one's behaviour and appearance. Well over half of respondents (58.18%) do not feel fully safe with their families – 49.09% feel safe only with some relatives and 9.09% never feel safe – which suggests that many navigate complex negotiations where they can be out with certain family members but must remain silent with others.

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<sup>4</sup> EL\*C (2025), Report of the campaign "Is Home Really Safe" – not published, available upon request

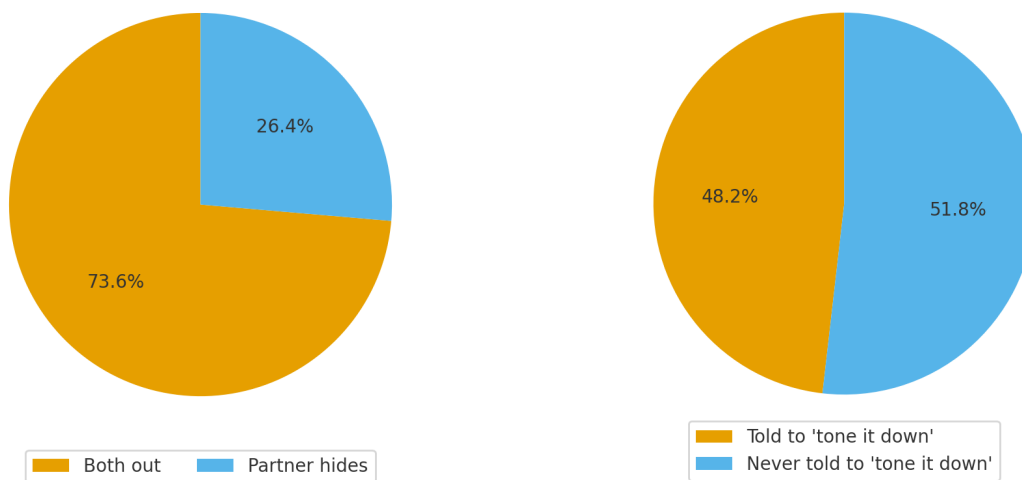
<sup>5</sup> EL\*C (2025), Report of the campaign "Is Home Really Safe" – not published, available upon request



Relationship visibility is affected in similar ways. Around one in four respondents (26.36%) reported that their partner still hides the relationship from her family; 10% of the respondents described this situation as painful, while 16.36% said they “understand” the need for discretion. Even in families that may “welcome” partners in theory, roughly one in three respondents either do not bring their partner home or feel she is invisible in that space (30.91%).

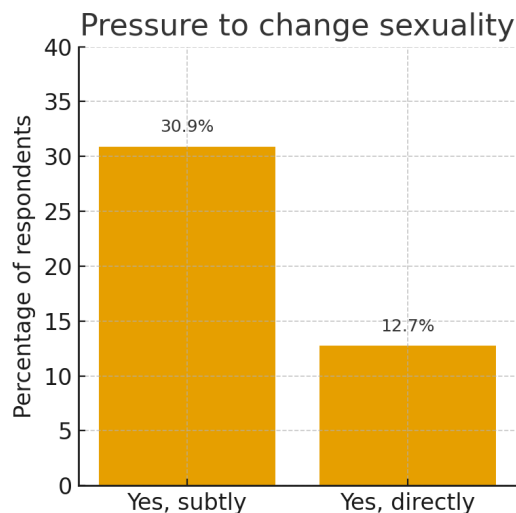
Nearly half (48.18%) said they had been told to “tone it down”, and many reported hearing phrases such as “Let’s keep it private”, “It’s just a phase” or “Don’t tell grandma”, showing how even nominally accepted lesbian identities are tightly controlled and expected to remain discreet. In this context, 63.63% of respondents said they hide parts of themselves at home, and 62.73% change how they dress, talk or act around family in order to “fit in”.

Visibility of the relationship with families    Have you ever been told to 'tone it down'?



Particularly worrying are the findings on pressure to change sexuality. Almost one in two respondents (43.64%) reported having been pressured to change their sexuality, 30.91% subtly and 12.73% directly.

Heteronormative pressure takes many forms, including “advices” to find a boyfriend, threats, appeals to religion or family honour, but the effect is similar: pushing women and people perceived as such back towards heterosexuality and deeper into the closet. Even when the severity of these actions does not reach the threshold of conversion practices, they often closely resemble them, with relatives using emotional blackmail, spiritual narratives or coercive behaviours to deny the legitimacy of lesbian existence.



### ***Analysis: home as a site of control, chosen family as resistance***

The testimonies from *Is Home Really Safe?* show that family-based lesbophobia is not an exception but a structuring element of many lesbians’ lives. Home appears as a site where affection co-exists with control, surveillance and emotional blackmail. Participants describe being asked to erase themselves in order to preserve family honour—for example, a woman whose mother demanded she delete photos of herself kissing her girlfriend around her father’s funeral—and speak of the gap between surface tolerance and genuine support. As one of the participant declared: “Tolerating my sexuality is not the same as accepting me.”

Many re-count censoring what they say and how they dress “to keep the peace”, or leaving certain clothes and gestures behind when they cross the family doorstep, knowing comments like “why do you dress like that?” will follow. One respondent summarises each summer visit home as “a return to silence”, capturing how cyclical and predictable these dynamics are.

At the same time, the campaign highlights that resistance and care are being organised elsewhere. 67.27% of respondents said they feel more supported by chosen family, with only 19.09% feeling unsupported and 13.64% still searching for a safe circle. When asked who makes them feel truly seen and safe, respondents overwhelmingly name partners, friends and queer spaces: “My lovely partner, the love and light of my life, my best friend in every lifetime”; “Friends, chosen family”; “My queer community.” Messages to other lesbians who feel unsafe at home insist on survival and solidarity—“You are loved. We lesbians are out here, everywhere in the world. You are not alone” and “You should not feel forced to keep relationships that hurt you. Family doesn’t have to be

forever if it's painful." Together, these voices show that chosen family is not just a metaphor but a concrete response to family-based violence, providing the recognition and safety that many cannot find in their families of origin.

## OBSERVATORY ON LESBOPHOBIA IN EUROPE

Cases of lesbophobic violence collected by the EL\*C Observatory and EL\*C members

Year	Cases/Data	Country	Type of violence
2025	The EL*C member Queer Sista platform documented 19 cases of lesbian and queer women, as well as and trans, non-binary people seeking mental health and crisis support linked to discrimination and violence. 8 cases involved domestic abuse by a parent and/or sibling and in at least one case resulted in homelessness for the person involved <sup>6</sup> .	Armenia	Violence by family members
2025 (and 2024)	The EL*C member Pink Armenia documented 49 cases of human rights violations against lesbians in 2024 and 61 cases in the first half of 2025, many of which involved physical and psychological violence, coercive "treatment" and family-based abuse targeting LGBTQ women and girls <sup>7</sup> .	Armenia	National data
2025	In April 2025, two staff members of EL*C member organisation LORI were assaulted in the city centre of Rijeka, Croatia. They were leading a "Queer Walk Around Rijeka" for guests of the University of Rijeka, and one employee was carrying a small rainbow flag while explaining in English the history of the LGBTIQ movement in Croatia. Two young men passing by overheard the tour, began verbally attacking them, and started throwing objects at the group <sup>8</sup> .	Croatia	Violence in the public space
2025	In France, the feminist lesbian bookshop Violette and Co, and the association hosted on its premises, reported a wave of lesbophobic attacks after putting on sale a colouring book	France	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist

<sup>6</sup> Report submitted by EL\*C member Queer Sista platform, available upon request

<sup>7</sup> Report submitted by EL\*C member Pink Armenia, available upon request

<sup>8</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member LORI

	on the colonisation of the West Bank. The attacks included the deliberate damage to the shop windows, intimidation, defamation, lesbophobic insults, cyber-harassment, and explicit threats of arson and killing targeting lesbians and LGBTI people <sup>9</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	In Cantal (France) teacher and school head Caroline Grandjean died by suicide on 1 September 2025 after enduring two years of lesbophobic harassment, insults and threats, having filed an unanswered complaint and received no support from the education authorities, parents or local officials <sup>10</sup> .	France	Lesbophobia-driven suicide  Lesbophobic harrassment
<b>2025</b>	The 2025 report from SOS Homophobie, recorded 268 cases of lesbophobia collected in 2024. Confirming previous year data, 19% of the cases concerned violence in the family while 13% concerned violence the street. The report focused on intense family pressure and coming-out difficulties, verbal, physical and psychological violence, hypersexualisation and intrusive “jokes” at work, and persistent discrimination and harassment against lesbian mothers and their children <sup>11</sup> .	France	National data
<b>2025</b>	In Clermont-Ferrant (France) a young lesbian couple was assaulted in a supermarket by a group of four minors who first hurled lesbophobic insults at them before punching and kicking them, leaving the victims with three days of medical leave; three of the attackers now face charges for aggravated violence with a homophobic motive before the juvenile court <sup>12</sup> .	France	Violence in the public space
<b>2025</b>	In Saint-Ouen (France), Sabrina Decanton, a lesbian candidate for Les Ecologistes in the 2026 municipal elections, withdrew after	France	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist

<sup>9</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, Violette and Co

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2025/09/02/une-directrice-d-ecole-victime-de-harcelement-homophobe-s-est-suicidee-le-jour-de-la-rentree-dans-le-cantal\\_6638445\\_3224.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2025/09/02/une-directrice-d-ecole-victime-de-harcelement-homophobe-s-est-suicidee-le-jour-de-la-rentree-dans-le-cantal_6638445_3224.html)

<sup>11</sup> [https://ressource.sos-homophobie.org/Rapports\\_annuels/rapport\\_LGBTIphobies\\_2025.pdf](https://ressource.sos-homophobie.org/Rapports_annuels/rapport_LGBTIphobies_2025.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://france3-regions.franceinfo.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/puy-de-dome/clermont-ferrand/coups-de-poings-et-coups-de-pied-insultes-a-caractere-homophobe-un-couple-de-jeunes-lesbiennes-agressees-a-clermont-ferrand-3253243.html>

	members of her own local group told her that her sexual orientation was “an obstacle” to her candidacy and to winning, particularly in working-class neighbourhoods <sup>13</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	The EL*C member Grang continued to document lesbophobic violence against Iranian lesbians domestically and living in Europe. Online hate speech is weaponised in a context where criminalization under the Islamic Penal Code, compounded by far-right rhetoric, has turned lesbian identity into both a moral and political target with attacks including disinformation, defamation, threats, misgendering and insults. Rigid gender norms continue to be policed as well as the smallest deviations from heteronormativity. For many Iranian women, simply existing outside traditional expectations of femininity is enough to invite lesbophobic scrutiny <sup>14</sup> .	Germany	State-sponsored lesbophobia  Online violence
<b>2025</b>	In Budapest (Hungary), a woman wearing rainbow-themed make-up was denied access to the bathroom; two members of the staff stood in her way, shouted slurs related to her sexual orientation and one of them knocked her mobile phone out of her hand. The victim initiated criminal proceedings <sup>15</sup> .	Hungary	Violence in the public space
<b>2025</b>	In Italy, top-league volleyball players Gaia Moretto and Valentina Arrighetti reported a wave of lesbophobic and sexist insults on social media after they posted about the celebration of their civil union in June 2025 <sup>16</sup> .	Italy	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2025</b>	In Catania, Italy, Egle Doria (an actress and activist with Famiglie Arcobaleno) was insulted and shoved in front of her young daughter and other children by a man who burst into a Pride Village workshop, shouting that same-sex	Italy	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist  Violence in the public space

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2025/11/26/denoncant-des-propos-homophobes-la-candidate-des-ecologistes-a-l-election-municipale-de-saint-ouen-se-retire\\_6654906\\_823448.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2025/11/26/denoncant-des-propos-homophobes-la-candidate-des-ecologistes-a-l-election-municipale-de-saint-ouen-se-retire_6654906_823448.html)

<sup>14</sup> Report submitted by EL\*C member Grang, available upon request

<sup>15</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member Labrisz and Hatter Society

<sup>16</sup> <https://tg24.sky.it/cronaca/2025/06/24/gaia-moretto-valentina-arrighetti>

	parents “make him sick” and should leave Italy <sup>17</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	In Modena, Italy, the EL*C member Arcigay Modena reported a coordinated attack of over a thousand lesbophobic, sexist and LGBTiphobic comments (including death threats) targeting its November 2025 lesbian forum “Saffichiamo” after the event was announced on social media <sup>18</sup> .	Italy	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist  Online violence
<b>2025</b>	In Emilia-Romagna, a lesbian couple reported a lesbophobic assault at a local festival: after kissing, they were threatened with death (“I’ll slit your throat”) and then punched and kicked by a man <sup>19</sup> .	Italy	Violence in the public space
<b>2025</b>	In Naples, Italy, a 51-year-old father was arrested in September 2025 for repeated threats and mistreatment against his 24-year-old daughter, whose homosexuality he refused to accept, after publicly humiliating her at work and then attempting to break down the door of the home where she and her mother had barricaded themselves <sup>20</sup> .	Italy	Violence by a family member
<b>2025</b>	In 2025, the Italian network Rete Medusa published its third national report on lesbophobia, collecting data from May 2023 until December 2024. The report documents 12 cases collected through media monitoring and 41 cases reported via its anonymous questionnaire, for a total of 53 recorded incidents. A majority of the cases involved lesbophobic violence. The violence began early - 33% reported incidents occurring when the respondents were minors. The home is the most frequently mentioned place of violence,	Italy	National data

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.editorialedomani.it/fatti/egle-doria-aggressione-omofoba-catania-pride-famiglie-arcobaleno-intervista-gbsridl9>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.ansa.it/emiliaromagna/notizie/2025/08/13/arcigay-modena-shitstorm-contro-un-forum-lesbico\\_ad50d241-5456-4351-b515-e7fc90560a60.html](https://www.ansa.it/emiliaromagna/notizie/2025/08/13/arcigay-modena-shitstorm-contro-un-forum-lesbico_ad50d241-5456-4351-b515-e7fc90560a60.html)

<sup>19</sup> [https://corrieredibologna.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/25\\_settembre\\_24/l-aggressione-omofoba-per-un-bacio-alla-festa-del-lambrusco-le-vittime-ci-hanno-detto-vi-sgozzo-poi-sono-arrivati-i-pugni-e-i-ce343880-4619-4c4b-9277-bbff18053x1k.shtml](https://corrieredibologna.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/25_settembre_24/l-aggressione-omofoba-per-un-bacio-alla-festa-del-lambrusco-le-vittime-ci-hanno-detto-vi-sgozzo-poi-sono-arrivati-i-pugni-e-i-ce343880-4619-4c4b-9277-bbff18053x1k.shtml)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.rainews.it/tgr/campania/articoli/2025/09/non-accetta-omosessualita-della-figlia-e-la-minaccia-di-morte-92af4db0-6753-4f2e-8ffb-7dd1a8ef468c.html>

	often involving family members. Public spaces also emerged as dangerous, especially for couples: 43% of violent episodes involving couples occurred in the street or other public places <sup>21</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	In Kazakhstan, feminist and lesbian activist Zhanar Sekerbayeva, co-founder of Feminista and EL*C Board member, was sentenced at the end February 2025 to 10 days of administrative detention following her participation in a peaceful protest against femicide. The timing of the arrest, and the fact that the protest in question had taken place nine months earlier, strongly suggest that this measure was intended to prevent her from organising or taking part in demonstrations around 8 of March <sup>22</sup> .	Kazakhstan	State-sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2025</b>	The EL*C member Queer Sisterhood Cluj reported 2 cases of lesbophobia occurred Transylvania (Romania). A lesbian woman was physically attacked in a club after being targeted for being LGBT and two women were threatened with death in a public park after being seeing holding hands and kissing. Despite reporting the cases to the police, there has been no follow-up by authorities <sup>23</sup> .	Romania	Violence in public space
<b>2025</b>	In Serbia, the 2025 community-based study Violence, Fear, and Institutional Failure by Rainbow Ignite analysed the experiences of 295 lesbian, bisexual and queer cis and trans women and found that violence is widespread and cumulative rather than incidental. Nearly half (48.8%) reported violence from their family of origin, one third (33.2%) intimate partner violence, and 35.6% SOGI-based attacks, with repeated abuse the dominant pattern in all categories; among those exposed to SOGI-based violence, 61.9% also faced digital violence, while reporting to police or	Serbia	National data

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.retemeduse.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-english-summary.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://lesbiangenius.org/kazakhstan-arrests-feminist-activist-for-demanding-justice-in-a-brutal-femicide-case/>

<sup>23</sup> Cases reported by EL\*C member Queer Sisterhood Cluj

	institutions remained extremely rare (around 1–4%), leaving fear and self-censorship as the main “protection” strategies rather than effective state response <sup>24</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	In Ljubljana, the sign in the first park ever named after a same-sex couple (Ada Škerl and Sonja Plaskan) was vandalised shortly after its inauguration, an act condemned by local activists as a symbolic attack on lesbian visibility and public space <sup>25</sup> .	Slovenia	Lesbophobic hate speech
<b>2025</b>	In 2025, Spanish government’s Instituto de las Mujeres published the study <i>Las mujeres lesbianas y bisexuales en España</i> , based on an online survey of 4,362 lesbian and bisexual women aged 16 and over. The study finds that 81.9% have experienced violence because of their sexual orientation, including 71% who report inappropriate comments, 54.1% lack of respect and 29% insults, 19.3% sexual harassment, 5.6% sexual violence and 4% physical violence, with higher levels of abuse among those who are more visibly out <sup>26</sup> .	Spain	National data
<b>2025</b>	The EL*C member NosMesmas documented 9 cases of lesbophobia violence and discrimination, including repeated refusals of name changes for non-binary people, family coercion and abuse against a young lesbian, online threats and shelter-based violence against trans women (including an asylum seeker experiencing homelessness), and street harassment targeting four young lesbians <sup>27</sup> .	Spain	Violence by family members  Discrimination  Online violence  Violence in public space
<b>2025</b>	In Sevilla, Spain, the suicide of a 14-year-old girl in October 2025 was reported by her family and local officials as linked to persistent school bullying, including repeated insults such as “gorda” and “lesbiana”, allegedly without the	Spain	Lesbophobia-driven suicide  Lesbophobic bullying

<sup>24</sup> Report submitted by EL\*C member Rainbow Ignite

<sup>25</sup> <https://english.sta.si/3431517/ljubljana-park-named-after-lesbian-couple-vandalised>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.inmujeres.gob.es/areasTematicas/AreaEstudiosInvestigacion/docs/Estudios/MujeresLesbianasBisexuales.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Cases reported by EL\*C member, Nos Mesmas

	school having activated its anti-bullying protocol <sup>28</sup> .		
<b>2025</b>	Lea Blattner, a Swiss lesbian politician left her political party at the beginning of 2025 after receiving death threats following her public coming-out <sup>29</sup> .	Switzerland	
<b>2025</b>	In December 2025, a court in Izmir (Turkey) ordered the dissolution of the Young LGBTI+ Association after prosecutors labeled five social media posts from 2019–2022 celebrating Lesbian Visibility Day and portraying lesbian-themed artworks — as “obscene.” An earlier investigation had already found these posts lawful, but a new case was opened and 11 current and former board or staff members faced criminal proceedings, effectively criminalising lesbian visibility and community organising <sup>30</sup> .	Turkey	State-sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2025</b>	Between 2022 and mid-2025, the Ukrainian organisation Gender Stream collected 7 cases of lesbophobia in Ukraine (including Russian-occupied regions). Cases included lesbophobic attacks by family members and neighbours as well as a case of sexual violence perpetrated over a seven-day period by Russian troops. The woman, who had a child and lived openly in her town, was likely targeted due to rumours about her identity. Following the assault, both she and her child disappeared <sup>31</sup> .	Ukraine	National data
<b>2020 – 2024 data (the asterisks indicates that the case has been reported in 2025 to EL*C and therefore added to the Observatory this year)</b>			
<b>2024</b>	In 2023 and the first half of 2024, EL*C member Pink Armenia recorded 37 cases of lesbophobic violence and discrimination in the countries against LBQ women and	Armenia	National data  Violence by family members

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.anten3.com/programas/espejo-publico/noticias/luto-sevilla-suicidio-joven-14-anos-que-sufria-bullying-aguantaba-insultos-gorda-lesbiana\\_2025101668f0e9ddde40d8089e11eecf.html](https://www.anten3.com/programas/espejo-publico/noticias/luto-sevilla-suicidio-joven-14-anos-que-sufria-bullying-aguantaba-insultos-gorda-lesbiana_2025101668f0e9ddde40d8089e11eecf.html)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.srf.ch/news/dialog/co-praesidentin-der-jungen-evp-mutterpartei-verurteilt-homophobe-angriffe-auf-lea-blattner>

<sup>30</sup> <https://kaosgl1.org/en/single-news/reason-given-for-the-dissolution-of-the-young-lgbti-association-lesbian-visibility-day-posts>

<sup>31</sup> Gender Stream (2025), Analytical report: violations of LGBTIQ+ rights and homo- and transphobic violence in Ukraine

	persons. Cases included physical and sexual violence, domestic abuse by parents and other relatives, corrective practices (including by transferring the persons outside of cities, in rural areas or to the Russian Federation) and lesbophobic bullying in schools and other education facilities <sup>32</sup> .		Bullying
<b>2024</b>	In Bulgaria, EL*C member Lespectra reported that after the passage of a law on SOGIESC issues in schools, teachers opposing it were targeted by hostile groups, including the Revival party in Varna. Teachers who signed an online petition against the law faced online and offline harassment, with posts labeling them "parasites" and listing their names in a "blacklist." <sup>33</sup>	Bulgaria	Online violence
<b>2024</b>	NGO "Be Manly", who organise regular prayers on the main squares in 13 cities in Croatia (the number has been increasing constantly since 2022). People meet, kneel, and pray "for men - to become spiritual authorities in the family who will bravely testify and transmit the Catholic faith", as mentioned in their website. Although under the guise of prayer, the initiative promotes homophobia, lesbophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, misogyny in society, and advocates for the abolition of rights of LGBTI persons and women <sup>34</sup> .	Croatia	Violence in the public space
<b>2024</b>	During the 2024 Paris Games opening ceremony, which featured LGBTIQ+ themes and queer cultural representations, lesbian DJ Barbara Butch faced significant backlash from conservative and religious groups. Criticized for allegedly disrespecting religious symbols, Butch was targeted with lesbophobic hate speech, including death threats. In response, she filed a legal complaint with French	France	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists  Online violence

<sup>32</sup> Submission by EL\*C Member, Pink Armenia

<sup>33</sup> Reported by EL\*C Member, Les Spectra

<sup>34</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, LORI

	authorities to address the harassment and threats directed at her and other performers, 4 people have been condemned <sup>35</sup> .		
<b>2024</b>	The 2024 report from SOS Homophobie, recorded 268 cases of lesbophobia collected in 2023. 16% of the cases concerned violence in the family while 14% concerned violence the street. As mentioned in the report “sexualisation always accompanies lesbophobic harrasment” <sup>36</sup> .	France	National data
<b>2024</b>	Lesbian refugee from the Ivory Coast has been cyberharrassed in the context of an anti-LGBT campaign in her country of origin. As a result, her picture has been exposed, she and her son have received death threats, and her home door has been forced <sup>37</sup> .	France	Online violence
<b>2024*</b>	In 2024, documented at least 8 cases of lesbophobic discrimination and violence, including denial of a venue to a lesbian association, discriminatory barriers in adoption and family benefits for same-sex couples, humiliating school procedures and requirements targeting lesbian parents and staff, public smear campaigns by local officials, and a violent attack by a taxi driver against LGBTQI activists <sup>38</sup> .	Hungary	National data
<b>2024</b>	The EL*C member 6rang documents cases of violence against the Iran lesbians domestically and abroad. Additionally, to the state-sponsored lesbophobia (including condemning lesbians to lashes or executions) and forced marriages, they report the case of online violence within the diaspora in particular in Germany. Such cases are more frequent when LGBTI issues are visible in the media. Shadi Amin (6rang spokesperson) is especially targeted by this type of violence	Germany	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist  Online violence

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2025/11/21/cyberharcelement-de-la-dj-barbara-butch-quatre-condamnations-jusqu-a-dix-mois-ferme\\_6654322\\_3224.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2025/11/21/cyberharcelement-de-la-dj-barbara-butch-quatre-condamnations-jusqu-a-dix-mois-ferme_6654322_3224.html)

<sup>36</sup> [https://ressource.sos-homophobie.org/Rapports\\_annuels/Rapport\\_LGBTIphobies\\_2024.pdf](https://ressource.sos-homophobie.org/Rapports_annuels/Rapport_LGBTIphobies_2024.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, Les Degommeuses

<sup>38</sup> Cases reported by EL\*C member, Labriz by disaggregating the cases received by the LGBTI organization Hatter Society

	that includes hate speech, misgendering, death and rape threats and insults <sup>39</sup> .		
<b>2024</b>	Following mass protests against Georgia's anti-LGBTQ+ propaganda law, EL*C member WISG (Women's Initiatives Supporting Group) reported organized attacks targeting activists. These included humiliating posters, stenciled messages at NGO offices, threatening phone calls from foreign numbers, and personal targeting of key staff members. The incidents occurred with total impunity <sup>40</sup> .	Georgia	State-sponsored lesbophobia  Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2024</b>	The police detained members of a feminist organization who participated in a public action in the centre of Almaty in May 2024. The public authorities refused to authorise a march because lesbian activists were involved in the organisation. The activists detained were given summonses for illegally organizing peaceful assemblies <sup>41</sup> .	Kazakhstan	State-sponsored lesbophobia  Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2024</b>	A lesbian conference organised by the lesbian organisation Feminita faced substantial challenges including: last-minute cancellation of the venues, power shortages and interruption by anti-gender actors. The owner of one of the venues declared that they were obliged to cancel the availability by the Almaty City Council. The police, summoned after anti-gender activists tried to break in the place where the conference was held, did not intervene to protect the space <sup>42</sup> .	Kazakhstan	Lesbophobic discrimination  State-sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2024</b>	Alisa, a transgender bisexual woman from Russia, applied for asylum in Moldova in November 2022, citing persecution due to her sexual orientation and gender identity. Despite reporting Russia's anti-LGBT laws and lack of recognition for transgender people, Moldovan authorities denied her asylum in May 2024. The decision misrepresented her	Moldova	State-sponsored lesbophobia

<sup>39</sup> Submission by EL\*C member, Grang

<sup>40</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, WISG

<sup>41</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, Feminita

<sup>42</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, Feminita

	identity, describing her as a homosexual man, and dismissed the risks she faced in Russia. Alisa has appealed the decision <sup>43</sup> .		
<b>2024</b>	A night club in Belgrade, Serbia doubled the entrance prices for women (compared to them), when asked about the reason the owner of the club declared ““Well, women are making problems, mostly lesbians and in order to get rid of them we needed to do so". EL*C member Labrisz reported the case to the Commissioner for protection of equality. The Commissioner confirmed that the discrimination was blatant and issued a recommendation to stop such practices <sup>44</sup> .	Serbia	Lesbophobic discrimination
<b>2024</b>	Lucia Plaváková, openly lesbian MP from Slovakia was expelled by the deputy speaker from a session of the Slovak Parliament for refusing to remove a LGBTI sticker from her computer. MP Rudolf Huliak publicly insulted Plaváková because “she does not respect the fundamental questions of life given to the human race by God” and stated that he "does not consider Plaváková to be a woman". He refused to apologise to her throughout the day and he was not sanctioned for his declarations <sup>45</sup> .	Slovakia	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist  State sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2024*</b>	A lesbian couple in the small town of Oberburg was subjected to prolonged mobbing, discrimination, and acts of violence, culminating in an arson attack against their property. Meaningful action by the municipality and law enforcement authorities was taken only after sustained pressure from LOS and the affected individuals themselves. Despite multiple and intersecting forms of marginalization, the victims did not receive	Switzerland	Violence against a lesbian couple

<sup>43</sup> The case was reported to EL\*C directly by Alisa

<sup>44</sup> Case reported by EL\*C Member, Labrisz

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/slovak-mp-ousted-from-parliament-over-lgbti-sticker-insulted-by-ruling-party-mp/>

	adequate support from victim support services (“Opferhilfe”) <sup>46</sup> .		
<b>2024</b>	In 2024, the EL*C member LOS has documented 142 cases of lesbophobic, biphobic, panphobic and/or queerphobic attacks against women and non-binary people in 2023. 55 of the victims specifically chose the label «lesbian» when reporting the hate crime <sup>47</sup> .	Switzerland	National data
<b>2024 (data from 2022)</b>	An EL*C member analysed the national data on hate crime and domestic abuse collected in the Wales and England in the past 2 years. The result shows heightened rates of violence for LGT individuals, violence even if crimes targeting sexual orientation are generally lowering. Lesbian couples show the lowest rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) while rates of domestic abuse are especially high for bisexual women (that are especially subject to IPV) and trans people (especially subject to violence by family members) <sup>48</sup> .	United Kingdom	National data  Violence by family members
<b>2023</b>	An exhibition in the European Parliament by lesbian artist Elisabeth Ohlson attracted criticism from far-right politicians and a wave of social media hatred against the artist <sup>49</sup> .	Belgium	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist Online violence
<b>2023</b>	A lesbian couple exchanging a kiss in the public transport were subject to lesbophobic insults and death threats <sup>50</sup> .	France	Violence in public space
<b>2023</b>	In France in 2023, BonJour Madame, a queer feminist bar in Paris, saw the intervention of around 22 police officers with bulletproof	France	Violence in public space

<sup>46</sup>

[https://avenue.argusdatainsights.ch/Article/AvenuePDFClip?artikelHash=18f336ebd51b4472ad9f6190ebf28338\\_4A8ADE1FA98E40ECE45020C96BB3DB99&artikelDateid=430140746](https://avenue.argusdatainsights.ch/Article/AvenuePDFClip?artikelHash=18f336ebd51b4472ad9f6190ebf28338_4A8ADE1FA98E40ECE45020C96BB3DB99&artikelDateid=430140746)

<sup>47</sup> Data from the Swiss LGBTI Helpline has been disaggregated by gender and sexual orientation by EL\*C member LOS. Their analysis is accessible here : <https://www.los.ch/hate-crimes-hassverbrechen/>

<sup>48</sup> Data analysed by DIVA magazine from the national statistics for England and Wales on hate crime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023> and the on domestic violence

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendmarch2024>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/world/art-european-parliament-shows-jesus-gay-sadomasochistic-slaves-sparking-outrage-disgusting>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.leprogres.fr/faits-divers-justice/2023/04/26/agression-homophobe-a-lyon-il-menace-de-mort-un-couple-de-jeunes-femmes-dans-le-metro>

	vests to carry out an anti-fraud check. As a result of this inspection, the bar was closed for two weeks because of irregularities in a license, however the intervention was deemed disproportionate by the managers and customers, who saw it as a form of intimidation by police forces <sup>51</sup> .		Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist  State-sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2023</b>	The National Library refused to issue ISBN codes for a booklet published by EL*C member Lesbians on the verge. After repeated contacts from the publishing house, it appeared that the reason for the refusal was the word “lesbian” in the title <sup>52</sup> .	Greece	Lesbophobic discrimination
<b>2023</b>	Lisa Boattin and Linda Sembrant faced media sensationalism after coming out as a couple. <i>Corriere dello Sport</i> fabricated a story about a “sweet kiss” before a World Cup match. Boattin refuted the claim on social media, urging the media to respect their professionalism as athletes <sup>53</sup> .	Italy	Online violence
<b>2023</b>	In June 2023, prosecutors in several cities in Italy asked the removal of the non-biological mother from already registered birth certificate of children born in lesbian families. In Padua, 33 mothers were involved in prosecutors’ cancellation request <sup>54</sup> . Judicial cases are pending, and the Italian Constitutional Court is expected to decide on these cases <sup>55</sup> . In general, EL*C has received reports concerning difficulties and discrimination suffered by lesbian couples with children in Italy <sup>56</sup>	Italy	State-sponsored lesbophobia

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.nouvelobs.com/societe/20230526.OBS73825/que-s-est-il-passe-au-bonjour-madame-bar-queer-et-feministe-a-paris-ferme-apres-un-controle-de-police.html#>

<sup>52</sup> Case reported by EL\*C member, Lesbian on the verge

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.fanpage.it/sport/calcio/lisa-boattin-delusa-per-le-notizie-con-linda-sembrant-ecco-la-verita-sul-nostro-dolce-bacio/>

<sup>54</sup> [https://27esimaora.corriere.it/23\\_giugno\\_20/mamme-cancellate-padova-cosa-succede-adesso-perche-non-c-entra-niente-la-maternita-surrogata-faad5092-0f84-11ee-a963-f99c88e1a594.shtml](https://27esimaora.corriere.it/23_giugno_20/mamme-cancellate-padova-cosa-succede-adesso-perche-non-c-entra-niente-la-maternita-surrogata-faad5092-0f84-11ee-a963-f99c88e1a594.shtml)

<sup>55</sup> [https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2023/11/14/news/mamme\\_arcobaleno\\_padova\\_corte\\_costituzionale-420355427/](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2023/11/14/news/mamme_arcobaleno_padova_corte_costituzionale-420355427/)

<sup>56</sup> A 2024 case reported to EL\*C by EL\*C member, Associazione Te@, concerns a lesbian couple being unable to have their birth certificate recognised by public authorities (especially kindergarten) in Rovereto, Italy. As a result, one of the two mothers was obliged to stop working in order to take care of their child.

<b>2023</b>	Since 2021, Medus3, an observatory on lesbophobic violence launched by a coalition of lesbian organisations collects cases of lesbophobic violence. 20 cases were reported by Italian media in 2022. The observatory also collected data via an online tool that allows people to denounce cases of lesbophobia. In 2023, 238 cases were registered <sup>57</sup> , almost doubling the cases collected in the previous year (158).	Italy	National data
<b>2023</b>	Elly Schlein, the leader of the main opposition party in Italy, is routinely subject to hate speech for being bisexual and being in a relationship with another woman, whose identity was revealed by the press without her consent <sup>58</sup> . Attacks often come from elected representatives from the government coalition' parties <sup>59</sup> .	Italy	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2023</b>	A 17 years-old boy was condemned for attacking a lesbian couple. He approached the pair after seeing them cuddle at a bus shelter. He initially used lesbophobia slurs against them and then repeatedly punched them. He has been sentenced to community services <sup>60</sup> .	Ireland	Violence in the public space
<b>2023</b>	A print shop in Bucharest refused to print a leaflet containing information on lesbophobic violence and data coming from EL*C Lesbophobia Observatory. When asked the reason for the refusal, the owner of the shop claimed that he had a right to refuse to print "pornographic material" and material promoting a "lifestyle" he disagreed with <sup>61</sup> .	Romania	Lesbophobic discrimination
<b>2023</b>	Several lesbian activists that attended the Europride in Belgrade were violently attacked after the march, that took place in a very tense context fuelled by the decision of the national	Serbia	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.retemeduse.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/report-lesbofobia-2023.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> <https://lespresso.it/c/attualita/2023/4/6/i-media-non-capiscono-che-louting-alla-compagna-di-elly-schlein-e-una-violenza/2880>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.gay.it/elly-schlein-post-omofobo-e-sessista-da-parte-di-un-consigliere-di-castiglione-dorcia>

<sup>60</sup> <https://gcn.ie/community-service-attack-dublin-lesbian-couple/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://lesbiangenius.org/elc-statement-on-lesbophobic-case-in-romania/>

	government to ban the march and then allow it only few hours before the planned start of the demonstration <sup>62</sup>		
<b>2023</b>	A lesbian woman in Slovenia faced discrimination when a doctor refused to provide her with aftercare following IVF treatment she had undergone in Austria. The doctor cited a claim of conscientious objection, specifically refusing services to same-sex patients who pursued IVF abroad. The Ombudsperson declared that this act constituted discrimination. The Slovenian Medical Association also rejected the doctor's justification, stating that the refusal was discriminatory and violated the principle of equality <sup>63</sup> .	Slovenia	Lesbophobic discrimination
<b>2023</b>	Two players of the Spanish first leagues denounced being subject to waves of lesbophobic insults and hate speech after publicly revealing their relationship <sup>64</sup>	Spain	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2023</b>	During the 2023 Women's World Cup ceremony in Sydney, former Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales kissed Spanish player Jenni Hermoso, a lesbian athlete, without her consent. After Hermoso's denunciation, Rubiales faced FIFA disciplinary action, resigned, and is set to stand trial for sexual assault and coercion under Spanish law in 2025.	Spain	Violence in the public space
<b>2023</b>	A journalist was subject to repeated lesbophobic hate speech from Alain Sorell, a well-known French far-right influencer. At first instance, Sorell was sentenced to three months in jail <sup>65</sup> .	Switzerland	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2023</b>	Ebrar Karakurt, a prominent volleyball player, was subject to hate speech by high level	Turkey	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists

<sup>62</sup> [https://twitter.com/Xheni\\_Karaj/status/1571404954153148416](https://twitter.com/Xheni_Karaj/status/1571404954153148416)

<sup>63</sup> [https://zagovornik.si/ginekologinja-diskriminirala-pacientko-zaradi-spolne-usmerjenosti/?fbclid=IwAR3htPe8xpSXc1FNH3jXrNUbkfXCe\\_6sGOaFg0Z6NNHaiyaKxWhRP\\_-ZO](https://zagovornik.si/ginekologinja-diskriminirala-pacientko-zaradi-spolne-usmerjenosti/?fbclid=IwAR3htPe8xpSXc1FNH3jXrNUbkfXCe_6sGOaFg0Z6NNHaiyaKxWhRP_-ZO)

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.mirales.es/dos-futbolistas-lesbianas-de-primera-division-reciben-cientos-de-insultos-por-hacer-publica-su>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.radiolac.ch/justice/accuse-dhomophobie-alain-soral-est-juge-en-appel-a-lausanne/>

	politicians and religious leaders since she started posting photos of her and her girlfriend. Ahead of a European final, members of the ruling party demanded that she has to kicked out from the national team <sup>66</sup> .		
<b>2022</b>	Rainbow Hub community center was attacked by far-right groups and the presidential candidate for the nationalist party punched one lesbian activist from Bilitis Foundation <sup>67</sup>	Bulgaria	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists
<b>2022</b>	A transgender man died in Münster after being violently beaten up during the local pride for responding to lesbophobic hatred. The assailants insulted several women at the festival, calling them "lesbian whores" and telling them to "piss off." He intervened in their defence, and he was subject to a vicious attack that tragically resulted in his death <sup>68</sup> .	Germany	Violence against activists/politicians/journalists
<b>2022</b>	Two doctors volunteering at an HIV center in Naples were threatened and insulted with lesbophobic slurs <sup>69</sup>	Italy	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists
<b>2022</b>	Two famous lesbian women were subject to waves of lesbophobic violence online after announcing the dates of their civil union <sup>70</sup>	Italy	Online violence
<b>2022</b>	Several episodes of lesbophobia were registered in the streets of Dublin, from stares and insults to negative reactions when lesbian couples kissed in public <sup>71</sup>	Ireland	Lesbophobia in the public space
<b>2022</b>	A woman was attacked and insulted by her Uber driver because in a ride from an LGBTI party, she kissed her girlfriend in the backseat of the car <sup>72</sup>	Netherlands	Violence in a public space
<b>2022</b>	A woman was verbally and physically attacked in a Bucharest's metro station. The attackers insulted her for her gender expression and	Romania	Violence in a public space

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/lgbtq-volleyball-karakurt-champion-backlash-turkey-erdogan-culture-war/>

<sup>67</sup> <https://bilitis.org/en/2022/04/05/attack-on-rainbow-hub-community-centre/>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-25-year-old-transgender-man-dies-after-pride-event-attack/a-63003413>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.fanpage.it/napoli/insulti-omofobi-a-due-dottoresse-a-napoli-stavano-eseguendo-test-hiv-gratis/>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.arcigaynapoli.org/2022/07/01/solidarieta-a-paola-turci-e-francesca-pascale-per-lattacco-lesbofobico-di-cui-sono-vittime/>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22140499/>

<sup>72</sup> <https://nltimes.nl/2022/08/09/demonstration-anti-lgbtqia-violence-amsterdam-uber-assault>

	perceived sexual orientation, asked whether she was a man or a woman and said that they were coming for “the likes of you” <sup>73</sup> .		
<b>2022</b>	Four lesbian and bisexual women were punched and insulted with lesbophobic slurs by a group of men <sup>74</sup> .	Spain	Violence in a public space
<b>2022</b>	Olena Shevchenko, a well-know lesbian activist and a leader the LGBTI movement in Ukraine, was attacked with tear in April 2022 in Lviv, while unloading a truck with humanitarian aids for the shelters organised by the lesbian organisation Insight NGO <sup>75</sup> .	Ukraine	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists
<b>2021</b>	A lesbian woman was violently attacked at a night club after having refused a man’s interest and disclosing that she was a lesbian <sup>76</sup>	Croatia	Violence in a public space
<b>2021</b>	A young lesbian woman was raped with the explicit motive of ‘correcting’ and punishing her sexual orientation <sup>77</sup>	France	Lesbophobic rape
<b>2021</b>	A study of the national institute of demographic studies and focusing on violence inside the family found that lesbian and bisexual girls were the two groups most affected by all types of intra-family violence (psychological, physical and sexual violence) compared to heterosexual girls and homosexual and bisexual boys <sup>78</sup> .	France	Violence by family members
<b>2021</b>	An event hosting Alice Coffin in June 2021, Board Member of the EL*C and well-known lesbian politician and activist, was interrupted in Rouen, France, by a group of men qualifying themselves as “The normals” by bursting on	France	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.vice.com/ro/article/v7vya9/victima-abuz-metrou-bucuresti>

<sup>74</sup> [https://www.eldiario.es/catalunya/denuncian-agresion-homofoba-cuatro-mujeres-fiestas-badalona\\_1\\_8991449.html](https://www.eldiario.es/catalunya/denuncian-agresion-homofoba-cuatro-mujeres-fiestas-badalona_1_8991449.html)

<sup>75</sup> <https://twitter.com/MarshZhinok/status/1514533189234135040>

<sup>76</sup> ECHR, Sabalić v. Croatia, application number 50231/13, decision of the 14 January 2021

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.nouvelobs.com/droits-desfemmes/20210528.OBS44614/une-premiere-historique-un-viol-reconnu-comme-lesbophobe-auxassises.htm>

<sup>78</sup> C. Hamel (2021) Violences intrafamiliales : les filles et les jeunes LGBT plus touchés, available at this link: [https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/atoms/files/etude-resultats\\_violencesintrafamnum-24-04-20.pdf](https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/atoms/files/etude-resultats_violencesintrafamnum-24-04-20.pdf)

	the scene and holding a sign that read “Don’t you like men, madame Coffin?” <sup>79</sup>		
<b>2021</b>	A young lesbian committed suicide after having been subject to continuous bullying and harassment because of her ethnic origin and her sexual orientation <sup>80</sup>	France	Suicide as consequence of lesbophobic bullying/harassment
<b>2021</b>	A lesbian woman was violently attacked by two men while walking in the street with her partner. The attackers insulted her for her gender expression and attacked her while claiming that “she looked like a man and should fight like a man” <sup>81</sup>	France	Violence in a public space
<b>2021</b>	In June 2021, in Turin, Italy, two girls were attacked outside a lower secondary school for carrying a rainbow shopping bag. A group of peers followed, insulted, spat on, and beat them, with one girl’s nose broken. They were called derogatory slurs like "sluts" and "lesbian, piece of rubbish, burn alive."	Italy	Violence in a public space Lesbophobic discrimination
<b>2021</b>	In 2021 Mario Adinolfi, leader of the Italian anti-gender party Il Popolo della Famiglia, downplayed Paola Egonu's achievements, suggesting she was chosen to represent Italy at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics simply as a "cliché" because she is a Black and openly non-heterosexual athlete.	Italy	State sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2021</b>	In Kazakhstan, Gulzada Serzhan and Zhanar Sekerbayeva, were violently attacked by a group of around 30 men at a feminist gathering they had organised with Feminita NGO, during which gender equality was discussed. Among others, they filmed and harassed participants, chanted religious calls and homophobic slurs, beat Zhanar and attacked Gulzada, destroying her possessions. The police present at the scene did not protect	Kazakhstan	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists  State-sponsored lesbophobia

<sup>79</sup> [https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/slogans-et-banderoles-que-sest-il-passe-lors-de-lintervention-a-rouen-de-la-militante-alice-coffin-20210617\\_MAVVMQNZMNCFRFHGXGNVXCJX5B4/](https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/slogans-et-banderoles-que-sest-il-passe-lors-de-lintervention-a-rouen-de-la-militante-alice-coffin-20210617_MAVVMQNZMNCFRFHGXGNVXCJX5B4/)

<sup>80</sup> <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/grand-est/haut-rhin/mulhouse/affaire-dinah-deux-mois-apres-le-suicide-de-l-adolescente-la-procureure-fait-le-point-2371360.html>

<sup>81</sup> <https://imazpress.com/actus-reunion/le-tampon-une-jeune-femme-victime-dune-violente-agression-homophobe>

	the activists and instead illegally detained them <sup>82</sup> .		
<b>2021</b>	A lesbian couple was insulted because, pushed and punched. One of the women suffered various injuries and required medical assistance. Both filed a complaint with the police <sup>83</sup>	Spain	Violence in a public space
<b>2020</b>	A group of 14-15-year-old students from Plovdiv that organised and carried out a violent attack on young girls of their perceived homosexual orientation. The boys' goal was to "clean up the city garden" in Plovdiv of boys and girls with the 'wrong' sexual orientation. Several girls were viciously harassed, insulted, thrown eggs at, spat on, and finally beaten because of their appearance <sup>84</sup>	Bulgaria	Violence in a public space
<b>2020</b>	Lesbians receive very often threatening messages from young men online. They ranged from "you're abnormal" to "it's shooting season, get ready!" <sup>85</sup>	Bulgaria	Online violence
<b>2020</b>	The lesbian activist who organised Sofia pride march received a photo with a rifle and a gun and the words "see you tomorrow" on the night before the pride march <sup>86</sup>	Bulgaria	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalist
<b>2020</b>	Hope, a lesbian from Uganda, had her asylum claim rejected in Germany in 2018 because her sexual orientation was deemed "not explicit enough" to warrant protection. Despite enduring forced marriage, marital rape, domestic violence, and sex trafficking, authorities doubted her 10-year secret relationship with a woman in Uganda and questioned her lack of sexual relationships in Germany <sup>87</sup> .	Germany	State-sponsored lesbophobia

<sup>82</sup> <https://lgbti-ep.eu/2021/07/02/lesbophobic-violence-meps-address-questions-to-four-commissioners-for-clarification-on-follow-up-actions/>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.diariodemallorca.es/sucesos/2021/08/30/pareja-lesbianas-denuncia-agresion-homofoba-56696663.html>

<sup>84</sup> <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/02/plovdiv-attacks-highlight-bulgarias-unsolved-homophobia-problem>

<sup>85</sup> Reported by EL\*C Member Bilitis Foundation

<sup>86</sup> Reported by EL\*C Member Bilitis Foundation

<sup>87</sup> [https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/policybristol/briefings-and-reports-pdfs/2020-briefings-and-reports-pdfs/Lesbian%20asylum%20seekers\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/policybristol/briefings-and-reports-pdfs/2020-briefings-and-reports-pdfs/Lesbian%20asylum%20seekers_EN_FINAL.pdf)

<b>2020</b>	The lesbian NGO Labrys published an educational book for children “Fairyland is for everyone” containing fairy tales aimed at explaining the existence of different kinds of families. A politician from the far-right fringe Our Homeland party tore the book apart and shredded it at a press conference, referring to it as “homosexual propaganda” while bookshops selling the book were subject to attacks and violence. Following the attacks of the far-right groups and politicians, the government obliged the publisher to add a warning that its stories contained ‘behaviour inconsistent with traditional gender roles <sup>88</sup>	Hungary	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists  State-sponsored lesbophobia
<b>2020</b>	A young woman was killed in a road accident caused by her brother. Just after the accident, the partner of the victim (present during the accident and who is a trans man) was assaulted by the brother. The latter declared that he did not want to kill his sister but needed to teach her a lesson because she had been “infected” by her trans partner <sup>89</sup>	Italy	Violence by family members Lesbophobic and transphobic murder
<b>2020</b>	A lesbian couple was attacked in an asylum center in Amsterdam, the attackers insulted them and threw boiling water at them <sup>90</sup>	Netherlands	Violence in a public space
<b>2020</b>	The lesbian journalist Irantzu Varela, and the magazine office for which she worked was attacked. The journalist was violently attacked multiple time, after having been called a “fucking lesbian” and a “whore”. The magazine office was, in the same days, vandalized twice by members of a far-right political party <sup>91</sup>	Spain	Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists
<b>2020</b>	Journalist Irantzu Varela suffers a lesbophobic attack. Her neighbour punched her four times	Spain	Violence in a public space

<sup>88</sup> The case has been analysed in detail by Rédei, D. (2023). Lesbian resistance through fairytales. The story of a children’s book clashing with an authoritarian anti-gender regime in Hungary. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 28(3), 443–459. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10894160.2023.2255044>

<sup>89</sup> [https://napoli.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/09/13/news/sperona\\_e\\_uccide\\_la\\_sorella\\_nel\\_napoletano\\_ferito\\_il\\_compagno\\_trans-267102124/?ref=RHPPTP-BH-I0-C12-P2-S1.8-T1](https://napoli.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/09/13/news/sperona_e_uccide_la_sorella_nel_napoletano_ferito_il_compagno_trans-267102124/?ref=RHPPTP-BH-I0-C12-P2-S1.8-T1)

<sup>90</sup> <https://nltimes.nl/2020/08/11/lesbian-couple-attacked-boiling-water-asylum-center>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.publico.es/mujer/lgtbfobia-agresion-lesbofoba-periodista-irantzu-varela-lesbiana-mierda-has-contagiado.html>

	in the face while calling her a "fucking lesbian" and a "tomboy" <sup>92</sup> .		Violence against lesbian activists/politicians/journalists
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explicitly identify lesbophobia as violence at the intersection of homophobia and misogyny and recognize that it is a type of violence with its own roots, patterns, modes, and consequences formed by this intersectional experience.
2. Use human rights instruments and international law to ensure that the rights of lesbians are not violated by direct actions from state actors and public authorities.
3. Ensure that hate bias based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are considered as aggravating circumstances in legislation aimed at criminalising gender-based violence, hate crime and hate speech.
4. Design and implement measures to combat violence, including online violence, against visible and well-known women including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity and ensure that existing measures are effectively implemented.
5. Consider, in legislation concerning sexual violence, the increased risk for lesbians and include a specific attention to sexual harassment, rape and physical violence aimed at punishing or 'correcting' lesbians and women perceived as non-heterosexual.
6. Address, in legislation concerning participation to democratic processes, freedom of the press and protection of human rights defenders the specific experiences of violence faced by lesbians politicians, journalists, high-level athletes, artists and human right defenders.
7. Recognise family-based lesbophobia as a distinct form of gender-based and domestic violence, and ensure that protection frameworks (including shelters, emergency housing, protection orders, child protection and social services) explicitly cover lesbians targeted by relatives; develop specific protocols and training for social workers, schools and law enforcement to identify, prevent and address intra-family coercion, "correction" practices and expulsions from the home based on real or perceived sexual orientation.
8. Include, in the training of relevant professionals, notably law enforcement, judges and prosecutors, sensitization on the specific needs and challenges faced by lesbians that are victims of hate crime, gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices.

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.pikaramagazine.com/2020/12/la-periodista-irantzu-varela-sufre-una-agresion-lesbofoba/>

9. Design and implement measures to protect the rights of victims of violence without discrimination on the basis, among others, of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.
10. Adapt the psychological support and training of healthcare professionals and structures to the realities and difficulties experienced by lesbians and facilitate the reporting process of structures and health professionals who have demonstrated lesbophobic behaviour.
11. Ensure that all incidents of gender-based violence and domestic violence against lesbians are properly and effectively recorded, that disaggregated statistics on hate crimes, hate speech and discrimination are collected, analysed, and disseminated, and that specific studies and research on this phenomenon are funded.
12. Organise public campaigns, in collaboration with lesbian organisations, designed to counter violence experienced by lesbians in public spaces, in the family, in sports and online, and to encourage them to report such incidents to law enforcement and/or dedicated associations.
13. Encourage the private sector, especially online platforms, to ensure that the word 'lesbian' is not automatically associated with derogatory or hypersexualized and harmful content, especially in the design of measures intended to reduce illegal and harmful gender-related online content.
14. Encourage the media to review its approach to lesbophobic gender-based violence and hate crime, ensuring that lesbian identities of the victims are not erased when relevant to the motive of the crime and pay particular attention to the vocabulary used, the treatment of information and limit the appeal of sensationalism.
15. Ensure adequate, accessible, and reliable funding for projects and activities implemented by organisations focused on and led by lesbians, including smaller structures, and that are designed to counter lesbophobic rhetoric and narrative, to provide training to law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as to ensure assistance and support for the victims of this violence.

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