

# LGBT people's experiences of gender based violence

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- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people of all genders experience gender based violence at a similar rate to all women
- We can understand this if we think about the gender in gender based violence

# What is gender based violence?

“Any form of violence used to establish, enforce or perpetrate gender inequalities and keep in place gendered orders.

In other words gender based violence is a policing mechanism.”

James Lang (2002)

Key Note Speech at the International Conference Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls: and Strengthening Human Rights. Berlin 2 – 4 December

- Women are overwhelmingly the targets of gender based violence because of sexism, and gender based violence is both a cause and consequence of this. It is used to “enforce or perpetrate gender inequalities and keep in place gendered orders”
- LGBT people are seen as outside of “gendered orders” due to having relationships and/or identities outside of societal norms
- So, by applying a gendered analysis to gender based violence, we can see why it is overwhelmingly women, but also LGBT people of all genders, who are impacted

# What kinds of gender based violence do LGBT people face?

LGBT people can experience the same kinds of gender based violence as all women (such as domestic abuse, sexual violence and forced marriage). However, sometimes these may manifest in ways particular to their sexual orientation, or trans status

- For example, a lesbian teenager who is experiencing domestic abuse in her relationship, but is not out to her homophobic parents.
- For example, a non-binary person who has a partner who prevents them from going to the pharmacy to collect their prescription for hormones.

# What kinds of gender based violence do LGBT people face?

If we return to the idea of gender based violence as a “policing mechanism” we can also see that LGBT people may face gender based violence in the form of:

- Homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying, by other pupils in education settings or by colleagues in the workplace.
- Homophobic, biphobic or transphobic hate crime, including sexual violence, but also physical assault, threats and verbal abuse.

The most frequent types of hate crime experienced by LGBTI people are:

1. Verbal abuse
2. Threats
3. Physical attack
4. Online abuse
5. Sexual assault



 Scottish LGBTI hate crime report 2017

# 53%

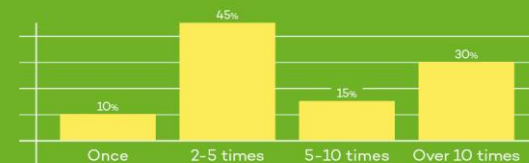
of bisexual people have been a target of a hate crime at some point in their lives.

 Scottish LGBTI hate crime report 2017

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30% of LGBTI people have experienced more than ten hate crimes.



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# 65%

of lesbians have been a target of a hate crime at some point in their lives.

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# 80%

of trans people have been a target of a hate crime at some point in their lives.

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# 66%

of gay men have been a target of a hate crime at some point in their lives.

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# LGBT people, gender based violence and education

- In our Hate Crime report, we found that school was a common setting for experiences of hate crime
  - 55% who had experienced threats of being outed
  - 43% who had experienced verbal abuse
  - 41% who had experienced physical attack
  - 35% who had experience threatening or intimidating behaviour
  - 34% who had experienced threats or actual damage to property
- We also know that experiences of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in school remain high
  - 71% of all LGBT pupils experienced bullying because of their sexual orientation or trans status (this rises to 82% for trans pupils)

*(LGBT Youth Scotland: Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People 2017)*



# LGBT people, gender based violence and education

- Things do tend to get better for people in college and university
  - 25% of all LGBT students experienced bullying in college (this rises to 39% for trans students)
  - 14% of all LGBT students experienced bullying in university (this rises to 28% for trans students)

However, high levels of bullying experienced at school can leave LGBT people with heightened fears and worries about all education settings – this can apply to both students and staff

# What are the barriers LGBT people may face?

- Domestic abuse framed as only happening in heterosexual couples
- Not being “out”
- Fear of negative reactions to sexual orientation or trans status if trying to access support
- Lack of positive representation of healthy relationships for LGBT people
- Within current COVID restrictions, being in home environments that are homophobic, biphobic or transphobic

# What are some things you can do?

- Ensure that you create learning and working environments that are welcoming to and inclusive of LGBT people
- Acknowledge the reality of the high levels of gender based violence experienced by LGBT people when talking about the topic
- Be non-judgemental and accepting of people's sexual orientation and transgender identity if they disclose they are experiencing gender based violence
- LGBT Youth Scotland are recruiting LGBT young people to their “Voices Unheard” Youth Commission on Healthy Relationships and Domestic Abuse (til Dec 31<sup>st</sup>): <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2020/join-our-voices-unheard-youth-reference-group/>

# Signposting

- Rape Crisis Scotland: <https://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/help-helpline/>
- Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage helpline: <https://sdafmh.org.uk/>
- LGBT+ Domestic Abuse helpline: <http://www.galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Helpline-Quick-Info-Page.pdf>
- LGBT Helpline Scotland: <https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/services-support/lgbt-mental-health/lgbt-helpline-scotland/>
- MindLine Trans+: <https://bristolmind.org.uk/help-and-counselling/mindline-transplus/>

# Further Reading

- Equality Network *Scottish LGBTI Hate Crime Report 2017*: [https://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/en\\_hc17-full\\_final1alores.pdf](https://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/en_hc17-full_final1alores.pdf)
- LGBT Youth Scotland *Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People* (2017): <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1354/life-in-scotland-for-lgbt-young-people.pdf>
- LGBT Domestic Abuse Project, LGBT Youth Scotland *Voices Unheard: LGBT Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence* (2014): <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1473/voices-unheard.pdf>
- LGBT Foundation *Hidden Figures* (2020): <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/lgbt-website-media/Files/b9398153-0cca-40ea-abe-bf7d7c54d43af/Hidden%20Figures%20FULL%20REPORT%20Web%20Version%20Smaller.pdf>
- Galop *Online Hate Crime Report 2020*: [http://www.galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Online-Crime-2020\\_0.pdf](http://www.galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Online-Crime-2020_0.pdf)