



COMBATING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY



**” Tackle
homophobia
and transphobia
in schools!**

The Council of Europe standards and mechanisms seek to promote and ensure respect for the human rights of every individual. These include equal rights and dignity of all human beings, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons.

FACTS:

Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity among young people is a factor contributing to isolation, underachievement and anxiety and may even lead to suicide attempts.

Schools are a crucial place for the health and development of young people.

Failure to address issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity may have harmful consequences for the self-esteem of young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

According to the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency LGBT Survey in 2013, over 80% of the respondents remember negative comments or bullying of LGBT youth in their school years. Nearly 66% said that they had often or always hid their LGBT identity in the school when under 18.

Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Adopt legislative and other measures, addressed to educational staff and pupils, to ensure that the right to education can be effectively enjoyed without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Safeguard the right of children and youth to education in a safe environment, free from violence, bullying, social exclusion or other forms of discriminatory and degrading treatment related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

Adopt measures at all levels to promote mutual tolerance and respect in schools, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Provide objective information about sexual orientation and gender identity in school curricula and educational materials.

Ensure teachers' access to anti-discrimination training and teaching aids.