

COMBATING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY

” Right to life,
security and
protection
from violence

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:

Hate-motivated violence and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons take place in all 47 Council of Europe member states. Actions deriving from Council of Europe standards and mechanisms should:

- Ensure effective, prompt and impartial investigations into alleged cases of hate-motivated violence and hate crimes, where the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim is reasonably suspected to have constituted a motive for the perpetrator.
- Prohibit and publicly disavow hate speech whenever it occurs, including in the media and on the Internet.
- Prosecute those responsible for any statements calling for violence and inciting offences against the participants in a public event.
- Provide support and assistance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence.

Take action and challenge hate crimes and hate speech based on sexual orientation or gender identity:

- Speak out against homophobia and transphobia.
- Collect data and conduct research on hate-motivated crime.
- Raise awareness on sexual orientation and gender identity within the police, public prosecutors, judges and lawyers and provide training to enhance their knowledge and skills to identify and combat hate crimes and hate speech.
- Co-operate with law enforcement authorities to ensure effective, prompt and impartial investigations into alleged cases of hate-motivated violence and hate crimes.
- Remove barriers that victims and witnesses of hate crimes and hate speech encounter when reporting to the police.
- Take into account hate-motivated violence and hate crimes as an aggravating circumstance.
- Develop and promote alliances to facilitate dialogue, communication and better understanding of issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity.