

Advancing LGBTIQ+ Equality in Europe.

The Role of Equality Bodies in Education



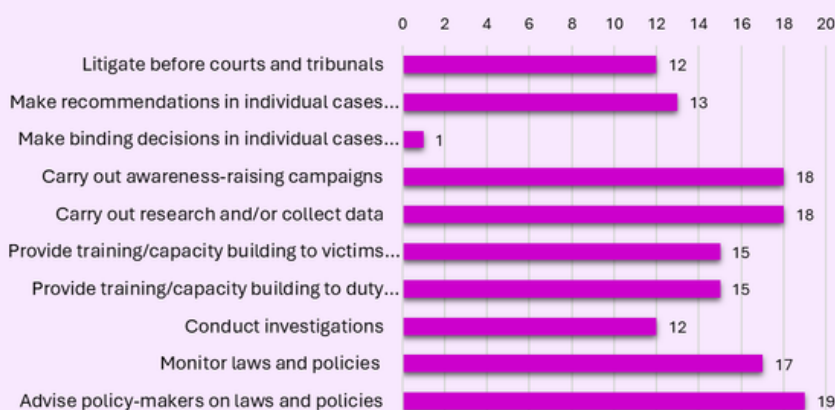
State of Play

Common forms of discriminatory treatments against LGBTIQ+ people and challenges for the LGBTIQ+ community in the field of education are: **difficulties in being openly LGBTIQ+ at school**, being **victims of bullying**, **facing challenges when accessing bathrooms and changing rooms**, and **non-inclusive and biased school curricula**. Equinet Members noted that in education discrimination on SOGIESC can **intersect with gender, disability, and race**, with particular challenges for LGBTIQ+ Roma students.

While without the adoption of the Horizontal Directive, there is no binding EU legislation protecting LGBTIQ+ people against discrimination, recommendations for more inclusivity in education have been advanced by, for instance, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Equality Bodies in Action

Education



Out of **29** Equality Bodies surveyed for this report:

- **23** have a mandate on **sexual orientation**,
- **23** on **gender identity**,
- **19** on **sex characteristics**,
- **18** on **gender expression**.

Good Practices

The **Equality Ombudsman in Sweden** investigated a harassment case where a teacher refused to respect a student's gender-neutral pronouns, finding discrimination and failure to act on the complaint. The education provider paid 150,000 SEK in compensation as requested by the Ombudsman.

The **Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality in Portugal** published a [guide for educators on preventing SOGIESC-based bullying and ensuring equality for LGBTI+ students](#).

The **Ombudsperson for Gender Equality in Croatia** addressed complaints about school materials that depicted harmful stereotypes against the LGBTIQ+ community. The Ombudsperson issued a warning and recommended training on gender equality, prompting the school to organize human rights lectures for teachers.