



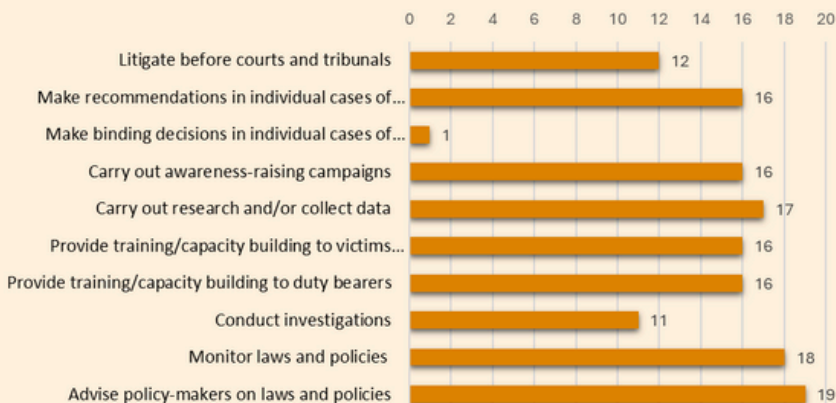
State of Play

The report highlighted that hate speech, hate crimes and sexual harassment against LGBTIQ+ persons are **on the rise in the current social and political context in European countries**.

At the same time, **the protection against hate speech and hate crime in Europe**, which includes the EU Digital Services Act, the Victims' Rights Directive, the Directive on combating violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on combating hate speech, the Convention on Cybercrime and the Istanbul Convention, **is insufficient**. Similarly, the protection of LGBTIQ+ persons against sexual harassment in the EU is limited, as sexual harassment is recognised as discrimination in employment, self-employment, and access to goods and services only in directives focusing on gender equality.

Equality Bodies in Action

Countering hate speech, hate crime and sexual harassment



Out of 29 Equality Bodies surveyed for this report:

- 20 have a mandate on hate speech,
- 11 on hate crime,
- 26 on sexual harassment.

While a few Equality Bodies have an explicit mandate on hate speech, most derive their competence to act on it from broader mandates related to equal treatment, discrimination prevention, or harassment.

Good Practices

The **Slovak National Centre for Human Rights** [analysed the occurrence of hate speech on political Facebook profiles in Slovakia](#) and identified the strongest narratives spreading hatred towards LGBTIQ+ persons in the public discourse.

The **Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Poland** intervened in 2019 when the Polish Television (TVP) aired a controversial video targeting LGBTIQ+ rights groups to create feelings of threat, fear and resentment towards the LGBTIQ+ community in the viewers. The Commissioner joined the lawsuit against TVP and the Court ordered the broadcaster to ban the video and to publicly apologise.

The **Institute for the Equality of Women and Men in Belgium** launched the ["YouToo" project](#) to research sexist and anti-trans behaviours, including harassment in public spaces and (sexual) harassment in the workplace, and produced thematic reports on the findings.