

# BRITISH LGBT 25

## SURVEY SUMMARY

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# FOREWORD

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## FOREWORD

**AS WE MOVE INTO A NEW DECADE**, there is an assumed perception that the current generation of LGBT+ youth, born into a more accepting and 'equal' society, now face fewer challenges than their older LGBT+ counterparts did.

However, amid ongoing political upheaval, and with spending on youth services in England cut by 69 per cent in the past 10 years, young people are no longer getting the support they need, despite high demand for services. Furthermore, the remaining generic youth services aren't always equipped to deal with the specific needs of the LGBT+ community.

In 2019, we created a survey in order to gain a better understanding of the lived experiences of young LGBT+ people, and how we could best contribute towards supporting and caring for current and future generations of our community.

We had 3,795 respondents to the survey. With such a wealth of data available, we've highlighted just some of the headline results here; but we intend to release further topic areas throughout the year. We hope this research provides answers as to what will best help young LGBT+ people to become happier and healthier adults, particularly in light of the new regulations for teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in England, and the recent protests against LGBT+-inclusive education.

# KEY FINDINGS

## KEY FINDINGS

### Coming out

**68.5%**

of respondents would **not** be comfortable coming out to their immediate family

SHARE

**76.75%**

of BAME respondents would **not** be comfortable coming out to their immediate family

SHARE

**41.67%**

- or almost twice as many female respondents as male, identified as bisexual, queer or pansexual

SHARE

### Gender

**83.66%**

of respondents said that people should be able to explore their gender identity at any age

SHARE

**61.54%**

of trans respondents have experienced apprehension at using gender-specific facilities

SHARE

**33.85%**

of trans youth have encountered physical bullying, twice that of cisgender LGBT+ youth

SHARE

### Education & support

**90.8%**

of respondents agree that LGBT+ sexual health should be part of the national curriculum

SHARE

**14.1%**

increase in the chance of employment if a child has had LGBT+ sexual health education at school

SHARE

**87.43%**

of respondents think there needs to be more online support for LGBT+ youth

SHARE

### Social media & brand

**65.2%**

of social media users reported that they saw the most homophobic content on Facebook

SHARE

**89.47%**

of respondents would be more likely to buy from a brand that actively supports LGBT+

SHARE

**83.04%**

of respondents said that customer service departments should use more inclusive language

SHARE

# COMING OUT

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## COMING OUT

**LGBT+ YOUTH ARE STILL STRUGGLING** across all areas of life, as shown by the survey results. Over two-thirds of young people don't feel they can come out to their immediate family (68.5%), rising to 76.75 per cent for LGBT+ people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. These figures are unsurprising when you take into account that just under two-thirds (60.85%) of young people reported hearing negative comments about LGBT+ people within their own homes, second only to hearing negative comments at school (81.59%).

Family support plays an integral role in the progression of young LGBT+ people. Those who are able to be out to immediate family experience better outcomes in both school and the workplace. Respondents who were comfortable being open about their sexual orientation to immediate family experienced a 7.8 per cent higher likelihood of being currently employed or having had a job, while those who were comfortable being out about their gender identity experienced a 5.6 per cent higher likelihood of employment.

**“ SOMETHING THAT WOULD DEFINITELY HELP ME WOULD BE HAVING MY PARENTS’ SUPPORT. PARENTS, SUPPORT ”**

*I'm not out to them yet, and I think I won't ever tell them due to them being extremely not accepting of the LGBTQ+ community. I've heard comments such as "if I saw two women kissing I'd be disgusted", "this bisexual and transsexual stuff, it's all made up, people are just following a trend" and "it's not normal, you can't tell me it is". It's not a safe environment for me and I honestly envy those who have supportive families.”*

# SOCIAL & ONLINE

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## SOCIETY & ONLINE

**SOCIAL MEDIA HAS CREATED SPACES TO CONNECT** with other members of the LGBT+ community, but it has also opened new channels for bullying. Multiple respondents stated that they only reveal their sexuality or gender identity to strangers on the internet, despite anti-LGBT+ content being seen by young people across all major social platforms, with negative content the most prevalent on Facebook (65.2%), followed by Twitter (28.51%), Instagram (28.3%) and YouTube (23.91%). Additionally, over a quarter (28.72%) of respondents said they had directly experienced cyberbullying. However, despite this, 65.58 per cent of respondents felt safe posting LGBT+ content or comments online.

Nearly half (49.17%) of respondents had used online dating apps. The highest usage came from male-identifying youth - 68.93 per cent used apps to meet other LGBT+ people.

Almost nine in 10 (87.43%) of respondents thought that there should be more support available for LGBT+ people online.

### “WHAT WOULD HELP IS MORNO HEGB

*a safe space to*

*anonymously get information. I know a lot of people are more comfortable if they can remain anonymous when asking questions or looking for any type of information, or calling support lines... The online community is blowing up, [so] maybe having LGBT+ support pages on all kinds of social media platforms will help... It's nice to have websites but also being able to reach LGBT+ youth easier through social media platforms [would] expand [that] reach.”*

# SCHOOL AND EDUCATION

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## SCHOOL AND EDUCATION

**OUTSIDE OF THE HOME**, school is where young people under 18 spend the majority of their time. It is fundamental to educating and socialising young people, so a lack of support or recognition of LGBT+ identities in the school environment can have a significant detrimental effect.

Eight out of 10 students (81.59%) had heard negative language about LGBT+ people at school, while almost half (48.87%) of LGBT+ students reported hearing negative comments directly related to their sexuality or gender identity. Only 38.85 per cent felt comfortable being out at school.

Nine in 10 respondents (90.8%) agreed that LGBT+ sexual health should be part of the national curriculum. Our results suggest that LGBT+ sexual health education in school boosts employment by 14.1 per cent. That is, a child who received LGBT+ sexual health education experiences a 14.1 per cent greater chance of being employed or having had a job than a child who did not.

Additionally, individuals that identified as gay or lesbian experienced a further 6.2 per cent more chances to have or have had a job than other sexual orientation categories (bisexual, queer, pansexual, questioning, asexual).

## “THERE WAS NOTHING ABOUT LGBT+ IN ANY ASPECT OF MY EDUCATION

### EDUCATION

*I had to do the research myself, YouTube helped as it had content that normalised wlw [women loving women] relationships. I just think if this was cracked open with a little information in high school it would've made it 10 times easier for me to accept myself and come out of the closet.”*



# AT WORK

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## AT WORK

**DESPITE THE STRIDES BEING MADE** to create more inclusive workplaces, existing evidence from organisations such as Stonewall suggests that LGBT+ people continue to face multiple barriers and discrimination. Our survey data supports this evidence, showing that there are still serious challenges for LGBT+ people when it comes to bringing their whole selves to work. Additionally, these barriers increase across intersectionality categories.

For instance, male-identifying respondents were 15 per cent more likely to currently have a job than female-identifying respondents (71% compared to 56%). Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic respondents were nine per cent less likely to be employed or previously employed compared to their white counterparts. Individuals who identified as bisexual were 12 per cent less likely to have or have had a job than those who identified as gay or lesbian, and cisgender respondents were eight per cent more likely to be employed than trans or gender-expansive respondents.

Although 74 per cent of young people said that ensuring their employer is LGBT+ friendly was important to them, only half (50%) said they would feel comfortable including LGBT+ content on their CV, while 29 per cent were unsure, and 20 per cent said they would not be comfortable. Trans or gender-expansive young people were 10 per cent more likely to ensure their employer is LGBT+ friendly than the average.

**“I WOULD FIND IT VERY COMFORTING**  
COWEOLINE

*[to know] that the job that I am entering would accept me for who I am as a person and an individual.”*

# IDENTITY

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## IDENTITY

**THE NUMBER OF TRANSGENDER** and gender-expansive identifying young people is increasing year-on-year. Since 2009, the number of children under 18 accessing NHS gender identity development services has risen by 3,264 per cent. There is no robust data on the trans and gender-expansive population in the UK, but the Office for National Statistics has recommended the inclusion of a gender identity question in the 2021 Census.

Trans and gender-expansive youth face unique challenges. The increase of public awareness surrounding transgender people has created a significant amount of anti-trans rhetoric in national press and media, while a lack of inclusive policies in schools creates an environment where the well-being of trans and gender-expansive youth is not supported. Trans and gender-expansive respondents were less likely to feel comfortable being out in all areas of life (family, school, friends, work and university), compared to cisgender respondents. Over 60 per cent (61.54%) of trans respondents had experienced apprehension at using gender-specific facilities, while one in three trans youth had encountered physical bullying, twice that of cisgender LGBT+ people. A shocking 56.67 per cent of trans young people had experienced bullying as a result of their gender from within the LGBT+ community itself.

On a more positive note, over 80 per cent (83.66%) of respondents agreed that people should be able to explore their gender identity at any age.

### “I’D LIKE A SUPPORT SERVICE

that helps

*young transgender and/or nonbinary individuals through the process of seeking gender-related care... a catchall support service that teaches you about being trans in today’s world...”*

*young transgender and/or nonbinary individuals through the process of seeking gender-related care... a catchall support service that teaches you about being trans in today’s world...”*

# BRAND

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## BBVID

**GENERATION Z ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT** from previous generations.

As digital natives, their understanding of the world has evolved alongside technology. Marketing studies have shown that Gen Z put more emphasis on social justice, and truly believe in diversity and equality; they are optimistic and trust that they can make an impact on the world. Their behaviour and opinions are influenced by brand activity and when they know what a brand stands for, they'll put more trust in it than in politicians or the Government.

It's unsurprising, then, that two-thirds (65.98%) of the survey respondents said they would not use products or services from brands that have been reported as discriminatory or homophobic. Only 10 per cent of female-identifying respondents would use a discriminatory brand, compared to 18.43 per cent for male-identifying, while BAME and trans and gender-expansive respondents were more likely to use discriminatory or homophobic brands (16.62% and 15.35% respectively).

Nine out of 10 respondents (91.72%) were more likely to buy from a brand that actively supports LGBT+ rights, and 83 per cent said that customer service departments should be more inclusive of LGBT+ identities in their language, increasing to 88 per cent for transgender and gender-expansive respondents.

## “COMPANIES THAT USE PRIDE

bbIDE

*for ad campaigns but do not take direct action i.e. give to charity/raise awareness for a cause [are] exploiting the popularity of LGBT iconography without putting in the work and I am actively less likely to buy from them because of this.”*

# METHODOLOGY

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## METHODOLOGY

**THE SURVEY WAS DISTRIBUTED BY EMAIL** and via social media networks in order to reach a wide variety of LGBT+ youth. All questions on the survey were optional, and participants had the option to choose more than one answer. It included both closed and open-ended questions to provide a rich data set. Respondents remained anonymous. The survey was live between 30 January 2019 and 11 April 2019 and received 3,795 responses.

**WE USED THE ACRONYM 'LGBT+'** as an umbrella term to describe people from any sexual orientation. We used the terms 'transgender', 'trans' and 'gender-expansive' to describe respondents who feel that the sex/gender they were assigned at birth doesn't align with their sense of self.

**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS WERE OPTIONAL**, and respondents were given the option to tick multiple boxes for their identity. **YOUNG PEOPLE WHO RESPONDED** to the survey were between the age of 17 and 25 years old. The most common age of respondents was 17.

**IN TOTAL, 51.74 PER CENT IDENTIFIED AS** cisgender, 30.08 per cent identified as trans, gender-expansive, or questioning. **53.19 PER CENT SAID THEY WERE WHITE** or white British, 7.02 per cent identified as Black/African/Caribbean or Black/African/Caribbean British, 7.39 per cent identified as Asian or Asian British, 1.62 per cent identified as South Asian or South Asian British, and 12.13 per cent identified as mixed or multiple ethnic groups.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**When using information from this survey, please reference  
“LGBT<25 Survey, conducted by the British LGBT Awards”**

**For further information or more in-depth statistics, please contact  
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