



Homophobia

2007 Hate Crime Survey

Table of Contents

Preface	i
Executive Summary	iii
Introduction	1
Violent Homophobic Attacks	3
Assaults on Gay Pride Parades and Events in Eastern Europe	5
Moscow.....	5
Bucharest.....	6
Warsaw.....	6
Riga.....	6
Tallinn.....	7
Statistics on Violence	
Based on Sexual Orientation	9
Underreporting.....	10
Unofficial Reporting by Nongovernmental Organizations.....	11
Endnotes	13

Acknowledgements

Human Rights First gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Ford Foundation.

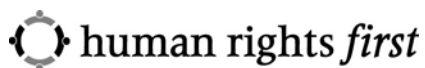
This report was co-authored by Michael McClintock and Paul LeGendre and edited by Michael Posner. Alexis Aronowitz and Jaideep Dargan contributed to the research and writing of the report.

About Us

Human Rights First is a leading human rights advocacy organization based in New York City and Washington, DC. Since 1978, we have worked in the United States and abroad to create a secure and humane world – advancing justice, human dignity, and respect for the rule of law. All of our activities are supported by private contributions. We accept no government funds.

This report is available for free online at www.humanrightsfirst.org

© 2007 Human Rights First. All Rights Reserved.



Headquarters

333 Seventh Avenue
13th Floor
New York, NY 10001-5108

Tel.: 212.845.5263
Fax: 212.845.5299

www.humanrightsfirst.org

Washington D.C. Office

100 Maryland Avenue, NE
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002-5625

Tel: 202.547.5692
Fax: 202.543.5999

Preface

This report on homophobia is a companion to the Human Rights First *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, which is a review of the rising tide of hate crimes covering the region from the far east of the Russian Federation and the Central Asian states across Europe to North America: the countries of the 56-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In releasing the *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, Human Rights First documents and analyzes the reality of racist violence and other forms of intolerance. We have reviewed available reports on violence motivated by prejudice and hatred, including the findings of the handful of official monitoring systems that provide meaningful statistical information. This data, combined with the findings of nongovernmental monitoring organizations, provides important insights into the nature and incidence of violent hate crimes.

Our aim is to raise the profile of these insidious crimes and the challenges they pose to societies and communities that are becoming increasingly diverse. Many of these crimes are the everyday occurrences of broken windows, physical assaults, burnt out homes, and violent intimidation that are a consequence of prejudice and hatred. Our emphasis is on the violence at the sharp edge of discrimination and what can be done about it. We are seeking to overcome official indifference and indecision in the fight against discriminatory violence. The *2007 Hate Crime Survey* is accompanied by three companion surveys which look in greater detail at specific forms of discrimination and violence: antisemitism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. These reports are available on our website at: www.humanrightsfirst.org.

The *2007 Hate Crime Survey* as well as these companion surveys build upon the findings of our 2005 report, *Everyday Fears: A Survey of Violent Hate Crimes in Europe and North America*, which addressed antisemitic and other racist and religiously-motivated violence as well as violence motivated by biases based on gender, disability, and sexual orientation. In that report, we also examined government responses to hate crimes in each of the OSCE participating states and found that only a handful of governments had taken concrete measures to effectively monitor, respond to, and prevent hate crimes.

The response of governments has not markedly improved since then. Human Rights First continues to believe that governments need to do more to combat violent discrimination. In the *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, we offer a series of recommendations to governments with a view to moving forward in combating violent hate crimes. In particular, we are urging governments to strengthen criminal law and law enforcement procedures required to combat hate crimes. Stronger laws that expressly address violent hate crimes are important tools if governments are to more effectively deter, detect, and punish them. We likewise call on governments to establish systems of official monitoring and data collection to fill the hate crime information gap. This is an essential means to assess and respond to patterns of discriminatory violence affecting particular population groups.

Executive Summary

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and those who are transgender (LGBT) are frequent targets of bias-motivated violence. Only a small proportion of these crimes are reported in the news media or recorded in official hate crime reports. Extreme violence in 2006 included the torture and murder of a transgender woman in Portugal and an axe and gunfire attack in a Massachusetts gay bar. The litany of harassment, intimidation and assault on LGBT people and the clubs they frequented was reported in a wide range of countries throughout Europe, including Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

In countries in which LGBT people have become more visible, their increased public presence has in some cases brought with it a rise in homophobic rhetoric and a violent backlash. Such was the case when gay pride events were held in five eastern European cities during the spring and summer of 2006. In Moscow, hateful public statements from political and religious leaders in the run-up to gay pride events, combined with poor police protection from the throngs of violent protesters, lead to attacks on the participants. In Riga, protesters threw bags of excrement at participants in gay pride events there. Violent attacks were similarly reported during gay pride events in Bucharest, Tallinn and Warsaw.

Only ten countries in Europe and North America currently have laws which enable a sexual orientation bias to be considered an aggravating circumstance in the commission of a crime. Even fewer – just Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States – have made a commitment to monitor such attacks in their official reporting on hate crimes. Leaders of the gay communities in many countries charge that there is a serious underreporting of these crimes, due in part to anti-gay prejudices – both real and perceived – on the part of the police. NGOs in a number of countries have sought to fill the information void with data collection of their own.

Introduction

Discrimination by reason of sexual orientation, often termed homophobia, embraces prejudices against gay men and lesbians and bisexual and transgender individuals. This form of discrimination also extends to gender identity bias, in which individuals are targeted for violence on the grounds that they do not conform to gender stereotypes in their appearance or in their behavior. Homophobic violence is an extreme form of such discrimination.

Bias crimes motivated by sexual orientation, like those motivated by antisemitism, hatred of Roma and Sinti, and bias toward disability all have antecedents in the Holocaust. During World War II Nazi campaigns to exterminate Jews and the Roma and Sinti were accompanied by a program of persecution and murder that claimed the lives of tens of thousands of European homosexuals.

Although homosexuals are no longer forced to wear pink triangles or openly targeted for extermination as they were by the Nazis, sexual orientation is still a basis for stigmatization and oppression, often with the open support of government at some level and by influential political and religious organizations. Bias today towards those distinguished by their minority sexual orientation is vigorously promoted by both extremist and mainstream political and religious leaders.

For example, in **Ukraine**, in February 2007, Leonid Grach, a Ukrainian Member of Parliament (MP) and the chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations, said that "the State must protect people from evil, from violence, including from such evil as homosexuality, lesbianism, and such." He had previously made similar statements vilifying gays and lesbians.¹ In the **Russian Federation**, in February 2006, in the run-up to a planned gay pride parade in Moscow, Talgat Tajuddin, the Chief Mufti of Russia's Central Spiritual Governance for Muslims, said that "the parade should not be allowed, and if they still come out into the streets, then they should be bashed."²

Violent Homophobic Attacks

Continuing violence motivated by hatred and prejudice based on sexual orientation, though largely unseen, is an intimidating day to day reality for LGBT people in many countries.

Notwithstanding obstacles, incidents of violent hate crimes based on sexual orientation are reported in the media and in reports by nongovernmental organizations in many parts of Europe and North America. One intergovernmental organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has reported on such attacks in the context of its work on hate motivated crime.³

Incident reports provide some basis to establish that homophobic violence is both frequent and of particular brutality. The fact that incidents listed below come from a limited number of countries does not mean that the problem of homophobic violence is more problematic there. More likely it reflects the fact that NGOs there are more active in bringing to light such cases.

Examples from among the most serious incidents of 2006 include the following:

- In **Portugal**, on February 22, 2006, a Brazilian transgender woman named Gisberta, living in extreme social exclusion in the city of Oporto was found dead in a pit of water in an abandoned construction site. A group of boys ranging in age from 10 to 16 confessed to murdering this woman. They subsequently were found to have previously harassed and insulted her. This was followed by more serious violence when on February 19, they entered the building in which she was living, tied her up, gagged and beat her, and anally sodomized her with sticks. They repeated this torture on two subsequent nights, finally throwing her body into a pit of water in the morning hours of February 22 in an apparent attempt to conceal the crime.⁴ Although Portugal has criminal legislation defining bias as an aggravating circumstance in the commission of homicide and assault, it does not explicitly extend to gender identity and was not invoked in the course of the prosecution of this case.⁵
- In the **United States**, on February 2, 2006, an 18-year-old male wounded three persons in an attack at a New Bedford, Massachusetts gay bar. Shortly after asking the bartender if it was a gay bar, the man began attacking bar patrons, first with a hatchet and then by opening fire on others with a gun. One person suffered deep cuts on his head and was shot in the face, and two others were shot in the back and chest.⁶ The assailant then fled the bar and later the state, and died on February 6 following a shootout with Arkansas police who tried to arrest him.⁷ At the time of the assailant's death, police were investigating the assault as a hate crime.
- Also in the **United States**, in New York City, on June 11, 2006, Kevin Aviance, a singer, was attacked by a group of six or seven men yelling anti-gay slurs. Aviance was thrown on the ground, beaten and objects were thrown at him. He suffered a broken jaw and required surgery as a result of the attack. Police arrested and charged four men with first-degree assault as a hate crime.⁸

Such cases of serious violence – at least those that receive broad media coverage – are fortunately still relatively rare, although lesser levels of assault and harassment against individuals as well as vandalism against homes of and venues frequented by gays and lesbians are by most accounts commonplace, even though official documentation of such incidents is limited. Some examples from 2006 include:

- In **Croatia**, on March 9, several people entered a club, where a private party had been organized by a gay and lesbian organization, and attacked a number of those present with their fists and with glass bottles. The assailants fled upon arrival of the police. Five of the victims were taken to the hospital to be treated for injuries.⁹
- In **Estonia**, in June, Hans Glaubitz, who was appointed as Dutch Ambassador to Estonia in September 2005, resigned from his post on the grounds that he and his black partner were regularly subjected to racist and homophobic abuse on the streets there. Mr. Glaubitz commented that “Estonian society is far from ready for two men, particularly if one of them is black.”¹⁰
- In **France**, on April 16, two gay men who were waiting at a bus stop, hand in hand, were beaten up by two other men who passed by in a car. Upon their arrest, the attackers told the police: “these are not men. They deserve the bomb,” and “If nobody had come in between us, we would have terminated them.”¹¹
- In **Germany**, in Berlin, on July 26, a gay man was followed into an area in the Tiergarten known as a meeting place for gay men. A group of men then followed, first blinding him with flashlights, and then beating him on the head with a glass bottle and attacking him with a heavy tree branch. The victim was taken to the hospital having sustained a deep cut on his head, a fractured arm and bruises on his hip.¹²
- In the **United Kingdom**, in Leicester, in the last three months of 2006, windows were smashed on several occasions at a bar that was frequented by gay clientele. A gang of young men armed with hammers and baseball bats, reportedly responsible for the damage to the bar, also verbally abused customers entering and exiting.¹³
- In the **United States**, in the state of Maine, on July 3, two teenage boys broke into the house of a lesbian couple in the town of Poland, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage and writing anti-gay slurs on the walls.¹⁴

Assaults on Gay Pride Parades and Events in Eastern Europe

The year 2006 saw a greater visibility for the LGBT community, although that visibility was met in some cases with a correspondingly greater level of intolerance. Gay pride parades and events organized in a number of countries in eastern Europe resulted in homophobic comments from political and religious leaders, poor police protection, and acts of harassment and violence against those taking part in the parades.

Criminal justice officials generally responded inadequately to the threats of violence and to the violence itself, making some arrests, but following through with few if any criminal prosecutions against the individuals responsible. The infringements of criminal law – which included incitement to violence in the run-up to the events as well as verbal attacks, harassment, and physical assault during the events – were generally seen by police and public officials as little more than hooliganism, or an issue of public disorder, rather than as serious crimes motivated by discrimination. Human Rights First is unaware of any cases in which charges brought resulted in more than small fines or made any reference to the bias motivations inherent in these verbal and physical attacks.

In light of the difficulties encountered in the past few years in the organization of such parades, the International Gay and Lesbian Association of Europe (ILGA-Europe) released a publication in September 2006 on “Prides against Prejudice: A toolkit for pride organizing in a hostile environment.” In its summary of recent events in Central and Eastern Europe ILGA-Europe reported that 10 marches or demonstrations were banned; leading politicians used inflammatory lan-

guage on at least ten occasions; Pride demonstrations or related events faced violence on at least thirteen occasions; the police failed to provide adequate protection on seven occasions; and police had twice broken up peaceful demonstrations. The same report highlighted the role of political and religious leaders in opposing gay pride marches:

Religious leaders have played a leading role in opposing Pride, sometimes inciting hatred and opposing freedom of assembly and speech for LGBT people, often in partnership with extreme right-wing groups. Local and national politicians have used the danger of public disorder as a reason for banning marches, after having themselves used language likely to encourage extremist opposition.

These developments have been accompanied by widespread concern at rising levels of intolerance and violence against the LGBT community.¹⁵

In 2006, there were gay pride parades and events in five Eastern European cities accompanied by varying levels of violence.

MOSCOW

In Moscow, in late February 2006, several months before the proposed date of the parade, Sergei Tsoy, the Moscow mayor’s spokesperson, said that “the Moscow government is not even going to consider allowing a gay parade,” claiming that the proposed event has “evoked outrage in society, in particular among religious leaders.” Tsoy added that the mayor “was firm that the city government will not allow a gay

parade in any form, open or disguised, and any attempts to organize an unsanctioned action will be resolutely quashed.”¹⁶ Some religious leaders also publicly expressed vehement disapproval of the proposed parade.

As expected, the gay pride parade originally planned for May 27 to commemorate the 13-year anniversary of the decriminalization of homosexuality was not authorized by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov amidst pressure and threats of retaliation from extremist groups and from some religious leaders. Luzhkov commented that his decision to ban the parade could serve as an example to foreign countries and that “the West has something to learn from us and should not race along in [allowing] mad licentiousness.”¹⁷

Two gay pride actions did take place – a flower laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Alexander Gardens followed by a rally outside the Moscow Mayor’s office. In both events, participants were grossly outnumbered by skinheads, extreme nationalists, and Russian Orthodox believers who chanted homophobic slogans, such as “Moscow is not Sodom” and “No faggots in Moscow.” Police did little to protect the gay and lesbian activists taking part in these events and several people, including Volker Beck, a German Member of Parliament, were attacked and injured.¹⁸

After considerable pressure, police did consider pursuing incitement to violence charges against the perpetrator of the attack on Volker Beck. Russian law prohibits incitement to violence “on the basis of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, relationship to religion as well as the affiliation to any social group,” but does not explicitly refer to sexual orientation. The possibility that “any social group” might apply in this case was ruled out when police consulted an “expert” from the Moscow State University, who declared that “sexual minorities cannot be considered a social group and certainly cannot be considered as a social group on the basis of gender, but rather belong to a deviant social group as do criminals, drug addicts and others whose behavior deviates from social norms.”¹⁹ Thus, it appears unlikely that anyone will be held responsible for the attacks against Volker Beck or against any others at the gay pride events who suffered at the hands of violent protesters.

Bucharest

On June 3, 2006, some ten people were injured when the Gay Pride Parade in Bucharest turned violent. Some one thousand protesters disrupted the parade – in which several hundred people were taking part – by breaking through a police line and attacking marchers. The police had to resort to the use of tear gas to restore order and to disperse the crowd of protesters. Some 50 people were arrested in connection with the disorder. Even prior to this outbreak of more serious violence, crowds of protesters lining the streets along the parade route pelted marchers with eggs, stones and plastic bottles.²⁰

Warsaw

During the weekend of June 10, 2006 activists in Poland organized the Equality March. In the previous two years, the parade had been banned, even though it went ahead both years. This year’s parade was officially sanctioned and brought together several thousands activists, who were met with some protests, including from some who threw eggs at the marchers. Further violence was prevented by the police. The parade took place in what some gay rights activists are calling “an atmosphere of hate” created in part by homophobic statements and policies of the country’s new conservative leadership.²¹

In the run-up to the parade, Wojciech Wierzejski, a Member of Parliament from the ultra-conservative League of Polish Families party, criticized the event and encouraged the use of force during the march, stating that: “If deviants begin to demonstrate, they should be hit with batons.”²² His comments were subsequently condemned as incitement to violence in a June 15 resolution of the European parliament on the rise in racist and homophobic violence in Europe.

Riga

On July 22, 2006, in Latvia’s capital Riga, anti-gay demonstrators hurled feces and eggs at gay rights activists and their supporters who were leaving a church service in the Latvian capital on Saturday. Dozens of protesters had gathered outside the Anglican church in Riga where gay activists were attending a service. A handful of the protesters lobbed eggs and emptied bags of feces on the churchgoers as they walked out the building. Police reportedly did little to stop the attacks. Earlier in the week, the city authorities had refused to grant a permit for a gay pride parade, citing security reasons. A court later upheld that ban.²³

Also on July 22, in connection with the gay pride events, anti-gay protesters surrounded a hotel in central Riga where gay rights activists were holding an event and a press conference. Police provided some protection from the protesters to those leaving the hotel, although a number of attacks were nonetheless reported.²⁴

Tallinn

On August 13, 2006, during Estonia's Gay Pride Parade, some 20 anti-gay protesters armed with sticks and stones attacked the parade as some 500 gay-rights supporters with rainbow-colored flags made their way through the streets of Tallinn. A parade spokeswoman said about 12 people were injured. She also criticized the police. "There were too few police present so they could not really handle the violent attack."²⁵

Statistics on Violence Based on Sexual Orientation

Few of the OSCE participating states track and provide statistics on crimes motivated by sexual orientation bias. **Canada, Sweden, the United States** and the **United Kingdom** are the countries where such monitoring is most developed, although only the United States produces comprehensive official statistics nationwide.

There are national hate crime figures in the **United Kingdom**, but these do not track crimes motivated by bias based on sexual orientation. Within the United Kingdom, London's Metropolitan Police is the independent police authority with the most consistent and comprehensive monitoring on sexual orientation bias crimes. The statistics for London show a fairly steady level of crime motivated by sexual orientation over the past several years, with 1,245 homophobic crimes in 2003/2004, 1,346 in 2004/2005, and 1,294 in 2005/2006.²⁶ However, these figures likely represent only the tip of the iceberg as police themselves estimate that some 90 percent of homophobic hate crimes go unreported. The percentage of unreported homophobic hate crimes is suspected to be considerably higher than for racially- or religiously-motivated violence, even though the police there have made a concerted effort to improve their relationship with the capital's gay population.²⁷

The Police Services of **Northern Ireland**, in its statistical reporting for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, recorded 220 incidents "with a homophobic motivation," a 12.2 percent rise over 2004/2005 levels. A total of 148 crimes were recorded, slightly down from the previous year, when 151 crimes were reported.²⁸

Homophobic crimes in Northern Ireland stood out for the high percentage – 68.2 percent – characterized as crimes of violence (defined as offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery, in contrast to "property crimes," such as burglary, theft and criminal damage). In contrast, 47.7 percent of the 746 "racially-motivated crimes" reported in the same period were crimes of violence, with 52.3 percent classed as property crimes.

In **Sweden**, the Swedish Security Service has, since 1997, published statistics on hate crimes with a xenophobic, antisemitic, or homophobic motive. As of 2006, the National Council for Crime Prevention has been commissioned to produce hate crime statistics. For the year 2005, there were 563 reported offenses with a homophobic motive (out of a total 2946 hate crimes), representing a slight decline over figures for 2004, which included 614 reported offenses (out of a total of 3028 hate crimes).²⁹

In two other European countries, reporting on hate crimes is systematic, although violence based on sexual orientation is left out of the picture in published statistics. In **France**, a law against violent crimes motivated by bias founded on sexual orientation was enacted on March 18, 2003, yet official data collection has lagged behind. Currently, the statistics collected by the Interior Ministry and made available in reporting by the National Consultative Council for Human Rights (CNCDH) concern only antisemitic and racist offenses. In **Germany**, annual reporting on extremist crimes does not provide information on crimes against the LGBT community.

While there is no nationwide uniform reporting in **Canada**, a number of police agencies in metropolitan areas report on hate crimes, including those motivated by sexual orientation. In Toronto, for example, police reported 13 occurrences representing 10 percent of the total reported bias-motivated crimes.³⁰ The police in Calgary reported 16 offenses motivated by sexual orientation in 2005 out of a total of 96 reported bias-motivated crimes.³¹

In the **United States**, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that in 2005 there were 1,017 incidents motivated by a sexual orientation bias. This figure represented about 14 percent of the total 7,163 reported offenses motivated by bias and a 15 percent decrease over the figure of 1,197 incidents motivated by a sexual orientation bias reported in 2004.³²

Underreporting

The lack of data on sexual orientation bias crimes for most OSCE participating states make any country-by-country or regional comparisons impossible. Even where such statistics are recorded, underreporting – or more likely *non-reporting* – is a major problem with regard to the LGBT community.

Victims of hate crimes driven by homophobia often face cultural or social obstacles to reporting attacks and threats. Attacks on LGBT people sometimes go unreported because to do so would bring into light an individual's sexual orientation, possibly resulting in further abuse. LGBT people may fear additional victimization and have little confidence that the criminal justice system will act appropriately in response to criminal complaints. As noted, police in the **United Kingdom** estimate that up to 90 percent of hate crimes committed against the gay community may go unreported.³³ In **Germany**, one leading gay rights organization reported that of the 138 incidents of anti-gay violence reported to the organization, only half were also reported to the police.³⁴

Fear of police prejudice is one disincentive for greater levels of registration of complaints as homophobic harassment and violence has been known to come from the police themselves. In a case that is being reviewed in **Bulgaria** by the state anti-discrimination commission, a 22-year-old man was reportedly arrested and ill-treated by police officers in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia in October 2005: police reportedly insulted and beat him because of his sexuality and because he was of Albanian origin.³⁵ In **Romania**, in July 2006, in Bucharest, two young gay men were reportedly singled out, harassed and threatened by

police after they were seen holding hands and kissing in a park.³⁶

Even when LGBT victims of hate crimes go to the police with the intent to make detailed incident reports and lend full support to investigations, they often are discouraged from making formal complaints by police officials. In some cases, even when making detailed complaints, victims discover subsequently that the evidence of homophobia as a bias motivation is not reflected in formal reports.

In the **Netherlands**, as in other countries, crimes motivated by sexual orientation bias are both underreported and unrecorded. In one incident reported by the nongovernmental Center for Culture and Leisure (*Cultuur en Ontspannings-Centrum*), an organization representing the interests and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, a gay man reported to police after an incident in which he was harassed and threatened by assailants using anti-gay epithets who also stole his mobile phone. Although the victim reported the incident to the police, it was registered as a case of simple theft, with none of the information provided that would support a conclusion that this was a bias crime. After consulting with the center, the individual returned to file a second report with a police officer who was experienced in dealing with homophobic crimes, and properly registered the details of the crime.³⁷

Efforts are being made in the **United Kingdom** to overcome the problem of underreporting through the introduction of systems of “third party reporting” whereby certain agencies can report hate crimes on behalf of the victims, who may fear going to the police directly. Other measures undertaken there include the appointment of specially-trained officers with a responsibility to register and investigate hate crimes.

Compounding the problem of underreporting and police intolerance is the reality that homosexuality remains socially unacceptable in many countries of the OSCE and the anti-gay statements of some political leaders have strongly reinforced that message. This is partly reflected in the fact that legislation on bias as an aggravating circumstance in the commission of a crime extends to sexual orientation in only 10 of the 56 OSCE participating States. These are: **Andorra, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

In the **United States**, local hate crime laws in just over half of the 50 states extend to bias based on sexual orientation. Federal hate crimes legislation is limited in its scope to race, color, religion, and national origin, although the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 includes provisions for the collection of statistics on

sexual orientation bias crimes. A new bill, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, would, if enacted into law, extend federal protection to include bias based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

Unofficial Reporting by Nongovernmental Organizations

In the absence of police or other official reporting, gay rights organizations in some countries collect statistics and report on incidents of violence against the LGBT community. In **Germany**, for example, a number of organizations representing the interests of the LGBT community have released reports on violence based on sexual orientation. No one organization produces national statistics – rather reporting generally covers a particular city or state. In its most recent report, the Berlin-based organization Maneo, which monitors reports of violence against gays made by victims or provided to the organization by the police, reported 197 cases of anti-gay violence in Berlin.³⁸

In **France**, SOS homophobie, in its eleventh annual report on homophobia in France, reported on 1332 incidents of homophobia, representing a 10 percent increase over 2005. The organization expressed particular concern by the 17 percent rise in the number of physical assaults in comparison with 2005. The number of physical attacks in 2006 represents 12 percent of the total number of incidents reported.³⁹

In the **United States**, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a coalition of anti-violence organizations from across the country, produces annual reports on bias-motivated violence against the LGBT community. In their report for 2006, they reported on 1393 anti-LGBT incidents.⁴⁰

Some gay rights organizations have attempted to produce more generalized assessments of the level of homophobic violence through surveys of people from the LGBT community. In **Croatia**, for example, on May 20, 2006, the Kontra lesbian organization presented the results of findings from a survey conducted at the end of 2005 among members of the Croatian gay and lesbian community. The poll sample included 202 people from the LGBT populations of Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek. The results show that in the last four years almost 40 percent of the participants in the survey faced insults and curses, unsolicited sexual approaches, or threats of physical violence, while 14 percent of those surveyed actually suffered physical violent assaults.⁴¹

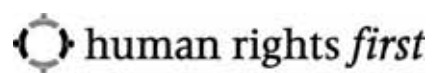
In September 2006, in the **Russian Federation**, the Russian LGBT Network released the results of a similar survey taken from among Russia's gay and lesbian community as part of a collaborative monitoring project with the Moscow-Helsinki Group. The survey, conducted through an online questionnaire in which 3500 people took part, included one question on bias-motivated violence. Those who took part were asked: "Have you ever been subjected to physical violence in a case where the attacker was motivated by hatred based on sexual orientation?" The response revealed that 26.5 percent of the respondents had been the victim of such violence on at least one occasion.⁴²

While such surveys are not always undertaken with scientific precision or cannot claim to be fully representative, they do offer evidence of the problem of homophobic violence that is all too often absent from official statistics.

Endnotes

- ¹ Gundrun Schultz, "Ukrainian Political Leader Accused of Attacks on Gays After Criticizing Homosexuality," LifeSite, February 14, 2007, available at: <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2007/feb/07021404.html> (accessed on May 9, 2007).
- ² "Moscow Gay Pride Banned as Religious Groups Threatens Violence," IndyMedia UK, February 17, 2006, available at: <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2006/02/333843.html> (accessed on May 9, 2007).
- ³ OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), "Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region: For the period from January-June 2006," October 12, 2006.
- ⁴ "Transsexual Murdered in Portugal," International Gay and Lesbian Association, June 7, 2006, available at: http://www.ilga.org/news_results.asp?LanguageID=1&FileCategory=6&FileID=823 (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ⁵ ODIHR, "Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region," p. 24.
- ⁶ "Man, 18, sought after gun, hatchet attack at gay bar," CNN.com, February 2, 2006, available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/02/02/gay.shooting/index.html> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ⁷ "Shootout kills gay bar attack suspect," CNN.com, February 6, 2006, available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/02/05/robida/index.html> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ⁸ "Singer Kevin Aviance Beaten in New York City," Associated Press, June 11, 2006, available at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13254454/> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ⁹ Kristijan Grdan, "Violence in Croatia," ILGA-Europe, March 9, 2006, available at: http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/croatia/violence_in_croatia (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ¹⁰ "Black Partner a Hate Target, So Envoy Quits," Internet Center Anti-Racism Europe (ICARE), Headlines July 16, 2006 citing the Electric New Paper on June 10, 2006.
- ¹¹ ODIHR, "Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region."
- ¹² Maneo, "*Fallbeispiele* 2006," available at: <http://www.maneo.de/pdf/Maneo-Fallbeispiele.pdf> (accessed on April 17, 2006).
- ¹³ "Leicester Bar Attacked in Hate Crime," Pinknews.co.uk, January 11, 2007, available at: <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-3468.html> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ¹⁴ Justin Ellis, "Anti-bias Rally Encourages Couple," MaineToday.com, July 23, 2006, available at: <http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/news/local/060723rally.shtml> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ¹⁵ International Gay and Lesbian Association – Europe, "Prides against Prejudice: A toolkit for pride organizing in a hostile environment," September 2006, available at: http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non_periodical (accessed on May 9, 2007).
- ¹⁶ "Russia: Gay Pride Parade Should Not Be Banned," Human Rights Watch, February 27, 2006, available at: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/02/27/russia12728.htm> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ¹⁷ "Moscow Mayor Says West Can Learn from Russia about Gay Rights," RFE/RL Newsline Vol. 10, No. 98, May 31, 2006.
- ¹⁸ Maxim Anmeghichean, "Directly from Moscow – Detailed Accounts of the Events by ILGA-Europe!" ILGA-Europe, May 28, 2006, available at: http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/moscow_pride_27_may_2006/gay_pride_events_in_moscow_erupts_in_violence_moscow_militia_fails_to_ensure_order (accessed on May 9, 2007); "100 Arrested at Moscow Gay Protest, German MP Injured," Monsters and Critics, May 27, 2006.
- ¹⁹ "Glavnyj VUZ strany prodolzhaet pogruzhatsya v tryasinu svoej gomophobii i zaigrvania s vlastyami," *GayRussia.ru*, October 14, 2006, available at: http://gayrussia.ru/events/detail.php?ID=7412&phrase_id=72344 (accessed on May 1, 2007).

- ²⁰ “Romanian anti-gay protesters clash with police,” Reuters, June 3, 2006.
- ²¹ “Thousands Rally For Gay March in Warsaw,” Deutsche Welle, June 10, 2006.
- ²² U.S. State Department, “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Poland” 2006, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Released on March 6, 2007; see also ODIHR, “Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region.”
- ²³ “Latvian Gay Priders Hit With Eggs and Excrement,” Internet Center Anti-Racism Europe (ICARE), citing Reuters on July 22, 2006.
- ²⁴ “Gay Pride Organizers “Trapped” In Riga Hotel,” Internet Center Anti-Racism Europe (ICARE), citing UK Gay News on July 22, 2006.
- ²⁵ “12 Injured as Gay Pride Marchers Attacked in Estonia,” Mosnews.com, August 13, 2006, available at: <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2006/08/13/gaypride.shtml> (accessed on May 9, 2007)
- ²⁶ Metropolitan Police, Violent Crimes Directorate, United Kingdom.
- ²⁷ Home Office, United Kingdom, available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/hate-crime/> (accessed May 9, 2007); “Drive to Tackle Homophobic Crime,” BBC News, December 29, 2006, available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/6216601.stm (accessed May 1, 2007).
- ²⁸ Police Service of Northern Ireland, *Statistical Report No. 3, Hate Crimes and Incidents, 1st April 2005-31st March 2006*, p. 3, available at http://www.psnri.police.uk/3_hate_incidents_and_crimes-4.pdf (accessed March 25, 2007).
- ²⁹ “Producing hate crime statistics in Sweden,” Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, November 7, 2006. The report was presented at the OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on “Addressing the hate crime data deficit” in Vienna on November 9-10, 2006.
- ³⁰ Toronto Police Service, Hate Crime Unit, “2005 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report, available at: <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2005hatecrimereport.pdf> (accessed on May 9, 2007)
- ³¹ Calgary Police Service, “Annual Statistical Report: Person and Property Crimes: 2001-2005,” page 17.
- ³² Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, available at: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm> (accessed on May 1, 2007).
- ³³ Home Office, United Kingdom, available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/hate-crime/> (accessed on May 8, 2007).
- ³⁴ Manéo reported that 118 incidents were brought to the attention of the organization by the police, while another 138 incidents were reported by victims. Only half of these 138 victim-reported incidents were also reported to the police. “Annual Report 2005,” Manéo, 2005, p. 11, available at: <http://www.maneo.de/pdf/Maneo-Report2005.pdf> (accessed April 17, 2007).
- ³⁵ “Homosexual complains of Sofia policemen,” ICARE, May 16, 2006, available at: <http://icare.to/article.php?id=3593&lang=en> (accessed May 1, 2007).
- ³⁶ Mihai Bucur, “Gay Teens Assaulted and Fined by Police in Romania,” ILGA-Europe, August 1, 2006, available at: http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/romania (accessed May 1, 2007).
- ³⁷ Information provided by Tania Barkhuis, Center for Culture and Leisure, during a expert meeting on registration of racism and discrimination at the Center Information and Documentation Israel, the Hague, December 13, 2005.
- ³⁸ “Annual Report 2005,” Manéo, 2005, p. 10, available at <http://www.maneo.de/pdf/Maneo-Report2005.pdf> (accessed April 17, 2007).
- ³⁹ “SOS homophobie publie son Rapport annuel 2007 sur l’homophobie,” Press release, SOS homophobie, May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.sos-homophobie.org/index.php?menu=1&menu_option=12&news=75#chap75 (accessed on May 22, 2007).
- ⁴⁰ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, “Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Violence in 2006,” 2007, available at: <http://www.avp.org/> (accessed on May 16, 2007).
- ⁴¹ Dejan Georgievski, “Round Table Discussion: Violence Against LGBT Population,” One World Southeast Europe, May 24, 2006, available at: <http://see.oneworld.net/article/view/133382/1/> (accessed May 1, 2007).
- ⁴² “Diskriminatsia v tsiffrakh,” GayNews.ru, September 17, 2006, available at: <http://gayclub.ru/right/article.php?ID=2582> (accessed May 1, 2007).



Headquarters

333 Seventh Avenue
13th Floor
New York, NY 10001-5108

Tel.: 212.845.5263
Fax: 212.845.5299

www.humanrightsfirst.org

Washington D.C. Office

100 Maryland Avenue, NE
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002-5625

Tel: 202.547.5692
Fax: 202.543.5999