DID YOU KNOW?

Criminal acts motivated by bias or prejudice towards sexual orientation and/or gender identity fall into the current definition of “hate crimes”. Combating this specific type of crime has been adopted as a priority by national transnational governments.

The current legislation usually focuses on the punishment of the offender, and do not allow the healing of hate victims. Victims of a non-stranger assault are often most interested in an opportunity to tell their full story and in hearing the offender accept responsibility and apologise for the assault.

According to FRA’s LGBT survey, 43% of victims did not report the most serious incident of hate motivated violence they experienced to the police because they did not think that the police would do anything.

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May) represents an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders, and local authorities to the alarming situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people, and all those who do not conform to majority sexual and gender norms.

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LET’S GO BY TALKING

Innovative paths through restorative justice for victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes

More info

www.letsgobytalking.eu
ABOUT THE PROJECT

LetsGoByTalking project wants to contribute to the reparation of anti-LGBT hate crimes through the promotion of restorative justice (RJ) programmes in the European Union. This project is funded by the European Union’s Justice Programme and is a collaboration between different European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Spain).

The project will enhance the rights of victims of crime established in the Directive 2012/29/EU. LetsGoByTalking proposes a victim-centred approach that guarantees the victim’s right to be heard (art. 10). It will increase the victim’s trust into the national institutions with the aim to counteract the underreporting of anti-LGBT hate crimes and to promote cooperation between key actors that deal with anti-LGBT hate crimes.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF LETSGOBYTALKING:

- To map European and national legislations (Spain, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Bulgaria and Poland) regarding restorative justice and the rights of victims of crime, taking into account whether those legislations facilitate—or not—the application of RJ in the case of anti-LGBT hate crimes.

- To analyse, through an ethnographic approach, the experiences and needs of victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes, as well as the perspectives of key professionals who deal with anti-LGBT violence and/or RJ programmes (policy makers, criminal justice practitioners, RJ professionals, representatives of NGOs, law enforcement authorities, etc.).

- To identify and study programmes and strategies of RJ in cases of hate crimes (with an emphasis on anti-LGBT hate crimes) put in place in European and third countries, taking into account their transferability to other national contexts.

- To foster the exchange of best RJ programmes identified, and the cooperation between public authorities, NGOs and professionals that deal with anti-LGBT hate crimes and RJ programmes in order to promote RJ in all stages of the criminal justice system.

- To identify training needs in the application of RJ in case of (anti-LGBT) hate crimes with special focus on a long-term impact, in order to develop training guidelines, materials and “training the trainers” courses. 12 training seminars (2 per country) will be organised.

- To raise-awareness about the RJ efficacy in anti-LGBT hate crimes amongst policy makers, criminal justice practitioners, RJ professionals and LGBT organisations.

- To enhance the rights of victims of crime established in the Directive 2012/29/EU—especially the articles 10 and 12—through the promotion of RJ through the activities planned in the project.