

A Safe Home for Every LGBTQI Child and Young Person

Evidence and policy priorities
on housing exclusion and
homelessness in Europe

BY IGLYO AND FEANTSA | SEPTEMBER 2026



With the support of



Funded by
the European Union



Government of the Netherlands



IGLYO & FEANTSA (2026). A Safe Home for Every LGBTQI Child and Young Person. *Evidence and policy priorities on housing exclusion and homelessness in Europe.*

This project is co-funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) 2021–2027 programme of the European Union, and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe (236.WP.2025) Views and opinions expressed are however those of IGLYO only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) or the Council of Europe or the European Youth Foundation

© IGLYO & FEANTSA 2026

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0). This licence allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, translate, and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must licence the modified material under identical term.

Cover illustration and design by Baptem Agency



About IGLYO

IGLYO — The International LGBTQI Youth & Student Organisation is the world's largest network dedicated to LGBTQI young people and their rights. We represent the voice of over 150 Member Organisations in 40 countries across the European region. We advance the rights of LGBTQI young people, advocate for their equality and inclusion, empower their voices, and connect them across borders through international events, capacity-building training, thematic research, advocacy, awareness-raising campaigns, network building, regranting, and intersectional community dialogues.

For further information, please reach out to Rú Ávila Rodríguez, PhD (they/them), Deputy Executive Director, ru@iglyo.org

About FEANTSA

FEANTSA brings together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe. We have nearly 140 member organisations from 26 countries, including 23 Member States of the EU. FEANTSA works towards ending homelessness by: engaging in constant dialogue with the European institutions to promote the development and implementation of effective measures to end homelessness; conducting and disseminating research and data collection on homelessness; promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, experience and good practice between FEANTSA's member organisations and relevant stakeholders.

For further information, please reach out to Sergio Pérez Barranco (he/him), Policy Officer, sergio.perez@feantsa.org

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	9
1. Introduction	10
Why this research?	10
Why did we work together?	10
What did we do?	10
What do we mean by housing exclusion?	11
Whose experiences are in focus?	11
How is the report organised?	11
2. Methodology	13
2.1. Overall approach	13
2.2. Scoping analysis: objectives and scope	13
2.2.1. Literature search and selection	13
2.2.2. Analysis of the literature	14
2.3. Survey design and consultation	14
2.3.1. Survey data and analysis	15
2.4. How the two components come together	15
2.5. Limitations and interpretation	15
Part I. Understanding LGBTQI youth housing exclusion	16
3. LGBTQI Youth Homelessness in Europe	17
3.1. General situation	17
3.2. European policy and socio-political context	19
4. Patterns and Pathways into Housing Exclusion	21
4.1. Family rejection	21
4.2. Contextual risk factors	23
4.2.1. Sources of discrimination across contexts and pathways to homelessness	23
4.2.2. Familistic welfare models	25
4.3. Intersectional factors and diverse identities	26
4.4. Mental health consequences	27
5. Services, Promising Practices and Implementation Gaps	28
Part II. Civil society perspectives on policies and services LGBTQI youth housing exclusion	31

6. Policy and strategic frameworks	32
6.1. LGBTQI equality frameworks	33
6.2. Housing-related measures	35
6.3. Homelessness-related measures	37
6.4. Cross-cutting measures and implementation	40
7. Discrimination, exclusion and protection in access to housing	42
7.1. Settings where discrimination and exclusion occur	42
7.2. Drivers of housing exclusion and homelessness	43
7.3. Protective measures and remedies	44
Protection against discrimination in housing access	44
Protection against discriminatory evictions	45
Protection in institutional settings	46
Protection against discrimination within families	47
8. Availability, inclusiveness and capacity of housing and homelessness services	48
8.1. Prevention measures and availability of dedicated services	49
8.2. Inclusiveness and accessibility of support services	52
8.3. Professional capacity, training and coordination	57
9. LGBTQI children and young people facing exclusion and homelessness	61
9.1. Recognition and targeted prevention measures	62
9.2. Safety and adequacy of youth homelessness services	64
9.3. Integrated and participatory support services	66
Part III. Key takeaways and recommendations	68
10. Key takeaways and recommendations	69
What are the key takeaways?	69
What should public authorities prioritise?	70
Make housing inclusion an explicit, funded commitment	70
Strengthen welfare systems and decouple them from family relationships	70
Intervene before a young person loses safe housing	70
Create routes to stable and affordable homes	70
What must change in services and protection?	71
Make safety and identity affirmation standard practice	71
Enforce protection throughout the housing pathway	71
Fund coordinated support and specialised expertise	71

How should progress be sustained and assessed?	72
Give people with lived experience a decision-making role	72
Improve evidence without increasing exposure	72
Embed LGBTQI housing inclusion in European policy and funding	72 - 73
Annex 1. Methodological note scoping analysis	74
Annex 2. Methodological note Survey members	80
Survey scope and design	80
Respondents' profile	80

Executive Summary

LGBTQI children and young people need safe, stable and affordable housing to grow, participate in education and community life, and move towards independent living. Family rejection, violence and discrimination can undermine that security. When these experiences interact with poverty, high housing costs and gaps in social protection, young people may have few safe housing options and may be exposed to homelessness.

This joint report by IGLYO and FEANTSA brings together a scoping analysis of published research and a survey of civil society organisations working across LGBTQI rights, youth, housing and homelessness. The scoping analysis examines pathways into housing exclusion and existing responses. The survey provides organisational perspectives on policy frameworks, protection against discrimination, prevention and service provision. Children and young people are central to the report, while the survey also examines the wider housing systems and services affecting LGBTQI people of different ages.

The findings support the Council of Europe's thematic review of the housing provisions of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 and inform the European Union's work on affordable housing and housing exclusion.

What does the evidence show?

- **Housing exclusion develops through interacting structural and personal circumstances.** Family rejection is an important pathway, but its consequences depend on access to income, affordable housing, social protection and supportive services. Discrimination in education, employment and housing can further restrict young people's options. Prevention therefore requires coordinated action across these areas.
- **Much of housing exclusion remains hidden.** Young people may stay temporarily with friends, move repeatedly between insecure arrangements or remain in unsafe homes because they have nowhere else to go. Fear or experience of discrimination can also discourage them from seeking help. Responses focused only on rough sleeping miss opportunities to provide support earlier.
- **Formal protection often falls short of effective access.** Survey respondents describe gaps between policy commitments and their implementation, including limited prevention, inconsistent safeguards, insufficient staff training and weak coordination. The availability of accommodation does not necessarily mean that it is safe, accessible or appropriate for LGBTQI children and young people.
- **Children and young people need support that reflects their circumstances.** Dependence on family resources and abrupt transitions out of care can increase housing insecurity. Assistance must recognise that returning home may be unsafe and that support may need to continue beyond the transition to adulthood.
- **Inclusive mainstream services and specialist provision have complementary roles.** LGBTQI organisations provide trusted support and expertise, often with insecure funding. Public authorities must strengthen mainstream provision while sustaining specialist services. Responses also need to address overlapping barriers linked to gender identity, sex characteristics, disability, racism, poverty and migration or asylum status.

What should policymakers do?

IGLYO and FEANTSA call for public authorities to:

- Make LGBTQI housing inclusion an explicit, funded commitment within housing, homelessness and equality strategies.
- Provide early support before young people lose safe housing, including planned transitions out of care and assistance that is not conditional on family reconciliation.
- Expand access to stable and genuinely affordable housing, with eligibility rules that account for young people without family or financial support.
- Establish and enforce standards for non-discrimination, privacy, safety and respect for identity across housing and support services.
- Fund emergency accommodation that is responsive to the needs of LGBTQI children and young people, and provide a safe, identity-affirming environment for them.
- Develop coordinated mainstream and specialist support, involve people with lived experience in decisions, and monitor sustained housing outcomes.
- Strengthen the implementation mechanisms of anti-discrimination and equality laws, especially in the area of housing, to bridge the gaps between policy commitments and implementation on the ground.

European institutions should use their monitoring, guidance and funding roles to support these changes and help Member States translate commitments into practical delivery.

Acknowledgements

This report brings together a scoping analysis prepared by Dr Camilla Lasagna and Dr Elena Tubertini and a civil society survey designed and disseminated by IGLYO and FEANTSA. The survey draws on contributions from 82 civil society organisations across 29 member States of the Council of Europe, with the analysis of responses and drafting of the survey findings carried out by Simon Carpentier.

IGLYO and FEANTSA brought the two components together and drafted the introduction, joint methodology, key takeaways and policy recommendations.

We warmly thank the researchers and all contributing organisations for their time, expertise and valuable insights.

The contributing organisations include:⁰

Armenia

National Trans Coalition Human Rights NGO (NTC)

Azerbaijan

Minority Azerbaijan
Qiy Vaar! LGBTI+ Media Platform

Belgium

Jeugddorp vzw

Denmark

SAND - De hjemløses
landsorganisation
WeShelter

Finland

Helsinki Pride Community
Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry

France

Human Development Research
Initiative (HDRI)

Georgia

Queer Feminist Women

Greece

Emphilo

Hungary

BMSZKI

Ireland

Peter McVerry Trust
Sophia Housing
Focus Ireland
ShoutOut

Italy

APS Arcigay Il Cassero
Gruppo Trans APS
National expert, Alessandra
Rossi

Lithuania

National LGBTIQ Organization
LGL
LGBTQ+ group Coming Out

Luxembourg

CNDS asbl

Malta

Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement
(MGRM)

Netherlands

De Tussenvoorziening

Northern Ireland

HEReNI

Romania

Identity Education
TransCore Romania

Slovenia

Društvo DIH
Društvo Legebitra

Spain

Arrels Fundació
Grupo Joven FELGTBI+
Ahora Dónde
Le Refuge
Fundación Lesmes
National expert, Susana
Hernandez

United Kingdom

Akt (Albert Kennedy Trust)
The Outside Project
Youth Concern
Inclusive Bangladesh CIC
National expert, Rebekah Price

Türkiye

Social Policy, Gender Identity
and Sexual Orientation Studies
Association (SPoD)
UniKuir Association

Regional

European Sex Workers' Rights
Alliance

⁰Only organisations/individuals that consented to being named are included in this list.

1. Introduction

This report brings together desk research and civil society knowledge to understand how LGBTQI children and young people experience housing exclusion and homelessness in Europe. We have combined a scoping analysis of existing evidence with the findings of a survey developed and disseminated by our organisations. Together, these two pieces of research examine how exclusion develops, what support is available, and where policies and services need to change.

Why this research?

A home should provide safety, stability, privacy and the space to live openly. For LGBTQI children and young people, access to housing is closely connected to education, employment, wellbeing, supportive relationships and the transition to independent living. Losing a home, or remaining in an unsafe one, can disrupt all of these at once.

The evidence brought together in this report shows how family rejection, violence and discrimination interact with poverty, inaccessible housing markets and gaps in social protection. These conditions can leave young people with few safe alternatives. Homelessness is therefore not an inevitable consequence of being LGBTQI: it is shaped by the relationships, institutions and structural conditions that determine access to support and housing.

Yet the European evidence remains fragmented. Some experiences are documented in academic studies; others are visible mainly to community organisations and services. Some forms of housing exclusion also remain absent from official reports. Existing policies can also be difficult to assess without understanding how they work in practice.

Why did we work together?

Our partnership connects LGBTQI youth rights with homelessness prevention and housing inclusion. IGLYO brings the perspective of its LGBTQI youth and student organisation network. FEANTSA brings expertise and networks from the homelessness sector. Combining these perspectives allows us to examine both the barriers facing LGBTQI communities and the capacity of housing and support systems to respond.

We wanted to make existing knowledge more accessible, identify gaps that require attention, and support dialogue between public authorities, LGBTQI organisations, youth organisations and homelessness services. Our shared objective is to strengthen prevention and ensure that access to housing also means access to safety, dignity and appropriate support.

What did we do?

We bring together two complementary strands of work. The first maps published evidence on LGBTQI youth homelessness in Europe. The second examines civil society perspectives on housing exclusion, policy implementation and service provision for LGBTQI people, including a dedicated focus on children and young people. The two strands have distinct methods and scopes, but we present them together in this report to connect the wider evidence with knowledge from organisations working in these contexts.

What do we mean by housing exclusion?

Our starting point is that housing exclusion extends beyond sleeping rough. It includes insecure, inadequate or unsafe living arrangements, temporary accommodation and situations in which people cannot rely on a stable home. A person may have a roof over their head while facing violence, exploitation, repeated displacement or pressure to conceal their identity.

The scoping analysis draws on FEANTSA's European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) to recognise this wider spectrum. This is especially relevant to young people who move between family homes, friends' homes and temporary accommodation and services. Looking at these pathways helps identify opportunities to intervene before housing insecurity becomes prolonged or before there are repeated instances of homelessness.

Whose experiences are in focus?

Children and young people are central to this report, while some parts of the report also cover LGBTQI people more broadly. This wider scope helps situate young people's experiences within housing markets, equality frameworks and services that affect people of different ages.

How is the report organised?

The report begins with the methodology section, followed by the scoping analysis, which examines existing evidence on housing pathways, structural conditions, wellbeing, policy responses, services and knowledge gaps. It then presents the survey analysis, moving through policy frameworks; discrimination and protection; the availability, inclusiveness and capacity of services; and the specific situation of children and young people. The last section of the report is a summary of the key takeaways, with some policy recommendations drafted by IGLYO and FEANTSA.

We invite readers to use this evidence to strengthen prevention, services and cooperation, with LGBTQI young people and people with lived experience of homelessness meaningfully involved in shaping responses.

How does this report inform the Council of Europe's housing review?

This report contributes civil society evidence to the thematic review of the housing provisions of [Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec\(2010\)5](#) on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. It examines how the principles set out in paragraphs 37 and 38 are reflected in access to housing, homelessness prevention and support services, with particular attention to LGBTQI children and young people.

Paragraph 37 calls on member States to ensure equal access to adequate housing without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. It specifically addresses protection against discriminatory evictions and equal rights to acquire and retain ownership of land and other property. Our findings help identify barriers across the housing pathway, including discrimination in private rental housing, access to social housing, eviction, property ownership and housing-related financial services. They also examine whether protective measures are supported by accessible remedies and effective implementation.

Paragraph 38 addresses the risks of homelessness faced by LGBTQI people, explicitly recognising children and young people who may face social exclusion, including from their own families. It also calls for social services based on an objective assessment of individual needs, without discrimination.

Our research examines these issues through evidence on family rejection, unsafe living arrangements, transitions out of care, homelessness prevention and the accessibility of support. It considers whether services can respond safely and appropriately to young people's circumstances, including their need for privacy, respect for their identity and continuity of support.

The report also takes account of [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2025\)7](#) on equal rights for intersex persons, which informed the survey design. Across the research, we consider discrimination and exclusion related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. This broader perspective helps identify needs and gaps that may be overlooked when policies treat LGBTQI people as a single group.

The two research components offer complementary contributions to the review. The scoping analysis explains the pathways and structural conditions associated with housing exclusion, and identifies service responses and gaps in existing knowledge. The survey documents participating organisations' observations of policy frameworks, protective measures and service provision in their respective contexts. Together, they help connect formal commitments with the conditions in which people seek housing and support.

2. Methodology

2.1. Overall approach

This report brings together two complementary sources of evidence: a scoping analysis of published research on LGBTQI youth homelessness in Europe, and an online civil society survey on access to adequate housing and protection from homelessness among LGBTQI people, with a specific focus on children and young people. The scoping analysis maps the existing evidence and its gaps. The survey adds knowledge from organisations working across LGBTQI rights, youth, housing and homelessness.

2.2. Scoping analysis: objectives and scope

The scoping analysis aimed to map scientific literature on LGBTQI youth homelessness in Europe, examining pathways into housing exclusion, implications for mental health and wellbeing, and the policies, services and support systems developed in response. It considered housing exclusion in relation to welfare arrangements, regulatory frameworks, prevention and intervention policies, mainstream and specialised services, community support, mutual aid and implementation gaps.

The population of interest was LGBTQI children and young people (including young adults), approximately aged 16–30. Particular attention was given to marginalised groups, including trans and non-binary people, asylum seekers and care leavers. Studies covering broader age groups were retained where their findings were specifically relevant to young people or could inform understanding of youth homelessness. No restrictions were applied to study design.

The review adopted a comparative European perspective. Its methodology identified evidence from Finland, Flanders in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom, including England, Scotland and Wales. North American evidence was also used where relevant to methodology and prevalence. This geographical scope reflects the literature identified, rather than a complete mapping of European countries or services.

2.2.1. Literature search and selection

We used Google Scholar for the literature search, which we selected for its open accessibility and coverage of multidisciplinary research across psychology, sociology, social policy, public health and social work. Its indexing of selected reports and policy documents also provided access to relevant grey literature alongside peer-reviewed publications.

Previously published reviews were consulted to inform the terminology and search strategy, including Tubertini et al. (2025), Goodyear et al. (2024) and the QueerNet project report (Quore, 2026). Search terms reflected different labels for LGBTQI populations and different ways of describing homelessness and housing insecurity. Examples recorded in the source methodology include “LGBTQI youth homelessness”, “LGBTQI youth homelessness services in Europe”, “queer homeless people”, “queer homeless people mental health” and “Pathways into LGBTQI youth homelessness”.

The core corpus comprised 19 contributions selected for their thematic and methodological relevance. We used 16 peer-reviewed academic publications, two research reports using mixed methods and one European practice report. The material included reviews, theoretical and policy contributions, and qualitative and quantitative empirical research.

Additional grey literature complemented this corpus. Reports and other publications were located through the search strategy and backward citation searching of included studies' reference lists. These included material from the Council of Europe, FEANTSA, IGLYO, ILGA-Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the OECD and community and service organisations. This material helped contextualise the academic evidence and document experiences and responses that may be less visible in scientific publications.

2.2.2. Analysis of the literature

The selected material was synthesised through narrative and comparative thematic analysis. A socio-ecological framework examined how individual experiences and relationships interact with institutions, housing systems and welfare arrangements. An intersectional perspective considered how sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, intersect with social class, ethnic origin and other conditions shaping housing exclusion.

The analysis compared pathways into housing insecurity, service accessibility and responses across the contexts represented in the literature. It also examined differences between welfare systems in which support depends heavily on family resources and those offering more universal provision. ATLAS.ti was used to organise the corpus and support comparison of textual excerpts across studies. Thematic interpretation remained researcher-led.

2.3. Survey design and consultation

IGLYO and FEANTSA developed an online survey to gather civil society input on LGBTQI people's access to adequate housing. The survey was designed based on the CM/Rec(2010)5 Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, and the CM/Rec(2025)7, Recommendation on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons. It was disseminated through both organisations' membership networks and remained open between April and June 2026.

The questionnaire comprised 41 questions, combining multiple-choice items, open-ended questions and follow-up prompts. It covered policy and strategic frameworks; observed barriers, discrimination and housing trends; homelessness prevention; access to inclusive services; professional capacity; and the situation of LGBTQI children and young people. Respondents were invited to draw on their organisation's knowledge and experience, which could relate to local, regional and/or national contexts.

Contributors represented organisations and networks working in LGBTQI rights, youth, homelessness, housing, advocacy, service provision, research and legal support. Their knowledge came from direct service delivery, advocacy, research and legal casework. Organisations worked with groups including LGBTQI young people, trans people, intersex people, migrants and asylum seekers, general homelessness service users, families and older people.

The survey gathered organisational perspectives across the Council of Europe region, with 82 responses in total.

2.3.1. Survey data and analysis

Quantitative and qualitative responses were analysed to identify common trends, implementation gaps and promising practices across the survey themes. The report presents descriptive percentages alongside explanations and examples drawn from open-ended responses. These examples provide context for the reported patterns, including differences between formal measures and their implementation in practice.

Percentages describe respondents' answers to the relevant questions. They should not be interpreted as the proportion of countries meeting a standard, or as estimates of homelessness among LGBTQI people.

2.4. How the two components come together

The two analyses are presented together, while retaining their distinct evidence bases and methods.

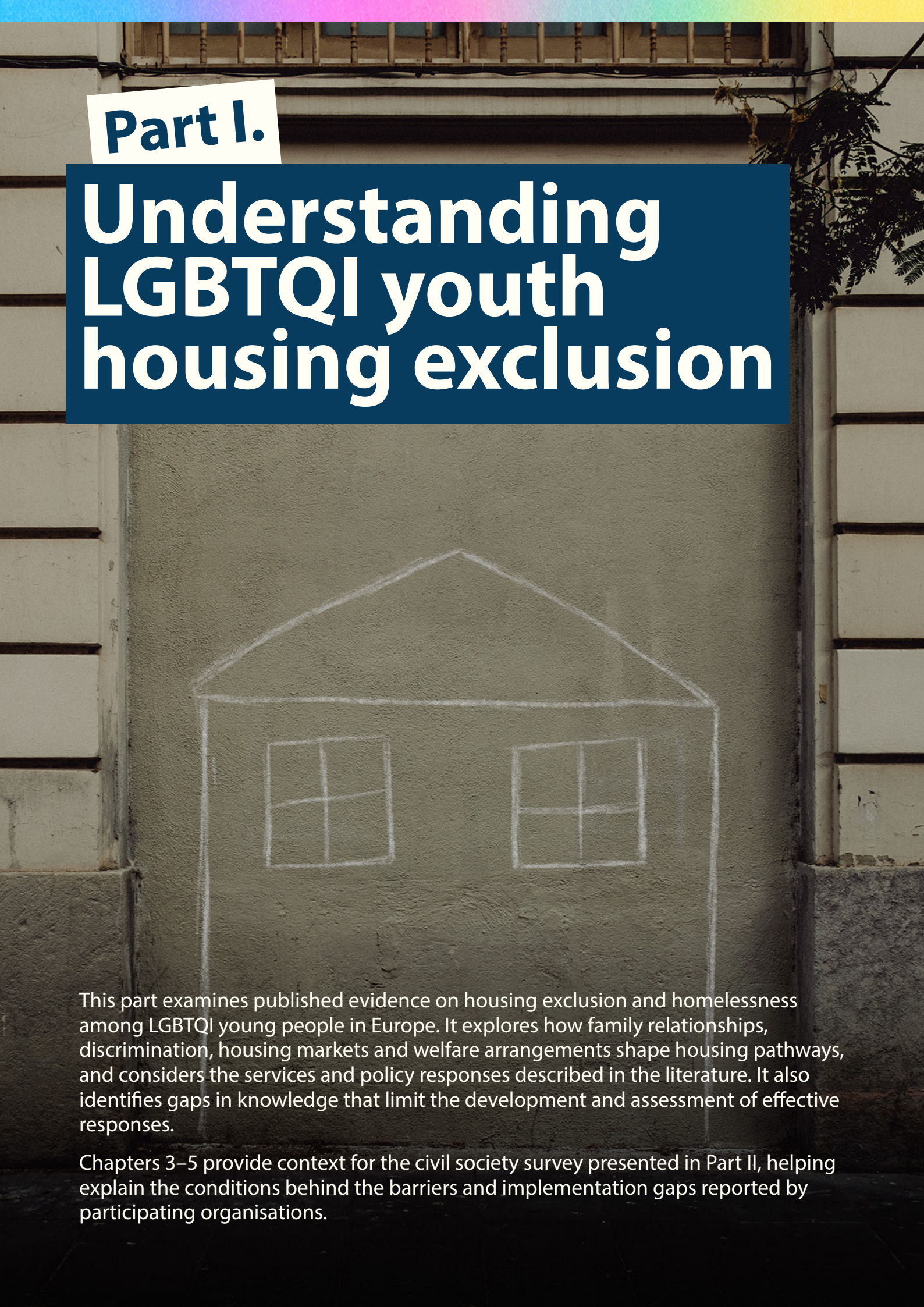
Selected examples of promising practice identified in the scoping analysis are presented in boxes alongside the relevant survey findings. These examples connect the two parts of the report, illustrating practical responses to the challenges described by respondents and helping readers relate the findings to existing policies, services and initiatives. These examples illustrate possible responses, but their inclusion does not imply that they have been evaluated or will work equally well in every setting.

The relationship between the components centres on shared themes: family rejection and other pathways into housing exclusion; structural inequalities and welfare arrangements; discrimination in housing and services; prevention and protection; the accessibility and capacity of mainstream and specialised support; and gaps in evidence and implementation.

2.5. Limitations and interpretation

The scoping analysis reflects the material identified through its search strategy. European evidence is geographically uneven, and studies differ in their populations, definitions and methods. Absence from the review does not establish the absence of housing exclusion, services or policy responses.

Survey responses are unevenly distributed across countries and may refer to local, regional or national conditions. They reflect participating organisations' knowledge and experience, rather than a comprehensive assessment of state implementation. Limited official data and differences in organisational expertise affect what respondents can report.



Part I.

Understanding LGBTQI youth housing exclusion

This part examines published evidence on housing exclusion and homelessness among LGBTQI young people in Europe. It explores how family relationships, discrimination, housing markets and welfare arrangements shape housing pathways, and considers the services and policy responses described in the literature. It also identifies gaps in knowledge that limit the development and assessment of effective responses.

Chapters 3–5 provide context for the civil society survey presented in Part II, helping explain the conditions behind the barriers and implementation gaps reported by participating organisations.

3. LGBTQI Youth Homelessness in Europe

3.1. General situation

Housing precarity and homelessness among LGBTQI youth have increasingly emerged as significant social and public health concerns across Europe. Although the phenomenon remains under-researched within European contexts in comparison to U.S. and Canada, available evidence consistently indicates that LGBTQI youth are disproportionately exposed to housing exclusion compared with their heterosexual and cisgender peers, in a similar way if we compare it to averages from other continents¹.

The latest survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)² estimated that 18.7% of LGBTQI people in the European Union have experienced prolonged or temporary homelessness at least once in their lifetime, confirming that housing exclusion is a widespread and persistent issue across the community. This figure is particularly significant when considered in the context of the growing proportion of young people identifying as LGBTQI across Europe and the United Kingdom. Recent demographic data indicates that between 9% and 12% of young people identify as LGBTQI³, with variations across countries and age groups. In the United Kingdom, approximately 10% of young people aged 16–24 identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Similarly, across the broader European context, 17% of Generation Z and 11% of Millennials identify as LGBTQI⁴, while young transgender people under the age of 30 account for approximately 4% of the LGBTQI population. Taken together, these figures highlight the significant presence of LGBTQI young people within the European population and underline the importance of addressing their specific vulnerabilities to housing insecurity. Recent data further reinforces this concern in the UK, where approximately 30% of homeless young people identify as LGBTQI⁵. This suggests that LGBTQI young people may be disproportionately affected by housing exclusion and homelessness, highlighting the need for targeted policies and support services addressing their specific needs.

The survey shows that experiences of housing difficulties range from staying temporarily with friends or relatives to living in emergency accommodation, inadequate housing, or sleeping rough. The overrepresentation is evident if compared to the general population. The proportion of individuals identifying as LGBTQI has been estimated at approximately 6.1% across the European Union⁶ and 4.0% in the United Kingdom⁷. While the data is not comparable as these studies use different reference periods, populations and definitions, the discrepancy between the proportion of LGBTQI individuals who experience

-
- 1 Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>; Goodyear, T., Chayama, K.L., Oliffe, J.L., Kia, H., Fast, D., Mniszak, C., Knight, R., Jenkins, E. (2024). Intersecting transitions among 2S/LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 156, 107355. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107355>.
 - 2 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2024). LGBTQI survey: Harassment and violence against LGBTQI people on the rise. FRA.
 - 3 Office for National Statistics. (2025, January 29). One in 10 young adults in the UK identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual – ONS. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/29/one-in-10-young-adults-in-uk-identify-as-lesbian-gay-or-bisexual-ons>
 - 4 Ipsos. (2024). Pride Month 2024: La GenZ è la più propensa a identificarsi come LGBT+. Ipsos Italia.
 - 5 Stonewall UK and the Trevor project from 2024-2025.
 - 6 European Commission, Joint Research Centre. (2022). EU Loneliness Survey (EU-LS 2022). European Commission. https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-activities/survey-methods-and-analysis-centre/loneliness/loneliness-prevalence-eu_en
 - 7 Office for National Statistics. (2023). Sexual orientation, UK: 2023. ONS. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2023>

housing difficulties homelessness and their representation within the broader population suggests that LGBTQI youth experience a substantially disproportionate burden of housing exclusion.

Rather than resulting from isolated individual characteristics and life events, literature conceptualises LGBTQI youth homelessness as a dynamic, cumulative and complex process shaped by the interaction of structural inequalities, interpersonal relationships, institutional responses and broader socio-economic conditions. This is why this report will focus on structural conditions, pathways and trajectories to homelessness rather than risk factors or individual vulnerabilities, to avoid secondary victimization and that further reinforces stigma.

European studies demonstrate that housing exclusion can emerge through multiple and interconnected pathways, with young queer people frequently moving between family homes, temporary accommodation, institutional settings, friends' or acquaintances' houses and informal housing arrangements before entering visible homelessness (or to avoid entering it). Therefore, a significant proportion of LGBTQI homelessness remains hidden, taking forms such as inadequate, unstable or unsafe housing (i.e., living in conditions of violence, abuse, intimidation, sexual extortion, exploitation, or couchsurfing) and often go undetected in official statistics⁸ despite exposing young people to significant risks of mental distress.

The adoption of broader conceptualisations of homelessness, such as FEANTSA's ETHOS framework⁹, is therefore particularly relevant for understanding the diverse and often invisible housing experiences of LGBTQI young people, especially in Europe. Indeed, while literature and organizations' reports on LGBTQI homelessness are mainly based in U.S. contexts, where unsheltered (street) homelessness is much more widespread and visible, it is important to note that methodological and definition differences profoundly influence who is counted as unhoused and who is not¹⁰. As ETHOS does not just target shelters and rooflessness, but also temporary housing, reception and daily centers, it is able to account for various forms of homelessness, including also the most episodic and hidden ones - that largely characterize the queer homelessness experience). Defining and quantifying such a complex and invisible phenomenon is still incredibly difficult, and not many studies or datasets are able to provide even rough estimates. Mainstream homelessness services and national homelessness monitoring systems, such as PiT (Point-in-Time) counts¹¹, further underestimate the phenomenon as they do not include sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics variables¹². This invisibility further contributes to the marginal position of LGBTQI homelessness within policy agendas, frequently delays access to support services and undermines the development of effective interventions.

Available data point to the need for challenging linear depictions of homelessness, highlighting the importance of examining housing trajectories across the life course and adopting socioecological and intersectional frameworks. Research over the last decade has consequently increasingly shifted from asking why LGBTQI young people become homeless to exploring how structural, relational and institutional factors interact to produce diverse housing pathways¹³.

8 Norris, M., & Quilty, A. (2021). Unreal, unsheltered, unseen, unrecorded: A review of LGBTQI+ homelessness in Ireland. *Critical Social Policy*, 41(3), 468-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018320953328>.

9 FEANTSA. (2007). ETHOS: European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (Brussels: FEANTSA). <https://www.feantsa.org/ethos>.

10 Smith, A. (2015). Can We Compare Homelessness Across the Atlantic? A Comparative Study of Methods for Measuring Homelessness in North America and Europe. *European Journal of Homelessness*, 9(2). https://www.feantsa.org/files/Observatory/Journals/Volume-9/v9-2/feantsa-ejh-9-2_web.pdf

11 PiT counts usually take place over a period of 4-6 hours on a single night and involve volunteers counting people experiencing homelessness on the streets (and sometimes in shelters). PiT counts can also include brief surveys on housing history, demographic information, and income (Smith, 2015). Although it is an efficient way for organizations and policymakers to monitor the phenomenon, it can be inaccurate for certain populations, as demographic surveys usually do not assess sexual orientation and gender identity.

12 While the terms 'sex characteristics' and 'gender expression' are included here and throughout the whole report to include and highlight the specificities of each ground of discrimination within SOGIESC, data on 'sex characteristics' and gender expression within queer homelessness literature remains profoundly limited compared to 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'. This scarcity represents a critical research gap, frequently hindering how distinct physical and expressive traits impact housing instability and institutional exclusion.

13 McCarthy, L., & Parr, S. (2022). Is LGBT homelessness different? Reviewing the relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1525-1544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2104819>; Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414-434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>; Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>.

Growing attention has also been devoted to heterogeneity within LGBTQI populations. Housing experiences differ considerably according to gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, sex characteristics, migration status, ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic position. In particular, transgender and non-binary young people consistently report higher exposure to discrimination within both housing markets and homelessness services, while LGBTQI migrants, refugees and asylum seekers often experience multiple and intersecting forms of exclusion¹⁴. These findings reinforce the importance of adopting intersectional approaches capable of recognising the diversity of housing pathways within LGBTQI populations.

To date, only a limited number of European studies analyze this phenomenon and dedicated housing services focused on the lived experiences of LGBTQI individuals, investigating both reasons and barriers to shelters' utilization¹⁵. Some recent attempts to record the services offered in Italian LGBTQI shelters¹⁶ led to the development of the P.R.I.D.E. project¹⁷. However, despite increasing scholarly interest, important knowledge gaps remain and a medium-long term strategy to make interventions effective and consistent is still lacking. European evidence continues to be fragmented, geographically uneven and largely concentrated in Northern and Western European countries. Much of the available research consists of qualitative or project-based studies, while longitudinal analyses and comparative investigations remain scarce. Furthermore, systematic data collection on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics within homelessness services continues to be limited, restricting both the knowledge on the prevalence of the phenomenon and the evidence on effective well-being promotion models to inform policy development.

3.2. European Policy and Socio-Political Context

Understanding LGBTQI youth homelessness requires situating individual housing trajectories within broader transformations affecting European housing systems, welfare arrangements and socio-political environments. Across Europe, increasing housing costs, reduced affordability, labour market insecurity and growing pressures on welfare systems have contributed to a substantial rise in housing exclusion and inequality, particularly among young adults facing precarious transitions into independent living. The 9th Overview on Housing Exclusion¹⁸ estimated that 1,287,000 people were sleeping rough, in night shelters or in temporary accommodation for homeless people in Europe in 2024. Access to affordable and secure housing has become progressively constrained, particularly in urban areas. These structural inequalities affect even more groups and individuals already exposed to discrimination, such as LGBTQI youth, who encounter additional barriers in securing stable accommodations and accessing supportive services due to identity-based stigma.

14 Gottlieb, N., Püschmann, C., Stenzinger, F., Koelber, J., Rasch, L., Koppelow, M., & Al Munjid, R. (2020). Health and Healthcare Utilization among Asylum-Seekers from Berlin's LGBTQI Shelter: Preliminary Results of a Survey. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(12), 4514. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17124514>; Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>.

15 Costa, G., Magino, S. (2021). Giovani LGBT+ senza dimora trovano casa. *Autonomie locali e servizi sociali*, 44(2), 317-332. <https://hdl.handle.net/11311/1171150>; Gottlieb, N., Püschmann, C., Stenzinger, F., Koelber, J., Rasch, L., Koppelow, M., & Al Munjid, R. (2020). Health and Healthcare Utilization among Asylum-Seekers from Berlin's LGBTQI Shelter: Preliminary Results of a Survey. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(12), 4514. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17124514>; Sauvaire, J., & Stella, N. (2024). Down-and-out in Paris: being LGBTQ and homeless, a compulsory performance of gender and sexuality. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 31(10), 1327–1342. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2022.2128724>; Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

16 Demurtas P. e Peroni C. (2023). Report di ricerca LISTEN LGBT+. Le strutture di accoglienza per persone LGBT+. IRPPS. <http://epub.irpps.cnr.it/index.php/wp/article/view/298>; Tubertini, E.; Carbone, A.; Santinello, M. (2023). Staff Members' Experience of Italian Shelters for LGBTQIA+ Homeless and Runaway People: An Exploratory Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(13), 6214. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20136214>.

17 QUORE, 2024; "Preventing and Reducing Inequalities through Data and Empowerment, supported by Ilga Europe within the "No One Left Behind" Program. <https://www.quore.org/en/p-r-i-d-e-project/>.

18 FEANTSA. (2024). Addressing LGBTQI+ Homelessness in Europe: Policy and Practice Developments. FEANTSA; FEANTSA (2024). Homelessness in Europe: The State of Play. In Report: 9th Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2024. https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Activities/events/2024/9th_overview/Rapport_-_EN.pdf.

Emerging comparative scholarship suggests that welfare-state models play a critical role in explaining variations in LGBTQI youth housing experiences across Europe. Drawing on welfare regime approaches, researchers argue that increased access to housing and stronger support from the state may reduce young people's dependence on families for accommodation, thereby mitigating some of the risks associated with family rejection and economic precarity. Conversely, in contexts characterised by weaker welfare provision and highly family-centric housing systems, LGBTQI youth often have fewer alternatives when family relationships deteriorate. This perspective has become increasingly influential in explaining differences in homelessness risks across Northern, Western and Southern European countries¹⁹.

The European policy landscape addressing LGBTQI homelessness remains fragmented. While considerable progress has been achieved in strengthening legal protections related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, housing continues to receive relatively limited attention within national LGBTQI equality strategies. Existing legislation often prohibits discrimination in principle but fails to translate into consistent institutional practices capable of preventing housing exclusion or ensuring equitable access to homelessness services. Consequently, important disparities persist between formal legal protections and their practical implementation²⁰. Comparative analyses further reveal significant discrepancies between formal equality measures and actual housing outcomes. Several countries have developed LGBTQI equality strategies or anti-discrimination legislation including housing provisions, yet implementation remains uneven. Legal protections frequently fail to translate into inclusive service delivery, consistent monitoring systems or dedicated housing interventions. As a result, many LGBTQI young people continue to encounter barriers within social housing systems, private rental markets and homelessness services despite formal legal recognition of equal rights²¹.

Differences between European welfare regimes further contribute to highly heterogeneous housing experiences. Comparative evidence suggests that countries characterised by stronger social protection systems and more universal welfare arrangements may partially reduce young people's dependence on family support during the transition to adulthood, thereby mitigating some of the risks associated with family rejection. Conversely, contexts where access to housing and welfare remains strongly mediated through family resources tend to expose LGBTQI young people to greater risks of housing instability following experiences of discrimination or rejection²².

At the same time, broader political developments increasingly shape the conditions under which LGBTQI people experience housing inclusion. Recent literature highlights the growth of anti-gender and anti-LGBTQI political narratives, democratic backsliding in several European countries and increasing public polarisation around issues of gender and sexual diversity. These socio-political dynamics contribute to the normalisation of discrimination while simultaneously weakening institutional commitment to equality policies and reducing political attention towards LGBTQI homelessness as a human rights issue rather than a niche social concern.

19 Formby, E., Matthews, P., & Tunåker, C. (2025). Understanding homelessness and housing among LGBTQ+ people - Where are we in 2024? *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1499–1505. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2025.2492781>; Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414–434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>

20 England, E. (2022). "Homelessness is a queer experience": Utopianism and mutual aid as survival strategies for homeless trans people. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1545–1562. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2108381>.

21 Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>; England, E. (2022). "Homelessness is a queer experience": Utopianism and mutual aid as survival strategies for homeless trans people. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1545–1562. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2108381>.

22 Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>.

Overall, the emerging European literature identifies LGBTQI youth homelessness as a multidimensional phenomenon situated at the intersection of family relationships, housing systems, welfare regimes, socio-political environments and service responses. While important advances have been made in understanding pathways into homelessness and documenting experiences of discrimination, substantial gaps remain regarding comparative policy implementation, service effectiveness, prevention strategies and the availability of robust data across European countries. These knowledge gaps are particularly relevant in light of the Council of Europe Recommendations concerning non-discriminatory access to housing, homelessness prevention, and the protection of vulnerable children and young people. Consequently, the present scoping analysis aims to map existing evidence on prevalence, risk factors, welfare-state determinants, laws and policies, family rejection and care-leaving experiences, service provision, promising practices, and implementation gaps affecting LGBTQI young people's access to safe and adequate housing across Europe.

4. Patterns and Pathways into Housing Exclusion

Youth homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals represents a critical socio-spatial and public health challenge across Europe²³. Although early research and advocacy heavily relied on North American and Canada models emphasizing street economies and severe destitution, contemporary European literature underscores the necessity of analyzing housing precarity through specific regional welfare regimes, family structures, and cultural climates²⁴. Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics are never identified as a single, deterministic cause of homelessness; rather, it interacts in complex ways with poverty, ethnicity, welfare state arrangements, and broader structural conditions. As noted by Prendergast et al. (2001) these intersecting factors shape young people's vulnerability to homelessness.

In this section, we examine the factors contributing to LGBTQI youth homelessness, highlighting the diverse pathways that lead young people into housing instability, focusing on the contextual risk factors and forms of marginalization that shape pathways into homelessness, as well as the associated mental health consequences.

4.1. Family Rejection

Family rejection remains one of the most frequently identified pathways into homelessness among LGBTQI youth: across the literature²⁵, family conflict and domestic breakdown emerge as the primary proximate triggers of homelessness for young people in general. However, comparative studies across Europe demonstrate that family conflict acquires different significance depending on broader welfare arrangements, economic resources and housing opportunities available to young people. In contexts where

23 Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>.

24 Matthews, P., Poyner, C., & Kjellgren, R. (2019). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer experiences of homelessness and identity: insecurity and home(o)normativity. *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 19(2), 232–253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2018.1519341>.

25 Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>; McCarthy, L., & Parr, S. (2022). Is LGBT homelessness different? Reviewing the relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1525–1544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2104819>; Giménez-Rodríguez, S., Ugalde Galera, J.D., Rodríguez Pérez, J.G., Gómez Jiménez, A. (2025). Sexual orientation and gender identity in homeless people: The role of discrimination and family rejection. *Social Inclusion*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10102>.

access to housing and social protection remains heavily mediated by family support, experiences of rejection may trigger immediate housing instability. Conversely, stronger welfare states and more universal housing support systems may partially buffer these risks. Consequently, homelessness among LGBTQI youth should be understood as the outcome of an interaction between family dynamics and wider structural determinants rather than solely as a consequence of interpersonal conflict²⁶.

The transition to adulthood represents a particularly critical period. As young people progressively move towards independent living, reliance on family support, educational transitions and labour market insecurity become central determinants of housing stability. For LGBTQI youth, these developmental transitions often occur alongside experiences of identity-based discrimination, concealment, social exclusion or violence, increasing the likelihood of unstable housing pathways²⁷. Young people leaving family homes, residential care or child protection systems without adequate support appear especially vulnerable to experiencing repeated episodes of housing insecurity before entering visible homelessness. Particular concern has also emerged regarding LGBTQI young people transitioning from care, foster care, residential institutions and other forms of out-of-home care. International and European evidence indicates that young people who have spent part of their childhood or adolescence in state care²⁸ - including foster care, residential care, or other child protection settings - and subsequently leave these systems, typically upon reaching adulthood, face an elevated risk of homelessness during the transition to independent living, particularly where institutional support ends abruptly and supportive family networks are absent. This vulnerability may be even more pronounced among LGBTQI young people, who appear to be disproportionately represented within care-experienced populations and often face intersecting forms of identity-based discrimination, social isolation, and economic disadvantage²⁹. National evidence from Ireland illustrates the scale of this risk: Kelleher et al. (2000) found that 33% of care leavers had experienced homelessness within six months of leaving care, rising to 66% within two years. Longitudinal research by Van Audenhove (2015) further demonstrates the diversity of post-care trajectories, identifying three broad groups: moving on, characterised by relatively successful transitions; survivors (55%), who encounter persistent social and structural barriers; and strugglers, who experience multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, including mental health difficulties and substance use³⁰.

Consistent with the previous discussion, quantitative evidence from Spain suggests that discrimination linked to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics constitutes one of the most important factors associated with housing precarity among LGBTQI populations. Similar findings have been reported in the United Kingdom, where many LGBTQI young people identify their identities as directly connected to family conflict and instability³¹. European comparative reports³² indicate that, among LGBTQI young people experiencing homelessness who were interviewed, 71% reported having experienced discrimination or rejection within their family of origin. Studies in Ireland and Scotland³³ similarly identify

26 Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414–434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>; Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>; McCarthy, L., & Parr, S. (2022). Is LGBT homelessness different? Reviewing the relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1525–1544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2104819>.

27 Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>.

28 From this point forward, the term care-experienced young people will be used to refer to individuals who have spent part of their childhood or adolescence in child protection settings.

29 Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>; Goodyear, T., Chayama, K.L., Oliffe, J.L., Kia, H., Fast, D., Mniszak, C., Knight, R., Jenkins, E. (2024). Intersecting transitions among 25/LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 156, 107355. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107355>.

30 Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>.

31 Giménez-Rodríguez, S., Ugalde Galera, J.D., Rodríguez Pérez, J.G., Gómez Jiménez, A. (2025). Sexual orientation and gender identity in homeless people: The role of discrimination and family rejection. *Social Inclusion*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10102>.

32 Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

33 Mayock et al., 2025; Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>; Matthews, P., Poyner, C., &

coming out as a critical turning point that may bring underlying domestic tensions to a head, resulting in forced displacement or unendurable living conditions. At the same time, coming out is widely recognised as a positive process of self-determination and authenticity associated with improved psychological well-being³⁴. The apparent paradox is that greater social visibility and acceptance have enabled many LGBTQI young people to disclose their identities earlier in life, often while they remain economically and residentially dependent on their families. Where family environments are characterised by sexual prejudice, heteronormative expectations or abuse, it is therefore not coming out itself that generates homelessness; rather, disclosure may expose or intensify pre-existing dynamics of rejection and conflict, making the family home untenable. For some participants of the analysed studies, long-term psychological abuse within the family environment preceded formal disclosure, and coming out served as the breaking point that forced them to enact thin rationality³⁵ and leave unsafe domestic spaces. In other instances, identity concealment was maintained for years due to anticipated familial hostility, delaying housing independence until later life transition.

4.2. Contextual Risk Factors

Recent scholarship has increasingly challenged individualised explanations of homelessness, emphasising instead the role of structural and institutional factors in shaping LGBTQI youth housing trajectories. While rejection within the family of origin remains a significant pathway into homelessness - as highlighted in the paragraph 2.1 -, the literature consistently demonstrates that housing insecurity arises from the interaction of interpersonal, structural, and institutional factors, including social contexts characterized by discrimination and exclusion, labour market conditions, welfare arrangements, housing affordability, and policy responses³⁶. While general structural factors - such as poverty, socioeconomic disadvantage, childhood abuse, and neglect - elevate homelessness risk across all youth populations, these adversities are disproportionately compounded for sexual and gender minorities³⁷: UK population-based insights from the Millennium Cohort Study³⁸ demonstrate that sexual minority adolescents experience significantly higher rates of past homelessness.

4.2.1. Sources of Discrimination Across Contexts and Pathways to Homelessness

Drawing upon Minority Stress Theory³⁹ and the concept of the heteronormative life schedule⁴⁰, the literature shows that homelessness risk is rooted in pervasive cis-heteronormative, queerphobic social structures and expectations across educational, familial, and community settings⁴¹. When young people reject or fail to conform to these cis-heteronormative norms, they encounter structural alienation that

Kjellgren, R. (2019). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer experiences of homelessness and identity: insecurity and home(o) normativity. *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 19(2), 232–253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2018.1519341>

34 Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414–434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>

35 The concept was introduced by McNaughton Nicholls (2009) to describe how people experiencing homelessness make decisions. It suggests that individuals act rationally, but within a highly constrained set of options shaped by structural and social conditions.

36 McCarthy, L., & Parr, S. (2022). Is LGBT homelessness different? Reviewing the relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1525–1544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2104819>.

37 Khanolkar, A.R., & Becares, L. (2025). Prevalence of past homelessness, mental health and health risk behaviours among sexual minority young people in the UK: insights from the Millennium Cohort Study. *BMC Public Health* 25, 4241. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-25429-7>.

38 Khanolkar, A.R., & Becares, L. (2025). Prevalence of past homelessness, mental health and health risk behaviours among sexual minority young people in the UK: insights from the Millennium Cohort Study. *BMC Public Health* 25, 4241. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-25429-7>.

39 Meyer, Ilan H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 674–97. [10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674](https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674).

40 Halberstam's (2005) concept of the heteronormative life schedule, developed within the framework of queer temporality, refers to the socially prescribed sequence of life events that defines normative adulthood: typically encompassing education, employment, partnership, parenthood, and home ownership. Individuals whose lives diverge from these expected trajectories, including many LGBTQI people, may encounter structural barriers and forms of social exclusion, particularly during transitions to adulthood.

41 Marzetti, H., McDaid, L., & O'Connor, R. (2022). "Am I really alive?": Understanding the role of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in young LGBT+ people's suicidal distress. *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 298. [10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860).

heightens their exposure to housing insecurity⁴². Structural alienation means not only the exclusion (discrimination, rejection, ostracism, violence) that young people experience from individuals, which nonetheless carries significant consequences for their wellbeing. It also involves the exclusion they experience from the structures, the social context, and the institutions organized according to cis-heteronormative criteria. This creates a context in which individuals may feel that they do not fully belong or are unable to participate on equal terms.

Discriminatory practices towards LGBTQI people in schools and workplaces may limit their educational attainment and economic stability. Studies in Barcelona and the UK document that nearly 50% of LGBTQI individuals experience discrimination when seeking employment or in the job environment, which directly undermines their financial independence and therefore their ability to secure private housing⁴³.

Access to safe housing and social services is an additional challenge, with both public and private shelter systems often acting as secondary sites of discrimination. Furthermore mainstream homeless shelters or low threshold services frequently lack appropriate cultural competency, leading LGBTQI youth to conceal their identities or avoid emergency accommodations. In fact, LGBTQI youth report widespread fear and experiences of homophobic and transphobic harassment from fellow residents and staff in dormitories and emergency hostels. This hostile service environment often leads many to reject any type of formal shelter support, both emergency, transitional and long-term ones⁴⁴. Concerns regarding queerphobia, gender-based violence (perceived and anticipated stigma: Meyer, 2003) and lack of privacy frequently influence such avoidance decisions, leading many youth to rely on more precarious alternatives such as couchsurfing, unsafe or exploitative living arrangements, experience street homelessness and survival sex⁴⁵.

Similar patterns emerge in recent Finnish evidence, where LGBTQI individuals (43.9% of participants aged between 21 and 29 years) experiencing housing instability state that they frequently relied on friends, partners and informal networks rather than formal support. Some respondents reported avoiding services altogether because of uncertainty about where to seek help, lack of trust in the available support system, or fear of discriminatory treatment. These findings suggest that perceptions of safety and inclusion can substantially influence help-seeking behaviour for this population⁴⁶. For this reason, many LGBTQI people⁴⁷ express a preference for queer-specific services, as these are more likely to be perceived as environments where their identities are recognised, respected, and understood. While it is not necessarily essential for all staff members to identify as queer or LGBTQI, the testimonies highlight the importance of affirming, culturally competent, and explicitly LGBTQI-inclusive environments. Such settings foster trust, reduce fears of discrimination, and create the conditions necessary to rebuild their sense of self-determination, autonomy, and belonging.

At the same time, access to emergency accommodation remains uneven across Europe. FEANTSA notes that admission criteria, limited availability and varying service conditions often restrict access to shelter provision, particularly for individuals who already face discrimination or social exclusion⁴⁸.

Consequently, following family rejection or displacement, LGBTQI youth navigate distinct pathways, often described by the literature with concepts such as liminality and “hidden homelessness”.

42 Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>.

43 ILGA-Europe. (2023). Addressing LGBTI homelessness in the European Union: Call for action and policy recommendations. ILGA-Europe.

44 Shelton, J., Ritosa, A., Van Roozendaal, B., Hugendubel, K. & Dodd, S.J. (2021). Perceptions: Addressing LGBTI Youth Homelessness in Europe and Central Asia - Findings from a Survey of LGBTI Organisations. ILGA-Europe, True Colors United, and the Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender at Hunter College.

45 England, E. (2022). “Homelessness is a queer experience”: Utopianism and mutual aid as survival strategies for homeless trans people. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1545–1562. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2108381>; Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>.

46 Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry. (2025). Proposed executive summary: LGBTQ+ homelessness and housing challenges in Finland. A Report by Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry.

47 Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

48 Serme-Morin, C. (2019). The state of emergency shelters in Europe. *Homeless in Europe*, Spring 2019, 2–3. FEANTSA.

As previously discussed, LGBTQI young people often show reluctance to access general homeless services due to concerns about discrimination, lack of recognition, or the absence of a safe environment. As a result, a substantial proportion may seek alternative forms of support and rely on temporary arrangements (e.g. couchsurfing, temporary stays with friends, precarious accommodation arrangements, remaining in unsafe homes due to the absence of viable alternatives). These situations often fall outside official homelessness statistics, contributing to substantial underestimation of the phenomenon⁴⁹. Queer youth's housing situation may therefore fall in between housed and homeless statuses, often relying on temporary hospitality, unsafe accommodations or unstable relationships to avoid street homelessness. Such experiences remain largely invisible to homelessness monitoring systems and frequently delay access to support services. Scholars have additionally defined four interconnected dimensions of LGBTQI youth homelessness invisibility - the unreal, unsheltered, unseen and unrecorded dimensions - referring respectively to young people's reluctance to self-identify as homeless, avoidance of mainstream shelters due to safety concerns, lack of professional recognition and the absence of systematic data collection on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics⁵⁰.

Qualitative research in Ireland and Southern Europe argues that some queer youth deliberately choose to live off-grid or utilize informal squatted spaces as an agentic rejection of binary, cis-heteronormative shelter environments that threaten their safety and identity expression⁵¹. Administrative data also frequently tends to misclassify LGBTQI youth leaving as "voluntary" because they formally "choose" to leave home or decline institutional shelter. However, qualitative literature increasingly reinterprets these itineraries as forced displacement, where leaving home or avoiding hostile shelters represents a rational, protective survival strategy against abuse and psychological destruction⁵².

4.2.2 Familistic Welfare Models

In many European welfare contexts, including the UK⁵³, Ireland, and Southern European countries such as Greece, Italy, and Spain, young people rely heavily on family support to secure housing, access to social and health services and navigate the transition to adulthood (see section 3.2 National Policy Responses and Service Development). Comparative research conducted in these countries further highlights the significance of familistic welfare systems in shaping LGBTQI housing pathways. Where young people's access to housing is often strongly dependent on intergenerational availability of family support, LGBTQI youth may experience prolonged dependence on family environments that are only partially accepting or openly hostile. Studies⁵⁴ describe various coping strategies, including delayed residential autonomy, temporary returns to the parental home, migration to more accepting urban or international contexts, informal cohabitation arrangements and reliance on friendship-based support networks. These findings indicate that

49 Norris, M., & Quilty, A. (2021). Unreal, unsheltered, unseen, unrecorded: A review of LGBTQI+ homelessness in Ireland. *Critical Social Policy*, 41(3), 468-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018320953328>; Tunåker, C. (2015). "No Place Like Home?". *Home Cultures*, 12(2), 241-259. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17406315.2015.1046300>.

50 Norris, M., & Quilty, A. (2021). Unreal, unsheltered, unseen, unrecorded: A review of LGBTQI+ homelessness in Ireland. *Critical Social Policy*, 41(3), 468-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018320953328>; Tunåker, C. (2015). "No Place Like Home?". *Home Cultures*, 12(2), 241-259. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17406315.2015.1046300>.

51 Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2022). Queer/y/ing pathways through youth homelessness: becoming, being and leaving LGBTQI+ youth homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1563-1584. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2141204>.

52 Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

53 Data from the United Kingdom were included because they remain highly relevant within the broader European geographical context. Moreover, the United Kingdom has produced a substantial body of English-language research on the topic, making it a key source of evidence. Although the UK is no longer formally part of the European Union, its inclusion is justified by its continued relevance to the European research landscape and the comparability of many of its social and welfare dynamics.

54 Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414-434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>; Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506-1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>.

housing exclusion often develops gradually through constrained housing choices rather than through a single homelessness event⁵⁵.

Building on welfare regime theory, scholars argue that stronger systems of social protection reduce young people's dependence on family resources during the transition to adulthood. In these contexts, experiences of family conflict or rejection may not immediately translate into homelessness⁵⁶. Where welfare systems fail to provide adequate, autonomous support, family rejection following the disclosure of a non-normative sexual identity can hinder access to the primary source of housing and economic security. While this dynamic is evident across different welfare regimes, studies conducted in Southern Europe suggest that family-centred welfare models, high levels of youth economic dependency, and prolonged co-residence with parents- further reinforced by the economic austerity measures following the 2008 financial crisis - may intensify this process.

4.3. Intersectional Factors and Diverse Identities

Importantly, queer homelessness does not have an equal impact across LGBTQI populations. Transgender, non-binary and intersex young people consistently report higher levels of housing insecurity, discrimination within housing systems and barriers to accessing services. Additionally, risk factors are shaped by the intersection of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics with ethnicity, migration status, disability, socioeconomic disadvantage, care experience and racialisation. These findings support intersectional understandings of homelessness and challenge approaches that treat LGBTQI populations as homogeneous groups⁵⁷

For instance, transgender and non-binary youth experience disproportionately higher rates of housing instability and family rejection compared to cisgender sexual minorities⁵⁸. Studies in Spain⁵⁹ indicate that trans women and non-binary individuals face increased hostility, often connected to rigid cis-heteronormative gender norms that fail to recognise diverse gender identities. Consequently, gender non-conformity acts as a major amplifier of housing exclusion⁶⁰. Population-based data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study⁶¹ also indicates that bisexual adolescents report significantly higher rates of past homelessness and mental health distress compared to heterosexual peers, reflecting specific identity-based invisibility and marginalization that are worthy of additional investigation.

Moreover, intersectional analyses reveal that LGBTQI migrants experience layered forms of marginalisation: migrant youth face compounding administrative obstacles, precarious legal statuses, language barriers, and severe racial-based discrimination in both the housing and labor markets, which makes it harder to access stability, autonomy⁶² and support networks.

55 Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414–434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>; Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>.

56 Formby, E., Matthews, P., & Tunåker, C. (2025). Understanding homelessness and housing among LGBTQ+ people - Where are we in 2024? *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1499–1505. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2025.2492781>.

57 Pettas, D., Arampatzi, A., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability in Greece: Intersectionality, coping strategies and the role of solidarity networks. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1506–1524. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2092600>; Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

58 ILGA-Europe. (2023). Addressing LGBTI homelessness in the European Union: Call for action and policy recommendations. ILGA-Europe.

59 Giménez-Rodríguez, S., Ugalde Galera, J.D., Rodríguez Pérez, J.G., Gómez Jiménez, A. (2025). Sexual orientation and gender identity in homeless people: The role of discrimination and family rejection. *Social Inclusion*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10102>.

60 ILGA-Europe. (2023). Addressing LGBTI homelessness in the European Union: Call for action and policy recommendations. ILGA-Europe.

61 Khanolkar, A.R., & Becares, L. (2025). Prevalence of past homelessness, mental health and health risk behaviours among sexual minority young people in the UK: insights from the Millennium Cohort Study. *BMC Public Health* 25, 4241. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-25429-7>.

62 ILGA-Europe. (2023). Addressing LGBTI homelessness in the European Union: Call for action and policy recommendations. ILGA-Europe; Ritholtz, S. (2023). Is queer-and-trans youth homelessness a form of displacement? A queer epistemological review of refugee studies' theoretical borders. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 46(9), 1854–1876. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2022.2099747>; Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

4.4.Mental Health Consequences

The convergence of housing precarity, family rejection, and minority stress⁶³ generates profound mental health disparities across countries and studies. The minority stress model⁶⁴ posits that LGBTQ+ individuals experience chronic stressors resulting from stigma, prejudice, and discrimination, which accumulate over time and adversely affect health and well-being. These stressors include distal experiences, such as discrimination, harassment, and violence, as well as proximal processes, including expectations of rejection, concealment of one's identity, and internalized stigma. A growing body of evidence has linked minority stress to increased rates of anxiety, depression, psychological distress, substance use, self-harm, and suicidal ideation⁶⁵. Beyond mental health, minority stress can also undermine educational attainment, employment stability, social relationships, and access to healthcare. In the context of housing, these cumulative stressors may contribute to family rejection, economic insecurity, and heightened vulnerability to homelessness, while also creating barriers to seeking and receiving appropriate support. Consequently, minority stress is increasingly recognized as a key structural mechanism underlying the social and health inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ populations⁶⁶.

Quantitative and qualitative findings consistently indicate that LGBTQI+ youth with histories of homelessness experience exceptionally high burdens of psychological distress, including clinical depression, anxiety, poor sleep quality, self-harm, and substance abuse⁶⁷. Sexual minority adolescents reporting past homelessness exhibit alarming rates of self-harm and depressive symptoms compared to stably housed heterosexual peers⁶⁸.

Qualitative investigations into suicidal distress among Scottish LGBTQI+ youth conceptualize suicide not merely as an isolated clinical pathology, but as a direct response to systemic queer entrapment⁶⁹. When young people navigate sustained rejection across domestic, educational, and public environments, the resulting isolation leads to loss of self-confidence and self efficacy with regard to one's value, skills and lives. Suicidal thoughts are frequently articulated as a perceived way put from unresolvable queerphobic conflict. This highlights the crucial role of structural stigma and interpersonal rejection in contributing to mental health crises in this population⁷⁰.

63 Meyer, Ilan H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 674–97. [10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674](https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674).

64 Meyer, Ilan H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 674–97. [10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674](https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674).

65 Hatzenbuehler, M. L. (2009). How does sexual minority stigma “get under the skin”? A psychological mediation framework. *Psychological Bulletin*, 135(5), 707–730. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0016441>.

66 Abramovich, I.A. (2012) No safe place to go: LGBTQ youth homelessness in Canada-Reviewing the literature. *Canadian Journal of Family and Youth*, 4(1), 29-51. <https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/cjfy/index.php/cjfy/article/view/16579/13220>; Fraser B, Pierse N, Chisholm E, Cook H. LGBTQ+ Homelessness: A Review of the Literature. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2019 Jul 26;16(15):2677. doi: 10.3390/ijerph16152677. PMID: 31357432; PMCID: PMC6695950.

67 Matthews, P., Poyner, C., & Kjellgren, R. (2019). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer experiences of homelessness and identity: insecurity and home(o)normativity. *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 19(2), 232–253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2018.1519341>.

68 Khanolkar, A.R., & Becares, L. (2025). Prevalence of past homelessness, mental health and health risk behaviours among sexual minority young people in the UK: insights from the Millennium Cohort Study. *BMC Public Health* 25, 4241. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-25429-7>.

69 Marzetti, H., McDaid, L., & O'Connor, R. (2022). “Am I really alive?": Understanding the role of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in young LGBT+ people's suicidal distress. *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 298. [10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860).

70 Marzetti, H., McDaid, L., & O'Connor, R. (2022). “Am I really alive?": Understanding the role of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in young LGBT+ people's suicidal distress. *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 298. [10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socsci.med.2022.114860).

5. Services, Promising Practices and Implementation Gaps

Despite considerable variation across welfare regimes and national contexts, several common patterns emerge. First, legislative recognition has generally advanced more rapidly than housing policy development. While anti-discrimination protections have expanded substantially across Europe, dedicated housing and homelessness policies specifically addressing LGBTQI needs remain limited.

The literature identifies two complementary approaches to LGBTQI homelessness services: mainstream homelessness services that incorporate explicit LGBTQI-inclusive standards and practices, and specialised LGBTQI-specific and queer services. The latter have often emerged from community activism and third-sector initiatives in response to the exclusion experienced within traditional welfare systems⁷¹. Recent research from Finland further reinforces these findings, with many LGBTQI respondents reporting previous experiences of discrimination within mainstream services, including misgendering, limited LGBTQI knowledge and dismissive attitudes from professionals. Such experiences can hinder queer youth's trust in institutions and increase barriers to accessing support, highlighting the importance of staff competence and inclusive organisational cultures⁷².

These findings also help explain why specialised LGBTQI-specific services have developed distinct and targeted models of care rather than simply adapting mainstream homelessness provision. Queer organisations tend to conceptualise LGBTQI homelessness as the outcome of intersecting experiences of family/parental rejection, minority stress, institutional discrimination, while drawing on lived experience and strong community connections to identify needs that often remain invisible within mainstream homelessness services. Rather than engaging individuals only once they enter homelessness systems, these organisations frequently act as community gateways for prevention, identifying housing vulnerability through LGBTQI networks, counselling services, peer-support groups and anti-discrimination organisations. In contrast, mainstream providers have generally developed LGBTQI-affirmative responses only after recognising stigmatizing dynamics within existing services, underscoring the complementary rather than competing roles of specialised and mainstream provision⁷³. Many of these innovative responses still depend heavily on civil society organisations, and while they represent important examples of innovation, their long-term sustainability remains uncertain because they frequently rely on short-term project funding and volunteer engagement.

Across the literature, LGBTQI-affirming environments, staff training, peer-support opportunities, trauma-informed approaches and integrated referral systems consistently emerge as key characteristics associated with safer and more effective services⁷⁴. Rather than representing alternative models of service delivery, specialised and mainstream services appear to fulfil complementary roles. LGBTQI-specific organisations provide highly specialised expertise, peer connection and community knowledge, enabling queer youth to express and develop their authentic identities in a safe environment, while mainstream homelessness services remain essential entry points for a large proportion of service users and provide for networking and

71 Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

72 Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry. (2025). Proposed executive summary: LGBTQ+ homelessness and housing challenges in Finland. A Report by Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry; Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

73 Demurtas P. e Peroni C. (2023). Report di ricerca LISTEN LGBTQ+. Le strutture di accoglienza per persone LGBTQ+. IRPPS. <http://epub.irpps.cnr.it/index.php/wp/article/view/298>; Tubertini, E., Morzenti, G., Roncalli, B., Penno, A., Lasagna, C., & Quore APS. (2024). P.R.I.D.E. Policy Brief: Qualitative-quantitative study of the experiences of LGBTQ+ homeless individuals and the housing services to support them. Quore aps. <https://www.quore.org/en/p-r-i-d-e-project/>; Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

74 Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

connection with broader social and health services for complex cases involving different health and mental health conditions and diverse needs (e.g., substance abuse, psychiatric care, advanced medical care, affirmative hormone therapy, social subsidies). Consequently, effective provision requires not only specialised services, but also the integration of affirmative practices within mainstream systems. Reports produced by FEANTSA, ILGA-Europe and community organisations consistently recommend mandatory and continuous staff training, identity-affirming and trauma-informed practice, gender-inclusive environments, integrated referral pathways and stronger collaboration between homelessness providers, health and social care services, schools, housing providers and LGBTQI organisations. Training should extend beyond LGBTQI terminology to include minority stress, trans and non-binary health, queer positive identity-related resources, respectful communication, intersectionality, migration and affirmative practice, while actively involving professionals with relevant expertise together with people with lived experience both in service design, implementation and provision⁷⁵.

The literature further indicates that effective responses should be conceived as a continuum of care rather than isolated housing interventions. Beyond emergency accommodation, services increasingly emphasise prevention, crisis intervention and progressive pathways towards supported housing, transitional accommodation, co-housing and semi-independent living. At the same time, interventions should also aim to strengthen the relational and institutional contexts in which young people live by promoting equity, acceptance, and affirming practices across society. Recovery from homelessness requires flexible pathways supported by multidisciplinary interventions addressing accommodation, mental health, healthcare, education, employment and social inclusion, which should be individualized and paced to every persons' unique needs. Prevention is a particularly important priority for LGBTQI youth, with evidence highlighting the value of early family support, family mediation, emergency accommodation, support for care-experienced youth and integrated housing-health-employment pathways able to cease trajectories of exclusion before housing instability chronicised⁷⁶.

Despite increasing agreement between researchers and practitioners regarding the characteristics of effective interventions for LGBTQIA+ homeless youth's wellbeing, substantial implementation barriers remain. Dedicated accommodation continues to be geographically uneven, concentrated primarily within large urban centres and frequently delivered by community-based organisations that rely on project funding, donations or unstable public resources. Limited staff capacity, shortages of beds, difficulties in obtaining formal accreditation and insufficient long-term institutional recognition restrict both service continuity and opportunities for expansion. Sustainable investment is therefore required not only to increase service capacity and support people with complex needs, but also to preserve the highly specialised expertise accumulated through years of community-based practice. Without long-term structural investment, this expertise risks remaining fragmented and difficult to transfer into mainstream homelessness systems, despite representing one of the principal sources of innovation in the field⁷⁷.

The absence of systematic data collection regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics within homelessness monitoring systems, contributing to the continued statistical

75 Tubertini, E., Morzenti, G., Roncalli, B., Penno, A., Lasagna, C., & Quore APS. (2024). P.R.I.D.E. Policy Brief: Qualitative-quantitative study of the experiences of LGBTQ+ homeless individuals and the housing services to support them. Quore aps. <https://www.quore.org/en/p-r-i-d-e-project/>; Quore (2026). QUEERNET: Amplifying Expert Voices: Testimonies of Homeless LGBTQIA+ People and Activists as a Tool for Policymaking. <https://www.quore.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QueerNet-Final-Research-Report.pdf>.

76 Demurtas P. e Peroni C. (2023). Report di ricerca LISTEN LGBT+. Le strutture di accoglienza per persone LGBT+. IRPPS. <http://epub.irpps.cnr.it/index.php/wp/article/view/298>; Goodyear, T., Chayama, K.L., Olliffe, J.L., Kia, H., Fast, D., Mniszak, C., Knight, R., Jenkins, E. (2024). Intersecting transitions among 2S/LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 156, 107355. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107355>; Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>; FEANTSA, & Fondation Abbé Pierre. (2024). Ninth overview of housing exclusion in Europe 2024. FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre. <https://www.feantsa.org/resources/9th-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2024>; Serme-Morin, C. (2019). The state of emergency shelters in Europe. *Homeless in Europe*, Spring 2019, 2–3. FEANTSA.

77 Demurtas P. e Peroni C. (2023). Report di ricerca LISTEN LGBT+. Le strutture di accoglienza per persone LGBT+. IRPPS. <http://epub.irpps.cnr.it/index.php/wp/article/view/298>; Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

invisibility of LGBTQI homelessness across Europe, needs to be tackled⁷⁸. Although many countries have strengthened anti-discrimination legislation, comparatively few have adopted homelessness prevention strategies or dedicated policy measures addressing LGBTQI populations, particularly young people. Existing initiatives frequently remain localised, pilot-based or dependent upon short-term funding, limiting their sustainability and scalability⁷⁹.

Research gaps remain equally substantial. European evidence continues to lag behind North American and Canadian scholarship, while longitudinal studies, comparative research and rigorous evaluations of living arrangements interventions remain scarce. Greater attention is also required to the experiences of transgender, non-binary, intersex, migrant, racialised and disabled LGBTQI populations, whose housing pathways remain comparatively underexplored⁸⁰. Finally, both policy and service development would benefit from the systematic involvement of LGBTQI young people and other experts by experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions, ensuring that homelessness responses are informed by lived realities rather than institutional assumptions⁸¹.

Overall, the available evidence suggests that effective responses should move beyond emergency accommodation towards integrated and differentiated systems of prevention, protection and long-term social inclusion. Housing interventions appear most effective when they combine stable accommodation with identity affirmation, supportive relationships, multidisciplinary support and coordinated pathways towards autonomy, addressing both the structural and psychosocial mechanisms through which discrimination and minority stress contribute to housing instability.

78 Di Felicianantonio, C., & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M. (2022). The housing pathways of lesbian and gay youth and intergenerational family relations: A Southern European perspective. *Housing Studies*, 37(3), 414–434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1807471>; Tubertini, E., Foschi, R., Gaboardi, M., & Lenzi, M. (2025). Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70173>.

79 Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>.

80 McCarthy, L., & Parr, S. (2022). Is LGBT homelessness different? Reviewing the relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness. *Housing Studies*, 40(7), 1525–1544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2104819>.

81 Mayock, P., & Hermans, K. (2025). Policy responses to youth homelessness: Ireland and Flanders compared. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108464>.

The background of the page is a photograph of a chalkboard. On the left side, there are faint chalk drawings of a kitchen, including a sink, a stove with a pot on it, and a refrigerator. On the right side, there are faint chalk drawings of a playground, including a swing set and a slide. The chalkboard is mounted on a wall, and there are some dark, leafy plants visible in the top right corner.

Part II.

Civil society perspectives on policies and services LGBTQI youth housing exclusion

The scoping analysis identifies recurring pathways into housing exclusion and the conditions needed for effective support. This part turns to the knowledge and experience of civil society organisations working across LGBTQI rights, youth, housing and homelessness. It examines the policy frameworks, protections and services that respondents identified in their local, regional or national contexts.

Chapters 6–9 cover policy commitments, discrimination, prevention, service capacity and the specific situation of children and young people. The survey also considers LGBTQI people more broadly, allowing young people's experiences to be situated within the housing systems and services they encounter. Its findings complement the literature by showing how participating organisations perceive and experience provision in practice.

Selected promising practices from the scoping analysis appear alongside relevant survey findings, illustrating possible responses to the challenges identified.

6. Policy and strategic frameworks

This chapter examines the policy frameworks identified by survey respondents that are relevant to LGBTQI people's access to housing and protection from homelessness. It explores the extent to which broader LGBTQI equality strategies, as well as housing- and homelessness-specific strategies or action plans, include measures addressing discrimination and exclusion on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The chapter also analyses the types of measures reported across these frameworks, including targeted support for specific groups and mechanisms intended to support implementation.

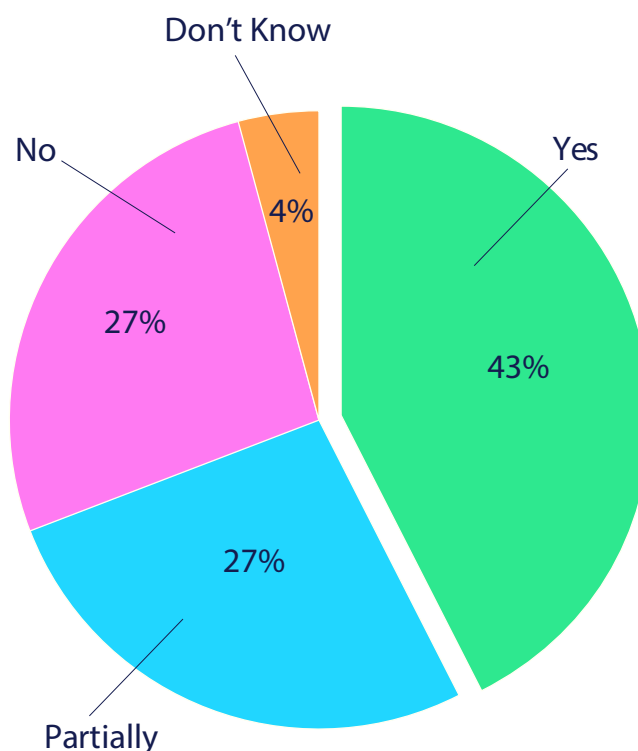
Key takeaways:

- **Policy frameworks relevant to LGBTQI people's access to housing remain uneven across the Council of Europe region**, with many countries lacking dedicated LGBTQI equality, housing or homelessness strategies through which housing exclusion can be systematically addressed.
- **Even where relevant strategies or action plans exist, housing- and homelessness-related measures addressing LGBTQI people are often absent**, partial or unevenly implemented, highlighting a persistent gap between formal policy commitments and meaningful inclusion in practice.
- **Existing measures do not address all LGBTQI communities equally**, with protections and targeted support more commonly focused on sexual orientation and gender identity, while gender expression, sex characteristics and intersecting vulnerabilities receive far less attention.
- **Implementation remains a major challenge**, with limited funding, weak consultation mechanisms and insufficient data collection continuing to constrain the effective delivery and monitoring of housing- and homelessness-related measures.

6.1. LGBTQI equality frameworks

Dedicated LGBTQI equality frameworks remain uneven across the Council of Europe region, limiting the extent to which housing exclusion and homelessness can be addressed through coordinated policy responses. Fewer than half of respondents (43%) reported the existence of a local, regional or national LGBTQI strategy or action plan, while 27% identified only partial frameworks, 27% indicated that no such framework existed and 4% did not know (see Figure 3).

| Figure 3. Reported existence of a strategy or action plan at the local, national or regional level on LGBTQI equality (%)



Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Country-level responses reveal three broad policy patterns, ranging from the absence of dedicated equality frameworks to more developed but still uneven efforts to integrate housing and homelessness concerns.

A first pattern emerged where organisations did not identify dedicated LGBTQI equality frameworks. This was reported across contexts including **Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Northern Ireland, Slovenia, Poland, Slovakia, Romania** and **Georgia**, where no formal policy framework was identified through which housing exclusion or homelessness affecting LGBTQI people could be explicitly addressed.

Responses from **Azerbaijan** illustrate the implications of such policy gaps particularly clearly. Respondents described an environment marked by limited state recognition of LGBTQI housing insecurity and heavy reliance on community-led support. In the absence of public provision, informal activist networks were reported to fill urgent support gaps, but with limited resources, weak institutional backing and significant legal and administrative constraints. These responses point to a reliance on fragile civil society initiatives rather than sustained public intervention to support LGBTQI people experiencing housing insecurity.

A second pattern concerned contexts where respondents identified broader LGBTQI equality or anti-discrimination frameworks, but without meaningful integration of housing and homelessness concerns. For example, in some responses, including in **Hungary**, LGBTQI people were reported to be recognised as a vulnerable group within broader equality frameworks, but no specific housing- or homelessness-related measures were identified. The same disconnect was reflected in responses from **Austria, Croatia, Greece** and **Armenia**, which identified partial equality frameworks but no concrete housing-related provisions.

A third pattern was found in contexts where respondents reported greater policy attention to housing and homelessness within broader equality or social policy frameworks, although implementation was described as partial or uneven. These responses point to greater recognition of housing and homelessness within existing frameworks, while also highlighting gaps between formal policy commitments and their implementation in practice. This was visible in **France**, where the survey identified a range of existing or emerging measures, including emergency accommodation for young people affected by LGBTQIphobia, targeted support for LGBTQI asylum seekers, professional training for housing and social service staff, improved data collection on LGBTQI homelessness, and initiatives addressing housing insecurity and social isolation among older LGBTQI people. These examples suggest that some equality frameworks are beginning to engage more directly with the specific housing needs of LGBTQI people facing heightened vulnerability.

At the same time, survey responses pointed to significant implementation gaps even in countries with more developed policy frameworks. In several cases, respondents from the same country selected different response options, ranging from “yes” to “partially” or “no”, suggesting considerable variation in implementation, visibility or awareness across regions and service contexts.

Responses from **Spain** illustrate this dynamic particularly well. While all respondents identified the existence of LGBTQI equality strategies or action plans, views diverged considerably on whether these included meaningful housing-related measures. Some respondents identified targeted homelessness prevention initiatives for LGBTQI young people, improved data collection, professional training and measures to adapt shelters and support services to sexual and gender diversity. Others reported that no such measures were in place. These differing accounts point to possible variations in how housing-related measures are implemented or recognised in practice.

Box 1. Additional contextual information

The scoping analysis identified Spain as a country where, while some of Europe’s most progressive LGBTQIA+ rights legislation has been adopted, housing insecurity remains insufficiently addressed within equality frameworks. Evidence from Madrid and Barcelona suggests that family rejection, labour market exclusion, migration-related vulnerabilities and discrimination continue to contribute significantly to housing instability among LGBTQIA+ populations (Giménez et al., 2024). The Barcelona study additionally highlights the invisibility of LGBTQIA+ homelessness within national homelessness monitoring systems, noting that sexual orientation and gender identity are rarely included in official homelessness statistics despite evidence of specific marginalisation and needs (Giménez et al., 2024).

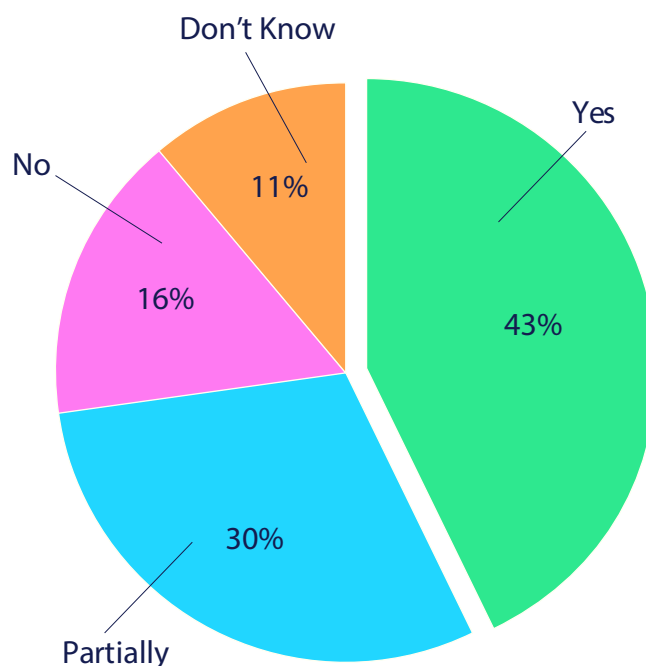
A similar picture was reported by organisations in Italy, where respondents highlighted the complexity of partial policy integration. They referred to limited dedicated accommodation, references to LGBTQI people in national guidelines on severe adult marginalisation, and funding for anti-discrimination centres and shelter projects through UNAR. However, they also reported significant implementation gaps, particularly in emergency accommodation. Concerns were raised that existing shelters may remain unsafe for trans people due to harassment, violence, misgendering, lack of privacy and placement in inappropriate spaces. Even where housing-related measures exist, they do not necessarily guarantee safe and inclusive accommodation and support services in practice.

The situation described in Italy also brings into focus which groups among LGBTQI people receive attention within existing policy frameworks. According to respondents across different contexts, LGBTQI children and young people were the groups most frequently recognised, particularly in relation to family rejection, youth homelessness and prevention. Trans and non-binary people also featured prominently, especially in relation to safety within shelters and access to gender-appropriate accommodation. By contrast, intersex people, older LGBTQI people and those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those related to disability, migration or asylum status, were reported to be less frequently recognised in existing policy frameworks, pointing to persistent gaps in policy recognition.

6.2. Housing-related measures

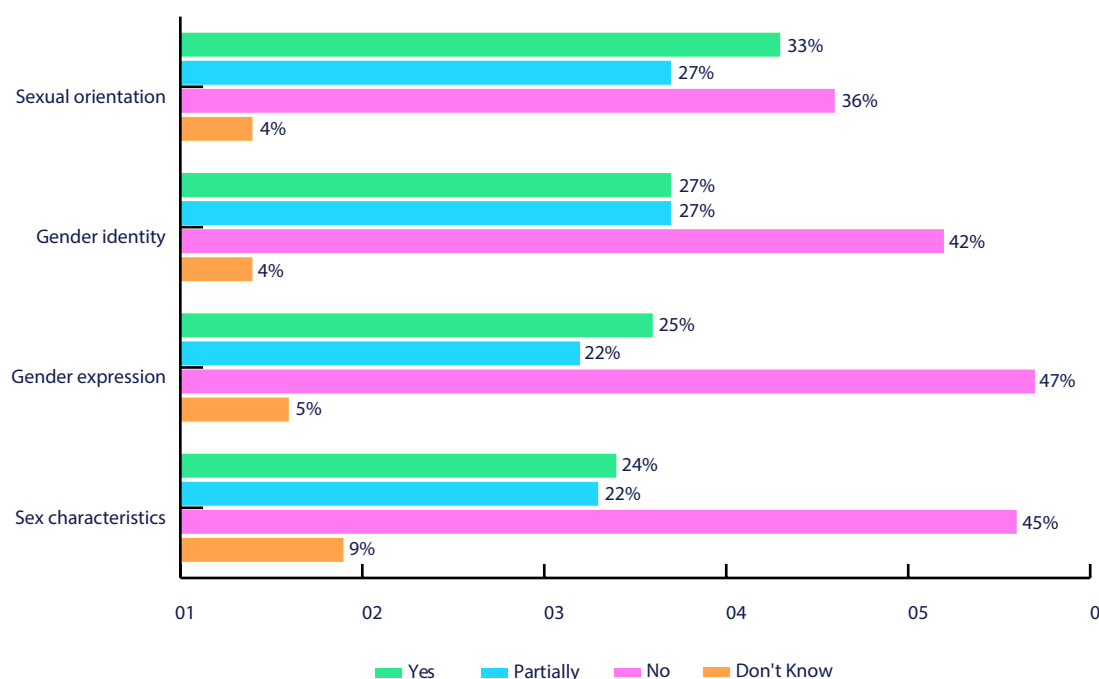
Housing strategies across the Council of Europe region rarely provide strong safeguards against discrimination affecting LGBTQI people. Fewer than half of respondents (43%) reported the existence of a local, regional or national housing strategy or action plan, while 30% identified only partial frameworks, 16% indicated that no such framework existed and 11% did not know (see Figure 4). This fragmented policy landscape limits opportunities to systematically address the specific housing barriers faced by LGBTQI people.

| Figure 4. Reported existence of a strategy or action plan at the local, national or regional level in the area of housing (%)



Even where housing strategies or action plans exist, explicit anti-discrimination measures addressing sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) remain limited across all grounds (see **Figure 5**). Only around one third of respondents reported clear protections relating to sexual orientation, while even fewer identified measures addressing gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Across all four grounds, the most common response was that no such measures were in place. This indicates that housing policy continues to overlook the specific risks of discrimination faced by LGBTQI people, particularly trans, gender non-conforming and intersex people.

| Figure 5. Measures to combat discrimination on SOGIESC grounds within housing strategies or action plans (%)



Country-level responses reveal a varied picture of how housing policies address discrimination, from contexts where formal frameworks are largely absent to those where legal protections are accompanied by practical measures.

At one end of this spectrum, respondents in **Azerbaijan, Slovakia, Romania** and **Türkiye** described substantial gaps in formal housing policy frameworks. They identified few, if any, housing policies that included specific measures to prevent discrimination against LGBTQI people when accessing housing.

In other contexts, respondents identified housing strategies or action plans but no specific measures to protect LGBTQI people from discrimination in accessing housing. This was the case in responses from **Croatia and Hungary**, with similar gaps reported in **Northern Ireland**. The existence of a housing strategy, therefore, did not necessarily mean that it included safeguards addressing discrimination against LGBTQI people.

A third group of responses pointed to partial or uneven protections across different grounds of discrimination. In **Bulgaria and Ireland**, several respondents identified measures addressing discrimination based on sexual orientation but fewer, or no, measures addressing gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Similarly, in **Greece**, the survey responses identified partial measures relating to gender identity but none for the other three grounds.

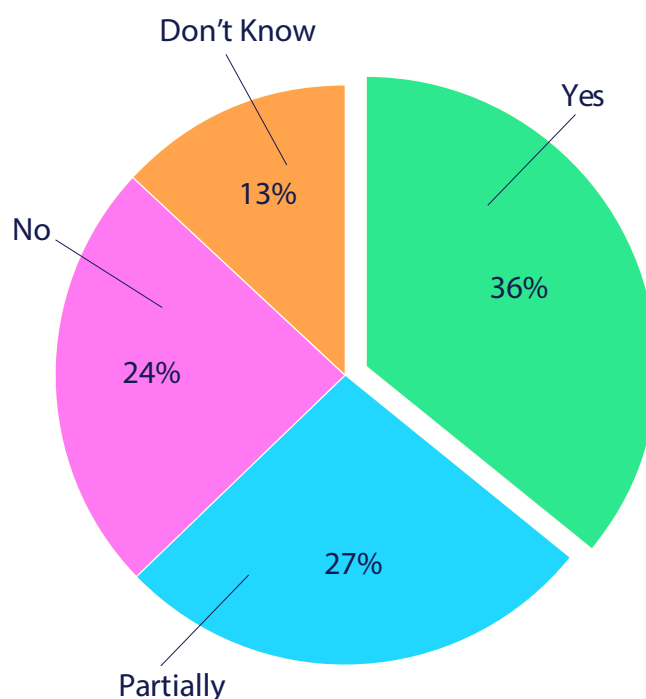
Alongside these differences in coverage, responses highlighted a distinction between general legal protections and measures specifically included in housing policy. This was particularly evident in the **United Kingdom**, where respondents referred primarily to broad anti-discrimination laws applicable to housing rather than housing-specific policy measures. Similar dynamics were described in responses from **Lithuania**, as well as in some responses from **Bulgaria and Ireland**. While general equality frameworks may provide a basis for challenging discrimination, they do not automatically translate into targeted safeguards addressing the specific housing-related challenges faced by LGBTQI people.

In contrast, respondents in **France** and **Spain** described anti-discrimination protections that were more explicitly integrated into housing-related frameworks and supported by practical measures. In France, the respondent referred to legal prohibitions on discrimination in rental selection, testing mechanisms to identify discriminatory practices, training for housing providers and improved data collection to identify specific vulnerabilities. In Spain, respondents identified legal protections against discrimination in access to housing alongside protocols for supporting people experiencing homelessness, professional training and adaptations to accommodation services to ensure safety and respect for gender diversity.

6.3. Homelessness-related measures

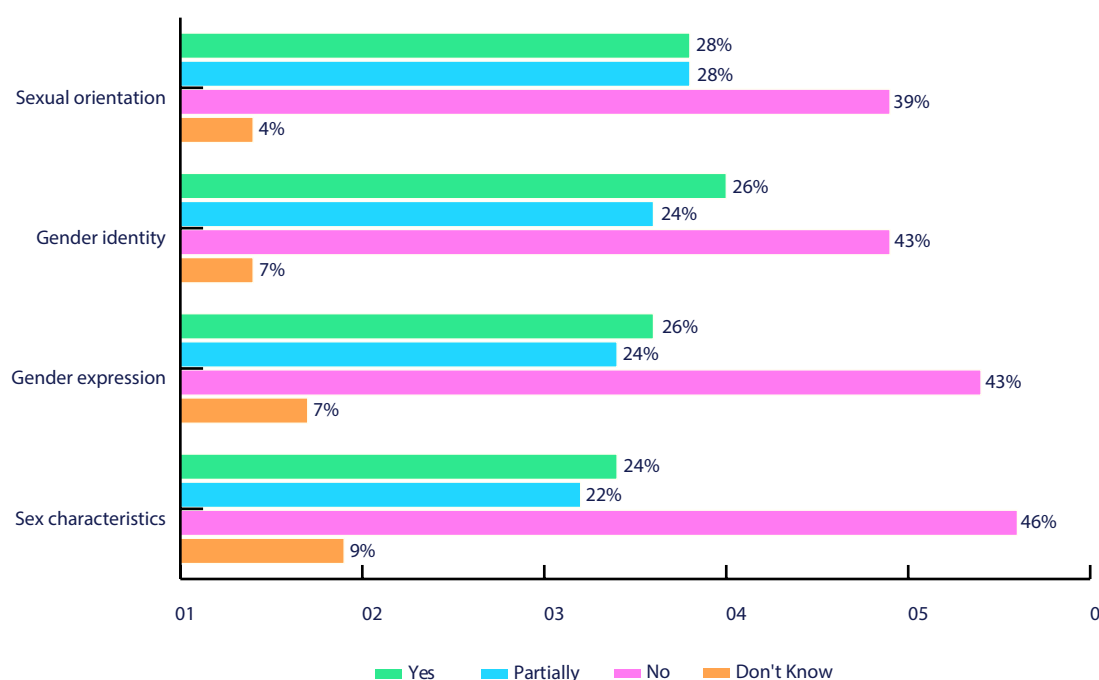
For LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness, the existence of a dedicated strategy or action plan can provide an important basis for recognising their needs and addressing the barriers they face. Yet, across the Council of Europe region, such frameworks remain far from universal (see **Figure 6**). Only 36% of respondents reported the existence of a local, regional or national homelessness strategy or action plan, while 27% identified only partial frameworks. Almost a quarter (24%) indicated that no such framework existed and a further 13% did not know.

| Figure 6. Reported existence of a strategy or action plan at the local, national or regional level in the area of homelessness (%)



The existence of a strategy, however, did not necessarily mean that it addressed discrimination against LGBTQI people. Even where homelessness strategies or action plans were identified, explicit safeguards relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics were often absent (see **Figure 7**). Fewer than one third of respondents highlighted clear protections for any of the four grounds, while the absence of such measures was the most common response across all categories. Protections in relation to gender expression and sex characteristics were particularly limited, pointing to gaps in how homelessness policies address the needs of trans, gender non-conforming and intersex people.

| Figure 7. Measures to combat discrimination on SOGIESC grounds within homelessness strategies or action plans (%)



Country-level responses provide a closer look at the gaps behind these overall findings. They show that the challenge is not only whether a homelessness strategy exists, but also whether it recognises the specific risks faced by LGBTQI people and sets out measures to address them.

46%

In most contexts, respondents did not identify a dedicated homelessness strategy or action plan. This was the case, for example, in responses from **Slovakia, Türkiye, Lithuania, Luxembourg** and **Armenia**. Without a dedicated framework to guide efforts to address homelessness in the first place, it is unclear how the specific needs of LGBTQI people can be taken into account.

In other cases, respondents identified homelessness strategies or broader policy frameworks, but no explicit measures to address discrimination against LGBTQI people. This was the case in responses from **Croatia, Hungary** and **Northern Ireland**. Having a homelessness strategy in place, therefore, does not always translate into concrete measures to protect LGBTQI people from discrimination or address the specific risks they face.

Even where respondents reported explicit anti-discrimination measures, these did not cover all four SOGIESC grounds equally. Across the survey responses, measures addressing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity were reported more frequently than those addressing gender expression and sex characteristics. In **Italy**, for example, one organisation indicated that measures addressing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity were only partial, while no measures covered gender expression or sex characteristics.

The extent to which strategic commitments translated into specific actions also varied. In **Slovenia**, one respondent noted that LGBTQI young people were identified as a target group within the goal of developing prevention programmes for young people at risk of homelessness, but that no specific actions were detailed. Without a clear indication of how their needs will be addressed in practice, this recognition may have little effect on the support they receive.

Despite these gaps, some respondents pointed to homelessness strategies that explicitly addressed the needs of LGBTQI people. In **Spain**, one respondent highlighted a commitment in the National Homelessness Strategy 2023-2030 to raise awareness and train professionals on sexual and gender diversity, including how to support LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness. In **Ireland**, one respondent highlighted the regional Dublin Region Homeless Action Plan 2025-2027, which explicitly identifies LGBTQI people as a group for initial attention under its prevention pillar. The plan commits to developing and applying knowledge of their specific experiences and needs to strengthen responses to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Box 2. Additional examples of good practice

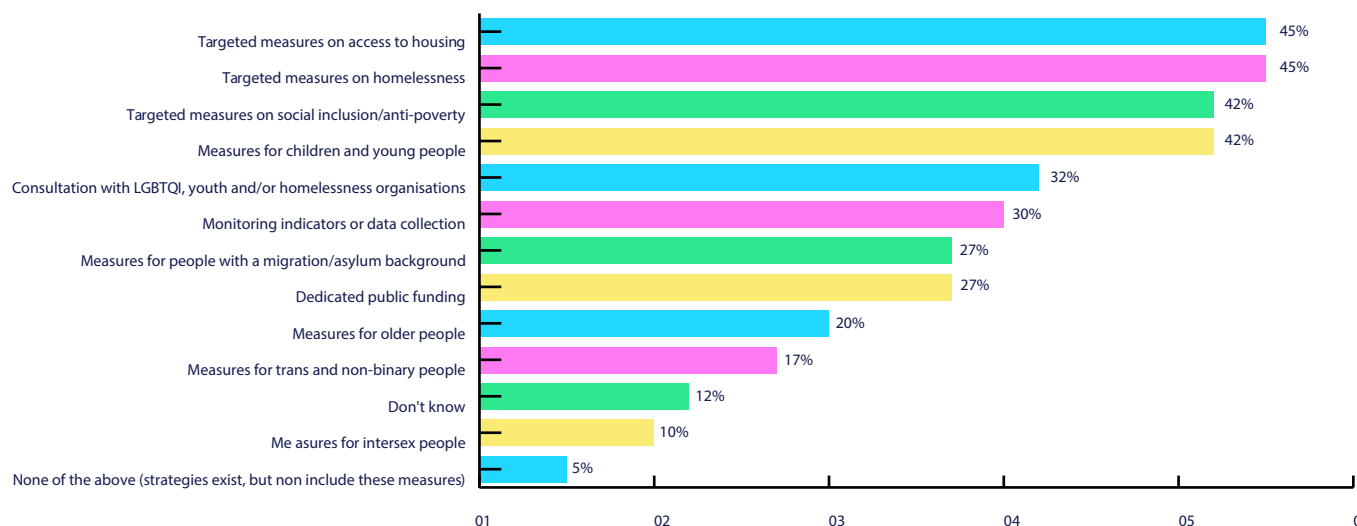
The scoping analysis identified two examples of promising practices. Finland represents the most structurally developed national response among the three Nordic countries, particularly because of its long-term adoption of the Housing First approach (Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry, 2024). This model prioritises immediate access to permanent housing without requiring sobriety or full treatment compliance as a precondition for receiving accommodation, in contrast with the widespread “staircase model” (Tsembersi, 1992). Finnish homelessness policies have also increased social housing for young people, replaced emergency shelters with permanent housing and provided on-site or visiting support services (Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, 2023).

Ireland’s National youth homelessness strategies are increasingly acknowledging LGBTQIA+ young people as a marginalized population at heightened risk of homelessness. The Housing for All Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025 is the first national strategy since 2001 to explicitly identify LGBTQIA+ youth among priority groups, and it integrates prevention, accommodation, and transition to autonomy support measures (Mayock & Hermans, 2025). This policy recognition was informed by pioneering qualitative research conducted by Norris and Quilty for Focus Ireland (2020), which identified distinct pathways into homelessness for LGBTQIA+ young people. The study highlighted significant barriers in accessing homelessness services, with many youth avoiding shelters because they were perceived as unsafe, discriminatory, or lacking understanding of LGBTQIA+ identities. Conversely, positive experiences were consistently associated with knowledgeable and competent frontline staff, trusting relationships of alliance with key workers, and LGBTQIA+-affirming community organisations. The implementation of the Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025 was supported by pilot training programmes introduced across homelessness services to strengthen staff competence, foster LGBTQIA+-inclusive practices, and reduce barriers to accessing support.

6.4. Cross-cutting measures and implementation

Beyond the LGBTQI-specific provisions discussed above, the survey also examined the types of measures included in relevant strategies and action plans on LGBTQI equality, housing and homelessness. Figure 8 shows how frequently respondents reported these measures, although their answers do not specify which strategies or action plans they were referring to.

| Figure 8. Types of measures included in relevant housing and homelessness strategies or action plans by survey respondents (%)



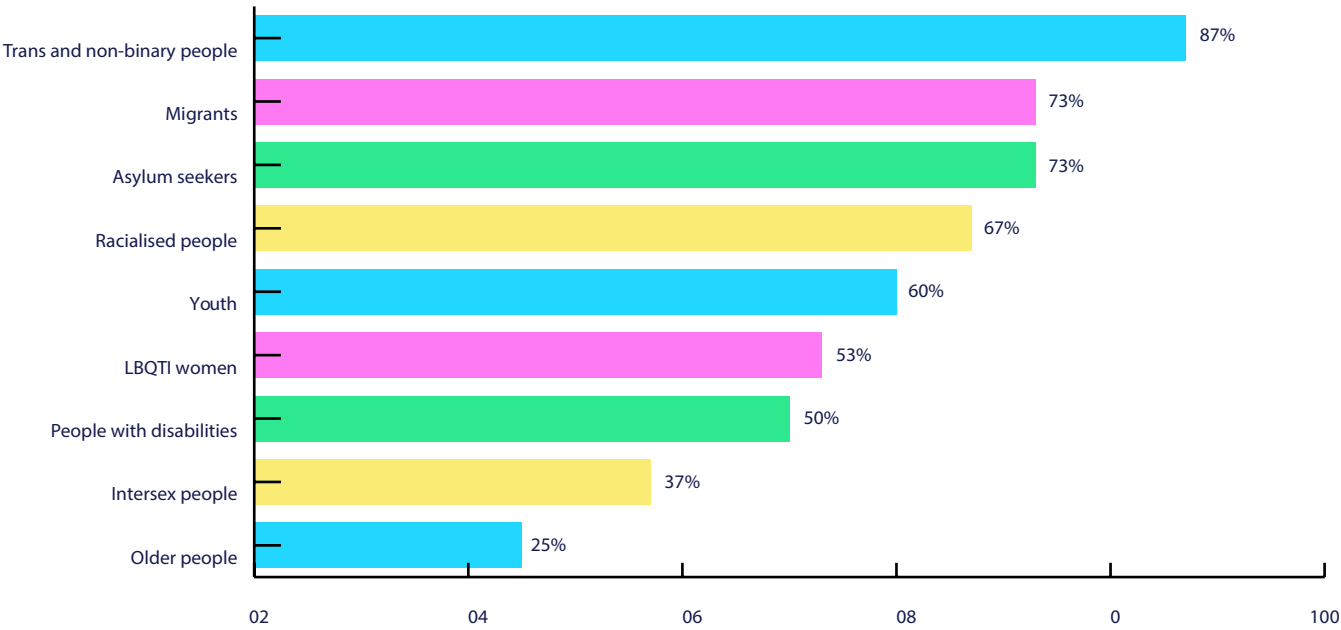
Note: Respondents could select multiple response options, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

Across contexts, targeted measures on access to housing and on homelessness were the most commonly reported, each identified by 45% of respondents. Those on social inclusion and anti-poverty, and on children and young people, followed closely at 42% each. However, measures that could help translate these commitments into practice were reported less frequently. Consultation with LGBTQI, youth and/or homelessness organisations was identified by 38% of respondents, monitoring indicators or data collection by 30%, and dedicated public funding by 27%. This raises questions about how consistently policy commitments are informed by the people they aim to support, backed by resources and monitored in practice.

Respondents' examples illustrate some of the practical challenges behind these figures. In **Italy**, one respondent noted that funding provided by the National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) for LGBTQI reception facilities was limited to two years, putting the continuity of support at risk. The same respondent reported that LGBTQI representatives were not included in planning roundtables for general homelessness and youth funding. Data collection was another concern. In the **United Kingdom**, one respondent noted that Scottish homelessness data did not consistently capture sexual orientation or gender reassignment, making it harder to understand the extent to which LGBTQI people experience homelessness and to inform responses to their needs.

The survey findings also point to differences in whose needs receive explicit attention. Provisions for older people (20%), trans and non-binary people (17%) and intersex people (10%) were the least frequently reported. This suggests that strategies and action plans may not adequately account for the different experiences and needs of people within the LGBTQI community. This concern was reinforced by respondents' views on which groups were most affected by gaps in policy design, implementation or access to services. Trans and non-binary people were identified most frequently (87%), followed by migrants and asylum seekers (73% each), racialised people (67%) and young people (60%) (see **Figure 9**).

| Figure 9. Groups most affected by gaps in policy design, implementation or access to services (%)



Note: Respondents could select multiple response options, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

7. Discrimination, exclusion and protection in access to housing

This chapter examines the forms, drivers and responses to discrimination affecting LGBTQI people's access to housing. It explores the settings in which discrimination and exclusion most frequently occur, the structural and social factors contributing to housing insecurity and homelessness, and the pathways through which housing exclusion may arise. The chapter also examines the protective measures, remedies and support systems available to prevent and address discrimination.

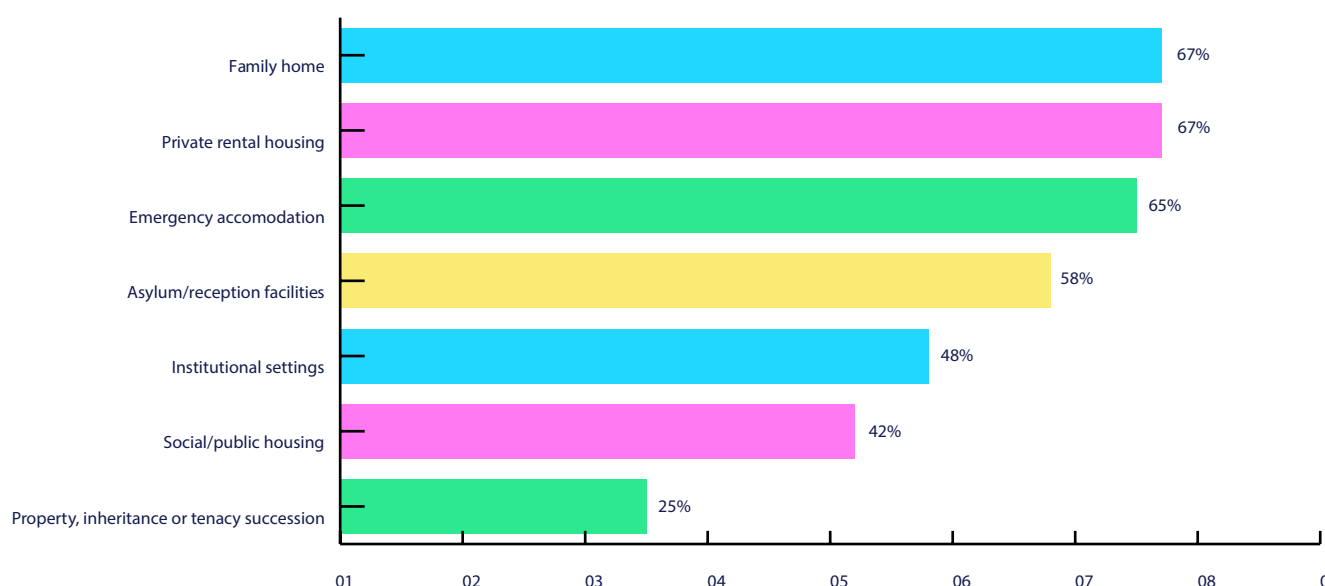
Key takeaways:

- **LGBTQI people experience discrimination and exclusion across the full housing pathway**, from the family home and private rental market to emergency accommodation and institutional settings.
- **Housing exclusion and homelessness are rarely driven by a single factor**, but instead result from intersecting drivers including family rejection, discrimination in housing and employment, economic precarity, and the lack of inclusive support services.
- **Protective measures and remedies remain uneven and often partial**, with particularly weak safeguards in institutional and family settings and significant gaps between legal protections and effective protection in practice.

7.1. Settings where discrimination and exclusion occur

Discrimination and exclusion affecting LGBTQI people occur in a wide range of housing settings (see Figure 10). The family home and private housing were the most frequently cited (67% each), closely followed by emergency accommodation (65%). Respondents also identified asylum and reception facilities (58%), institutional settings (48%) and social or public housing (42%). A quarter (25%) reported discrimination or exclusion relating to property, inheritance or tenancy succession. This means that LGBTQI people may face discrimination even in their own homes, where they should feel safe. For those forced to seek shelter elsewhere, the situation may be no better: emergency accommodation, reception facilities and other services intended to offer protection can expose them to further discrimination.

| Figure 10. Areas in which organisations observed or documented discrimination or exclusion affecting LGBTQI people in the past five years (%)



Note: Respondents could select multiple response options, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

7.2. Drivers of housing exclusion and homelessness

Survey responses indicate that housing exclusion and homelessness among LGBTQI people are rarely driven by a single factor. Family rejection, discrimination in housing and employment, economic precarity and the lack of inclusive support services often interact and reinforce one another, leaving LGBTQI people increasingly vulnerable to housing insecurity and homelessness.

Family rejection and forced departure from the family home were among the most consistently reported drivers, particularly for LGBTQI young people. Respondents across multiple countries described situations in which young queer people were forced to leave home, experienced domestic abuse or lost family support after coming out or expressing their sexual orientation or gender identity. In many cases, family breakdown appeared to act as the initial trigger for housing instability, leaving LGBTQI young people without financial support, social networks or access to safe alternative accommodation.

For those seeking alternative accommodation, **discrimination in access to housing**, particularly in the private rental market, can create further barriers. Respondents reported refusals to rent, harassment from landlords or neighbours, and more subtle forms of exclusion during tenant selection processes. Several highlighted how discrimination may operate informally and be difficult to prove, including when decisions are justified on seemingly neutral grounds such as financial stability, documentation or perceived suitability as a tenant. These barriers were reported to be particularly acute for trans and non-binary people, who may face discrimination when their identity documents do not reflect their gender identity.

Alongside these discriminatory practices, **economic precarity and wider housing market pressures** can further restrict access to adequate accommodation. High rental costs, shortages of affordable or social housing, precarious employment and limited access to stable income were repeatedly identified as obstacles to securing or maintaining housing. Respondents also highlighted rising rents, cost-of-living pressures and broader economic instability as factors that have intensified these difficulties.

When people are unable to secure housing, the **absence of dedicated LGBTQI-sensitive services and the limited inclusiveness of mainstream homelessness support** can leave them without a safe alternative. In several countries, respondents described emergency shelters as ill-equipped to meet the needs of LGBTQI people, particularly trans and non-binary individuals who may face exclusion or unsafe conditions in gender-segregated facilities.

Recent crises and wider socio-political developments have further compounded these difficulties.. Several respondents highlighted the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was reported to have increased exposure to unsafe family environments, social isolation and, in some cases, hidden homelessness. Conflict-related displacement was also described as placing additional strain on housing systems and support services in affected contexts. Respondents further linked rising anti-LGBTQI rhetoric and anti-gender mobilisation to weakened support networks and greater housing insecurity.

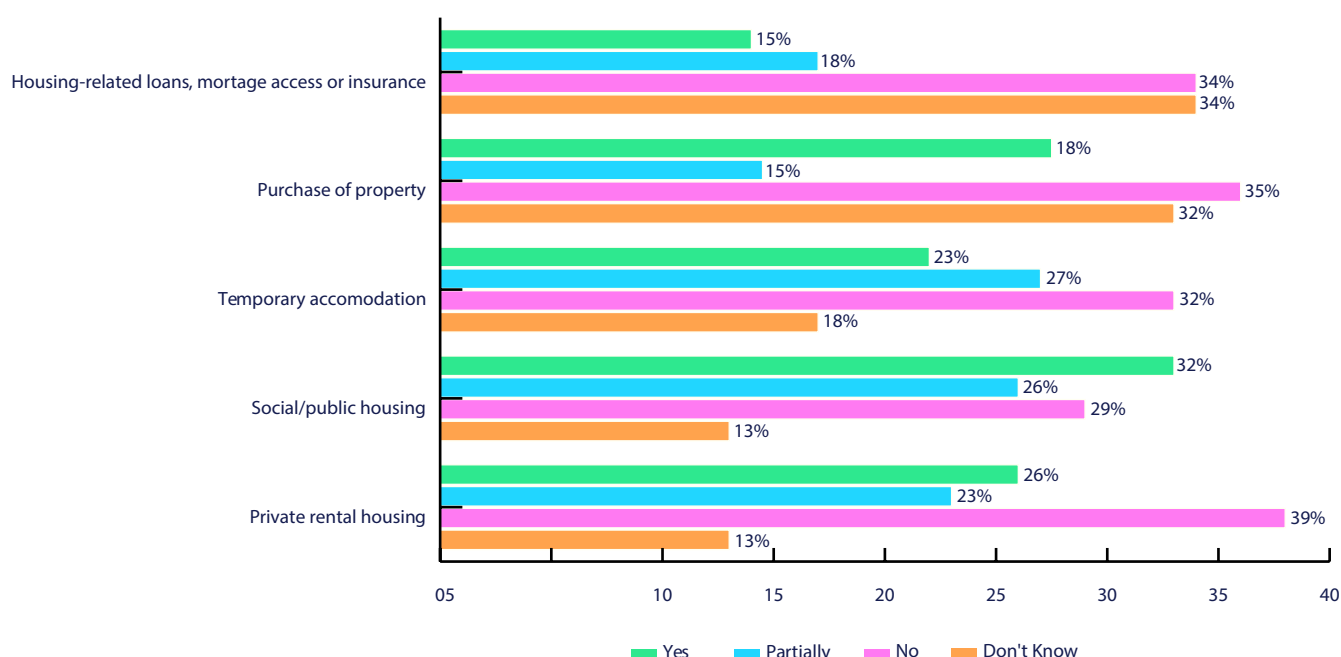
7.3. Protective measures and remedies

Protection against discrimination in housing access

Clear protections against discrimination were reported by a minority of respondents across all housing-related domains examined (see Figure 11). Social or public housing had the highest share, with 32% identifying clear protections and a further 26% reporting partial protections. Even in this comparatively stronger domain, fewer than one in three respondents identified clear measures. Protections were reported less frequently in relation to property purchase and housing-related loans, mortgage access or insurance. These domains also had the highest proportions of “don’t know” responses, indicating greater uncertainty among respondents about the protections available.

Across the areas examined, respondents more frequently reported partial protections or the absence of safeguards than clear measures. Qualitative responses help explain why this distinction matters. In some contexts, protections derived from broader anti-discrimination, safeguarding or welfare frameworks rather than housing-specific provisions. Respondents also described situations in which legal safeguards existed but were not accompanied by implementation protocols, staff training, monitoring or accessible complaint procedures. The existence of legal safeguard, in other words, did not always mean that LGBTQI people could rely on it when facing discrimination.

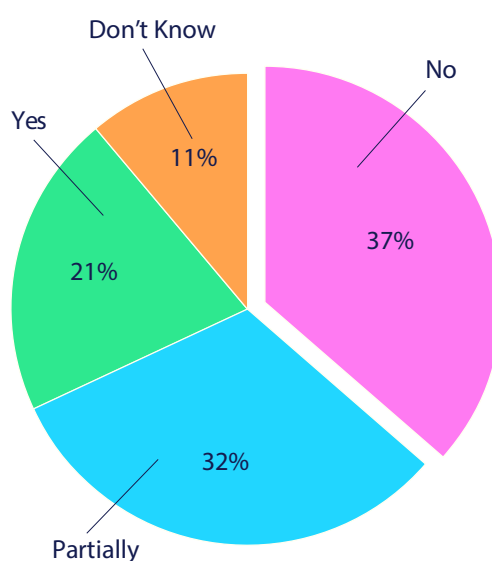
| Figure 11. Reported existence of protective measures to prevent discrimination across housing-related domains (%)



Protection against discriminatory evictions

Measures to prevent, challenge and remedy discriminatory evictions of LGBTQI people remain limited (see **Figure 12**). Only 21% of respondents reported the existence of clear protective measures, while 32% identified partial protections, 37% indicated that no such measures existed and 11% did not know. The limited availability of clear safeguards is particularly concerning given how quickly an eviction can lead to housing instability or homelessness, especially for LGBTQI people who lack the financial resources or family support needed to secure alternative accommodation.

| Figure 12. Reported existence of measures to prevent, challenge and remedy discriminatory evictions of LGBTQI people (%)

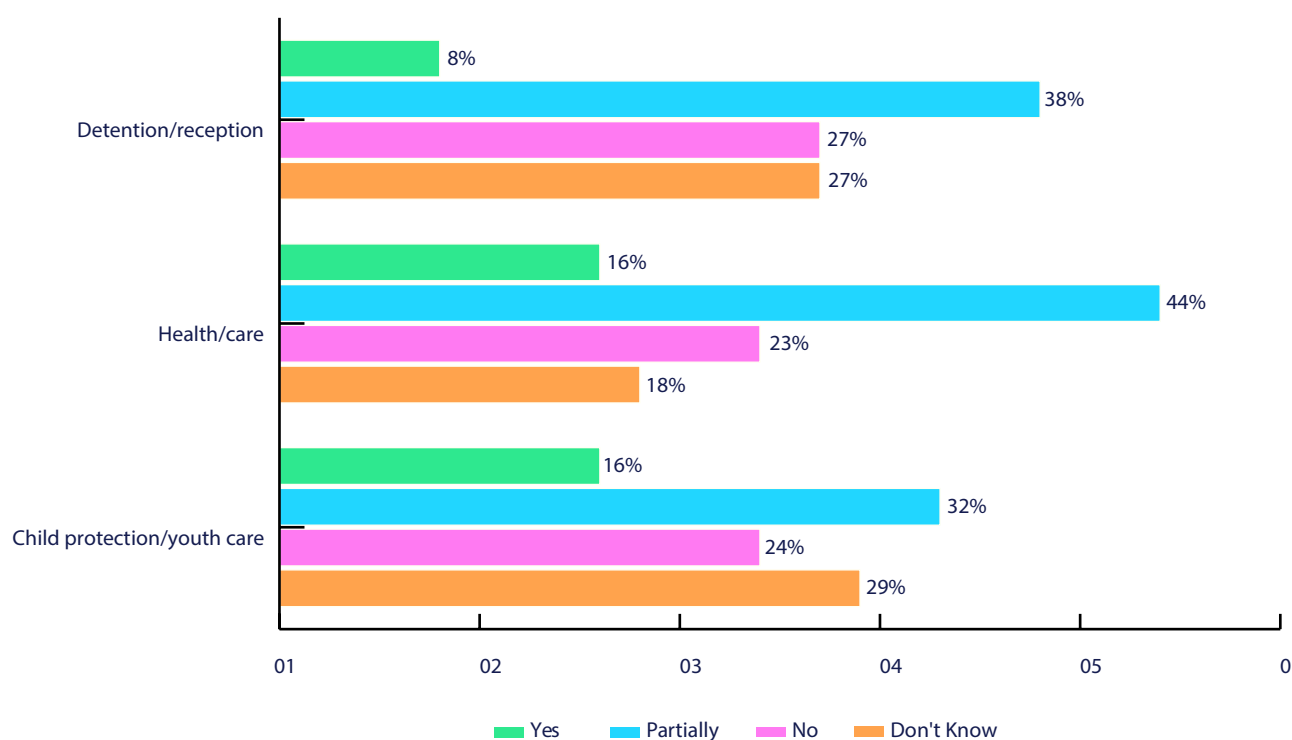


Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Protection in institutional settings

Responses point to particularly weak protections in institutional settings (see Figure 13), where LGBTQI people may have little control over housing allocation, living arrangements or the accommodation allocated to them. In these circumstances, discrimination or unsafe placement can be particularly difficult to avoid, making clear safeguards and accessible complaint mechanisms essential.

| Figure 13. Reported existence of measures to ensure non-discrimination in institutional settings related to housing or residence (%)



Detention and reception settings had among the lowest reported levels of protection. Only 8% of respondents identified clear measures to ensure non-discrimination in prisons, immigration detention centres and reception facilities for asylum seekers. This gap leaves LGBTQI people who may already face multiple and intersecting forms of marginalisation particularly vulnerable to discrimination and unsafe conditions, whether in detention settings involving people deprived of liberty or in reception settings accommodating asylum seekers.

Health and care settings presented a somewhat different picture, with respondents reporting partial protections more frequently than either clear safeguards or their complete absence. In nursing homes and long-term care facilities, accommodation and care are closely intertwined. For older LGBTQI people or those with disabilities, the absence of clear protections may therefore affect both their living conditions and their access to appropriate support.

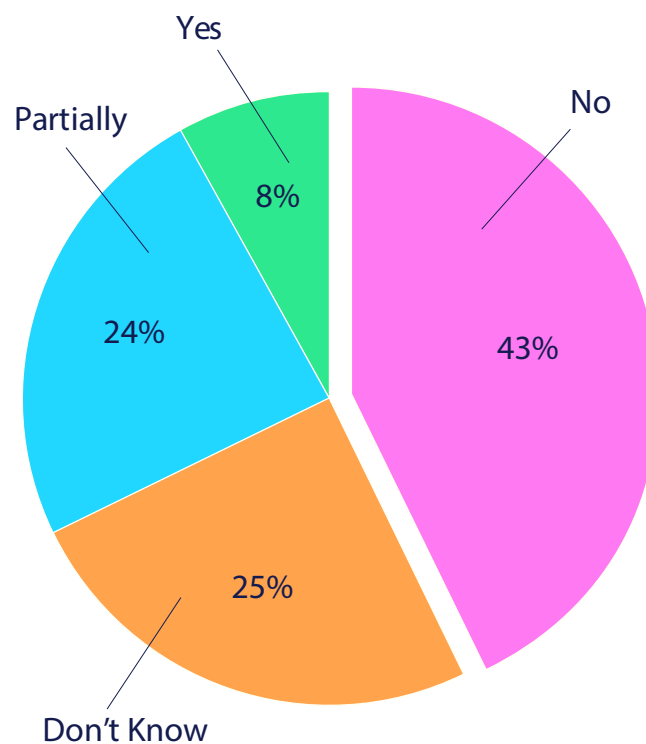
Child protection and youth care settings also showed limited safeguards, with only 16% of respondents identifying clear measures in foster care, residential care and supported accommodation for minors. A relatively high proportion did not know whether protections existed. This raises particular concerns for LGBTQI children and young people whose housing or residence depends on child protection or youth care systems, especially where family support is absent.

Protection against discrimination within families

Responses point to particularly limited protections against discrimination within families (see **Figure 14**). Only 8% of respondents reported the existence of clear protective measures, one of the lowest levels of protection across all settings examined. While 24% identified partial measures and 43% indicated that no such measures were in place, a further 25% did not know whether such measures existed.

Family rejection was identified earlier in the chapter as a major driver of housing exclusion and homelessness among LGBTQI people, particularly children and young people. The low level of reported protection is therefore especially significant. Without effective support, mediation or protective interventions, LGBTQI people facing discrimination within their families may have few alternatives to remaining in an unsafe home or leaving without secure accommodation. Measures addressing discrimination within families can thus play an important role in preventing housing exclusion before it leads to homelessness.

| Figure 14. Reported existence of measures to ensure non-discrimination within families (%)



8. Availability, inclusiveness and capacity of housing and homelessness services

This chapter examines the availability, inclusiveness and capacity of housing and homelessness services in responding to the needs of LGBTQI people. It explores the extent to which preventive measures and dedicated accommodation are available to reduce the risk of homelessness, and assesses whether mainstream housing and homelessness services provide safe and inclusive support. The chapter also examines the professional capacity, training and coordination mechanisms that shape how services respond to LGBTQI-specific needs and vulnerabilities.

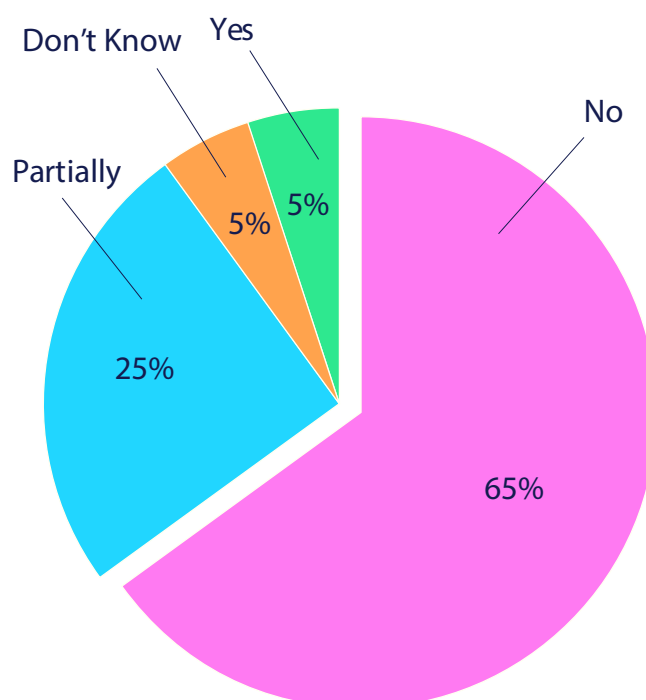
Key takeaways:

- **Preventive measures and dedicated housing or homelessness services for LGBTQI people remain scarce**, and where specialised services do exist, they are largely provided by civil society organisations rather than public authorities.
- **The availability of housing and homelessness services does not necessarily guarantee safe or equal access**, as mainstream services often lack the inclusive safeguards needed to respond adequately to LGBTQI people's specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Barriers to accessing safe and appropriate support are particularly pronounced for LGBTQI people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**, including trans people, migrants and asylum seekers, older people and young people.
- **Weak professional preparedness, limited training, insufficient collaboration and fragmented referral pathways further undermine service capacity**, reducing access to coordinated and appropriate support.

8.1. Prevention measures and availability of dedicated services

Preventive measures aimed at reducing homelessness among LGBTQI people remain extremely limited across survey responses. Building on the drivers of housing exclusion identified in **Chapter 3**, survey responses indicate that targeted interventions to address risks such as family rejection, discrimination, violence and economic precarity before they escalate into homelessness are often absent. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) reported that no such preventive measures existed in their context, while 25% identified only partial measures, 5% identified clear measures and a further 5% did not know (**see Figure 15**).

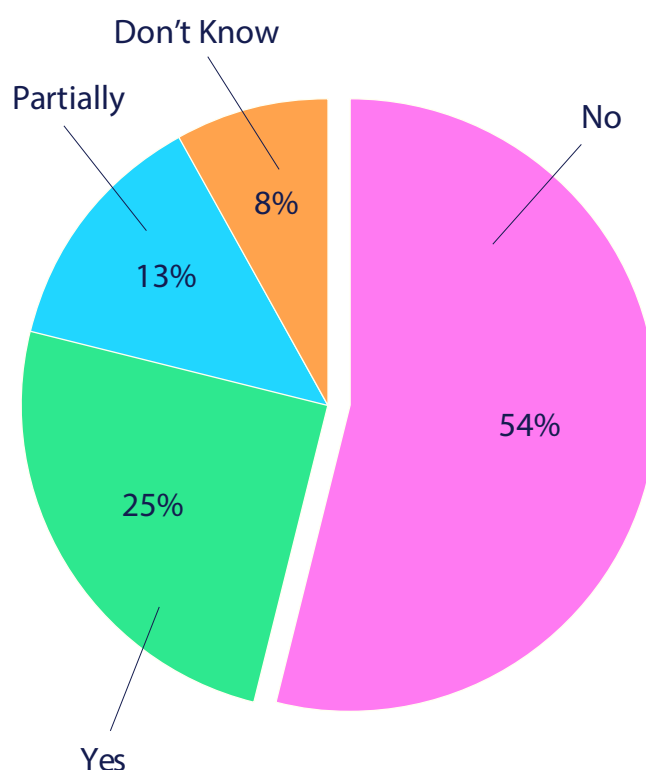
| Figure 15. Reported existence of public measures to prevent homelessness among LGBTQI people (%)



Where preventive support was reported, respondents sometimes described a combination of general homelessness provisions and specialist services rather than measures explicitly tailored to LGBTQI people within public policy. One respondent from the **United Kingdom** referred to statutory homelessness prevention duties alongside specialist support delivered by organisations such as akt and Stonewall Housing, including youth support, housing advice and advocacy for LGBTQI people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The example illustrates how preventive support may be available without being part of a dedicated public policy response to LGBTQI homelessness.

The limited availability of preventive measures is accompanied by a shortage of dedicated accommodation for LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness (see **Figure 16**). More than half of respondents (54%) reported that no LGBTQI-only temporary homelessness accommodation existed in their context, including shelters, shared or individual apartments, and supported housing. By comparison, 25% identified dedicated accommodation, 13% indicated that it was only partially available and 8% did not know. This suggests that many LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness have limited access to accommodation specifically designed to meet their safety and inclusion needs.

| Figure 16. Reported availability of LGBTQI-only temporary homelessness accommodation (%)



Respondents nevertheless highlighted a small number of specialised accommodation models that respond to the specific experiences of LGBTQI people. In **Italy**, one respondent described the European Refuge LGBT shelter network, which includes dedicated accommodation for LGBTQI young people rejected by their families, alongside additional facilities for trans and non-binary people, and LGBTQI asylum seekers. In **Wales**, respondents highlighted Ty Pride, which similarly provides dedicated accommodation for LGBTQI young people alongside person-centred and trauma-informed care, financial assistance and specialist support.

Box 3. Additional examples of good practice

The scoping analysis identified additional examples of promising practices in Belgium and the United Kingdom. In Brussels, Le Refuge provides targeted support to LGBTQIA+ people facing family rejection, homelessness or housing instability through emergency accommodation, social accompaniment and pathways towards autonomy. Other initiatives, such as CADAL (Collectif d'Accueil des Demandeurs d'Asile LGBTQIA+) provide a specific housing response for LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers, combining safe accommodation with social, legal and psychosocial support. Within the QueerNet network (Quore, 2026), CADAL was identified as a specialised reception centre and a relevant European example of inclusive housing provision, addressing the intersection between migration, asylum procedures and LGBTQIA+ identities, offering identity-affirming support to people experiencing housing insecurity.

In the United Kingdom, national organisations such as AKT provide housing advice, emergency accommodation pathways, advocacy, family mediation, and tailored support for LGBTQIA+ young people at risk of homelessness (Tunåker et al., 2025). Stonewall Organisation contributes through research, policy advocacy, professional training and guidance aimed at improving the inclusiveness of housing, health and social care services (Stonewall, 2018). Specialist organisations such as Micro Rainbow provide safe accommodation, social and community integration support and employability programmes for LGBTQIA+ refugees and asylum seekers, addressing the intersection of displacement, poverty and housing insecurity (Micro Rainbow, 2015).

Where dedicated accommodation exists, survey responses show that provision relies heavily on civil society organisations. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) reported that dedicated accommodation was run by NGOs, while only 8% identified provision by public authorities alone. While these findings highlight the crucial role of civil society organisations, they also raise questions about the responsibility of public authorities to ensure that appropriate accommodation is available to LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness. Reliance on CSO-led provision places a substantial burden on organisations whose capacity and long-term sustainability may depend on limited or uncertain resources.

Box 4. Additional contextual information

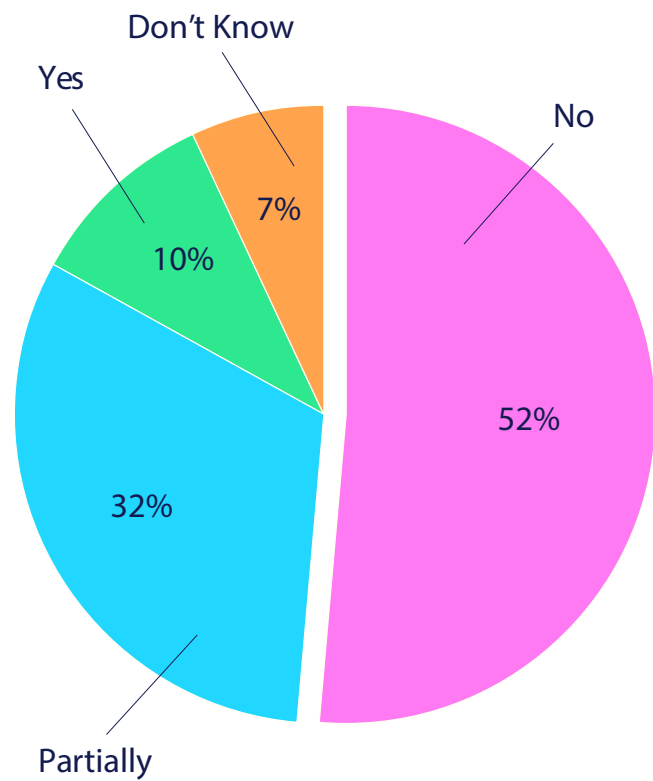
The scoping analysis identified several challenges affecting the provision of LGBTQIA+-specific housing services in Italy. The emergence of dedicated shelters and anti-discrimination centres has largely been driven by civil society organisations rather than by national housing policy. Moreover, existing services remain heavily dependent on project-based, inconsistent funding and short-term grants, particularly through the National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office (UNAR). The absence of stable funding mechanisms therefore undermines long-term planning, staff development and service expansion (Quore, 2024). The P.R.I.D.E. report further notes that housing services frequently struggle to obtain institutional recognition because existing welfare and housing regulations are generally built around hetero-cisnormative categories that do not adequately capture LGBTQIA+ experiences of homelessness. As a result, many mainstream services rely on community-based mobilisation and local partnerships to compensate for gaps in formal policy recognition (Quore, 2024).

Country examples illustrate different arrangements for delivering this support. In the **United Kingdom**, respondents described a mixed model in which public authorities provide general homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation, safeguarding and youth support, while specialist NGOs deliver LGBTQI-specific advice, advocacy, emergency support and dedicated accommodation. By contrast, a respondent from **Armenia** reported the absence of state-funded or publicly operated services specifically addressing LGBTQI homelessness. Support was described as relying almost entirely on civil society organisations and informal community-based safety networks, including the National Trans Coalition, which facilitates emergency shelter referrals, temporary safe accommodation, psychosocial support and access to general social services.

8.2. Inclusiveness and accessibility of support services

Mainstream social services play an important role in supporting people experiencing housing difficulties, making it essential that they are accessible and responsive to the needs of LGBTQI people. Yet more than half of respondents (52%) reported that local, regional or national authorities had not taken measures to make social services inclusive for LGBTQI people, while 32% identified only partial measures, 10% identified clear measures and 7% did not know (see Figure 17). As a result, LGBTQI people seeking assistance may encounter services that are not equipped to recognise or respond to the discrimination and exclusion they face.

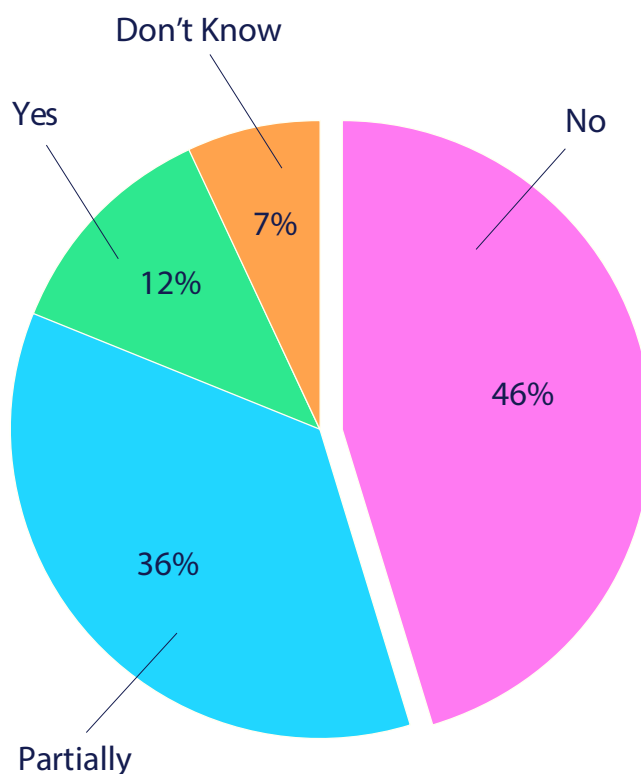
| Figure 17. Reported measures to make social services inclusive for LGBTQI people experiencing housing difficulties (%)



Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

A similar picture emerges from respondents' assessment of the delivery of public social services (see **Figure 18**). Nearly half of respondents (46%) reported that public social services were not provided on the basis of an objective assessment of each individual's needs without discrimination, while 36% considered this to be only partially the case, 12% reported that such assessments were in place and 7% did not know. This suggests that discrimination may also affect the assessment process itself, which informs decisions about the assistance each individual receives.

| Figure 18. Reported provision of public social services based on objective and non-discriminatory needs assessment (%)



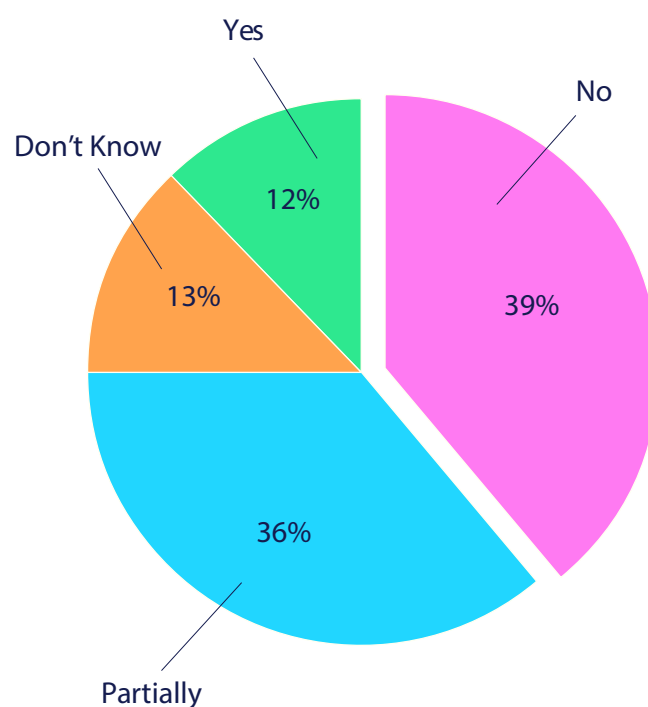
Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Qualitative responses help illustrate these challenges in practice. A respondent from **Finland** noted that where inclusive measures existed, they often depended on the initiative and awareness of individual workers rather than systematic service-wide practice. A respondent from the **United Kingdom** similarly observed that general needs assessments do not always capture LGBTQI-specific risks such as family rejection, fear of being outed, transphobic harassment or unsafe shared accommodation.

Turning to mainstream homelessness services, respondents reported limited measures to ensure their inclusiveness for LGBTQI people (see **Figure 19**). Only 12% of respondents identified clear measures in place, while 36% identified partial measures, 39% reported that no such measures existed and 13% did not know. Given the limited availability of dedicated accommodation, LGBTQI people may have to rely on general homelessness services where measures to support their inclusion are absent or only partially in place, potentially exposing them to further discrimination or exclusion.

In **Azerbaijan**, one respondent noted that existing shelters primarily served women and children experiencing domestic violence, while accommodation tailored to the safety, privacy and inclusion needs of LGBTQI people was lacking. Access to available services was also described as ad hoc, with concerns relating to confidentiality, restrictive rules and discriminatory attitudes.

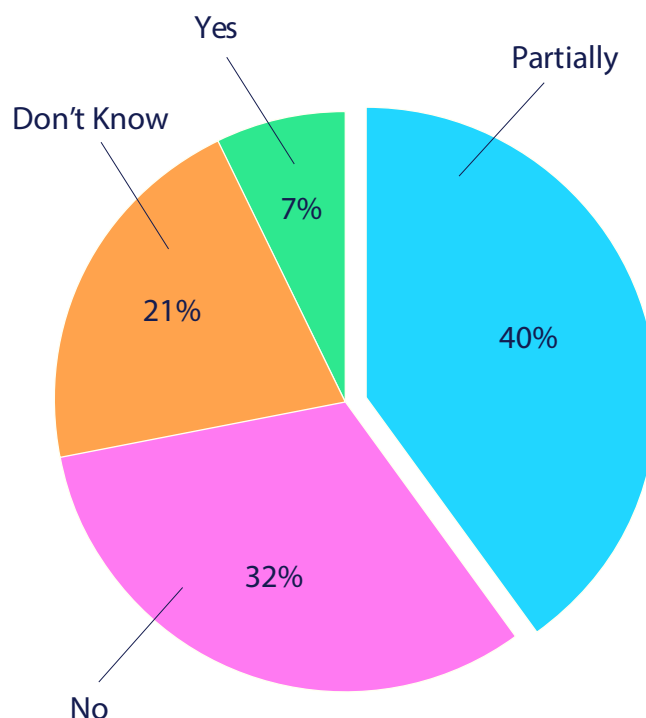
| Figure 19. Reported measures to make general homelessness services inclusive for LGBTQI people (%)



Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

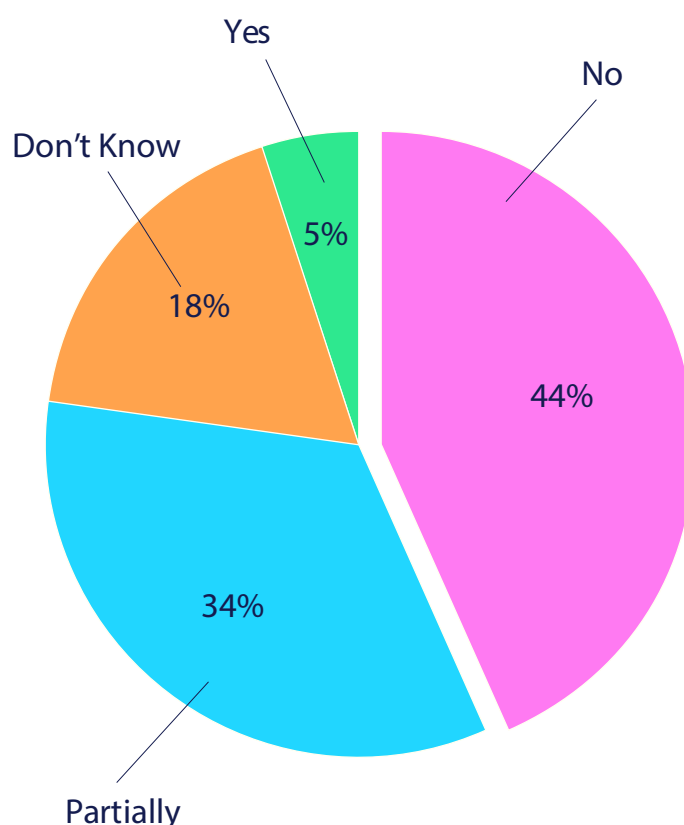
One particular barrier within mainstream homelessness services concerns trans people's access to gender-segregated emergency accommodation (**see Figure 20**). Only 7% of respondents reported that trans people were able to access men-only or women-only emergency accommodation based on their self-identified gender. The high proportion of partial responses (40%) suggests that access may vary between settings, while "don't know" responses (21%) indicate uncertainty among respondents about the arrangements in place. An example from **Malta** provides a concrete example of how access may be restricted in practice. According to the respondent, access to gender-segregated shelters depends on whether a person has legally changed the gender marker on their identity documents, making access conditional on legal recognition rather than self-identification.

| Figure 20. Reported access of trans people to gender-segregated emergency accommodation based on self-identified gender (%)



These challenges extend beyond access to gender-segregated accommodation, reflecting a broader lack of adaptation of housing and homelessness services to the needs of LGBTQI people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on grounds of age, disability, race or ethnicity, Roma identity, migration or asylum status, religion, poverty, rural isolation and care experience. Only 5% of respondents reported that housing and homelessness services were adapted to these intersecting needs, while 34% identified partial adaptation, 44% reported that services were not adapted and 18% did not know (see **Figure 21**).

| Figure 21. Reported adaptation of housing and homelessness services for LGBTQI people facing multiple forms of discrimination (%)



Although most respondents reported limited adaptation of services to intersecting needs, one organisation from **France** highlighted examples of more tailored support. These included the *Maison de la Diversité* in Lyon, a social housing project for LGBTQI seniors and allies. The *Fondation Le Refuge* provides temporary housing and social support for young people rejected by their families, while La Bulle in Paris offers safe accommodation and administrative assistance to LGBTQI asylum seekers and trans people. The organisation also pointed to measures to make existing services more inclusive. These included professional protocols encouraging the use of preferred names and pronouns in social service systems, as well as training provided by *Santé Plurielle* to shelter staff on trans identities and specific health needs.

Box 5. Additional examples of good practice

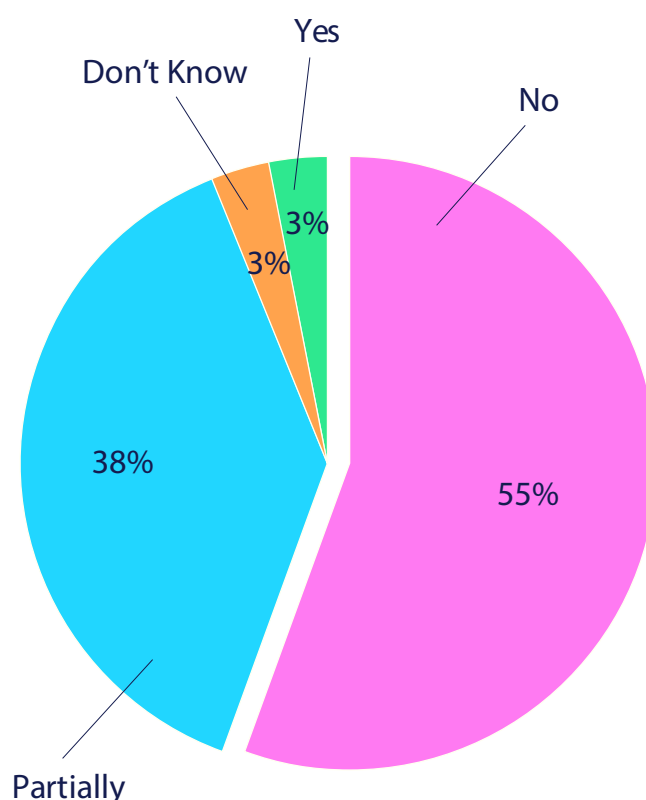
The scoping analysis identified a specific example of service development: the LGBTQIA+ accommodation centre for asylum seekers established in Berlin in 2016, after the authorities recognised LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers as a marginalized group that needed targeted attention and resources (Gottlieb et al., 2019). The centre is publicly funded and managed by a non-governmental organisation (Gottlieb et al., 2019). Research suggests that this specialised model can improve access to mental health and healthcare services, although its implementation and funding should be further expanded (Gottlieb et al., 2019).

Access to appropriate accommodation is only one part of the support needed to move out of homelessness sustainably. LGBTQI people may also need employment guidance, healthcare, youth services and community-based support. Yet only 13% of respondents reported that measures were in place to promote non-discrimination in these wider services, while 41% identified partial measures, 30% reported that no such measures existed and 16% did not know. Without such measures, LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness may face further barriers to accessing the services they need to achieve longer-term housing stability.

8.3. Professional capacity, training and coordination

The ability of professionals to recognise LGBTQI-specific experiences of discrimination, respond to safeguarding concerns and connect individuals with specialised support can shape whether LGBTQI people receive safe and inclusive assistance. Yet survey responses point to substantial gaps in professional preparedness (see **Figure 22**). Only 3% of respondents considered professionals in public or private support services to be well-prepared to address the specific needs of LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness, while 38% considered them only partially prepared, 55% not well-prepared and 3% did not know.

| Figure 22. Perceived preparedness of support service professionals to provide inclusive support to LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness (%)

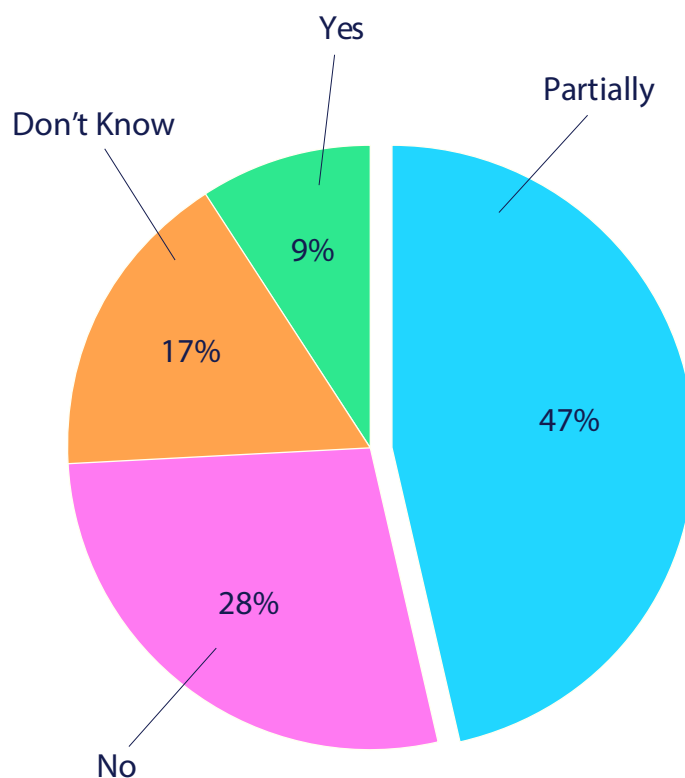


Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

The limited efforts to raise awareness of the discrimination faced by LGBTQI people may explain why so few respondents considered professionals well-prepared to support them when facing homelessness. Only 10% of respondents reported that local, regional or national authorities had taken measures to promote awareness of LGBTQI discrimination among social workers and/or housing counsellors, while 34% identified only partial measures, 46% reported that no such measures existed and 10% did not know.

Staff training also appears insufficient, despite being another important part of equipping professionals to support LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness effectively (see **Figure 23**). Only 9% of respondents reported that staff in housing, homelessness, youth and social services received training on the needs and rights of LGBTQI people, while 47% indicated that training was only partially provided, 28% reported that no such training existed and 17% did not know.

| Figure 23. Training received by staff in housing, homelessness, youth or social services on the needs and rights of LGBTQI people (%)



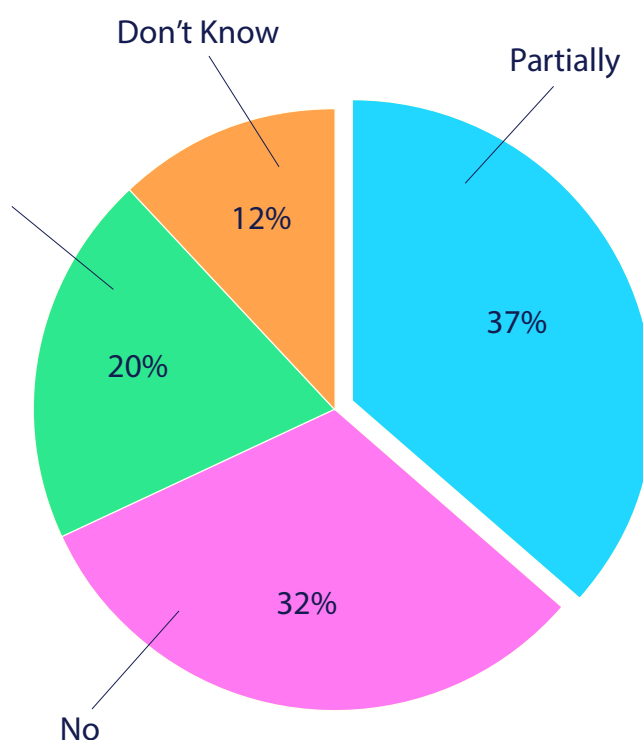
Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

When training is available, it is not necessarily provided regularly or made mandatory, limiting its effectiveness. Among respondents who indicated that training was fully or partially available, only 12% reported that it was regular and/or mandatory, while 33% indicated that this was only partially the case, 36% said it was not and 18% did not know. At the same time, making training mandatory does not guarantee that it takes place. A respondent from Italy noted that although Law No. 15 of 2018 provides for mandatory training on LGBTQI-related issues, such training was reportedly rarely implemented.

Collaboration with LGBTQI organisations and people with lived experience is equally essential to ensuring that training reflects the realities and challenges faced by LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness. Survey responses present a more encouraging picture in this area. Among respondents who indicated that training was fully or partially available, 45% reported that it was developed or delivered in cooperation with LGBTQI organisations and/or people with lived experience, while 39% indicated that this was partially the case. Only 6% reported no such cooperation, while 9% did not know.

The value of this expertise extends beyond training, as effective service provision also relies on strong links between mainstream homelessness services and LGBTQI organisations. However, measures to promote such cooperation are often absent or only partially in place (see **Figure 24**). Only 20% of respondents reported clear measures to promote collaboration and expertise-sharing between homelessness service providers and LGBTQI organisations, while 37% identified only partial measures, 32% reported that no such measures existed and 12% did not know.

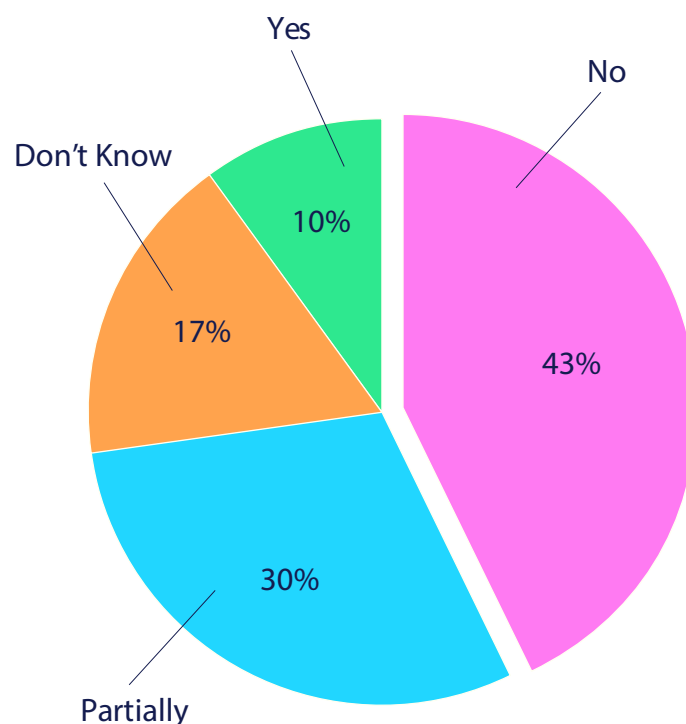
Figure 24. Measures to promote collaboration and expertise-sharing between homelessness service providers and LGBTQI organisations (%)



In practice, qualitative responses show that “partial” collaboration can take very different forms, ranging from informal civil society-led cooperation to more institutionalised coordination. In **Türkiye**, one respondent described collaboration as largely dependent on informal civil society initiatives providing legal, psychosocial and emergency support, without formal integration into public service systems. By contrast, a respondent from **Luxembourg** described intersectoral platforms and working groups coordinated by relevant ministries bringing together public authorities and LGBTQI organisations to facilitate dialogue, expertise-sharing and policy development.

Another critical aspect of coordination is whether LGBTQI people can be referred between services when they need different or specialised forms of support. Only 10% of respondents reported the existence of formal referral pathways between homelessness, housing, youth and LGBTQI support services, while 30% indicated that these were only partially in place, 43% reported that no such pathways existed and 17% did not know (see **Figure 25**). Without clear referral pathways, LGBTQI people may miss out on specialised support or have to rely on informal signposting or individual professionals’ knowledge of available services.

| Figure 25. Availability of formal referral pathways between homelessness, housing, youth and LGBTQI support services (%)



Where referral pathways are in place, their operation can differ considerably between contexts. In **Belgium**, respondents described referral pathways integrated into broader welfare and youth care systems, with case management and network-based collaboration helping to ensure continuity of care for vulnerable groups, including LGBTQI youth. By contrast, respondents from the **United Kingdom** highlighted that referrals often depend heavily on the availability of local services, with pathways remaining particularly weak for LGBTQI migrants and asylum seekers.

9. LGBTQI children and young people facing exclusion and homelessness

This chapter examines the availability, inclusiveness and capacity of housing and homelessness responses to address the needs of LGBTQI children and young people. It explores the extent to which LGBTQI children and young people are recognised in law, policy and strategy as being at heightened risk of housing exclusion or homelessness, and examines the availability of targeted prevention and support measures to address these risks. The chapter also analyses whether mainstream youth homelessness services provide safe and inclusive support, and the extent to which responses are linked to wider support systems and informed by the participation of LGBTQI young people.

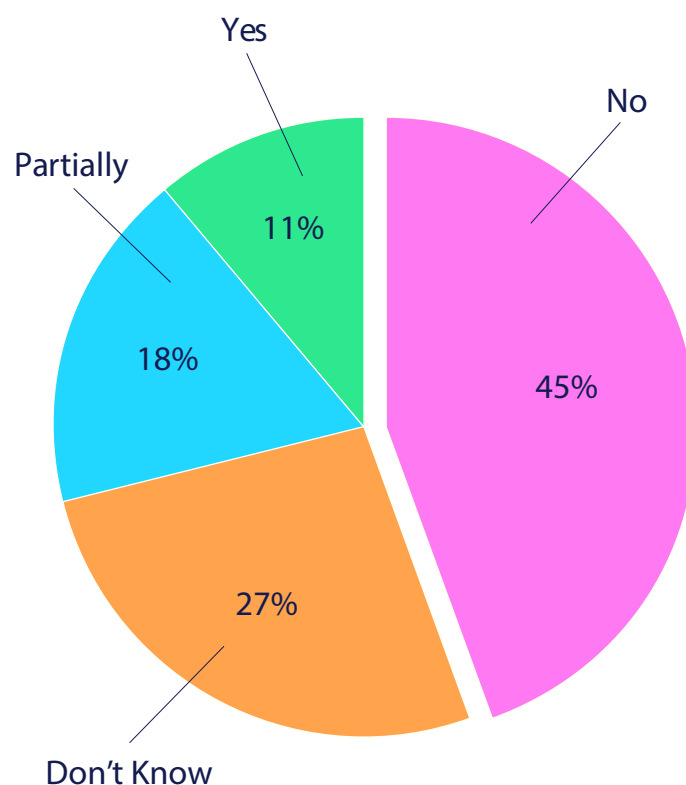
Key takeaways:

- LGBTQI children and young people remain insufficiently recognised in law, policy and strategy as being at heightened risk of housing exclusion and homelessness, limiting the development of targeted prevention and support measures, including in response to family rejection and transitions out of care or institutional settings.
- Mainstream youth homelessness services often lack the privacy, safety and inclusive practices needed to support LGBTQI children and young people appropriately, creating barriers to access and leaving some young people reluctant to seek support.
- Housing and homelessness responses for LGBTQI children and young people are often fragmented, weakly connected to wider support systems and shaped by limited participation of young people themselves, reducing access to coordinated and responsive support.

9.1. Recognition and targeted prevention measures

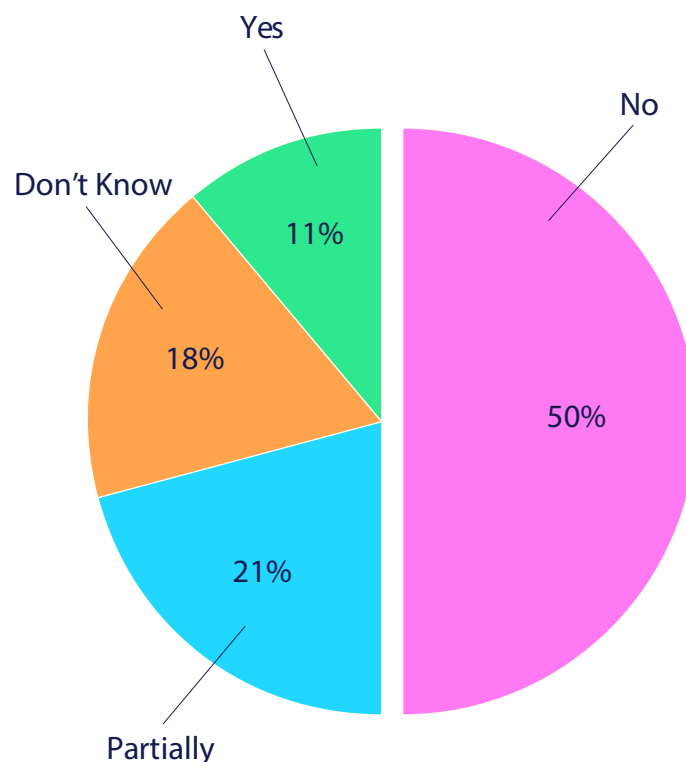
Despite the heightened risks of housing exclusion and homelessness faced by LGBTQI children and young people, their specific vulnerability is rarely explicitly recognised in relevant law, policy or strategy (see Figure 26). Only 11% of respondents reported clear recognition of LGBTQI children and young people as being at heightened risk, while 18% identified partial recognition and 45% reported that no such recognition existed. A further 27% did not know whether LGBTQI children and young people were explicitly recognised in this way. This matters because without explicit recognition, these specific risks may be less likely to translate into targeted prevention measures.

| Figure 26. Recognition of LGBTQI children and young people in law, policy or strategy as being at heightened risk of housing exclusion or homelessness (%)



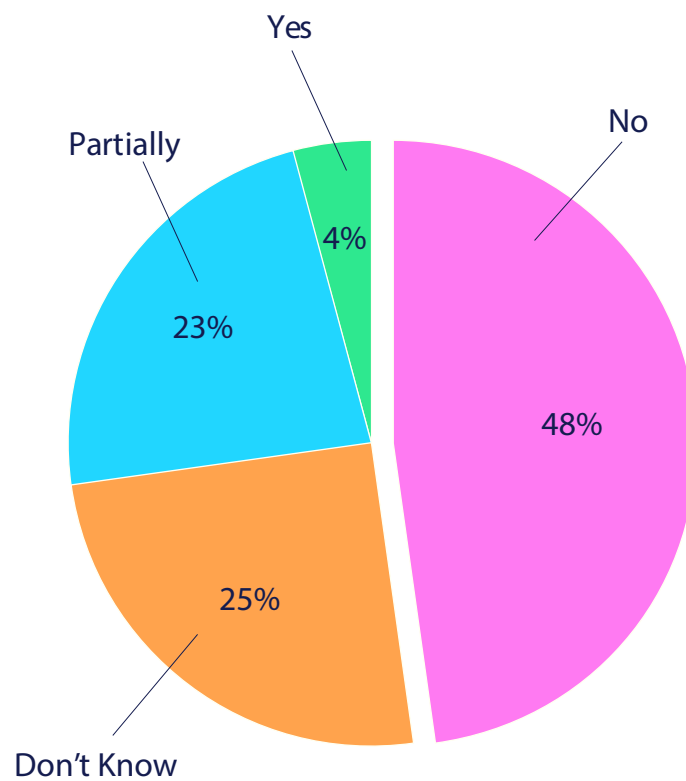
One important area for targeted intervention is early prevention. As shown in Chapter 3, housing difficulties can begin early in the lives of LGBTQI people, including within their own families, highlighting the importance of intervening before they escalate into homelessness. The survey, however, shows that such preventive measures are often missing (see **Figure 27**). Only 11% of respondents reported clear measures to prevent family rejection, domestic violence and conflict related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics from leading to homelessness, while 21% identified only partial measures, half (50%) reported that no such measures existed and 18% did not know.

| Figure 27. Measures to prevent family rejection, domestic violence or conflict related to SOGIESC from leading to homelessness among LGBTQI children and young people (%)



Another point at which LGBTQI young people may be particularly vulnerable to housing instability and homelessness is when leaving care, foster care, residential institutions, detention or other out-of-home care settings. Ensuring continuity of housing and support during these transitions is therefore particularly important. This need is not matched by the availability of specific measures for LGBTQI young people leaving these settings (see Figure 28). Only 4% of respondents reported clear measures, while 23% identified partial measures, 48% reported that no such measures existed and 25% did not know. The challenges facing LGBTQI young people in care can also begin well before this transition. In Lithuania, one respondent reported that the foster care system does not systematically monitor the welfare of LGBTQI children and highlighted experiences of microaggressions and discrimination within care environments.

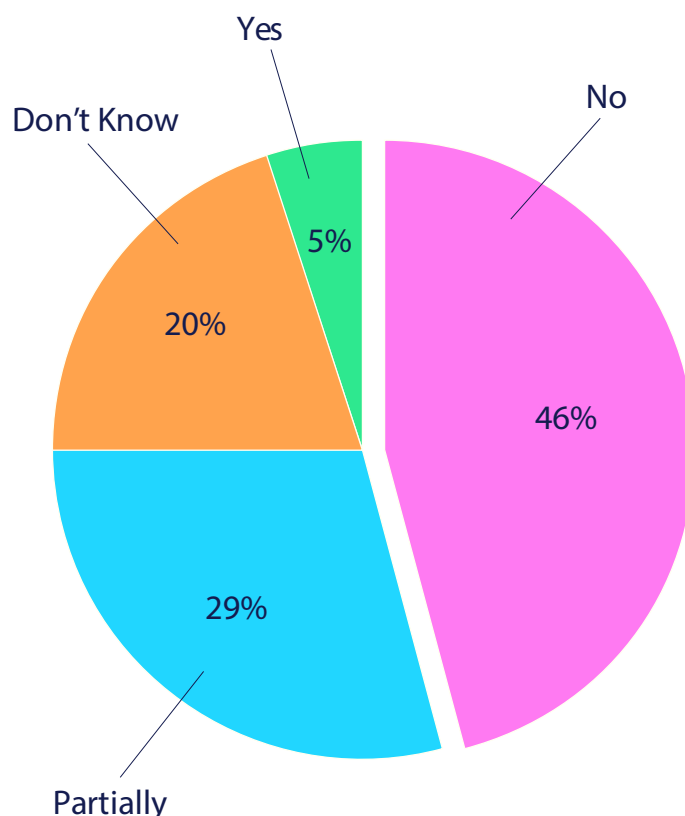
I Figure 28. Measures for LGBTQI young people leaving care, foster care, residential institutions, detention or other out-of-home care settings (%)



9.2. Safety and adequacy of youth homelessness services

For LGBTQI young people experiencing housing instability or homelessness, access to youth homelessness services does not necessarily mean that the support available is safe or appropriate to their needs. Respondents' assessments suggest that this is far from guaranteed (see **Figure 29**). Only 5% reported that general youth homelessness services were equipped to support LGBTQI young people safely and appropriately, while 29% considered them only partially equipped, 46% reported that they were not equipped to do so and 20% did not know..

| Figure 29. Youth homelessness services equipped to support LGBTQI young people safely and appropriately, as reported by survey respondents (%)



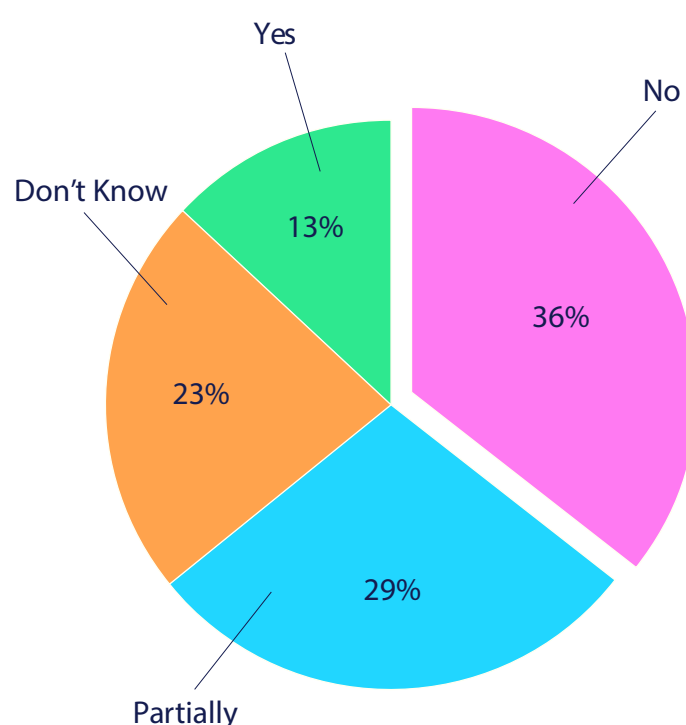
Safety in youth homelessness services depends on more than simply providing accommodation. Privacy, confidentiality and protection from harassment can shape whether LGBTQI young people feel able to seek and remain in support services. Where services are perceived as unsafe, exclusionary or non-affirming, young people may delay seeking support, avoid services altogether or remain in unsafe living arrangements, increasing their exposure to housing instability and homelessness.

Qualitative responses illustrate how these challenges can play out in practice. In Lithuania, one respondent reported that general youth homelessness services were not equipped to support LGBTQI young people safely, noting that staff lacked training, privacy and safety protocols were absent, and gender-segregated facilities posed particular risks for trans and non-binary young people. As a result, some LGBTQI young people reportedly avoided these services altogether and remained in unsafe living situations. A respondent from the United Kingdom similarly highlighted risks for trans and non-binary young people, including misgendering, lack of privacy, unsafe gender-segregated accommodation and fear of harassment in shelters or temporary accommodation.

9.3. Integrated and participatory support services

Housing instability among LGBTQI young people is rarely driven by a single factor and often intersects with other forms of exclusion and vulnerability. Addressing housing needs therefore goes beyond housing support alone and includes broader forms of support, such as mental health care, education, employment support, legal assistance, family mediation and community-based support. The integration of these different forms of support into housing and homelessness responses, however, appears uneven (see Figure 30). Only 13% of respondents reported that housing and homelessness responses for LGBTQI young people were clearly linked to other forms of support, while 29% identified only partial links, 36% reported no such links and 23% did not know. Without these connections, housing responses risk addressing housing needs in isolation from the other challenges LGBTQI young people may be facing.

| Figure 30. Housing and homelessness responses for LGBTQI young people linked to other support services (%)



Qualitative responses point to very different levels of integration between housing and wider support. In Italy, one organisation reported that no structured institutional responses were in place and that housing support for LGBTQI young people relied largely on informal support from peers and NGOs, without multidisciplinary teams covering mental health, employment, education and healthcare. By contrast, a respondent from Belgium highlighted more integrated youth care and homelessness services, with case management and coordinated support pathways, as well as collaboration between youth care organisations, housing providers and welfare services, as promising practices relevant to supporting vulnerable young people, including LGBTQI youth.

Box 6. Additional examples of good practice

The scoping analysis identified Ljubljana Pride as another promising example of service response. It is a youth-led non-governmental organisation that offers mentoring, peer support and non-formal education for LGBTQIA+ young people. Through the SQVOT programme, Ljubljana Pride provides short-term crisis accommodation for LGBTQIA+ young people experiencing housing exclusion or homelessness, as well as support for LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers and victims of hate crimes.

Involving LGBTQI young people and youth-led organisations in shaping the policies and services that affect them is important to ensure that these responses reflect lived experiences and actual needs. Only 14% of respondents reported clear consultation of LGBTQI young people and youth-led organisations in the design, delivery or evaluation of relevant policies and services, while 23% identified partial consultation, 25% reported no consultation and 38% did not know whether such consultation took place. This may make policies and services less responsive to the specific risks of housing exclusion and homelessness faced by LGBTQI young people.

Part III.

Key takeaways and recommendations



This final part brings together the main findings of the scoping analysis and civil society survey and sets out recommendations drafted jointly by IGLYO and FEANTSA. It identifies priorities for preventing housing exclusion and ensuring access to safe, stable and adequate housing, with particular attention to LGBTQI children and young people.

The recommendations address national, regional and local authorities, service providers, the Council of Europe and European Union institutions. They translate the evidence into practical actions on prevention, housing access, protection against discrimination, service provision, funding and participation, alongside guidance and monitoring to support implementation.

10. Key takeaways and recommendations

The scoping analysis and civil society survey point to a shared priority: preventing housing exclusion and ensuring that LGBTQI people, particularly children and young people, can access safe, stable and adequate housing. The recommendations below translate the evidence into priorities for public authorities, European institutions and service providers.

What are the key takeaways?

Housing exclusion is structural and cumulative. Family rejection and violence interact with poverty, discrimination in education and employment, inaccessible housing markets and gaps in welfare support. The scoping analysis explains these interconnected pathways; survey respondents describe their consequences across family homes, rental housing, institutions and services.

Much of the problem remains hidden. Temporary stays with friends, repeated moves and remaining in unsafe homes can conceal serious housing insecurity. Young people may avoid services because they anticipate discrimination or have previously experienced harm. A focus on rough sleeping alone misses opportunities for earlier support.

Formal protection does not ensure safety in practice. Both analyses identify a gap between recognition in laws or strategies and effective implementation. Respondents describe limited prevention, inconsistent safeguards and services without the training, resources or coordination needed to provide appropriate support. The existence of accommodation does not establish that it is safe or accessible.

Children and young people need specific responses. Dependence on family resources and transitions out of care can leave young people with few alternatives when support ends. Leaving home can be a survival response to abuse and rejection, and returning may be unsafe or unwanted. Protection must respond to that reality.

Exclusion is unequal, and support must reflect this. Trans and non-binary people, intersex people, migrants and asylum seekers, racialised people and disabled people face distinct and overlapping barriers. Community organisations provide important expertise and support, but cannot compensate indefinitely for gaps in public provision. Sustainable responses require both inclusive mainstream services and specialised support.

What should public authorities prioritise?

1. Make housing inclusion an explicit, funded commitment

- National governments and regional and local authorities should include LGBTQI people explicitly in housing and homelessness strategies, and address housing exclusion within LGBTQI equality strategies. Give particular attention to children and young people and to intersecting forms of discrimination. Assign responsible authorities, budgets, implementation deadlines and public reporting requirements. This reciprocal inclusion builds on FEANTSA's published policy guidance.
- Bring housing, equality, child protection, youth, health and social protection authorities together for an improved collaboration in the work with LGBTQI young people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of it. Recognition should lead to practical changes in prevention, access and support, with civil society involved in identifying gaps and assessing progress. Ensure that responsibilities are clear when services are delivered across different levels of government.

2. Strengthen welfare systems and decouple them from family relationships

- Access to welfare and/or housing benefits for young people on their own, without any conditionality related to family, plays a big role in both preventing and exiting homelessness among LGBTQI young people. A person-based financial allocation that is adapted to the local housing market prices would help in ensuring that, in the event of family rejection, leaving home does not lead to rooflessness or inadequate housing.

3. Intervene before a young person loses safe housing

- Public authorities should fund early support through schools, youth organisations, child protection services, helplines and LGBTQI organisations. Provide confidential routes to housing advice, emergency financial assistance, safeguarding and safe accommodation before a young person loses safe housing. Assess unsafe family environments and repeated temporary stays as potential needs for intervention, rather than assuming that a home means security.
- Offer family support or mediation only where it is safe, appropriate and consistent with the young person's wishes and best interests. Do not make access to services conditional on family reconciliation or return to an unsafe home.
- Child protection and other responsible authorities should plan housing and support before discharge from care, foster care, residential institutions or detention. Establish a named contact, confirmed accommodation and continuity of support through the transition to adulthood, ensuring it is safe for LGBTQI people. Avoid abrupt withdrawal of assistance solely because a young person reaches an age threshold.

4. Create routes to stable and affordable homes

- Governments and housing authorities should combine immediate safe accommodation with access to longer-term housing. Invest in social and genuinely affordable rental homes for people on low incomes, alongside rent and deposit assistance and help to sustain tenancies. Increasing supply alone will not meet the needs of households with the fewest resources.
- Develop housing-led responses to homelessness which are adapted to young people's circumstances, with flexible support for education, employment, health and independent living. Review access rules that assume parental financial backing or exclude people with insecure incomes. Emergency accommodation must connect to a sustainable housing option, with support matched to need.

What must change in services and protection?

5. Make safety and identity affirmation standard practice

- Commissioning authorities and providers should establish clear inclusion and safeguarding standards for mainstream and specialised accommodation. Standards should cover respectful treatment, confidentiality, privacy and protection from harassment. Placements must respect self-identified gender and take account of the person's views and safety needs. Review gender-segregated arrangements that expose trans and non-binary people to exclusion or harm.
- Translate standards into induction, continuing training, supervision and service reviews. Training across the whole organisation is needed, including management and staff beyond frontline support roles. Use that approach to make inclusive practice an organisational responsibility, supported by time and resources.

6. Enforce protection throughout the housing pathway

- Governments should strengthen and implement protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in housing access, eviction and relevant institutional settings. Equality bodies, housing authorities and service commissioners should ensure that people can report discrimination safely, receive accessible advice and obtain an effective response.
- Provide child-friendly complaint routes, independent advocacy and support for people concerned about retaliation or disclosure of their identity. Monitor how complaints are handled and whether remedies resolve the housing problem. A young person reporting an unsafe placement should receive protection and a suitable alternative, rather than being left without accommodation.

7. Fund coordinated support and specialised expertise

- Public funders should provide sustained, multi-year funding for LGBTQI-specific services and for inclusion within mainstream provision. Funding should cover staffing, supervision, outreach, coordination and the practical costs of support, alongside accommodation. Preserve community expertise while ensuring that public authorities remain responsible for adequate provision.
- Local authorities and providers should agree referral arrangements connecting housing services with LGBTQI organisations, youth work, healthcare, mental health support, education, employment and legal assistance. Offer a named professional who helps people navigate these services and follows up referrals. Support should continue as people move into stable housing, where needed, rather than ending when a crisis bed is vacated.
- Build accessibility into these arrangements: provide interpretation, accessible information and disability-related adjustments, and address barriers associated with migration status, racism and poverty. Include peer support and opportunities for community connection. Service plans should reflect the person's own priorities and avoid treating LGBTQI people as a single group with uniform needs.

How should progress be sustained and assessed?

8. Give people with lived experience a decision-making role

- Public authorities and service providers should involve LGBTQI young people and people with experience of housing exclusion in designing, delivering and evaluating responses. Provide accessible ways to participate, compensation for time and expertise, and feedback on how contributions affect decisions. Participation should include people facing intersecting barriers and should never depend on public disclosure of personal experiences.

9. Improve evidence without increasing exposure

- Authorities, researchers and providers should improve data on housing pathways, unmet needs and service outcomes, including hidden homelessness. Develop consistent definitions and distinguish people and organisational observations. Support comparative, longitudinal and participatory research, including evaluation of promising practices and attention to groups and regions poorly represented in existing evidence.
- Collect SOGIESC information for a clear purpose and with safeguards against identification and misuse. Explain why questions are asked, make disclosure voluntary and ensure that declining does not affect access to support. Publish aggregated findings with particular care for small groups and sensitive contexts.

10. Embed LGBTQI housing inclusion in European policy and funding

- The European Commission should explicitly address the housing exclusion of LGBTQI people, particularly children and young people, in the implementation of the European Affordable Housing Plan and its work on the proposed Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion. These processes should promote prevention, protection against discrimination and access to safe, stable and affordable housing, including for young people who cannot rely on family support.
- European initiatives on housing for young people should reach those outside higher education and those facing insecure employment, family rejection or transitions out of care. European Commission guidance and exchanges with national authorities should encourage access rules that reflect these circumstances, including alternatives to requirements for parental financial backing, family guarantors or a stable employment history.
- The European Commission and national authorities managing EU funds should make relevant funding accessible for LGBTQI-inclusive homelessness prevention, affordable housing and coordinated support. Funding should support both inclusion within mainstream provision and specialist services, including staff training, outreach and cooperation between housing, youth, child protection and LGBTQI organisations. Investment in accommodation should be accompanied by resources to provide appropriate support and sustain tenancies.
- Monitoring of European housing initiatives should examine who can access support and whether it leads to safe and lasting housing outcomes. The Commission should involve LGBTQI organisations, youth organisations and people with lived experience in developing guidance, exchanging practices and assessing implementation. Any collection of SOGIESC information should be voluntary, confidential and subject to safeguards against identification and misuse.

- The Council of Europe should use the thematic review of CM/Rec(2010)5 to identify implementation gaps under paragraphs 37 and 38 and support concrete follow-up by member States. This should include clear responsibilities, implementation timelines and dialogue with civil society. Progress should be assessed through outcomes such as access to safe accommodation, continuity of support after leaving care, sustained housing and experiences of safety and respect.
- The Council of Europe and the European Union should use findings from the monitoring of CM/Rec(2010)5 and relevant European housing and equality frameworks to provide practical guidance to member States on preventing and addressing LGBTQI housing exclusion. Guidance should explain how to translate commitments into funded measures, including early intervention for children and young people, protection against housing discrimination, safe and inclusive accommodation, and continuity of support when leaving care.

Annex 1. Methodological note scoping analysis

Objective of the Analysis

The aim of this scoping review is to map the existing scientific literature on LGBTQI youth homelessness in Europe. Specific objectives are: providing an overview of the phenomenon and examining its main determinants, its impact on mental health and wellbeing, and the policies, services and support systems developed to respond to the needs of LGBTQI young people experiencing homelessness.

Design and Source Typology

The literature search was conducted using Google Scholar to identify scientific publications addressing LGBTQI youth homelessness in Europe. Google Scholar was selected to maximise the breadth of the search and capture multidisciplinary literature across the fields of psychology, sociology, social policy, public health, and social work. Google Scholar was also selected because it is an openly accessible search platform that does not require institutional or academic credentials. In addition to indexing peer-reviewed literature, it also provides access to selected grey literature, including reports, policy documents, and other publications, thereby broadening the scope of potentially relevant sources.

The search was carried out between 1/07/2026 and 15/07/2026.

To inform the development of the search strategy and ensure consistency with the existing body of knowledge, previously published literature reviews, covering both the European and U.S. literature, were consulted, including the reviews by Tubertini et al. (2025) and Goodyear et al. (2024), as well as the QueerNet project report. These sources helped refine the search terms, identify relevant concepts and terminology, and ensure that the search strategy reflected the diversity of language used to describe LGBTQI youth homelessness in the European context.

The search terms were developed to maximise the inclusivity of sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions represented within the LGBTQI umbrella term, while also capturing the multiple ways homelessness and housing insecurity are described in the literature. Given the exploratory nature of this scoping review, no restrictions were applied regarding study design. Furthermore, although the review focused on young people, studies including broader age groups were retained when they provided findings specifically relevant to LGBTQI youth or included analyses that could inform understanding of youth homelessness.

Key search terms: LGBTIA+ youth homelessness, LGBTIA+ youth homelessness in Europe, LGBT+ youth homelessness, LGBT+ youth homelessness services in Europe, LGBTQI youth homelessness services, queer homeless people, queer homeless people mental health, LGBTQ+ youth mental health, causes of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness in Europe, Pathways into LGBTQ+ youth homelessness.

The scoping analysis draws on a corpus of nineteen contributions selected for their thematic and methodological relevance, including sixteen peer-reviewed academic publications, two research reports based on mixed-methods approaches and one European practice report. The corpus comprises:

- 1 Systematic review based on PRISMA standards (1).
- 1 Scoping review conducted according to PRISMA-ScR guidelines (2).
- 1 Theoretical and epistemological review (11).
- 1 Narrative review of international literature (3).
- 1 Editorial providing synthesis and theoretical framing (4).
- 1 European policy and practice report (10).
- 1 Comparative policy analysis of regional and national frameworks (5).
- 9 Original empirical studies (2 qualitative studies from Southern European contexts (6, 7), 1 qualitative study on mutual aid in Wales (8), 1 qualitative empirical study in Ireland (13), 2 qualitative empirical study in Scotland (14, 15), 1 qualitative empirical study in England (16), 1 quantitative study on the homeless population in Madrid (9), 1 quantitative empirical studies on mental health in UK (12).
- 1 sociological study conducted in Spain (17).
- 2 Research Report (18, 19).

	Authors	Year	Type	Country/ Context	Method	Specific focus
1	Tubertini, Foschi, Gaboardi, Lenzi	2025	Systematic Review (PRISMA)	International (53 studies)	Narrative synthesis	Residential services for LGBTQ+ homeless individuals, operational models, recommendations
2	Goodyear et al.	2024	Scoping Review (PRISMA-ScR)	North America (27 studies)	Qualitative content synthesis	Health and social transitions of 2S/LGBTQ+ homeless youth
3	McCarthy & Parr	2022	Narrative Review	UK / International (88 sources)	Narrative review	Relationship between LGBT identity and homelessness
4	Formby, Matthews & Tunaker	2024	Editorial (Synthesis)	UK / Europe	Thematic synthesis	State of the art on LGBTQ+ housing in 2024
5	Mayock & Hermans	2025	Comparative Policy Analysis	Ireland & Flanders (Belgium)	Policy comparison	Policy responses to youth homelessness
6	Di Felicianantonio & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou	2022	Comparative Study	Southern Europe (Italy/ Greece)	Qualitative (interviews)	Housing pathways of LG youth and intergenerational family relations
7	Pettas, Arampatzi & Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou	2022	Empirical Study	Greece (Athens)	Qualitative (22 interviews)	LGBTQ+ housing vulnerability, intersectionality, solidarity networks

	Author	Year	Type	Country/ Context	Method	Specific focus
8	England	2025	Empirical Study	Wales (UK)	Qualitative (35 interviews)	Queer utopianism and mutual aid as survival strategies for trans people
9	Giménez-Rodríguez et al.	2025	Quantitative Empirical Study	Spain (Madrid)	Quantitative (MANOVA, N=205)	Causal factors of housing loss: LGBTQ vs. non-LGBTQ comparison
10	ILGA, Europe	2025	European Report & Policy Review	Europe (, Italy; Germany, Slovenia, Spain)	Multi-country review & surveys	LGBTI homelessness drivers, family rejection rates (approx. 71%), and service barriers across Europe
11	Ritholtz	2023	Theoretical / Epistemological Review	United States / Global	Critical theoretical analysis	Queer-and-trans youth homelessness conceptualized as forced displacement; critique of epistemological cisheteronormativity
12	Khanolkar & Becares	2025	Qualitative Empirical Study	United Kingdom	Millennium Cohort Study (N = 10,232)	Prevalence of past homelessness, mental health inequalities, and health risk behaviors among sexual minority adolescents
13	Quilty & Norris	2022	Qualitative Empirical Study	Ireland	22 in-depth interviews (ages 18–30)	Extending housing pathways framework using queer concepts (temporalities, liminalities, kinships) in LGBTQI+ homelessness
14	Matthews, Poyner & Kjellgren	2018	Qualitative Empirical Study	Scotland (UK)	20 qualitative interviews	Integrating queer theory with housing frameworks; examining agency, housing insecurity, and home(o) normativity
15	Marzetti, McDaid & O'Connor	2022	Qualitative Empirical Study	Scotland (UK)	24 narrative interviews (ages 16–24)	Lived experiences of suicidal distress among LGBT+ youth; analyzing queerphobia and “queer entrapment”
16	Pickles	2024	Qualitative Empirical Study	England (North East) (UK)	Qualitative interviews with support workers	Vicarious victimization and emotional labor among LGBT+ youth and community workers supporting victims of hate and housing crisis

	Author	Year	Type	Country/ Context	Method	Specific Focus
17	Giménez Rodríguez, Carbonero Muñoz, Ugalde Galera, Rodríguez Pérez & Benlloch Sanz	2019	Sociological Study	Spain (Community of Madrid)	Mixed-methods study (quantitative survey and qualitative thematic narrative analysis based on 10 semi-structured interviews)	Characteristics, pathways and experiences of LGBTQI people experiencing homelessness in Madrid, including discrimination, family rejection, employment, social exclusion and service needs.
18	Quore aps Tubertini E. et al.	2024	Project Report	Italy	Survey and qualitative interviews	Research on the services provided by the Italian P.R.I.D.E Network and on well-being and the achievement of autonomy.
19	Quore aps Tubertini E. & Lasagna, C.	2026	Project Report	Belgium, Finland, Italy, Spain	Multi-country surveys and qualitative interviews	European research centring the perspectives of staff members, volunteers, and service users on the strengths and challenges of different LGBTQI services in promoting well-being, fostering future planning, and supporting autonomy and safety.

Relevant grey literature was also considered to complement the peer-reviewed evidence. In addition to documents identified through the search strategy, further reports were retrieved through backward citation searching of the reference lists of included studies. This process enabled the identification of additional recent publications from relevant organisations, which contributed to contextualise the findings and expanding the evidence base:

- Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC) (2025). Thematic review of the implementation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Council of Europe.
- FEANTSA (2023). LGBTIQ Inclusion Toolkit. Building Blocks for Safer and Inclusive Homeless Services for the LGBTIQ Community.
- FRA (2020). LGBTI Survey Data Explorer. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.
- ILGA-Europe & FEANTSA (2023). INTERSECTIONS. DIVING INTO THE FRA LGBTI II SURVEY DATA HOMELESSNESS BRIEFING. Report by: Aisling Reidy Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe Sergio Pérez Barranco Youth & LGBTIQ+ Policy Officer, FEANTSA.
- Micro Rainbow (2024). Held back: Poverty of LGBTQI refugees in the UK. An Insight into the lived experiences of LGBTQI refugees in the UK 2024.
- OECD (2024). Indicator HC3.1. Population Experiencing Homelessness, Affordable Housing Database.
- Quilty, A., & Norris, M. (2020). A Qualitative Study of LGBTQI+ Youth Homelessness in Ireland Executive Summary. FOCUS Ireland.

- Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry (2024). Homelessness and Housing Challenges of LGBTQ+ People in Finland. A Report by Sateenkaari-ikkuna ry Syksy Waldén, 2024
- Spollen, A. (2023). FOCUS IRELAND - Challenging LGBTQ+ Homelessness in collaboration with BelognTo LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland. FEANTSA: HomelessnessineuropeMagazine.
- Stonewall, UK. (2018). LGBT in Britain - Home and Communities (2018)
- The Rainbow Project (2015). Through Our Eyes: The housing and homeless experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in Ireland, by The Rainbow Project and Council for the Homeless NI.
- Tunåker, C., Sundberg, T., Yuan, S., Renz, F., Kirton-Darling, E., Carr, H. (2025). There's No Place Like Home. Uncovering LGBTQ+ youth homelessness in the UK. AKT.

Inclusion Criteria and Thematic Focus

- **Population:** Youth and young adults (approximate age range 16–30 years) identifying as LGBTQI, with specific attention to marginalized subgroups such as transgender and non-binary individuals, asylum seekers, and care leavers.
- **Investigated Dimensions:** Causal factors and housing exclusion, interaction with state welfare models, regulatory frameworks and public prevention/intervention policies, characteristics and accessibility of residential services (specialized versus generalist), the role of community support and mutual aid, and implementation gaps.

Geographical Scope

The analysis adopts a comparative European perspective, focusing on Finland, Flanders (Belgium), Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales) while integrating methodological and prevalence evidence from North America and Canada where appropriate⁸².

Notably, the representation of some European countries and the absence of many others in this review should not be interpreted as reflecting the actual availability or absence of services, policies, support systems, or even the absence of the phenomenon itself. Rather, it reflects the distribution of the scientific literature identified and included in this scoping review. Consequently, the review is not intended to provide an exhaustive overview of the services, policies, or socio-cultural contexts related to LGBTQI youth homelessness across all European countries, but rather to map the evidence currently available in the literature. This limitation highlights an important knowledge gap: despite growing attention to LGBTQI youth homelessness, the existing evidence remains unevenly distributed across Europe, with several countries and regions still underrepresented or absent from the scientific literature.

82 It should also be noted that the majority of the scientific literature on LGBTQ+ youth homelessness originates from North America and Canada. As the aim of this scoping review was to map the European evidence, North American studies were not included in the analysis. Nevertheless, this body of literature served as an important conceptual and theoretical reference throughout the review. Existing North American reviews and empirical studies informed the development of the search strategy, the identification of key thematic domains, and the interpretation of the findings, providing a valuable framework against which to contextualise the emerging European evidence. While the present review intentionally adopts a European focus, the predominance of North American scholarship further underscores the need to strengthen research on LGBTQ+ youth homelessness within diverse European contexts.

The analysis adopts a comparative European perspective, focusing on Finland, Flanders (Belgium), Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales) while integrating methodological and prevalence evidence from North America and Canada where appropriate⁸³.

Notably, the representation of some European countries and the absence of many others in this review should not be interpreted as reflecting the actual availability or absence of services, policies, support systems, or even the absence of the phenomenon itself. Rather, it reflects the distribution of the scientific literature identified and included in this scoping review. Consequently, the review is not intended to provide an exhaustive overview of the services, policies, or socio-cultural contexts related to LGBTQI youth homelessness across all European countries, but rather to map the evidence currently available in the literature. This limitation highlights an important knowledge gap: despite growing attention to LGBTQI youth homelessness, the existing evidence remains unevenly distributed across Europe, with several countries and regions still underrepresented or absent from the scientific literature.

Analytical Approach

Data were synthesized through narrative and comparative thematic analysis. Contributions were examined using a socio-ecological and intersectional framework, evaluating how gender identity and sexual orientation intersect with social class, ethnic origin, and familistic or universalistic welfare regimes. The analysis was supported by the use of ATLAS.ti software for the systematic organization and management of the selected material. ATLAS.ti was used to structure the corpus and to facilitate the comparison of textual excerpts across studies, while thematic interpretation remained researcher-driven.

83 It should also be noted that the majority of the scientific literature on LGBTQ+ youth homelessness originates from North America and Canada. As the aim of this scoping review was to map the European evidence, North American studies were not included in the analysis. Nevertheless, this body of literature served as an important conceptual and theoretical reference throughout the review. Existing North American reviews and empirical studies informed the development of the search strategy, the identification of key thematic domains, and the interpretation of the findings, providing a valuable framework against which to contextualise the emerging European evidence. While the present review intentionally adopts a European focus, the predominance of North American scholarship further underscores the need to strengthen research on LGBTQ+ youth homelessness within diverse European contexts.

Annex 2. Methodological note

Survey members

Survey scope and design

IGLYO and FEANTSA developed an online survey to gather input from civil society organisations (CSOs) across Europe working to support LGBTQI people in accessing adequate housing. The survey contributes to the Council of Europe thematic review on the implementation of the housing-related provisions of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Shared through the membership networks of IGLYO and FEANTSA, the survey remained open between April and June 2026. Respondents were invited to draw on their organisation's knowledge and experience, with responses reflecting perspectives at the local, regional and/or national level.

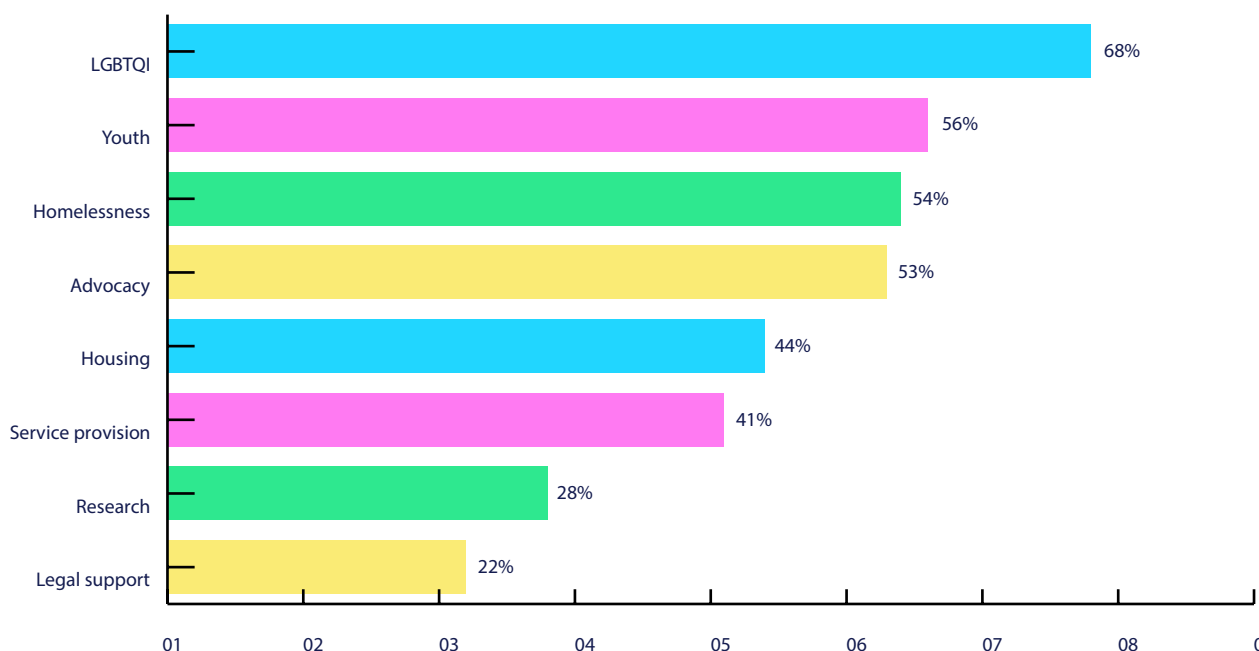
The survey consisted of 41 questions, combining multiple-choice items with open-ended questions and follow-up prompts. It explored policy frameworks, observed barriers and trends, discrimination in housing, homelessness, access to inclusive services, professional capacity, and the situation of LGBTQI children and young people. Both quantitative and qualitative responses were analysed to identify common trends, implementation gaps and promising practices across these thematic areas.

Respondents' profile

The survey received 87 responses from civil society organisations and networks. Five responses could not be reliably assigned to a specific Council of Europe member State due to incomplete, ambiguous or out-of-scope geographic information and were therefore excluded from the analysis. Following the exclusion of these responses, the analysis is based on 82 responses from organisations across 29 Council of Europe member States. The geographical distribution of responses was as follows: Armenia (1), Austria (2), Azerbaijan (3), Belgium (5), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (1), Denmark (2), Finland (3), France (1), Georgia (1), Germany (2), Greece (2), Hungary (1), Ireland (7), Italy (5), Lithuania (3), Luxembourg (3), Malta (2), Netherlands (2), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Romania (2), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (6), Spain (11), Türkiye (2), and the United Kingdom, including England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland (11).

The responding organisations reflected a diverse range of operational profiles, with activities spanning the local (64%), national (60%), regional (35%) and cross-border (14%) levels. They also brought expertise across a wide range of fields, including LGBTQI rights (68%), youth (56%), homelessness (54%), advocacy (53%), housing (44%) and service provision (41%), alongside research (28%) and legal support (22%) (see **Figure 1**). Responses were informed by diverse sources of knowledge and experience, most commonly direct service provision (69%), advocacy (58%), research (26%) and legal casework (13%).

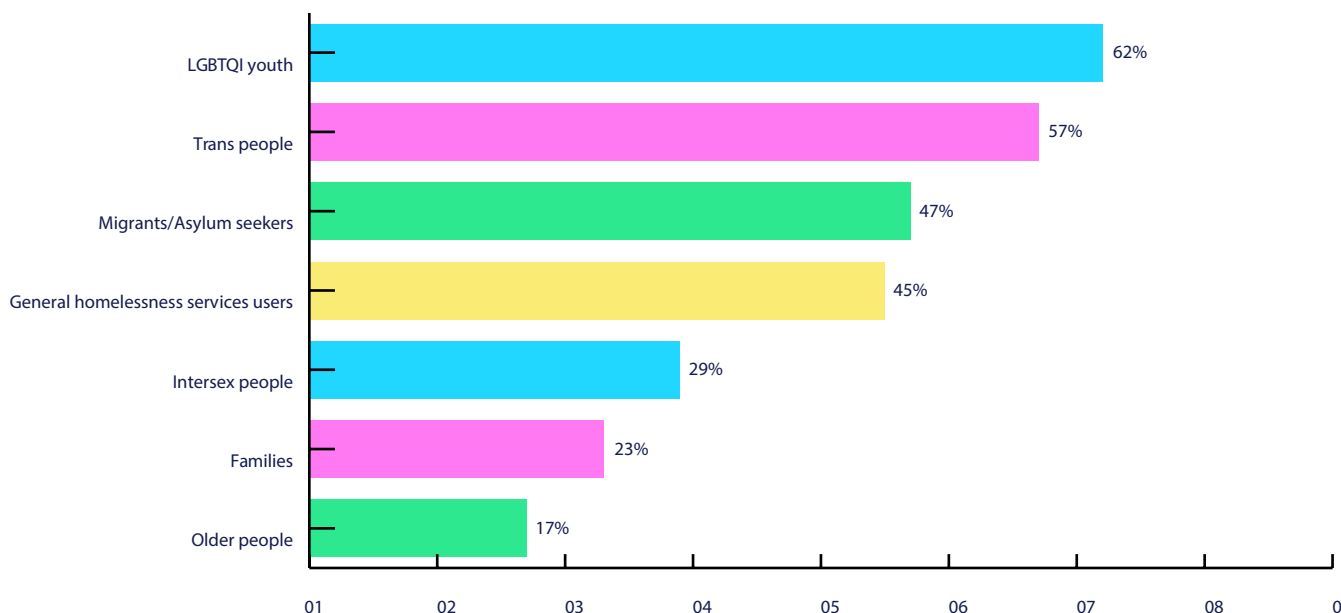
| Figure 1. Main areas of work of respondent organisations (%)



Note: Respondents could select more than one area of work, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

As shown in **Figure 2**, participating organisations also described **working with a diverse range of groups** affected by housing exclusion and homelessness, including LGBTQI youth (62%), trans people (57%), migrants and asylum seekers (47%), general homelessness service users (45%), intersex people (29%), families (23%) and older people (17%).

| Figure 2. Main groups worked with by respondent organisations (%)



Note: Respondents could select more than one area of work, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

