

## Visibility

As a lesbian, you consider yourself visible:

### Through speech :

#### Within your friend circles :

With all your friends .....	65 %
With the majority .....	22 %
With a few of them .....	11 %
With none .....	1 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

#### Within your family :

With all the members .....	26 %
With the majority .....	28 %
With a few of them .....	33 %
With none .....	13 %

#### At work :

With all of your co-workers.....	18 %
With the majority .....	24 %
With a few of them .....	38 %
With none .....	20 %

#### In your neighbourhood :

With all of the neighbours.....	14 %
With the majority .....	10 %
With a few of them .....	21 %
With none .....	54 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

#### Within the medical community :

With all of your therapists .....	32 %
With the majority .....	19 %
With a few of them .....	25 %
With none .....	24 %

### Through gesture :

#### You hold hands with your partner in public :

Depending on the context .....	54 %
Yes .....	25 %
No.....	21 %

#### You kiss your partner in public :

Depending on the context .....	53 %
Yes .....	21 %
No.....	26 %

#### You do not show any type of affection to your partner in public fearing hostile reactions:

Yes .....	63 %
No.....	31 %
Would rather not answer .....	6 %

### Through your cultural activities or activism (over the past two years) :

#### You have gone out to lesbian specific places (bars, restaurants, clubs...):

Yes.....	66 %
No .....	33 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

#### You have read lesbian magazines :

Yes.....	63 %
No .....	36 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

#### You have been part of an LGBT Internet community (dating websites, socializing websites, etc.):

Yes.....	52 %
No .....	47 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

#### You have joined an activist or LGBT-friendly organization :

Yes.....	24 %
No .....	75 %
Would rather not answer .....	1 %

### Through your look :

#### According to gender stereotypes, you describe yourself as :

Feminine.....	53 %
Androgynous.....	25 %
Masculine .....	10 %
Very feminine.....	8 %
Other .....	3 %
Very masculine .....	1 %

#### Your hair is :

Short .....	34 %
Medium .....	33 %
Long.....	30 %
Shaved .....	2 %
Other.....	1 %

#### You wear clothes that are (multiple answers are possible) :

Unisex .....	55 %
Feminine.....	52 %
Masculine .....	16 %
Other .....	2 %



Lutte contre la lesbophobie, la gayphobie, la biphobie et la transphobie

## Survey

# Lesbians visibility and lesbophobia in France

7 126 participants

59 % have been victims of lesbophobia over the past two years.

18 % never engage in public demonstrations of affection.

### What is lesbophobia ?

It is a form of **social stigma** against lesbians and women thought to be lesbians. It is expressed through **negative stereotypes** such as «lesbians are truck drivers», «between two women, it's actually not really sexual intercourse», **verbal abuse**, such as insults, threats, mockery, **physical aggressions** (punches, wounds, rapes, murders etc.) and **psychological violence**. It is also expressed through multiple types of **discriminations** : denial of service (in restaurants/hotels) or paid holidays... And this, in all dimensions of life: the public sphere, families, friends, work, neighbourhood and health...As gayphobia, transphobia and biphobia, lesbophobia is a very **specific phenomenon**. It is related to how a specific society judges the fact of being a **homosexual woman**.

\*The answers were given by the 7 126 respondents.

# Lesbophobia

Over the past two years, you have been confronted to lesbophobia\* :

## 45% in the public sphere

### Manifestations :

insults.....	74 %
mockeries.....	47 %
lack of understanding.....	23 %

### Consequences :

you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	29 %
you are anxious .....	23 %
you have suffered from depression .....	10 %

## 14% within their family

### Manifestations :

lack of understanding .....	72 %
rejection.....	66 %
insults.....	38 %

### Consequences :

you have cut ties with some of your loved ones.....	41 %
you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	38 %
you have suffered from depression .....	37 %

## 11% at work

### Manifestations :

mockeries.....	48 %
lack of understanding.....	36 %
rejection.....	36 %

### Consequences :

you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	29 %
your career has been affected.....	27 %
you have suffered from depression .....	23 %

## 8% in school

### Manifestations :

mockeries.....	71 %
insults.....	58 %
rejection.....	50 %

\* An act of lesbophobia can manifest itself in various ways as well as have multiple consequences. The numbers in each section include the 4,222 respondents who have been victims of lesbophobia and the figures detailed in each section relate to the respondents specific to that section.

### Consequences :

you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	35 %
you have suffered from depression .....	35 %
your studies has been affected .....	34 %

## 6% from friends and close circles

### Manifestations :

lack of understanding.....	62 %
rejection.....	51 %
mockeries.....	46 %

### Consequences :

you have cut ties with some of your friends .....	34 %
you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	31 %
you are anxious .....	23 %

## 3% on Internet

### Manifestations :

insults.....	70 %
rejection.....	55 %
discriminations .....	26 %

### Consequences :

you are anxious .....	32 %
you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	26 %
you have closed yourself up .....	16 %

## 3% from the neighbourhood

### Manifestations :

insults.....	58 %
mockeries.....	40 %
rejection.....	23 %

### Consequences :

you are anxious .....	30 %
you have had more difficulties in openly living your homosexuality .....	26 %

68% of the respondents declare that the act of lesbophobia has had some form of consequence. Those consequences are :

psychological	63 %
practical	30 %
physical	10 %

# Respondents' profiles

Age : mostly under 30 years old



Place of residency : urban and regional areas  
60% live outside of the Ile-de-France, 30% in the Île-de-France and 5% in French overseas territories and abroad.  
45% live in cities of over 200,000 inhabitants.

Relationship status : Single and with no children  
70% are declared single, 13% in a civil partnership, 11% in a common-law marriage and 1% are married. A little over 10 % of the respondents have one or more children.

Sexual orientation : lesbians  
78% define themselves as lesbians, 16% as bisexuals, 1% heterosexuals and 5% as other or undefined.

Professional situation :  
36% are students. 21% are employed, 20% are senior managers and professional.

## The conduct of the survey

The gathering of data for the survey was conducted from **march 30th to july 20th 2013**, via the Internet using SOS homophobie's website, as well as via other tools of broadcast, throughout the country: stands at LGBT events, meetings with respondents in public areas, presentation of the questionnaire to other organizations..

## The publication of the report

The report presenting all the results and their analysis was released on 25th November 2014 during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The French Ministry for Women's Rights officially supports SOS Homophobie



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