

# **Impact of Anti- Gender Opposition on TGD and LGBTQI Movements**

## **Global Report**

**2023**



## Copyright © 2023 GATE

This work may be reproduced and redistributed, in whole or in part, without alteration and without prior written permission, solely for non-profit advocacy and/or educational purposes provided all copies contain the following statement:

© 2023 GATE. This work is reproduced and distributed with the permission of GATE. No other use is permitted without the express prior written permission of GATE. For permission, contact [gate@gate.ngo](mailto:gate@gate.ngo)

**Author:** GATE

**Editing, design and layout:** Gabriel de Larch

**Suggested citation:**

GATE. (2023). *Impact of Anti-Gender Opposition on TGD and LGBTQI Movements: Global Report*. New York: GATE.

## About GATE

**GATE is an international advocacy organization working towards justice and equality for trans, gender diverse and intersex communities.** Rooted in our movements, we work collaboratively with strategic partners at the global level to provide knowledge, resources and access to international institutions and processes. Our vision is a world free from human rights violations based on gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Our strategy is to transform the landscape of global advocacy, knowledge creation and resource distribution through critical inclusion of trans, gender diverse and intersex movements at all levels of political, legal, and socio-economic processes.

Find out more about GATE by visiting [www.gate.ngo](http://www.gate.ngo)



# Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation goes out to the GATE team, both current and former, for collaborating in all aspects of the creation of this Report.

Special thanks to GATE's partner organizations who supported GATE in distributing the Survey that informed the Report to TGD and LGBTQI organizations and collectives in their networks: ILGA World, TGEU, Trans\* Coalition, ECOM, Global Philanthropy Project, and APTN.

Our greatest respect and appreciation for the TGD, LGBTQI, and ally activists from all over the world who participated in the Survey and provided input that made this Report possible.

# Glossary

## **AG**

Anti-gender: The anti-gender movement is an international movement which opposes what it refers to as “gender ideology”, “gender theory”, or “genderism” (Kováts, Eszter, 2016)

## **BIPOC**

Black, Indigenous and People of Color

## **Centrist**

Someone who supports the center of the range of political opinions

## **Far-Right**

Includes “persons or groups who hold extreme nationalist, xenophobic, racist, religious fundamentalist, or other reactionary views”

## **Gender-Critical**

Believing that sex is a fact of biology that cannot be changed, and doubting the idea of gender identity (a person’s feeling of being male, female, or another identity, especially when this is different from the sex they were assigned at birth)

## **Left-Wing**

Political parties, groups or people who believe that wealth and power should be shared among all parts of society

## **LGBTQI**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex



**LGR**

Legal gender recognition

**Mixed**

The group's ideological stances are not homogenous; they are mixed between left-wing and right-wing stances

**PWDs**

Persons with disabilities

**Right-Wing**

Political parties, groups or people that have traditional opinions, and who believe in low taxes, the private ownership of property and industry, and less aid to the poor

**TGD**

Trans and gender diverse

**TGDI**

Trans, gender diverse, and intersex

**Trans-Exclusionary Radical "Feminists" / TERFs**

A radical wing of feminism that rejects the assertion that trans women are women, the inclusion of trans women in women's spaces, and trans rights. (The word "Feminists" has been placed in quotation marks to highlight how the TERF movement does not subscribe to the generally accepted definition of feminism, which is a movement primarily about gender equality).

# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Positionality</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Methodology and How to Understand the Data</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Who took part in the Survey .....	14
<b>Global Trends</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Regional and Country Cards</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Africa</b> .....	<b>24</b>
The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) .....	31
South Africa .....	33
Uganda .....	37
<b>Asia (excluding Central Asia)</b> .....	<b>40</b>
Bangladesh .....	45
Mongolia .....	46
Nepal .....	48
Thailand .....	50

<b>Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia</b> .....	<b>51</b>
Aotearoa (New Zealand) .....	58
Australia .....	64
<b>EECA Region: Eastern Europe and Central Asia</b> .....	<b>66</b>
Armenia .....	73
Bulgaria .....	76
Croatia .....	78
Estonia .....	80
Georgia .....	83
Kazakhstan .....	87
Montenegro .....	89
Romania .....	91
Russia .....	92
Serbia .....	96
Tajikistan .....	98
<b>Europe (excluding Eastern Europe and the Caucasus)</b> .....	<b>101</b>
Denmark .....	108
Germany .....	109
Italy .....	113
Malta .....	118
Netherlands .....	119



Norway .....	121
Portugal .....	125
Spain .....	127
Switzerland .....	129
United Kingdom (UK) .....	131
<b>LAC Region: Latin America and the Caribbean .....</b>	<b>135</b>
Argentina .....	142
Chile .....	145
Colombia .....	148
Costa Rica .....	150
El Salvador .....	152
Mexico .....	154
<b>North America .....</b>	<b>157</b>
Canada .....	163
United States of America (USA) .....	165
<b>Conclusions and Recommendations .....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Summary of Recommendations .....</b>	<b>171</b>
Donors .....	171
Decision-makers .....	172
Activists .....	172

Over the past decade, there has been a significant rise in the visibility and awareness of trans and gender diverse (TGD) people on a global scale. However, this has been coupled with a corresponding intensification of misinformation and narratives that aim to restrict, retract or prevent the rights of TGD people and communities in accessing basic general healthcare and gender-affirming healthcare, legal gender recognition, education, and employment, as well as restricting their rights to safety and free movement, privacy, family life, and removing the protection of their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. The individuals, organizations, and institutions behind the narratives driving this alarming global backlash against trans and gender diverse communities are collectively referred to as the 'anti-gender movement'.

The anti-gender (AG) movement is not solely focused on targeting trans and gender diverse communities. They target bodily autonomy by restricting or removing access to family planning services. They target informational and healthcare access through the limitation or removal of comprehensive sexual health education, and access to corresponding services (including HIV-related protection, and prevention). They target freedom of movement by driving anti-migrant and racist narratives. They build upon collective social fears of the unknown to drive hate and violence toward marginalized communities, all under the guise of upholding the 'status quo' of subjective concepts of 'family values', 'normality,' 'acceptability,' and 'national identity'. Their rhetoric drives division, reinforces social stigma, and encourages violence towards a huge number of intersecting communities, including women, young people, Black, indigenous and Latinx people and people of color, D/deaf and disabled people, people from a migrant background, single parent families, intersex people, people living with HIV, sex workers, and the LGBTQI community as a whole.

As the only global organization focused solely on the collective equality of trans, gender diverse, and intersex (TGDI) people, GATE's report highlights the effect of the anti-gender movement on TGDI people and communities. However, the findings of this Report are reflective of narratives that target any number of marginalized communities and can be read through various lenses. We hope that this will be just one of many reports that aim to expose the agenda of the anti-gender movement and counter hate-driven narratives that only serve to segregate and separate humanity.

*Erika Castellanos*

**Executive Director, GATE**



# Introduction



# Introduction

Conservative movements and those groups who oppose the equality of trans and gender diverse (TGD) individuals, or equality in general, are not new phenomena. However, in the past two decades, the opposition to the concept of gender, gender equality, and other socially progressive and emancipatory ideas and movements has become a more organized, global, and interconnected network of movements, which sometimes brings together actors that otherwise have divergent political stances and agendas, ranging from ultraconservative to seemingly socially progressive. This oppositional movement has become known as the anti-gender (AG) movement. The findings of this Report based on the survey conducted, together with wider academic and NGO/activist literature on the topic, shows that trans and gender diverse (TGD) equality is one of the key areas of contestation for most AG movements, and thus TGD/TGDI (trans, gender diverse, and intersex) populations usually represent one of the main targets for AG attacks. Due to entrenched patriarchal cis-hetero-normativity, TGD people and their rights become an effective weapon for AG actors to generate moral panic, social outrage, and fear, all under the veil of which larger anti-democratic and social hierarchal ideas and political agendas can be pushed forward.

As AG movements globally are becoming financially stronger and strategically more effective in advocating for their agendas, and as TGD and wider LGBTQI communities (as well as cis women, and other marginalized groups) are at the forefront of their manipulation strategies, through this survey, GATE sought to understand the nature of AG opposition and its impact on TGD and wider LGBTQI communities globally. While the primary interest of GATE is TGDI communities, we understand that in many geographical contexts, LGBTQI and TGD/I movements are not separate, as different geographical contexts have various types of activist organizing histories. In some contexts, trans, gender diverse, and intersex activism may comprise separate strands of a movement, while in others, intersex rights may not be part of the TGD, or wider movement. Furthermore, in many contexts, AG opposition is not directed at TGD/I communities specifically, but at all communities that fall outside of the cis-hetero-normative system. This has made it impossible to separately observe the impact of AG opposition on TGD communities.

The reader of this Report will find that there is some inconsistency in the amount of data coming from the various countries, with data being skewed in favor of some countries over others. This may be attributed, on the one hand, to GATE's and its partners' ability to reach all corners of the globe, while on the other hand, it may also be due to certain communities having security concerns or lacking access to information circulated in the global LGBTQI movement. Therefore, while far from being a comprehensive overview of all geographical contexts and all aspects of AG opposition and its impact on TGD rights and activism, this Report is intended to give an overview of the landscape of AG opposition in various parts of the world, the challenges faced by TGD and wider LGBTQI communities in their efforts to fight for equality in the light of such opposition, and the role of the (social) media in enabling and facilitating AG discourses, movement building, and violence.

GATE's aim with this Report is that it be an informative resource for donors, governments and policy-makers, and international organizations. We want to see the Report used as an instrument to continue discussions between donors and movements in order to increase and adapt the funding and other types of support available to the needs of TGD movements in the light of AG opposition. Our goal is for the Report to become a guide in the grant- and policy-making efforts to support TGD and TGD organizations and movements globally. The Report is also intended to reach TGD and wider LGBTQI and ally organizations with a view to enhancing our collective critical thinking on how mobilizing, strategizing, and available resources can be better utilized to improve the impact of the work of our movements.

The **Global Trends** section of this Report highlights the main trends observed globally. But as the contexts vary in various parts of the world, the Report also provides an analysis of regional trends before going into country-specific environment overviews. The Report culminates in a set of recommendations in the **Conclusions and Recommendations** section that pave the way for policy-makers and donors to consider tailoring their funding and policies to better support TGD and LGBTQI movements. This section of the Report may also be helpful to TGD/LGBTQI organizations and activists, and it may stimulate their ideas when discussing their strategic planning.

## Positionality

In this research project, GATE engaged in an intersectional feminist interpretivist framework of knowledge production. The interpretivist approach, in contrast to a positivist one, sees data not as an objective truth waiting to be discovered by researchers using 'pure' data collection methods, but sees data as cogenerated by the observer and the observed, embedded in various political and social power relations. Since data and analysis cannot be separated from the researcher's implicit prior assumptions, knowledge, political and religious views, gender, sexuality, and other identity categories, the feminist approach requires the researcher to critically reflect on their positionality. This allows research to be transparent and allows the reader to understand why and how the data collection and analysis took the form it did.

This study was carried out by **GATE – Global Action for Trans Equality**, which is an international advocacy organization campaigning globally for trans, gender diverse, and intersex (TGDI) equality.

GATE seeks to ensure that TGDI people can enjoy their human rights, and achieve the highest level of health and well-being possible. We do this through advocacy, knowledge generation, movement building, and capacity building and training. GATE focuses on advocating for the human rights of TGDI people, while also playing a pivotal role in strengthening the global TGDI movements through training, capacity building, resource mobilization, and political mobilization. Additionally, GATE prioritizes its institutional strengthening to ensure that we can continue to grow and develop as the leading advocacy and expert organization advancing the rights, health, and well-being of TGDI people in a sustainable way.

The contents of this Report reflect the vision and the values of the organization. This has influenced how the survey questionnaire was developed and how the data from the responses was analyzed.



## Methodology and How to Understand the Data

The Survey was conducted online and was available in English, Spanish, and Russian. Organizations were recruited to take part in the Survey through GATE's and its partners' communication channels and networks. The Survey was open to participants from July 26, 2022, to November 1, 2022, with the questions covering respondents' experiences over the previous 12 months. The data in this Report thus covers the period from July 2021 to July 2022.

SurveyMonkey was used for distribution and analysis of the Survey. As there were three different surveys – one per language – numerical data was calculated manually, which may have resulted in slight statistical errors. But, in general, due to the nature and the number of responses, and the Survey's purpose itself, the errors are not necessarily statistically significant, as the data was not intended for numerical (quantitative) analysis. More detailed information on methods or statistical significance can be obtained by [contacting the author](#).

### Who took part in the Survey

The Survey was designed to collect information from organizations and unregistered collectives that work specifically and primarily with TGD rights or, in contexts where TGD and LGBTQI activism is not separate, with wider LGBTQI people and issues. Survey participants needed to be TGD or LGBTQI specific, from any part of the world. Data from respondents affiliated with organizations or collectives that work on general human rights issues or other issues also covering TGD/LGBTQI communities and rights was also included in the analysis. In rare cases, respondents' organizational affiliation is unknown as respondents skipped the question. Those responses were included in the analysis in cases when it was deemed that the information provided was valuable, especially in contexts where information is scarce.

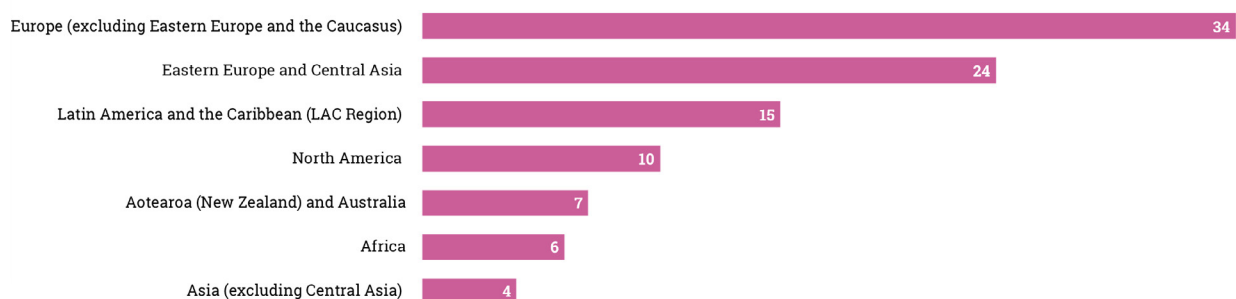
Due to the nature of the vulnerability of the TGD/LGBTQI community in general, as well as the sensitivity of and risks associated with the sharing of information sought in this Survey, participants were able to respond anonymously. This means that GATE does not have the means to check the accuracy and legitimacy of the data provided. Therefore, the presented data should be treated and understood accordingly.

It should also be noted that not all the responses were fully completed (the completion rate was 88%). We understand that the Survey is quite long and not everyone was able to afford sufficient time to fill it out fully.

Initially, the Survey, with all three languages combined, received 500 responses. However, 400 responses had to be discarded as many responses were incomplete and did not provide any substantial data that could be used for the analysis. Also, a large number of responses were from respondents who had explicit anti-gender/gender-critical/transphobic/TERF attitudes, aiming to sabotage the Survey. These attitudes were obvious in their responses, for example, (**content warning – transphobic language follows**) by calling trans women “men”, “rapists”, “sexual predators”, “pro-gender cults”, and so on. Some responses referred to GATE as “men’s rights activists”, calling on the organization to “return to reality”, to stop our efforts to push “biological men” into women’s only safe spaces, and to stop our efforts to erase the hard-gained “sex-based rights” for women. The majority of the transphobic respondents came from the Anglophone world. In particular, the vast majority of transphobic responses came from the UK, followed by the USA, and then Canada. A very small number of transphobic responses came from Australia and Aotearoa (New Zealand). This phenomenon indicates that these types of AG discussions among people who identify as feminists is taking place predominantly in the Anglophone part of the world.

In the end, only complete and legitimate responses – 100 in total – were analyzed. While this was a smaller data collection pool than the number of responses received, this analysis provides valuable information about the AG organizing landscape, and its impact on TGD and wider LGBTQI communities.

### Respondents by region (%)





# **Global Trends**

Impact of Anti-Gender Opposition on TGD and LGBTQI Movements | Global Report  
**GATE | Global Action for Trans Equality | 2023**

# Global Trends

While the situation of TGD and wider LGBTQI rights and activism, as well as the nature of AG opposition, varies significantly in different parts of the world, there are several noteworthy global trends that were observed in the responses to this Survey.

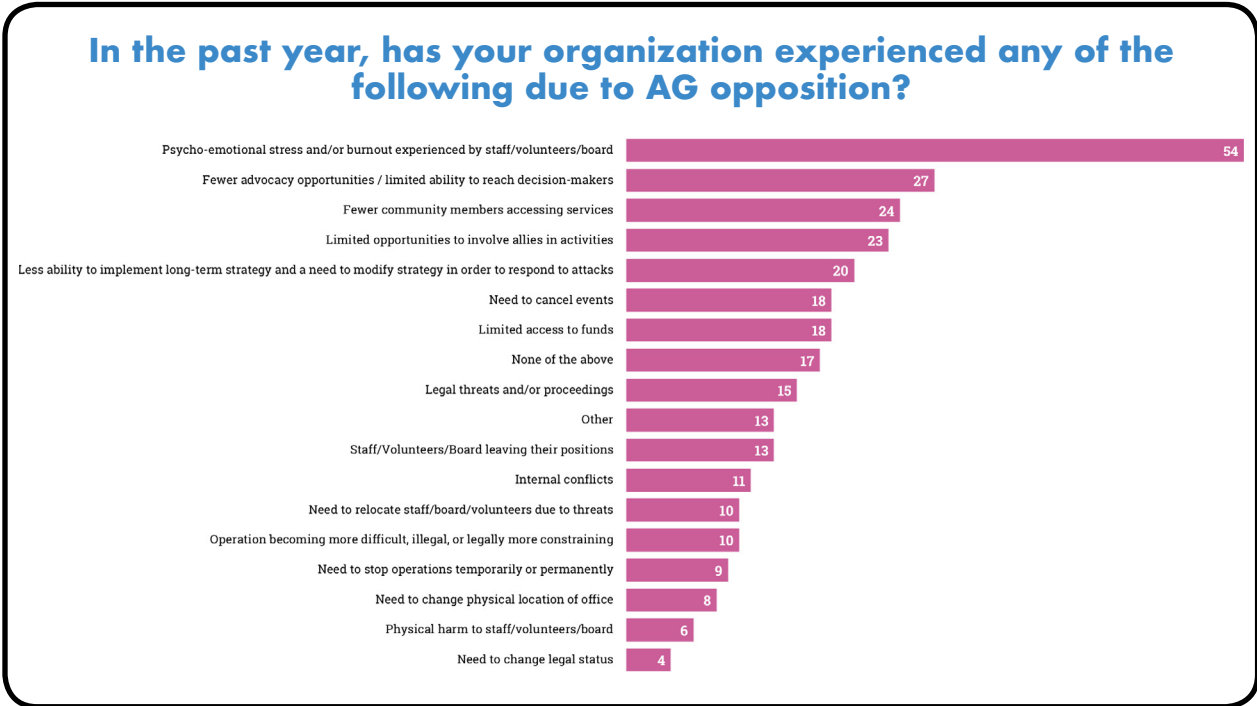
Globally, “family values”, sex education, abortion, children’s protection, and “Western ideas” represent the main discursive topics that AG actors use in their public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. A possible explanation for this is that these issues remain topics that generate public fear and outrage in most contexts around the world. Another explanation may lie in the nature of the global AG movement, as AG actors from various parts of the world are usually well-connected and share strategies and ideas with each other that are effective for pushing their agenda.

It is also noteworthy that the Survey shows that AG groups in most contexts are either from right-wing or mixed political ideological stances. The AG movement’s right-wing political ideological affiliation is not surprising. But the Survey shows that right-wing contexts are not the exclusive ideological domain hosting AG movements. Many AG actors are mixed in their political ideological stances, and/or some actors also come from left-wing political ideological stances.

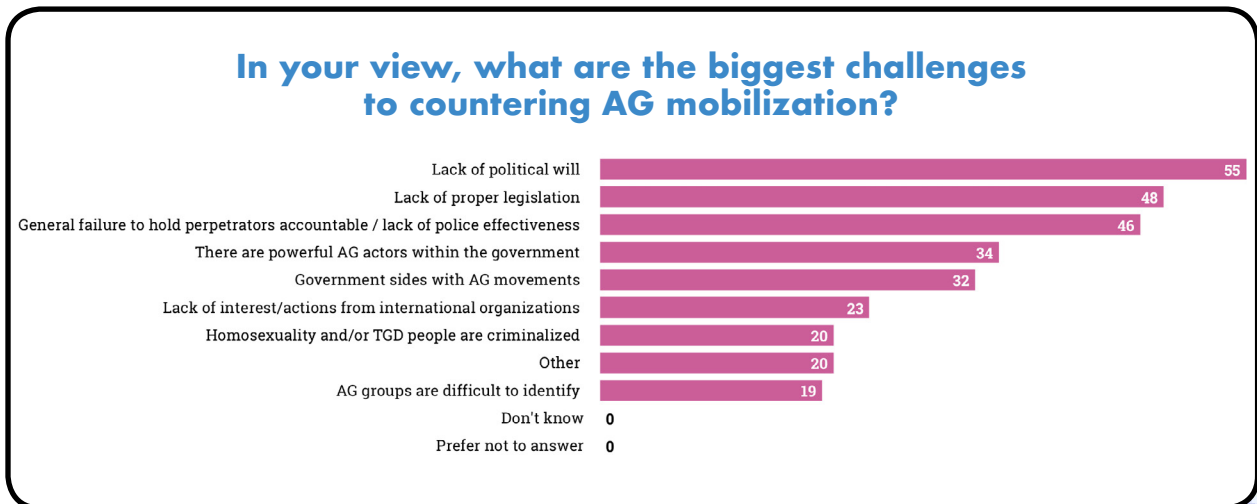
AG opposition negatively impacts groups fighting for the equality of TGD and wider LGBTQI communities, as well as other socially progressive and emancipatory/pro-equality actors. The responses to this Survey show that in the case of TGD and wider LGBTQI rights groups, AG opposition impacts these human rights movements in three main ways:

1. Psycho-emotional stress among activists, often leading to burnout. This is a significant impact as the well-being of activists is the most important factor in the ability of the organization to carry out its work effectively.
2. Advocacy opportunities become more limited, and activists have less capacity to reach decision-makers. This leads to limited access to funds, which puts constraints on their ability to fight for equality.

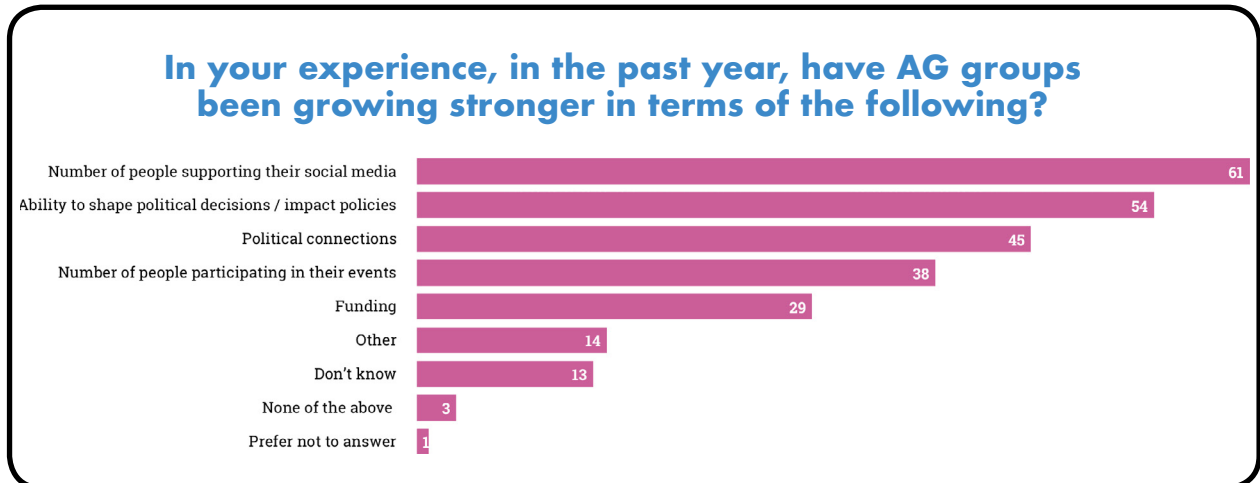
3. Many community members are no longer able to access TGD/LGBTQI organizations' services, which leaves them in even more vulnerable situations, especially when it comes to life-saving services related to HIV, psycho-emotional support, and other medical, social, and legal assistances.



While there might not be a universal recipe to effectively counteract AG opposition globally, the respondents indicated that the biggest challenges to counteracting AG opposition are the lack of political will, lack of proper legislation, and general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.



As respondent answers indicate, policy-makers are not working hard enough to counteract or limit the increasing influence and strength of the AG actors globally, and are in many cases supporting these actors. The responses show that AG actors are becoming stronger in many ways – most importantly in their ability to effectively use the abovementioned topics in conjunction with effective communication strategies to gain more public support. Moreover, AG actors globally are also bettering their political connections, and their ability to shape and impact political decisions, and policies.



This increase in support for AG movements is alarming as, in many contexts, AG groups engage in or incite violence directed at vulnerable groups, and are successfully influencing policy developments impacting TGD/LGBTQI communities. One of the main weapons used by AG groups is creating and spreading false, deliberately misleading, and harmful information. While traditional media is often the source of AG discourses, it needs to be highlighted that social media platforms are the main domains enabling the spread of false, misleading, and harmful information. With the massive numbers of people on social media, this information reaches larger amounts of people than through traditional media outlets, and allows AG actors to gain the support of the public, thereby allowing AG actors to plan and execute their incitement to or perpetration of violent actions against vulnerable communities.

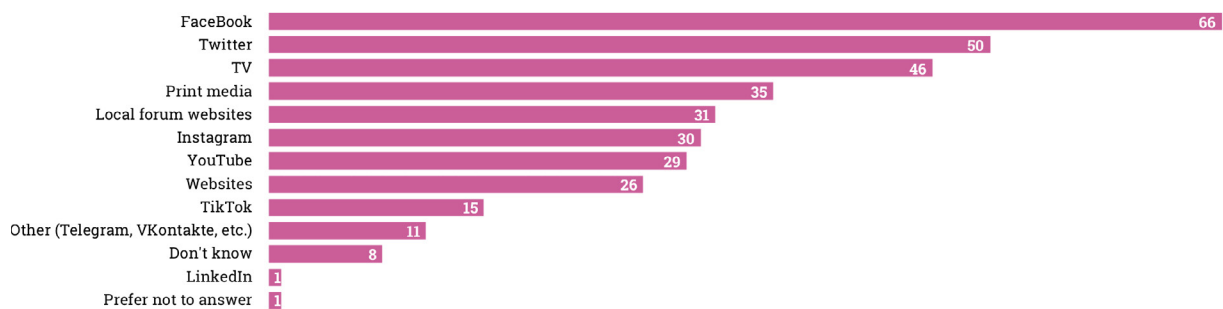


### Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization?



As Facebook and Twitter are some of the most widely used social media platforms globally, it is not surprising that AG actors are using these platforms for their agenda.

### Which media channels do AG groups use most?



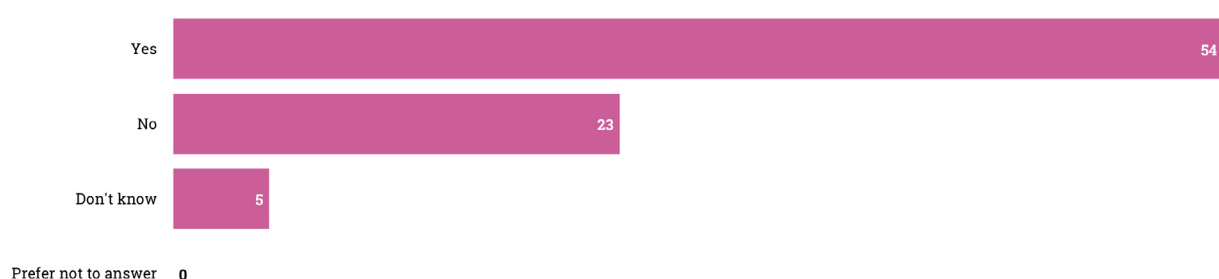
One of the ways in which social media platforms enable AG discourses, movements, and their violent actions is through ignoring their own rules or enforcing them very loosely. While, in a lot of cases, activists report false and harmful social media posts authored by AG groups, reports frequently get overlooked by social media platforms, and the content rarely gets taken down.

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
The social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to  
prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news  
and/or the planning of violent actions?**

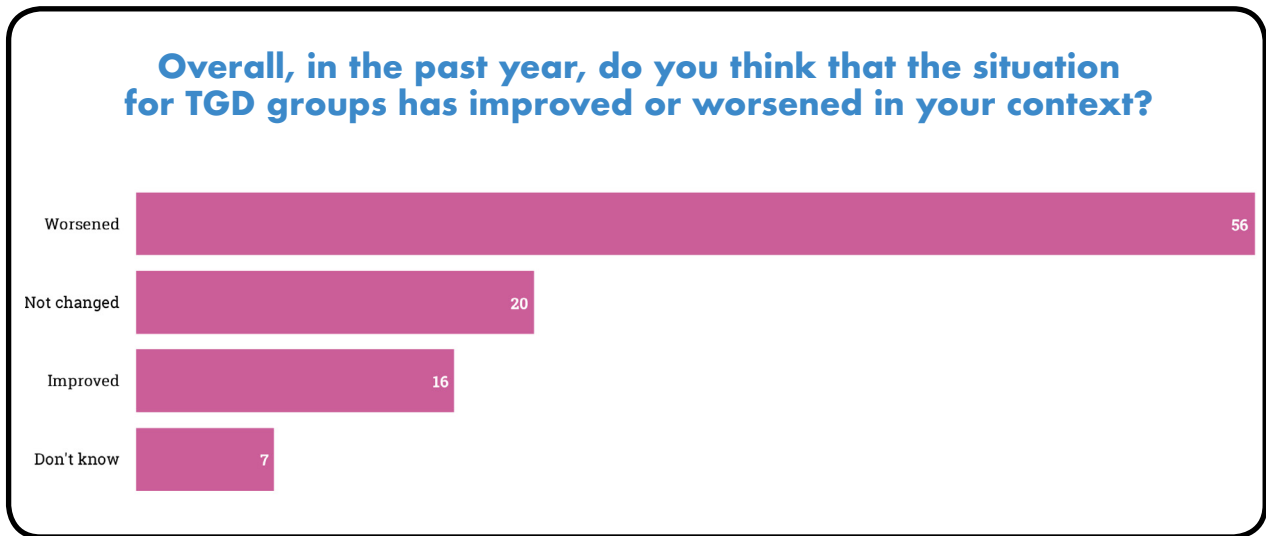


This lack of responsibility on the part of social media platforms in protecting their users leads to activists not always reporting social media posts by AG actors and groups.

**Have you reported AG social media posts?**



In this environment, it is not surprising that most of the respondents think that the human rights situation for TGD communities in their contexts is worsening.



To summarize, the data in this section clearly shows that social media platforms tend to be the main domains where AG groups spread transphobic and other types of hate, and mobilize support. Despite the scale and the power of social media, as well as their financial resources, they tend not to sufficiently implement rules or invest in the safety of their platforms by removing false and misleading information, or other harmful activities from their platforms.



# **Regional and Country Cards**

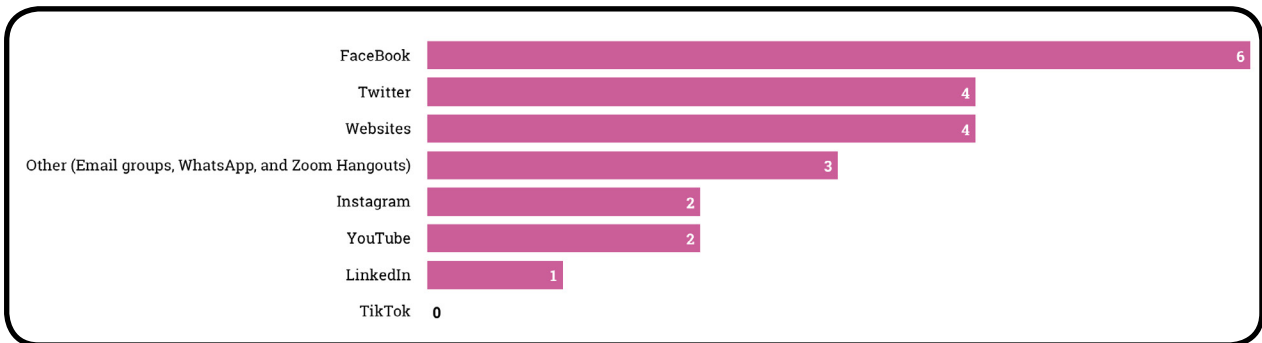
Impact of Anti-Gender Opposition on TGD and LGBTQI Movements | Global Report  
**GATE | Global Action for Trans Equality | 2023**

# Africa

## Respondents' Profile

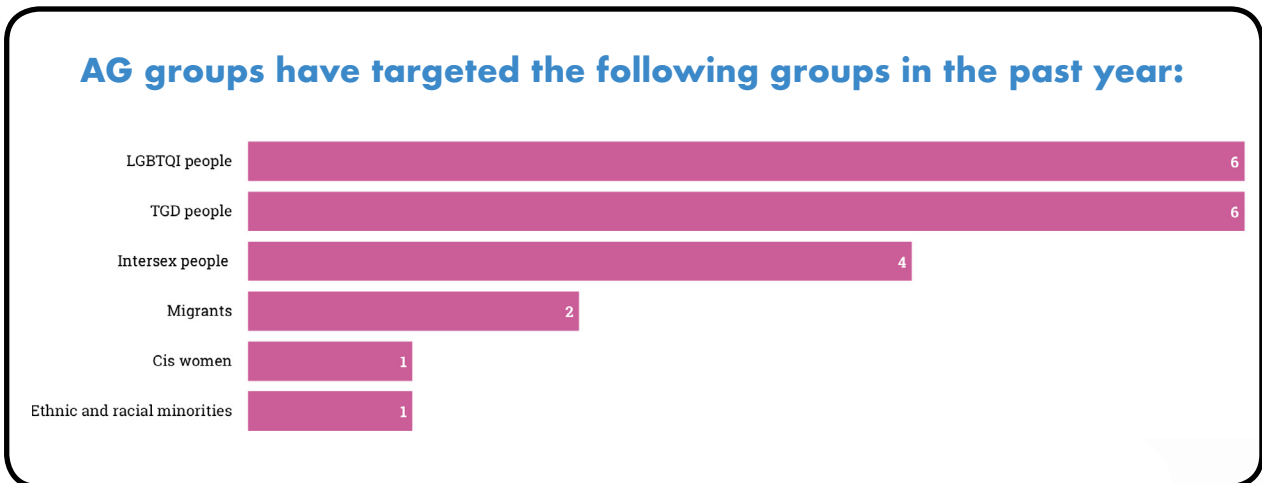
6 Valid responses were received from the Africa region, with 4 respondents being affiliated with a TGD-focused organization or collective, 1 with an LGBTQI organization or collective, and 1 with an organization or collective mainly focused on other human rights issues.

The main communication channels used by these African pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups to communicate with their constituents are the following:



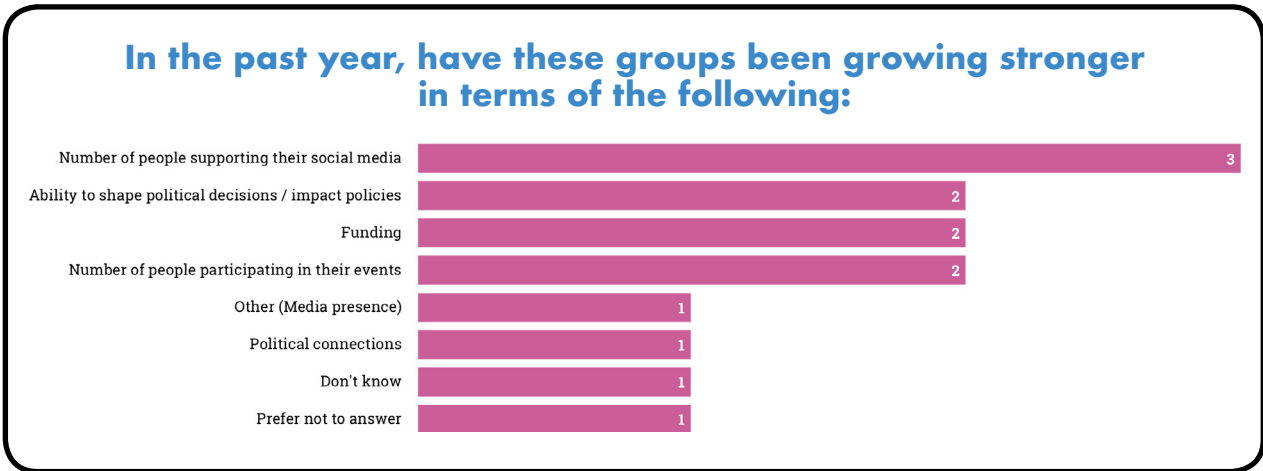
## AG Actors

In the Africa region, respondents report that some AG groups are government actors, and some AG group members are part of the governments themselves. Some AG groups are represented as political parties and have seats in electable bodies (i.e., parliaments). Respondents categorize these groups as mixed on the political ideology spectrum, but some are right- or left-wing in their political ideological stances. The lack of proper investigation of alleged crimes committed by AG actors is a huge challenge, according to respondents.



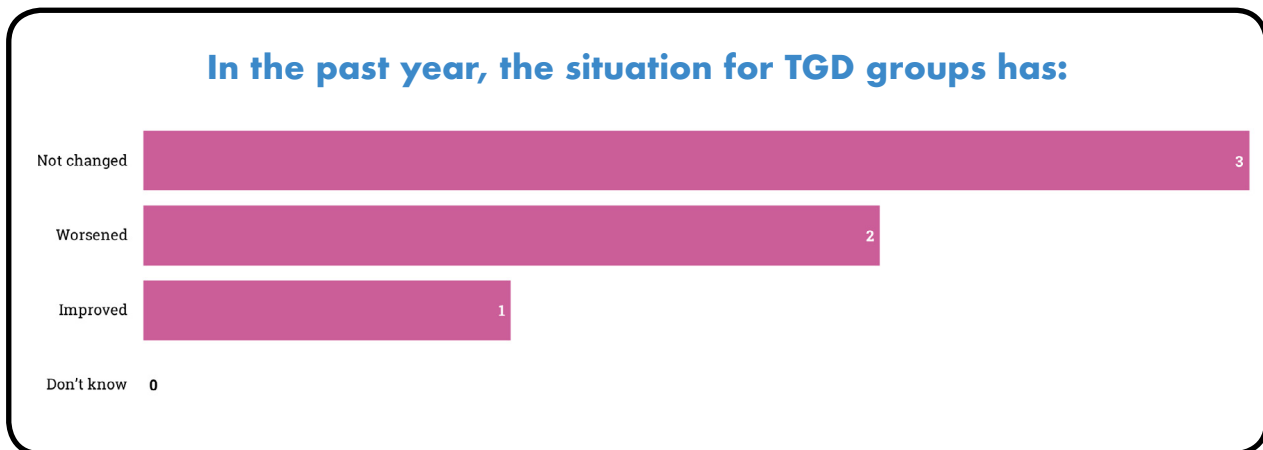


AG actors focus on sex education, sex work, freedom of expression, “family values”, and “western ideas” in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. These focuses strengthen the AG agenda as its support base grows.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Most respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities in Africa has not changed in the past year, or that it has been worsening in their contexts.



Respondents report that their organizations/collectives receive verbal abuse, which is frequently coordinated between various AG actors. Physical abuse also occurs and is sometimes coordinated between various AG actors. In most cases, the authorities were not notified about these attacks. Respondents indicate that threats against them and their organizations/collectives mostly take place on social networks.

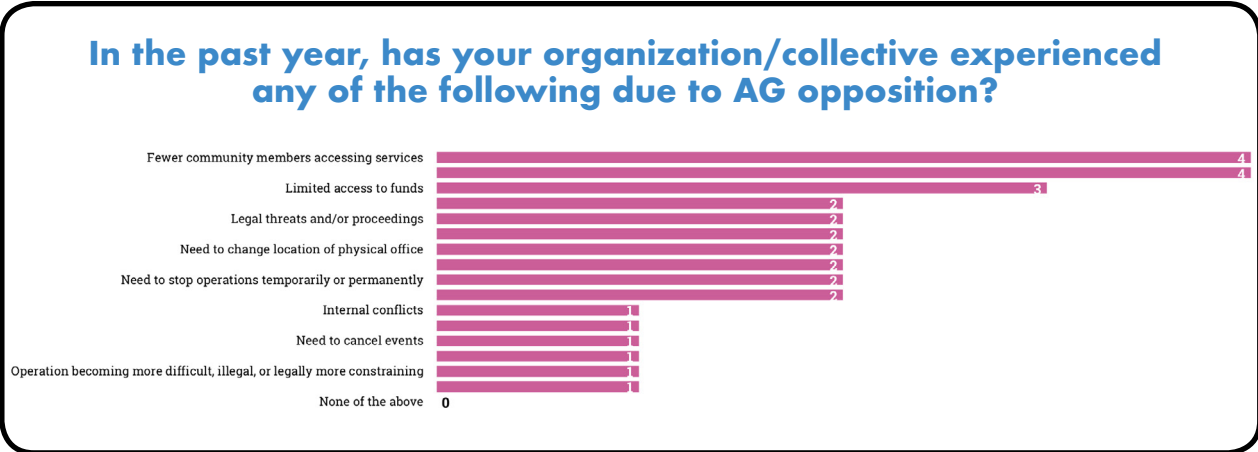
**In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced verbal attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?**



**In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced physical attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?**

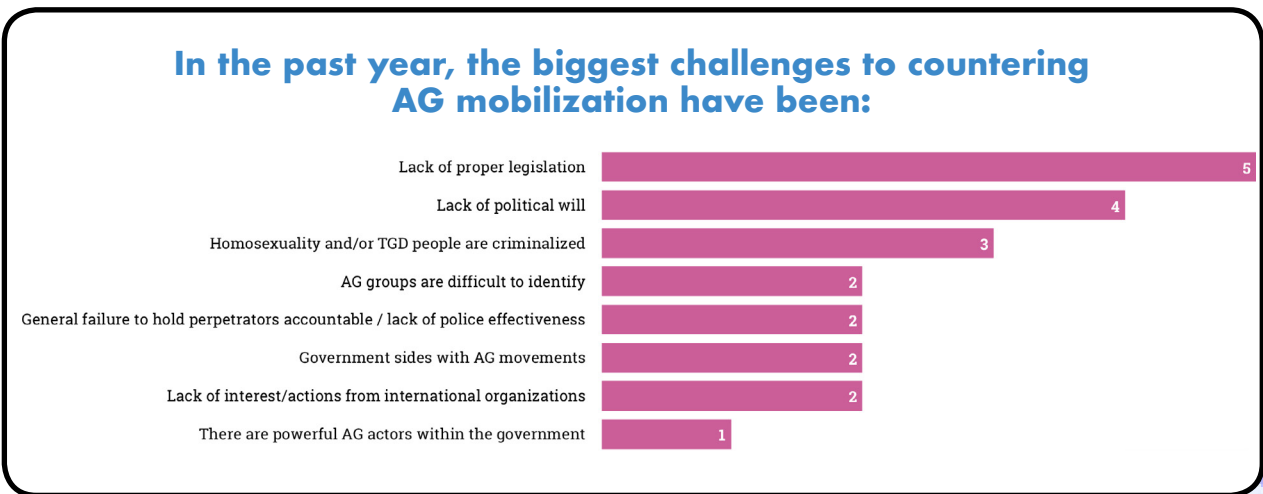


According to respondents, AG opposition results in the following serious challenges to TGD/LGBTQI and wider human rights activism: psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by activists, as well as fewer community members accessing services are the leading issues. Besides these, the most significant problem activists face is limited access to funds, which puts constraints on their ability to fight for equality.



According to respondents, AG actors have managed to influence policies and legal developments impacting TGD communities in Africa in the past year.

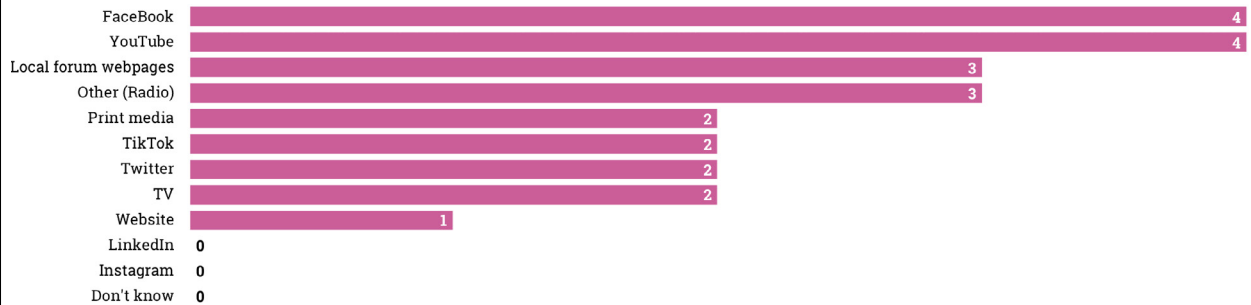
Respondents believe that lack of proper legislation and political will are the main barriers to countering AG opposition in their contexts. In several contexts, homosexuality and/or TGD people are criminalized, which also hinders activists from counteracting AG opposition. This can be explained by the fact that in several contexts, governments side with AG actors.



## Role of the Media

Respondents indicate that AG groups engage in the creation and spread of fake, misleading, and harmful news relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, radio, and local forum webpages to spread and gain support for their agenda.

### Media channels used most by AG groups in the past year



Respondents' experiences show that social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable homophobic and transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules to protect their users by removing false, misleading, and harmful information, or other harmful activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



In most cases, the social media posts of AG actors don't get reported, and when they are reported, reports mostly get ignored, and content rarely gets taken down.

**In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned**



On the other end of the spectrum, human rights posts related to TGD communities sometimes get blocked as social media platforms label them as “political”.

The pages that follow provide a breakdown of the data from the Africa region by country.

# The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with an unregistered collective that focuses on LGBTQI issues in one of the DRC's provinces. This collective uses FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, and a webpage to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, the DRC government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. AG actors are not political parties. They receive funding but this information is not made public, or is hidden. They target ethnic/racial minorities and TGD/LGBTQI communities. They are categorized as left-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Information relating to their coordination or engagement in violence was not reported in the Survey.

The respondent indicates that AG groups have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting their social media, funding, and ability to shape political decisions and/or impact policies in the past year. Local law agencies seem to be supportive of AG actors and groups. The respondent names lack of proper legislation, lack of interest/actions from international organizations, and the criminalization of homosexuality and/or TGD people as the major barriers to counteracting AG opposition.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In the respondent's view, the situation for TGD/LGBTQI groups has not changed in the DRC in the past year. The respondent states that verbal attacks happen:

“Street, churches and traditional leader often persecute LGBTQI in the Democratic Republic of Congo.”

These threats are coordinated between various AG actors. Harassment, physical attacks, and threats coordinated between various AG groups were also reported to police. In none of the cases was an investigation opened by the authorities, due to a lack of proper legislation.

Due to AG opposition, the collective affiliated with the respondent has experienced limited access to funds, fewer community members accessing services, and the need to stop operations temporarily or permanently.

## Role of the Media

AG actors in the DRC engage in the creation and spread of false information relating to TGD communities using FaceBook and YouTube as the platforms used to communicate with their audiences. The respondent fully agrees that the social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and somewhat agrees that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading, and/or violent actions from being planned.

# South Africa

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from South Africa, with both respondents being affiliated with a registered organization with national coverage. 1 Respondent is affiliated with an organization that works with TGD communities, while the other works for a human rights organization that focuses on general human rights issues, not including LGBTQI rights. The respondent affiliated with a TGD organization reports that they use FaceBook, a webpage, WhatsApp Groups, and Zoom Hangouts to communicate with their constituency.

## AG Actors

Alleged crimes committed by AG groups in South Africa sometimes remain uninvestigated, according to the TGD organization respondent (first respondent), who states that

“While a small number of government officials have made anti-gender statements, the government is by and large more supportive of gender-affirming CSOs. The anti-gender movement gains impetus from outside the country, it is felt, and the government does not take their threat seriously.”

The human rights organization respondent (second respondent) says,

“A very small party in Parliament, the African Christian Democratic Party, opposes ‘gender ideology’, same-sex marriage, abortion, and vaccinations. The top three largest parties in Parliament are all quite progressive in those areas to various degrees. The voters who support all of these parties are, however, typically more anti-LGBTQI.”

The first respondent reports that AG actors mostly target LGBTQI, TGD, intersex, and migrant groups:

“A majority of victims of hate crimes are people of colour living in poverty, but this is not a ‘minority’ in the South African context. A majority of the anti-gender debate as it would be recognized in the global north (academics, op-eds in the media, issues of school and sport and Healthcare etc) seems to take place within a white middle-class bubble.”

According to the second respondent,

“Physical violence (hate crimes) appears to be sporadic and disorganized. The actual anti-gender advocates are focused on policy/law reform and ‘changing hearts and minds’ via social media and analog media. There have not to my knowledge been explicit instances of incitement to violence by these groups in the media, but I believe that they are fanning the flames by framing LGBTQI people as dangerous or perverse or sick. The media and government do not seem to take this notion seriously, as their actions have rarely crossed the line of the law.”

This respondent also says that

“While there is a lot of backlash in black communities to LGBT+ people being ‘un-African’ or ‘Satanic’, the anti-gender movement in particular focuses on ‘protecting children’, ‘freedom of thought and speech’, ‘fairness in sport’, ‘women’s rights / sex-based rights’ and ‘science vs emotions’. Essentially, the arguments we see in places like the US and UK are transplanted verbatim into the South African discourse. Almost all of the most prominent anti-gender advocates and groups have a religious spin to them (be it Christianity, Judaism, or Islam) but they appear to downplay the religious element of it in favour of gaining wider support by focusing on legislation, children, and science – things that people of different faiths or no faith can all identify with.”

Respondents categorize AG actors in South Africa as mixed or right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. No information about their coordination is known by respondents.

In terms of AG actors becoming stronger, a respondent says,

“I cannot tell with any certainty whether they are getting stronger in any of the above categories, but I believe they probably are. At the very least I know for a fact that they are becoming louder and more prominent in the media and online. Whether their support is growing or not, they are becoming bolder and more prominent in the digital, print and broadcast landscape.”

The main barriers mentioned by respondents to countering AG opposition are a lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, and AG groups being difficult to identify.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

One respondent believes that the situation for TGD rights in South Africa has not changed, while the other reports that it has been improving in the past year.

Respondents have experienced AG attacks in the past year. One respondent stated,

“I don’t know if there has been anything coordinated against the organisation, but some snarky social media comments here and there (typical stuff about ‘groomers’ and such). I personally have received a few attacks, though as an individual trans person rather than a representative of an organisation. There have been occasions where on FaceBook or such I’d make a comment on an article supporting trans rights and equality, or respond to a transphobe, and a swarm of clearly organised transphobes would mass-report all my posts to get the FaceBook AI to take them down, and laugh-react at photos of me. It would be like an unending swarm of wasps had descended upon me leaving me no choice but to run because there are too many of them to respond to each in kind. It has led me to keep my FaceBook posts open to just my friends where previously I was very proud of being an ‘open book’.”

The other respondent states that verbal attacks take place on social media:

“Predominantly on social media when one publishes articles. My photo has been shared in an anti-trans groups page and derogatory terms used. FaceBook did not want to remove it”.

These incidents were not reported to authorities because of a lack of trust between TGD/LGBTQI community members and the police:

“I did not report to the authorities as nothing would have come of it. Even physical hate crimes take forever to be investigated and rarely see justice. Online harassment would not be taken seriously.”

No physical attacks or threats were reported in the Survey by the respondents.

Respondents report the following impact on their organizations as resulting from AG opposition in South Africa: fewer advocacy opportunities, a limited ability to reach decision-makers, less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify their strategies to respond to attacks, fewer community members accessing services, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

Respondents were unsure whether AG actors influenced any policy developments in the past year:

“I cannot say with any certainty that this is the result of anti-gender movements, but a policy on trans inclusion in schools was watered down to a set of guidelines for LGBTQI inclusion broadly, the department of home affairs has adopted a slightly more cumbersome process to apply for gender marker change, talks on having nonbinary gender markers seem to have stalled, and a bill on child welfare had provisions banning IGM removed (to be revisited later in a yet-to-be drafted bill).”

## Role of the Media

TV, print media, FaceBook, and Twitter were named as the main communication channels used by AG actors in South Africa. One incident was reported to the social media platform by a respondent, but the content was not taken down.

In terms of the overall assessment of the role of social media, the respondent (the other respondent skipped these questions) fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Uganda

## Respondents' Profile

3 Valid responses were received from Uganda. All respondents are affiliated with unregistered collectives that work with TGD communities. Their main communication channels with their constituents are FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, webpages, and email groups.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that some AG actors in Uganda are in government (MPs and ministers), that AG actors have coordinated communication with each other, and that the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by these actors. Moreover, respondents claim that the government financially supports AG actors. 1 Respondent states that the government is the main AG actor in the country. AG actors target cis women, migrants, religious minorities, LGBTQI, TGD, and intersex communities, and use sex education, "family values", and "western ideas" as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. Respondents report that AG groups are growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and more people are participating in their events and providing them with more funding, political power, and connections, thereby increasing their ability to impact policies.

The main barriers mentioned by respondents to counteracting AG opposition are lack of proper legislation, homosexuality being criminalized, the government being one of the key AG actors, lack of interest from international organizations, and the general failure to hold perpetrators accountable.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

2 Respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities in Uganda is worsening in their country, while 1 respondent states that the situation has not changed in the past year.

According to respondents, TGD activists have experienced verbal attacks in Uganda in the past year. Certain minority collectives have closed, and others were denied registration. Respondents report receiving threats to close their organization with accusations of promoting homosexuality. 1 Respondent states,

“The ministry of foreign affairs responsible for the registration of our organization has been selective when it comes to registering LGBT organizations. This has drastically affected the work done by LGBT organizations.”

These incidents were not reported to authorities, since respondents did not believe that these incidents would be investigated, due to a lack of political will. These attacks were coordinated between different AG actors. Some attacks have been reported to police but were never investigated due to a lack of proper legislation, and a lack of political will.

Respondents also report that they experience physical attacks. 1 Respondent indicates that

“Some of our members were physically attacked and assaulted after being found with their partner.”

1 Respondent reported the case to the authorities, while another did not. The reported case was opened by authorities, but was never fully investigated.

According to respondents, the most significant challenges experienced by TGD organizations as a result of AG opposition are the following: psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, physical harm to staff/volunteers/board, the need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, fewer community members accessing services, and the need to change the physical location of their offices. 1 Respondent also reports the following challenges: need to change legal status, need to stop operations temporarily or permanently, need to cancel events, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify strategy in order to respond to attacks, internal conflicts, and legal threats and/or proceedings.

In the last year, according to respondents, AG actors have not influenced any policy that targets the TGD community in Uganda.

## Role of the Media

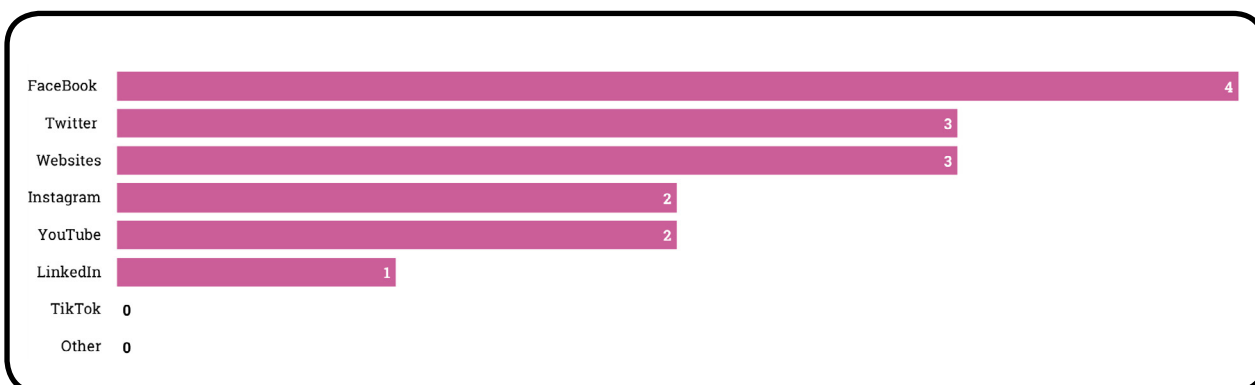
Respondents indicate that AG actors actively engage in creating and spreading false information about TGD communities in Uganda, and mostly use local forum webpages and FaceBook, followed by TV and print media, Twitter, and webpages to communicate with their audiences. Respondents fully (2) or somewhat (1) agree that social media platforms are the main mobilization means for AG actors, and fully agree that these platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their community safety rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading, and/or violent actions from being planned. In the Survey, respondents did not report any pro-human rights posts being blocked on any social media platforms.

# Asia (excluding Central Asia)

## Respondents' Profile

5 Valid responses were received from the Asia (excluding Central Asia) region, with 1 respondent being affiliated with a TGD-focused organization, 2 with LGBTQI organizations, and 1 with an organization mainly focused on other human rights issues, including an LGBTQI portfolio as a significant part of their work. 1 Respondent's affiliation status is unknown.

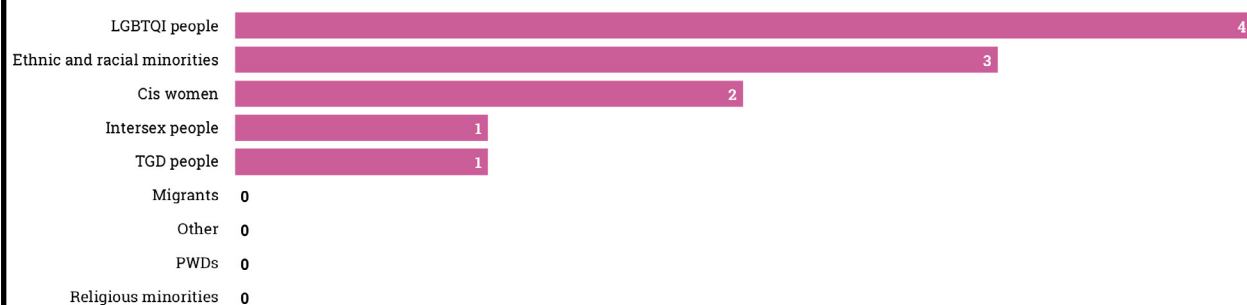
The main communication channels used by these Asian pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups to communicate with their constituents are the following:



## AG Actors

Respondents indicate that in the Asia region, some members of AG groups are in the government, and governments and AG actors have coordinated communication. Respondents categorized AG actors as right-wing or mixed on the political ideology spectrum. The lack of proper investigation of alleged crimes committed by AG actors have been a challenge in the past year.

### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



AG actors in the Asia region focus on abortion, marriage, “western ideas”, “incorrect upbringing”, family-centered population policy, and political correctness in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. Respondents indicate that some AG actors coordinate with each other and sometimes engage in physical violence directed at vulnerable groups.

### In the past year, have these groups been growing stronger in terms of the following?



Respondents believe lack of political will, and the general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness to be the main barriers to countering AG opposition in their contexts.

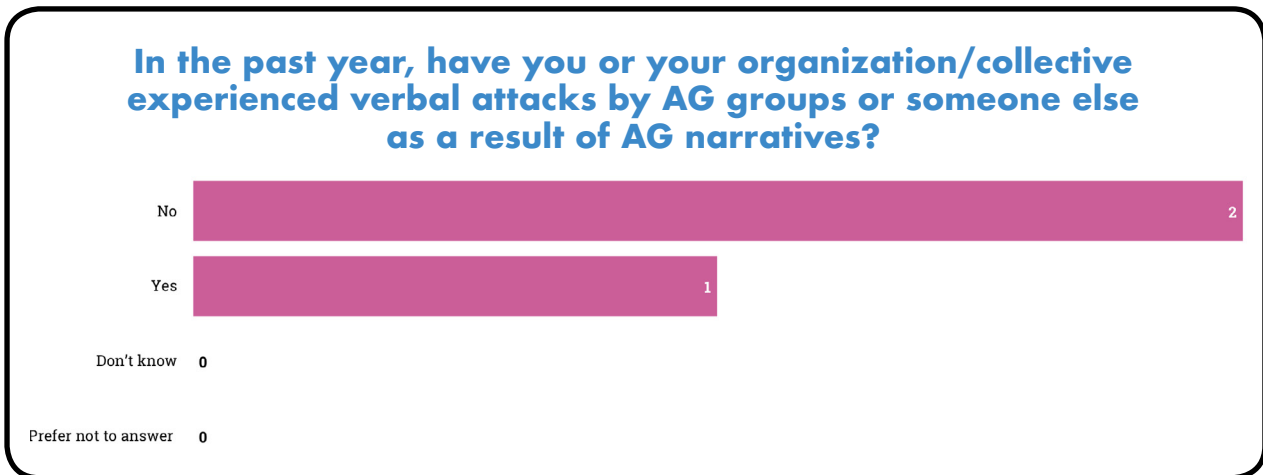
## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has not changed or has improved in their contexts in the past year.

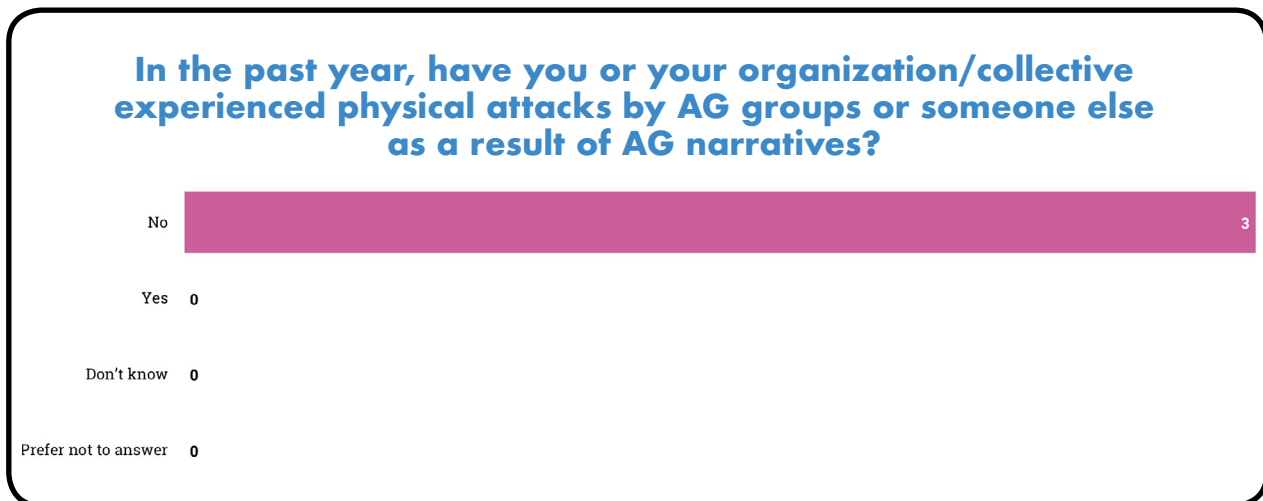
### In the past year, the situation for TGD groups has:



According to respondents, TGD and LGBTQI activists and their organizations/collectives sometimes receive verbal abuse.



Respondents indicate that there has been no physical abuse by AG actors in the past year.



Threats by AG actors have not been reported in the Survey.

AG opposition results in challenges to TGD/LGBTQI and wider human rights activism, with psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout being the leading issue experienced by activists. 1 Respondent reports that this stress has translated into internal conflicts within the organization among the staff/board/volunteers. Besides stress, problems organizations face are the necessity to cancel events, and fewer community members accessing services. Respondents also report that AG opposition has not translated into any significant challenges for their organizations/collectives.

Based on Survey responses, it is unknown whether AG actors have managed to influence policies and legal developments impacting TGD communities.

## Role of the Media

AG groups in the Asia region engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok to spread their message and interact with their audiences.

In most cases, their social media posts are reported to the social media platforms, but most of the time reports get ignored, and content rarely gets taken down. Respondents' experience shows that social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable homophobic and transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



### In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned



The pages that follow provide a breakdown of the data from the Asia region by country.



# Bangladesh

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent from Bangladesh affiliated with a registered LGBTQI organization, which uses FaceBook and YouTube to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, AG actors are present in Bangladesh, some being government actors, and government and AG groups have coordinated communication. Information about their funding is unknown. They target the LGBTQI community and are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. The respondent reports that AG actors are growing in terms of the number of people participating in their events, funding, and ability to shape political decisions and impact policies.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that the human rights situation for TGD communities has been improving in the past year.

No other information was reported by the respondent in the Survey.

# Mongolia

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent in Mongolia affiliated with a registered organization, the profile of which is unknown.

## AG Actors

The respondent indicated that some AG actors in Mongolia are in the government and their crimes are rarely investigated. They target ethnic and racial minorities, and LGBTQI people and use “Western ideas”, “incorrect upbringing”, family-centered population policy and political correctness as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. They are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. Information about their coordination is not known to the respondent. AG groups have publicly harassed and humiliated certain individuals (public naming and shaming).

The respondent indicates that the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition have been lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, and general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that the situation for TGD groups has not changed in the past year. The respondent reports that AG groups have engaged in verbal attacks on these communities:

“When people shame a member of the LGBTQI community who publicly came out, I reminded them to mind their own business as he/she is not a laughing stock. I was attacked virtually via social media. As a gender trainer, I always battle with cis men who think gender mainstreaming is harmful practice for culture and traditions.”

This incident was not reported to the police. Physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey.

The respondent indicates that the following resulted from AG opposition in the past year: fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and internal conflicts.

## Role of the Media

AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD communities. They use FaceBook as their main channel for communication with audiences. While their posts have been reported and considered by FaceBook, the content was not taken down. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Nepal

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from Nepal from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization that works on LGBTQI rights. This organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and a webpage to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

The respondent reports that some AG actors are in the Nepalese government. Information about their funding is not known. AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, and LGBTQI communities and use citizenship, abortion, marriage, and sexual expression as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. Information about their political ideology or coordination among various AG actors is not known to the respondent. According to the respondent, AG actors have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies has strengthened.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that the human rights situation for the TGD community in Nepal has not changed in the past year. Verbal and physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey. The LGBTQI organization the respondent is affiliated with did not experience any challenges due to AG opposition in the past year. According to the respondent, AG actors have not been able to influence any policies that target TGD communities in Nepal.

The respondent reports lack of political will, government siding with AG actors, and lack of interest from international organizations to be the main barriers in counteracting AG opposition.

## Role of the Media

The respondent reports that AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false information relating to TGD communities and use FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok to communicate with audiences. While some of their posts have been reported and the reports were considered by social media platforms, the content was not taken down. The respondent somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization and fully agrees that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Thailand

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a Thai respondent affiliated with an organization working on human rights, with an LGBTQI portfolio being a significant part of their work. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, and a website to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, AG actors are present in Thailand and the government and AG actors have coordinated communication. Information about their financing, coordination between various actors, or their political party affiliations is not known by the respondent. Ethnic and religious minorities, and the LGBTQI community were reported as targets of AG actors by the respondent. AG actors were categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent doesn't believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities in Thailand has changed in the past year. Verbal or physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey. The respondent indicates that as a result of AG opposition, the organization had to cancel events, and staff and volunteers experiencing psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout. Information about AG actors influencing any policies related to TGD communities or their engagement in the creation and spread of false news was not reported in the Survey.

No further information was provided by the respondent.



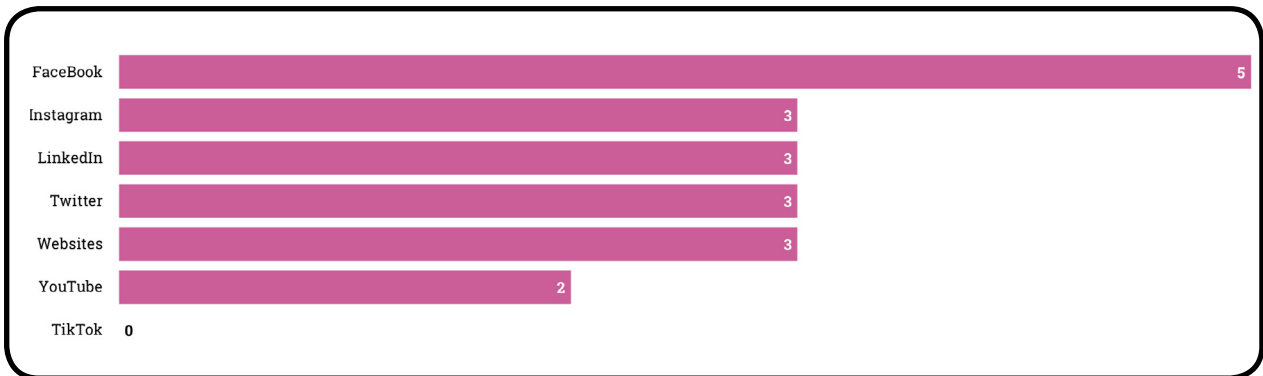
# **Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia**

## **Respondents' Profile**

7 Responses were received from the Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia region, with 2 respondents being affiliated with TGD organizations or collectives, 3 with LGBTQI organizations or collectives, and 1 with organizations or collectives mainly focused on other human rights issues. 1 Respondent's affiliation is unknown.



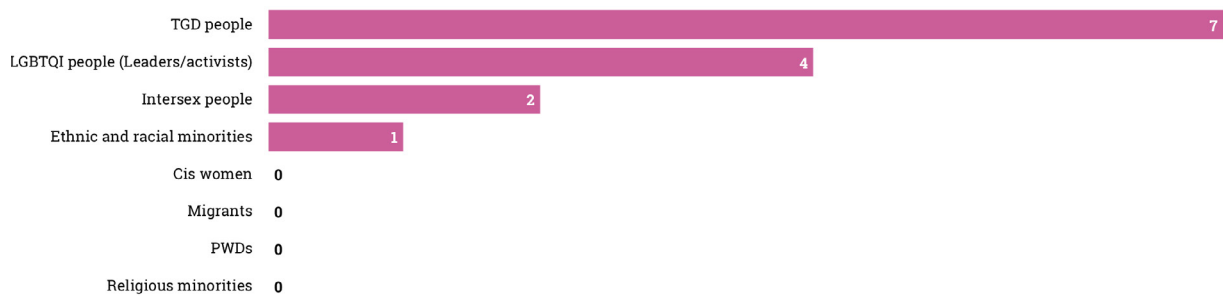
The main communication channels used by these pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups are the following:



## AG Actors

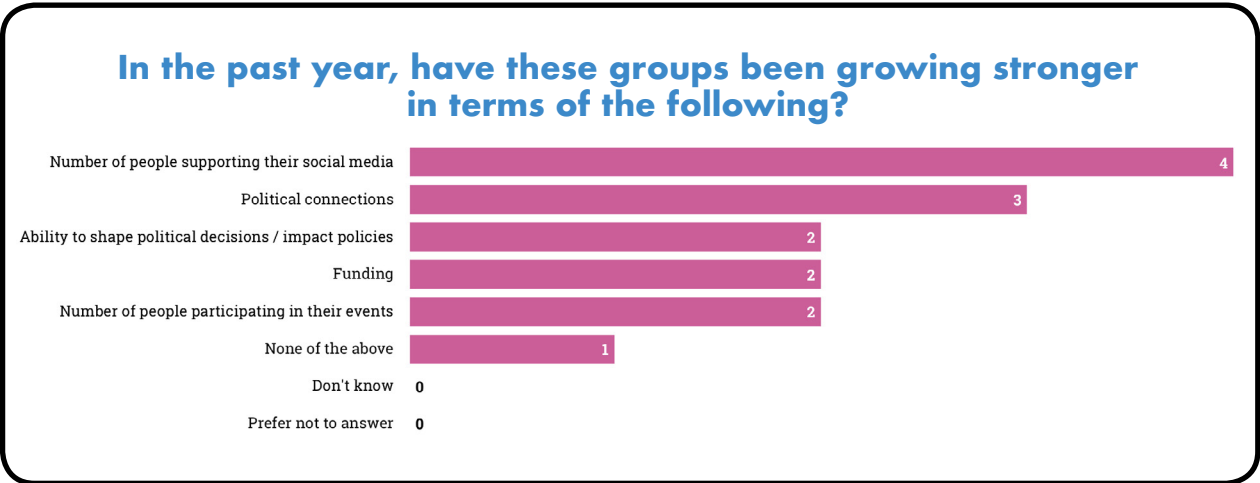
In the Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia region, respondents report that some members of AG groups are in the government, while other AG actors are represented as opposition parties, and some of them have seats in the parliaments or other national legislative institutions. In most cases, they are categorized as right-wing or mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



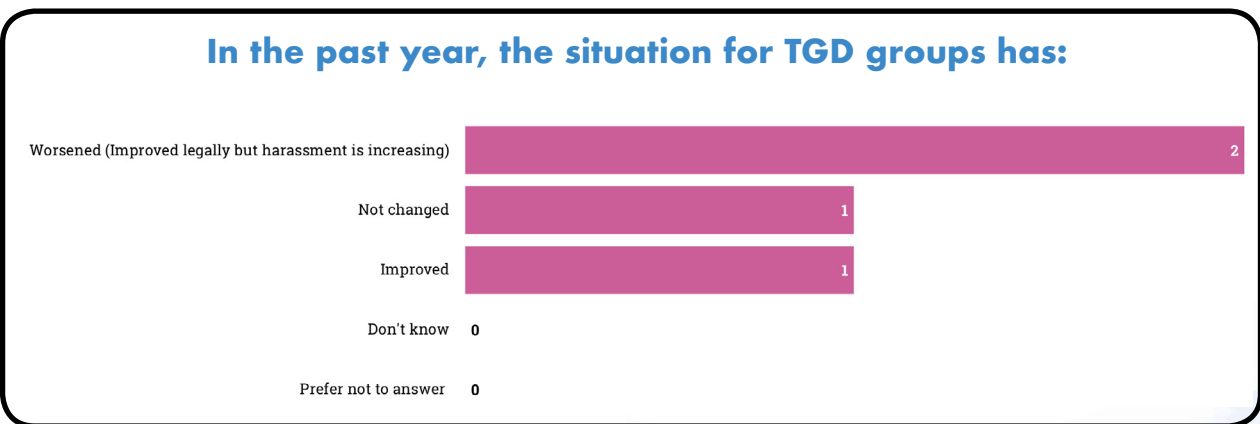
Respondents indicate that AG groups focus on self-identification, conversion therapies, sport, free speech, political correctness, “western ideas”, “traditional family values”, and sex-based rights/single sex spaces in public communication to push for their agenda.

Respondents report that various AG actors tend to coordinate with each other and rarely engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups.

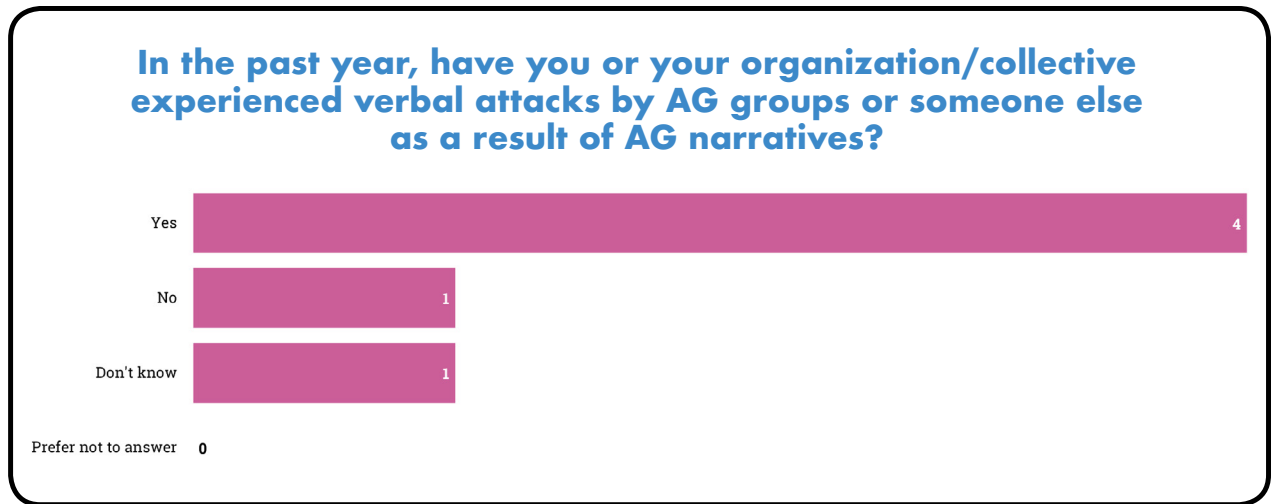


## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

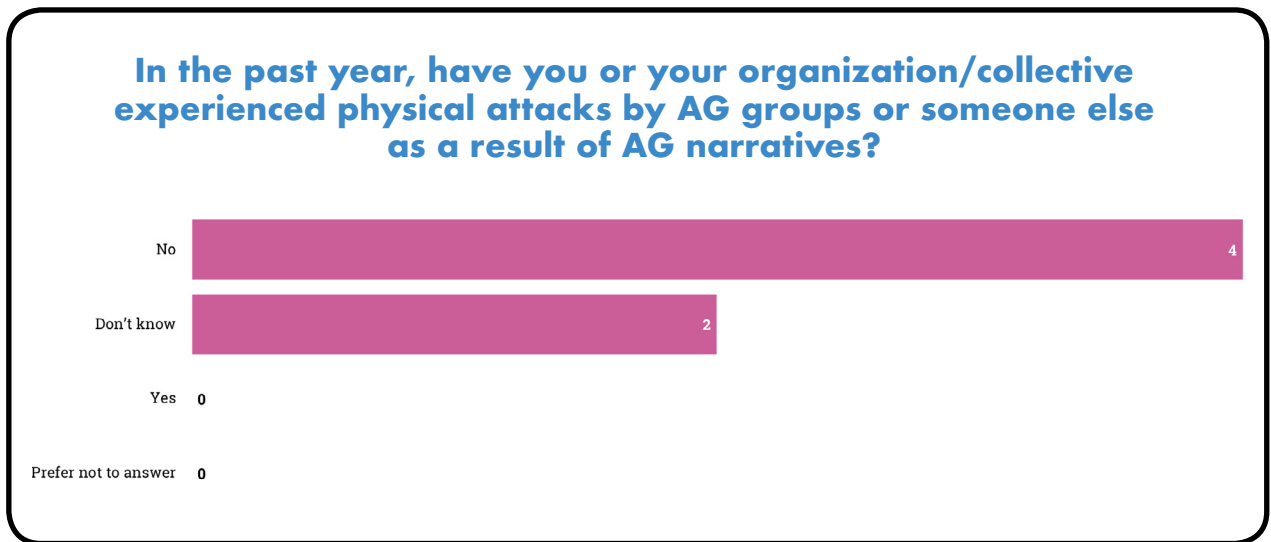
In this environment, respondents have a mixed assessment of whether the human rights situation is improving or worsening for TGD communities.



Respondents report that verbal attacks by AG actors against activists are common and are usually coordinated among various AG actors. Threats also take place, mostly on social media.

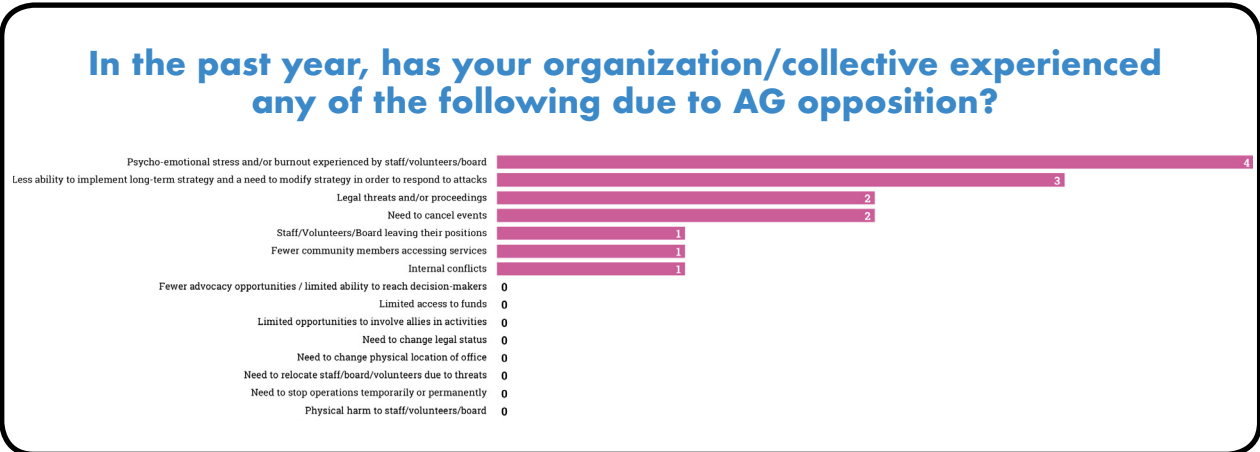


Physical violence by AG groups appears to be extremely low or non-existent, as no incidents were reported by respondents in the Survey.

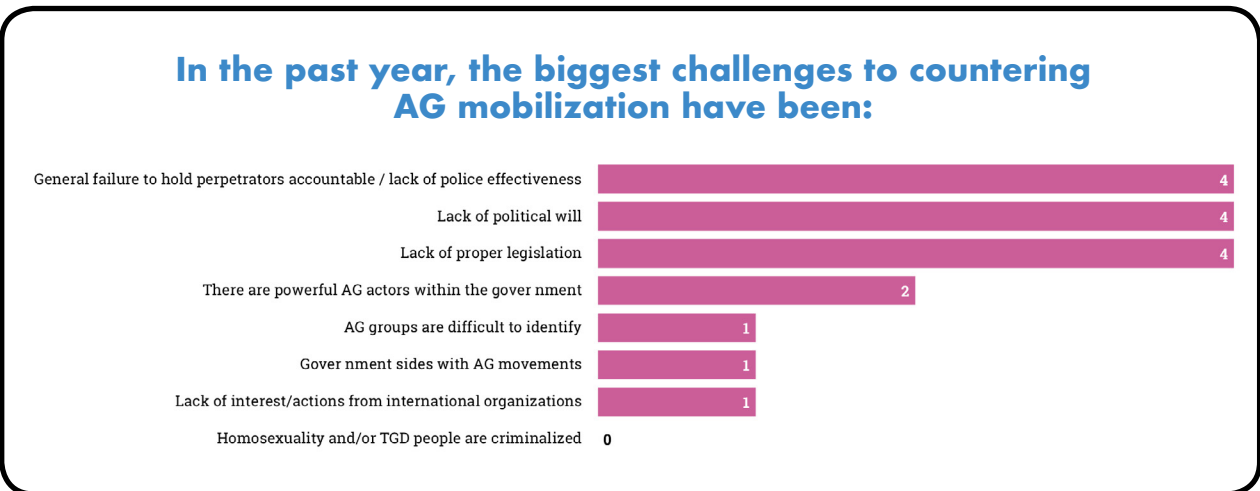


According to respondents, AG opposition negatively impacts pro-TGD/LGBTQI rights groups' ability to operate and advocate for positive changes, with psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout among staff being the leading challenge. Due to AG opposition, pro-TGD organizations are less able to implement long-term strategy, and need to modify the strategy in order to respond to attacks.

The full picture of the problems experienced by pro-TGD human rights organizations and/or collective is as follows:

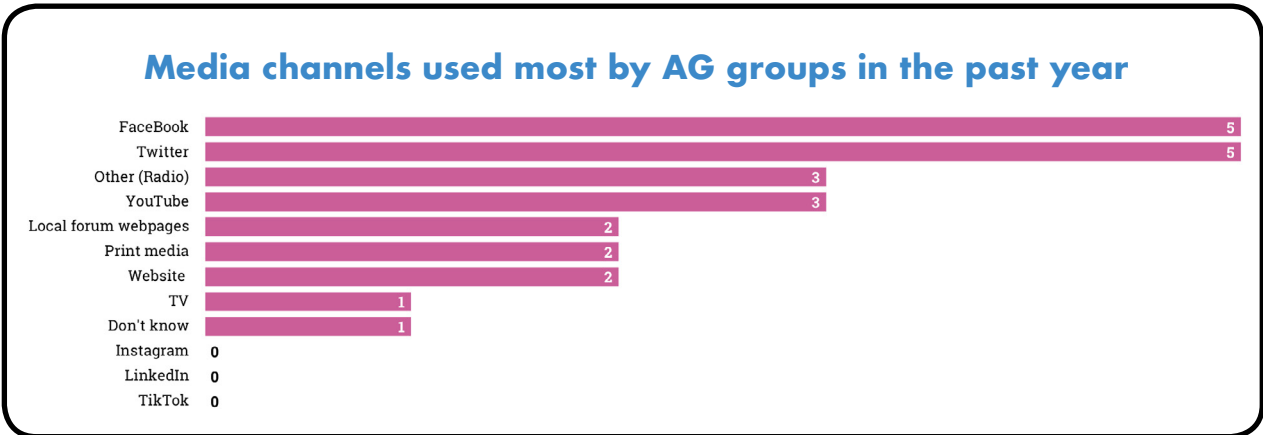


In several cases, AG actors managed to influence policy or legal developments impacting TGD communities in the past year.

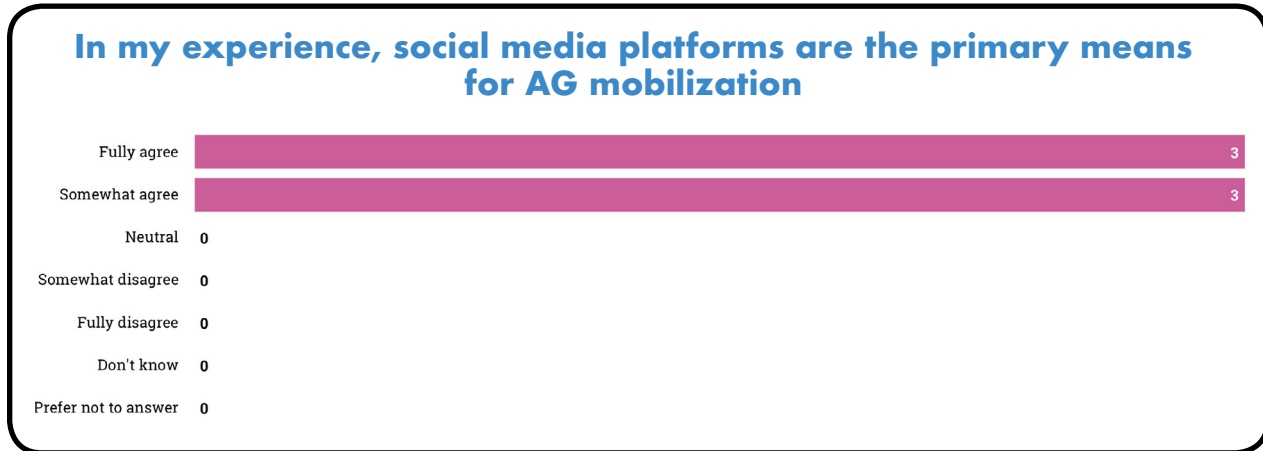


## Role of the Media

Respondents report that AG groups actively engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities.



Respondents report that, in most cases, the harmful social media posts by AG actors are reported to the social media platforms, but most of the time reports are ignored and harmful content rarely gets taken down.



Respondents' experiences show that the social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing the false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms. On the other hand, TGD-related human rights posts sometimes get blocked on the basis of being labeled as "political".

The pages that follow provide a breakdown of the data from the Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia region by country.

# Aotearoa (New Zealand)

## Respondents' Profile

4 Valid responses were received from Aotearoa, with 3 respondents affiliated with a registered organization and 1 with an unregistered collective. 1 Respondent is affiliated with a TGD-oriented registered organization and 3 with an LGBTQI-oriented organization/collective. FaceBook is the most used social media platform for communication with their constituents, followed by Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and websites.

## AG Actors

Some AG actors are in the political arena. As one respondent says,

"I do not believe that these groups are well-connected with the current government, however, members of major opposition parties have hired staff and had close relationships with members of anti-gender groups."

Another respondent adds,

"Some anti-gender activists have worked for Opposition Members of Parliament and some officials in a few agencies are known to be personally anti-trans. The official government view is supportive in theory."

One respondent states that

"There are several far-right minor parties without seats with explicitly anti-trans and anti-LGBTQI policies, New Conservatives have promoted Speak Up for Women."



Some AG actors have seats in the parliament. A respondent indicates that

“8 National (conservative) MPs of 120 MPs in NZ Parliament voted against a ban of Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill and spoke against gender-affirming health practices.”

AG actors receive funding, but this information is not available, or is hidden from the public. They target ethnic and racial minorities, as well as TGD and LGBTQI organizations and leaders. Various AG actors coordinate with each other. A respondent states:

“There is some connection between whites’ rights activists in a right-wing and ‘free speech’ lobby group, and groups fueling anti-trans media. This is shown by individuals on the board of one lobby group being prominent in other groups. There seems to be an overlap of funding and use of the same lawyers or media agencies.”

Another respondent says,

“Speak Up for Women NZ, LAVA – Lesbian Action for Visibility Aotearoa, FOWL LRAA Suffragettes Education Aotearoa, Mana Wahine Korero, LGB Alliance Aotearoa, Broadsheet Magazine NZ, Resist Gender Education NZ, Women’s Liberation Aotearoa, Save Women’s Sport Australasia, Stand Up for Gays and Lesbians Aotearoa – These groups and Christian Church Coalition and City Impact Church did big anti-trans campaign to oppose laws from passing. They made thousands of written and oral submissions against BDMRR – Births Deaths Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill amendment to allow self-identification on birth certificates, and CPP Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill to outlaw conversion therapy on grounds of gender identity or sexual orientation. Spurious grounds like age of access to puberty blockers were used in both groups. Groups connected with overseas “experts” and submissions were also received from UK and USA, including from AG groups like GenSpect and conversion practitioners. Free Speech Union NZ – aligned with Free Speech Union UK and Taxpayers Union NZ also opposed the Bills on the grounds of denial of free speech rights. Mana Wahine Korero, a group of indigenous /Maori women declared that gender transition was colonisation and opposed it. They yelled down other indigenous /Maori women who pointed out diverse history.”

Another says,

“Here in Aotearoa, there seem to be multiple groups, but the majority are puppet organisations that are run by the same handful of people, and they have primarily overseas support/followers (namely UK based).”

The main topics and phrases used by AG actors in public communication to push for and gain support for their agenda are: gender self-identification, conversion practices (fighting a conversion practices ban that includes trans people), inclusive education in schools/children, trans people in prisons, trans people in sports, free speech/political correctness, gender-affirming healthcare, parents’ rights, women’s “sex-based” rights, free speech, freedom to practice religion, “fairness” / fair share / no special treatment, and the opposition to the government “telling them how to live their lives”.

Respondents categorize AG actors as mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

According to respondents, AG actors have been growing in the past year in terms of the number of people supporting their social media and participating in their events, funding, political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions / impact policies in the past year. A respondent says,

“Because of political leadership changes in New Zealand and legislation passing with a strong majority, connections inside Parliament have decreased. Elements are still there and connections to unelected politicians and new political parties are growing. These elements tag in with anti-government feelings connected with ‘special treatment’ (equity) for indigenous people and with anti-vax, anti-mandate groups. The groups are different, but they often combine numbers for antigovernment protests under Freedoms and Rights banners.”

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents have mixed assessments on whether the human rights situation has been improving or worsening for TGD communities in the past year. 1 Respondent's opinion is that it is worsening, while 1 respondent believes that it has been improving, and 2 indicate that they don't know.

2 Out of 4 respondents report experiencing verbal attacks resulting from AG opposition:

"Verbal abuse at street protests, mainly by lesbians in their 70s with a history of 2nd wave feminist protest. Abuse was threatening but no assaults."

Another respondent says,

"I believe there have been some instances of physical intimidation at protests. Also graffiti of a queer church <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/128910438/an-act-of-hate-pink-church-vandalised-with-homophobic-antisemitic-slurs> and arson attack on a community centre shared by an LGBTQI and a trans org <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300631295/turpentine-rubbish-bin-allegedly-used-in-rainbow-youth-arson> in past couple of months"

A respondent indicates that

"Anti-trans groups involved in low level violence against young gender diverse people at street protests on legislation mentioned in 17 above. No one hospitalized, no-one arrested. Some people spoken to. Verbal abuse. Police received complaint about vandalism of MPs' offices. MPs were known to publicly support trans inclusive laws."

Another respondent states that

"We have been subjected to multiple calls by anti-trans individuals and groups to be defunded. This is because a lot of our work is supporting young people in schools. We have been called homophobic on right-wing news platforms because of our support for trans communities, and they have also harassed schools with OIAs about our involvement with them."

Respondents believe that these incidents were coordinated with other AG actors. Authorities were not notified.

Respondents have received threats on social media. According to a respondent,

“Threats on social media. Too vague to take action other than reporting them on Community Standards grounds and blocking them.”

As a result of AG opposition, respondents report having to cancel events, having less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify strategy in order to respond to attacks, fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, internal conflicts, staff/volunteers/board leaving their positions, and legal threats and/or proceedings. A respondent says,

“Disengagement by volunteers and group members to avoid unpleasantness. The tension between group members on how to respond and also tension between trans and nonbinary members of the group and LGB cisgender members of the group over language. Sensitivities increased.”

According to respondents, AG groups have been able to impact TGD policy developments in Aotearoa:

“While unsuccessful in the end, anti-trans lobbyists managed to stall self-ID legislation by applying pressure on the relevant Minister.”

Respondents indicate that the biggest barriers to counteract AG opposition are lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, AG groups being difficult to identify, as well as

“platforming of anti-gender views by mainstream media; support by opposition parties (who may end up in government at the next election); insufficient resources of LGBTIQ/trans organisations.”

Another respondent says,

“We need robust hate speech legislation in order to better circumvent the spread of fear-mongering misinformation, and national infrastructure for deradicalization programmes.”

## Role of the Media

Respondents indicate that AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, local forum webpages, Twitter, YouTube, print media, and websites as their main communication channels. AG actors also use live events for communication and lobbying. While their harmful content has been reported to social media platforms, the content rarely gets taken down. Respondents (2) somewhat agree and fully agree (1) with the statement that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. All respondents fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned:

“Comments on some social media sites like FaceBook get overwhelmed by numbers. Its hard to challenge lies as attempts get amplification of rebuttals and then unpleasant and personal abuse that FaceBook won’t act on.”

# Australia

## Respondents' Profile

3 Valid responses were received from Australia. 1 Respondent is affiliated with an organization that works on human rights, with their LGBTQI portfolio being a significant part of their work, and 2 respondents are not associated with any organizations or collectives.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, AG actors are present in Australia, with some members being in the government. The Liberal Party, Liberal National Party, and other fringe religious right parties were named as AG actors. The information about their funding sources is not known to respondents. The LGBTQI community was named to be the main target of AG actors who use women's sports, religious freedom, "traditional family values", and the "mutilation of trans youth" as topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. They are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

Respondents point out that AG actors sometimes have coordinated actions, and Save Women's Sports Australasia, Genspect, and Heritage Foundation were named as examples. Moreover, respondents indicate that LGB Alliance Australia supported religious right groups, and TERFs in Australia support far-right anti-abortion politicians. It is not known to the respondents if these groups engage in violence.

Respondents indicate that AG actors are growing in terms of the number of people supporting their social media, political connections, and ability to shape political decisions and impact policies.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents report that the human rights situation for TGD communities has not changed or is worsening. Respondents (2) state that they experienced verbal attacks in the past year resulting from AG opposition, which was coordinated between various AG actors:

“Prolonged social media harassment, being doxed, having FaceBook pages made to harass me, Reclaim The Night Perth went so far as to make a half-hour video on how I was a threat to women.”

In one case, the incident was reported to the police in New South Wales and Victoria, but the case was never opened. The respondents believe that the case was not opened due to a lack of political will. No physical attacks were reported in the Survey. 1 Respondent also recalled receiving threats through social media. The incident was not reported to the social media platform.

Challenges due to AG opposition were reported as being the need to cancel events, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and legal threats and/or proceedings. Respondents report that AG actors have managed to push the *Religious Discrimination Bill*, which preserves the right of religious schools to expel students and staff based on their gender identity, despite the Australian constitution providing protection for gay staff and students.

Respondents report the biggest challenges in counteracting AG opposition to be powerful AG actors within the government, the lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, and the general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Role of the Media

Respondents report that AG actors engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities using Twitter and FaceBook as their main ways to communicate with their support base. Other platforms are TV, print media, YouTube, and websites. While their content on social media has been reported to the social media platforms, the content rarely gets taken down. Respondents fully agree or somewhat agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.



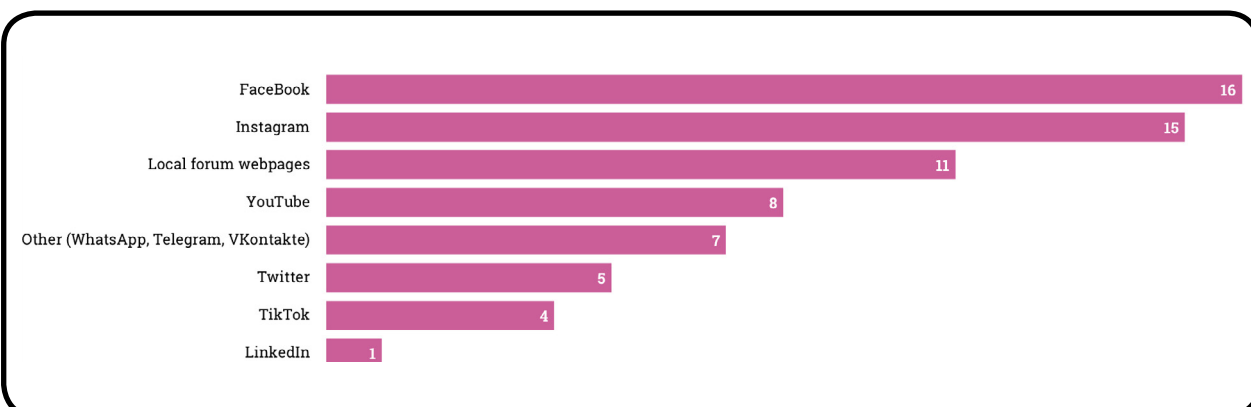


# **EECA Region:** **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

## **Respondents' Profile**

24 Valid responses were received from the EECA region, with 8 respondents affiliated with TGD organizations or collectives, 11 with LGBTQI organizations or collectives, 3 with organizations or collectives mainly focused on other human rights issues, and 2 respondents with an unknown affiliation.

The main communication channels used by pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups in the EECA region are the following:

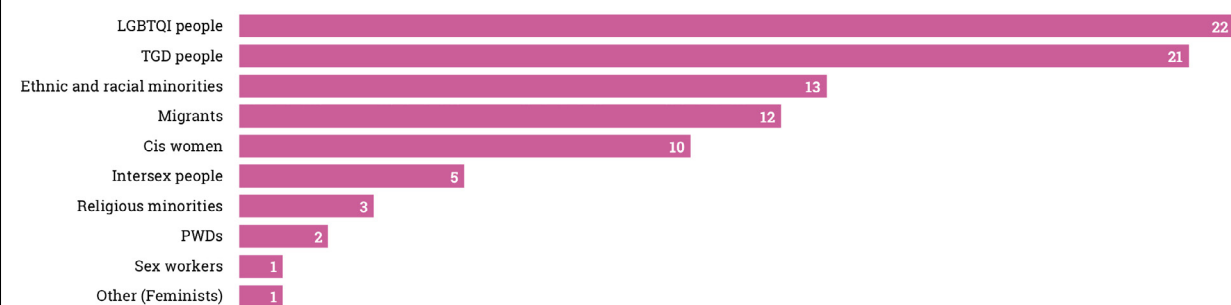


## AG Actors

In the EECA region, the main problem related to AG actors is that governments rarely investigate alleged crimes, which respondents indicate is due to the reason that some members of the AG movement are in the government, or, in some cases, AG actors are government actors (for example in Russia). In several cases, respondents report that governments and AG actors have coordinated communication and actors are financially supported by the government.

In many contexts in the EECA region, respondents indicate that AG actors are political parties and have seats in the parliaments or other similar national legislative institutions. In most cases, they are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum, but in many cases, AG actors have mixed political ideological stances. In rare cases, they tend to be left-wing.

### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



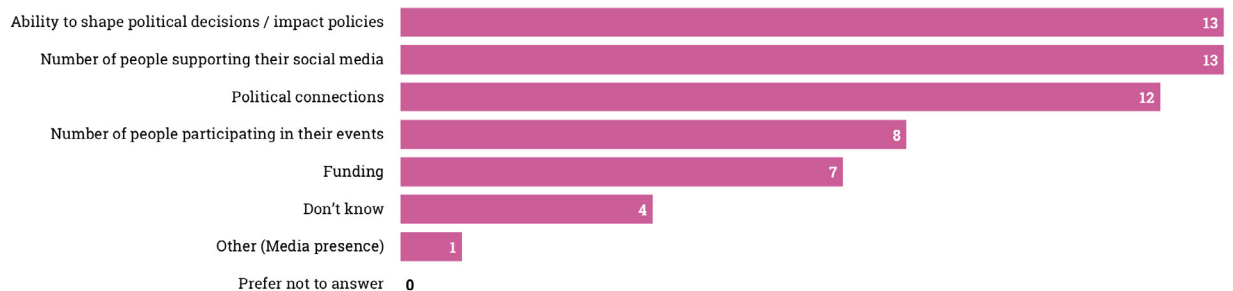
AG groups focus on “western ideas”, “family values”, sex education, children, sex work, and “gender/LGBTQI ideology” in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda.

Information regarding various AG actors’ coordination with each other is in most cases unknown, but some respondents have report that various AG actors coordinate actions between each other. In some cases, AG actors engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups.

### In the past year, AG groups have engaged in violence directed at vulnerable groups

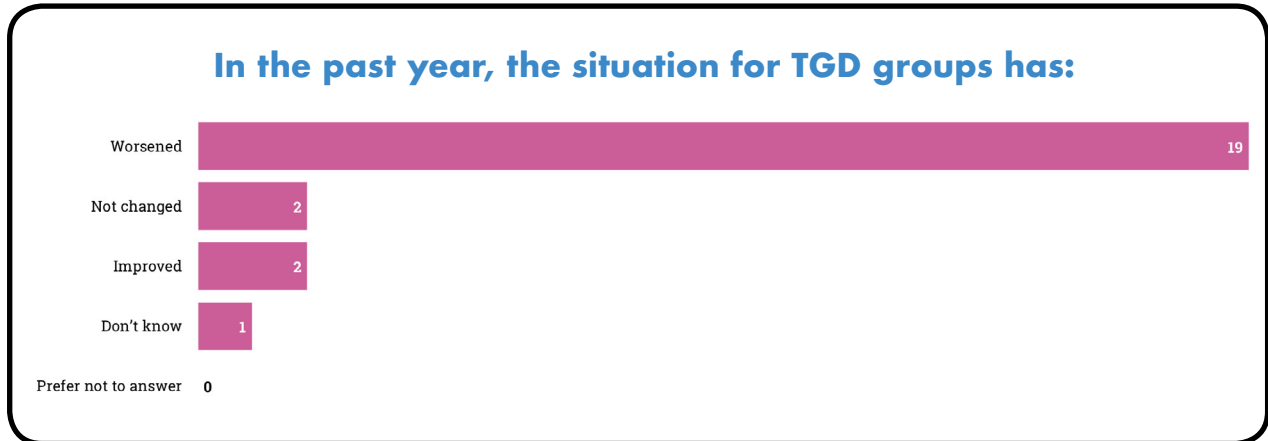


### In the past year, have these groups been growing stronger in terms of the following?

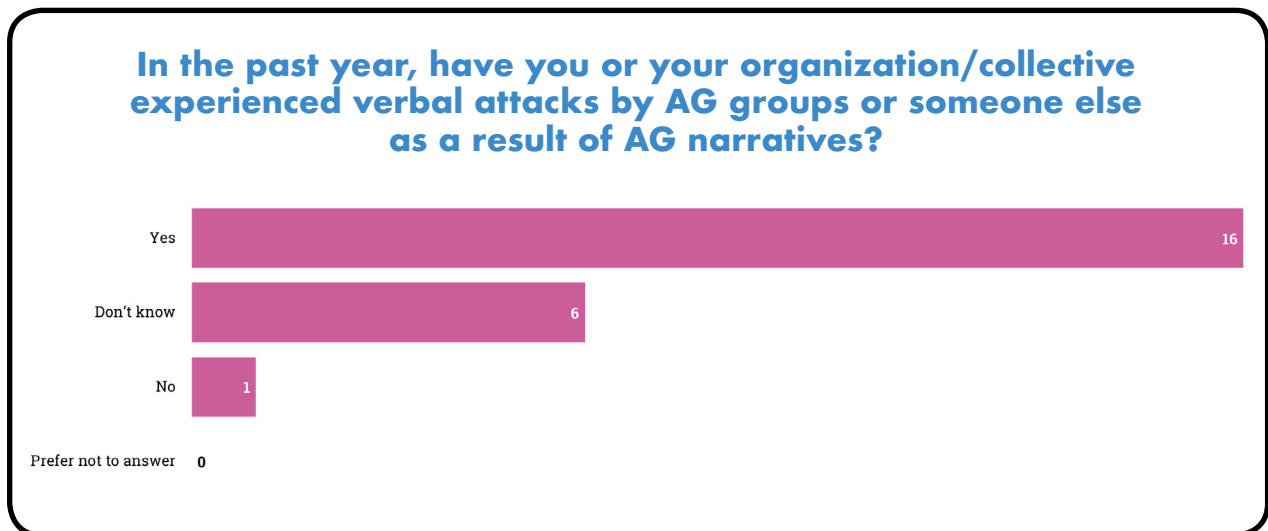


## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

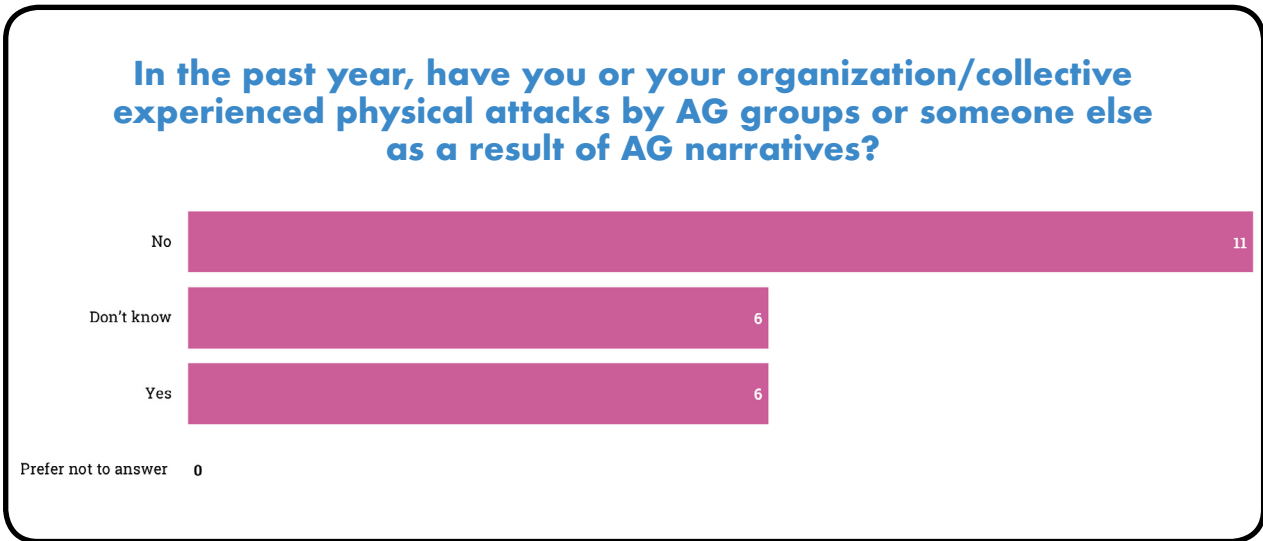
In this environment, most of the respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year.



According to respondents, verbal attacks against activists are common. In the past 12 months, most of the organizations/collectives affiliated with the respondents or respondents themselves experienced verbal attacks by AG groups or someone else because of AG narratives.

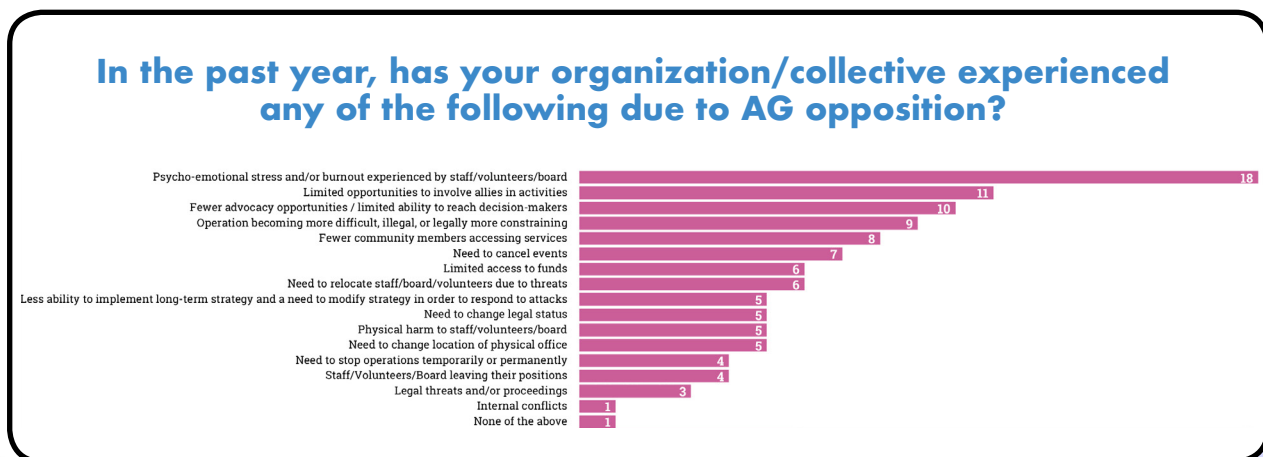


Most of the organizations/collectives affiliated with the respondents or respondents themselves experienced physical attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives.



Respondents report that, in most cases, the law enforcement authorities were not notified of these attacks, as police either do not open cases due to lack of proper legislation, or open an investigation but do not hold the persons legally responsible. Threats against activists are common, mostly on social networks and the police are usually not notified.

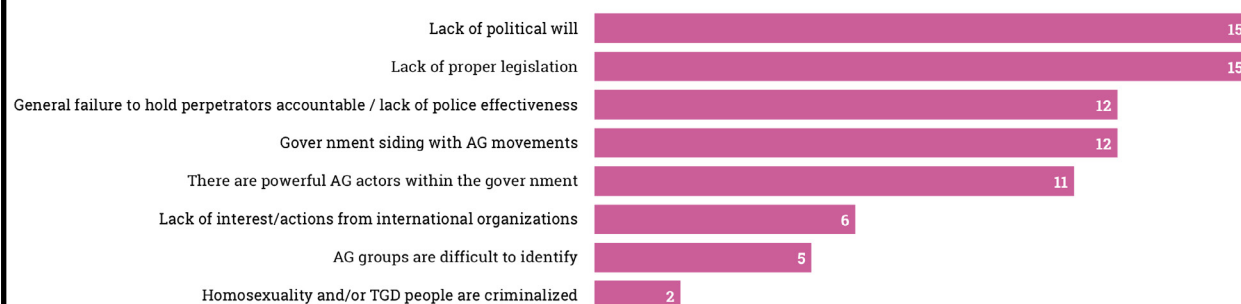
Respondents indicate that AG opposition negatively impacts pro-TGD/LGBTQI rights groups' ability to operate and advocate for positive changes, and leads to psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff, board, and/or volunteers. The full picture of the problems experienced by pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups as a result of AG opposition is as follows:



In several cases, respondents report that AG groups have managed to influence policy and legal developments impacting TGD communities in the past year, with the harshening of Russian LGBTQI propaganda legislation being one of the most significant policy developments in the region.

Many countries in the EECA region lack legislation and/or political will to counteract AG opposition, according to respondents.

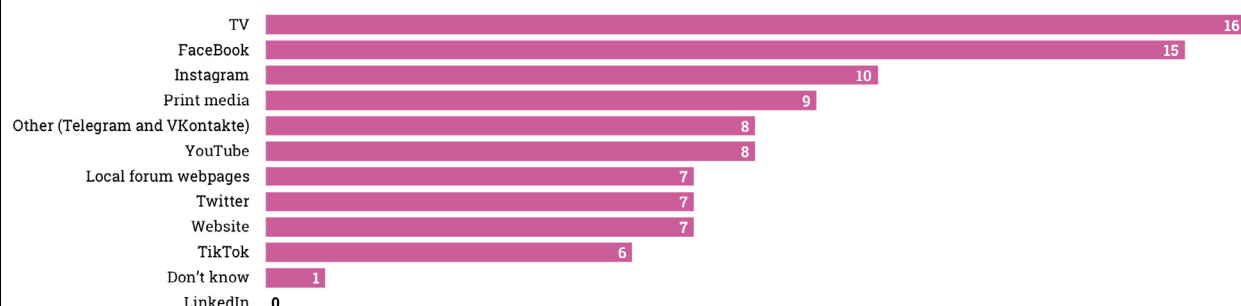
### In the past year, the biggest challenges to countering AG mobilization have been:



## Role of the Media

AG groups actively engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities in the EECA region.

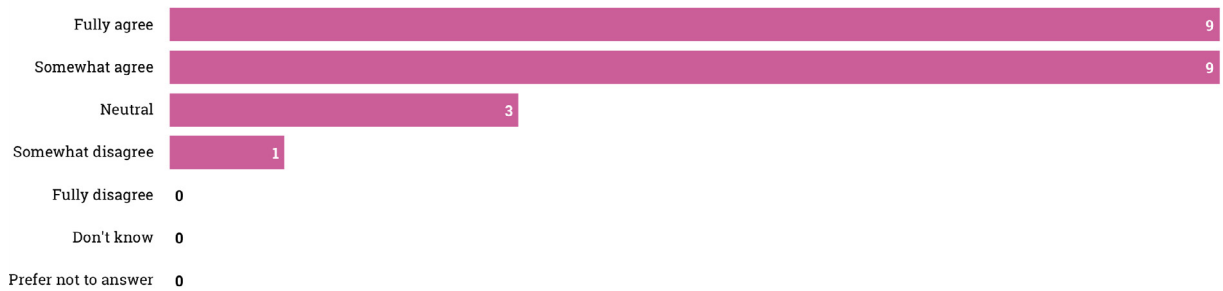
### Media channels used most by AG groups in the past year



Respondents report that, in most cases, AG social media posts get reported to social media platforms. However, most of the time reports get ignored and harmful content rarely gets taken down.

Respondents' experiences show that the social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable transphobic and anti-LGBTQI hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing the false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



### In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned



What follows is a breakdown of the data from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region by country.

# Armenia

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from an individual affiliated with a registered organization that works with TGD communities and covers the whole of Armenia. Channels used to communicate with their constituents are FaceBook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, AG actors are present in Armenia and the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. The respondent reports that AG actors are not government actors and do not have seats in the government. Information about their funding is unknown. AG actors target cis women, religious minorities, migrants, LGBTQI, and TGD communities:

"They fight against western ideas, sex education, sex work, sexual and gender diverse people."

"Anti-trans movement has enlarged in Armenia since June 2022 and several cases of attacks were made on trans\* people which were reported by community-based organizations."

The nature of the political ideological affiliation or coordination between various AG actors is unknown to the respondent.

According to the respondent, AG actors are growing in terms of the number of people supporting their social media and participating in their events, as well as their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent reports that they or their organization have experienced verbal attacks in the past year by AG groups. According to the respondent, all the cases were acts of hatred on the grounds of gender identity:

“The cases have been more intensive since June 2022. [Example 1](#). [Example 2](#). [Example 3](#). ”

These attacks were coordinated between various AG actors. These cases were reported to the local police, who began investigations, but closed the cases without holding anyone legally responsible.

The respondent also mentions that their organization had experienced physical attacks:

“The first case of the attacks was against our NGO’s community mobilizer based in Lori region, Vanadzor city.”

This incident was also reported to the local police, who again began investigations but again closed them without holding anyone legally responsible. No threats were reported in the Survey by the respondent.

The respondent reports that their organization had experienced the following as the result of AG opposition: need to change location of physical office, need to stop operations temporarily or permanently, need to cancel events, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and physical harm to staff/volunteers/board.

The respondent did not report whether AG actions had influenced any policy in the past year in Armenia.

The biggest barriers to counteracting AG opposition were reported to be lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, and AG groups being difficult to identify.

## Role of the Media

The respondent reports that AG groups actively create and spread false information about TGD communities and use TV, print media, FaceBook, and TikTok to communicate with their audiences and spread their agenda. Their social media content gets reported to the social media platforms, but is rarely taken down. The respondent partially agrees that social media platforms are the main means for AG mobilization and that these platforms are not enforcing their rules sufficiently to prevent harmful content and fake news from spreading and violent actions being planned.

# Bulgaria

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization working on LGBTQI issues, covering the whole of Bulgaria. The organization uses FaceBook and a webpage to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

The respondent reports that some members of AG groups are in the Bulgarian government, and that the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. Information on whether AG actors are political parties is unknown to the respondent. AG actors receive funding, but this information is not made public, or is hidden. They target ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, migrants, PWDs, and LGBTQI/TGDI communities, and they use “Western ideas”, “family values”, and “genderism” as their main public discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. They are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

Information about their coordination or engagement in violence towards vulnerable groups is not known by the respondent. The respondent reports that AG groups have been growing in the past year in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies has strengthened.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In the respondent's view, the human rights situation for TGD communities has been improving in Bulgaria in the past year. Verbal and physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey. Psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board was reported as resulting from AG opposition.

Information on whether AG actors have been able to influence any policy relating to TGD communities is unknown by the respondent. The respondent indicates that the main barriers to countering AG opposition have been the lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, and a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Role of the Media

The respondent reports that AG groups engage in the spread of false information relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook and websites to communicate with audiences. While their social media posts have been reported to the social media platforms, and reports were considered, the content was not taken down. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization and that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization working on LGBTQI issues, covering the whole of Croatia. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, and a webpage to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

The respondent indicates that AG actors are present in Croatia, and while their institutional arrangement information is unknown, they are not political parties. Information about their funding is also unknown to the respondent. They target LGBTQI/TGD communities and use abortion, sex work, sex education, and “family values” as their main discursive points to spread and gain support for their agenda. AG actors are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. Information about coordination between various AG actors or their engagement in violence directed towards vulnerable groups is unknown to the respondent.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In the respondent's view, the human rights situation for TGD communities has been worsening in the past year in Croatia. AG actors engage in verbal attacks and threats in the form of general hate speech and transphobia on social media. Their actions have not been reported to authorities. Physical attacks were not reported in the Survey. AG opposition has led to psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout being experienced by staff/volunteers/board within the respondent's organization. The respondent does not believe that AG groups have been able to influence any policy relating to TGD communities in the past year. The respondent named lack of proper legislation, political will, and AG groups being difficult to identify as the main barriers to counteract their opposition.

## Role of the Media

According to the respondent, AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information relating to TGD communities and use FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and webpages for communication with their audiences. Their social media posts get reported to the social media platforms, but the content is not taken down. The respondent fully agrees that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned, and that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Estonia

## Respondent's Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent in Estonia affiliated with a registered organization working on human rights, with an LGBTQI portfolio being a significant part of their work.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, some AG groups have coordinated communication with the government, and some are political parties – Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond, EKRE, and the Conservative People's Party of Estonia:

“They have seats in the parliament and the anti-gender authoritarian party was a member of the last government. Its support from by the polls is high, second position by popularity.”

Information about their funding is unknown to the respondent. AG actors are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

The respondent indicates that AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, migrants, and LGBTQI/TGD communities and use abortion, “traditional family values”, anti-vaccination, political correctness, freedom of speech, anti-LGBT issues, “gender ideology”, and “discrimination of Christians” as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda.

The respondent indicates that various AG actors have coordinated with each other in the past year:

“Sihtasutus Perekonna ja Traditsiooni Kaitseks (Foundation for the Protection of Family and Tradition) and political party Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond, EKRE (Conservative People’s Party of Estonia) share similar values. Leaders of both organizations have been giving speeches at each other’s events and gathering and they share the same “concerns” – vaccination, LGBT rights, abortion rights and so on.”

According to the respondent, AG groups have been becoming stronger in the past year in terms of the number of people participating in their events, funding, political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Overall, the respondent believes that the human rights situation for TGD communities has not changed in the past year in Estonia. The respondent indicates that AG actors engage in verbal attacks against the TGD/LGBTQI community:

“Media outlets objektiv.ee and uueduudised.ee constantly produce news and opinion pieces that directly oppose marriage equality and transgender rights issues. Leaders from anti-gender organizations have large followers base in social media and they constantly share opinions which are directly harmful to the LGBT community.”

Information about these actions being coordinated between various AG groups is unknown by the participant. These incidents were not reported to law enforcement authorities. Physical attacks and threats were not reported by the respondent in the Survey.

As the result of AG opposition, the respondent’s organization has experienced limited access to funds, the need to change the location of the physical office, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and legal threats and/or proceedings.

The respondent names the following as the biggest barriers in counteracting AG opposition: lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, powerful AG actors within the government, and a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.



## Role of the Media

The respondent reports that AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, YouTube, and websites when communicating with their audiences. While their posts have been reported to social media platforms, the content was not taken down. The respondent somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and fully agrees that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Georgia

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from respondents in Georgia who are affiliated with registered organizations. 1 Organization works with LGBTQI issues and another with TGD communities. The organizations use FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that the government and AG actors have coordinated communication and the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. The respondents indicate that the Conservative Movement of Georgia is an AG group and a far-right political party in Georgia. The group has its own TV channel – Alt Info. According to respondents, AG groups don't have seats in the parliament. In terms of funding, a respondent says,

“Political parties in Georgia are obliged to publish detailed information about the funding. Therefore, we know the amount of funding and the identity of funders. But the problem is that the amount of money indicated publicly is extremely low and we have doubts that they spend much more money in Georgia which is undocumented. Just recently, based on an appeal from the Audit Service, the court fined Alt-Info, a media organization, 216,000 GEL [approximately \$70,000] which was quite unexpected to happen and caught civil society off guard. Alt-info is the media organization run by the same people as the Conservative Movement of Georgia.”

AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, religious minorities, migrants, LGBTQI people, feminists / women's rights activists, and use “family values”, migration, and sex education as main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda.

According to a respondent, AG groups also speak about

“1. ‘Homosexuality’ which according to anti-gender groups is imposed on Georgia by West, by western embassies and donors. Most of the groups acknowledge that gay people do exist, but they are against ‘gay propaganda’ as being LGBTQI is considered to be immoral, something to be ashamed of and hidden.

2. Family values and traditions – anti-gender groups frame family values and traditions as a concept that excludes “gender equality” and gender ideology, homosexuality, transgenderism, etc. 3. Religion - anti-gender groups often interpret Orthodox Christianity (dominant religion in Georgia followed by around 80% of people) as a doctrine that excludes acceptance of LGBTQI+ people and equality. Homosexuality and transgender identities are actively promoted to be a sin. Often in Georgia, you will hear about Sodom Gomorrah as proof that in Christianity homosexuality is condemned.”

AG groups are categorized by respondents as being mixed on the political ideology spectrum:

“The anti-gender groups differ in the ideology, size, in how radical and violent they are, in their target audiences. What we have seen is that usually they unite, and come together when every year the LGBTQI+ movement is trying to mark pride week. We have seen the anti-gender groups and leaders come together, participate in demonstrations together with regards to pride in Georgia.”

Respondents indicate that various AG actors coordinate with each other:

“There are several groups, and they are well coordinated. Some groups are coordinated by “the Society of Chokhosans of the Patriarchate” (Geo: “საპატრიარქოს ჩოხოხანთა საზოგადოებასთან”) Georgian March (Geo: ქართული მარში). Levan Vasadze (businessman and political figure, organizing Family Congresses and having close ties with Dugin/Russia) Sponsoring tv Alt-Info, a political party Georgian Conservative Movement (კონსერვატიული მოძრაობა), Some monasteries and priests from Orthodox Church (that are all the time involved in organizing). All of them were organizing 5th July pogrom in Tbilisi, against Pride March.”

AG groups engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups. Last year’s [5th of July events](#) were recalled by both respondents.

Respondents believe that AG groups have been becoming stronger in the past year in terms of funding, political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions/impact policies.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents believe that, in the past year, the human rights situation for TGD communities has not changed in Georgia. They report that verbal attacks do happen:

“3 leaders of the main anti-LGBT anti-gender group Alt-info/Conservative Movement of Georgia made open and public threats to Tbilisi Pride week 2022. The fact that the demonstration organized by Alt-info in 2021 (July 5) was extremely violent (journalists/people were attacked, beaten, stabbed, and Tbilisi Pride offices were ransacked) made the new threats in 2022 feel real, imminent, and dangerous. Tbilisi Pride approached relevant ministries, and government bodies about the threats. The investigation was immediately launched. But the problem is usually not opening case/starting investigation but effective investigation.”

Another respondent says,

“5-th July 2021 – far rights group members climb up and enter our office balcony, that time I was in the office. During this period we received messages that includes hate speech on our social networks.”

Respondents believe that various AG actors coordinated these attacks. The Ministry of Interior, the Prosecutor’s Office, and Security Services were informed. The case is still under investigation with some perpetrators being held accountable.

Respondents report that physical attacks also happen:

“Alt info/Conservative Movement of Georgia organized a homophobic demonstration on July 3rd, 2022 in order to hinder the organization of Tbilisi Pride Festival. Hundreds of people were trying to attack the festival territory physically, but the police stopped them.”

Respondents did not report receiving any threats in the Survey.

According to respondents, AG opposition has led to the need to change physical location of the office, the need to stop operations temporarily or permanently, the need to cancel events, the need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify strategy in order to respond to attacks, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, internal conflicts, and staff/volunteers/board leaving their positions. According to respondents, AG actors have not been able to influence any policies relating to TGD communities in the past year.

## Role of the Media

AG groups engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information about TGD communities, using TV, FaceBook, TikTok, YouTube, and Telegram as their main communication channels. A respondent says,

“The main anti-LGBT anti-gender group Alt-info is broadcasting nationally with the authorization by Communications Commission of Georgia.”

AG social media posts have been reported to social media platforms and content is sometimes taken down. Both respondents somewhat agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. The respondents differ (1 neutral, and 1 fully agrees) on their opinion as to whether social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Kazakhstan

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from Kazakhstan. 1 Respondent is affiliated with an unregistered collective that does not work with LGBTQI issues, and 1 respondent identified themselves as being affiliated with an LGBTQI organization that covers the whole of Kazakhstan. The main communication channels used by the collective and organization to keep in touch with their constituents are Instagram and WhatsApp.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, some AG actors are present in government and their alleged crimes are rarely investigated. Respondents report that certain government representatives and institutions have very discriminatory attitudes. Their source of funding is unknown. AG actors mainly target cis women, LGBTQI and TGD people, and use “western ideas”, “family values”, sex education, misogyny, and sexism as their main discursive points in spreading and gaining support for their agenda, and mostly use local forums, websites, and Instagram to communicate with their audiences.

A respondent reports that

“Several AG bloggers are active who call for discrimination and have 30K+ followers.”

Respondents indicate that, in the past 12 months, AG actors have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting their activity on social media, as well as the number of people participating in their events. The following factors were named as the main barriers to countering AG opposition: lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, lack of interest/actions from international organizations, and general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

According to the respondent from the LGBTQI organization, the TGD rights situation is worsening in Kazakhstan. Due to AG opposition, the organization faced the following challenges: limited access to funds, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

This respondent also states that

“These groups managed to cancel the film *Buzz Light-year* in Kazakhstan because there was a kiss of two girls for 0.5 seconds.”

Apart from this incident, no specific attacks were reported in the Survey, except for an individual discrimination case of a trans person in their workspace. The respondent mentions that reporting such cases to the police is ineffective due to a lack of proper legislation.

## Role of the Media

The respondent affiliated with an LGBTQI organization partly agrees with the statement that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and fully agrees with the statement that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned. They also report that human rights-related posts have not been blocked by social media platforms.

# Montenegro

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization working with LGBTQI issues and covering the whole of Montenegro. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, some members of AG groups are in the government and the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. Some AG actors are political parties, for example, the Democratic Front, and GI 21 Maj, who don't have seats in the parliament. Information about their funding is unknown to the respondent.

AG groups target migrants and LGBTQI communities and are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. Information about various AG groups coordinating with each other or engaging in violence directed at vulnerable groups is not known by the respondent. In the past year, AG groups been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, as well as their financial capacities.

The respondent does not know whether AG groups influenced policies relating to the TGD community in the past year. Lack of political will and lack of interest/actions from international organizations were named as the barriers in counteracting AG opposition.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In the respondent's view, for the past year the human rights situation for TGD communities in Montenegro has been worsening. Verbal attacks and threats happen – mostly hate messages and comments on social media. Incidents are reported to the authorities and investigations are opened, but then closed without holding persons legally responsible. Physical attacks have not been reported in the Survey.

The organization affiliated with the respondent has experienced the following as the result of AG opposition: fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, fewer community members accessing services, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

## Role of the Media

According to the respondent, AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false information relating to TGD communities using local forum webpages, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok to spread and gain support for their agenda. While their social media posts are being reported to social media platforms, and reports are considered, the content is not taken down. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Romania

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization in Romania that works with LGBTQI issues. The organization uses FaceBook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, some members of AG groups are in the Romanian government, with Alianța Pentru Unirea Românilor (AUR) specifically named as a political party with an AG ideology. This party has 27 seats in the parliament. Information about their funding is unknown. They target LGBTQI/TGD communities and use sex education, "gender ideology", and "family values" as their main discursive topics when spreading and seeking support for their agenda. AG actors are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Information about their coordination is unknown to the respondent. The respondent believes that AG groups have not engaged in violence directed at any vulnerable groups. In the past year, AG actors have grown in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent indicates that the human rights situation for TGD groups has been worsening in the past year.

No further information was supplied by the respondent.

# Russia

## Respondents' Profile

11 Valid responses were received from Russia. 3 Respondents are not affiliated with an organization or unregistered collective, 4 are affiliated with a registered organization, and 4 are affiliated with an unregistered collective. All of those who are affiliated with an organization or a collective cover the whole country, except for one which only focuses on Saint Petersburg. 5 Respondents are affiliated with an organization that focuses on TGD communities, 2 with an organization that focuses on the LGBTQI community, and 1 with an organization that works with general human rights. Respondents report that they mostly use Telegram and VKontakte, and then FaceBook, Instagram and websites to communicate with their constituencies.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, AG actors are government actors in Russia, and government and AG groups, who are not government actors, have coordinated communication. Alleged crimes committed by AG actors are almost never investigated. Respondents report that activists are usually persecuted by the police, based on the police reports filed by AG actors, while AG actors' criminal behavior is never investigated.

Political parties, United Russia, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and A Just Russia – For Truth, were named as the most transphobic AG actors. These parties control the majority of the Russian parliament. The Russian president was named as the major AG actor in the country. AG actors are either positioned on the right-wing spectrum of political ideologies, or they have mixed political stances.

While the LGBTQI community in general was named as the main target of AG actors, TGD communities were reported to be a community that is targeted separately. Beyond these communities, ethnic and religious minorities were named as the second biggest target of AG actors, followed by migrants, cis women, and sex workers. AG actors mostly tend to capitalize on anti-Western narratives, claiming that the west/NATO is trying to destroy Russia and traditional family values through feminism and LGBT “propaganda”, amongst others. According to a respondent, the Russian politician, Alexander Hinstein, said in a speech: “If gays die, it will be Russia’s victory”. AG actors often use the narrative of Russia having a great history/past which was destroyed by the dissolution of the Soviet Union. AG actors also attack abortion and sexual education, and scare the population with the decline in population to promote AG arguments. Respondents also mention that AG actors even attack couples who do not have or do not want to have children.

According to respondents, AG actors are getting stronger in Russia in terms of their political connections, their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies, the number of people supporting their social media, the number of people participating in their events, and in their funding. According to the respondents, the most important factor in the struggle to counteract AG opposition was the government being the major AG actor, followed by a lack of proper legislation, general failure to hold perpetrators accountable due to police ineffectiveness, and lack of political will.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

All respondents agree that the situation for TGD communities is worsening in Russia. One of the given is that the “gay propaganda” law is getting harsher and now includes adults. All NGOs working on human rights are listed as foreign agents, which makes their operation and access to funds very difficult. Respondents also mention the war with Ukraine, which has

“severed international ties, leaving transgender and LGBT people ‘locked in’ in Russia which is no longer restrained by cross-country human rights agreements.”

8 Respondents report having experienced verbal attacks, 2 experienced physical attacks, and 4 had threats made against them. Incidents were not reported because respondents agree that the government is behind the attacks, and going to the police increases the risks for LGBTQI/TGD activists. Lack of proper legislation was also named as one of the factors preventing respondents from reporting incidents to the police.

## 1 Respondent recalls that they were physically attacked

“on the basis of nail polish and attackers questioned if [they were] a boy or a girl and in general were not too keen on the idea of wide gender expression.”

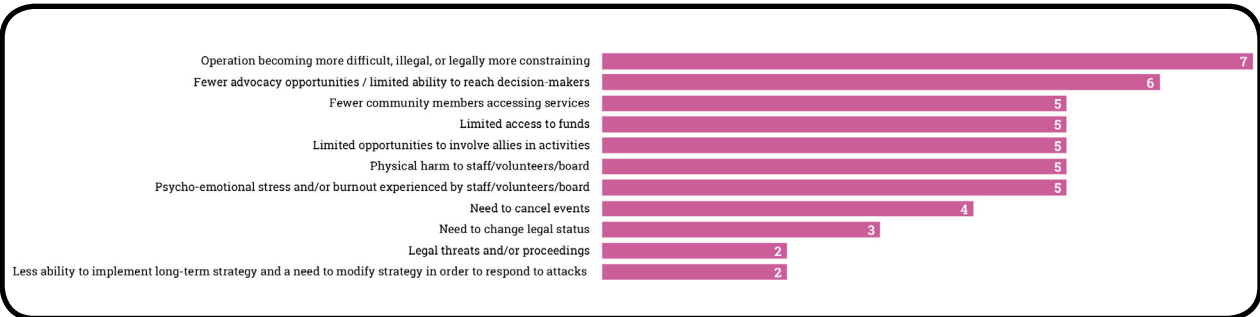
The respondent went to the police and the investigation was opened, but the case was closed without holding anyone legally responsible.

Respondents report that threats to organizations happen very often online, but due to a lack of political will and a hostile environment, the incidents are not reported. A respondent says,

“In January-February 2022, we were forced to close one of our areas of work in HIV prevention due to increased homophobic attention: activists of the homophobic “Bloodseeker” community came to the mobile HIV service point where our outreachers worked, there were also publications about the mobile point itself on local news portals (example: [https://78.ru/articles/2022-02-08/tonkaya\\_gran\\_mezhdu\\_svodoi\\_ivimiriem](https://78.ru/articles/2022-02-08/tonkaya_gran_mezhdu_svodoi_ivimiriem)). Around the same time, our social networks and telegram bots were subjected to a DDoS attack by homophobic activists.”

Other activists report that they were attacked upon returning from an event and were pushed around and insulted. Some mention that DDOS (distributed denial of service) attacks take place on websites, in comments, and in messages, using hate speech, and widespread reports of false incidents. A respondent also mentions that the state censoring organization, Roskomnadzor, banned the publication of educational materials about trans people on their website. In another case, a member of the parliament, known for his initiatives to ban the activities of LGBTQI organizations and activism in Russia, publicly called on social networks to close one of the respondent’s organizations. The murder of queer activist, [Yelena Grigoryeva](#), was also mentioned by respondents.

Respondents report that due to AG opposition, they have experienced the following challenges:



## Role of the Media

Respondents indicate that in Russia, AG actors tend to mostly use the traditional media (TV and print) to mobilize support and spread their agenda. Respondents report that this is not surprising as the AG actors are government actors, and the media is strictly controlled by the state. Facebook and Instagram, as well as VKontakte and Telegram, were also mentioned as key platforms used by AG actors to mobilize supporters and spread harmful/false information about TGD communities. While these false/harmful posts are often reported on social media platforms, the reports are usually ignored, and such posts are very rarely taken down.

Respondents fully (3) and somewhat agree (4) that social media platforms are the main sources for AG mobilization, and respondents fully agree (7) and somewhat agree (2) that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Serbia

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from Serbia, with 1 respondent being affiliated with an organization that works on TGD rights and 1 respondent not affiliated with any organizations or collectives. Respondents named FaceBook, Twitter, and YouTube as the main communication channels used to reach their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, AG actors are present in Serbia and government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. The political party, Dveri, was named as one of the AG actors that have seats in the parliament, and they receive funding as a political party. AG actors target ethnic and religious minorities, cis women, migrants, and the LGBTQI community, and use transphobia, "Western ideas/values", sex education, "family values", sex work, migration, racism, and homophobia as their main discursive topics in spreading and gaining support for their agenda. AG actors represent left- and right-wing ideologies on the political spectrum. Some AG groups coordinate with each other. A respondent says,

"Ženska solidarnost, Marks21, Lezbejska i gej solidarna mreža (LGSM), Autonomni ženski centar (AŽC), Labris Lesbian Human Rights - they support each other on the issues of violence against women, they believe that a certain space is safe if there are only cis women in the space and that "men want to rape them", they want to criminalize sex work altogether, they (unlike Dveri) identify as Leftists, and sometimes some of them, e.g. AŽC, collaborates with right-wing "intellectuals" such as Miša Đurković because they agree that surrogacy should be prohibited. Đurković believes that feminism is a threat to a family and that there is a gay lobby, etc.."



In the past year, respondents report that AG actors in Serbia have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, as well as their media presence.

According to respondents, the main barriers in counteracting AG opposition are lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, government siding with AG movements, general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, and AG groups being difficult to identify.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents had mixed evaluations of whether the human rights situation for TGD communities is improving in Serbia or not, with 1 respondent stating that the situation is worsening, and 1 indicating that it is improving. Threats and physical or verbal attacks were not reported in the Survey, but a respondent mentions that:

“We don’t share information publicly about our work with trans children because we are afraid of attacks.”

Respondents report fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, fewer community members accessing services, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board as the challenges experienced due to AG opposition. Respondents do not believe that AG actors have influenced any policy targeting the TGD community in the past year.

## Role of the Media

According to respondents, AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information about TGD communities in Serbia, using TV and FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, websites as well as Google Groups to communicate with audiences. While some AG posts have been reported, FaceBook has not taken their content down. 1 Respondent fully and 1 somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, while both respondents fully agree that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.



# Tajikistan

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received, with 1 respondent being from a rural area, and 1 from an urban area. Both respondents are affiliated with a registered LGBTQI organization that covers the whole of Tajikistan. Their main communication channels with their constituents are FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, and a website.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, some of the AG groups in Tajikistan are government officials. Alleged crimes by AG actors are rarely investigated. There are no AG political parties, but Молодежный комитет (Youth Cabinet) were named as the AG government actors. AG actors receive funding, but this information is not made public, or is hidden. AG actors target racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI and TGD communities, and use sex work, "family values", migration, and freedom of expression as their main discursive topics when spreading and raising support for their agenda.

Respondents report that AG actors engage in violence, including persecution and incarceration of vulnerable groups, as well as murder. Respondents indicate that there is no democracy in the country and that AG actors have a strong relationship with law enforcement institutions, and punish opponents. According to respondents, in the past year, AG groups have been growing in terms of political connections, and the number of people supporting them on social media.

Respondents note that the following factors serve as barriers to counter AG opposition: lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, lack of interest/actions from international organizations, and a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

According to respondents, the situation regarding TGD rights has worsened in Tajikistan in the past year. Both respondents report experiencing verbal attacks and threats in the last 12 months. Specifically, they had problems with registration, and various state institutions investigating their work due to fabricated cases filed against them. These attacks are coordinated between various AG actors, according to respondents. 1 Respondent reports that gay men were being imprisoned. This incident was reported to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). CCMs are national committees that submit HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria-related funding applications to the Global Fund and oversee grants on behalf of their countries. The CCM did not take any action. Respondents believe that the reason for this inaction was a lack of political will.

1 Respondent also states that their LGBTQI organization's staff members experienced beatings and arrests, and some of their personal information was published online. These attacks were coordinated with other AG actors. Some of these incidents were reported to the militia, and in some cases perpetrators were held responsible, while in other cases the investigation was halted due to political will. Moreover, both respondents report receiving threats on social media due to their work, and received threats during physical attacks on their offices. The police were notified and the investigation is still ongoing as the incident occurred quite recently.

The LGBTQI organizations the respondents are affiliated with experienced the following challenges due to AG attacks: need to change location of physical office, need to cancel events, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board (in both cases), staff/volunteers/board leaving their positions (in both cases), physical harm to staff/volunteers/board, and legal threats and/or proceedings.

1 Of the respondents reported the trend of a significant number of LGBTQI community members migrating from Tajikistan.

## Role of the Media

According to respondents, AG actors use print media, local webpages, and forums, FaceBook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube to communicate with audiences. While some of their posts have been reported to social media platforms, harmful content rarely gets removed. Respondents fully agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and also that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

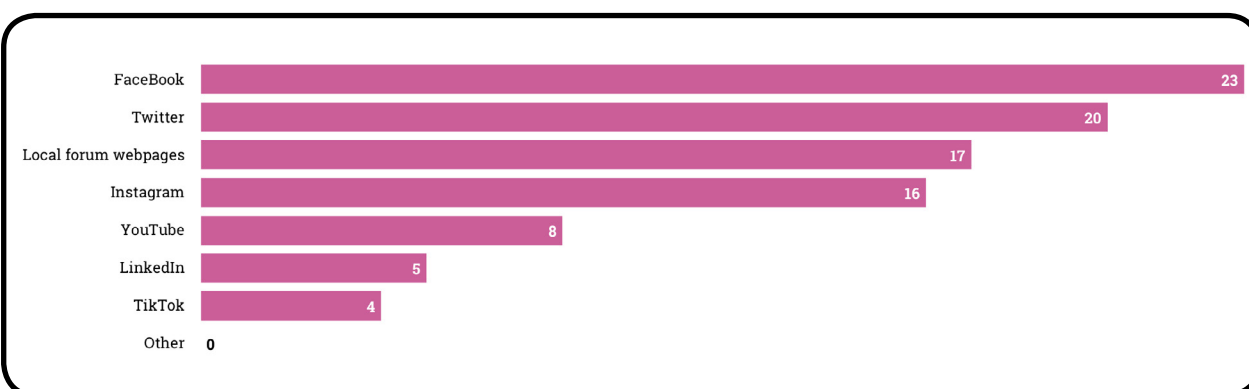


# **Europe** **(excluding Eastern Europe** **and the Caucasus)**

## **Respondents' Profile**

34 Valid responses were received from the European region (excluding Eastern Europe and the Caucasus), out of which 12 respondents are affiliated with a TGD-focused organization or collective, 7 with an LGBTQI organization or collective, and 6 with organizations or collectives mainly focused on other human rights issues. The affiliation of 9 respondents is unknown.

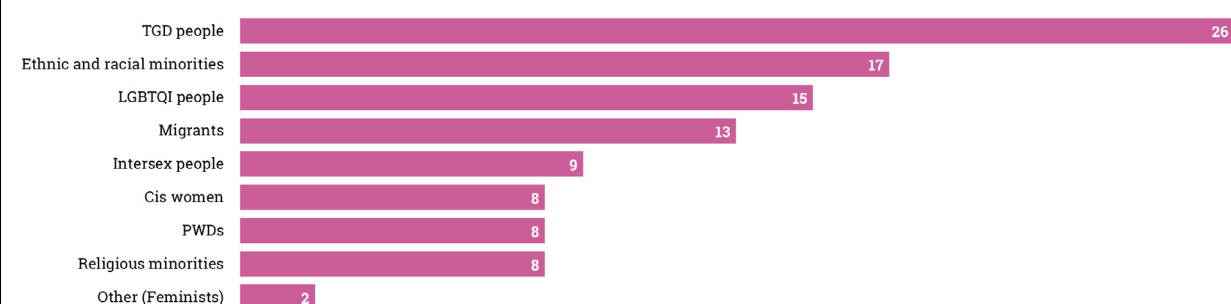
The main communication channels used by pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups in the Europe region are the following:



## AG Actors

In this region, some AG groups are in the government, with many AG groups being represented as political parties, and having seats in electable bodies (e.g. parliaments). Most of them are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum but a significant number of these actors are right-wing in their ideological stances. A small number of AG groups are left-wing. The lack of proper investigation of alleged crimes committed by AG actors is a big challenge. In several contexts, governments and non-government AG actors have coordinated communication and governments support them with financially.

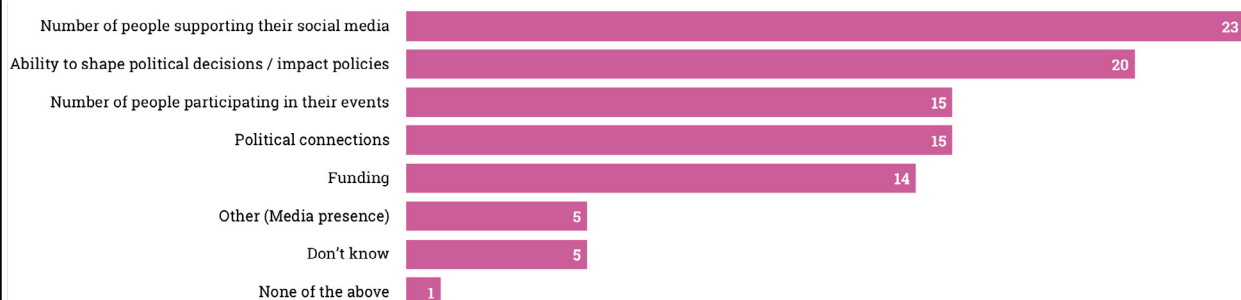
### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



AG actors focus on xenophobia, abortion, freedom of expression, “gender ideology”, sex education, “family values”, children, sports, and political correctness in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. In most cases, information about various AG actors’ coordination with each other is unknown by respondents. However, in many cases, respondents report that it is known that these groups coordinate with each other.

In the majority of cases, information about their engagement in violence directed at vulnerable groups is unknown, and in other contexts AG actors don't engage in physical violence.

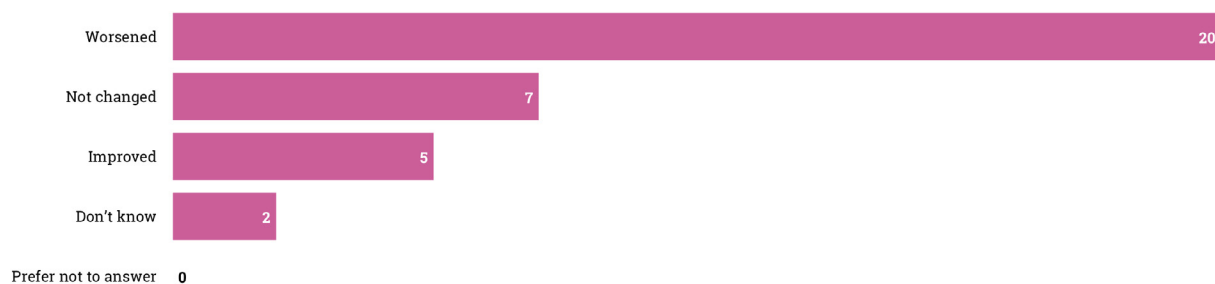
### In the past year, have these groups been growing stronger in terms of the following:



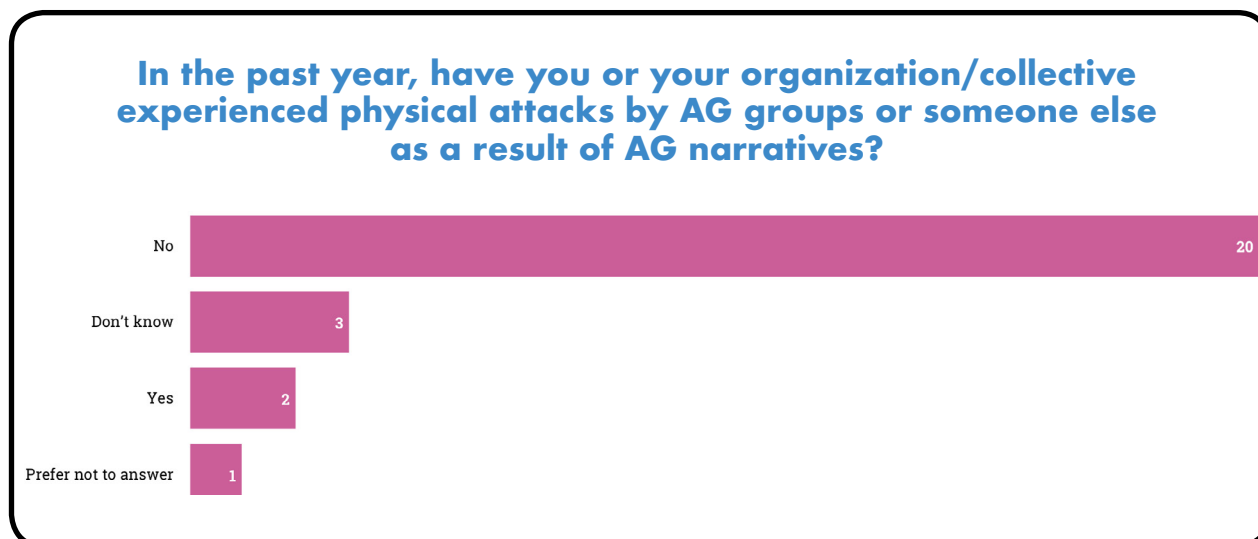
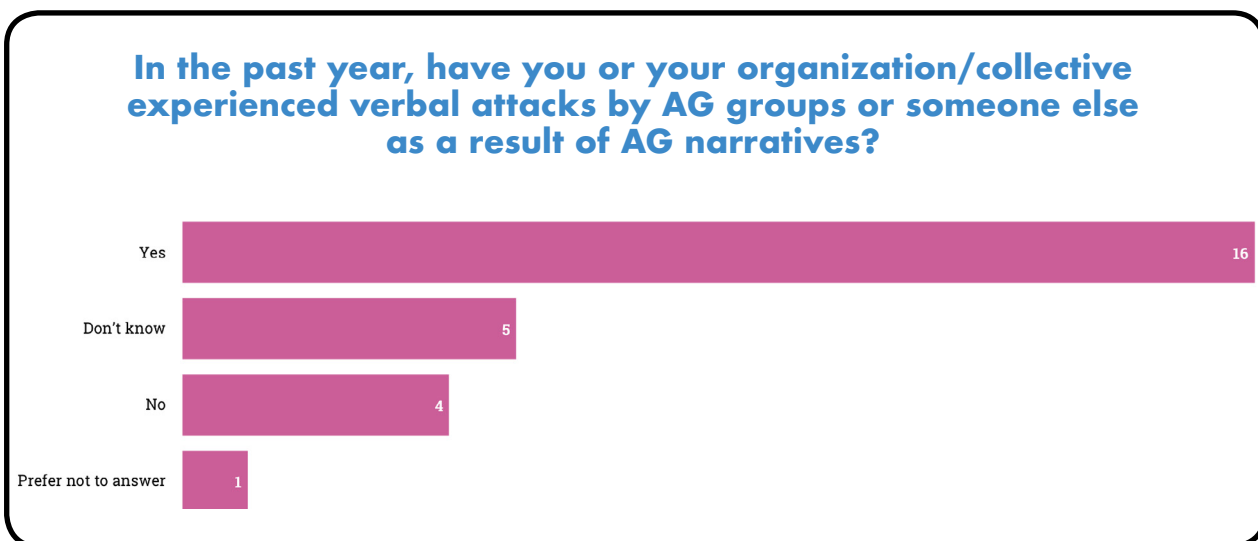
## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In this environment, a significant number of the respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year.

### In the past year, the situation for TGD groups has:



Respondents indicate that TGD and LGBTQI activists and their organizations/collectives receive verbal abuse, but that physical violence is extremely rare.

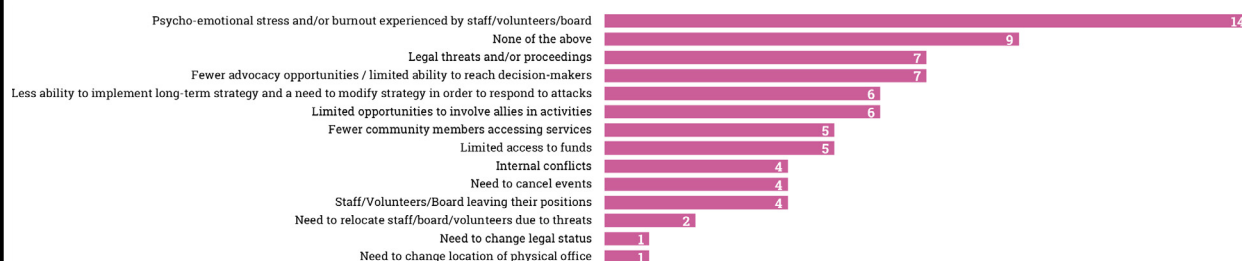


In most of the cases of attacks experienced, the authorities were not notified.

Respondents report that threats are common and take place mostly on social networks.

Many respondents report that the impact of AG opposition was not felt in any significant way in their organizations/collectives in the last year. Respondents who indicate that there had been an impact report that AG opposition results in serious challenges to TGD/LGBTQI and wider human rights activism, with psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout being the leading issue experienced within activist groups. Besides stress, the three leading problems activists face are having less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify strategy in order to respond to attacks, fewer community members accessing services, and limited access to funds. The full picture of challenges experienced by activist organizations and collectives is as follows:

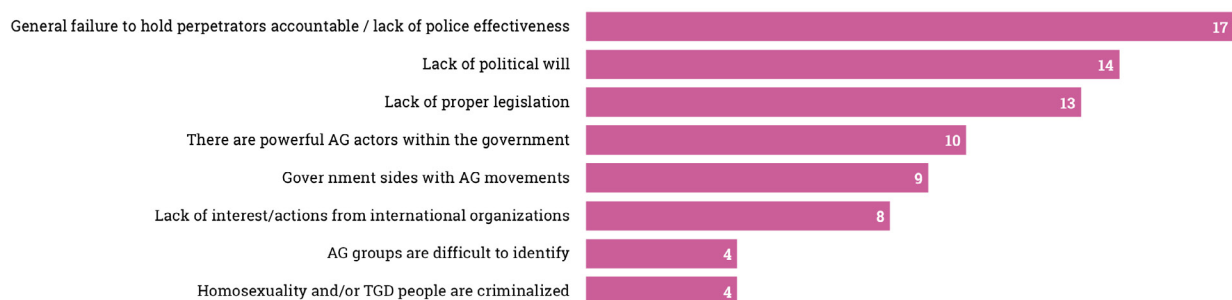
### In the past year, has your organization/collective experienced any of the following due to AG opposition?



In a significant number of contexts, in the past year, respondents report that AG actors managed to influence policies and legal developments impacting TGD communities.

According to respondents, the main barriers to countering AG opposition in their contexts are a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, a lack of political will, and proper legislation, which they explain by indicating that, in many contexts, powerful AG actors are within governments.

### In the past year, the biggest challenges to countering AG mobilization have been:

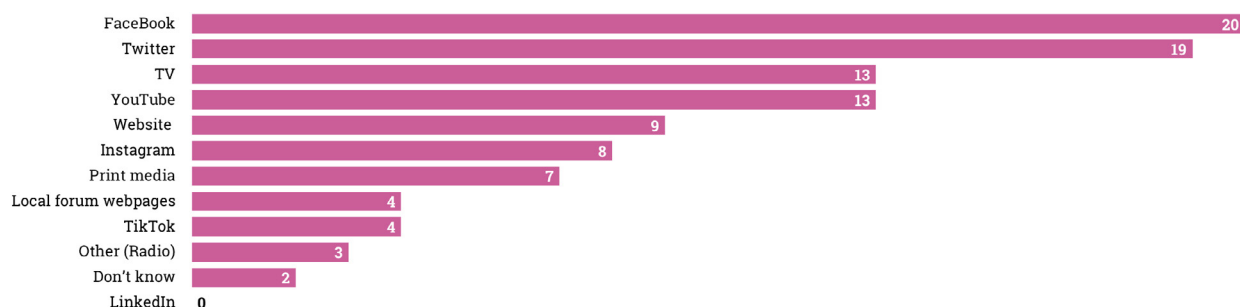




## Role of the Media

According to respondents, AG groups in Europe engage in the creation and spread of fake and harmful news relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, Twitter, and TV to spread their narratives.

### Media channels used most by AG groups in the past year



In most cases, social media posts by AG groups and actors are reported to social media platforms, but reports are ignored most of the time and content rarely gets taken down. Respondents' experiences show that social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



**In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned**



What follows is a breakdown of the data from the Europe (excluding Eastern Europe) region by country.

# Denmark

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization that works with LGBTQI issues in Denmark. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

While AG actors are present in Denmark, the nature of their organizing or funding is unknown to the respondent. AG actors target TGDI communities and use parenthood, family, and “being trans as being the result of confusion” as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. AG actors are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. AG actors have influence over the Danish government, according to the respondent:

“Government invites such people for discussion.”

The respondent does not know whether these groups engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups.

According to the respondent, AG actors have been growing stronger in the past year in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, and in their improved political connections.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that the human rights situation for TGD communities has been worsened in the past year.

No additional information was reported by the respondent in the Survey.

# Germany

## Respondents' Profile

6 Valid responses were received, all from urban settings. 5 Respondents are affiliated with an organization or collective, with 4 of these being a registered organization, and 1 being an unregistered collective. 3 Respondents are affiliated with an organization that works on TGD rights, and 2 with an organization that focuses on LGBTQI rights. 1 Respondent did not disclose information about their group or the focus of their work. The respondents' organizations or collectives use FaceBook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, AG actors are present in Germany, with some AG members being part of the government. 1 Respondent, however, states that

“The current government is predominantly pro-trans. To our knowledge, none of the current government representatives is part of anti-trans associations.”

Alternative für Deutschland (AFD) was one of the parties named as an AG actor. AFD currently has 81 seats in the parliament (out of 736). The Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) was also reported as having some anti-trans attitudes. Information regarding the funding of AG actors is not known by the respondents. AG actors are mostly categorized as right-wing or mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, religious minorities, migrants, TGD people and the wider LGBTQI community, PWDs, low-income people, and the unemployed.

The narratives used to spread and gain support for the AG agenda revolve around issues such as those described in the following feedback from respondents:

“The way gender is expressed in the German language, Gender Neutral bathrooms, changes of sex marker and first name, ‘freedom of speech’, transition of children and adolescents, stopping to take in refugees, islamophobia, promotion of heterosexual nuclear families.”

“Questioning Validity of trans\* peoples lives, villainising trans\* people, suggesting that there is a trans\* agenda, suggesting that trans\* people are dangerous in context of safe spaces for women or children, suggesting that transitioning is a form of harm.”

“Self-ID (new legislation regarding LGR) has become a big issue that anti-trans actors have started to focus on. Freedom of science is linked as a topic with these discussions (e.g. defiance of the binary gender system is based on “biological” evidence).”

Respondents indicate that various AG actors coordinate with each other:

“Usually [their] public statements refer to each other or use very similar rhetoric, this is true for the Alternative für Deutschland, EMMA, CDU/CSU and especially other transphobic feminist/LGB outlets.”

“There has been the attempt to dominate public discourse with negative information about trans people by publishing a book collectively. It was called Transsexualism: a pamphlet” (original title: Transexualität - Eine Streitschrift). The book was published by Alice Schwarzer (publisher of the magazine EMMA) and Chantal Louis, - A collaborative trans negative newspaper article was published in the German newspaper ‘WELT’.”

Respondents report that sometimes alleged crimes committed by AG actors are not investigated fully.

Respondents indicate that these actors are becoming stronger in terms of the number of people supporting their social media, and in their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies. AG groups are also growing, as respondents report a rise in the number of people participating in AG events, an increase in their funding and political connections, and their ability to push their perspective in the media.

Respondents report that AG actors have been strongly opposing progressive policies over the last year, including an easier legal gender recognition policy. According to respondents, AG actors spread false information about TGD communities.

Respondents believe that the main barrier to counteracting AG opposition is the lack of proper legislation and the general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, followed by the lack of political will.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents were split in their assessment of whether the TGD rights situation has been improving or worsening in the past year, with an equal number of respondents answering “improved”, “not changed”, and “worsened”. Similar results were seen when analyzing only those respondents who had indicated their affiliation with a TGD organization.

According to respondents, verbal attacks happen frequently:

“In the course of these events around the postponed talk at one university, the house of an outspoken trans activists was attacked. Attacks on prides appear to be more frequent. There were also attacks by TERF groups on prides. Single trans and gender diverse people have been more frequently attacked and harassed comparing 2021 to 2020.”

4 Respondents report that they or the organizations they are affiliated with have experienced verbal attacks in the past year. Mostly, such attacks remain in the social media realm. A respondent reports one near physical conflict:

“A small group of TERF’s tried to capture the Dyke March in Hamburg this year but failed to do so because we have made preparation for a case like this. We laid down on the floor and the political awareness team of the state and the Police were asking them to leave the March. They did not stop their chanting of transphobic stuff, so they got delegated by the police outside of our event. the Dyke March was saved thanks to the Hamburg Police and the Political awareness team.”

The General Attorney’s Internet Office has been alerted to such attacks. One respondent says that their reported case was investigated and all persons were held responsible.

No respondents report any physical attacks in the past year, while 2 report receiving threats on social media. 1 Respondent reports that their organization is currently involved in a lawsuit instigated by AG groups.

Respondents report that the biggest challenge faced by them and their affiliated organizations/collectives in counteracting AG opposition is the psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board. Some respondents also report legal threats and/or proceedings being a challenge. A few respondents also report limited opportunities to involve allies, limited access to funds, fewer community members accessing services, internal conflicts, and staff leaving their positions.

## Role of the Media

FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, print media, Instagram, TV, websites, and TikTok are the main communication channels used by AG actors. While their content gets reported to social media platform, the content rarely gets taken down.

Respondents agree (2 fully and 4 somewhat) that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. All 6 respondents fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Italy

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent in Italy who is affiliated with a registered organization that works with TGD communities. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

The respondent reports that AG groups in Italy are government actors, with some members of AG groups being in government, and that the government and AG groups have coordinated communication. Moreover, the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups and supports AG groups financially. AG groups are represented as political parties: Forza Nuova, Il Popolo della Famiglia, Fratelli d'Italia, and Lega. AG groups have a large presence in Italy's parliament and receive funding, the details of which are unknown by the respondent.

According to the respondent, AG actors attack ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, religious minorities, migrants, PWDs, and LGBTQI/TGDI groups. They tend to use "gender ideology" in schools, defense of the "traditional family", defense of "traditional values and Catholic morality", migration, xenophobia, abortion, and political correctness as main discursive topics to spread and raise support for their agenda.

The respondent categorizes AG groups as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. Whether they coordinate actions with each other or engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups is not known to the respondent.



The respondent indicates that in the past year, AG groups have become stronger in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, an increase in their funding, media presence, political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies.

The respondent names lack of adequate legislation, lack of political will, and powerful AG actors within the government as the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent reports that in the past year, the human rights situation relating to TGD groups has worsened:

“TGD groups are increasing in visibility but also the aggressions against them and the violence of these aggressions are increasing.”

The respondent also reports that verbal attacks happen frequently:

“Continuous comments, although not direct against my organization in particular, in which our work (trans childhood and adolescence) is denigrated and lied about in social, on TV, in the press ... with total impunity.”

The authorities were not notified in these cases. Physical attacks or threats were not reported by the respondent in the Survey.

Due to AG opposition, the organization affiliated with the respondent has experienced the following: the need to stop operations temporarily or permanently, limited opportunities to engage partners in activities, fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and threats and/or legal proceedings. The respondent says,

“Many members of our organization live in silence and refuse to give visibility to their circumstances for fear of reprisals. Two adoptive mothers of our association feared losing custody of their children for giving them affirmative support.”

The respondent indicates that AG groups have managed to influence policies:

“In the Senate, they were prevented from passing the amendment to a law that would have classified gender-based crimes against LGBTQI+ people and against PWDs as hate crimes.”

## Role of the Media

AG groups in Italy engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD communities. They use TV, print media, local forum webpages, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with audiences. While their social media posts are reported to social media platforms, the content is not taken down. The respondent somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization, and fully agrees that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

The respondent reports that TGD-related human rights posts have been blocked by FaceBook, by being labeled as “political”.

# Malta

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent in Malta affiliated with an LGBTQI-registered organization. The organization uses FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with its constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, in terms of AG groups and their relation to the government, that the

“Current government is quite LGBTIQ friendly, however, it does get delayed in enacting new legislation by the pressure that these groups put on.”

The respondent indicates that some AG actors are very small parties that have up until now had very little chance of having any elected representatives. They don't have any seats in the parliament, and they don't receive any funding. They target migrants and TGD/LGBTQI communities and use abortion and trans rights as the main discursive topics in spreading and gaining support for their agenda. The respondent writes:

“The two biggest issues that they target right now are abortion and trans people. A lot of them are influenced by American conservatism, and these are issues that are quite popular there as well.”

The respondent categorizes AG groups as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Information about their coordination efforts is not known. According to the respondent, AG groups have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and in their ability to shape political decisions / impact policies.

“Pretty much all of these groups use religion as their main driving force (mostly Catholic but there are some other Christian groups), and religious people who feel they are not represented by other groups and political parties anymore are becoming more drawn to them, at least on social media and their views on anything that they deem leftist or liberal.”

While AG actors have not been able to influence any substantial policy regarding the human rights of TGD communities, the respondent reports that

“the Equality Bill (which includes non-discrimination in the provision of services among other things) which has been promised by the government for several years, now has been completely stuck, because these groups and other religious groups have been stalling and delaying it.”

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent indicates that overall, in the past year, the human rights situation for LGBTQI and TGD communities has not changed.

AG actors engage in verbal attacks, and the respondent says that:

“Most of these things happen through social media and are mostly related to children, such as being accused of influencing children to become transgender, sexualizing them, and overall “doing the devil’s work”, to scare their followers away from the work that we do. They also spread a lot of misinformation about our organization such as who our members are, what our agenda is, etc. In previous years, the leader of such a group had already lost a defamation court case against us, and nowadays they seem to be more aware of how to not explicitly break the law again.”

These attacks were not coordinated with other AG groups and were not reported to authorities:

“I believe we didn’t receive attacks on us that merited reporting, however, we have helped other people open cases with the police force and there have been investigations however I am not sure about the outcomes.”

The respondent did not report any physical attacks or threats in the Survey.

## Role of the Media

According to the respondent, AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information relating to TGD communities through TV, FaceBook, and YouTube. While their posts have been reported to social media platforms, the content was rarely taken down. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned. While the human rights-related posts on TGD communities don't get blocked, as has been the case in other countries in and outside of the region, social media platforms will remove posts made by TGD organizations because they're seen as "political":

"FaceBook especially makes it very difficult for us to pay for sponsored posts because of the topic."

# Netherlands

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from respondents affiliated with unregistered collectives working with TGD communities in the Netherlands. The collectives use FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondents, AG actors are present as individuals and political parties, with some right-wing groups being in the parliament and others trying to win seats. The nature and the source of their funding is mostly not made public, or is hidden, but some information known by respondents indicates that some AG actors receive funding from right-wing think-tanks based in the USA.

AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, religious minorities, migrants, PWDs, and LGBTQI people, especially the BIPOC TGD community. They use xenophobia, trans minors, and gender-affirming healthcare as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. They are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Information about coordination among various AG actors is unknown by the respondents.

AG actors have called for violence against minorities, some of which has materialized. As a respondent writes,

“Here AGM groups are mostly very much fringe. The influence of their discourse though is strong in public opinion.”

According to respondents, in the past year AG actors have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, the number of people participating in their events, an increase in their funding, and their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies

In terms of the main barriers to countering AG opposition, respondents name a lack of political will, a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, and AG groups being difficult to identify.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Both respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year. Verbal attacks happen occasionally. 1 Respondent indicates that they received verbal attacks from TERF and other gender-critical groups when their organization supported the progressive LGR proposal. According to respondents, physical attacks or threats do not take place in the Netherlands.

Respondents state that they and their organizations experienced the following as a result of AG opposition in the past year: being forced to cancel events, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and internal conflicts.

Respondents believe that AG actors have not been able to influence any policy in the past year relating to TGD communities.

## Role of the Media

AG actors engage in the creation and spread of fake information regarding TGD communities and use FaceBook, Twitter, TV, print media, YouTube, and websites to communicate with their target audiences. None of the respondents recall reporting their content. 1 Respondent fully and 1 somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. Both respondents fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

1 Respondent mentions that their TGD-related human rights posts are regularly reported and taken down, and their account regularly gets suspended.

# Norway

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from Norway, with 1 respondent being affiliated with a registered organization that works with LGBTQI issues, and covers the whole country. 1 Respondent is not affiliated with any organizations or collectives. The respondents use FaceBook, Instagram, TikTok, and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to the respondents, AG actors are present in Norway. A few politicians in government are well-connected with some AG groups, while other politicians are not active members but still participate in AG movement activities. Respondents name The Christian Democrats (Kristelig Folkeparti), The Progress Party, and segments of The Centre Party (Senterpartiet) as AG actors, as well as several politicians. Respondents indicate that some of the AG groups receive membership payments, and others receive public funding. Respondents categorize AG actors as mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, religious minorities, migrants, PWDs, and LGBTQI people and they use freedom of speech, abortion, sex education, sex work, "family values", migration, political correctness, freedom of expression, the "trans lobby", and trans people's participation in sports as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. A respondent says that,

"The Centre Party's local party at Nesodden have ranking members that also are involved with Women's Declaration International Norway, and other 'feminist' anti-gender groups, and also openly meet and participate with conservative Christian groups like 'Foreldrenettverket'. They also openly meet with conspiracy theorists and anti-state activists like Kari Angelique Jaquesson."



The same respondent writes,

“Nordisk Motstandsbevegelse, the Nazi group, has previously threatened and demonstrated against Pride and “The Gay Lobby”. It has yet to be confirmed whether the terrorist (Zaniar Matapour) behind the recent shooting at a gay club in Oslo is connected to any groups.”

Respondents report that in the last year, AG actors have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and the number of people participating in their events, in terms of increases in funding, and political connections. According to a respondent:

“The leader of Women’s Declaration International Norway has become an international celebrity and is held in high regard by the alt-right for being investigated by the police for harassment and transphobia towards a trans woman.”

One of the respondents notes that the Survey was unable to fully capture the peculiarities of AG opposition in Norway:

“The survey at this point to not cater to the nuances of anti-gender work in a Norwegian context, as actors might not appear to be connected to anti-gender groups but still platform their agenda and members, or for example how they continuously write articles, create fake news and target specific open trans people, but not as a group, but as a ‘worried parent’ or ‘Biologist’ or ‘Biotechnologist’. Other actors have also created several groups just to seem like they have the support of more people. Or they have created groups with specifically planned names to seem like they represent a whole group of people. Like for example the anti-gender group ‘Lesbian Feminists’ uses their name strategically to appear to be speaking on the behalf of all lesbian feminists. Example: ‘Lesbian Feminists are of the opinion that trans women pose a risk to us.’”

Respondents name the following as barriers to counteracting AG opposition: lack of proper legislation, a lack of political will, powerful AG actors within the government, a lack of interest/actions from international organizations, and a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

1 Respondent believes that the human rights situation for TGD communities in Norway has not changed and 1 respondent believes that it has worsened. In Respondents recall several incidents in the past year of experiencing verbal attacks from AG groups, or someone else as a result of AG narratives. The incidents were reported to the local police, who opened cases most of the time. These incidents are still under investigation.

Respondents also recall physical attacks, including the [Oslo Shooting](#). Information about these activities being coordinated with other AG actors is not known. These cases have been reported and are still under investigation.

1 Respondent also mentions threats used by AG actors:

“Video in social media encourage violence and murder towards gay people. Shared between radical Islamists on social media before the shooting.”

The respondent affiliated with an organization reports experiencing the following challenges as the result of AG opposition: the need to stop operations temporarily or permanently, need to cancel events, limited opportunities to involve allies in activities, need to relocate staff/board/volunteers due to threats, less ability to implement long-term strategy and a need to modify strategy in order to respond to attacks, fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, internal conflicts, staff/volunteers/board leaving their positions, and legal threats and/or proceedings.

Respondents report that AG groups have not been able to have any significant influence over policies in Norway in the past year. However, access to gender-affirming healthcare was mentioned as one of the areas where AG actors have had influence. The details and outcome of this influence was not specified.

## Role of the Media

1 Respondent reports that AG actors engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities, using TV, print media, local forum websites, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, and webpages to communicate with their target audiences. Their content gets reported on social media and sometimes gets taken down. 1 Respondent fully and 1 somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. 1 Respondent fully agrees and 1 somewhat disagrees that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Portugal

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from Portugal, with 1 respondent being affiliated with an unregistered TGD collective, and 1 with a registered LGBTQI-focused organization. The groups use FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that some AG groups are in the government and some in several parties, and that their alleged crimes and wrongful actions are rarely investigated. Chega and Alternativa Democratica Nacional (AND) were named as parties with AG actors. Chega has 11 seats in the parliament, while AND has none.

The respondents report that AG actors and groups target ethnic and racial minorities, migrants, and LGBTQI/TGDI communities, and use “family issues”, abortion, racism, and “children’s protection from harmful education” as their main discursive points in spreading and gaining support for their agenda. Respondents categorize actors as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Information about their coordination is not known.

According to respondents, in the past year, AG groups have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, as well as having more space in public opinion platforms.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Both respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD groups has worsened in the past year. AG actors engage in verbal attacks. A respondent reports that

“Comments on social media, counter-campaigns relating to gender issues with presence in both digital and print are present.”

“Columnists and opinion makers have the light on online journals and write about trans issues, mostly depreciating, making fun, mocking, joking, stating that is dangerous, that its ideology.... (Expreso journal, PUBLICO journal, others).”

Respondents do not know whether these actions are coordinated between various AG actors. These attacks have not been reported to authorities. Physical violence or threats were not reported in the Survey.

According to 1 respondent, challenges resulting from AG opposition are psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, less ability to implement long-term strategy, and a need to modify strategy to respond to attacks were reported as challenges resulting from AG opposition. 1 Respondent reports no organizational challenges resulting from AG opposition.

1 Respondent points out that AG actors have been able to influence TGD issues in sports. General failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness, lack of proper legislation, and lack of political will were named as the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition.

## Role of the Media

Respondents report that AG groups create and spread false and harmful information about TGD communities, using FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter to communicate with audiences. While their posts were reported to social media platforms, the content was not taken down. Both respondents somewhat agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Spain

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from Spain, with 1 respondent being affiliated with a registered organization that works on human rights, with an LGBTQI portfolio being a significant part of their work, and 1 respondent who is not affiliated with any organizations or collectives.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that some AG actors in Spain are in the government, and that the government does not efficiently investigate alleged crimes committed by AG groups. The Spanish Feminist Party and the VOX party were named as AG political parties. Information about their funding is unknown to respondents. Respondents indicate that AG actors target migrants, TGD communities, and religious minorities, and use sex education, sex work, gender self-determination, transmisogyny, LGR without medicalization, and inclusion of trans women in sports as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. These groups are either mixed or right-wing in terms of their political ideologies. AG groups have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and in their ability to shape political decisions and impact policies in the past year.

Respondents name powerful AG actors within the government and the general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness as the main challenges to countering AG opposition.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent affiliated with a registered organization believes that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year, while the other respondent believes that it has improved. AG actors engage in verbal attacks, as a respondent explains:

“Primarily online, specifically on Twitter. There is a rising trend of verbal attacks on people who state to disagree with TERF postulates.”

Physical violence or threats by AG actors were not reported in the Survey.

The respondent affiliated with the organization reports the following as a result of AG opposition: fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, as well as limited access to funds.

## Role of the Media

AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD communities and use TV, print media, FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter to communicate with audiences. While their harmful posts do get reported on social media platforms, content rarely gets taken down. Both respondents agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and that the social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# Switzerland

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization that works on TGDI rights in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. They use LinkedIn and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

The respondent reports that some members of AG groups are in the government, and some AG actors are far-right parties, but whether they have seats in the parliament or not is unknown to the respondent. The respondent believes that they don't receive any funding. AG actors primarily target TGD communities:

"They say that trans youth are a myth and they need conversion-like therapy. Psychotherapists who support trans rights are activists and they should be banned from practice. They also target trans women as male predators or autogynephilia."

Overall, AG actors were categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. According to the respondent, Swiss AG groups have connections and branches in other French-speaking countries (for example, Belgium and France).

The respondent indicates that AG groups have not engaged in physical violence directed at vulnerable groups. According to the respondent, these groups have been becoming stronger in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, an increase in their political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions / impact policies.

The respondent names the following as the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition: lack of proper legislation, lack of political will, and lack of interest/actions from international organizations.



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that the human rights situation for TGD groups has worsened in the past year. The respondent reports verbal attacks by AG groups:

“It’s in the media; they say that we are activists and that we just want to ‘transform’ kids.”

Physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey. The respondent reports that the organization they are affiliated with has experienced fewer community members accessing services, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board as a result of AG opposition. The respondent doesn’t believe that AG actors have been able to influence any policy relating to TGD communities in the past year.

## Role of the Media

AG actors create and spread false and harmful information about TGD communities and use TV, print media, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and websites as their communication platforms. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# United Kingdom (UK)

## Respondents' Profile

14 Valid responses were received from the UK. 9 Respondents are affiliated with an organization, out of which 7 are formally registered. 4 Respondents are affiliated with organizations that primarily focus on TGD communities, 3 with general human rights organizations that cover LGBTQI issues, and 2 with organizations that work on other human rights issues. The main means of communication with their constituencies are Twitter, followed by FaceBook, and websites. Respondents also report using Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and LinkedIn for communication purposes.

*Please note that for the purpose of this Survey, only those responses from respondents who had indicated that they were involved in TGD organizations or collectives were analyzed.*

## AG Actors

Some respondents refrained from answering the question about whether AG groups exist in the UK or selected “not applicable”, but 1 respondent states that

“The ruling conservative party has several senior ministers who are openly committed to anti gender campaigns.”

Respondents state that AG groups receive funding, but that this information is not accessible, or is hidden. However, 1 Respondent says that AG groups receive,

“Millions of pounds – often through crowdfunders (the money is thought to come from the international anti-gender movement), from rich celebrities, but also some have received grant funding from the National Lottery and other funders that typically fund charitable work.”

AG actors target TGD groups, intersex groups, migrant, PWDs, cis women, and ethnic and racial minorities, and they use freedom of speech, sex education, trans women in sports, women's / single sex spaces, and "erasure of sex" as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda:

"Up until recently it had been around 'sex based rights', freedom of speech and 'protecting children'. However, it is becoming more broadly an attack on 'woke culture' and we have recently seen increasing focus on sex education but also things like Drag Queen Story Time."

Respondents categorize AG actors as mixed or left-wing on the political ideology spectrum. AG actors coordinate with each other. 1 Respondent states that

"LGB Alliance / Womens Place UK / Fair Play for Women / Sex Matters / Transgender Trend all cross-pollinate social media activities."

Another respondent states that

"'gender critical' pseudo-feminist groups like 'Sex matters' have combined with pro conversion therapy groups like Genspect, and attended religious right wing events like Family Education Trust's annual conference."

This respondent provided [this link](#) as a source.

1 Respondent indicates coordination between AG groups, stating that

"Anti-abortion organisations have definitely co-ordinated with transphobic organisers – for example, Christian Concern."

AG groups engage in violence or incitement of violence:

"Physical violence has been relatively limited and largely stochastic. A trans woman was subject to a far-right arson attack in 2019, the arsonist had been reposting gender-critical news stories. More recently in 2021 / 2022, escalations in relatively mild physical violence towards both cisgender and trans women have increased at protests by some more radical anti-trans protesters. The escalating anti-gender rhetoric driven by so-called gender-critical groups has also given rise to interest from far-right groups with terrorist links like Patriotic Alternative who have run a recent campaign against Drag Queen Story Hour."

Another respondent says,

“There has been incitement to violence. There have been physical altercations when trans allies and trans people have counter-protested transphobic rallies – these are often portrayed as ‘violent trans activists’ but typically it has been self-defense.”

Respondents indicate that AG groups have been growing in terms of their ability to shape political decisions / impact policies, the strengthening of their political connections, and an increase in their financial capacities. Respondents also state that the number of people supporting their social media and participating in their events is growing.

Respondents indicate that the following were the biggest obstacles to counteracting AG opposition: lack of political will, and government siding with AG actors, with some AG actors being in the government. They report that the media climate, lack of proper legislation, and lack of police effectiveness were the second biggest obstacles.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

3 Out of 4 respondents report that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the UK in the past year. According to respondents, TGD activists and organizations did not experience any physical attacks or threats in the past year linked to AG opposition. However, they report that verbal attacks are common. 1 Respondent says that their organization was placed on the [Gender Mapper](#) map used by gender-critical groups to target TGD healthcare, even though this organization was not providing medical services.

All respondents indicate that the impact of AG opposition on their organizations has been, in descending order, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout was experienced by staff/volunteers/board, fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, legal constraints, the need to stop operations temporarily, limited opportunities to involve allies, internal conflicts, and safety and security, even during online events.

Respondents report that AG actors have managed to remove trans women from participating in gender-appropriate sporting activities, including cycling, triathlons, Rugby, and swimming:

“Government is planning to eliminate trans-inclusive use of single-sex spaces. The government also appears to have been spurred into attacking trans healthcare although the results of this are yet to come to fruition.”

## Role of the Media

Respondents state that AG actors spread false news about TGD communities, using TV, print media, FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, and websites to communicate with audiences. While respondents report AG social media posts to social media platforms, content only sometimes gets taken down:

“Depends on the platform – social media reporting sometimes gets things taken down, complaints about the media or press rarely achieve anything.”

2 Respondents fully agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, while 1 respondent fully disagrees. All 4 respondents fully agree that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

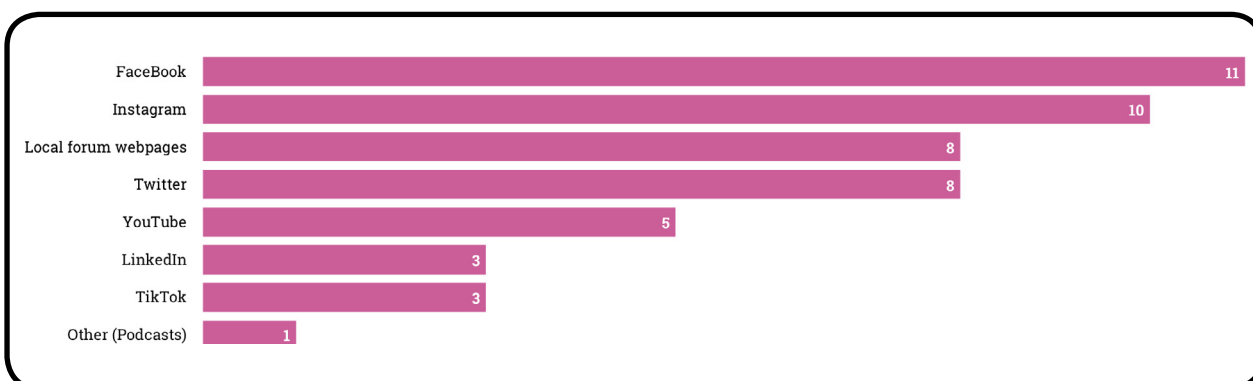


# LAC Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Respondents' Profile

13 Valid responses were received from the LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) region, with 3 respondents being affiliated with a TGD-focused organization or collective, 4 with an LGBTQI organization or collective, and 5 with organizations or collectives mainly focused on other human rights issues. 1 Respondent's affiliation status is unknown.

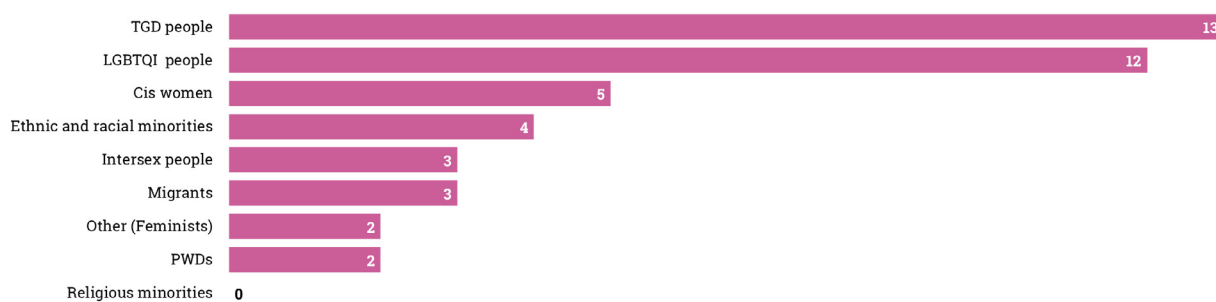
The main communication channels used by pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups are the following:



## AG Actors

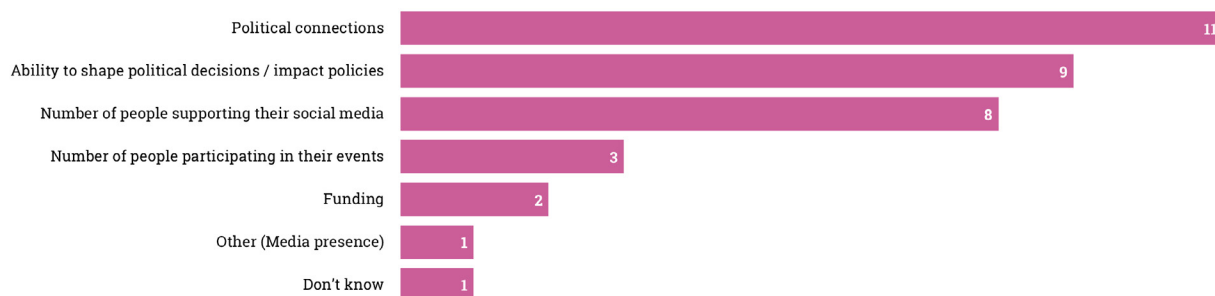
In the LAC region, respondents report that some AG groups are part of the government, while some AG groups are represented as political parties and have seats in electable bodies (parliaments). Most of these actors are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum but some are mixed or left-wing in their ideological stances. Respondents report that the lack of proper investigation of alleged crimes committed by AG actors is a challenge.

### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



Respondents report that AG actors focus on abortion, freedom of expression, “gender ideology”, sex education, and “family values” in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. Mostly, various AG actors coordinate with each other and have been growing stronger.

### In the past year, have these groups been growing stronger in terms of the following:



Respondents indicate that AG actors sometimes engage in physical violence directed at vulnerable groups.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

5 Respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has improved in the LAC region in the past year. 4 Respondents believe that it has worsened in their contexts.

### In the past year, the situation for TGD groups has:





TGD and LGBTQI activists and their organizations/collectives receive verbal abuse, which is frequently coordinated between various AG actors. Physical abuse appears to be extremely rare as it has not been reported in the Survey by any of the respondents.

**In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced verbal attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?**

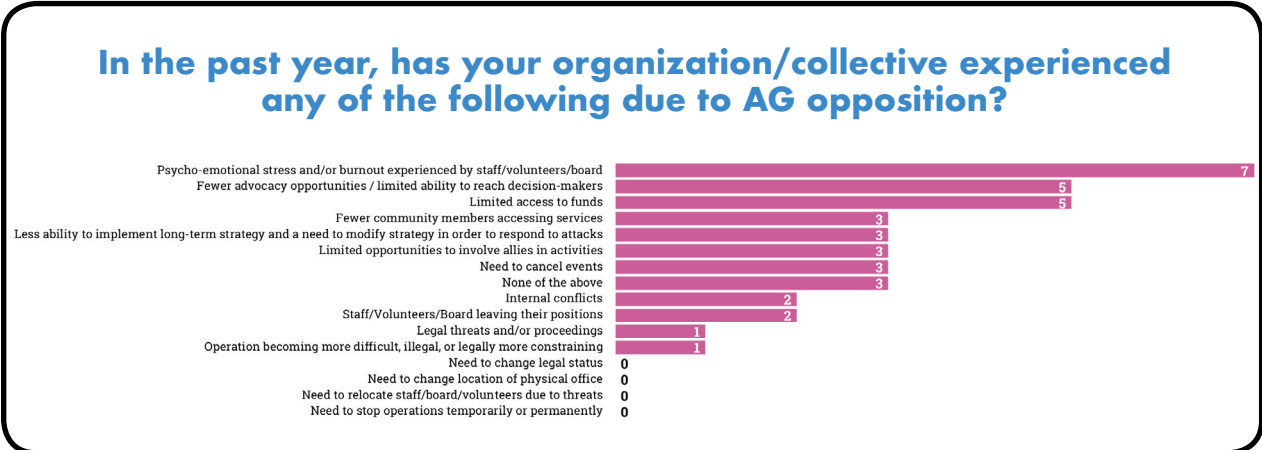


**In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced physical attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?**



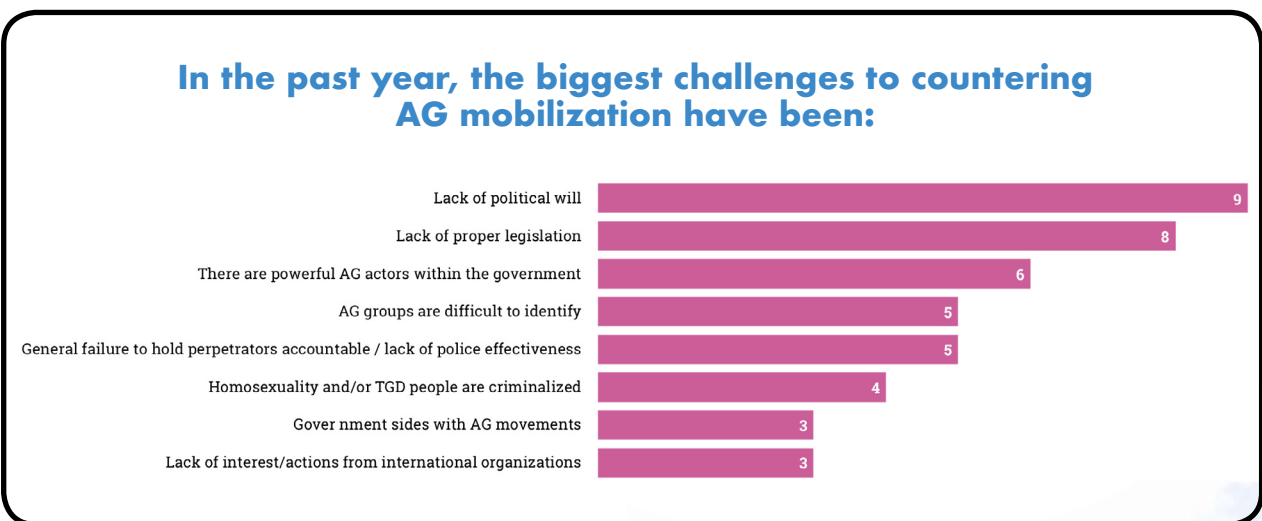
In most of the cases, the authorities were not notified about the verbal attacks. According to most respondents, this lack of reporting is due to the fact that, when the police are notified, they either do not open cases due to lack of proper legislation, or they open the investigation but do not hold the persons legally responsible.

Respondents report that AG opposition results in serious challenges to TGD/ LGBTQI and wider human rights activism, with psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout being the leading issue experienced by activists. Besides stress, the two most significant problems activists have to face are limited access to funds and advocacy opportunities, which put constraints on their ability to fight for equality.



In a significant number of contexts AG actors have managed to influence policies and legal developments impacting TGD communities in the past year.

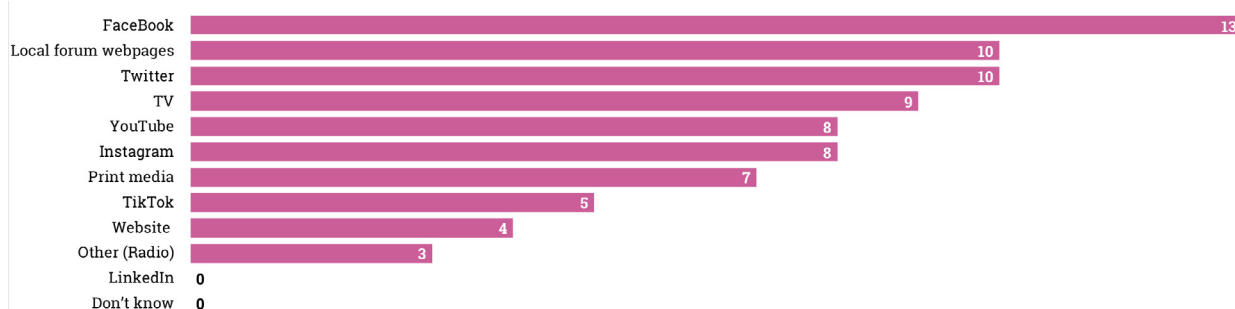
The respondents believe lack of political will and proper legislation to be the main barriers to countering AG opposition in their contexts. This can be explained by the fact that, in many contexts, powerful AG actors are in governments.



## Role of the Media

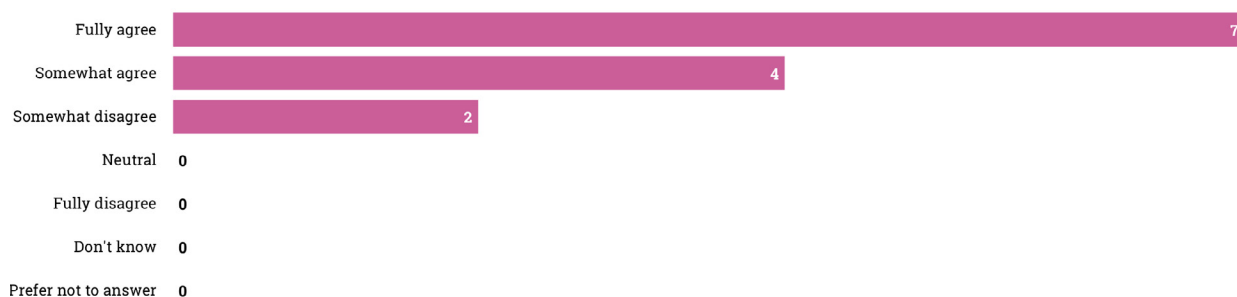
AG groups engage in the creation and spread of false news relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, Twitter, and local forum webpages as their communication channels.

### Media channels used most by AG groups in the past year



In most cases, social media posts by AG groups or actors don't get reported to social media platforms, but when they are, reports get ignored most of the time and content rarely gets taken down. Respondents' experiences shows that social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



**In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned**



What follows is a breakdown of the data from the LAC region by country.

# Argentina

## Respondents' Profile

2 Valid responses were received from respondents affiliated with registered organizations in Argentina that work with LGBTQI issues. They use FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, and webpages to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, some members of AG groups are in the government, and some are represented as political parties. 1 Respondent reports that

“José Luis Espert deputy of Avanza Libertad, Amalia Granata deputy of Unite for Freedom and Dignity, of the electoral front, Unite for Life and Family, Cynthia Hotton, former deputy of Values for my Country, currently Diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina.”

The other respondent states that

“Some political parties, mostly far-right but not exclusively, have among their members and leaders expressly anti-gender people.”

Respondents report that AG groups are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum:

“Generally, after being voted candidates from different parties when they are in power, they make alliances and blocs.”

1 Respondent indicates that AG actors receive money

“from their own followers and from Think Tanks of the Global North.”

Respondents report that AG actors target migrants and LGBTQI/TGD communities and use abortion, “gender ideology”, non-binary language, comprehensive sex education, sexual and reproductive rights, social plans for TGD people, “family values”, children, and migration as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda.

According to respondents, AG groups have been becoming stronger in the past year in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, increased funding, and political connections, their ability to shape political decisions, and a growth in their media presence.

Respondents indicate that the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition in the past year were lack of adequate legislation and political will, powerful AG actors present in government, overall failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of policing effectiveness, and AG groups being difficult to identify. 1 Respondent reports that lack of funding is also a barrier:

“Lack of funds for the LGBTIQ + movement to strengthen capacity that leaves us alone in front of the authorities as the only way out when within the authorities the antigender groups operate and with a lot of concentrated power.”

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Respondents report that, in the past year, the human rights situation related to TGD communities has not changed:

“Although there have been policies of progress in the country, the implementation of the same and access to justice add to the impunity of anti-tax groups makes it difficult to comply with and improves the reality especially of people and children TGD.”

1 Respondent reports experiencing verbal attacks resulting from AG opposition:

“In social networks they attack publications of promotion of rights and begin to follow our accounts for or publish them in anti-January groups to make verbal aggressions online.”

The respondent believes that these attacks are coordinated between various AG actors:

“The platforms act in an automatic way and many times their aggressions are understood as freedom of expression. So, we proceed to block most antigender users.”

Physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey.

As the result of AG opposition, the organizations affiliated with 1 respondents has experienced the following: limited access to funds, need to cancel events, fewer opportunities for promotion / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to engage partners in activities, less ability to implement a long-term strategy and the need to modify it to respond to attacks, and fewer community members accessing services. 1 Respondent reports experiencing no challenges due to AG opposition.

## Role of the Media

AG groups engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD groups, using TV, local forums, FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter for communication with their audiences. Some of their social media posts get reported, but the content rarely gets deleted.

1 Respondent fully, and 1 somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization, and both respondents fully agree that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

# Chile

## Respondents' Profile

3 Valid responses were received from respondents in Chile who are all affiliated with organizations or collectives. 2 Respondents are affiliated with a registered collective and 1 with an unregistered collective. 1 Respondent is affiliated with a TGD organization, 1 with an LGBTQI organization, and 1 with a general human rights organization that also works with LGBTQI issues. They use FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, webpages, and podcasts (Spotify, iVoox, Apple Podcast, Google podcast, iTunes) to communicate with their constituents.

## AG Actors

According to respondents, some AG actors are in government, and some have a form of political party. The following political parties were named: UDI, RN, Observatorio Legislativo Cristiano (opposition party), Partido Republicano, and Unión Demócrata Independiente. AG groups receive funding, but this information is not publicly available, or is hidden. Respondents categorize AG actors as being right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, migrants, PWDs, LGBTQI/TGD groups, feminist groups, and academics who work in the gender and sexuality field. They use “family values”, children’s rights, national identity and security, abortion, “gender ideology”, sex education, anti-communism, and political correctness as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda.



AG actors coordinate with each other at the international, national, and regional levels. A respondent states that

“For the ‘Freedom Bus’ campaign, the Christian Legislative Observatory was funded by CitizenGo. For the research campaign on gender training, queer theory and trans studies, the right-wing ultraconservative caucus joined.”

AG actors engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups. A respondent says,

“In the case of the ‘Freedom Bus’, actors such as ‘Pastor Soto’ made threats in public spaces and television channels, an issue that continues to occur to this day in the mouth of evangelical fundamentalism. For the campaign prior to the constitutional plebiscite of exit, videos circulated with threats and incitement to hatred against the LGBTIQ + population.”

In the past year, AG groups have been becoming stronger in terms of how many people support them on social networks, their political connections, and their ability to shape impactful political/policy decisions.

The following were named as the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition: lack of adequate legislation, followed by lack of political will, AG groups being difficult to identify, and the overall failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of policing effectiveness. Lack of interest/actions by international organizations was also reported as a barrier.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

All respondents believe that, in the past year, the human rights situation for TGD groups has improved. They also report that verbal attacks happen:

“Two trans\* members of the Network of Feminist Philosophers were discriminated against by Internet users, questioning our gender identity and the relevance of our participation in a feminist organization.”

Another respondent says,

“On the occasion of the campaign for a new constitution, there were 3 controversial episodes involving trans people. This generated a wave of trans hate on social networks where many other trans people who had nothing to do with the act were insulted or harassed in their networks and in content uploaded by anti-gender influencers from YouTube.”

Whether these attacks were planned and coordinated with other AG actors is unknown to the respondents. Authorities were not notified.

Physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey.

As a result of AG opposition, organizations and collectives affiliated with respondents have experienced the following challenges: limited access to funds, need to cancel events, fewer opportunities for promotion / limited ability to reach decision-makers, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and censorship on social networks.

According to respondents, AG groups have been able to influence policies relating to TGD communities in the past year. They have tried to stop abortion, legislate against the recognition of rights, and stop laws of access to historical reparation:

“They attacked the gender identity law. They managed to make the law exclusive of children under 14 and non-binary trans people.”

A second respondent states that

“Leaders of right-wing and ultra-right political parties with anti-gender and Christian NGOs to prevent the advance of laws. Leaders of political parties have ties with leaders of political parties in the US and Brazil, such as the Republican Party and Bolsonaroistas.”

## Role of the Media

AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false and harmful information about TGD communities, using local forum webpages, FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram as communication platforms. These are followed by TV and print media, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, and webpages. They also use local radio, especially in more rural areas.

While their social media posts do sometimes get reported to social media platforms, content is almost never taken down. Respondents (2) fully agree and somewhat disagree (1) that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization. All respondents fully agree that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

# Colombia

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent who is affiliated with an unregistered collective that works with other human rights issues, with their LGBTQI mandate comprising a significant portion of their work.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, some members of AG groups are in government, and some are political parties. Colombia Justa y Libre, and Movimiento Mira were mentioned as AG political parties. These parties have seats in various electable bodies. They receive funding, but the information about this is not publicly available, or is hidden. The respondent categorizes AG groups as mixed on the political ideology spectrum. Whether they coordinate actions among each other or engage in violence directed at vulnerable groups is unknown to the respondent. AG actors target cis women, and LGBTQI/TGD communities and use abortion, sexual diversity, sex education, “feminist bullying”, and “violence against religious women” as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. According to the respondent, in the past year, AG actors have been becoming stronger in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media, and increasing their political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions:

“They have managed to remain as a team of women’s public policy in the Council and have tangled their approval.”

In the last year, AG groups have influenced policies relating to TGD communities:

“[They] prevented the approval of public policy for women in Cali.”

The respondent reports that the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition were lack of political will, the government siding with AG actors, and lack of interest/actions by international organizations.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent indicates that in the past year, the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened. Verbal attacks have taken place:

“After a performance of women outside the City Council, we were branded as violent, vandals and dangerous and it was proposed to prevent our entry to the debates and even shield the seats from our dangerousness.”

The respondent believes that these attacks were coordinated between various AG actors, but the police were not notified.

Physical attacks or threats were not reported in the Survey.

As a result of AG opposition, the collective with which the respondent is affiliated has experienced the following: limited access to funds, fewer opportunities for promotion / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to engage partners in activities, less ability to implement a long-term strategy and the need to modify the strategy to respond to attacks, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

## Role of the Media

AG actors engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD communities, using FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and local forum webpages as their main communication channels. While their social media posts get reported to social media platforms, the harmful content does not get taken down. The respondent somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization and that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

# Costa Rica

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization that works with human rights, with their LGBTQI portfolio being a significant part of their work.

## AG Actors

According to the respondent, in the last year, government and AG groups have had coordinated communication, and government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. There are several political parties with AG or anti-human rights ideologies. Information on whether they have seats in the parliament, and their funding status is not known to the respondent. They target cis women and LGBTQI/TGDI communities. The respondent categorizes AG groups as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum. Whether various AG groups coordinate with each other is unknown. Their engagement in violent actions directed at vulnerable communities was not reported in the Survey. The respondent reports that AG groups have been becoming stronger in terms of political connections, and their ability to shape political decisions in the past year.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

According to the respondent, in the past year, the human rights situation for TGD communities has not changed. Physical and verbal violence or threats were not reported in the Survey. Due to AG opposition, the organization affiliated with the respondent has experienced the following challenges: limited access to funds, less ability to implement a long-term strategy and the need to modify their strategy to respond to attacks, fewer community members accessing services, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

The respondent reports that AG groups have not influenced any policy relating to TGD communities in the past year. Lack of adequate legislation and government siding with AG movements were reported as the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition.

## Role of the Media

AG actors use TV, print media, and FaceBook to communicate with audiences. Sometimes their posts get reported on social media platforms, but the content is not taken down. The respondent fully agrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization, and that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

# El Salvador

## Respondents' Profile

1 Valid response was received from a respondent affiliated with a registered organization that works with human rights, with an LGBTQI focus comprising a significant portion of their work.

## AG Actors

The respondent indicates that some members of AG groups are in government, and that the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by these actors. According to the respondent, AG groups are not political parties and don't have seats in the parliament. They receive funding, but this information is not publicly available, or is hidden. The respondent categorizes AG actors as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors target cis women and LGBTQI/TGDI groups and use abortion, marriage equality, and freedom of expression as their main discursive topics to spread and gain support for their agenda. Various AG groups coordinate campaigns against comprehensive sexuality education.

In the past year, AG groups have been becoming stronger in terms of political connections, and their ability to shape political/policy decisions.

The respondent reports that the biggest barriers to counteracting AG opposition are lack of adequate legislation, lack of political will, the government siding with AG movements, powerful AG actors within the government, and AG groups being difficult to identify.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

The respondent believes that, in the past year, the human situation for TGD groups has worsened. Verbal attacks and threats happen in a coordinated manner:

“Publications in the media and networks, groups praying in front of office headquarters, threatening calls, attacks on the web. They tell us murderers, genocidal, that they are going to put us in jail, that we defend murderers.”

These incidents were not reported to authorities.

Physical attacks were not reported in the Survey.

As a result of AG opposition, the organization affiliated with the respondent has experienced the following challenges: limited access to funds, the operation becoming illegal or legally more restrictive, the need to cancel events, fewer opportunities for promotion / limited ability to reach decision-makers, limited opportunities to engage partners in activities, and psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board.

In the past year, AG groups have been able to strike down a proposal to allow minimal exceptions to the anti-abortion legislation.

## Role of the Media

AG groups engage in the creation and spread of false information about TGD communities, using TV, print media, local forum websites, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, and websites to communicate with audiences. The respondent somewhat agrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization, and fully agrees that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.



# Mexico

## Respondents' Profile

3 Responses were received from Mexico, with 2 respondents being affiliated with unregistered collectives, and 1 with a registered organization. 1 Respondent is affiliated with a TGD organization, 1 with an LGBTQI collective, and 1 with a general human rights organization that also works with LGBTQI issues. FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram are the main communication platforms used to communicate with their constituents, followed by LinkedIn and webpages.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that some members of AG groups are in the government, and that the government rarely investigates alleged crimes committed by AG groups. The government supports AG groups with economic resources and they have coordinated communication with each other. Some AG actors are political parties, for example, the National Action Party (PAN), Parts of Morena, and the Social Encounter Party. Some AG actors are in elected positions: Morena and the Solidarity Encounter Party (PES) hold positions in the Congress of the state of Puebla, and in the mayor's office of the city of Puebla. Respondents report that these parties receive funding. They are categorized as mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors target cis women, TGD/LGBTQI communities, and activists, organizations, and collectives fighting to decriminalize abortion. Their main topics used to spread and gain support for their agenda are "family values", sex education, abortion, and "gender ideology". Some AG groups coordinate with each other.

In the past year, the respondents report that AG groups have been growing in terms of the number of people supporting them on social media and participating in their events, an increase in their political connections and funding, and their ability to shape policies.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

2 Respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has improved in the past year in Mexico, while 1 respondent reports that it has worsened. All 3 respondents report experiencing verbal attacks and threats in the past year, which mainly happen on social networks. Verbal attacks also happen in physical spaces:

“During the marches of March 8 and September 28, there are anti-rights groups in the religious enclosures, when the demonstration passes through there, they have come to insult them or even try to attack them.”

Another respondent states that

“They have published personal data of activists on social networks (doxing), such as their addresses and full names so that the comrades are assaulted.”

1 Respondent says,

“When we held an open parliament on abortion in the Congress of Puebla, these groups flocked to public sessions to harass pro-abortion participants.”

Respondents indicate that some of these attacks have been coordinated between various AG actors. In most cases, authorities were not notified.

Organizations affiliated with the respondents have experienced the following due to AG opposition: fewer community members accessing services, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, internal conflicts, staff/volunteers/board leaving their posts, and threats and legal proceedings. 1 Respondent reports not experiencing any challenges.

According to respondents, AG groups have been able to influence policies:

“They stop the advancement of legislative issues related to access in the change of name and gender for different sectors of trans populations. They stop the possibility of comprehensive sex education.”

A second respondent states that

“They delayed the approval of equal marriage, the recognition of self-perceived gender identity, the recognition of self-perceived gender identity for children and adolescents and the decriminalization of abortion.”

Respondents report that the main barriers to counteracting the AG opposition are powerful AG actors within the government, lack of political will, and government siding with AG actors, as well as AG actors being difficult to identify.

## Role of the Media

AG groups create and spread false information about TGD communities, using TV, print media, local forum websites, Twitter, and FaceBook as their main communication channels. Their social media posts are not reported because social media platforms don't take these harmful posts down. 1 Respondent agrees, 1 somewhat agrees, and 1 somewhat disagrees that social media platforms are the primary medium for AG mobilization. All 3 respondents fully agree that social media platforms do not sufficiently enforce their rules to prevent the spread of harmful and/or false news and/or the planning of violent actions.

A respondent indicates that

“The actions of religious groups in relation to anti-gender positions should be further explored, especially on the direct communication channels they have with their parishioners, from which they open workshops in which they provide information that stigmatizes and puts at risk the lives of people of sex-gender diversity. In this line also all its actions to change gender identity and expression, as well as sexual orientation, including the multiple ‘camps’ in which people deprived of their liberty are tortured physically and emotionally.”

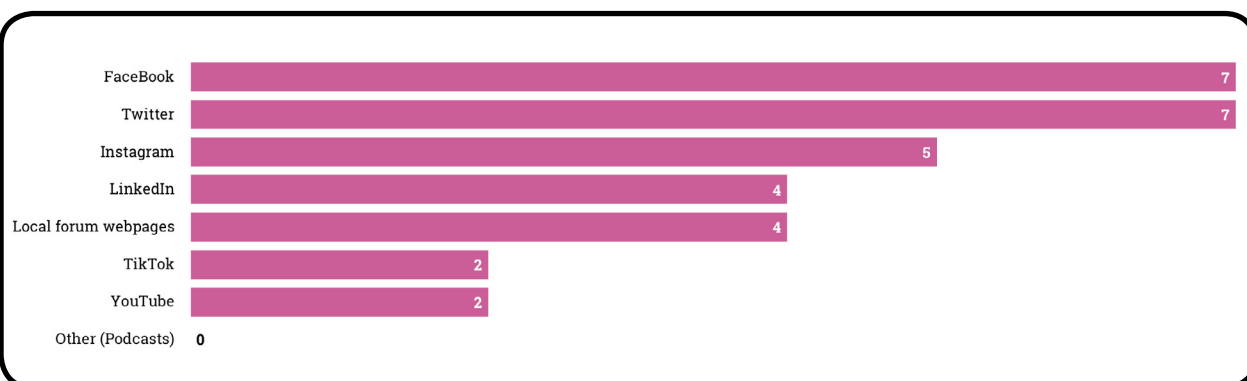


# North America

## Respondents' Profile

10 Valid responses were received from the North America region, with 3 respondents being affiliated with a TGD-focused organization or collective, 2 with an LGBTQI organization or collective, and 3 with organizations or collectives mainly focused on other human rights issues. 2 Respondents' affiliation status is unknown.

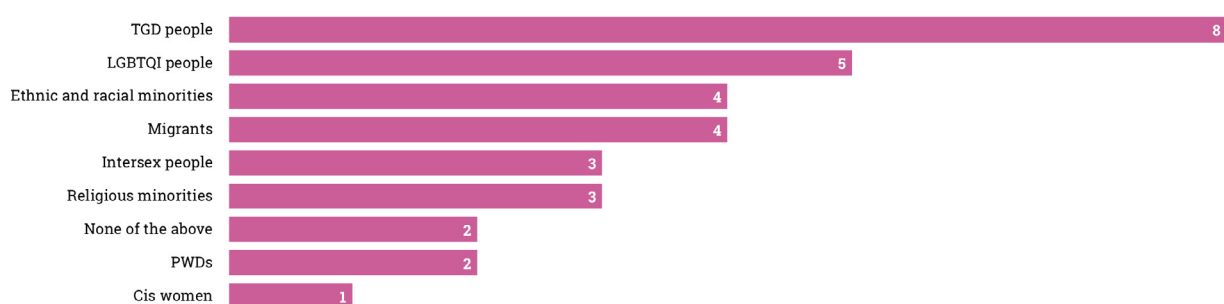
The main communication channels used by pro-TGD/LGBTQI groups in North America are the following:



## AG Actors

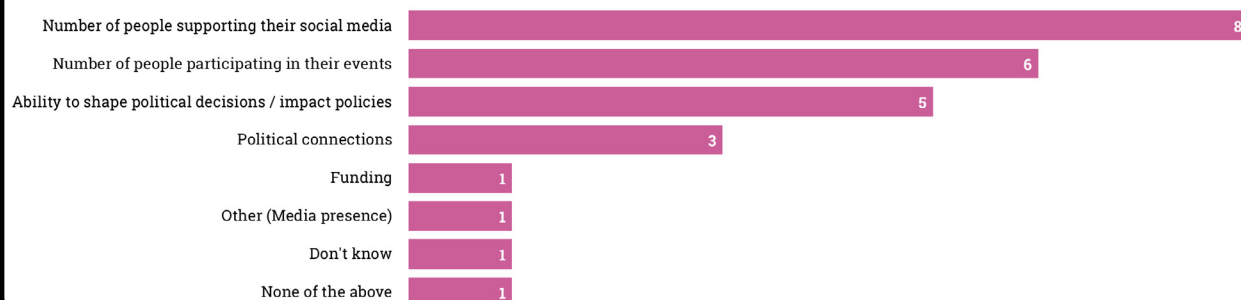
Respondents indicate that some AG groups are in the government, and some are represented as political parties and have seats in electable bodies (parliaments). Most of them are categorized as right-wing on the political ideology spectrum, but some are mixed in their ideological stances. Respondents report that the lack of proper investigation of alleged crimes committed by AG actors is a huge challenge.

### AG groups have targeted the following groups in the past year:



AG actors focus on racism, abortion, freedom of expression, “gender ideology”, sex education, and “family values” in public communication to spread and gain support for their agenda. Respondents indicate that various AG actors mostly coordinate with each other and sometimes engage in physical violence directed at vulnerable groups.

### In the past year, have these groups been growing stronger in terms of the following:



## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

In this environment, the majority of the respondents believe that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year.

### In the past year, the situation for TGD groups has:



Respondents and their organizations/collectives sometimes receive verbal abuse.

### In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced verbal attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?



Physical abuse appears to be extremely rare as it has not been reported by any of the respondents in the Survey.

### In the past year, have you or your organization/collective experienced physical attacks by AG groups or someone else as a result of AG narratives?

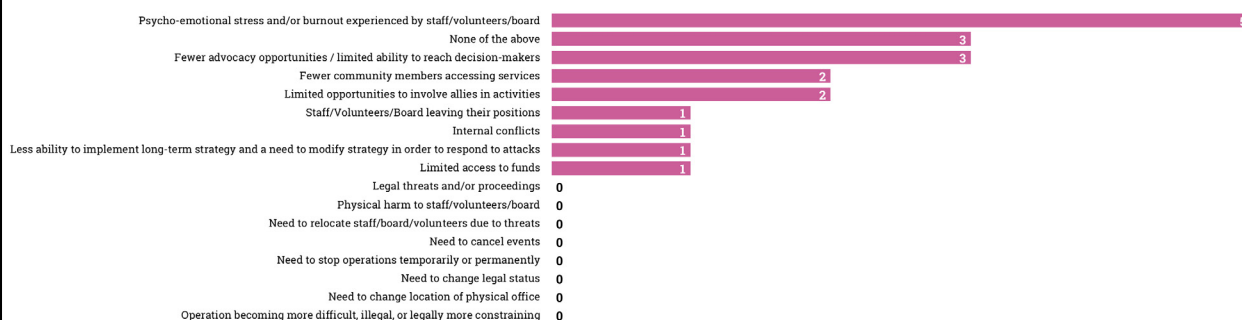


Respondents report that various AG actors usually don't coordinate with each other.

According to respondents, threats are not common and take place mostly on social networks.

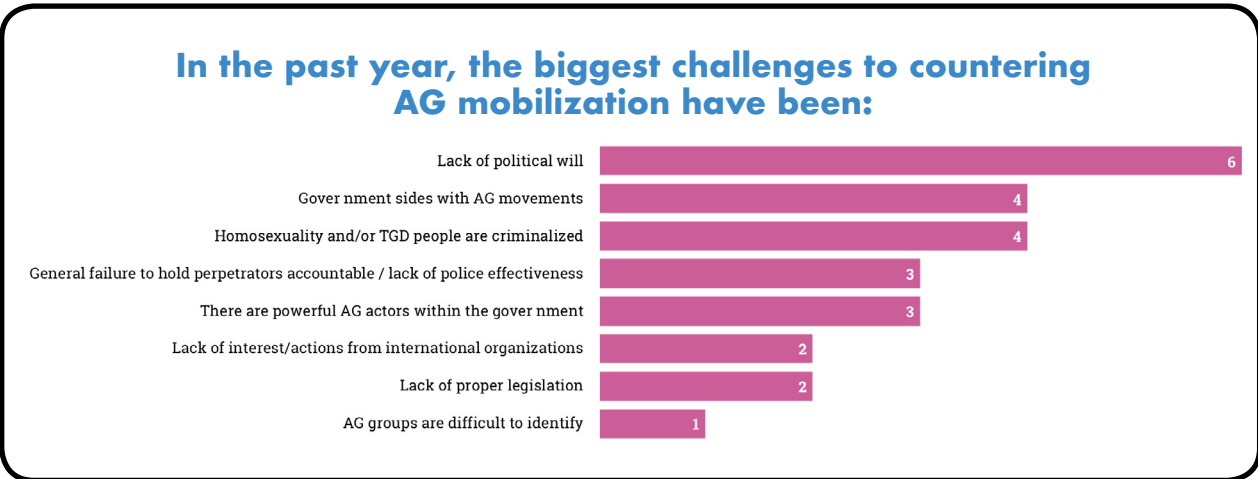
Respondents indicate that AG opposition results in serious challenges to TGD/LGBTQI and wider human rights activism, with psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout being the leading issue experienced. Besides stress, the most significant problem respondents report is fewer advocacy opportunities, which put constraints on their ability to carry out their advocacy work. Some respondents report that AG opposition has not translated into any significant challenges for their organizations/collectives.

### In the past year, has your organization/collective experienced any of the following due to AG opposition?



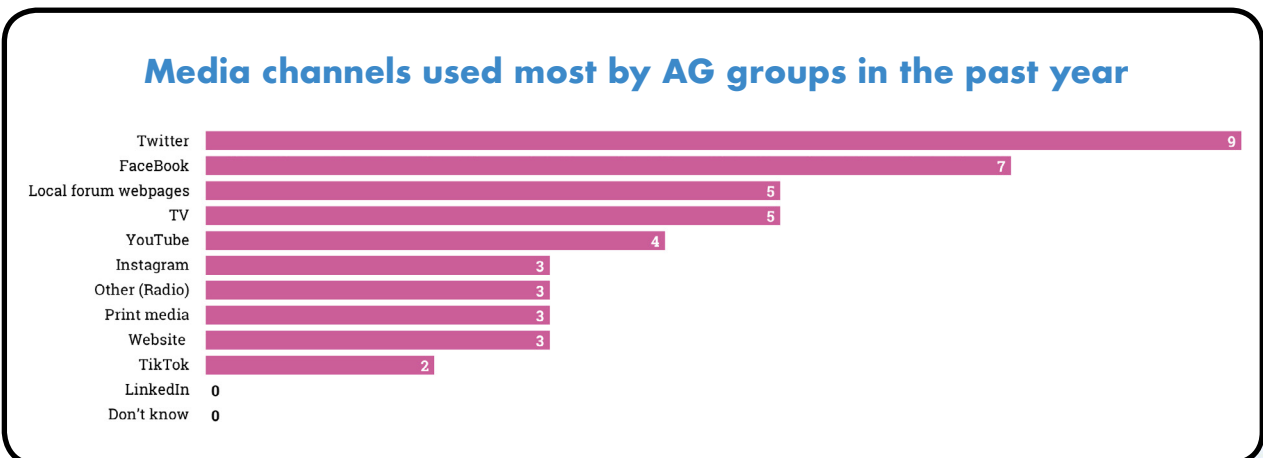
In a significant number of contexts, AG actors managed to influence policies and legal developments impacting TGD communities in the past year.

Respondents report the following main barriers to countering AG opposition: lack of political will, criminalization of trans/non-cisnormative and non-heteronormative identities (or aspects of their identities), and governments siding with AG actors. This can be explained by the respondents indicating the fact that in many contexts, powerful AG actors are in governments.



## Role of the Media

AG groups engage in the creation and spread of fake news relating to TGD communities, using FaceBook, local forum webpages, TV, and YouTube to communicate with their audience.





In most cases, AG groups'/actors' social media posts get reported to social media platforms, but when they are, the reports are mostly ignored, and content rarely gets taken down. Respondents' experiences show that social media platforms are the main sources of AG opposition, including mobilization, and these platforms enable transphobic hate to spread by not sufficiently implementing rules and removing false and misleading information or other activities from their platforms.

### In my experience, social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization



### In my experience, social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned



Human rights-related posts on TGD communities don't get blocked most of the time, except for one case when FaceBook blocked the content, labeling it as "political".

What follows is a breakdown of data from the North America region by country.

# Canada

## Respondents' Profile

4 Valid responses were received from Canada, with 2 respondents being affiliated with a registered collective, and 2 with unregistered collectives. 1 Collective focuses on TGD issues, 2 on general human rights including LGBTQI issues, and 1 on other human rights issues. These organizations use FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter to communicate with their constituents, followed by TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, and websites.

*Please note: Only those responses (3) who had connections with TGD organizations or general human rights organizations with an LGBTQI focus were analyzed for the purposes of the Survey.*

## AG Actors

Respondents report that some members of AG groups are in the government and alleged crimes committed by AG groups sometimes go uninvestigated. But overall, the respondents agree that the Canadian government is supportive of trans issues. AG actors receive funding, with this information being publicly unavailable or hidden. 1 Respondent states that AG actors don't receive any funding. Respondents categorize AG groups as right-wing, and mixed on the political ideology spectrum.

AG actors mostly target TGD/LGBTQI communities, followed by ethnic and racial minorities, religious minorities, migrants, PWDs, and intersex groups, and they use "family values", freedom of expression, "sex-based rights", trans women in women prisons, conversion therapy, and trans-affirming healthcare as their main discursive topics in spreading and gaining support for their agenda.

Some AG actors coordinate with each other. 1 Respondent reports that

“CAWSBAR, Gender Dissent, Women’s Human Rights Campaign and countless others. Connected to far-right media (Rebel News, the Post Millennial, Quillette).”

According to respondents, some AG actors engaged in public harassment and prevented certain people from entering stores/businesses in the past year. 1 Respondent states that AG groups have not been becoming stronger in the past year, while 2 respondents pointed to the growth in AG groups due to the increase in the number of people supporting their social media and participating in their events, as well as their increased ability to shape political decisions, and impact policies.

Respondents report that the main challenges in counteracting AG opposition are lack of political will, and a general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

2 Respondents believe that the situation has worsened for TGD communities in the country, with 1 respondent reporting that it has not changed. While respondents did not report any serious incidents of AG attack or threats, some mention that as a result of AG opposition they had experienced fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board, and limited or no opportunities to involve allies in activities. Respondents report that AG actors have not been able to impact any policy related to TGD communities in the past year, other than sex education curriculums, which was mentioned by 1 respondent.

## Role of the Media

AG groups engage in the creation and spread of false information on TGD communities and tend to use Twitter, local forum websites, FaceBook, TV, print media, and YouTube to communicate with audiences. Their posts get reported to social media platforms and content is sometimes taken down. 2 Out of 3 respondents fully agree that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization, and that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned.

# United States of America (USA)

## Respondents' Profile

6 Valid responses were received from the USA, with 5 respondents are affiliated with an organization or an unregistered collective, of which 3 are registered and 2 unregistered. 2 Of these groups cover the whole country, 1 covers California, 1 covers the southern USA, and 1 covers Texas. 2 Respondents are affiliated with a TGD organization, 2 with LGBTQI organizations, and 1 with a general human rights organization, which also works on LGBTQI issues.

FaceBook and Twitter are the most used channels for communication with their constituents, followed by Instagram, LinkedIn, and websites. TikTok and YouTube were reported as the least used channels.

## AG Actors

Respondents report that AG actors are present in the country, with some AG actors being in the government. Some members of the government and AG groups have coordinated communication, and some parts of the government rarely investigate alleged crimes committed by AG groups. It is also reported that some parts of the government support AG actors financially. Certain groups within the Republican party (GOP), and the party itself, were named as one of the AG actors.

Respondents indicate that AG actors target ethnic and racial minorities, cis women, religious minorities, migrants, PWDs, LGBTQI groups, and TGD people. Their main points in spreading and gathering support for their agenda are abortion, LGBTQI issues, race, "wokeness", social justice, bathroom policies, family values, migration, and sex education. Respondents categorize these actors as mostly right-wing on the political ideology spectrum.

According to respondents, various AG actors coordinate with each other. For example, the Texas GOP coordinates with TERF groups, and there is also collaboration with fundamentalist Christian groups. Respondents indicate that AG actors are growing in terms of the number of people supporting their social media, the number of people participating in their events, and their ability to shape political decisions / impact policies.

According to respondents, AG actors have been effective in initiating AG policies in the last year. There has been an avalanche of anti-rights/anti-TGD measures in various states in the USA:

“Criminalization of gender-affirming care for minors. Families of trans people who can afford to leave the state are leaving, including many of our high-profile activists, leaving a vacuum in state and local activism.”

The biggest barriers to counteracting AG opposition are a lack of political will and the government siding with AG movements. This is followed by a lack of proper legislation, powerful AG actors being in the government, and a lack of interest/actions from international organizations.

## Impact on TGD/LGBTQI Communities

Out of 6 respondents, 5 believe that the human rights situation for the TGD community has worsened in the USA for the past year, while 1 believes that it has improved. 3 Respondents report having experienced verbal attacks from AG actors or by others as the result of AG narratives:

“When doing testimony at the state capitol, we were called ‘groomers’, ‘child abusers’, ‘pedophiles’, etc.”

Another respondent mentions that in-person events were a matter of concern for them due to the high possibility of protestors obstructing the event. These incidents were not reported to authorities. Physical attacks were not reported in the Survey.

Respondents report psycho-emotional stress and/or burnout experienced by staff/volunteers/board as the most significant impact resulting from AG opposition, followed by fewer advocacy opportunities / limited ability to reach decision-makers, and fewer community members accessing services.

Internal conflicts and staff/volunteers/board leaving their positions was also an issue encountered by respondents:

“Our executive director moved out of state not due to threats but partially due to the anti-trans climate here.”

Another respondent says,

“I feel an immense amount of stress at the thought of what we will do when we resume in person events. I do not want to involve law enforcement, which is more likely to victimize our community than protect it, but I am 100% sure we will face harassment and perhaps violence. The events we have are very important to the community and to myself personally, but Don't know how we are going to ensure that events are safe. We have considered closing down the organization but that feels cowardly and like we are taking a resource away from the community. I just don't know what to do. I am also considering moving out of state due to the anti-trans climate here which would mean I would need to step down from the org, and I'm not sure the org would survive further losses of organizers/staff. (This is unpaid part time work; I have a day job elsewhere.)”

## Role of the Media

AG actors create and spread false news about TGD communities and primarily use Twitter, TV, and FaceBook to communicate with their audiences, followed by local forum websites, Instagram, YouTube, and websites, and then print media, TikTok, and in-person events.

All respondents report false/harmful content to the social media platforms, but content is rarely taken down. Respondents (3) fully agree and somewhat agree (2) with the statement that social media platforms are the primary means for AG mobilization. Respondents (4) fully agree and fully disagree (1) that social media platforms are not sufficiently enforcing their rules to prevent harmful and/or fake news from spreading and/or violent actions from being planned. Apart from 1 respondent's case, human rights posts don't get blocked. This respondent says,

“We had ads for our events blocked on FaceBook/Instagram due to being 'political.' We are not a political organization. Appeals were ignored.”



# Conclusions and Recommendations

Impact of Anti-Gender Opposition on TGD and LGBTQI Movements: Global Report  
**GATE: Global Action for Trans Equality | 2023**



# Conclusions and Recommendations

The conclusions and recommendations are based on the most common trends revealed by the Survey.

The assessment from the majority of respondents that the human rights situation for TGD communities has worsened in the past year should be a cause for alarm for activists, policy-makers, and donors. This alarming reality that the Survey brings to light demands that there should be more of an investment in TGD activism in terms of creating more awareness and more critical knowledge about AG opposition.

Building on this knowledge, analyzing existing activist approaches would help to critically rethink activist strategies in order for them to be more effective. The efficacy of activist approaches and strategies ideally need to include other parties: there need to be more discussions and collaborations between donors, policy-makers, TGD activists, and other socially progressive actors in order to understand the factors contributing to the success of AG actors, and to develop joint strategies to counteract the growth and impact of the AG movement. For example, as AG actors are globally weaponizing concepts like “family values”, sex education, abortion, children’s protection, and “Western ideas”, more critical knowledge is needed to understand how these concepts can be reclaimed through redefining them outside of a cis-heteronormative lens. and how the public communication coming out of activist circles can be improved upon in order to counteract the skewed perceptions that these AG narratives create and foster.

Moreover, as AG actors have successfully managed to position TGD communities and their rights against the women’s/feminist agenda in several contexts, further specific knowledge needs to be created around this topic and more discussions between TGD and feminist movements need to take place in order to clarify that this is a false dichotomy manufactured by the AG movement, and that the principles, values, aims and goals that govern the TGD human rights movement are the same as those that underpin the feminist/women’s movement.



Another aspect that the Survey highlights is the leading challenge experienced by activists resulting from the AG opposition – that of the psycho-emotional well-being of activists. Political discussions at the highest level need to include an awareness of this challenge, as well as ways to prevent and/or mitigate it. Undoubtedly, donors need to invest more in the safety, security, and psycho-emotional well-being of activists. Without this investment, the tendency of activists to leave activism may grow, which would pose a serious threat to the TGD movements, and human rights activism in general.

Pursuant to this, the security and safety of activists and organizations need to be prioritized in funding models as well as in high-political discussions because, otherwise, a growing number of community members may no longer be able to access the services provided by TGD/LGBTQI organizations, which would leave these members in even more vulnerable situations, especially when it comes to life-saving services related to HIV, psycho-emotional support, and other medical, social, and legal assistances. For many, lack of access to these services means vulnerability and exposure to HIV and other health-related issues, homelessness, violence, incarceration, and even death.

Another issue highlighted by the Survey is that due to AG opposition, advocacy opportunities for TGD activists are becoming increasingly limited, and activists have less capacity to reach decision-makers themselves. Therefore, beyond the financial investment in advocacy, donor institutions themselves need to proactively invest in enabling and facilitating discussions between activists and decision-makers, as donors and other institutions have relatively more power to reach decision-makers.

Activists, donors, and policy-makers also need to invest more political attention and resources into international and national policies and legislation that tackle the disinformation and radicalization of the AG movement, as the Survey revealed the main barriers to counteracting AG opposition to be the lack of political will, lack of proper legislation, and general failure to hold perpetrators accountable / lack of police effectiveness,

Finally, as the Survey showed, social media is the main domain enabling AG discourses to flourish and mobilization to take place. Donors need to support activist communication efforts more and activists need to be more invested in effective public communication. This requires more knowledge and resources for effective messaging (including message testing), understanding social opinions and factors contributing to radicalization, and utilization of more diverse

communication channels. Most importantly, social media platforms need to be held accountable. More and more effective regulations and policies are needed to force social media platforms to enforce higher safety and ethics standards on their platforms, ensuring that they do not enable disinformation that leads to social conflict and violence. Due to the transnational nature of social media platforms, discussions and policy efforts targeted at them are needed at the international level.

## Summary of Recommendations

### Donors

1. In funding portfolios, prioritize projects aimed at:
  - a. producing more critical knowledge on AG opposition, factors contributing to radicalization, and effective strategies for counteracting it,
  - b. increasing the capacity of activists and organizations, as well as their safety, security, and well-being,
  - c. producing effective and wide-reaching communication,
  - d. building intersectional cross-movement alliances, and
  - e. tackling disinformation and radicalization.
2. Beyond funding advocacy projects, proactively leverage positions of power to facilitate discussions between activists and decision-makers.
3. Provide flexible funding to adequately respond to emerging issues and increase core funding opportunities.

## Decision-makers

1. Increase the participation of TGD communities in consultations for policy making – not only on issues that specifically impact TGD communities, but on all social issues.
2. Invest in understanding the factors contributing to anti-democratic radicalization, and conflicts operating in local contexts.
3. In consultation with various progressive/emancipatory and socially vulnerable groups, create or improve policies that address disinformation and anti-democratic radicalization.

## Activists

1. Mobilize new resources and invest the existing ones in improving the understanding of the factors contributing to radicalization, the nature of AG opposition, and strategies on how to effectively counteract it.
2. Mobilize new resources and invest the existing ones in effective communication, both in terms of the content and the channels to reach as many audiences as possible.
3. Mobilize new resources and invest the existing ones in the safety, security, and well-being of the staff, board, and volunteers of the organization.
4. Liaise with social media platforms or organizations who can provide support in reaching out to social media to address disinformation.
5. Focus energies on building alliances and solidarity with other socially progressive and emancipatory movements, especially among feminist groups.





[www.gate.ngo](http://www.gate.ngo)