



# DENMARK

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In April, football player Viktor Fischer called out football fans who targeted him with homophobic slurs during a game, noting that there is nothing wrong with being or being perceived as gay, unless it is used as a negative thing.

*"I have nothing against being called one thing or another. The problem for me here is that the word 'homo' was used as an insult."* - Viktor Fischer to TV2

Fischer's team and the Danish Football Association (DBU) expressed support for Fischer, and condemned homophobia on and off the field.

## DATA COLLECTION

SEXUS, the most comprehensive survey conducted on sexuality in Denmark to date, gathered responses from 200,000 Danes between 2017 and 2018. The results were released in October, and revealed that LGBT people scored significantly worse on health and well-being, including self-rated health, anxiety, loneliness, suicidal thoughts and attempts, than the general population. They also experienced more discrimination and violence.

## EMPLOYMENT

In August, the Equality Ministry presented the results of its study about the situation of LGBT persons in the labour market. On a positive note, 69 per cent of LGBT people reported that they have not experienced bullying or negative comments at work. However, general workplace satisfaction among LGBT people is much lower than among cisgender heterosexual employees. The study showed that trans people were most likely to experience discrimination at work.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In February, the city of Copenhagen became the first Danish city to adopt an LGBTI policy (2019-2023). The policy 'En ligeværdig del af fællesskabet' ('An equal part of the community') includes specific measures such as anti-bullying strategies or installing unisex bathrooms in public places.

Following the adoption of Denmark's LGBTI Action Plan (2018-2021) in 2018, numerous initiatives were started or finalised

this year. Two studies commissioned by the government, were released (see under **Employment and Health**). The government established a knowledge centre for gender identity and provided funding that can cover roughly 1.5 full time salary. Limited funding opportunities were opened for applications for supplementary counselling for trans persons and initiatives for creating safety, well-being and equal opportunities. Limited - core funding was given to a few LGBTI organisations: Sabaah, LGBT Denmark and Copenhagen 2021 (in charge of WorldPride and EuroGames in Copenhagen in 2021).

The cross-ministerial working group that was established in 2018 to review the Danish legislation to identify inconsistencies and inequalities regarding LGBTI issues, had to postpone the finalising of its work due to the general elections. One issue addressed by the workgroup is the legal gender recognition for children and young persons under 18. Ministers have abstained from commenting on their positions until the working group releases its findings.

## FAMILY

The bureau Statistics Denmark (DST) shared in August that the number of rainbow families had doubled since 2009, reaching a total of 1,465. However, different-sex couples are still more likely to have children.

## HEALTH

In November, the Minister of Health confirmed that the Danish implementation of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) will not include placing the trans-related codes in a chapter on sexual health. In 2017, Denmark already depathologised trans identities by discontinuing giving trans diagnoses and replacing them with contact codes in a neutral chapter containing, for example, pregnancy, which also is not a disease. Thus, Denmark will continue diverging from ICD regarding trans related codes.

Complaints continued to be made concerning the Centre for Gender Identity of the Copenhagen regional hospital this year. The Centre continued to reject a number of applications, which was criticised and questioned by trans people and representative organisations. The Regional Council requested information from the Centre on the number of rejections and their reasoning, but have not received an answer to date.



The 2018 blood donation regulation, which replaced the permanent ban on men who have sex with men (MSM) with a four-month deferral period after having oral or anal sex, was implemented this year. The guidelines were presented in a public hearing in the spring, and an autumn hearing established that men who have never had sex with men will not have to take a Syphilis test.

The Health Authority published the [study](#) on 'Danish LGBT persons encounter with general practice', containing a literature review and a summary of interviews. The report puts forward 24 recommendations, including to address prejudicial opinions and lack of information of healthcare staff.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

The cross-ministerial workgroup (see under **Equality and non-discrimination**) has continued its work on proposing a regulation on legal gender recognition for minors. The regulation might set out an age limit, allegedly at the age of six. Civil society, including the trans children support association, Foreningen for Støtte til Transkønnede Børn, are against any limitation:

*"The children run into a lot of practical problems in everyday life because they have a CPR [personal ID] number that does not fit the way they look and the way they perceive themselves [...]. For example, at the library, it causes discomfort when you try to borrow a book. You are constantly confronted with the fact that your CPR number does not match your appearance." - Lind-Thomsen (Foreningen for Støtte til Transkønnede Børn) to the [Kristeligt Dagblad](#)*

## PUBLIC OPINION

Legal gender recognition for children and young persons sparked a public debate. Some perceived experts - e.g. a psychologist from the Danish branch of Save the Children - [made](#) uninformed comments in the press and there have been many aggressive posts on social media.