



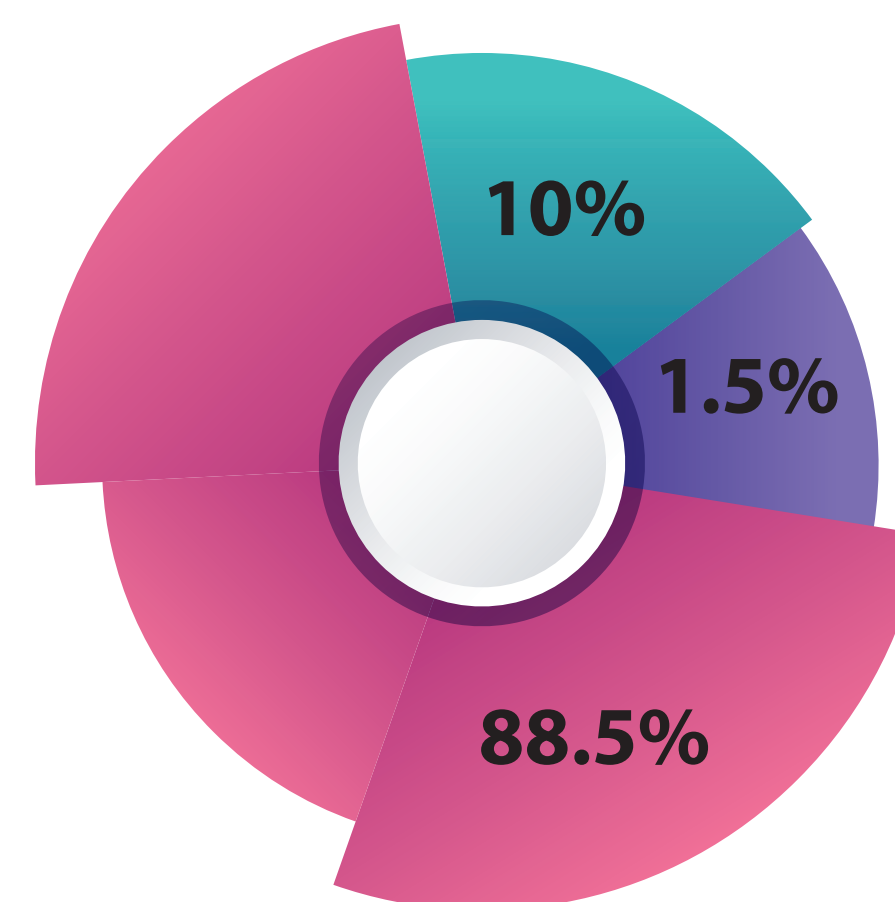
## Empowering Change; Recognising and Challenging Sexual Harassment of LGBTQIA+ Women\*

Our survey was designed to gather the experiences of LGBTQIA+ Women\*, and was inclusive of non-binary, female-aligned people, and those who do not necessarily identify as female but who have been perceived as such and received sexual harassment as a result of this. The survey was developed using findings from 3 focus groups into this topic.

The following are results from 267 completed surveys.

### Gender Identity:

This was an open-ended question so that participants could use whatever words they are most comfortable with.



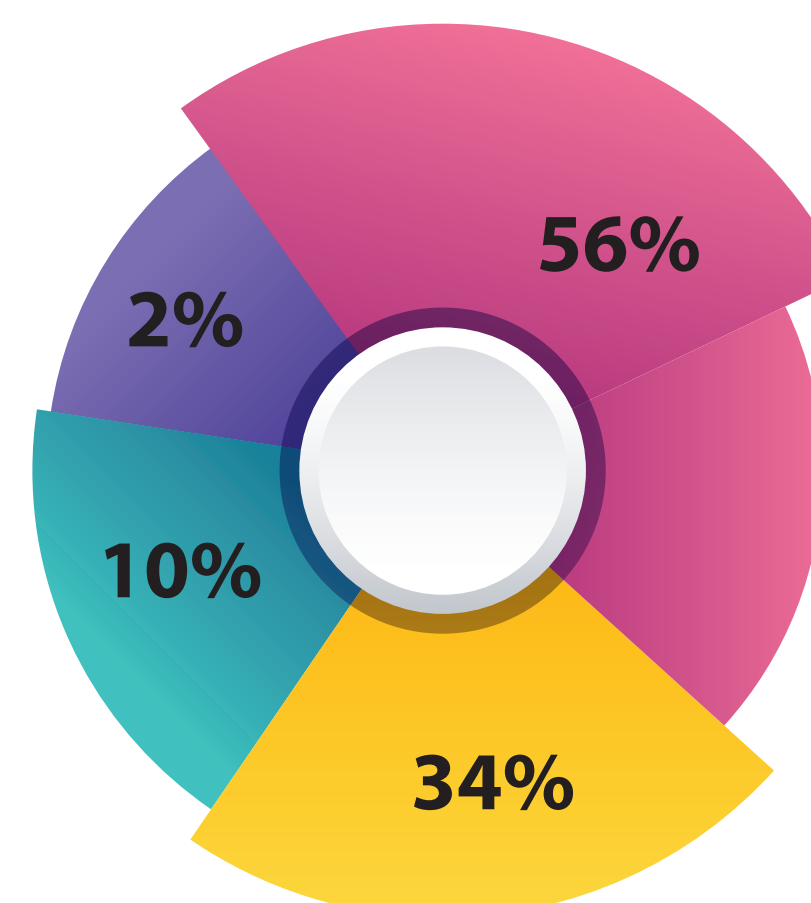
**10%** identities outside of the binary of 'female' and 'male' - including for example non-binary, gender queer, fluid, non-binary lesbian, genderqueer woman.

**1.5%** Trans - Throughout the survey more people than 1.5% shared experiences relating to being trans, but in the gender identity question many people do not consider 'trans' as part of their gender identity.

**88.5%** Female

### Sexual Orientation:

Participants used a total of 12 different terms to describe their identities divided loosely into:



**56%** Lesbian and gay woman

**34%** Bisexual+ and pansexual

**10%** Queer

**2%** Other Identities - including asexual, straight, gay man, queer asexual

### Age:

Of the people who completed the survey, the age range was very varied. The highest demographics taking part were in their 20's and 30's, however there were diverse ages of participants ranging from mid-teens to late 60's.

### Direct Provision:

**7%** of respondents currently reside, or have lived, in Direct Provision.

### Experiences:

I have felt uncomfortable or unsafe expressing my identity in public:

**71.5%** I felt uncomfortable or unsafe holding hands with an LGBTQIA+ partner because of the reactions we get.

**47%** I felt uncomfortable or unsafe dressing a certain way to express my gender identity.

**37.5%** I felt uncomfortable or unsafe because of the reactions I get from being an identifiably queer or butch woman\*.

**The top 3 places, aside from the street, that people experienced unwanted sexual attention relating to their LGBTQIA+ identities are:**

- Pubs & clubs
- In their current/previous town
- In their current/previous workplaces

**75%** of people selected 'men or boys on the street' as the people who are doing this.

**54%** have experienced unwanted sexual attention in LGBTQIA+ spaces, especially in LGBTQIA+ bars and nightclubs.

**17%** of people have experienced unwanted sexual attention and/or sexual harassment by other LGBTQIA+ Women\* and by gay men.



## Online experiences:

**83%** have seen or experienced unwanted sexual attention relating to LGBTQIA+ identities online, with the majorities having witnessed homophobic, transphobic and biphobic comments and posts.

Of those that have tried online dating **80.5%** had experienced unwanted sexual attention or language when identifying themselves to others as LGBTQIA+.

**23%** have experienced being deceived by people who want to talk to bisexual women\* or lesbians only for sexual gratification.

## As a result of unwanted sexual attention and/or sexual harassment LGBTQIA+ Women\* felt:



## Modifying behaviour:

A large amount of respondents reported modifying their behaviour to avoid harassment. Others talked about how they have purposefully not come out or expressed their identities publicly because they are afraid, having seen how other LGBTQIA+ Women\* are spoken to/about and treated.

These modifying behaviours include:

Not holding hands or expressing affection with a partner in public

Not disclosing to taxi drivers if they have been in an LGBTQIA+ space

Not coming out in work

Changing how they dress or present their identities

Avoiding certain places because of previous experiences of harassment relating to LGBTQIA+ identity.

## Solutions:

Participants put forward the following solutions

**Increase visibility of our LGBTQIA+ identities so they become more normalized and less sexualized.**

**Demand for Specific Hate Crime legislation and education for the Gardai on specific issues LGBTQIA+ Women\* face.**

**Consent awareness aimed at the LGBTQIA+ community and non-LGBTQIA+ people that shows the diversity of people's experiences**

**Practical and emotional support for coping with sexual harassment and spaces to discuss these experiences.**

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