



Statement of the European Psychiatric Association on the Attack at Berlin Pride

The deadly attack at Berlin Pride on 25 July 2026 must be understood against the backdrop of a deeply concerning rise in violence, hostility, and discrimination towards LGBTIQ+ people across Europe.

According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which conducted the largest survey of its kind involving more than 100,000 LGBTIQ people across 30 European countries, one in seven respondents (14%) had experienced a physical or sexual attack because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics during the previous five years. More than half (55%) reported hate-motivated harassment in the preceding 12 months. Compared with the FRA's 2019 survey, both violence—from 11% to 14%—and hate-motivated harassment—from 37% to 55%—have increased significantly. Transgender and intersex people are particularly affected.

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) unequivocally condemns the attack in Berlin and all forms of violence, hatred, and discrimination directed against people because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics. Such attacks are directed not only against individuals or communities; they challenge the fundamental principles of human dignity, equality, freedom, and self-determination on which democratic societies and human-rights-based healthcare are founded.

The dignity and self-determination of LGBTIQ+ people are universal and indivisible human rights. Every person must be able to live openly, safely, and free from violence, discrimination, coercion, and pathologisation. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are integral aspects of personal identity and must be respected in all areas of society, including healthcare.

Discrimination, social exclusion, minority stress, and the persistent threat of violence can have serious consequences for mental health. Elevated levels of psychological distress among LGBTIQ+ people must not be attributed to their sexual orientation or gender identity. They are substantially shaped by adverse social conditions, including stigma, rejection, structural discrimination, and barriers to appropriate care.

Psychiatry has a responsibility that extends beyond the treatment of mental disorders. It must uphold human rights, protect individual autonomy, challenge discrimination, and contribute to healthcare systems in which all people can seek support without fear of prejudice, invalidation, or unequal treatment.

The EPA calls on governments, healthcare systems, professional organisations, and mental health services across Europe to ensure:

- equitable access to appropriate, evidence-based, and discrimination-sensitive mental



healthcare for all LGBTIQ+ people;

- healthcare environments in which every person is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics;
- services that recognise the diversity of LGBTIQ+ lives and respond appropriately to individual needs without pathologising identity;
- adequate education and continuing professional development for psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in LGBTIQ+ mental health and discrimination-sensitive care;
- the meaningful inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people and their lived experience in the development, delivery, and evaluation of mental health services;
- the removal of structural, legal, financial, and social barriers that restrict access to appropriate care;
- resolute action against hate speech, discrimination, and violence targeting LGBTIQ+ people.

The EPA reaffirms its commitment to the human dignity, equality, and self-determination of all LGBTIQ+ people. These principles are not negotiable. They are essential foundations of mental health, ethical psychiatric practice, and an open and democratic Europe.

There can be no mental health without dignity, equality, self-determination, and freedom from discrimination.

European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

EPA Section - "Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities"