



Equal Rights for Men and Women in Germany

Equal Rights for People with Different Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Germany

Discrimination and violence based on gender, skin colour, religion or sexual identity are forbidden in Germany and the perpetrators are liable to prosecution. If you are discriminated against or feel threatened because of your gender, skin colour, religion or sexual identity within or outside this accommodation, for example when with the authorities or shopping, you are advised to contact a member of our staff immediately, to call the police (telephone number: 110) or to go to an appropriate advice centre (see contact information below). Violence of any kind, including harassment, sexual assault and even the threat of violence towards other people is forbidden in Germany and is a punishable offence.

Men and women have equal rights. Harassing other human beings, regardless of whether they are male or female is not allowed. When somebody asks to be left alone you must accept this. Performing sexual acts against someone's will is forbidden and the perpetrator is liable to prosecution.

Lesbian, gay and transgender people have the same civil rights and liberties as all humans. Same-sex partnerships are legally recognised in Germany and can be officially contracted similarly to marriages. Unfortunately, there are still some people who discriminate against others because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Homophobia and transphobia are not socially desirable.

Advice centres and more information

The "Gewalt gegen Frauen" [Violence against women] help line provided by the Bundesamt für Familie und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben [Federal Office of Family and Socio-civil Functions] is available 24/7 on 08000 116016 or online at www.hilfetelefon.de and is anonymous. Interpreters for 15 languages can also be called in. The same applies to the "Schwangere in Not" [pregnant women in need] help line which can be reached by calling 0800 40 40 020 or going online at www.schwanger-und-viele-fragen.de.

Persecution in your country of origin because of your sexual identity, for example due to a ban on homosexuality, can be a reason to grant asylum in Germany. The same also applies to the persecution of transgender people. It is important during your asylum procedure that you are well advised early on about your rights. Advice centres for lesbian, gay and transgender people are often an important source of support (see contact information below).

The civil rights in the German constitution guarantee that everyone in Germany can choose their partner, male or female, and is free to decide whether they want to marry or enter into a civil partnership. Many couples live together without getting married. Some people prefer to live alone. It is just as normal to be unmarried as it is to be married. The couple may also decide not to have children.

Public displays of affection between couples are not unusual in Germany. This could be holding hands, cuddling and kissing for example. It is so natural and accepted that other people barely notice. Same-sex couples have the same right to display their affection publicly as opposite-sex couples.

The staff of this facility are happy to answer your questions regarding the above remarks. We do not tolerate violence and discrimination in our facility. You can always turn to us if there is an incident or you feel threatened. Our staff are sworn to confidentiality and they respect privacy.

Advice for lesbian, gay and transgender people can be obtained from the "Handreichung für die Betreuung und Unterstützung von LSBTTI*-Flüchtlingen" [A helping hand for the care and support of LGBTTI* refugees] brochure, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.queer-refugees.de

Multilingual information regarding the issues above can be found at e.g. www.refugeeguide.de www.queer-refugees.de

