



Commission Lesbophobia

Each year, the annual Report from **SOS homophobie** comes to the same conclusion : the lesbians testify much less than the gays. **Only 1 call out of 5 comes from a woman.**

Is lesbophobia a marginal phenomenon ?

As far as we know, no survey in France has been carried out in order to answer this question.

In order to know more about the subject, we launched a survey at the end of 2003, for which we received 1793 answers from lesbians.

The questionnaire was divided in 4 parts :

- Sociological profile : age, personal, professional and geographical situation
- Context, forms and consequences of lesbophobia
- Opinions and suggestions for action
- Story of the most painful personal experience

We are actively working to analyse the answers that appeared to be extremely rich.

In spite of its defaults and its limits, we hope that our survey will allow us to enlighten a phenomena usually hidden and that it will give us new weapons to fight lesbophobia.

It has already reached our initial goal :
talk about lesbophobia

We do thank the answerers as well as our supporters.

Thanks to : Rainbow attitude, Cineffable organisations, the following magazines : 'Lesbia', 'La Dixième Muse', 'Tétu', 'Illico', Boosboorg, CGL (Lesbian and Gay Center), lesbian associations from France, all those we forget to quote and of course the staff from SOS Homophobie.



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PRIX APPEL LOCAL

SOS homophobie is a phone listening service for people victims or witnesses of homophobia acts or discriminations.

Place of active listening, support, advice and information, this phone line allows the callers to break isolation and provides them with elements giving them the possibility to act.

www.sos-homophobie.org

violence
lack of understanding
reject sexism

ALERT !

discriminations
insults
Lesbophobia

"It is hard for me to accept
people telling me I am too pretty
to be a lesbian"

"Which one is
'the man' ?"



**"Fucking dykes,
we're gonna fuck you !"**

First figures !

57% of the lesbians who answered
declare having experienced
lesbophobia
1793 analysed questionnaires

ALERT !

FIRST ANALYSIS OF YOUR ANSWERS

The survey had been available from October 18th 2003 to January 31st 2004 and consisted on one side in a questionnaire “paper form” distributed in lesbian or gay and lesbian events (“Rainbow Attitude”, lesbian movies festival) and on the other side “web form” as it was available on the association site.

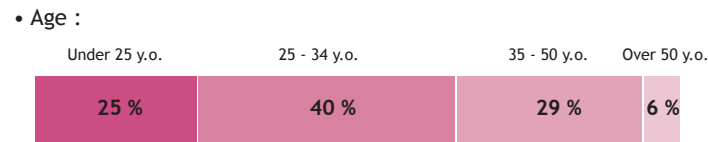
The questionnaire has been widely relayed by LGBT Medias, the Gay and Lesbian Centre (CGL) in Paris as well as numerous associations everywhere in France.

The analysis of the results showed that these different ways of distributions have had an influence on the answers we got, more or less spontaneous.

More than 50 % of the questionnaires have been fulfilled during the “Rainbow Attitude” event, vs. 30 % via our website.

1 WHO ARE THE RESPONDENTS ?

- City dwellers : 61 % in the Paris area and 18 % in other major cities
- 3 professional categories have been dominated :
Employees : 34 %
Cadres : 24 %
Students or school attendants : 18 %



25-34 y.o. answered largely vs. other age clusters

- Personal situation :
11 % did not want/couldn't answer to this question
Among the others :
60 % declared to be in couple
22 % declared to be single

- On an average basis, the respondents considered themselves as a lesbian when 20 y.o. and in “Agreement with themselves” when 24 y.o.

2 VICTIMS FROM LESBOPHOBIA ?

57 % answered YES

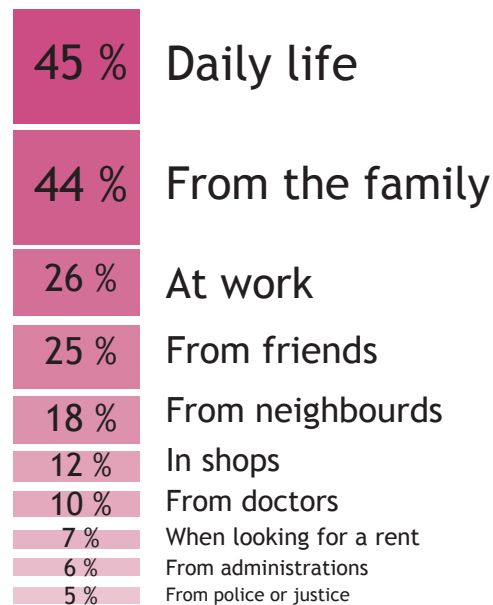
The profile most likely to declare herself as victim from lesbophobia are :

- Parisian girls
- Lesbians in couple
- Under 25 y.o.

There is not one profession more exposed than the others (taking into account the analysis of the other answers : age, geographical and personal situation)

3 IN WHICH CONTEXT ?

Question : for each of these categories, answerers picked up at least 1



These figures are only a first step of the analysis currently ongoing. We we'll have a more precise approach of lesbophobia (and of the different experiences we were told about) following the study of the answers to the ‘open question’ on the personal experience.

These data will be developed and published in a complete report during 2006

Daily life 45 %

- Where ?
In the street (35 %), in a public area (13 %), in public transports (13 %)
- Why ?
Because they were **in couple** (33 %)
Because of their look (14 %)
- Which forms ?
Insults (30 %), threats (9 %), violence (5 %)

Family 44 %

- From whom ?
Mother (22 %), father (16 %), sisters/brothers (10 %)
- Which forms ?
Lack of understanding (35 %), reject (21 %), insults (13 %)

At work 26 %

- From whom ?
Colleagues (15 %), hierarchy (7 %)
- Which forms ?
Rumours (13 %), jokes (13 %), a part (6 %), insults (6 %)

Friends 25 %

- Which forms ?
Non-understanding (20 %), reject (14 %), harassment (1 %)

4 TO THINK ABOUT :

- The respondents fulfilled these :
Gynaecologist (79 times), Renting refusal (69), neighbourhood shops (60), Blood Giving (54), banks (54), taxi (41), rape (35)
- And evoked these consequences in their lives :
Depression (344 times),
Rupture with close (343), fear (228), guilty feeling (128), suicidal attempt (89)

If 64 % among the respondents think that “mentalities are changing”, 24 % still find it difficult