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### Ipsos Pride 2023 global survey: a majority of Australians support protection from discrimination for transgender people, but we divided on other transgender discrimination issues

Ipsos Global Advisor survey also shows positive attitudes in Australia towards same sex couples as parents, although we should aim for much greater acceptance.

**June 1, 2023** – The Ipsos LGBT+ Pride 2023 survey finds that an average of 9% of adults in 30 countries identify as LGBT+, with sharp generational differences. Other findings include:

- Increased LGBT+ visibility since the 2021 survey with large geographic variations remaining;
- Majority support in most (but not all) countries surveyed for allowing same-sex couples to marry and to adopt children; and
- Widespread support for protecting transgender people from employment and housing discrimination, but mixed views on other pro-transgender measures.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform in February and March 2023 among more than 22,500 adults under the age of 75.

#### Australian key findings

- Broadly in line with the global average (8%), 10% of Australians surveyed identify as LGBT+. 4% of Australian adults identify as lesbian or gay, 4% as bisexual, 1% as pansexual or omnisexual and 1% as transexual.
- The majority of Australians in our survey have a relative, friend or work colleague who is LGBT+. 60% know someone who is gay or lesbian, 33% of us know someone who is bisexual, 18% know someone who is transgender, and 18% know someone who identifies as binary, non-conforming or gender fluid.
- Australian attitudes towards same-sex marriage are marginally more supportive than the global 30 country average; 63% of Australian adults we surveyed supportive of same-sex marriage, 16% believing same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry, 11% against marriage or legal recognition and 10% of us are not sure.
- At seven in ten agreements (71%), Australians more likely to agree that same-sex couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples to adopt children than the global average (64%).
- Australians are also more likely (74%) than the global average (65%) to believe that same-sex couples are just as likely as other parents to successfully raise their children.



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- Possibly reflecting these more positive attitudes towards the LGBT+ community, Australians are marginally less likely than the global average to feel that transgender people have a great deal or fair amount of discrimination in our society (62% and 67%, respectively). Hopefully this reflects a lower level of discrimination in Australia rather than unwillingness to recognise or admit that this discrimination is happening.
- While the majority of Australians surveyed support protection from discrimination for transgender people, they are more divided on other transgender discrimination issues:
  - 79% agree that transgender people should be protected from discrimination in employment, housing and access to business, such as restaurants and stores. The global average is 76% agree.
  - 57% agree that, with parental consent, transgender teenagers should be allowed to receive gender-affirming care (e.g. counselling and hormone replacement treatment). The global average is 60% agree.
  - 53% agree that transgender people should be allowed to use single-sex facilities (e.g. public restrooms) that correspond to the gender they identify with. The global average is 55% agree.
  - 52% agree that government-issued documents, such as passports, should include an option other than 'male' and 'female' for people who do not identify as either. The global average is 53% agree.
- Australians are slightly less supportive of health insurance systems covering the cost of gender transition no differently than the costs of other medical procedures (45% agree, compared to the global average of 47%).

**Ipsos Australia Public Affairs Deputy Managing Director, David Elliott**, said: "This global Ipsos study shows that the LGBT+ population is growing, with most Australians telling us that they have a family member, a friend or a work colleague who identify as part of this community. However, the findings show that while we are ahead of global opinion when it comes to supporting same-sex couples to marry and raise kids, we are less supportive of a range of ways in which we could reduce discrimination for transgender, or gender non-confirming Australians.

At this stage it appears that our growing personal familiarity with people in the LGBT+ community is yet to translate into widespread acceptance."



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### The global view

#### Sexual orientation and gender identity: The share of the LGBT+ population averages 9%

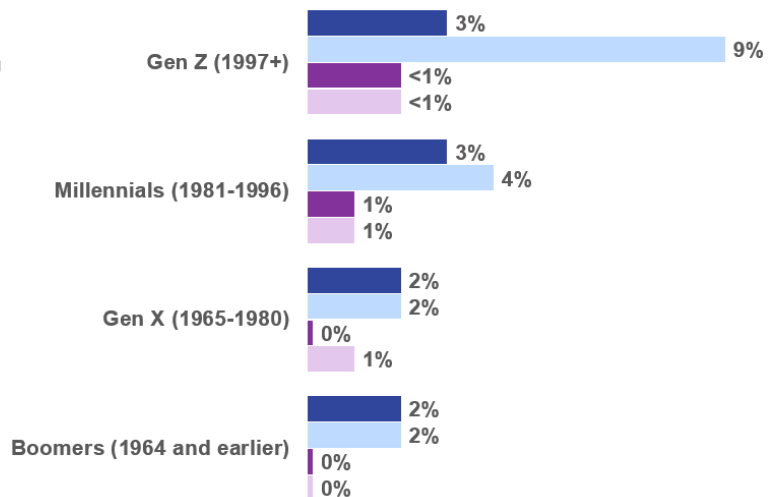
On average, across the 30 countries surveyed, 3% of adults identify as lesbian or gay, 4% as bisexual, 1% as pansexual or omnisexual, and 1% as asexual.

Gen Zers (now age 26 or younger) are about twice as likely as Millennials (now between the ages of 27 and 42) and four times as likely as Gen Xers (now between 43 and 58) and Boomers (now 59 or older) to identify as bisexual, pansexual/ omnisexual, or asexual.

### Sexual Orientation By Gender and Generation

Q. How do you currently describe yourself?

- Lesbian or gay or homosexual
- Bisexual
- Pansexual or omnisexual
- Asexual



Men are more likely to identify as gay (or homosexual) than are women as lesbian (or gay or homosexual): 4% vs. 1% on average globally. However, both are equally likely to identify as bisexual, pansexual/omnisexual, or asexual.

Spain is where respondents are most likely to say they are gay or lesbian (6%) while Brazil and the Netherlands are where they are most likely to say they are bisexual (7% both). Japan is the country where they are least likely to identify as gay or lesbian (less than 1%) or as bisexual (1%).

When asked about their gender identity, 1% on average globally describe themselves as transgender, 1% as non-binary, gender non-conforming, or gender fluid, and 1% as neither, but differently from male or female. There are also large differences between younger and older adults when it comes to their propensity to describe themselves as *any* of these (i.e., not exclusively male or not exclusively female). This is the case of 6% of Gen Zers and 3% of Millennials, compared to 1% of both GenXers and Boomers. And the gap is growing: +2 percentage points since 2021 among both Gen Zers and Millennials vs. +1 point or less among Gen Xers and Boomers.



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Overall, the average share of the self-identified LGBT+ population<sup>1</sup> is 9%. The share of self-identified LGBT+ adults varies widely across generations and geographies: from a 30-country average of 18% among Gen Zers to 4% among Baby Boomers, and from 15% of all respondents in Brazil to 4% in Peru.

### LGBT+ visibility is up, but still differs widely across countries

The visibility of LGBT+ people has increased since Ipsos conducted the LGBT+ Pride 2021 survey two years ago. On average, across all countries surveyed this year:

- 47% of all adults say they have a relative, friend, or work colleague who is a lesbian/gay/homosexual, up 5 points since 2021;
- 26% say they know someone who is bisexual, up 2 points;
- 13% say they know someone who is transgender, up 3 points; and
- 12% say they know someone who is non-binary, gender non-conforming, or gender fluid, up 3 points.

LGBT+ visibility varies widely across countries. Having a relative, friend, or work colleague who is lesbian/gay or bisexual is most reported in Latin America, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Gender diversity is most visible throughout the Anglosphere, in Brazil, and especially in Thailand.

On the other hand, the visibility of different segments of the LGBT+ community is lowest in Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, and Poland.

Women are more likely than men to report knowing people of different sexual orientations and gender identities. Consistent with self-identification, the prevalence of knowing someone who is LGBT+ is much higher among younger adults than among older adults. Generational differences are particularly pronounced when it comes to knowing people who are bisexual and people who are non-binary/ gender non-conforming or fluid: in both cases, Gen Zers are twice as likely as Gen Xers, and three times as likely as Boomers, to say they do.

### Majorities support same-sex marriage and parenting in most, but not all countries

On average, across the 30 countries surveyed, 56% say same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally while 16% say they should be allowed to obtain some legal recognition, but not to marry and just 14% say they should not be allowed to marry or get any kind of legal recognition. Another 14% are not sure.

Support for same-sex marriage ranges from 49% to 80% in all 20 countries surveyed where it is legal. Among the 10 countries where it is not legal, majorities in Italy and Thailand support same-sex marriage and majorities in all other countries except Turkey support at least some form of legal

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<sup>1</sup> identifying as any of lesbian/gay/homosexual, bisexual, pansexual/omnisexual, or asexual, AND/OR describing themselves as any of transgender, non-binary/gender non-conforming/gender-fluid, or differently but neither male nor female



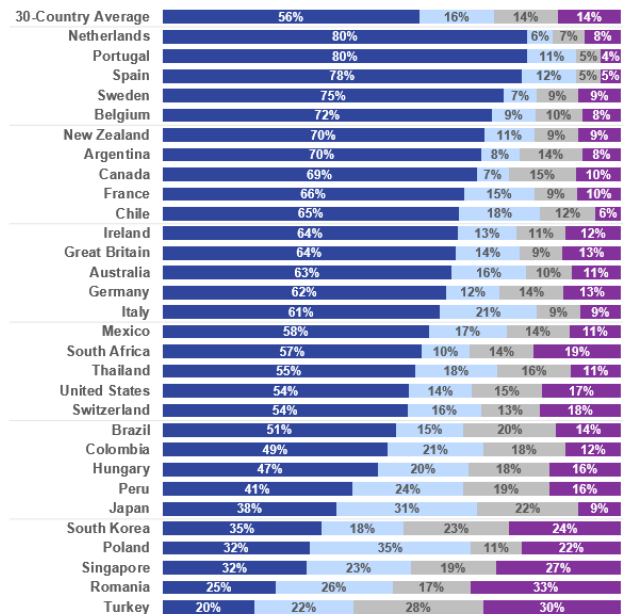
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recognition for same-sex couples. Opponents of any form of legal recognition for same-sex couples make up no more than one-third of all respondents in any of the countries surveyed.

### Views on Same-Sex Marriage by Country

Q. When you think about the rights of same-sex couples, which of the following comes closest to your personal opinion?

- Same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally
- Same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry
- Not sure
- Same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry or obtain any kind of legal recognition



Women are significantly more likely than men to support same-sex marriage with a difference between both of 10 percentage points on average globally.

In 13 of the 15 countries where Ipsos has tracked support for same-sex marriage since 2013, it grew significantly until 2021. However, it has since plateaued or declined in many countries. Of the 23 countries Ipsos surveyed both in 2021 and this year, nine show a decline of 4 points or more in the percentage saying same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally (Canada, Germany, the United States, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, Great Britain, Brazil, and Turkey), while only two show an increase of 4 points or more (France and Peru).

While views on same-sex parenting are warmer than those on same-sex marriage, they show similar patterns. Globally, 65% say same-sex couples are just as likely as other parents to raise children successfully and 64% say they should have the same rights to adopt children as heterosexual couples do. These views are held by majorities in 26 countries, including several where same-sex couples are not allowed to adopt. The only countries where more people disagree than agree with both opinions are Poland, Turkey, Romania, and South Korea.

Again, women are more supportive of same-sex parenting than are men (by an average of about 10 points) as are younger adults vs. older adults.



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Over the past two years, support for same-sex adoption has declined significantly in Sweden, the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands, and Turkey, but it has increased significantly in France, Italy, Colombia, and Peru.

### Support for protection from employment and housing discrimination is broader than for other pro-transgender measures

Globally, 67% say that transgender people face at least a fair amount of discrimination, compared with 19% who say they face little or no discrimination. Perceptions of discrimination are highest in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries, and lowest in Switzerland, Germany, and Japan.

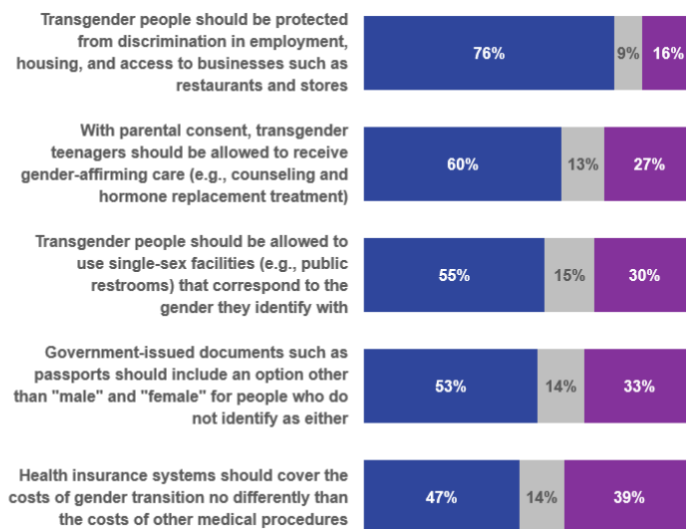
Majorities in each of the 30 countries surveyed (76% on average) agree that transgender people should be protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and access to businesses such as restaurants and stores.

Other measures receive more mixed support: on average, 60% agree that transgender teenagers should be allowed to receive gender-affirming care, such as counseling and hormone replacement treatment, with parental consent; 55% agree that transgender people should be allowed to use single-sex facilities, such as public restrooms, that correspond to their gender; 53% agree that government-issued documents such as passports should have options other than “male” and “female” for people who do not identify as either; and 47% agree that health insurance systems should cover the costs of gender transition no differently than the costs of other medical procedures.

### Views on Transgender Issues 30-Country Average

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the following?

- Strongly/somewhat agree
- Not sure
- Strongly/somewhat disagree



Among the 30 countries surveyed, support for various pro-transgender measures is consistently high in Thailand, Italy, Spain, and throughout Latin America; it tends to be lowest in South Korea, throughout Eastern Europe, in Great Britain, and in the United States where transgender rights and protections have become polarizing political issues.



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Women and younger adults are more likely than men and older adults, respectively, to say the transgender community faces a lot of discrimination. They also show higher levels of support for all types of measures in favor of transgender people differences of about 6 to 9 points between women and men and between Gen Zers and Boomers. Partly driving this generational gap, Gen Xers and Boomers are more likely than younger adults to have no opinion about specific transgender issues or about the amount of discrimination transgender people face, possibly because they are less likely to know a transgender person.

### **About the Study**

This study did not have any external sponsors or partners. It was initiated and run by Ipsos, because we are curious about the world we live in and how citizens around the globe think and feel about their world.

These are the results of a 30-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online survey platform between February 17 and March 3, 2023. For this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 22,514 adults aged 18-74 in Canada, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Singapore, and 16-74 in all other countries.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and the U.S., and 500+ individuals in each of Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. can be considered representative of their general adult populations under the age of 75.

Samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more "connected" segment of their population.

The data is weighted so that the composition of each country's sample best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The "30-country average" reflects the average result for all the countries where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country and is not intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 percentage point more/less than the actual result, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of "don't know/not sure" or not stated responses.







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Sample surveys and polls may be subject to sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. The precision of the online surveys conducted is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. Here, the Australian results have a credibility interval of +/-3.5 percentage points. For more information on the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please go to: [https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/2017-03/ipsosPA\\_CredibilityIntervals.pdf](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/2017-03/ipsosPA_CredibilityIntervals.pdf)

The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.

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### About Ipsos

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Our research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. Our 75 business solutions are based on primary data coming from our surveys, social media monitoring, and qualitative or observational techniques.

“Game Changers” – our tagline – summarises our ambition to help our 5,000 clients to navigate more easily our deeply changing world.

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