



Young people's life-satisfaction in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity

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Structured Population and
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Health Research Board

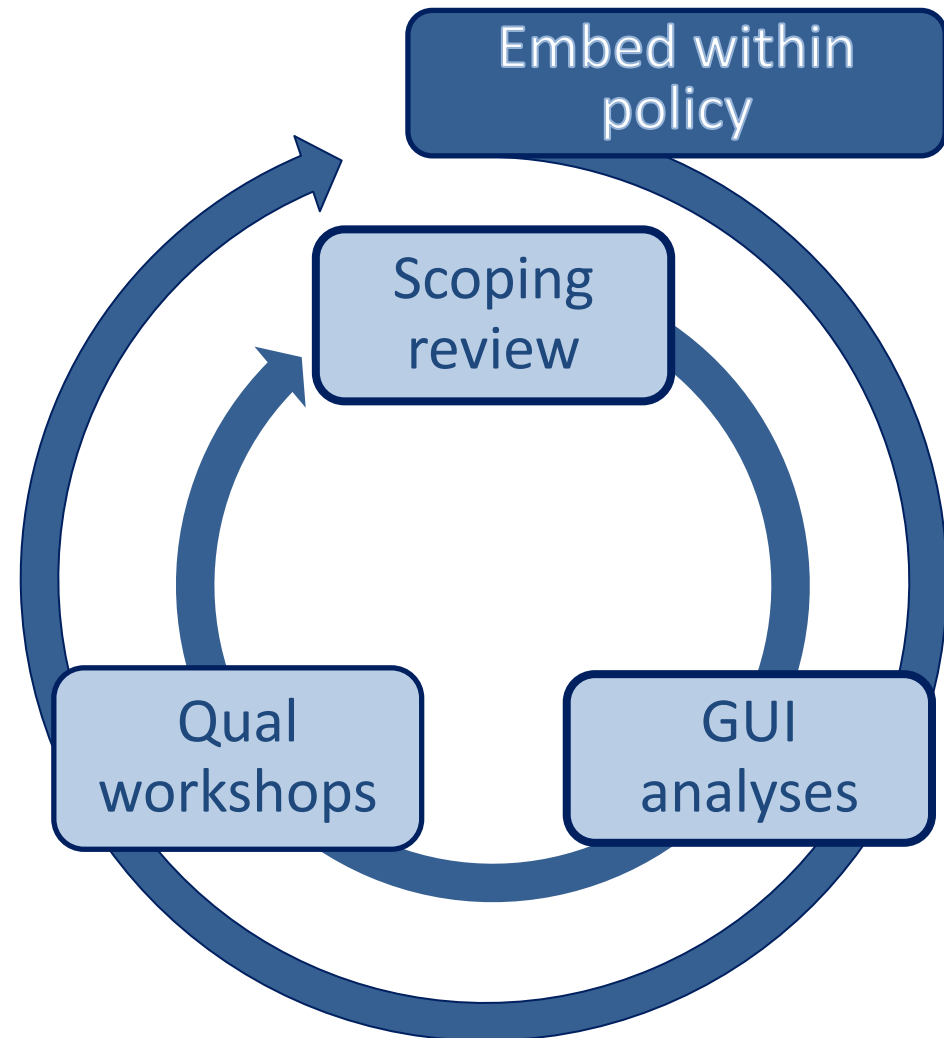
Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). It is managed by DCYA in association with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Results in this report are based on analyses of data from Research Microdata Files provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Neither the CSO nor DCYA take any responsibility for the views expressed or the outputs generated from these analyses.

12th Annual
Research
Conference
2020



Research question:

- How are the **experiences** and **identities** of **LGBTI+ youth** influenced by **protective factors** that **promote wellbeing**?



PhD aligned to LGBTI+ Youth Strategy

Goal 1. Create a **safe, inclusive** environment

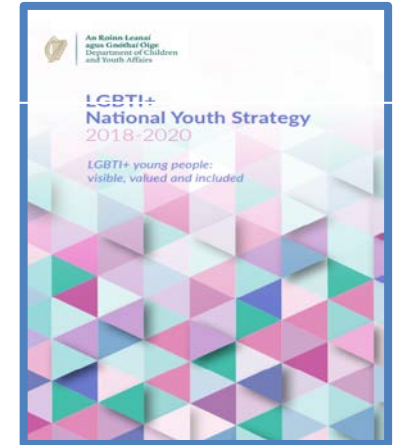
Goal 2. **Improve** physical, mental, sexual **health**

Goal 3. **Develop** the **research** and **data** environment

Objective 15.
Enhance the quality
of LGBTI+ research

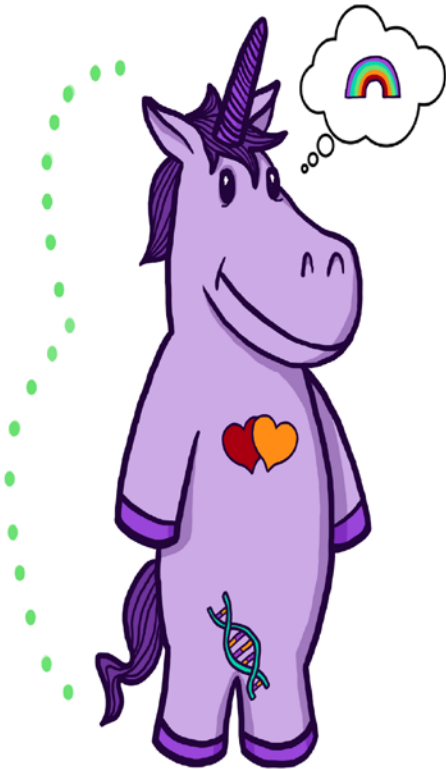
*15(f) Develop
research into
positive **mental
health***

*15(g) Explore **GUI
data** that captures
**sexual orientation
and relevant info***



<https://assets.gov.ie/24459/9355b474de34447cb9a55261542a39cf.pdf>

LGBTI+ acronym



LGBTI+

sexual orientation

➤ **Lesbian**

➤ **Gay**

➤ **Bisexual**

gender identity

➤ **Transgender**

**diverse sex
development**

➤ **Intersex**

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

<http://www.transstudent.org/gender>

LGBTI+ prevalence in Ireland

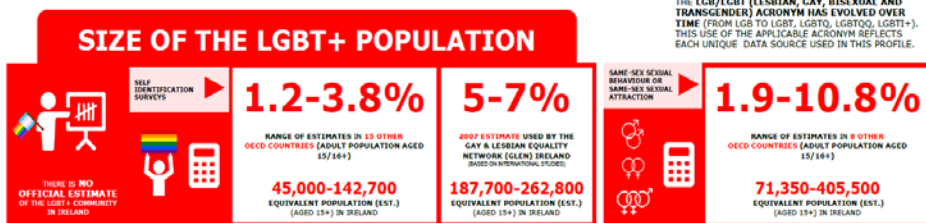
LGBTI+ youth prevalence globally



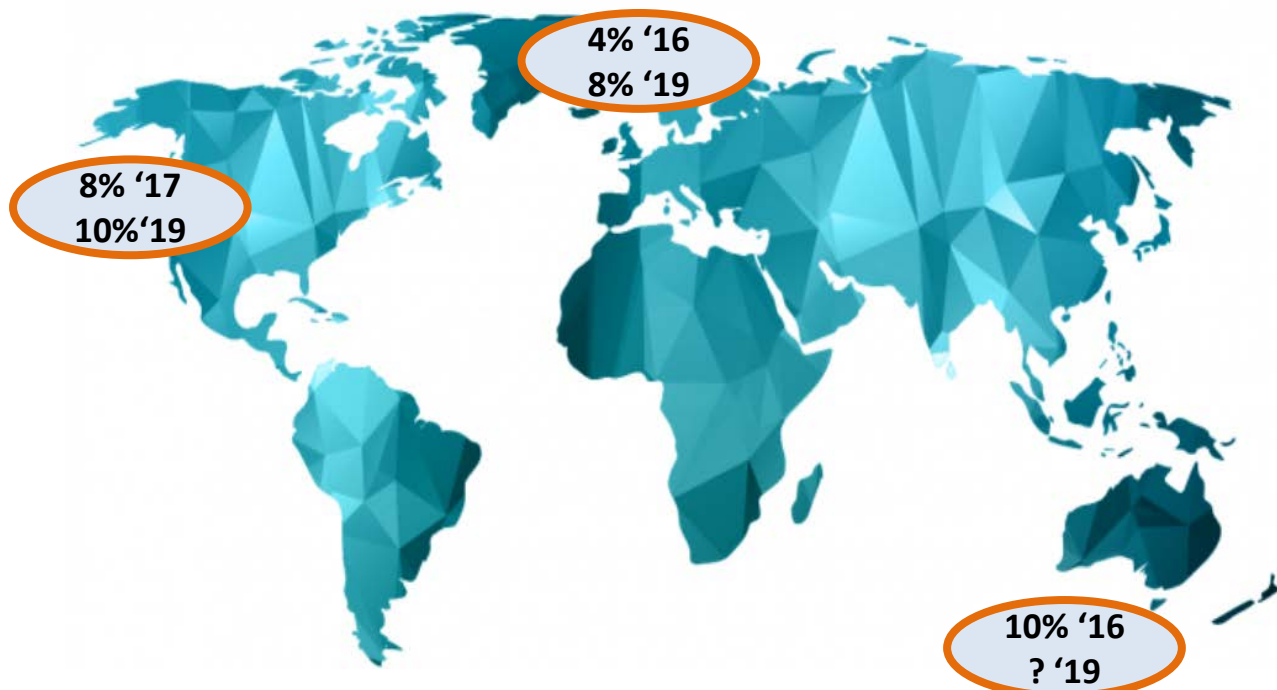
LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN IRELAND

A STATISTICAL PROFILE

THE LGB/LGBT (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER) ACRONYM HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME (FROM LGB TO LGBT, LGBTD, LGBTQQ, LGBTI+). THIS USE OF THE APPLICABLE ACRONYM REFLECTS EACH UNIQUE DATA SOURCE USED IN THIS PROFILE.



https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2019/2019-06-28_l-rs-infographic-lgbt-community-in-ireland-a-statistical-profile_en.pdf



Sexual orientation

D2 . How would you describe your sexual orientation? [TICK ONE BOX]

Heterosexual/straight (sexually attracted to the opposite sex)

Gay or Lesbian (attracted to the same sex)

Bisexual (attracted to both men and women)

Questioning/ Not sure

Asexual (not attracted to either sex)

Don't know

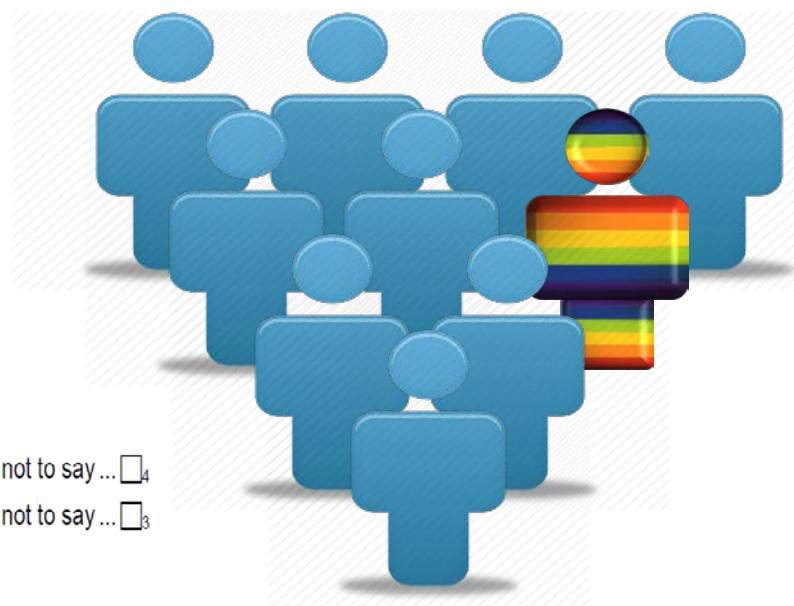
Prefer not to say

Gender and gender identity

D3. Would you describe yourself as: Male ₁ Female ₂ Other ₃ Prefer not to say ... ₄

D4. Would you describe yourself as transgender? Yes ₁ No ₂ Prefer not to say ... ₃

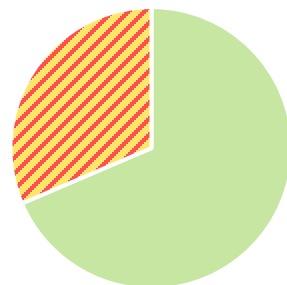
One-in-ten youth: **LGBTI+**
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, Questioning,
Asexual, Gender Other



GUI '98 cohort at 17-18 yrs: sexual orientation

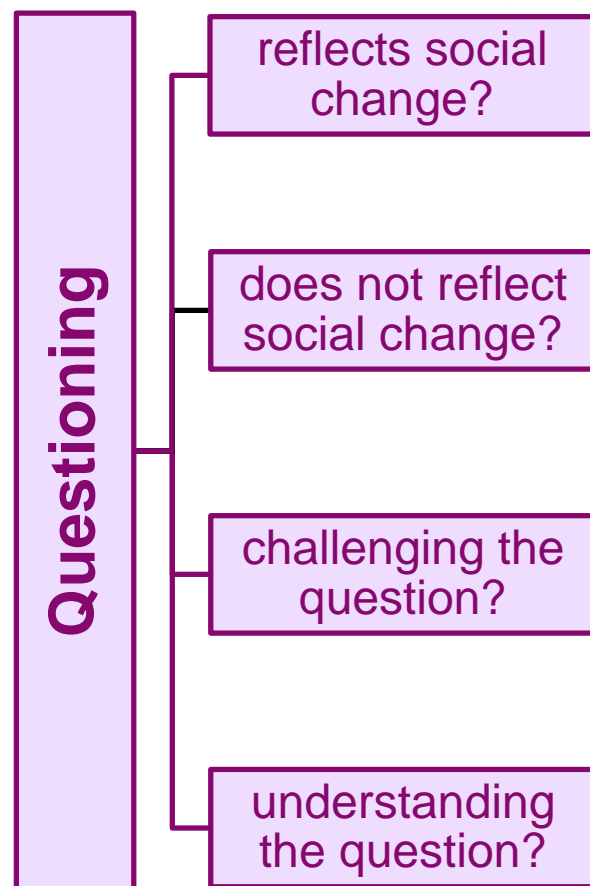
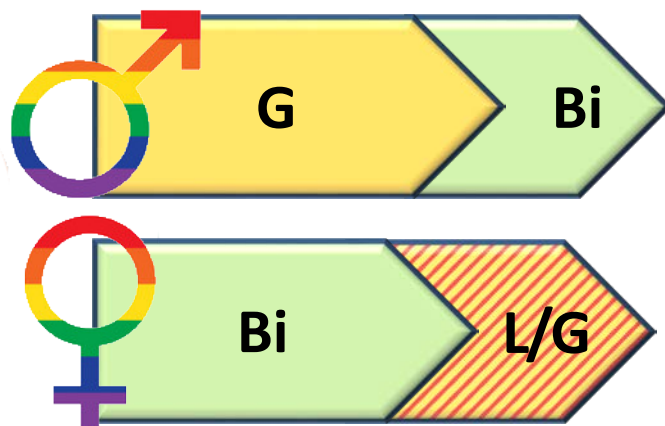


One-in-ten youth: **LGBTI+**



■ Bisexual ■ Lesbian / Gay

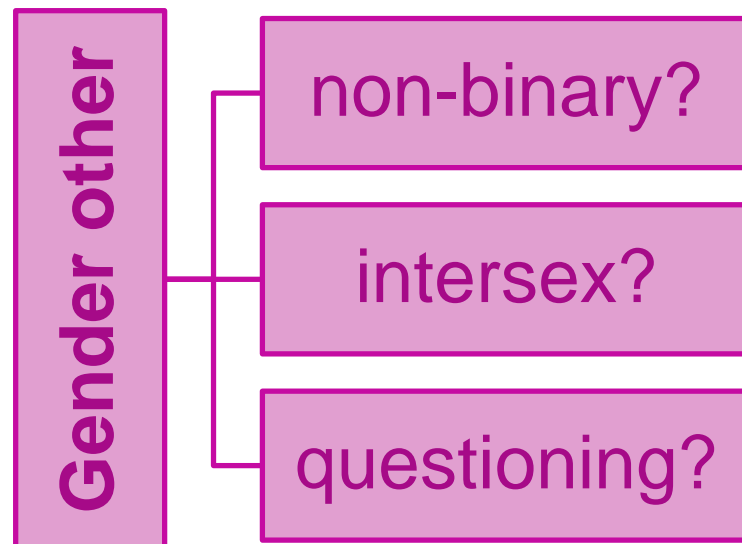
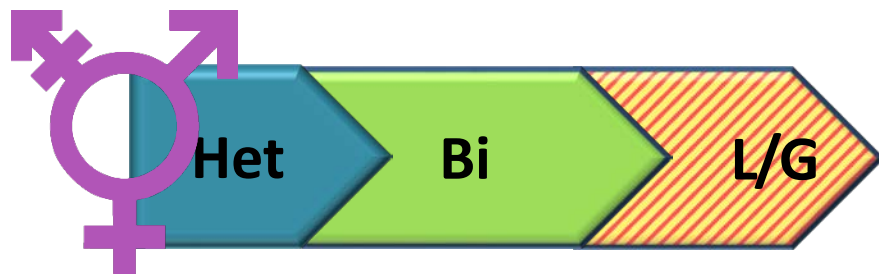
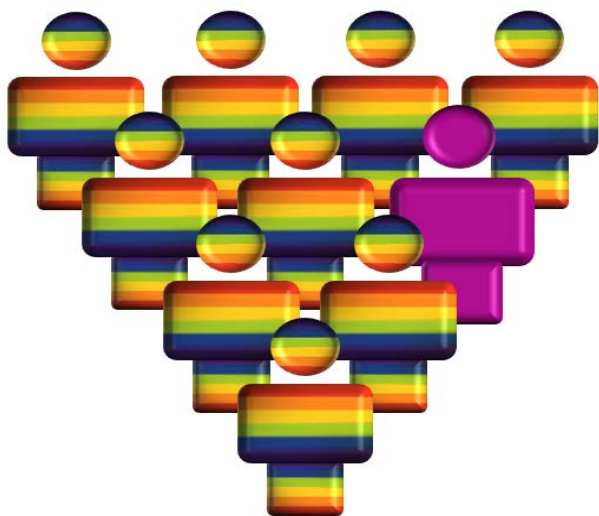
LGB



GUI '98 cohort at 17-18 yrs: gender identity

Of **LGBTI+** youth, one in ten:

Transgender, **Gender Other**



US intergenerational trends

Percentage of Americans Identifying as LGBT, by Birth Cohort

■ % Millennials (1980-1999)
 ■ % Generation X (1965-1979)
 ■ % Baby boomers (1946-1964)
 ■ % Traditionalists (1913-1945)



GALLUP DAILY TRACKING

GUI '98 cohort at 17-18 yrs: life satisfaction

YP life satisfaction:

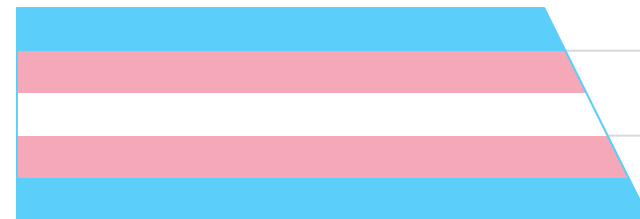
Q: If you were to describe how satisfied you are with your own life in general, how would you rate it out of 0-10?



Non-LGBTI+ youth: mean 7.2



LGBTI+ youth: mean 6.3 ($p \leq 0.000$)



Transgender and Gender Other youth: mean 5.1 ($p \leq 0.000$)

Experience of discrimination

Non-LGBTI+ youth



49%

Nearly **half** of **non-LGBTI+ youth** regularly felt **unfairly treated**

Treated with **less courtesy or respect** than others **62%**

Treated as if you were **not as smart** **49%**

LGBTI+ youth



74%

Nearly **three quarters** of **LGBTI+ youth** regularly felt **unfairly treated**

Treated with **less courtesy or respect** than others **74%** ($p \leq 0.000$)

Treated as if you were **not as smart** **60%** ($p \leq 0.002$)



GUI analyses: next steps

Plan: LGBTI+ YuPP 😊 study

Ethical approval UCD HREC

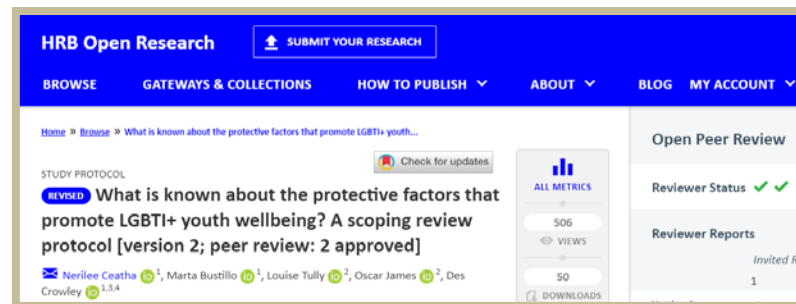
- Young People's Panels
- Youth Perspectives and Priorities

Workshops

- LGBTI+ youth, 16-24 years
 - assent / consent
 - available to attend 3x workshops
- jointly analyse GUI findings
 - iteratively identify variables

Contingency

1. Embed GUI analyses in literature
- identify variables from scoping review

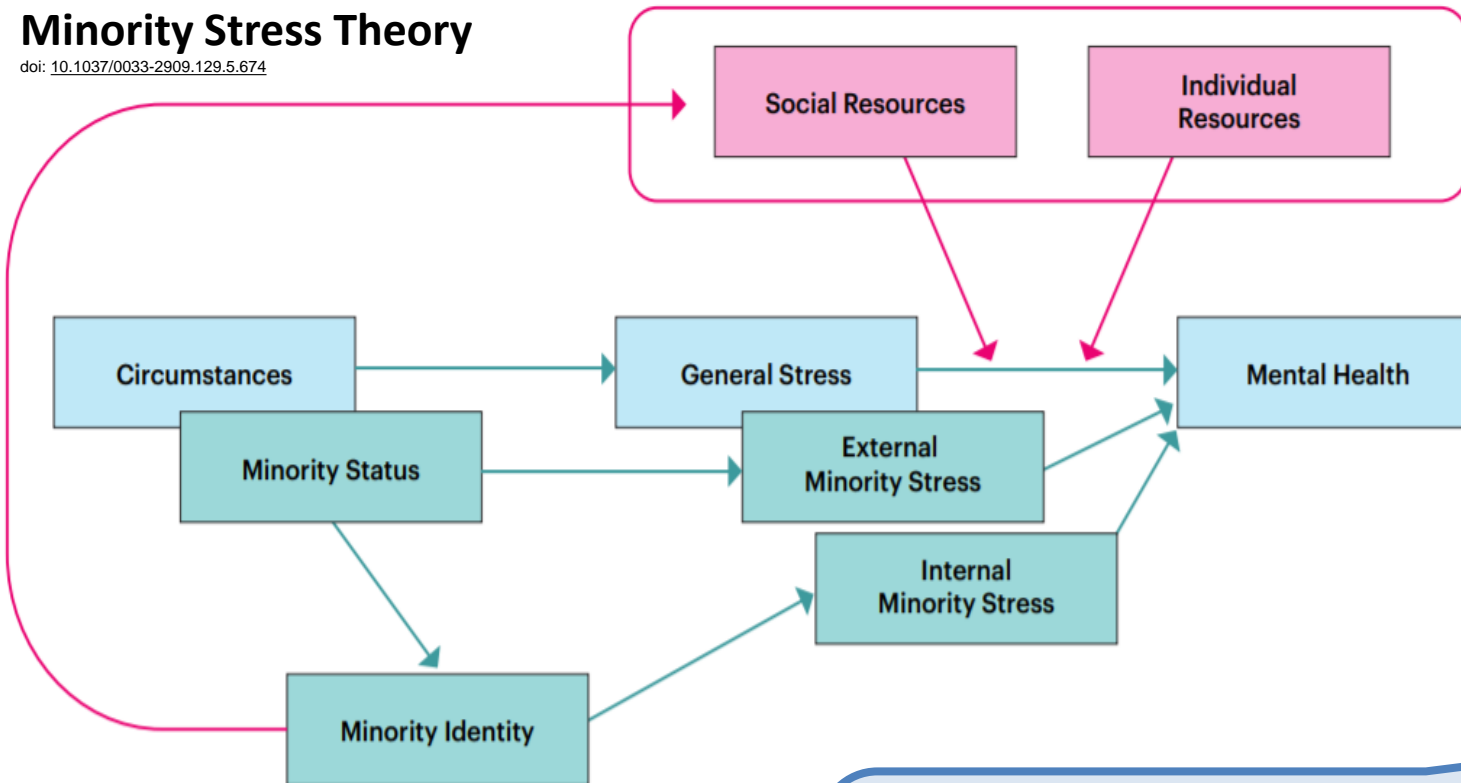


2. Ethical approval UCD HREC
3. Online Workshops?
- jointly analyse GUI findings

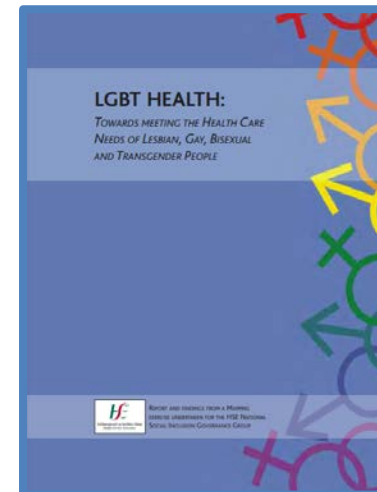
Minority Stress Theory, Meyer (2003)

Minority Stress Theory

doi: [10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674](https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674)



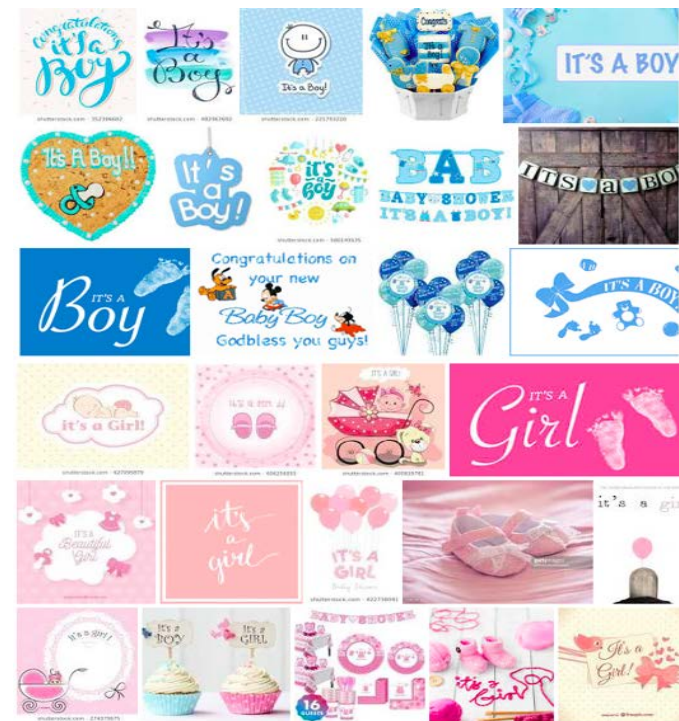
<https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/bitstream/10197/10626/2/nxf-migrants-report-screen.pdf>



<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/topics/sexual/lgbt-health.pdf>

LGBT people are at a **heightened risk** of psychological distress because of the stresses created by **stigmatisation, marginalisation and discrimination** (HSE, 2009: 24).

Minority stress: social context



I don't think I'd know **how else** to write them **but as a loving couple**.



Sesame Workshop @SesameWorkshop · 1d
Please see our statement below regarding Bert and Ernie.

As we have always said, Bert and Ernie are best friends. They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are very different from themselves. Even though they are identified as male characters and possess many human traits and characteristics (as most Sesame Street Muppet™ do), they remain **puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation.**



Minority stress: legacy of colonisation

Sexual orientation

1885: Criminal Law Amendment Act

- Introduced in **54** countries
- Protect from **'corruption'**
- **Correct** 'native' custom



**"the love
that dare
not speak
its name"**

1895:

- convicted of **"gross indecency"**
- given **max poss sentence** with **hard labour**



**still criminal in
36 post-colonial
countries**

Gender identity

Takatāpui

Two-spirit

Hijras



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pCThN5y46Q>

Fa'afafine

Fakeleti

Māhū

Despite efforts to remove the historical trace,
indigenous peoples recognise:

- those **born** with a **different gender**
- **their wairua (spirituality)**

I deeply regret ...that such **laws** were **introduced** and the **legacy** of **discrimination, violence** and **death** that persists today (*British PM, Theresa May, 2018*).

Mitigating minority stress: Irish social policy context

Marriage Equality Act (2015)



Gender Recognition Act (2015)



LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (2018)



Luminary Award (2019)

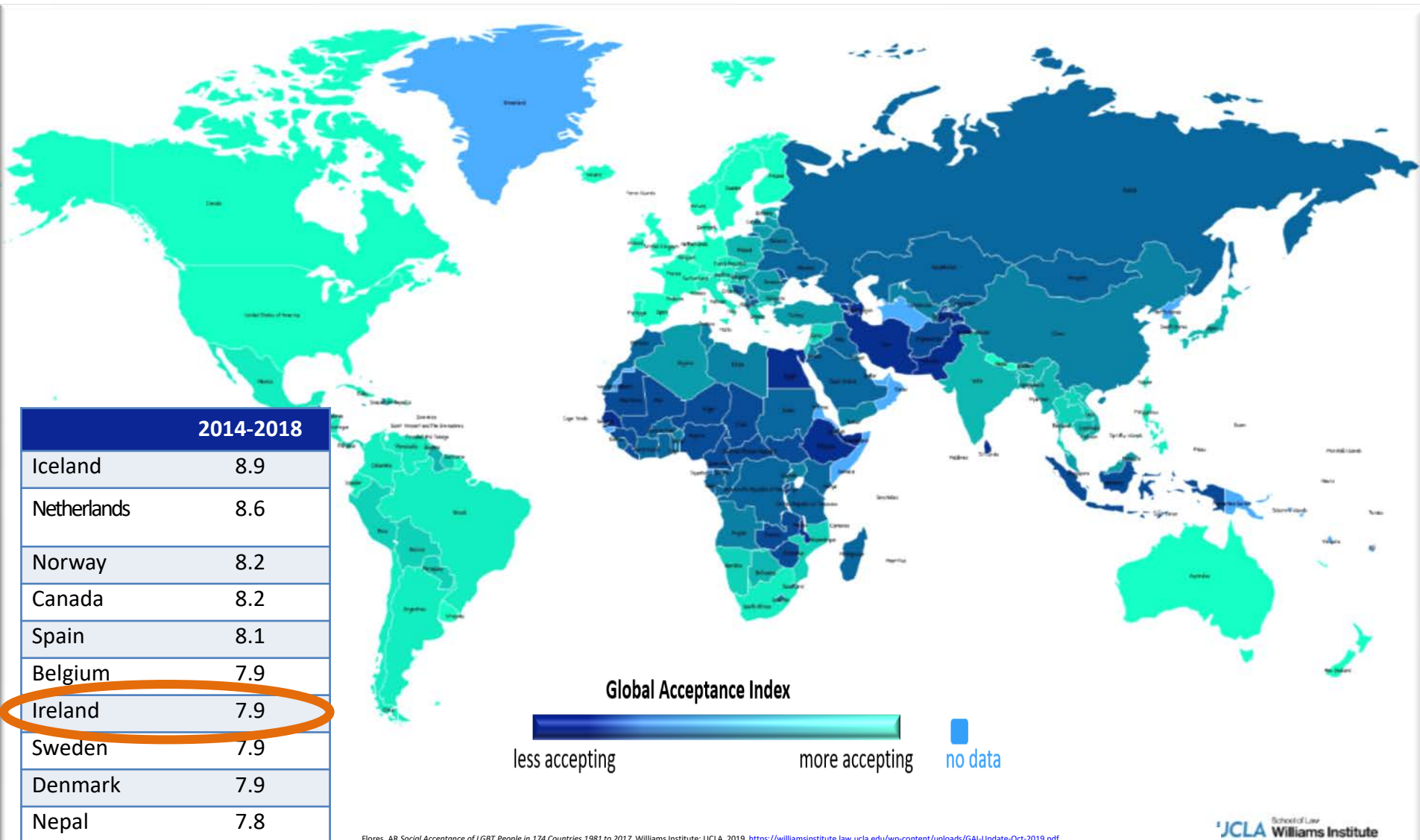
Ireland To Receive An Award At World Pride For Supporting The LGBT+ Community

Minister Katherine Zappone will accept the award at the ceremony which will take place in New York.

NEWS | 15 MAY, 2019. WRITTEN BY PETER DUNNE.



Global Acceptance Index (2014-2018)



Key messages:

Ireland is well placed to lead by:

- ‘Learning with’ LGBTI+ youth
- Affirming LGBTI+ communities
- Allyship with LGBTI+ communities at home and globally



“Be yourself;
everyone else
is already
taken”

Ceatha, N., Kelly, A. and Killeen, T. (Forthcoming). Visible, valued and included: Prioritising youth participation in policy-making for the Irish LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy. In D. Horgan and D. Keegan (Eds.) *Child and Youth Participation: Policy, Practice and Research Advances in Ireland*. Children’s Research Network. Routledge.

Ceatha, N. (Forthcoming). Human-animal bonds and understandings of relationships and reflexivity in practitioner-research. *ANZSW Journal*.

Ceatha, N. (2020). Drawing on community experience to shape wellbeing policy and practice – the benefit of ‘learning with’ LGBTI+ youth. *Blog HRB Open Research*.

<https://blog.hrbopenresearch.org/2020/08/07/drawing-on-community-experience-to-shape-wellbeing-policy-and-practise-the-benefit-of-learning-with-lgbti-youth>

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