

Compilation of results 2026



**Experiences of
discrimination
faced by
LGBTI+ people
in Azerbaijan**

SURVEY
SUMMARY #1
2026



**Conversion
practices
experienced
by LGBTI+s
in Azerbaijan**

SURVEY
SUMMARY #2
2026



**Bullying
experiences
faced by LGBTI+
people in school
environments in
Azerbaijan**

SURVEY
SUMMARY #3
2026



**Trust in law
enforcement
agencies among
LGBTI+ people in
Azerbaijan**

SURVEY
SUMMARY #4
2026



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Why

BARAMA

COCOON?



In nature, a cocoon is a quiet yet powerful place of transformation.

What begins as a seemingly fragile shell hides a remarkable process within - one where a caterpillar grows, evolves, and emerges as a vibrant butterfly.

The cocoon is not merely a shelter. It is a space where unseen changes unfold, shaping something new and beautiful.

At Barama, we see our work as mirroring this process.

Just as a cocoon holds the seeds of transformation, our surveys provide a safe and nurturing environment for untold stories to come to light.

Much like the metamorphosis inside the cocoon, **our data analysis aims to reveal layers of realities and lived experiences of marginalized communities in Azerbaijan** - realities that often remain unseen or misunderstood.

Finally, when the butterfly emerges from its cocoon, it symbolizes transformation and visibility. Through visual narratives, such as infographics, we aim to create that moment for the communities - helping their stories and experiences to be seen and understood.

Our work is about that transformation – from invisibility to recognition, from silence to empowerment.

**Experiences of
discrimination
faced by
LGBTI+ people
in Azerbaijan**

SURVEY
SUMMARY #1
2026



Data collection was carried out between August 2025 and March 2026, with a total of **106 individuals participating** in the survey. 14 responses were excluded from the analysis due to incompleteness.

Of these, 30 responses were collected through focus group discussions, while the remaining responses were gathered via online outreach and direct individual invitations.

1 The survey begins with asking respondents **whether they have experienced discrimination due to their LGBTI+ identities within the last 3 years.**

Depending on whether respondents answer “YES” or “NO” to this question, the survey continues with those who reported experiencing discrimination.

2

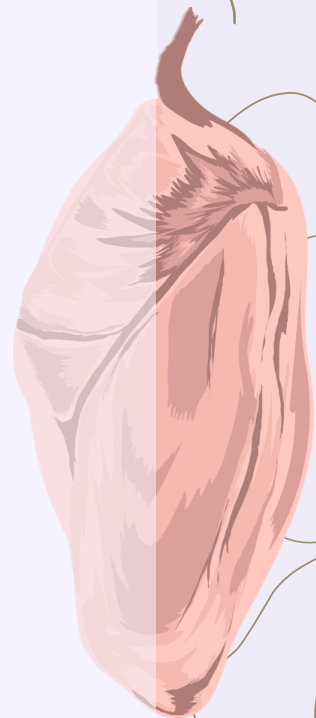
Respondents are presented first with multiple-choice categories covering different **contexts**), as well as the **parties responsible for the incident**, and are asked to select the situations that match their experiences.

3

In the following part, respondents are asked **whether they reported the incident to the police.**

Those who did not report are asked about their **reasons for not doing** so, while those who did report are asked about the **outcome.**

WHAT
DOES
BARANA
FACTSHEET#1
TELL US?



8 out of 10 have faced discrimination based on their identity at least once in the past 3 years.

Public spaces and public transportation are the locations where incidents occur most frequently.

Only 1 in 10 who faced discrimination reported the incident to the police.

Not a single report filed with the police resulted in a fair investigation.

9 out of 10 who did not report to the police believe that doing so would yield no results.

Fear of further discrimination by the police and the **risk of being outed** are indicated as other major reasons for not reporting incidents.

Conversion practices experienced by LGBTI+s in Azerbaijan

SURVEY SUMMARY #2 2026



Data collection was carried out between July 2025 and March 2026, with a total of **137 individuals participating** in the survey. 8 responses were excluded from the analysis due to incompleteness.

Of these, 30 responses were collected through focus group discussions, while the remaining responses were gathered via online outreach and direct individual invitations.

1 The survey begins with asking respondents **whether they have been subjected to conversion practices.**

Depending on whether respondents answer “YES” or “NO,” the survey proceeds with those who report having experienced conversion practices.

4 categories (*family-based; religion or belief-based; psychologist or psychotherapist-involved; medical interventions*) covering different forms of conversion practices are presented in a multiple-choice format, and respondents are asked to select those that reflect their experiences.

3 This is followed by questions on whether these practices occurred with their **consent or under coercion**, as well as the **duration** and **frequency** of such experiences.

Lastly, respondents are presented with a multiple-choice list of potential **impacts on their mental, emotional, and physical well-being**, as well as possible **long-term effects on their personal and social lives**, and are asked to select those that apply to them.

2

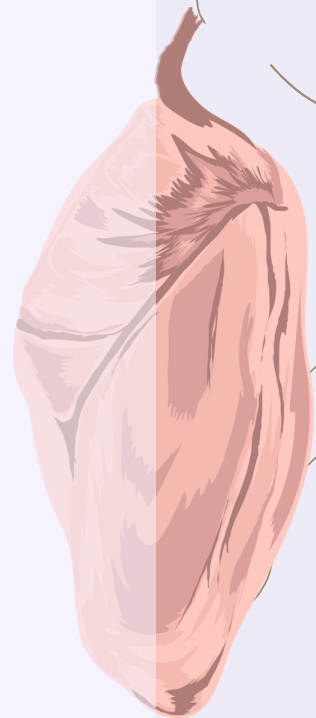
4

part I

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#2
TELL US?



Every 2nd respondent has been subjected to interventions aimed at changing their sexual orientation or gender identity (conversion practices).

Minors and youth are **most frequently exposed** to conversion practices.

3 out of every 5 were forced into this without their consent.

Without exception, **for everyone** (100%), this process first began within the family. The most common family-based interventions include: being forced to conform to gender roles in daily life, faith-based or medical interventions, as well as restriction of freedom, physical and economic violence.

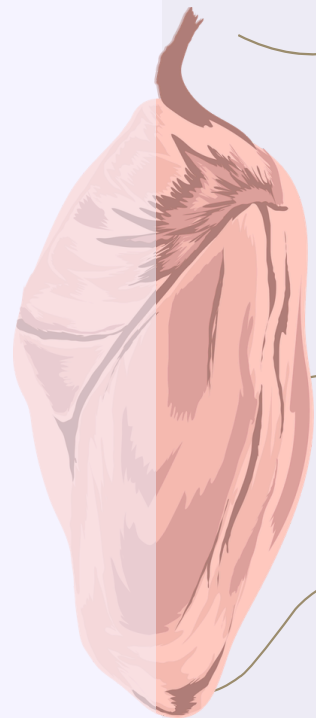
15 respondents reported that family members had attempted to kill them.

part II

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#2
TELL US?



3 out of every 5 were subjected to medical interventions were exposed to either forced hormone therapy or the use of psychiatric medication.

9 respondents were institutionalized in psychiatric hospitals. Among them, 6 stated they were forced, while 3 mentioned they did not fully comprehend the process at the time due to being minors.

Among those subjected to conversion experiences, **2 out of every 3** reported experiencing persistent thoughts of self-harm or suicide. Among those who had such thoughts, **31 respondents** actually attempted suicide.

For 9 out of every 10, conversion practices left lasting scars on their social and personal lives, while only 7 respondents believe that such attempts can be helpful.



Data collection was carried out between July 2025 and March 2026, with a total of **102 individuals participating** in the survey. 8 responses were excluded from the analysis due to incompleteness.

Of these, 30 responses were collected through focus group discussions, while the remaining responses were gathered via online outreach and direct individual invitations.

1 The survey begins with asking respondents **whether they have faced discrimination, or bullying during their school years due to their LGBTI+ identity.**

Depending on the 'YES' or 'NO' answer given to this question, the survey flow continues in 2 different directions.

A) When proceeding with respondents who reported facing these experiences:

- 2**
1. First, the **contexts** where the incidents could occur are presented in a multiple-choice format, and respondents are asked to select those that reflect their experiences.
 2. This is followed by questions about the **frequency of these experiences**, as well as the **identity of the perpetrators**.
 3. Lastly, the possible **impacts on general psychological well-being** and **academic performance** are presented in a multiple-choice format, and respondents are asked to check the options that match their personal experiences.

B) In the next section, which consists of 2 parts:

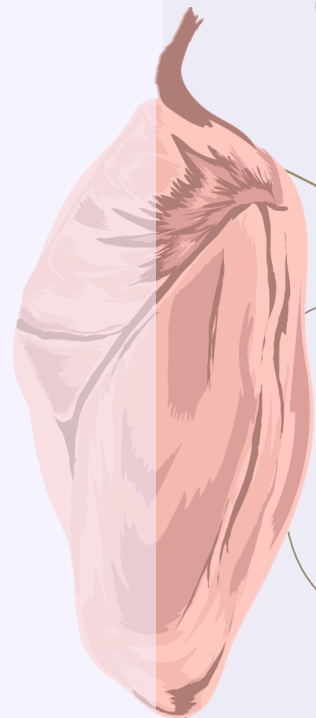
- 3**
1. First, all respondents are asked whether they have observed **similar acts directed against other LGBTI+ students** within the school environment, as well as what the attitude and **reaction of teachers and administration** were in such cases.
 2. Moving forward, they are asked about **what steps should be taken** to eliminate bullying and violence in schools.

part I

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#3
TELL US?



1 in 3 of all respondents experienced bullying, discrimination, or physical violence during their school years due to their LGBTI+ identity. The majority of those who faced these experiences were gay and transgender individuals.

Without exception, **everyone** was subjected to verbal harassment (insults, derogatory remarks, stereotypes), while **2 out of 3** experienced social isolation, and **1 in 3** faced physical violence.

- **7 out of 10** respondents endured these experiences on a regular basis.

Classmates or other students are among the primary perpetrators of verbal harassment or physical violence, while **1 in 2** faced discrimination and harassment from teachers or school staff.

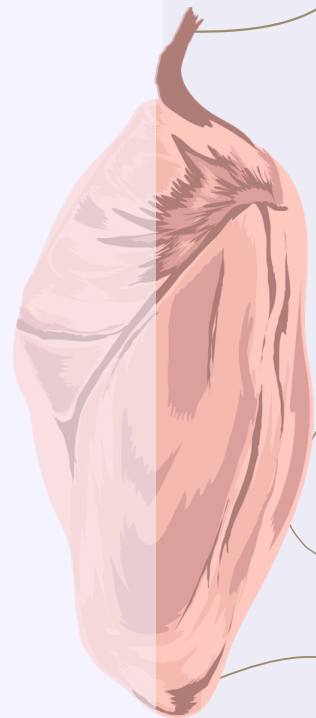
Only 3 teachers actively intervened to stop the violence.

part II

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#3
TELL US?



1 out of 3 did not seek any support.

The vast majority reported constantly struggling with anxiety, depression, and stress, as well as experiencing feelings of anger and worthlessness.

3 out of 5 stated that their grades dropped because the environment of violence and fear made it impossible to focus on their studies, while others reported a reluctance to go to school and frequent absenteeism.

7 individuals were forced to transfer schools, and **3** had to put their education on hold for a period of time.

9 out of 10 believe that to create a safe educational environment, the primary necessity is to raise school staff's awareness of bullying, violence, and inclusivity, while **every 8** place high importance on establishing effective complaint and psychological support mechanisms.



Data collection was carried out between July 2025 and March 2026, with a total of **193 individuals participating** in the survey. 16 responses were excluded from the analysis due to incompleteness.

Of these, 30 responses were collected through focus group discussions, while the remaining responses were gathered via online outreach and direct individual invitations.

A) Evaluation of law enforcement performance and trust

1

1. This section first evaluates respondents' perceptions of **how law enforcement agencies address** hate crimes, violence, and discrimination against LGBTI+ individuals, as well as whether they **trust these agencies to protect their rights**.
2. Then, respondents were asked whether they would **report future incidents** of violence to the police. For those who indicate they would not report, potential **deterrents** are presented, asking to select the factors that align with their personal views.

B) Contact with law enforcement agencies

2

1. Section starts with asking respondents whether they have had any **contact with the police within the past 3 years**. Depending on their "YES" or "NO" response, the section proceeds with participants who indicate they have had such contact.
2. Respondents are then asked to select the options that correspond to their experiences regarding **the reason for the contact, the city** in which it occurred, **the frequency** of the contact, and the **behavior** exhibited by the police

3

C) Opinion on reforms

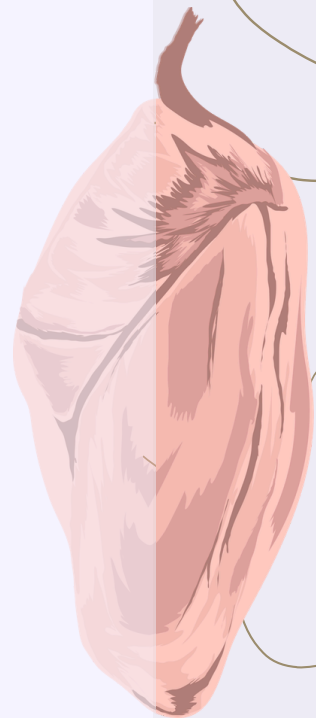
In the final section of the survey, respondents are asked to identify necessary **steps to improve the professionalism and efficiency of law enforcement agencies** when working with vulnerable groups.

part I

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#4
TELL US?



1 out of every 3 respondents has had contact with law enforcement (the police) within the last 3 years. The **absolute majority** reported being detained by the police rather than seeking help.

- Contact with the police is predominantly **observed in major cities**. In particular, Baku and its surroundings rank first by a wide margin (35). Ganja (9) and Sumgait (7) are other notable cities.

Among respondents indicating police contact (56):

- **4 out of every 5** (46) faced psychological pressure (intimidation, humiliation, and verbal abuse).
- **2 out of every 5** (27) were subjected to proposals of a sexual nature.
- **1 out of every 5** (16) was subjected to physical violence (beating, torture).
- **only 8 respondents** indicated they would seek help from the police, compared to 26 out of 121 among those without recent contact.

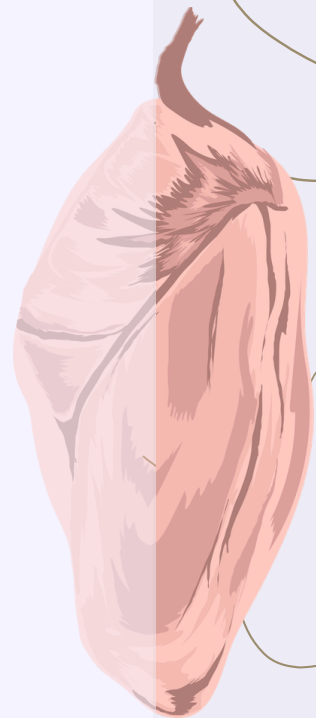
Trans women face the **highest rates of all forms of abuse** during police contact, with nearly every trans woman reporting psychological, sexual, and physical abuse.

part II

WHAT
DOES

BARANA

FACTSHEET#4
TELL US?



9 out of every 10 (159) believe that the police are completely ineffective in combating hate crimes and discrimination against LGBTI+ individuals in Azerbaijan, or that the situation has even worsened.

8 out of every 10 (143) state that they do not trust the police at all to protect their rights and would not approach the police if they face any discrimination or violence in the future. As to primary deterrent reasons:

- **every 9** believe they will encounter mistreatment (re-traumatization).
- **every 7** believe that their complaint will remain inconclusive.
- **every 6** believe that their identity will be exposed to their family.
- **The absolute majority of trans respondents** believe they would face insults and violence when approaching police, **while 3 out of every 4 gay respondents** share the same concern.

9 out of every 10 consider awareness-raising for law enforcement officers necessary, while **every 8** believe it is essential to establish safe reporting mechanisms for LGBTI+ and other vulnerable groups under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- Although support for structural reforms is remarkably high among all respondents, those who have had past contact with the police constitute a higher proportion compared to those without such firsthand experience.



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TO ACCESS
FACTSHEETS



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