

# How Embassies support Prides now, and what they could do more

Research into diplomatic support for Prides worldwide



# InterPride



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Within the framework of	InterPride
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## Preface

Amsterdam is proud to host the 2026 WorldPride, licenced by InterPride as the worldwide association of Pride organisations. Aside from a two-week event with our world-famous Canal Parade, a Pride Walk and a human rights conference, Pride Amsterdam wants to take this opportunity make a significant difference for the human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons across the world and leave a positive mark for the years to come.

One of our initiatives is to promote engagement of Embassies with Pride organisations, especially in countries where life is still very difficult for LGBTQIA+ persons because of a negative popular opinion on homosexuality and gender diversity, and/or because of repressive authorities.

As member of InterPride, we regularly meet Pride organisers who depend on Embassies to support their Prides. Financially, but also through organising safe spaces for them, intervening with governments or making public statements in support of LGBTQIA+ human rights.

In a world where human rights are backtracking in many countries, also for LGBTQIA+ persons, our movement needs allies more than ever. With this report, we hope to encourage Embassies of those countries that are standing strong for human rights to increase their support for Prides across the world.

Prides are vital for the visibility and progress of the LGBTQIA+ community, and in many countries, support from Embassies is vital for the safe conduct of Prides. In the years to come, all countries that are on the side of human rights and progress need to step up to make sure that this support is continued.

Lucien Spee de Castillo Ruiz

Director Pride Amsterdam

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President Pride Amsterdam



## Summary

In a first effort to gain an overview of diplomatic support for Pride organisations, a survey was dispersed among all members of InterPride and other Pride organisers across the world. This yielded a representative response of 150 Pride organisations, on how they engage with Embassies of diverse countries. South America and Europe are overrepresented among respondents, but all continents are covered. Organisations participated from countries across the scale from largely open to LGBTQIA+ persons to LGBTQIA+ being criminalised.

### **Half of Prides engage with Embassies**

Over half of the responding Pride organisations, 52%, have engaged with Embassies, Consulates or diplomats. Not only Prides in national capitals, but also Prides elsewhere in countries, especially where there are Consulates.

### **Prides engage most often with American, Canadian and Dutch Embassies**

Embassies of the United States are mentioned most often as engaging with Prides, followed closely by Canada and then the Netherlands. In fourth place, EU Delegations are mentioned. Almost all Embassies that engage with Prides are of countries that are part of the Equal Rights Coalition within the United Nations, with the exception of Bangladesh, Taiwan and Croatia.

### **In countries negative towards LGBTQIA+, Prides engage most with British, Dutch, Canadian and EU Embassies**

While US Embassies are mentioned most by Prides in countries that are more open to LGBTQIA+, Prides in more difficult countries mention others. In countries that are largely negative towards LGBTQIA+, the Embassies of the United Kingdom, Canada and the EU Delegation are mentioned most. In countries where LGBTQIA+ is criminalised, Prides also mention Canada and the EU Delegation, but the Netherlands is mentioned most often by them.

### **American, Dutch, Canadian and British Embassies are most helpful**

When asked to rank Embassies according to how helpful they are to Prides there is a clear top 4, at some distance from the rest. These are the Embassies of the US, the Netherlands, Canada and the UK. Strikingly, the EU Delegation is tagged as engaging with many Prides, but not ranked by any of them as being most helpful.



## **Help offered to Prides is mainly attendance, hosting events and financial support**

The help offered by Embassies can take various forms. The form of support mentioned most is attendance at Prides, followed by hosting (safe) events and financial support. Less but also mentioned are making public statements, assistance with visa and facilitating dialogue with the government.

## **Good practice: especially Embassies offer fitting financial support**

In an open question, Prides mentioned as good practices that they received financial support from Embassies, that helps them particularly because:

- Embassies have low reporting obligations, that are feasible for small organisations
- Some Embassies assist throughout the year, to offer an organisation continuity
- Embassies can help organisations that are not officially registered, such as in countries where LGBTQIA+ is criminalised

A different good practice mentioned is that an Embassy made the effort to introduce them to other funders, which was much appreciated.

## **Good practice: Embassies offer protection**

Embassies also help secure protection for Prides and Pride-related events, through:

- Negotiating with the government or local authorities about protection
- Hosting events on their premises that are safe for LGBTQIA+ persons
- Physically getting in between Pride participants and those who would harm them

## **Good practice: Embassies offer support for events and exchange**

Finally, there is specific support for the content of Pride events that Embassies offer:

- Technical support for events
- Bringing in speakers and artists from the Embassy's country
- Support with visa to bring in activists, or have activists visit Prides elsewhere

## **What Prides would like from Embassies**

In an open question, Pride organisations were asked about what support would be especially welcome from Embassies. This includes:

- Not only attending the Pride, but also advocating for LGBTQIA+ human rights
- Not only advocating for the Pride with the national government, but also with the local government for those things within their remit
- Offering safe spaces for events of the community, and shelter for LGBTQIA+ activists that come under threat



- Facilitating dialogue between Prides and activists from different countries
- Assisting with visa and scholarships for activists from more difficult countries to visit Prides in countries that are more open
- Supporting marginalised groups, such as trans, intersex and non-binary persons and LGBTQIA+ persons with a disability
- Promoting LGBTQIA+ tourism in their home country, to visit the Pride where they are stationed.

## **Legislative changes and new allies are seen as opportunities**

When asked for opportunities for progress on LGBTQIA+ human rights in their countries, many organisations mentioned legislative changes, such as including a prohibition on discrimination of LGBTQIA+ persons in the constitution, or overturning the criminalisation of sodomy. Also gaining new allies outside the LGBTQIA+ bubble is seen as a main opportunity.

## **Political and religious movements are seen as main threats**

Meanwhile, anti-LGBTQIA+ movements are on the rise. The main threats come from political and religious movements that are against homosexuality or gender diversity, followed by trans-exclusionist movements.

## **Health-related and human rights organisations are main allies for Pride organisations**

Fortunately, there are also important allies for Pride organisations. These are mainly to be found among health-related organisations and general human rights organisations. Trade Unions show a diverse pattern; where in some countries they are allies, in other countries they are part of the anti-LGBTQIA+ forces.

## **Conclusions**

Prides are an important part of activism for the LGBTQIA+ community, offering visibility, striving for human rights and resisting counterforces that are growing on all continents. Many Pride organisations depend on the support of Embassies, especially the Embassies of the US, Canada, the Netherlands and the UK.

It is more important than ever that countries that support the human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons step up the assistance that their Embassies offer to LGBTQIA+ organisations in general, and Pride organisations in particular. The input of 150 Pride organisations from across the world for this research offers Embassies the ideas and tools to do that, and to be a beacon of hope in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to LGBTQIA+ persons.



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## Introduction

Discrimination and hate crime against LGBTQIA+ persons is increasing at a worrying rate across the world.<sup>1</sup> Pride organisations are at the forefront of efforts to combat discrimination and hate crime and to give positive visibility to the LGBTQIA+ community. In some countries, Prides are welcomed and can be held in relative safety. In others, the situation is still difficult, and Prides are met with hostility and violence.

Many Pride organisations are dependent on the support of Embassies and other diplomatic representations to make their activities possible. Not only with financial support, but also for instance with support to protect the Pride, to organise events and offer safe meeting spaces. Even so, most existing research and instruments into Embassy support tend to concentrate mainly on LGBTQIA+ human rights in the broad sense. Prides are at most mentioned as one of many issues.

This is therefore the first representative research into the current level and type of support of Embassies specifically for Pride organisations, asking these organisations in a survey about their experiences and good practices. Also, they were asked about what they see as the best opportunities and greatest challenges to LGBTQIA+ human rights in their country currently, and what organisations pose a threat or are allies. This information can form a basis for further promotion of support for Prides, especially for Embassies of countries that are part of the Equal Rights Coalition within the United Nations<sup>2</sup>.

This research has been carried out by Pride Amsterdam, in close cooperation with Berlin Pride and Gandhinagar Pride, within the framework of InterPride. InterPride is the worldwide umbrella organisation of Pride organisations, including over 550 national, regional and local Prides. The initiative is undertaken in the run-up to the WorldPride 2026, which will take place in Amsterdam.

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<sup>1</sup> For instance: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/lgbtiq-crossroads-progress-and-challenges> or <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/discrimination-and-barriers-to-well-being-the-state-of-the-lgbtqi-community-in-2022/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://equalrightscalition.org/about/>



## Participation of Prides across all continents

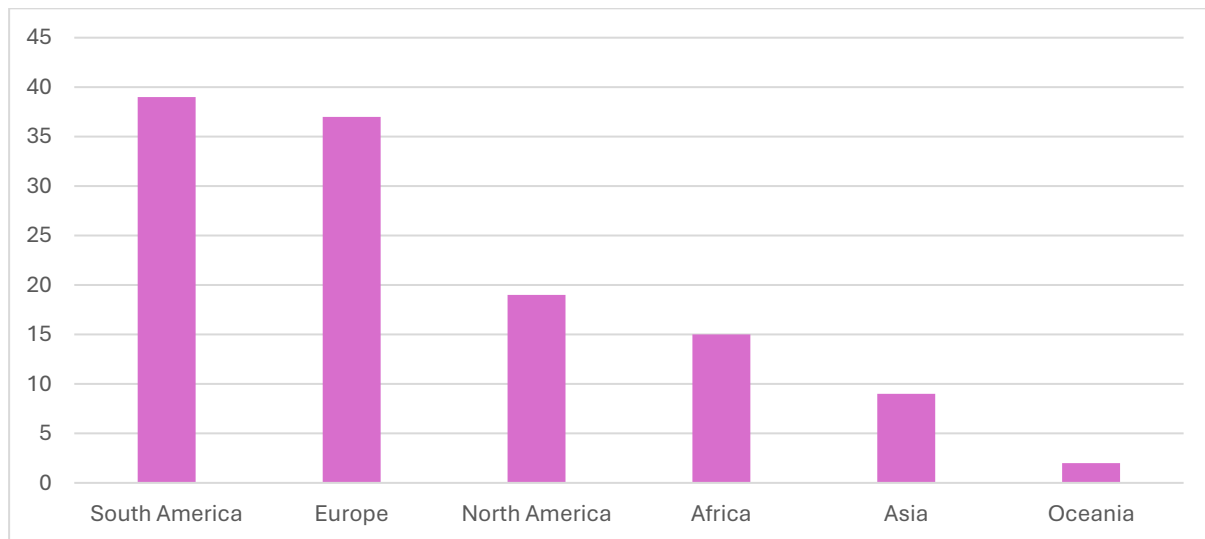
150 Pride organisations participated in the survey, which is a representative sample of the over 550 organisations that are member of InterPride, the international umbrella organisation of Prides. This sample size means there's a margin of error of 7%.

The survey was first dispersed among Pride organisations in June 2024. Response was further promoted during an InterPride conference in October, and a last reminder was sent in early December. The survey closed on 15 December 2024.

### Across all continents

The participating Pride organisations are active on all continents, although Pride organisations in South America and Europe are relatively overrepresented. Among the South American Prides, a relatively large number of respondents originate from Brazil, although many other countries there are also represented. Among European Prides, those in Eastern Europe are relatively underrepresented.

Many participating Prides are those held in the capital city of the country, but a considerable part of the respondents are active in other cities and regions for their local or regional Prides.

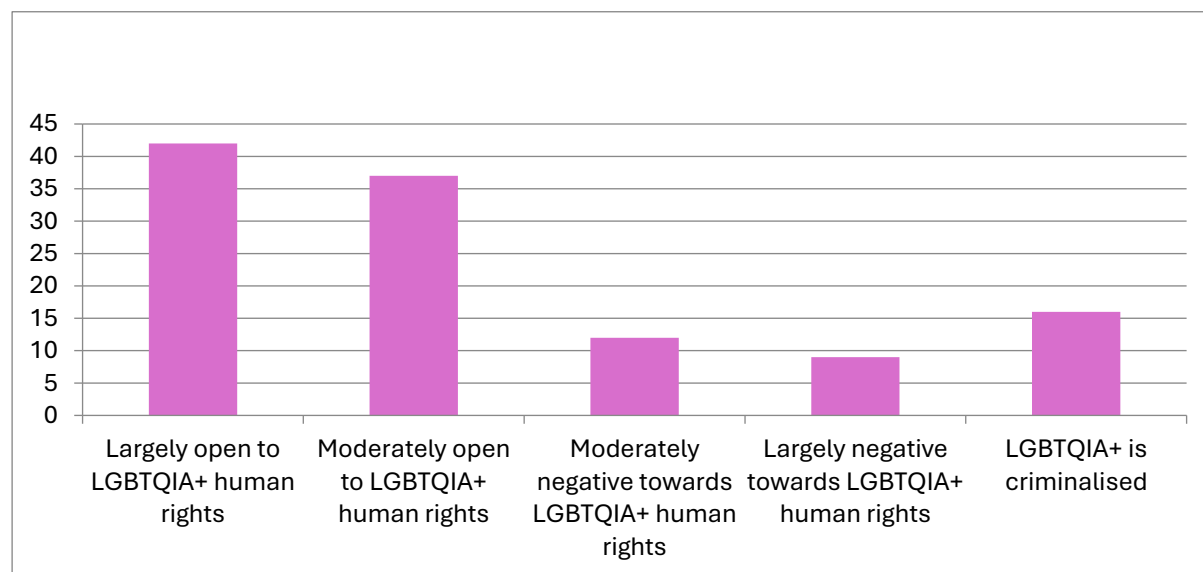


### Characterisation of openness to LGBTQIA+

Pride organisations were asked how they would rate the country that they are active in. Considering the prevalence of Western European, South American and North American Prides, it is not surprising that many rate their country as largely or moderately open. However, there are also quite a few respondents from countries that are largely negative

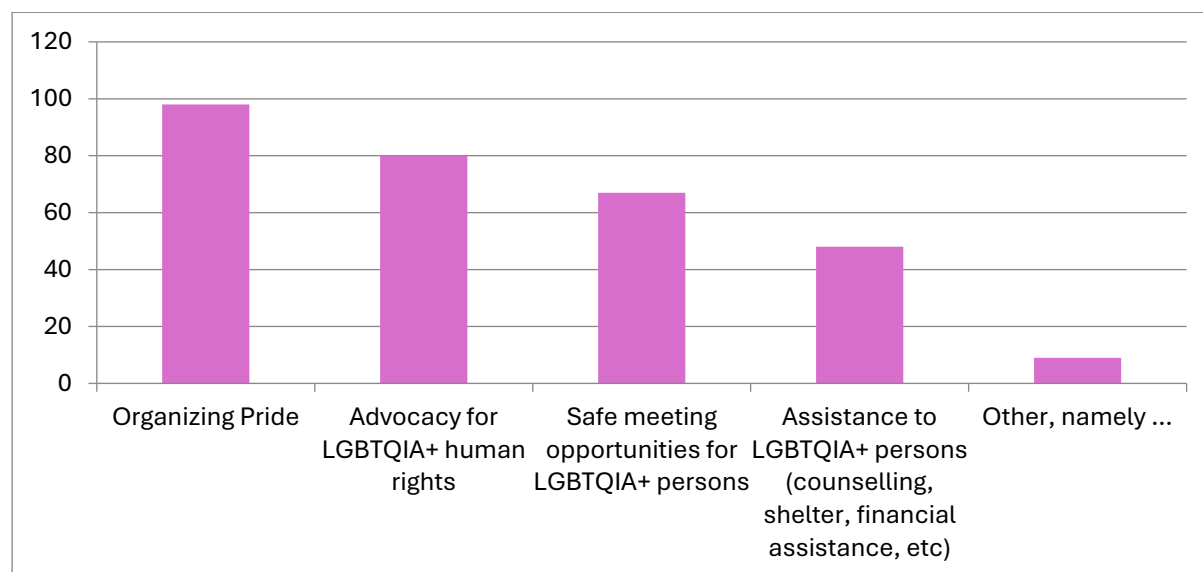


towards LGBTQIA+ human rights, and even some where LGBTQIA+ is criminalised. Especially these Pride organisations depend on support from Embassies of more open countries.



## Most organisations are working in multiple areas

Respondents to the survey are almost all involved in organising a Pride, but most are also advocating for LGBTQIA+ human rights, offering safe meeting spaces for the LGBTQIA+ community and aiding community members. In more open countries, there are relatively more organisations that focus exclusively on organising Prides, while in more difficult countries, most organisations carry out multiple tasks.

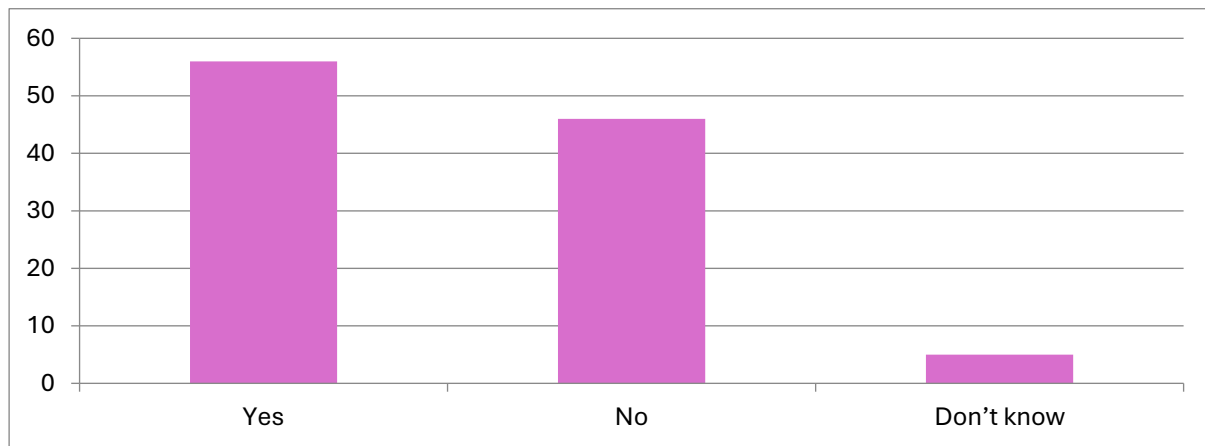


## Embassy support for Prides

In the survey, several quantitative and qualitative questions were asked about the current engagement of Pride organisations with Embassies.

### Over half of Prides engage with Embassies

To the question ‘Has your organisation engaged with one or more Embassies of foreign countries in the past 2 years?’, over half of respondents answered yes. Strikingly, not only larger Prides in capital cities engage with Embassies, but also many of the local and regional Prides outside of the main city find their way to Embassy support. This is especially the case where there are Consulates present.



### Embassies that support Pride organisations

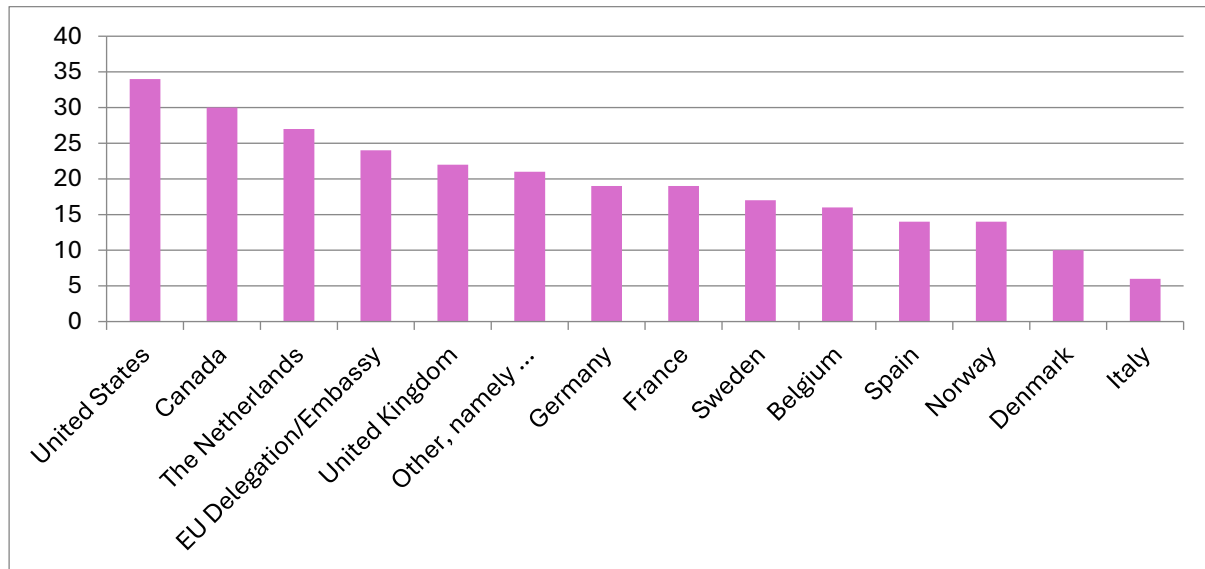
Asked then which Embassies this concerned, those of the United States were mentioned most often, followed by Canada and the Netherlands. In fourth place is the EU Delegation. The EU Delegations have specific guidelines for the promotion of LGBTI+ human rights, that also apply to all individual Embassies of EU Member States.<sup>3</sup>

The countries that support Prides are almost all part of the Equal Rights Coalition in the UN, which currently includes 44 members with Brazil and Thailand as the newest additions<sup>4</sup>. The only exceptions are the Embassies of Bangladesh and Taiwan, which offer some support to Asian Prides, and the Embassy of Croatia.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/07\\_hr\\_guidelines\\_lgbti\\_en.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/07_hr_guidelines_lgbti_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Albania; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Cabo Verde; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Ecuador; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Honduras; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta;





When the results are linked to the level of openness of the country, the countries mentioned most diverge from the overall picture. The United States are mentioned most by Prides in countries that are largely open, moderately open or moderately negative towards LGBTQIA+, and less often by those in countries that are largely negative or that criminalise LGBTQIA+.

The United Kingdom is mentioned most by Pride organisations in countries that are largely negative towards LGBTQIA+, followed by the EU Delegation and then Canada.

For countries where LGBTQIA+ is criminalised, the Netherlands is mentioned most often as supportive, followed by the EU Delegation and Canada.

So while the US is overall mentioned most, the UK, the Netherlands and Canada are most involved in countries where the situation is most difficult for LGBTQIA+ persons.

## Ranking of Embassies that are most helpful

To gain further insight into the level of support offered by Embassies of different countries, respondents were asked to rank the most helpful ones. Embassies that were mentioned in first place were given 3 points, in second place 2 points and in third place 1 point. This results in the graph below, which shows that Embassies of the United States are considered by far the most helpful, followed by the Netherlands, Canada and the UK.

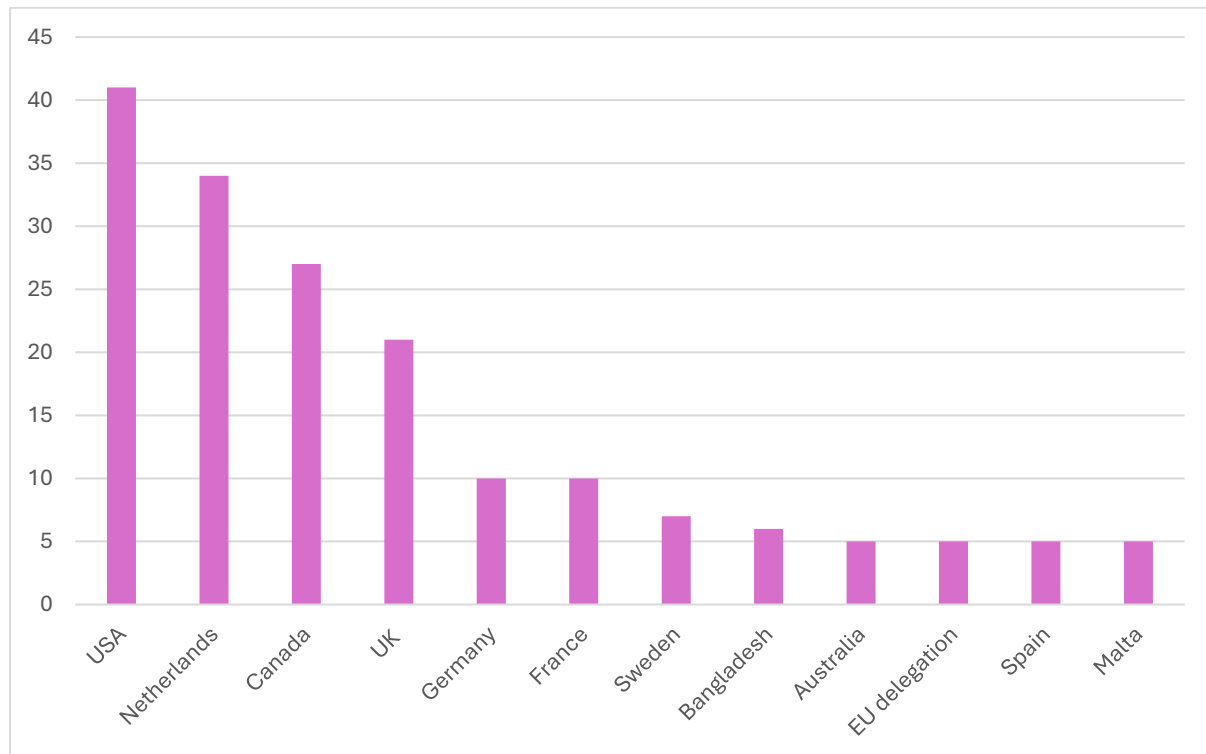
Striking is that while many Pride organisations engage with the EU Delegation, they are not considered among the most helpful Embassies. This might be connected to the fact that

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Mexico; Montenegro; the Netherlands; New Zealand; North Macedonia; Norway; Portugal; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay.



the EU Delegation coordinates its activities with the Embassies of all EU Member States, which is sometimes a barrier for decisive action in support of Pride organisations because of the attitude towards LGBTQIA+ of the current governments in some Member States.



Considering current political developments in the United States and the Netherlands, and possibly also in Germany and Canada in 2025, the dependence of Pride organisations on these Embassies is worrisome. If these countries cut financial and in-kind support to Pride organisations, the promotion of LGBTQIA+ human rights through Pride might experience severe setbacks in many countries. This could be especially harmful in countries that criminalise LGBTQIA+.

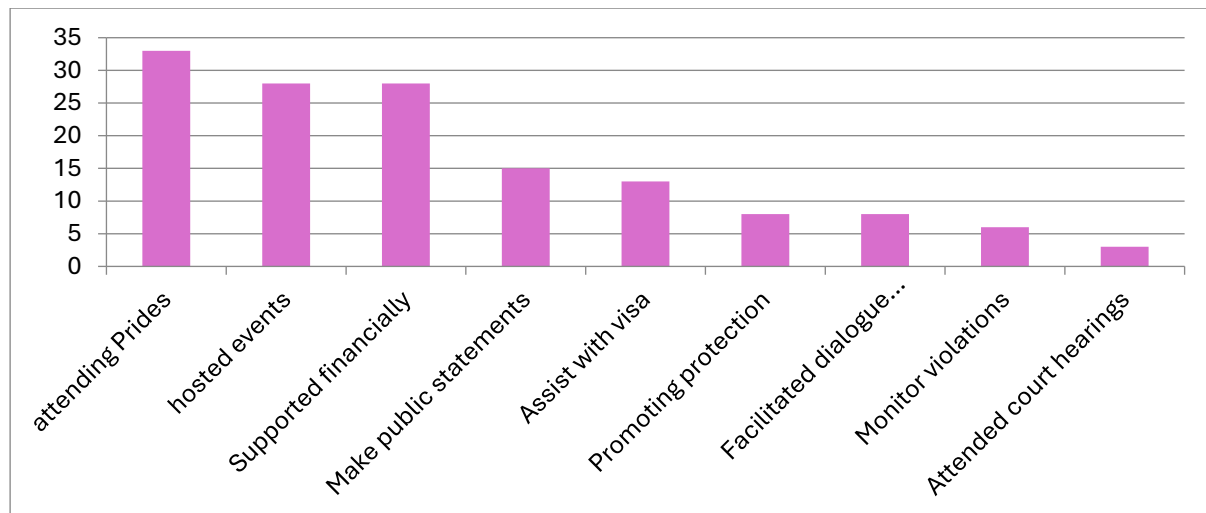
## Type of support from Embassies

The support that Embassies offer to Pride organisations varies. The types of support most often mentioned are attending the Pride, hosting events around the Pride and offering financial assistance. Less often, Embassies also make public statements or publish press releases in support of Pride, assist with obtaining visa, promote protection or facilitate dialogue with the government about LGBTQIA+ human rights.

The type of support differs according to the characterisation of the country that a Pride organisation is active in. In countries that are largely negative towards or have criminalised



LGBTQIA+, the support mentioned most is hosting events, followed by making public statements and financial support. This is not surprising, as Embassies hosting events in safe spaces is especially important in these circumstances, as is making positive public statements about LGBTQIA+.



Only in countries that have criminalised LGBTQIA+ is monitoring human rights violations and attending court hearings mentioned multiple times. Especially there, this is an important type of support that Embassies can offer, to make sure that the government cannot deny human rights violations and that court proceedings happen according to the rule of law through international supervision.

## Good practices of Embassy support

Quite a number of good practices were mentioned by Pride organisers that have worked with Embassies in the past years. This does not only concern financial support, but also many other forms of support that are highly valuable to Pride organisations.

### Financial support

Regarding financial support, respondents mentioned in many cases that they received small grants with low reporting obligations, which they were very happy with. Especially longer-term financial support throughout the year is appreciated, as this offers organisations continuity. One respondent named the Embassy of the Netherlands as a good practice, which recommended them to other donors.



**“It helped us immensely that the Embassy of the Netherlands actively recommended us and put us in touch with other donors, Embassies as well as Funds”**

## Africa

Furthermore, in countries that are largely negative towards or have criminalised LGBTQIA+, it is often impossible for organisations to register officially. This prevents them from applying for grants from funds, which often have registration as precondition for application. Since Embassies are more flexible in their funding, these unregistered organisations depend largely on their support.

**“We are still unregistered since our founding in 2021, but due to our support from Embassies, especially our first pride, we have become the largest movement for LGBTQ rights in the country”**

## Africa

### Support for protection

Several respondents mentioned good practices of Embassies that help them negotiate with the government, municipality and police for protection of the Pride March or of events around the Pride. In some cases, they host events and make sure the venue is well protected, and in one good practice mentioned they even put themselves on the line to ensure the safety of Pride participants.

**“When hosting pride events, they ensure the venue is safe and secured”**

## Africa

**“EU embassy staff sometimes placed themselves between police and pride march attendees to protect them from police attacks”**

## Eastern Europe

### Support for events and cultural exchange

Pride organisations find the support of Embassies to host and facilitate events very valuable. Especially the EU Delegation and US Embassies are mentioned by several respondents as offering technical support to facilitate Pride events, which helps understaffed Pride organisations that are not able to handle all logistics themselves.

**“The EU Embassy co-produced the programme and some public events, making a more extensive Pride possible than we could have organised ourselves”**

## South America





Also, some Embassies bring LGBTQIA+ speakers, movies or artists from their own country to speak or perform at the Pride, handling the visa and travel and paying for their stay. This is felt to enrich the Pride with international contributions.

**“Sweden and Spain brought queer speakers from their country to join our Pride, and the Netherlands made a queer movie for events in the Pride possible”**

Eastern Europe

**“US and EU Embassies supported LGBTQ artists and speakers to come to our events, which we couldn’t have done ourselves”**

South America

## **Visa support**

Support in obtaining visa for activist from countries that are largely negative towards or have criminalised LGBTQIA+ is much appreciated. Some Embassies, particularly German ones, are helpful when it comes to visa support. And not only Embassies; this is something that Consulates are also especially equipped to do.

**“The Consulate helped us bring over activists from Ghana, Uganda and Namibia”**

Europe

## **Other forms of support**

One striking good practice mentioned is that some Embassies allow same-sex couples to marry on their premises, because the country they are based in does not allow same-sex couples to marry but does recognise same-sex marriages that are registered elsewhere in the world.

**“UK and Norway marry same-sex couples at their Embassies even though different-sex couples can’t. This is making a stand against the government which does not allow same-sex marriage”**

Asia

Also, some Pride organisations really appreciate any moral support given to them. Especially in countries that are largely negative towards or have criminalised LGBTQIA+, the gesture of the Ambassador visiting an exhibition can mean a lot.



**“My organisation never got any direct support from any Embassy, but during our recent Pride month, the Ambassadors of the US and the EU visited our gallery, to convey their moral support”**

Asia

## **Cooperation between Embassies**

Lastly, a few respondents pointed to the strength of cooperation between Embassies in support of Prides. This concerned the Equal Rights Coalition working together, EU Embassies stepping up together, and the Diplomats for Equality Network acting in unison to assist the Pride.

**“We have found embassy engagement to have massively increased since we created the Diplomats for Equality chapter in our city. We wish we had done this many years earlier”**

Europe

## **What not to do...**

A few Pride organisations also mentioned some bad practices. There were three such practices that they felt were important to convey.

One is that in some smaller countries, there are no Embassies. A few large countries might have Consulates there, but most do not. For regional Prides outside the capital, this is also the case. They often feel disregarded by Embassies in the capital, and receive no support.

**“There are no Embassies here, and maybe only one or two Consulates, if that. So no actual support for us”**

South America

Another thing is that for some Embassies, the level of support they give to Pride organisations depends hugely on individuals working within the Embassy; when a diplomat who really cares for LGBTQIA+ human rights is replaced by someone else, they might suddenly not get any support anymore.

**“There’s no continuity and many Embassies don’t properly transfer information and tasks between one diplomat replaced by the next. We feel like we’re dependent on the good will of a particular person who might leave any time”**

Africa

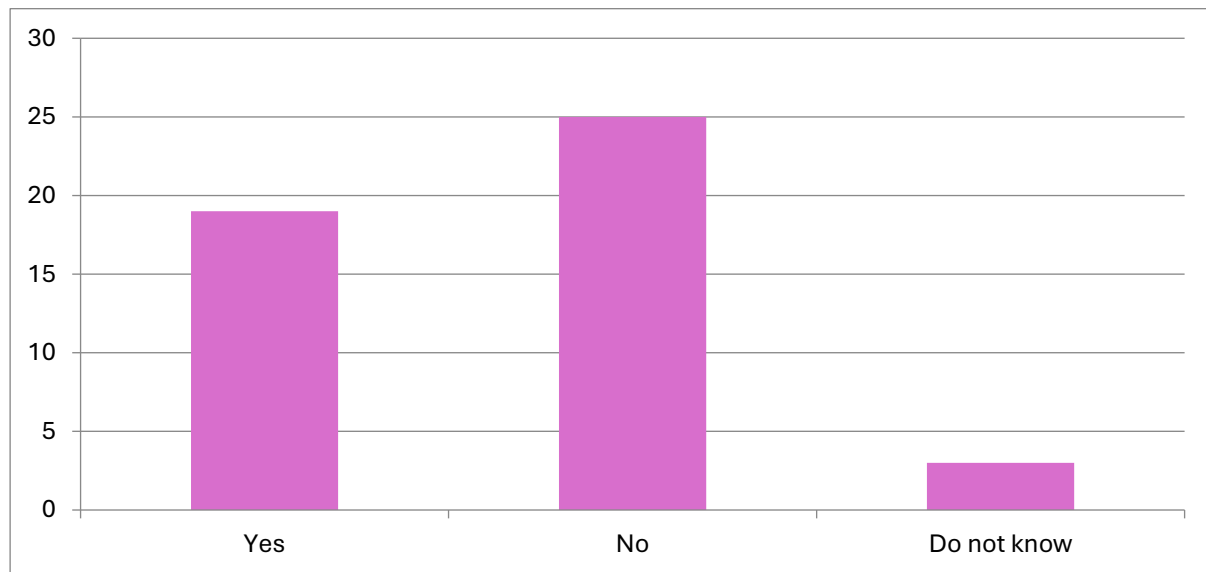


Finally, some respondents mentioned that there were Embassies who suddenly pop up and say they want to play a role and speak at the Pride event, while never having displayed an interest in LGBTQIA+ rights in the country before. This happened with the Israeli Embassy in several countries in 2024.



## Engagement with Embassies of own country

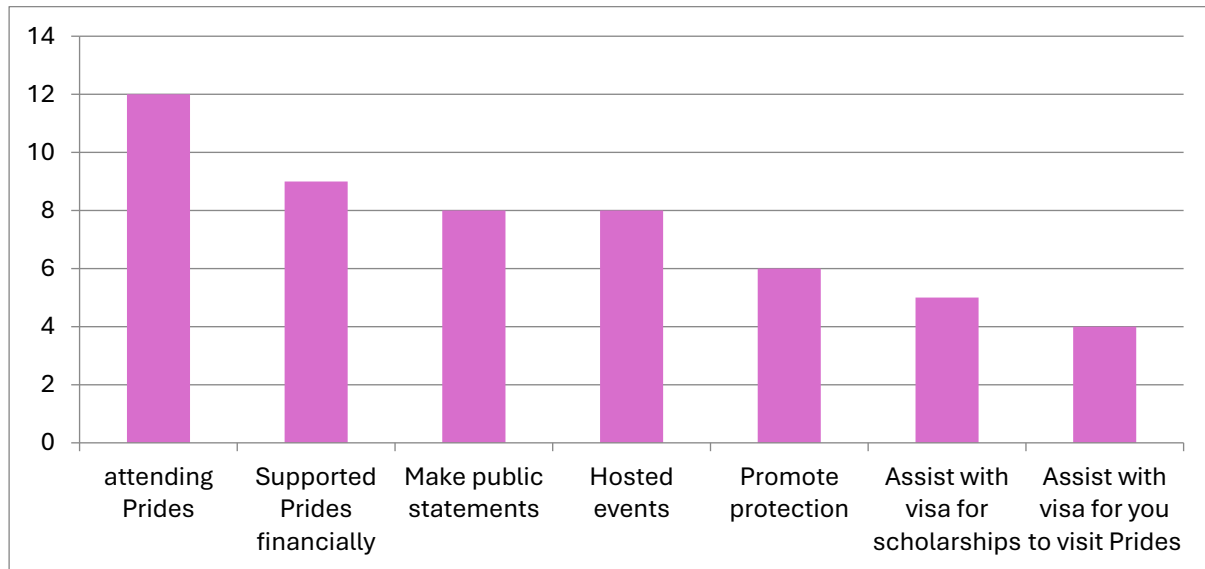
A minority of Pride organisations engage with the Embassies of their own country abroad. That is not surprising, considering that organisations from countries that are largely negative towards or especially those that have criminalised LGBTQIA+ are less likely to work with the Embassies of their own countries. Also, local and regional Prides outside of the capital in more open countries may be less inclined to turn to Embassies of their own country.



## Type of support offered by own embassies abroad

The type of support offered by own Embassies abroad is broadly the same as that of foreign Embassies, though fewer own Embassies host events while they assist more with visa for scholarships as well as for Pride organisers to visit Prides elsewhere.





## Wished support from Embassies in the coming years

When asked what type of support from Embassies Pride organisations would be helped with, there were many different suggestions. Of course, financial assistance is always much appreciated and mentioned by over 25 respondents, but moral and technical support is at least as necessary for Prides, especially in less open countries. And as far as financial support is concerned, the support does not only have to come from the Embassy's own budget for human rights, it can also take the form of linking a Pride organisation to other funding opportunities and vouching for them and helping them in their application process.

**“Linking us to both national and international funding/conference opportunities”**

Europe

## Attendance and advocacy

While attendance of Ambassadors and Embassy staff at Prides is welcomed, many organisations would like for them to stay engaged throughout the year and engage in advocacy for LGBTQIA+ human rights. For instance, through dialogue with the government, advocacy to support legal battles and strategic litigation, and a more vocal public push for human rights instead of only behind closed doors.

**“We need a more vocal push for LGBTQ+ rights. They have been doing it, but behind closed doors. We need this to be more public”**

Africa



## At national and local level

As all Pride organisers know, the logistics and politics concerning organising a Pride involve the local authorities as much as the national ones. For many aspects such as permits or police protection, it's not the national government that needs to be addressed but the local or regional authorities. Pride organisers would therefore much like for Embassies to not only engage with the national but also the local level in advocating and facilitating a safe Pride parade. It would be significant if an Ambassador reached out to the local Mayor to ask for permission and protection of a Pride, especially for Prides outside the capital city and for Prides in difficult countries.

**“It would be brilliant if Embassies have more difficult conversations with local governments, not just national!”**

Europe

## Safe spaces and shelter

Some mentioned that Embassies are well placed to host events where LGBTQIA+ attendants can feel safe. And not only events, it would also be appreciated by Pride organisations in less open countries if Embassies would let them hold safe meetings on their premises that they can't hold elsewhere. Offering shelter for LGBTQIA+ activists that are under threat and LGBTQIA+ refugees that are persecuted were mentioned several times too.

## Facilitating dialogue with Prides and activists elsewhere

Another much mentioned form of support is for Embassies to facilitate exchange between Prides and activists from different countries. This includes possibilities for Pride organisers and activists from less open countries to visit largely open countries in order to receive training and build networks and expertise, but also for those from less open countries to visit each other and exchange experiences and strategies among themselves.

**“We need more allies in embassies, especially when we want to hold more international events; international participation is essential for the growth of an organization”**

South America



**“Support us in other countries with receptions and talks, facilitating participating in Human Rights Conferences”**

Europe

**“We would love to hold meetings with Consulate/Embassy officials to learn about the LGBTI+ policies of their country, and for them to promote conferences where good practices of these Countries are made known”**

Asia

## Visa assistance and scholarships

Quite a number of respondents mentioned that it would be great if Embassies assisted more with obtaining visa for them to visit other Prides and events that would allow them to experience the situation elsewhere. Not only for those from Africa, Asia and South America to visit Europe and North America, but also the other way around.

**“We would be very happy with scholarships for missions to observe the situation elsewhere in the world”**

Africa

**“Financial support in getting our activists to overseas pride events in order that they gain an international perspective of pride”**

Europe

**“Working with us to expedite visas for Pride organizers, especially from criminalized countries, visiting us for cross-training support”**

Europe

## Supporting marginalised groups

Some organisations pointed to the importance of Embassies addressing the situation of particularly vulnerable groups, with intersex, non-binary, LGBTQIA+ persons with a disability and albinism mentioned specifically. Many organisations have trouble with creating awareness of these groups, and Embassies could play an important role in seeking recognition of their specific situation.

**“Our organization has not yet directly engaged with Embassies, but we recognize their vital role in advancing LGBTQIA+ human rights. Embassies have supported awareness campaigns, facilitated advocacy training, and advocated for policy changes in the**



past. We envision collaborating with embassies to raise intersex visibility, secure funding for community-led initiatives, and ensure that intersex issues are prioritized within broader LGBTQIA+ advocacy. Their involvement would significantly enhance our efforts to combat stigma and promote human rights."

North America

## Promoting LGBTQIA+ tourism

A specific Pride-related wish of various respondents is that Embassies would promote LGBTQIA+ tourism among the citizens in the Embassy's homeland, to visit the Pride in the country where they are stationed.

**"The support of Embassies would be valuable in promoting LGBT tourism, facilitating international partnerships, offering support for the training of professionals in the sector, disseminating our destination in external markets and encouraging policies of inclusion and diversity in global tourism"**

Europe

**"Promotion of tourism for the foreign LGBT population, so that they can get to know our region"**

South America

## Other forms of wished support

Other forms of support that were mentioned by a few organisations included:

- Support with technical facilities, such as a podium and sound system
- Support in human rights litigation, when our Pride is banned again
- Support with gathering statistics of hate crime, by sharing expertise
- Connecting us with companies and the private sector for advocacy and financial support

## Always in cooperation with the local activists

A few also pointed out that the right forms of assistance depend greatly on the local situation. What may work for some, may not work for others. For instance in former colonies, the framing of a public message is of utmost importance to make sure that it is not construed in the public eye as post-colonialism.





**“The most important thing is for them to listen to the Pride, the local experts, and engage with them on how they can best support and contribute”**

Africa



## Opportunities and challenges for LGBTI+ human rights

To inform the content of advocacy for Prides and LGBTQIA+ human rights in general, organisations were asked what they view as the most promising opportunities and the most pressing challenges in their country.

### Opportunities in the coming years

The opportunities that Pride organisations see in their national contexts are mainly to promote legislative change and to engage new allies for the movement. The first, legislative change, was mentioned the most.

#### Legislative changes

Many respondents see legislative changes as main opportunities, in more open countries as well as in countries that are more difficult. The legislative changes that they wish for do differ. For those in more open countries such as Germany, adding LGBTQIA+ as protected ground from discrimination in the constitution or banning medical interventions on intersex children is seen as an opportunity. For those in countries where LGBTQIA+ persons are repressed or criminalised, such as in several African countries, hopes are pinned on court cases that might repeal anti-gay 'propaganda' laws or laws that criminalise sodomy.

**“Legislative efforts, such as anti-discrimination laws and bans on non-consensual medical interventions, present a chance to secure protections for intersex individuals. The growing visibility of LGBTQIA+ issues and increasing public awareness create an environment conducive to advocacy and education. Additionally, forming alliances with international organizations, local human rights groups, and progressive political leaders can amplify our work. By leveraging these opportunities, we can ensure intersex issues gain recognition and priority within the Broder LGBTIQ+ movement.”**

Europe

**“We are usually in the top 5 countries on Rainbow Europe, but we still have challenges, such as on trans healthcare and the need for a ban on conversion therapy. We are working on a number of activities to push for this.”**

Europe

**Possible repeal of the "anti-gay propaganda" provisions (we are currently awaiting Constitutional Court ruling).**

North America



## **“Winning the Supreme Court appeal on the decriminalisation of the sodomy law”**

Africa

### **New allies**

More answers to dedicated questions on possible new allies follows later in this report, but already in this section multiple respondents mentioned spontaneously that gaining new allies is vital to progress for LGBTQIA+ human rights in their national context.

**“To react about regrowing right wing parties, searching for allies out of the LGBTQIA+ bubble.”**

North America

**“Progress is needed with regards the understanding of trans community and non-binary, asexual, etc among more progressive groups. There are limited efforts in our country in responding to ever growing misunderstandings and misinformation about parts of the LGBTQ+ community, but these need to spread to a wider audience”**

Europe

### **No opportunities....**

Unfortunately, the situation is very bleak in some countries that are backtracking on human rights and where the community is facing a hostile political and social environment.

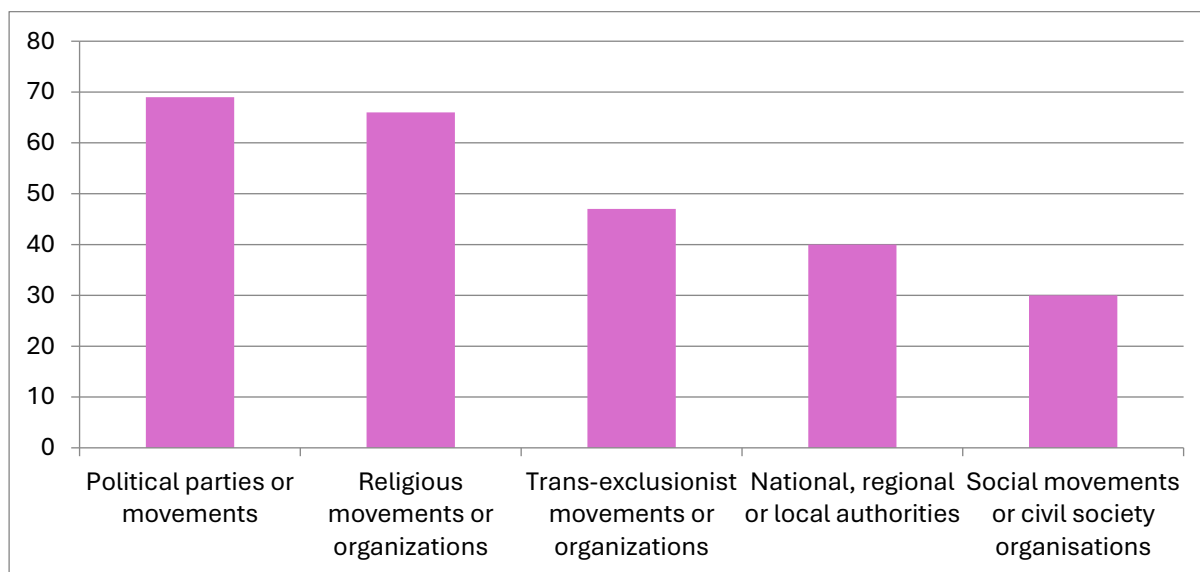
**“I honestly don’t see any opportunities. My country is becoming more hostile to the community and community-based organizations. Our morales are down but we have to keep pushing.”**

Africa

## **Challenges in the coming years**

Pride organisations were also asked to indicate what organisations form the main threat to the promotion of human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons in their country. Political parties or movements were mentioned most often, closely followed by religious movements or organisations. But also, trans-exclusionist organisations are considered an important threat, as are authorities and social movements.





In an open question, respondents were asked to name specific organisations that form a threat to LGBTQIA+ human rights in their national context. These are grouped in the categories above, although in several cases there is an overlap such as between political and religious movements, and between religious and social movements.

## Political parties or movements

Not only in countries negative towards LGBTQIA+ but also in countries largely open, political parties are seen as a grave threat. Those mentioned most often are on the far or radical right, such as the Republicans (USA), FPÖ (Austria), AfD (Germany), VOX (Spain) or the Liberal Party of Bolsonaro (Brazil). But far left-wing parties can also be forces against LGBTQIA+ human rights, such as BSW (Germany) or Communist Parties (China, Central Asia). In a few cases, there is overlap with religious movements, such as the Evangelical Parliamentary Front in Brazil where Christian Members of Parliament and Senators work together to undermine LGBTQIA+ and women's rights.

## Religious movements of organisations

Although three respondents mentioned Muslim groups as a main threat, by far the most mentioned are Christian movements. These include Evangelists (mentioned 6 times), Catholics (mentioned 4 times) and (neo)Pentecostals (mentioned 3 times). Some respondents, especially from Africa and South America, indicated specific organisations such as a Christian Union, Council of Churches, Coalition of Christian Churches and a National Confederation of Bishops.

## Trans-exclusionist movements or organisations

Although most of the organisations under all categories that are named as threats oppose the rights of transgender persons, some are specifically aimed at trans-exclusionism.



These tend to present themselves as organisations that favour the rights of women and/or LGB persons, such as the LGB Alliance, Women's Place (both UK), the Danish Rainbow Council, the Swedish Women's Lobby, Archilesbica (Italy) and Do No Harm and Moms for Liberty (both US). These specific trans-exclusionist organisations seem to mainly operate in countries that are relatively open for LGBTQIA+ persons, such as in Europe and North America.

## **National, regional or local authorities**

In an overlap with the political forces against LGBTQIA+ human rights, there are a number of countries in which these forces form the national, regional or local government. In those cases, the political parties counteracting human rights can use their position in power, the police force and state institutions to suppress the LGBTQIA+ community. The authorities mentioned are mainly conservative and/or (radical) right-wing, but also communist regimes are threats to LGBTQIA+ human rights.

## **Social movements or civil society organisations**

The social movements and civil society organisations that threaten LGBTQIA+ human rights broadly have a similar goal, opposing sexual and gender diversity, but through different means.

By far the most mentioned is the Heritage Foundation in the US. This ultra-conservative thinktank has quite some political influence on the Republican party which will be in power again in the coming years. In 2023, they published a policy brief called 'Project 2025' in which they collected input from over 100 conservative organisations. It is an action plan for the removal of anti-discrimination legislation for LGBTQIA+ persons, blocking care for transgender persons and banning them from the military. The fear is that the new administration will start implementing this action plan once it is in power.

Another fear is that this will spread to Europe and other continents, among others through the Alliance Defending Freedom which is funding anti-LGBTQIA+ organisations in an increasing number of countries. Specifically mentioned is also Nihon Kaigi, an influential ultraconservative lobby group in Japan, not unlike the Heritage Foundation.

Another type of social movement are the 'traditional family' organisations. Many are mentioned, notably the American Family Association and aforementioned Moms for Liberty (both US), the National Pro-Life Pro Family Association (Brazil), Don't Mess With My Children (Peru) and Arewa Youth Forum (Nigeria). These organisations aim not so much at political lobby, but at influencing popular opinion against LGBTQIA+ persons by spreading fear that these persons undermine the traditional family.

Finally, in the past years some organisations have started to adopt the language and strategies of the LGBTQIA+ Pride movement, to counter LGBTQIA+ human rights. A few of



these mentioned by respondents are the March for Life (US), the March for the Family (Poland) and the Love March Movement (Jamaica).

## **Social media and traditional media**

Not included in the options of the survey, but mentioned multiple times in the ‘other, namely...’ section are online movements. Apart from political, religious and social movements, or authorities at different levels, social network platforms are increasingly unsafe for LGBTQIA+ persons on multiple continents. Influencers such as JK Rowling (famous author who speaks against trans persons) and organised disinformation campaigns gain a wide audience on social media. One example of the latter, mentioned by several Brazilian respondents, is ‘Escola Sem Partido’, a group that spreads fear of ‘gender-ideology’ in schools with false information.

**“Currently all the social platforms make us very vulnerable, for LGBTQIA+ people online safety is very limited.”**

## **North America**

Lastly, a number of respondents mentioned conservative newspapers that do the same; spreading fear of LGBTQIA+ persons and disinformation about them.

## **Allies for Pride organisations**

Fortunately, there are several organisations and movements that are willing to step up as allies to LGBTQIA+ persons and organisations. Health-related and general human rights organisations are mentioned the most as supportive, followed by organisations that combat discrimination and those that promote women’s rights.

Trade Unions show an ambiguous result as allies; they are appreciated as allies in countries where they are supportive, but in some other countries they are among those that form a threat to LGBTQIA+ human rights. It is important for the global Trade Union movement to start to clearly advocate in favour of LGBTQIA+ human rights and ask of all its members to act accordingly. The mission of Trade Unions is to protect and advance the position of people in the workplace, especially vulnerable workers. Considering the vulnerable labour position of LGBTQIA+ persons in almost all countries, this mandate should stretch to them.





## Conclusions

Across the world, there are over 100 countries in which Prides are organised<sup>5</sup>. Prides are important events for LGBTQIA+ communities, giving them visibility, promoting their human rights and resisting counterforces that undermine those human rights. In many of these countries, the Pride would not be possible without the assistance of Embassies that support LGBTQIA+ human rights.

This representative research shows that over half of Pride organisations engage with Embassies. Those mentioned most often and that are the most helpful are of the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The assistance that Embassies offer to Pride organisations can be financial, but other forms of support can be at least as helpful. Embassies are for instance especially equipped to offer LGBTQIA+ organisations safe meeting spaces, to host safe events and to help negotiate with national and local authorities about protection of Pride events. Also, they can help obtain visa, to bring in speakers and activists or to allow activists from the country where they are stationed to visit the Pride in their home country.

Pride organisations name multiple political, religious and social forces that are threatening LGBTQIA+ human rights. Especially in countries that are largely negative towards LGBTQIA+ persons, assistance from Embassies to combat these forces is becoming ever more important. Not only should those countries that are most helpful maintain their support, but other countries should also step up their assistance for LGBTQIA+ human rights. Ambassadors of Equal Rights Coalition countries could for example combine forces to make sure that no gaps are left in the vital assistance offered to Prides.

Pride organisations have many ideas for what would be most helpful for them, such as advocacy with national and local governments, safe spaces and shelter for activists, and dialogue between activists from different countries. Also, they have described various good practices of Embassy support that other Embassies could spread and adopt. If Embassies stand strong with Pride organisations, they can be a beacon of hope in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to LGBTQIA+ persons.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://outrightinternational.org/pride-map#reports>

