

Opening up: LGBT people

Today the OECD, a club of mostly rich countries, publishes “Society at a Glance”, a biennial review of social indicators. This edition finds attitudes towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people (LGBT) becoming more open. Gay sex has become legal across the OECD, and the share of people who identify themselves as gay or bisexual has increased. In America, 1.4% of people born before 1945 consider themselves LGBT, compared with 8.2% of millennials. But views on such social issues vary considerably across the OECD’s 36 member states. Iceland is relatively accepting of homosexuality; Turkey is less so. In Denmark, about a third of LGBT people report feeling discriminated against; in Lithuania, the figure is closer to half. By all measures, transgender people face the most prejudice. The report’s authors reckon that training in unconscious bias and reforms to outdated laws would help reduce LGBT stigma and discrimination.
