



RESIST

Fostering Queer Feminist Intersectional Resistances against Transnational Anti-Gender Politics

RESIST Online Findings Launch

*EFFECTS OF, AND RESISTANCES TO 'ANTI-GENDER'
MOBILISATIONS ACROSS EUROPE*



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RESIST Online Findings Launch

Introduction to RESIST

Introduction to RESIST: Stage 2 - Listen

Transnational Summary Report

Case Study Reports

Questions & Closing



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Introduction to RESIST

Prof. Kath Browne



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Introduction to RESIST: Stage 2 - Listen

Dr Maria Rodó Zárata



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The RESIST Project Report

Effects of, and Resistances to 'Anti-Gender' Mobilisations Across Europe: A Report on Nine Case Studies

Nine case studies

Belarus	Ireland
Exile	Poland
France	Spain
Germany	Switzerland
Greece	

Qualitative methodology

From February to May 2024

- 104 interviews
- 36 focus groups
- 58 Relief Maps

Total of 254 participants



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Transnational Findings

Dr Marianne Blidon



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Findings: Transnational

Systemic Threats and Targeted Attacks across Europe

Anti-gender affects feminist and LGBTIQ+ people and communities.

These attacks are not confined to Eastern Europe or the far-right movement.

Tangible Social, Economic, and Psychological Harm

Anti-gender discourses and politics cause concrete harm affecting daily life.

These are not mere ideological differences but severe violations, sometimes amounting to crimes, undermining European democratic values.

Lack of institutional responses but active resistance

Institutional support is often lacking or in some cases complicit.

However, people and collectives mobilise through solidarity, advocacy, legal action and the creation of safer spaces to resist and defend their rights.



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Belarus

Dr Ekaterina Filep



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Findings: Belarus

'Anti-gender' politics is overwhelmingly associated with the state

There is a fear of state repression, fear of arrest, fear of reporting abuse

'Extreme anonymity' was discussed as a resistance and survival mechanism, and isolation as an effect of hostilities

Migration was discussed as an effect of hostilities, but also as a resistance strategy and a way of surviving



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Exile

Dr Latife Akyüz



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Findings: In Exile - Persisting 'Anti-Gender' Oppression and Resilience in Europe

This case study on people living in exile in Europe reveal that these oppressions and attacks persist through complex migration processes, illegal pushbacks, poor conditions in refugee camps, and everyday, as well as structural, racism in host countries in Europe.

TRAINT07: "I [was dreaming of] going to Europe and that I will have a safe life there. But how could I know that when I came here, I would experience racism, I would experience homophobia [...] I know that even if I am 100% integrated, I would be an Ausländer [foreigner] for them. I mean, I was already an Ausländer for my family, I was an Ausländer at the school I went to, because I was half Armenian and half Kurdish, because I was gay in my family [...] I was always the other, my race, my sexual orientation, my femininity or my political view, you know [...] So there is no safe space for me."

Despite these challenges, participants employ various strategies to resist, such as community outreach, creating online visibility, and filing formal complaints. They adapt their methods to the transnational space, maintaining their political agency even in exile.



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France

Dr Marianne Blidon



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Findings: France

Attacks against feminist and LGBTIQ+ people and communities are pervasive

On an intersectional ground

FRAINT12: “If we really think of an intersection, an entanglement of social relations of domination, that's precisely the problem. There isn't a me who is the racialised me and a me who is the queer me.”

Repercussion are personal and professional

Oumaima: “it's also anti-gender, but in a way that [...] And I think that one of the arguments is also the argument that gender is a European issue and that it's not part of our culture, it's not part of our traditions, it's not us. My mother keeps telling me that I've been westernised. I've been living in France for ten years too [...] And as a result, I think that these experiences [...] lead to a kind of isolation from a social group to which I belong.”

Collective mobilisations appears as important

Wanda: “We support each other. That's my way of protecting ourselves.”



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Germany

Prof. Dr Stefanie Boulila



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Findings: Germany

Participants reported that were often left to deal with the effects of anti-feminist and anti-queer attacks on their own.

Through withdrawal, participants felt they could avert future attacks:

GERINT08: “I try to get as little out there as possible, regarding publications or similar. I'm thinking about whether I do it anonymously or not. I silence myself. That's an effect.”

Finding solidarity and support amongst colleagues and people who have also been targeted is deemed an important strategy of resistance.



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Greece

Dr Anna Carastathis



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Findings: Greece

Virtually all participants in the research (27 people) had **experienced ‘anti-gender’ attacks**, some of which were organised and involved political actors including Members of Parliament and government Ministers.

Georgia: “He brought a copy of my piece [*Flag*] to the Greek parliament and he said that ‘the flag is being ridiculed because it’s been [...] painted [...] pink,’ and that the only time when the flag is allowed to be painted red is when it’s ‘stained by the blood of the male heroes of the nation.’ So, **the Minister of Foreign Affairs asked for my piece to come down** [...] I ended up having to go and take down my work four days after the opening and actually the *Flag* piece was already taken out without me, taken down without my presence, and **I received it folded inside a trash bag.**”



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Ireland

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Findings: Ireland

An increase in attacks and targeting of LGBTQIA+ people (after the Same Sex Marriage referendum 2015 and the Abortion Referendum, 2018)

This was a 'jolt' for those who hoped for a better Ireland

Sean: “[Marriage equality in Ireland] for many of us, it represented a new Ireland [...] There was a lot of excitement in the sense of a new world. I'm far less hopeful now [...] there has been [moves] to suddenly cast the trans community as being highly problematic [...] We thought that battle had been won. But I don't know if those battles can ever be won.”

‘Having the chats’ was a key form of resistance



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Poland

Dr Roberto Kulpa



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Findings: Poland - Ongoing struggles & new directions ahead

The 'anti-gender' mobilisations & discriminations are systemic, institutional, persistent, and prolonged.

'Anti-gender' initiatives lay claims on 'science', knowledge creation, academic freedoms.

There are 'ricochet effects' that go against the grain of the 'anti-gender' initiatives → reinforcing optimism, strengthening collaborations & mutual care among queer-feminist communities.



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Spain

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Findings: Spain - 'Anti-gender' is lived as political violence

Particular focus on Catalonia and the Basque Country.

Sample: 33 participants in 12 interviews and 4 focus groups.

'Anti-gender' as a purposeful and targeted violence, including fear and intimidation, to achieve ideological ends.

"My brother told me: 'if you were in your house shutting up, this wouldn't happen to you'."

Online and physical violence in both public and private spaces.

"No one understands what it's like to open the phone and be insulted every day."

Changing behaviors: avoiding certain places, moderating their discourse, and silencing themselves to avoid further violence.

"I'm not in the frontline of activism anymore."

Coping Mechanism: Self-defense, solidarity networks, "bubbles" and organized resistance.



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Findings: Switzerland

Media and politics appear to be the main channels of 'anti-gender' politics: (Misinformation emerged as a critical factor in fostering hostility)

Fear and insecurity in daily life: increased fears of physical violence at public events

Online hate and targeting were reported as prevalent

Mo: "At events where I had no fear at all in Switzerland—queer events—that something could happen, I now go with an uncomfortable feeling, e.g. at Drag Story Time. A few years ago, I never had the feeling that something would happen when I went to a queer event."



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Questions

All project findings can be read on our website:

<https://theresistproject.eu/what-we-have-found>



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