

# The Experiences of Discrimination within the Irish Transgendered Community

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## Abstract

*The Experiences of Discrimination within the Irish Transgendered Community* is an explanatory qualitative research study based on the findings of the experiences of discrimination within the Irish transgendered community.

The current literature on the issues that the transgendered community face was reviewed and data from a sample of the population was gathered from a semi structured in depth interview. A thematic analysis was carried out.

The project sought to understand the key problems which affect the Irish transgendered community from a macro to micro level.

## Introduction

This study will focus on the findings of the literature review, then a qualitative interview with a sample from the transgendered community will gather data that supports the literature, by keeping the research question in mind. The question is 'what are the key challenges the transgendered community face in Irish society'.

It is hoped *The Experience of Discrimination within the Irish Transgendered Community* will help explain and underpin key areas in which the community are affected in their day to day lives while living in contemporary Ireland.



## Method

Qualitative research was the appropriate method for gathering the data, as it is based on the subjective experiences and views of the interviewees, rather than numbers or variables of a quantitative research. This method was more appropriate for the project as it seeks to find the meanings and understandings of the challenges faced from the sample population. With the research question in mind, the participants were asked a select few questions as they spoke about their experiences. The researcher used probes to get the appropriate data and lead back onto the general topic, and held back if there were signs of distress and moved on to another topic, taking ethical matters into consideration. The research questions were semi structured and more of a conversational approach was used overall.

## Results

The results of the findings from the data analysed revealed six central themes to be discussed and linked back to the literature review, with keeping the research question in mind, the themes that were focused on were; Transgenderism, misconceptions, social messages, fears and transphobia, pressures from society and support and funding.

## Discussion

Upon analysing the results from the interviews, and the themes that arose it was found that the largest challenge that the community faces in today's society is misconceptions which are mostly fed from the media that give rise to negative stereotypes which in turn leads to misunderstanding, transphobia and overall discrimination.

## References

The key references for this project were:

Irish Congress of Trade Unions and The Transgender Equality Network (2011) Gender Identity in the Workplace. The Equality Authority

Kimmel, M.S. (2008) *The Gendered Society*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition pp 284 – 285, Oxford University Press, London

McIlroy, C., (2009) *Transphobia in Ireland*, The Transgendered Equality Network Ireland

