

Microaggressions towards the LGBT population and lack of human rights, equity, and equality, resulting in LGBT domestic abuse in Latvia

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Abstract

Background. It is well known that equality and equity have a significant meaning in healthcare. In Latvia, there are no human rights for LGBT families. This case report looks at the problem through the frame of one LGBT person's experience and a lack of support and knowledge, resulting in domestic abuse and neglect of children.

Objectives. To evaluate the shortcomings in Latvian legislation through one LGBT patient's experience and perception of life in Latvia as an LGBT family member.

Case report. The 44-year-old female patient has lived in Latvia since birth. At the doctor's office, she presented with a disease history of a broken leg at 3 points of tibiae – the patient had refused to undergo an operation due to developed stigma towards medical care, feeling of exclusion; she presented with undiagnosed bronchial asthma, smoking, depression, low self-esteem, frequent suicidal thoughts, 5 attempts of suicide, insomnia. The patient is a police officer and social worker. In the anamnesis she has had 3 relationships with women and recognises herself as a lesbian. The patient faced discrimination at her workplace – was afraid to talk about her sexuality, had been humiliated by her colleagues at police station. All her relationships with women were highly toxic, as all partners abused her physically and emotionally; they also neglected and physically abused 5 children, raised by the patient for 15 years. The patient was forced to end all relationships, and had no rights to raise kids even though they had parent–children bonding – they got into the foster home, while having a non-biological LGBT family parent. Being discriminated against as an LGBT person, and with post-traumatic stress disorder, prevented the patient, and her children, from seeking and receiving support, even while being a police officer.

Conclusions. Microaggressions towards the LGBT population, discrimination and inequality in Latvia lead to elevated morbidity and higher risk of suicide attempts; new legislation is needed to protect children's and their non-biological parents' needs and health.

Key words: GP, LGBT domestic violence

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