



## Executive Summary

Despite Canada's status as a world leader in 2SLGBTQ+ human rights legislation, persistent homophobia and transphobia still undermine equality in lived experience. 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians are at greater risk of suicide, addiction, mental health struggles, unemployment, hate crimes, and marginalization than their heterosexual counterparts. At Rainbow Faith and Freedom (RFF), we are dedicated to fighting homophobia and transphobia in religious-based communities to make Canada and the world safer for 2SLGBTQ+ people and their allies.

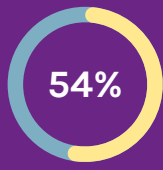
## Purpose

Though RFF has a global mandate to end religious-based discrimination, this particular project is focused on Ontario, Canada with the goal of understanding how places of worship can better include and affirm 2SLGBTQ+ people in Ontario. As part of this project, over 3,000 Ontarians were surveyed and 12 were interviewed about their experiences with religious based homophobia and transphobia in places of worship. This report outlines those findings.

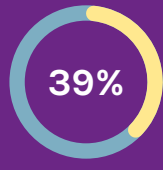
## Summary

Our findings show that the lived experience of most 2SLGBTQ+ Ontario residents is one of institutional religious exclusion. Many places of worship fail to allow same sex marriage, ordination, or welcome the queer community into their spaces; and in extreme cases engage in explicit homophobia and transphobia.

## KEY FINDINGS



Over half (54%) of 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians currently attending places of worship have experienced homophobia or transphobia in their place of worship in the last three years



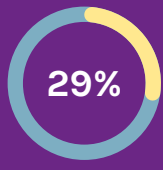
39% of 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians who no longer attend worship (but have in the past) have personally experienced or witnessed homophobia in their former place of worship, compared to 13% of heterosexual respondents



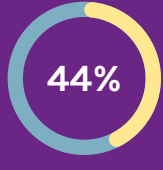
51% of non-religious 2SLGBTQ+ respondents believe that faith communities are unsafe for the queer community; a further 31% are unsure if faith communities are safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians



55% of 2SLGBTQ+ respondents who have never practiced religion state that religion has been used as a justification for homophobia or transphobia directed at them or someone in their presence



29% of 2SLGBTQ+ say homophobia/transphobia has been directed at someone in their presence. This is nearly double that of heterosexual identifying respondents (15% say they religion has been used as a justification for homophobia or transphobia directed at someone in their presence)



44% of 18 to 24 year old respondents report that religion has been used as a justification for homophobia or transphobia directed at them or someone in their presence

## NEXT STEPS



### Data Analysis

Data in phase one was analyzed and will be shared in a comprehensive final report on our website in Fall of 2023. We're currently analyzing the data we collected during phase two, which included site visits and interviews at faith institutions across Ontario.

### Engaging Stakeholders and the Public

We're actively involving key stakeholders and the public to share our findings and gather feedback, and we will continue to do so.

### Actionable Recommendations

Our analysis has produced actionable recommendations that address the challenges and opportunities in changing the attitudes of religious communities towards 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

The comprehensive Worshipping With Love Research Report for phase one, which is a part of Ending Religious-based LGBTQ2S+ Discrimination in Canada: Faith Sector Awareness and Education Program, provides a detailed account of our findings, recommendations, and implementation strategies. This report will be finalized and available on the RFF website in October 2023. We're excited to share these insights, which will serve as a valuable resource for making informed decisions.