



**RESIST**

Fostering Queer Feminist Intersectional Resistances against Transnational Anti-Gender Politics

# **The RESIST Project: Press Release**

## **FINDINGS FROM THE 2<sup>nd</sup> STAGE OF THE PROJECT RELEASED**

**Headline:** RESIST reveals the ‘heartbreaking’ impact of so-called ‘anti-gender’ politics across Europe

**Lead:** *The RESIST project, which is investigating so-called ‘anti-gender’ politics across Europe, has discovered several negative consequences, including ‘systemic, institutional discrimination’.*

The [RESIST project](#) has released findings from the second stage of its research, demonstrating widespread and negative consequences of the anti-feminist, anti LGBTIQ+, and anti-trans rhetoric across Europe - referred to here under the umbrella term of ‘anti-gender politics’.

### **General findings:**

- People’s bodies and identities are being questioned, with many deprived of the ability to decide their own health and choices.
- LGBTIQ+ communities are scapegoated and brutally attacked across media, politics, and everyday life.
- Cis-women and LGBTIQ+ communities are finding new, creative ways to cope with and resist anti-democratic mobilisations.

**Dr Roberto Kulpa, from Edinburgh Napier University, responsible for the Polish case study, said:** “Our findings about the impacts of these ‘anti-gender’ initiatives on everyday lives of women and LGBTIQ+ groups are striking, heartbreaking, and very worrying.

“In Poland, we discovered bullying and intimidation, as well as systemic, institutional discrimination. Public institutions neglect gender and sexual diversity, policies and regulations are largely non-existent, and civil servants lack the language or knowledge to address people’s needs.

“The results carry high emotional, mental health and general wellbeing costs. People often self-censor to avoid exposure and potential discrimination”.

**However, Dr Kulpa have also stressed that:** “It’s important to remember that among the bleakness there’s also hope. There are some positive, unexpected ‘ricochet effects’ of the ‘anti-gender’ initiatives.

“First of all, participants told us that there is greater social mobilisation for the queer feminist causes, and social acceptance and support for minoritised groups grows. We have also seen a strong ethics of support, solidarity, mutual care and cooperations among queer-feminist communities.

“It is truly heartwarming to see the persistence and dedication among our participants”.

The RESIST project is co-ordinated by University College Dublin in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, European University Viadrina, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Université de Lausanne, Université de Fribourg, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and Feminist Autonomous Centre for research, Maynooth University.

RESIST is a four-year study (2022-2026) supported by the research councils and funding bodies of the European Union, UK and Switzerland. More information about the project on its website: <https://theresistproject.eu>

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