

SEX OVERSEAS TRAVEL ISSUES up to DEC 2022

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www.axistravel.com.au
axis@axistravel.com.au
 TEL: 08 84331111

A strong global movement has improved respect for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people around the world. However, at least 67 countries have national laws criminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults. In addition, at least [nine countries](#) have national laws criminalizing forms of gender expression that target transgender and gender nonconforming people. This series of maps provides a global overview of those laws.

Legal sanctions against same-sex conduct vary in scope and application. In some countries, only specific sexual acts are punished, while in others the laws are more general, often vague and open to varying interpretation. Sentences range from fines to life imprisonment and even the death penalty. In some countries, law enforcement agencies aggressively pursue and prosecute people suspected of being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. In others, the laws are rarely enforced but nonetheless have severe consequences for LGBT people, serving to justify discriminatory treatment and impeding LGBT people's access to employment, health services, and police protection.

Among countries that expressly forbid expression of transgender identities, at least three, Brunei, Oman and Kuwait, have national laws that criminalize "posing as" or "imitating" a person of a different sex. Saudi Arabia has no codified law, but police routinely arrest people based on their gender expression. Malaysia also criminalizes "posing as" a different sex, not in its federal criminal code but in the Sharia codes of each of its states and its federal territory. Nigeria criminalizes transgender and gender nonconforming people in its northern states under Sharia.

In South Sudan, such laws only apply to men who "dress as women" and in Malawi, men who wear their hair long. Tonga prohibits any "male person" from presenting as a female while "soliciting for an immoral purpose, in a public place with intent to deceive any other person as to his true sex."

In the United Arab Emirates, laws prohibit men "posing as" women in order to enter women-only spaces. The UAE has used this law to prosecute gay and transgender people even in mixed-gender spaces. Other countries with similar laws on "women-only" spaces have not done so, to our knowledge, and are not included in these maps.

Human Dignity Trust has reported that 15 countries maintain [unequal ages of consent](#), with a higher bar set for same-sex couples than different-sex couples, or for anal sex as compared to vaginal sex. This includes several countries that otherwise have progressive laws on sexual orientation and gender identity, such as Canada and Chile.

In 11 states of the United States, unenforceable laws prohibiting consensual same-sex conduct remain on the books despite a 2003 Supreme Court decision that found such laws unconstitutional.

The fact that we have not included a particular country in these maps does not mean it is in compliance with international human rights law. Russia and Lithuania, for instance, do not criminalize same-sex acts or forms of gender expression, but they prohibit so-called "propaganda" in support of LGBT rights, in an effort to silence activists. Many other countries have erected [barriers to freedom of association and assembly](#) for LGBT groups, as documented by OutRight Action International.

Laws are constantly changing, and we intend to update this resource to reflect such changes. In August 2022, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court struck down discriminatory legal provisions that criminalized same-sex relations in St. Kitts and Nevis, this ruling came off the heels of a similar [decision](#) in June from the High Court of Justice for Antigua and Barbuda decriminalizing same-sex relations. In August 2022 Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's announced that Singapore would decriminalize same-sex intimacy. In February, 2022, the Kuwaiti Constitutional Court [ruled](#) article 198 of the penal code, which arbitrarily criminalizes "imitating the opposite sex," unconstitutional, finding it inconsistent with Kuwait's Constitution that enshrines personal freedom. Kuwaiti lawyers working on the case said that Human Rights Watch's 2012 report, "[They Hunt Us Down for Fun](#)," which documented extensively the law's negative effects on the lives of transgender women, was instrumental in achieving this important judicial step. In February 2021, Bhutan issued an amended penal code that no longer criminalized same sex relations. In June 2019, the Botswana High Court [struck down](#) laws prohibiting same-sex conduct, as did the Supreme

Court in [India](#) and the High Court in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) the year before. The Caribbean Court of Justice in 2018 invalidated a Guyana law prohibiting some forms of gender expression. [Angola](#) in January 2019 issued a new penal code that no longer penalizes homosexual sex. Gabon criminalized same-sex conduct in July 2019, but in July 2020, parliament voted to revoke the law. [Brunei](#) enacted a new sharia code in April 2019 introducing new laws against sex between women and gender nonconformity alongside appalling punishments, including death by stoning, for anal intercourse. In February, 2022, the Kuwaiti Constitutional Court [ruled](#) article 198 of the penal code, which arbitrarily criminalizes “imitating the opposite sex,” unconstitutional, finding it inconsistent with Kuwait’s Constitution that enshrines personal freedom. Kuwaiti lawyers working on the case said that Human Rights Watch’s 2012 report, “[They Hunt Us Down for Fun](#),” which documented extensively the law’s negative effects on the lives of transgender women, was instrumental in achieving this important judicial step. In February 2021, Bhutan issued an amended penal code that no longer criminalized same sex relations. In June 2019, the Botswana High Court [struck down](#) laws prohibiting same-sex conduct, as did the Supreme Court in [India](#) and the High Court in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) the year before. The Caribbean Court of Justice in 2018 invalidated a Guyana law prohibiting some forms of gender expression. [Angola](#) in January 2019 issued a new penal code that no longer penalizes homosexual sex. Gabon criminalized same-sex conduct in July 2019, but in July 2020, parliament voted to revoke the law. [Brunei](#) enacted a new sharia code in April 2019 introducing new laws against sex between women and gender nonconformity alongside appalling punishments, including death by stoning, for anal intercourse. Click on the country bubbles for a snapshot of each country's laws. For more information and Human Rights Watch reporting, click on the country name in the black pop-up box.

Type of Anti-LGBT Laws

This map examines two different types of anti-LGBT laws. The red dots indicate countries that outlaw same-sex relations between consenting adults.¹ The blue dots indicate countries that criminalize forms of gender expression, such as “imitating the opposite sex.” ²

- laws that outlaw same-sex relations
- laws that criminalize forms of gender expression

Laws Criminalizing Same-Sex Relations, by Type of Offense

Legislation prohibiting same-sex conduct is frequently [vague, euphemistic, and selectively enforced](#).

“Buggery” is specific to anal sex, while “sodomy” can refer to anal or oral sex. Neither term is not specific to same-sex relations, but arrests of heterosexual couples under such laws are exceedingly rare. Most laws promulgated in former British colonies punish “carnal knowledge against the order of nature” or “gross indecency,” grouped together here as “unnatural/indecent acts.” “Against the order of nature” has been interpreted by courts to mean oral or anal sex and is theoretically applicable to different sex couples. “Gross indecency” laws are broad enough to include any same-sex intimacy between men and, in some jurisdictions, sex between women. This map classifies offenses according to the following categories :

- homosexual acts
- sodomy
- buggery
- unnatural/indecent acts
- debauchery
- laws including a range of offenses

Laws Criminalizing Same-Sex Relations, by Sentence

Criminal sentences for consensual same-sex conduct may range from fines or several months in prison to life imprisonment and even, in several countries, the death penalty.³ This map breaks down sentences by length, as follows:

- 0-10 years

- 10-years to life
- the death penalty
- lashes / corporal punishment
- unspecified sentences

Laws Criminalizing Same-Sex Relations between Women

Many countries only criminalize same-sex relations between men. However, at least 38 countries criminalize same-sex conduct regardless of sex or expressly criminalize sexual conduct between women. At least 10 countries have, since 1986, explicitly enacted [laws that criminalize sex between women](#) as well as men, sometimes perversely framing this as a gesture toward equality.

This map shows countries that:

- criminalize same-sex relations between both men and women, including through language like “gross indecency,” which appears to be gender neutral⁴
- criminalize same-sex relations between men
- use vague language such as “carnal knowledge against the order of nature” that in some contexts is understood as anal sex or other sex between men, but that could also be used against women.⁵

Read more: [Outlawed: Legal Discrimination against Gays and Lesbians »](#)

State & Country Profiles

Afghanistan

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Articles 645, 647, 648, 649](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Livat (sodomy), musaheqeh (lesbian sex), tafkiz (thigh sex)

Under the previous penal code, “pederasty,” not further defined, was criminalized, as was all sex outside of marriage (zina).

Algeria

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [1966 Penal Code, article 338.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Homosexual acts

SENTENCE: Two months to 2 years in prison and a fine of between 500 and 2,000 Algerian dinars (US\$5 to \$20).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Bangladesh

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code 1860, section 377.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal intercourse against the order of nature

SENTENCE:Ten years to life in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Barbados

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Sexual Offences Act of 2002, article 9, article 12](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Buggery; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Buggery; serious indecency

SENTENCE:Life in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Brunei

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code of 1951, Chapter 22 \(Revised Edition 2001\).](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts; homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal intercourse against the order of nature; liwat (sodomy); musahaqah (sex between women)

SENTENCE:Death penalty for anal sex; 40 lashes for sex between women

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW:[Syariah Penal Code \(2013\)](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Man posing as a woman or vice versa (article 198);

SENTENCE:Up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$1000 or both.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Burundi

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Law No. 1/05 of April 22, 2009, on the Revision of the Criminal Code, article 567.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sexual relations with someone of the same sex

SENTENCE:Three months to 2 years in prison and/or a fine of 50,000 to 100,000 francs (US\$30 to \$60).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Cameroon

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Cameroon Penal Code of 1967, article 347 bis.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sexual relations between persons of the same sex

SENTENCE:Six months to 5 years in prison and a fine of CFA 20,000 to 200,000 (US\$35 to \$350).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Chad

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Chad Penal Code 2017](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sexual relations with someone of the same sex

SENTENCE:Three months to 2 years in prison; fine of 50,000 to 500,000 FCFA (US \$87-\$870).

Comoros

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, 1995, article 318.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Impudent acts or acts against nature

SENTENCE:Two to 5 years in prison and a fine of 50,000 to 1,000,000 francs (US\$120 to \$2,320).

Cook Islands

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Crimes Act 1969, sections 154, 155.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sodomy; indecency between males

SENTENCE:Five to 7 years in prison.

Dominica

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Sexual Offences Act 1998, article 16.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Buggery; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Buggery; gross indecency

SENTENCE:Four to 10 years in prison if committed by an adult, and admission to a psychiatric hospital, if ordered by a court. Five years in prison if committed by a minor.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Egypt

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Law 10/1961 on the Combating of Prostitution, article 9\(c\), article 1.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Debauchery

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Habitually engaging in fujur (debauchery); incitation to debauchery

SENTENCE:Three months to 3 years in prison. May be placed in "special reformatory" upon completion of prison sentence. Fine between 25 LE and 300 LE (US\$3 and \$40).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Eritrea

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code of 2015, article 310, 311.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Homosexual conduct: an act corresponding to the sexual act, or any other indecent sexual act

SENTENCE:Five to 7 years in prison.

Eswatini

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Common law offense.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sodomy

SENTENCE:Unspecified.

Ethiopia

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004, articles 629 and 630.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Homosexual and other indecent acts

SENTENCE:Up to 15 years in prison.

Gambia

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Gambia Criminal Code \(Act No. 25 of 1933\), amended 1965; Gambia Criminal Code \(Amendment\) Act, 2005; Gambia Criminal Code \(Amendment\) Act, 2014.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Unnatural acts; aggravated homosexuality

SENTENCE:Fourteen years to life in prison.

The Gambia Criminal Code (amended 1965) criminalizes "unnatural offences" with up to 14 years in prison. The criminal code was amended in 2005 to include same-sex acts between women, punishable by up to 5 years in prison. In 2014, the criminal code was amended to include "aggravated homosexuality," which carries punishments of up to life in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Ghana

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code 1960 \(amended 2003\), section 104.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural carnal knowledge
 SENTENCE: Up to 3 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Grenada

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Criminal Code of 1987, article 431.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Grossly indecent act; unnatural connexion

SENTENCE: Ten years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Guinea

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of the Republic of Guinea, 2016, article 274.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Indecent acts or acts against nature

SENTENCE: Six months to 3 years in prison.

Guyana

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Criminal Law \(Offences\) Act, 1998, articles 352, 354.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Buggery; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Buggery; gross indecency

SENTENCE: Two years for "gross indecency" between men; life for "buggery."

Guyana criminalizes "acts of gross indecency" between men with two years in prison (article 352). The criminal code sentences any person convicted of "buggery" to life in prison (article 354).

Iran

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Islamic Penal Code of Iran, 2013, articles 233-41.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Liwat (sodomy); tafkhiz (thigh sex); musaheqeh (lesbian intercourse)

SENTENCE: Sentences range from 31 lashes (for homosexual acts other than anal sex or thigh sex) to 100 lashes to death.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Jamaica

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Offences Against the Person Act, 1864, section 76.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Buggery

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Buggery

SENTENCE: Ten years in prison and hard labor.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Kenya

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of Kenya, Revised Edition 2012 \[2010\], section 162, 165.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal knowledge against the order of nature; acts of gross indecency between males

SENTENCE: Five years for "indecent practices between males," fourteen years for "carnal knowledge against the order of nature."

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Kiribati

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Kiribati Penal Code, Revised Edition 1977, section 153, 155.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Buggery; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural offences; buggery; indecency between males

SENTENCE: Fourteen years in prison.

Kuwait

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Kuwait Penal Code \(1960\), Law No. 16, article 193.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Consensual intercourse between adult men

SENTENCE: Up to 7 years in prison.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [Kuwait Penal Code, No. 16 of 1960, art. 198](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Imitating the opposite sex in any way

SENTENCE: One year in prison, a 1,000 Kuwaiti dinar fine, or both

On February 16, 2022, the Kuwaiti Constitutional Court ruled article 198 of the penal code, which arbitrarily criminalizes "imitating the opposite sex," unconstitutional, finding it inconsistent with Kuwait's Constitution that enshrines personal freedom.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)



Lebanon

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code of 1943, article 534.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sexual relations contrary to the order of nature

SENTENCE:Up to 1 year in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Liberia

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised, 1978, article 14.74.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Voluntary sodomy

SENTENCE:One year in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Libya

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Libyan Penal Code of 1953, as amended by Law No. 70 \(1973\), articles 407-408.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Indecent acts

SENTENCE:Up to 5 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Malawi

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code of 1930 \(amended 2010\), sections 153, 137A.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal knowledge against the order of nature; indecent practices between males; indecent practices between females

SENTENCE:Sexual acts between men: up to 14 years in prison; sexual acts between women: 5 years in prison.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1930 \(amended 2010\), section 180](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S): "Every male person who wears the hair of his head in such a fashion as, when he is standing upright, the main line of the bottom of the mass of hair (other than hair growing on his face or on the nape of his neck) lies below an imaginary line drawn horizontally around his head at the level of the mouth."

SENTENCE: Up to six months in prison, fines of up to K50

In 2010, Malawi amended its penal code to include criminal penalties for sexual relations between consenting adult women. The version of the Malawi Penal Code available online does not include this amendment.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Malaysia

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Malaysia Penal Code, 2006, section 377A, 377B, 377D. State Sharia \(Islamic\) laws also apply.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal **intercourse against the order of nature**, outrages on decency

SENTENCE: Up to 20 years in prison, whipping, and fines (state Sharia laws).

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [Syariah Enactments in Malaysia's 13 states and Federal Territory](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S): "Male person posing as a woman," "female person posing as a man"

SENTENCE: Up to three years in prison, fines, and mandatory counseling

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GENDER EXPRESSION LAW: Each state's sharia criminal code, applicable only to Muslims, prohibits some forms of "cross-dressing." For a summary of laws by state, see <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/09/24/im-scared-be-woman/human-rights-abuses-against-transgender-people-malaysia#4eb52e>.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Maldives

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Maldives Penal Code, Section 410, 411, 412.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Various offenses

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex; indecent acts with a person of the same sex; unlawful marriage

SENTENCE: 6 months to 8 years in prison, up to 100 lashes for "unlawful sexual intercourse."

Mauritania

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1983, articles 306, 308.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Indecent acts between men; indecent acts between women

SENTENCE:Indecent acts between men: death by stoning; indecent acts between women: up to 2 years in prison and a fine of up to MRO 60,000 (US\$210).

Mauritius

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Mauritius Criminal Code of 1838, section 250.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sodomy

SENTENCE:Five years in prison.

Morocco

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code of 1962, article 489.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Lewd or unnatural acts with an individual of the same sex

SENTENCE:Six months to 3 years in prison; fines of between 120 and 1,000 dirhams (US\$10 to \$110).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Myanmar (Burma)

TYPE OF LAW:Criminalizes same-sex conduct

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code 1861, section 377](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:"Unnatural offences"

LEGAL PROVISION(S):"Carnal intercourse against the order of nature"

SENTENCE:Up to 20 years in prison, fine

In 2016, a law amending the penal code was passed that replaced all "transportation for life" sentences with up to 20 years in prison. Civil society organizations have reported that LGBT people, especially trans women, are also arbitrarily arrested under Section 35 of the Rangoon Police Act of 1945, which punishes persons convicted of petty offenses, including "any person found between sunset and sunrise having his face covered or otherwise disguised, who is unable to give a satisfactory account of himself," with up to three months in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Namibia

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Common law offense.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sodomy, "unnatural sexual offences" between men

SENTENCE:Unspecified.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Nigeria

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code Act \(Chapter 77\), 1990, sections 214, 215, 217; Same Sex Marriage \(Prohibition\) Act 2013.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Various offenses

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal intercourse against the order of nature; entering into a same-sex marriage contract or civil union; making public show of same-sex amorous relationship; registering, operating, or participating in gay clubs, societies, and organization

SENTENCE:Up to 14 years in prison; death penalty (state Sharia laws). Nigeria falls into the "mixed sentences" category because it has various types of laws, under both criminal and Sharia law, which criminalize consensual same-sex conduct. It also criminalizes discussion of LGBT rights. Please click above and visit the Nigeria country page for more detailed information.

In addition to existing provisions in Nigerian law that criminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults, the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill criminalizes public displays of affection between same-sex couples and restricts the work of organizations defending gay people and their rights. The new legislation could lead to imprisonment solely for a person's actual or imputed sexual orientation. People could face charges for consensual sexual relations in private; advocacy of LGBT rights; or public expression of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The terms "same-sex marriage" and "civil union" are so broadly defined in the law that they include virtually any form of same-sex cohabitation. Same-sex relations between men and between women are also punishable by state Sharia laws in various states in northern Nigeria. The maximum penalty for sexual acts between men is the death penalty and the maximum sentence for sexual acts between women is whipping and/or imprisonment.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza Strip

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[British Mandate Criminal Code Ordinance No. 74 of 1936, section 152\(2\).](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal knowledge against the order of nature

SENTENCE:Up to 10 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Oman

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Omani Penal Code No. 7/1974, articles 33, 223.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Homosexual and lesbian intercourses

SENTENCE:Six months to 3 years in prison.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW:[Oman Penal Code, Article 266\(d\)](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Imitating the opposite sex

SENTENCE:One month to one year in prison and a fine of OMR 300

Pakistan

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Pakistan Penal Code \(XLV of 1860\), section 377](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Carnal knowledge against the order of nature

SENTENCE:Life in prison; or 2 to 10 years in prison and fine.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Papua New Guinea

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code Act 1974, section 210, 212.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Unnatural offences; indecent practices between males

SENTENCE:Up to 14 years in prison.

Qatar

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Penal Code, Law No. \(II\) of 2004, articles 296, 298. Sharia law also applies to Muslims.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S):"Leading, instigating or seducing a male anyhow for sodomy or dissipation."

SENTENCE:One to 3 years in prison; flogging; death penalty (**Sharia law**).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Saint Lucia

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code, No. 9 of 2004, sections 132, 133.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Buggery

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Acts of Gross Indecency; Buggery

SENTENCE:Five to 10 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW:[Criminal Code, 1990 Edition, sections 146, 148.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Buggery

LEGAL PROVISION(S):Acts of Gross Indecency; Buggery

SENTENCE:Five to 10 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Samoa

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Crimes Act 2013, No. 10, section 67.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sodomy

SENTENCE: Up to 5 years in prison.

Saudi Arabia

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [There is no codified penal Law in Saudi Arabia. Sentences are derived from interpretations of Sharia law.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts as interpreted based on sharia

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Undefined

SENTENCE: According to some interpretations of Sharia, the death sentence may be handed down for certain homosexual acts. Other penalties may include 100 blows of the whip and banishment for 1 year.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [There is no codified penal law in Saudi Arabia. Sentences are derived from interpretations of Sharia.](#)

SENTENCE: Unspecified

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GENDER EXPRESSION LAW: Saudi Arabia has arrested and sentenced people to flogging and imprisonment for cross-dressing, despite having no written law prohibiting it.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Senegal

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1965, article 319 \(para. 3\).](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Indecent acts; acts against nature with a person of the same sex

SENTENCE: One to 5 years in prison; fine of 100,000 to 1,500,000 CFA (US\$170 to \$2,600).

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Sierra Leone

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Offences against the Person Act 1861, section 61.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Buggery

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Buggery

SENTENCE: Ten years to life in prison.

Solomon Islands

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code \(Revised Edition 1996\), sections 160-162.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Buggery; unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Buggery; indecent practices

SENTENCE: Up to 14 years in prison.

Somalia

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code, Legislative Decree No. 5/1962, articles 409, 410.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal intercourse or acts of lust with a person of the same sex

SENTENCE: Two months to 3 years in prison; security measures.

South Sudan

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code Act 2008, section 248.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal intercourse against the order of nature

SENTENCE: Up to 10 years in prison; fine.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 2008, section 370, "Vagabond"](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Male person dressing as a woman in a public place

SENTENCE: Imprisonment of up to one year

Sri Lanka

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code \(as amended by the Penal Code \(Amendment\) Act, No. 22 of 1995\), articles 365, 365A.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural offenses; Acts of gross indecency between persons

SENTENCE: Up to 10 years in prison, fine.

Sudan

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code 1991 \(Act No. 8 1991\), sections 148, 151](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy, unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sodomy, gross indecency

SENTENCE: 5 years in prison for first and second convictions; life in prison if convicted for the third time.

In July 2020, Sudan's Sovereign Council amended the penal code, removing some crimes from the books and reducing sentences for others, including sodomy. Previously, the death penalty was punishment for individuals accused by committing "homosexual sex" defined by the act of penetration, for the third time. For people found guilty of this offense for the first time, sentences were lashing 100 times or prison up to 5 years. For the second time, the sentence was both punishments combined.

Syria

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1949, article 520.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural sexual intercourse

SENTENCE: Up to 3 years in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Tanzania

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1945 \(as amended by the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, 1998\), section 138\(a\), 154.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural offenses, gross indecency

SENTENCE: Thirty years to life in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Togo

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 13 August 1980 \(amended 2000\), article 88.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Indecent acts or acts against nature

SENTENCE: One to 3 years in prison; fine between 100,000 and CFA 500,000 (US\$170 to \$870).

Tonga

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations, Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Criminal Offences Act, 1988 Revised Edition, sections 136, 139, 142.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sodomy

SENTENCE: Up to 10 years in prison; whipping.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: [Laws of Tonga Chapter 18, Criminal Offenses, art. 81\(5\)](#)

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Male person impersonating a woman "whilst soliciting for an immoral purpose"

SENTENCE: Fine not exceeding \$100 , imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or both

Tunisia

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code of 1913 \(as modified\), article 230.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy; homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Liwat (sodomy); musaheqeh (sex between women).

SENTENCE: Three years in prison.

While the French version of the penal code refers only to "sodomy," the official Arabic penal code explicitly outlaws same-sex relations between women and between men.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Turkmenistan

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Criminal Code of Turkmenistan No. 222-I of June 12, 1997 \(as amended up to November 9, 2013\), article 135.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sodomy: sexual acts between men

SENTENCE: Two years in prison, between 5-10 years in prison if repeated.

Tuvalu

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code, Revised Edition 2008, section 153-155.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Unnatural offenses; buggery; indecent practices between males

SENTENCE: Up to fourteen years in prison.

Uganda

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code Act of 1950 \(Chapter 120\), \(as amended\), section 145, 148.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal knowledge against the order of nature; gross indecency

SENTENCE: Life in prison.

Uganda's Constitutional Court declared the Anti-Homosexuality Act "null and void" on August 1, 2014. In the months after the law was enacted in February 2014, LGBT people in Uganda experienced a notable increase in arbitrary arrests, police extortion, loss of employment, evictions, and homelessness.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

United Arab Emirates

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations; Criminalizes forms of gender expression

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code Article 409](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Sodomy between adult men

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Sodomy

SENTENCE: No less than six months imprisonment, and the offense can only be prosecuted on the basis of a complaint by a guardian, allowing judges' discretion to provide harsher sentences.

Gender Expression

NAME OF LAW: Federal Law No. 7 of 2016, art. 359

LEGAL PROVISION(S): "any male disguised in a female apparel and enters in this disguise a place reserved for women or where entry is forbidden, at that time, for other than women"

SENTENCE: Up to one year in prison and a fine of up to 10,000 dirhams

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GENDER EXPRESSION LAW: https://www.dxbpp.gov.ae/Law_Page.aspx?Law_ID=486&Grand_ID=2

In November 2021, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced legal amendments to over forty laws, including on crime and punishment. Article 409 in the new penal code provides that anyone over 18 who has sex with a female or sodomy with a male over 18-years-old is punished with no less than six months imprisonment, and the same penalty applies to the person. The new law reintroduces the criminalization of consensual extramarital sex, which had been dropped from the older law as part of the 2020 amendments. Under the 2021 law, if men and women have sex outside of marriage, the act carries a penalty of no less than six months imprisonment. "Sodomy" with an adult male is also criminalized under the law. In both cases, the offenses can only be prosecuted on the basis of a complaint by a husband or guardian, allowing judges' discretion to provide harsher sentences. Provisions criminalizing vague and overbroad acts that "offend modesty and public morals" (Article 411), "incite to a life of sin" (Article 414), or "tempt another openly to sinfulness by any means" (Article 415), also remain, allowing for citizens and residents to be arrested for a wide range of behaviors, including public displays of affection, gender non-conforming expressions, and campaigns promoting the rights of LGBT people. The UAE's federal penal code punishes "any male disguised in a female apparel and enters in this disguise a place reserved for women or where entry is forbidden, at that time, for other than women" with one year's imprisonment, a fine of up to 10,000 dirhams (US\$2,723), or both. In practice, transgender women have been arrested under this law even in mixed-gender spaces.

Uzbekistan

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1994, article 120.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Besoqolbozlik (consensual intercourse between men)

SENTENCE: Up to 3 years in prison.

Yemen

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code 1994, articles 264, 268.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Homosexual acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Penetration in the anus (men); sexual stimulation by rubbing (women)

SENTENCE: Homosexual acts between men: 100 lashes, 1 year in prison (unmarried men), death by stoning (married men); homosexual act between women: 100 lashes, up to 3 years in prison.

Zambia

TYPE OF LAW: Outlaws same-sex relations

Same-Sex Conduct

NAME OF LAW: [Penal Code Act \(as amended by Act No. 15 of 2005\), sections 155, 156.](#)

CATEGORY OF OFFENSE: Unnatural/indecent acts

LEGAL PROVISION(S): Carnal knowledge against the order of nature, gross indecency

SENTENCE: Seven years to life in prison.

[Human Rights Watch reporting »](#)

Zimbabwe
TYPE OF LAW:Outlaws same-sex relations
Same-Sex Conduct
NAME OF LAW: Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, (Effective 2006), section 73.
CATEGORY OF OFFENSE:Sodomy
LEGAL PROVISION(S):Sodomy
SENTENCE:Up to 1 year in prison and/or fine.

ENTERING A COUNTRY as Non-Gender,Gender-Neutral, Binary etc on Passports:

- moves by governments from Iceland to the United States to issue gender-neutral passports amid growing awareness and acceptance of diverse gender identities and intersex people.
 - Fulfilling a campaign promise by President Joe Biden, the United States issued its [first "X" passport](#) last year to Dana Zzyym, who is non-binary and intersex - born with atypical sex characteristics.
 - It joined nations including Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and India in offering "X" or other third gender options.
- As at DEC 2022 allowances to enter as non-gender etc are:
 -

- 1Argentina
- 2.2Austria
- 2.3Australia
- 2.4Belgium
- 2.5Brazil
- 2.6Canada
- 2.7Chile
- 2.8Colombia
- 2.9Denmark
- 2.10Germany
- 2.11Iceland
- 2.12India
- 2.13The Netherlands
- 2.14Nepal
- 2.15New Zealand
- 2.16Pakistan
- 2.17Taiwan
- 2.18Thailand
- 2.19United Kingdom
- 2.20United States
- 2.21Uruguay

In South Asia, a major source of migrant labour to the Gulf, some trans and non-binary people fear a gender-neutral passport could stop them from being able to go to the socially conservative region for work, campaigners said.

AIRLINES :

In response to calls for businesses to recognise diversity of gender identity, several

leading airlines have also pledged to add non-binary gender options on their booking forms.

- U.S. carriers Delta, United and American Airlines, as well as British Airways and Air New Zealand, [said](#) in 2019 they would be adding alternatives to male or female for customers.
- So far, only United and American Airlines have added choices beyond "M" and "F", according to a Thomson Reuters Foundation review of airline websites. Air New Zealand allows the gender-neutral title "Mx".
- A Delta spokesperson said by email that it is introducing "a non-binary gender option" this year.
- While such moves have been hailed as a sign of growing recognition, some LGBTQ+ activists think their ultimate goal should be the removal of gender categories from identity documents, booking forms and other travel papers.