

**Forum:** Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)

**Issue # 2:** Measures to protect LGBTQ+ rights

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### Guiding Questions as you Read

How are LGBTQ+ individuals affected in your nation?

How is your nation affected by the LGBTQ+ population (what do the citizens and government of your country feel about the LGBTQ+ individuals)?

What role does your nation play in the amount of rights granted to the LGBTQ+ individuals?

## Introduction

### Key Terms

- Non-Cisgender
- Heterosexual
- Homosexuality
- Prison Sentence

In today's society, the LGBTQ+ population has increased dramatically. LGBTQ+ is an acronym symbolizing the different types of sexual identities. First, off the L and G stand for Lesbian and Gay (Cherry, 2020). B stands for Bisexual, the T stands for transgender and the Q means Queer or Questioning. Lastly the +, in the acronym this signifies all of the other gender identities and sexual orientations that were not explicitly listed previously (Cherry, 2020).

Overall, almost every country is starting or has started changing their country laws in order to protect the LGBTQ+ population. However, even though there is a significant change there are still 72 countries and territories that continue to criminalize same-sex relationships (Duncan, 2017). 8 of those countries have laws stating that **homosexuality** can result in the death penalty and dozens more have it where it can result in a **prison sentence** (Duncan, 2017).

As shown above there is much debate on whether or not the LGBTQ+ population should have the same rights as every other person in the world. Some countries believe that they do not deserve the same rights and or freedom due to religion and other factors; while others believe that love is love and everyone is equal. Therefore it is important to come together to find the best possible solution to ensuring these

individuals' rights are protected.

**Comprehension Question(s):** What does LGBTQ+ stand for? Why is ensuring that every LGBTQ+ individual has rights very controversial?

## Definition of Key Terms

**Homosexuality:** The quality or characteristic of being sexually attracted solely to people of one's own sex.

**Sexual orientations:** A person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are sexually attracted; the fact of being heterosexual, homosexual, etc.

**LGBTQ:** LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender

**Human rights:** A right that is believed to belong justifiably to every person.

**Transgender:** Relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex.

**Activists:** a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.

**Minorities:** an amount that is less than that of the whole number or picture

**Discrimination:** the action of unfair treatment to different categories of people or things ( race, age, sex, religion)

**Stereotypes:** a widely held, oversimplified, and blown out of proportion image/idea of a particular type of person or thing

**Prosecution:** the process of legal actions against someone because of a criminal charge

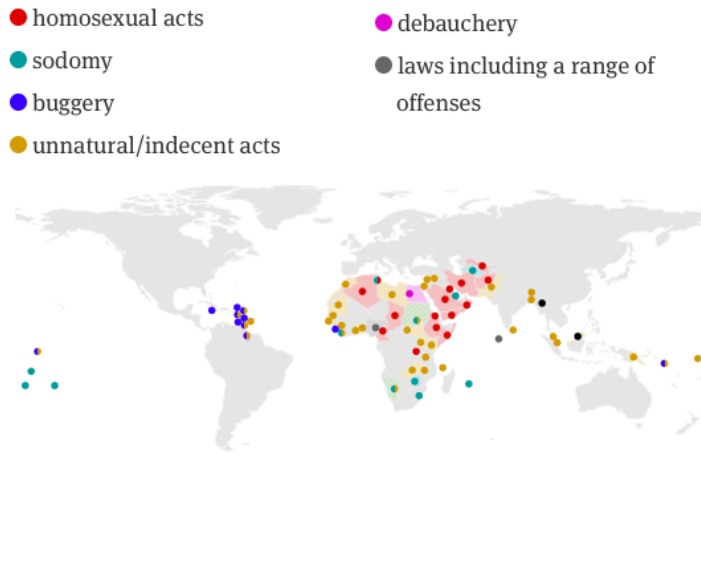
## Current Situation



Members of the LGBTQ community are subjected to unfair and discriminatory treatment across the world. It is in some countries more than others that these people have to suffer from their own sexual orientation, to the point to which they are prosecuted, charged as criminals, systematically discriminated against, and victims of hate crimes. According to Case Western Reserve University, about 36 percent of members of the community have reported being the victims of harassment solely due to their orientation.

### Anti LGBTQ Legislation

Creating laws that ensure equitable conditions for LGBTQ+ members is key in securing a prosperous tomorrow for all members that are a part of this group, however, one of the main challenges that its members face are the laws and regulations imposed by governments. These laws suppress human rights and opportunities through segregation and condemnation. An example of this would be: "at least 69 countries have national laws criminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults." This consists of approximately 35% of all countries in the world whose governments show some sign of opposition towards LGBTQ+ relations. In addition, 9 out of these 69 countries criminalize completely same sex relationships. This means that being a member of this community in countries such as Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait can be punished by jail time and other similar punishments.



The map above shows the extent to which acting as a member of the LGBTQ+ community can be considered enough to be criminalized. As we see in the map, it ranged depending on the different countries but the majority of the concentration of countries that do not support same sex or transgender people lie in the Middle East or in Africa. This is mostly due to religious and beliefs which are engraved deep into their cultural roots. Certain religions like Islam have a much stronger stance against the community, and African countries are well known for having very traditional home values where they aren't really exposed to knowledge regarding the importance of equality towards the community.

## Hate Crimes

Another year of alarmingly high levels of bias-motivated offenses emphasizes the need to confront the hate crime "epidemic". This year, we witnessed a terrible new high in deadly violence against transgender and gender nonconforming persons in the United States, particularly targeting Black and Brown transgender women. Individuals and families throughout the country are experiencing genuine anguish as a result of these disturbing numbers. As was disclosed by the FBI, "reports show that hate crimes based on sexual orientation represent 16.7% of hate crimes, the third largest category after race and religion." Even if these numbers are completely concerning, they don't even paint the full picture. This

is because reporting hate crimes to the FBI isn't even mandatory. From 2018 to 2019, the number of law enforcement agencies reporting hate crimes statistics fell by 451. Apart from this, 71 cities with populations more than 100,000 either did not provide statistics to the FBI or said categorically that there were no hate crimes, which is obviously impossible.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### Iran

As mentioned previously, some countries' laws state that homosexuality can result in the death penalty. In Iran, your age and gender will be important in determining your sentence. For example, currently, the punishment for homosexuality in males is the death penalty, however, if there is a male minor and a male adult (over 18) individual then the adult would be killed while the minor will receive up to 74 lashes. In the case of two minors then they would both receive up to 74 lashes. For women, the punishment is up to 100 lashes and if they continue being publicly part of the LGBTQ+ community the punishment could also lead to death. Given that same-sex marriage is something considered "homosexual activity", same-sex marriage is also illegal. Iran uses the Islamic definition for marriage which states that marriage is the union between a man and a woman. Therefore they believe that same-sex marriage is wrong and should not be allowed. Along with these two examples, there are other laws that prevent LGBTQ+ individuals from being who they are and even laws that do not prevent discrimination against these individuals.

### Human Rights Watch

As stated previously many people around the world experience inequality, violence, torture, prison, or death, simply because of who they love, who they are, and how they look. According to the Human Rights Watch website, they believe that the sexual orientation and gender identity of an individual is a major aspect of oneself and should never be the cause of discrimination or abuse. One of the things this NGO does is fight for the protection of people within the LGBTQ+ community. They work with many

activists who represent a large number of issues with regard to the LGBTQ+ community. They work towards documenting and exposing worldwide abuse cases that occurred with regard to sexual orientation and/or gender identity. These cases include but are not limited to torture, murder, medical abuses, discrimination, and abuses against children. This organization fully advocates for the protection of everyone's rights through laws and policies. They work towards the dream that one day all people can enjoy their rights equally.

### **United States of America**

Even though only 5.6% of adults identify as LGBTQ+, the US has still allowed for some basic rights to be granted to these individuals. For example, homosexual activity and same-sex marriage are both legal in the US. However, because of how the country operates some aspects differ depending on each state. For example LGBTQ+ discrimination. In some states, LGBTQ+ individuals are protected against discrimination whereas in other states there is some too little discrimination protection.





underwent transgender treatment. People in the LGBTQ+ community are allowed to serve in the military and give blood however they are not protected against any act of discrimination.

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom plans to have its first-ever global conference on LGBTQ+ rights in London sometime in 2022. According to The Guardian, the conference will be used to promote equality in the UK and abroad. This conference will also be an attempt to hopefully make progress tackling violence and discrimination ensuring “equal access to public services for LGBTQ+ people” resulting in real and helpful change. The UK has already made progress in helping the LGBTQ+ community for example same-sex marriage and homosexual activity are both legal, and the UK continues to keep making progress in protecting the LGBTQ+ community.

### **Russia**

According to Equaldex, the percentage of Russians that believe homosexuals should be isolated from society increased by 2%. The percentage of Russians who would not want a homosexual as a neighbor increased by 13% and 5% of Russians believe that homosexuals should be physically destroyed. With regard to country policy, homosexual activity is not illegal in the country however same-sex marriage is illegal. This then means that adoption is only legal if the individual is single. Unlike other laws, the LGBTQ+ community used to have some protection against discrimination depending on the context however, according to Equaldex, in 2013 president Vladimir Putin signed a new law that stated “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors” which ultimately criminalized public expression on the support of nontraditional relationships.

### **UN Involvement**

There has been much international action over the years on trying to make sure that the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals are protected and that they can be free to express themselves without fear of being hurt. Below are a few examples of ways the UN has

stepped up in order to help support the LGBTQ+ community within the past decade.

### Human Right Council

In 2011 a resolution on human rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity was passed through the Human Rights Council (HRC Staff). This resolution expresses concern about the violence that the LGBTQ+ population is having to undergo. This was the first-ever study that the United Nations did which specifically focused on LGBTQ+ issues.

### Security Council

In August of 2015, the council held its first meeting on the human rights of the LGBTQ+ community under ISIS. The meeting was assembled and brought together by the United States and Chile. There were a total of nine out of fifteen Security Council member countries that attended the meeting and even over a dozen other countries.

### Sustainable Development Goals

In the same year (2015) the United Nations released their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are 17 goals that address most world issues such as hunger, poverty, dehydration, climate change, and many others. These goals are posted and it is up to each country to commit themselves in interpreting the language and ensuring that the LGBTQ+ community is not left out.

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event	LGBTQ+ Effects:
1924	Henry Gerber forms a group for Human Rights	This is the first gay group in the US, however, the group is quickly shut down
1950	In LA the Mattachine Society is formed and the members of the	This is the first gay organization that lasted longer than before. The group

	group refer to themselves as a “homophile” group.	was around for about 10 years until the members split into smaller entities.
1969	The Stonewall riots started and lasted for a couple of days	In this riot individuals in Lesbian and gay bars and even neighborhood street people rioted and fought back against police when they became violent.
1989	Denmark recognizes same-sex relationships	Denmark becomes the first country in the world to recognize same-sex relationships but didn't officially legalize same-sex marriage until later
2004	Massachusetts legalizes gay marriage.	Because of how the United States operates (the Federalism System) most LGBTQ+ rights are left up to the state. In 2004 Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage because they found that making it illegal is against the constitution; it denies equality and dignity to individuals which is what the US stands for.
2011	President Obama announces that his administration will not defend the Defense of Marriage Act anymore.	This means that the recognition of same sex marriage in the country is now banned

2015	Ireland legalizes same-sex marriage	Ireland becomes the first country to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote
2010-2017	The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon uses his platform to promote and stand for equality.	Throughout his tenure Ban Ki-moon consistently advocated for equality in order to spread awareness throughout the community

## Past International Action

**Social Media Movements:** There have been many social media movements in order to bring awareness to issues of great concern such as LGBTQ rights. The #LGBTQRights Movement makes headlines worldwide daily. The achievements of the movement widely differ from country to country. #LoveWins and #MeToo are some other popular hashtags with hundreds of thousands of uses. Through these hashtags awareness is brought to online communities.

**Pride Month:** LGBT Pride Month happens in the United States as a way to remember and commemorate the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969 in which hundreds of members of the LGBTQ community revolted against the authorities. As a result, many pride events are held during this month, such as parades, to recognize the impact LGBT people have had in the world. Three presidents of the United States have officially declared a pride month.

## Possible Solutions

### Education

Combatting discrimination originating from sexual orientation has many possible solutions, with one of them being early childhood education. To educate kids at an early age about how having different sexual orientations and preferences is normal will not only help with the mental health of kids who

feel this way, since they will be able to understand their situation better, but it will also create conscience for future generations. These kids will learn to respect others at an early age. This may be controversial since some parents don't want these ideas being taught to children at an early age, so it's an ongoing debate.

## **Legislation**

Find a middle ground with countries that actively persecute members of the LGBTQ community so that they create laws that at the very least preserve the human rights of members of these communities instead of being subjected to the conviction of felonies, protects them from hate crime, among others. Through this legislation the citizens of these countries will now have a legal bind that restricts them from treating members in a discriminatory manner, as is the custom in lots of countries, specially in the Middle East and Africa. Even though the legislation will not change the engraved beliefs of the population, it will act as a way to temporarily protect these people while other solutions, such as education, ensure these engraved beliefs are changed in the future.

## **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)**

This issue connects to goal 16 of the SGD's. The goal of peace, justice, and strong institutions is there in order to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' ". This issue is working towards creating an inclusive society where LGBTQ+ individuals can feel free to express themselves just as much as any other individual. The issue is working towards making sure that LGBTQ+ individuals' rights are protected in order to help build a more effective and accountable society.

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## Useful Links for Research

I. Country profile:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

II. Article on types of malware:

<https://www.comtact.co.uk/blog/what-are-the-different-types-of-malware>

You also have to look at the presentation for this week because they want you to add a few extra things that they didn't write here