

Sexual Minorities and the Law: A World Survey [Updated July 2006]

F= female

M= male

LGBT: Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

Afghanistan

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 15 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Albania

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') is illegal.

Algeria

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 3 years. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Andorra

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') is illegal.

Angola

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Antigua and Barbuda

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Argentina

Homosexuality: Legal. Civil unions recognized in some regions. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Social intolerance can be extreme and LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Armenia

Homosexuality: Legal. Some residence rights for bi-national gay couples. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries, but now some support for LGBT refugees from elsewhere.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Aruba

Homosexuality: Legal. Protection for sexual orientation under Dutch law but challenged by Aruban authorities. **Transgender:** No data or legal situation unclear.

Australia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for gay men in some states. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Domestic partnership recognition in some states but federal ban on same-sex marriage. Same-sex adoption and donor insemination services available in some states. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment legal in some states. Specific protection from discrimination exists for transgendered people.

Austria

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued following change.

Azerbaijan

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Bahamas

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for lesbians and gay men.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Bahrain

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 10 years; deportation for 20 years.

Transgender: Gender reassignment illegal.

Bangladesh

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for life. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Barbados

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable but rarely enforced against private behaviour. Laws currently under review.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Belarus

Homosexuality: Legal. Equal age of consent. But severe discrimination persists.

Transgender: Gender reassignment legal or openly performed without prosecution. No data on reissue of documents.

Belgium

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex couples can marry and adopt. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued following change.

Belize

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Benin

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Bermuda

Homosexuality: Legal. Higher age of consent.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Bhutan

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for life.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear rights

Bolivia

Homosexuality: Legal. No anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Homosexuality: Legal. Equal age of consent. Anti-discrimination laws apply. No legal recognition of same-sex partnerships.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Botswana

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 5 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear

Brazil

Homosexuality: Legal. Equal age of consent. Anti discrimination and anti-vilification laws exist in several states; civil unions recognized in some. But high levels of homophobic violence; LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Brunei

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Bulgaria

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Anti-discrimination laws apply.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Burkina Faso

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Burma

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for life.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Traditionally transgendered people have accepted place in society.

Burundi

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not known). Punishable as an 'immoral act'.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cambodia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Former King Sihanouk has called for legalization of gay marriage.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cameroon

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 5 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Canada

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for anal sex (18). Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, marriage and adoption rights. Constitutional laws against discrimination apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment legal in some states and provinces.

Cape Verde

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. 'Repeat offenders' may be imprisoned.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cayman Islands

Homosexuality: Legal. British laws apply.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Central African Republic

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Chad

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher (18).

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Chile

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher (18). No anti-discrimination laws. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

China

Homosexuality: Not illegal but considered 'unacceptable'. Legal in Hong Kong with equal age of consent.

LGBT citizens from mainland China have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Colombia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Social intolerance can be extreme and LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: First country to restrict genital mutilation of intersex children from without their, or before age of, consent.

Cormoros

Homosexuality: Legal

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Congo

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Congo Dem Rep

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 5 years under 'crimes against the family' law.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cook Islands

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 7 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Costa Rica

Homosexuality: Legal, though 'scandalous' homosexuality illegal. Age of consent equal. Laws against discrimination apply but same-sex marriage is banned.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Côte D'Ivoire

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Croatia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for lesbians and gay men (18). Registered partnerships. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cuba

Homosexuality: Legal but LGBT associations are banned. No laws against discrimination. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Cyprus

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Czech Republic

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Registered partnerships. Some anti-discrimination protection.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued.

Denmark

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Legal recognition of same sex partnerships (*also applies in Greenland*) Legal recognition of non-biological parents. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued following change.

Djibouti

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Dominican Rep.

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. No laws against discrimination.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Cultural acceptance of transgendered *guevedoche* or 'pseudo-hermaphrodites'.

Ecuador

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination written into the Constitution. Custody rights for lesbians.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Egypt

Homosexuality: Technically legal but effectively illegal. A variety of laws are applied.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Civil Law provisions exist for reissue of personal documents to reflect change.

El Salvador

Homosexuality: Legal. No laws against discrimination. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Equatorial Guinea

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Eritrea

Homosexuality: Legal. M (F situation unclear) Age of consent 18.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Estonia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Documents cannot be reissued.

Ethiopia

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Fiji

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years. Law has been ruled unconstitutional as Constitution protects against sexual orientation discrimination.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Finland

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Registered partnerships. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Legal recognition of non-biological parents; access to state donor insemination services. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued following change.

France

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Civil unions available to all regardless of sexual orientation. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued after change.

French Guyana

Homosexuality: Legal. French laws apply.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Gabon

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for lesbians and gay men.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Gambia

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F situation unclear). Imprisonable for 14 years..
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Georgia

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Some anti-discrimination protection.
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Germany

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Registered partnerships and adoption rights. Regional anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued after change.

Ghana

Homosexuality: Illegal. M. Punishable under 'unnatural carnal knowledge' laws. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') is illegal.

Greece

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination in employment law applies. Access to state donor insemination services. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued after change.

Grenada

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Guam

Homosexuality: Legal. No laws against discrimination.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Guatemala

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination laws apply.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Guinea

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Guinea-Bissau

Homosexuality: Legal.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Guyana

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F situation unclear). Imprisonable for life.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Haiti

Homosexuality: Legal. No laws against discrimination.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Honduras

Homosexuality: Legal. Same-sex marriage and adoption by same-sex couples banned. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Hungary

Homosexuality: Legal. Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. Anti-discrimination laws apply.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Legal situation unclear on document issue.

Iceland

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Some legal protection for sexual orientation. Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. Parenting: Legal recognition of non-biological parents.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Legal situation unclear on document issue.

India

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (but law has been used against women and transsexuals too). Imprisonable for life, but provisions rarely applied. Judicial review of the law being sought.

Transgender: Hijari (eunuchs) can have ID cards changed to reflect female status.

Indonesia

Homosexuality: Legal. The Justice Ministry recently attempted to criminalize homosexuality.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Transgender people have an accepted place in society.

Iran

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty applies. In July 2005 two gay teenagers executed. Some 4,000 LGBT people are reported to have been executed since 1979.

Transgender: Gender reassignment (sex change) is legal and government support available.

Iraq

Homosexuality: Situation unclear. Current Government has issued a decree allowing Sharia laws (death penalty for homosexuals) to be enforced. LGBT Iraqis are now targeted for persecution and execution.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Ireland

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. It is illegal to change birth certificate or marry after gender reassignment.

Israel

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Some legal protection for sexual orientation, including within the armed forces.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Italy

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Civil unions in some regions.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued after change.

Ivory Coast

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher .

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Jamaica

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years (can be accompanied by hard labour). High level of social intolerance and violence towards LGBT people.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Japan

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued after change.

Jordan

Homosexuality: Legal. But LGBT citizens at risk of vigilante 'honour' killing and have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Kazakhstan

Homosexuality: Legal. No anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Kenya

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years .

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Traditionally transgendered people had an accepted place in society.

Kiribati

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Korea, N

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Korea, S

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination law exists but Government continues to discriminate.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Kosovar Autonomus Region

Homosexuality: Illegal. M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Kuwait

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 7 years Laws denying freedom of expression and/or association also apply.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Kyrgyzstan

Homosexuality: Legal. No anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Laos

Homosexuality: Unclear as to whether acts in private between consenting adults are legal or not.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Latvia

Homosexuality: Legal. Same-sex marriages banned. No anti-discrimination laws. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued after change.

Lebanon

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 1 year. Laws denying freedom of expression and association apply. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or the situation unclear.

Lesotho

Homosexuality: Legal. Homosexuality not mentioned in law.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Liberia

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Libya

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 5 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Liechtenstein

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Laws against discrimination apply.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Lithuania

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Some legal protection against discrimination.

Transgender: Gender reassignment illegal.

Luxembourg

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Registered same-sex partnerships. Laws against discrimination apply.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued after change.

Macedonia (TFYR)

Homosexuality: Legal. No laws against discrimination. Gays barred from entering legal profession.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') is illegal.

Madagascar

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Transgendered people have an accepted place in society.

Malawi

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Malaysia

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (situation unclear for F). Imprisonable for 20 years. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Gender reassignment is recognized but right to marry denied.

Maldives

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for life.

Transgender rights: No data or legal situation unclear.

Mali

Homosexuality: No laws against, but LGBT may be prosecuted under 'Public Morals' law.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Malta

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Marshall Islands

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Martinique

Homosexuality: Legal. French laws apply.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Mauritania

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty applies. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Mauritius

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Mexico

Homosexuality: Legal. Laws against discrimination apply. Social intolerance can be extreme and LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Micronesia, fed States of

Homosexuality: Not mentioned in law.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Moldova, Rep of

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal

documents may be reissued following change.

Monaco

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued following change.

Mongolia

Homosexuality: Not mentioned in law but penal code prohibiting 'immoral gratification of sexual desires' is used against gay people.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Morocco

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Legal situation unclear.

Mozambique

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years with hard labour

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Namibia

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (situation unclear for F). Legal precedent gave immigration rights to same-sex lesbian partnership. Some anti-discrimination provision applies, in spite of illegality.

Transgender: Gender reassignment recognized. Documents can be changed on social acceptance.

Nauru

Homosexuality: Legal situation unclear.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Nepal

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for life. Law being challenged in Supreme Court.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Netherlands

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex civil unions and marriages performed. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Legal recognition of non-biological parents and same-sex adoption rights. Access to state donor insemination services. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued after change.

Netherlands Antilles

Homosexuality: Legal. Dutch law applies but while same-sex civil unions and marriages are recognized they cannot be performed.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

New Zealand

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Legal protection for sexual orientation under the Human Rights Act. Same-sex civil unions recognized. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All official documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Nicaragua

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 3 years. Law is being challenged in the High Court. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Niger

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent 21. Same-sex marriages are allowed.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Nigeria

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years.

In Northern provinces death penalty under Sharia law applies. A new law forbids same-sex marriage and prohibits gays from assembling and petitioning the government. It also allows prosecution of newspapers that publish information about same-sex relationships and religious groups that allow same-sex unions. Those who violate the law can be sentenced to 5 years in prison.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Niue

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Norway

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. Legal recognition of non-biological parents. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Oman

Homosexuality: Illegal. (F/M). Imprisonable for 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Transgendered people have an accepted place.

Palestinian Authority

Homosexuality: Not illegal but LGBT people targeted. Many leave for Israel.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear

Pakistan

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty applies under Sharia law. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: Some official recognition of gender reassignment and right to marry subsequently.

Panama

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Papua New Guinea

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Paraguay

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. No anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Peru

Homosexuality: Legal. Some anti-discrimination protection applies. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Philippines

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex marriage banned.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Poland

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. High level of social intolerance. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Portugal

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex civil unions allowed but not same-sex adoption.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Qatar

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 5 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Romania

Homosexuality: Legal. Some anti-discrimination protection.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Russian Federation

Homosexuality: Legal in all states except Chechnya (where the death penalty applies under Sharia law). Age of consent equal. Three attempts to recriminalize homosexuality in Russia between 2002 and 2004 failed. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum in other countries

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change. Traditionally, transgender people had an accepted place in Siberian society.

Rwanda

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Saint Lucia

Homosexuality: Illegal. M. (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Saint Vincent/Grenadines

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 10 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Sao Tome and Principe

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Saudi Arabia

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty, imprisonment and flogging under Sharia law. Executions have taken place during past 10 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Senegal

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Serbia (TFYR)

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent higher for male homosexual anal sex (18).
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Seychelles

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law).
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Sierra Leone

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (situation unclear for F).
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Singapore

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for life but law rarely enforced. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Slovakia

Homosexuality: Legal. Same-sex registered partnerships. Anti-discrimination laws apply.
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Some personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Slovenia

Homosexuality: Legal. Same-sex registered partnerships. Anti-discrimination laws apply.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Solomon Islands

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 14 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Somalia

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty in some areas ruled by sharia law and applies to both women and men. Imprisonable for up to 3 years.
Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

South Africa

Homosexuality: Legal. First country in the world to include equality and sexual orientation protection in its Constitution. Age of consent higher (19). Same-sex marriage and adoption of children allowed. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees
Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. Personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Spain

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex marriage and adoption of children allowed. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Access to state donor insemination services.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Sri Lanka

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Sudan

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty applies under sharia law or 5 years imprisonment.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Suriname

Homosexuality: Legal but severe discrimination in criminal law. Age of consent higher (18).

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Swaziland

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonment and /or fine..

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Sweden

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships and adoption of children allowed. Access to state donor insemination services. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Switzerland

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Registered same-sex partnerships. Anti-discrimination on the basis of 'lifestyle' clause in the Constitution. But no access to state donor insemination for lesbians.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Syria

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 3 years. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Taiwan

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Pending law allows for same-sex marriage.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Tajikistan

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law).

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Tanzania

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for life New laws have criminalized lesbianism and made same-sex marriage illegal and imprisonable for 7 years. LGBT citizens have applied for asylum in other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

TFYR Macedonia

Homosexuality: Legal. But gays are barred from joining the legal profession.

Transgender: Gender reassignment (sex change) is illegal.

Thailand

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution.

Timor Leste (East Timor)

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Togo

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Tonga

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for up to 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Tokelau

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Trinidad and Tobago

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 10 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Tunisia

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for up to 3 years.

Immigration/Asylum: LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Rights only for born-hermaphrodites.

Turkey

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Lesbians and gay men are banned from the armed forces

LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

Turkmenistan

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 3 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Turks and Caicos

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Tuvalu

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Uganda

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law, but has been used against women). Imprisonable for life.

In 2005 same-sex marriage was criminalized. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum in other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Ukraine

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. No anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

United Arab Emirates

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (situation for F unclear). Death sentence applies. In 2006 11 men imprisoned for 5 years for attending a 'gay wedding'.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

United Kingdom

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Same-sex civil unions recognized in 2005. Same-sex couples allowed to adopt in some areas. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees.

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution. All personal documents may be reissued to reflect change.

United States

Homosexuality: Legal. In 2003 a US Supreme Court ruling overturned anti-sodomy laws which applied in 20 states. Progressive anti-discrimination laws and legal recognition of same-sex partnerships apply in some states and municipalities. Same-sex couples can adopt in some states. Prepared to grant asylum to LGBT refugees

Transgender: Gender reassignment ('sex change') legal or openly performed without prosecution in some states. Personal documents may be reissued to reflect change in most states. Traditional Native American acceptance of transgender.

Uruguay

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination laws apply.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Uzbekistan

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for three years. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Vanuatu

Homosexuality: Legal.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Vatican/Holy See

Homosexuality: Technically legal but *de facto* forbidden.

Transgender: Condemned as 'repugnant'.

Venezuela

Homosexuality: Legal. Anti-discrimination laws apply. Social intolerance can be extreme and LGBT citizens have been granted asylum by other countries

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Vietnam

Homosexuality: Legal. Age of consent equal. Same-sex marriage banned since 1998.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Western Samoa

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Imprisonable for 7 years.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear. Some traditional acceptance of transgender people.

Yemen

Homosexuality: Illegal. F/M. Death penalty applies.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear

Zambia

Homosexuality: Illegal. M (F not mentioned in law). Imprisonable for 14 years .

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Zimbabwe

Homosexuality: Illegal. M. (F not mentioned in law). Pro-LGBT clergy risk imprisonment. LGBT citizens have been granted asylum in other countries.

Transgender: No data or legal situation unclear.

Notes:

- 1 Legality and social or cultural acceptance are not necessarily related.
2. Where there are no specific laws against homosexuality, other laws may used against LGBT people.
3. Laws against male homosexuality may also be used against lesbians in some countries.
- 4 In the countries of the European Union cases of discrimination against sexual minorities can be challenged by referring to the Human Rights Act of 2000 providing another right has also been breached.