Anti-LGBT Laws Globally

Overview
Throughout the last year, state-sponsored anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) laws have been a common threat to the safety of innocent people. Politically motivated hatred has run rampant in areas such as the Pacific Rim, South, and Central Asia, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America as well as rollbacks in the Americas. Imprisonment, torture, and death are still used in over 70 countries worldwide as punishments for consensual same-sex marriage. Intensified homophobia in these areas has resulted in case after case of direct persecution of LGBT people. Through legal measures, sponsored by the state, individuals harness the ability to persecute legally, abuse, and torture those who are in the LGBT minority. Same-sex marriage is legalized in only 26 countries. As the trend of anti-LGBT laws persists, activists have found ways to persevere. In 2016 the “UN’s first independent expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Vitit Muntarbhorn” issued a report to the General Assembly (GA) to address specific steps to be taken globally to improve LGBT rights. The intergovernmental organization, Equal Rights Coalition, has taken avid action to advocate for the global LGBT community. Although the UN is aware of these

Gay marriage around the world
Countries that allow gay marriage or where it is legal in some jurisdictions

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abuses, and organizations are tirelessly working to improve conditions for the LGBT community, global anti-LGBT laws continue to target these communities. Eradicating anti-LGBT laws is a long and crucial battle that is why it is of the utmost importance to address these egregious violations of human rights.

**Historical Context/ Background**

**Pacific Rim**

**Indonesia** has a mixed history with LGBT rights; for example, in numerous historical documents, sexuality is outlined including homosexuality, which is never demonized. This is recognized through indigenous legends of intersexual deities that also had diverse sexual expression. Not only this but according to the *Indonesia Country Report*, “diverse sexual behaviors among men are known to have been practiced in the context of performing and martial arts, spirit medium, and shamanistic rituals, rite of passage initiations or just in daily life in all-male settings in many of the Indonesian archipelago’s ethnolinguistic groups, with identities sometimes connected to these contexts.”

One of Indonesia's ethnic groups, the Bugis people of South Sulawesi, recognize five genders. One of which is the *bissu*, who are all-encompassing of other genders and are highly respected. They were seen as “wise beings” and were culturally significant. This inclusion reveals that the homophobia reflected in Indonesia's culture today is a new progression that is starkly different from the reality of LGBT rights in the 1920s. This progression of anti-LGBT sentiment is based on the spread of Islam in 1998. The spread of Islam grew deep roots in Indonesia because it was during a time of succession, where the fall of President Suharto occurred; fueling the rise of homophobia. The President lost the support of the military, which caused him to adopt conformity to Sharia law among Indonesia’s Muslims. More and more people would travel to Indonesia to spread the word of Islam, including intolerance to homosexuality.

Southeast Asia and the Pacific Rim historically contained socially accepted measures for homosexuality. Through the spread of different religions and colonialism, homophobic social policies and laws flourished. For example, in **Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, and Myanmar**, the **British** enforced a penal code that legislated against sodomy. According to “This Week in Asia,” more than half of the countries that currently legally prohibit sodomy do so based on laws created by the British.
**South and Central Asia**

Hindu religion was one of the key factors in establishing a common culture throughout South and Central Asia. An important detail to remember is that the Hindu religious texts do not contain condemnation of LGBT people as the Bible or the Islamic texts do. Hindu sacred texts do not hold LGBT people to be inferior to their heterosexual counterparts. This is historically relevant in **India**, where anti-LGBT laws are prevalent. According to the Fair Observer, homophobia in **India** is now accounted for by the British colonizers who outlawed homosexual acts throughout their empire and justified it with the biblical texts. It is essential to understand that colonial rule does not determine whether or not a country's culture adopts homophobic tendencies. For example, **Indonesia** was colonized by the Dutch, who did not promote homophobia, yet through cultural diffusion and religion, Indonesia became extremely homophobic despite their colonizer's more “positive” view of LGBT people.

**Chinese** history had socially accepted homosexuality. Homosexuality appears in written works of the Ming dynasty. For example, Shen Defu, (a Chinese writer during the Ming dynasty), wrote that it was common for men of all social classes in southern China to take male lovers. There was a legalized form of same-sex marriage that was so common in southern China, that a deity of homosexuality, the rabbit appears today. “This Week in Asia” cited that many Han people from southern China migrated to **Taiwan** starting in the 17th century; they now make up 80 percent of the population. This is a possible explanation for the support of same-sex marriage seen in Taiwan today.

**The Middle East and North Africa**

Similarly, as in Asia, many of the anti-LGBT laws in the Middle East and Northern Africa were adopted through French or British colonialism. When this was not the case, state-sanctioned and cultural homophobia were often derived from different interpretations of Sharia Law. This is the case in **Saudi Arabia** and many other countries found in the region.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), **Egypt** has a long history of provisions against LGBT people, for example, a 1951 law prohibiting “debauchery,” to criminalizing sex work transformed into a Law 10/1961 on the Combating of Prostitution. This has been used by the authorities since the 1990s to prosecute homosexual conduct between men, resulting in hundreds of arrests that continue today. **Bahrain’s** colonial laws outlawed same-sex relations; however, when they gained independence in 1976, they established a new penal code. HRW states that although they changed the laws the context remained unclear, for example they used vague language such as “morality” and “decency” provisions to allow harassment of LGBT people. In 2016 police arrested 30 people at a private party at a swimming pool, accused them of being “the third sex,” and charged them with public indecency. This is how the history of countries such as
Egypt, Bahrain, and more from the Middle East and Northern Africa have allowed their political history and culture to shape their LGBT laws and positions today.

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

Not unlike Asia and the Middle East, the lasting legacy of colonialism shapes the attitude of many towards homosexual relationships. For example, Botswana was ruled by the British resulting in homosexuality being illegal beginning in the 1800s. Britain criminalized homosexuality in the 16th century resulting in the same policies during their colonization of other countries. As a result, those they had colonized retained deep-rooted anti-gay stigmas in place legally and socially. Different religions, such as Christianity and Islam, similarly impacted areas, spreading anti-LGBT themes. Deep anti-gay sentiments are held all across Africa, whether it be from religion or colonialism. For example, in Kenya, polls reveal a 90% rate of disapproval of homosexuality in 2013, revealing the long-lasting effects of colonialism and religion.

**South Africa** is one of the most advanced countries in Africa regarding LGBT rights. Their parliament legalized same-sex marriage in 2006, had the first constitution to protect people based on sexual orientation (post-apartheid), and legally upheld this through outlawing a law that banned sex between men. Under the apartheid government, homosexuality was illegal and punishable with imprisonment. Due to the social movement that allowed for the end of apartheid, it created an opening for the LGBT movement to grow. After the fall of apartheid, the African National Congress (ANC) enacted legal reforms that were of the first of its kind globally. However, the legal progression of LGBT laws does not always align with the social acceptance of LGBT people. This means that although legally South Africa was advanced, they still have tremendous work to do because LGBT people are not accepted socially.

**Americas**

Similarly, to the rest of the world’s history, colonizers brought religion and homophobic laws with them. For example, the British, French, Spanish, and Portuguese colonists, who settled most of the Americas, brought Christianity from Europe as well as homophobia. Social movements for LGBT pride sprouted in the 1950s in Latin America simultaneously as many of the governments were transitioning to democracy. However, this was not a universal movement.

Argentina was the frontrunner for LGBT rights and held Gay pride events in 1967, and in 1971 the Homosexual Liberation Front was formed. The cost of the progress was dire, however. Between 1976 and 1983, the disappearing or killing of up to 30,000 people occurred during the government’s “Dirty War.” Their “cleaning campaign” targeted gays in order to “scare homosexuals from the streets to not bother decent people.” Brazil also experienced LGBT riots and attempts at progress in the 1970s while the government was transitioning to democracy from
dictatorship. Due to the deep religious connection found throughout many Latin American countries, this connects to the homophobic culture that is seen today. Although many Latin American countries are global leaders for LGBT rights, there are still tragic accounts of homophobic activity. LGBT rights legally progress much faster in Latin America; however, socially, LGBT people are much more accepted in the US. One of the most historic moments in LGBT history in the US was the Stonewall Riots in 1969 that marked the beginning of the liberation of LGBT people and rights. Although this is real, hate crimes have been on the rise from 2014 to 2017 against those in the LGBT community. Not only this, but those in the LGBT community who are also African American or Latino face increased risk of attacks and threats. Canadian LGBT rights and issues date back to the 1600s in contrast to records only showing gay organizations in the 1900s in the US. Canada had its first Gay Riots in the 1970s which sparked their liberation.

Current Situation/ Recent developments

Pacific Rim
The LGBT rights movement within the Pacific Rim region is limited. According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), New Zealand and Australia are the only Pacific Rim countries in which same-sex marriage is legal. Australia has recently experienced a social movement to promote the rights of LGBT people through nearly eight million people backing the national referendum in December 2017 to legalize same-sex marriage. CFR stated that same-sex marriage became legal in Taiwan in May 2019, as the legislature implemented a ruling that the top court issued two years earlier. Voters had voiced their opposition to the ruling in a 2018 advisory referendum. This shows that although there was political progress being made for LGBT rights, the struggle for social acceptance was still significant. CFR reported on a district in Tokyo recognizing same-sex unions in 2015; International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Intersex and Association (ILGA) found a year later that only 33 percent of Japanese supported same-sex marriage. Lawmakers in Thailand and Vietnam have considered bills to legalize same-sex marriage or civil partnerships.

ILGA found that 31 percent of people in China, 30 percent in Malaysia, and 14 percent in Indonesia say same-sex marriage should be legal. Same-sex relations between men are illegal in parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Singapore, and in Brunei, they are punishable by death. HRW reported that “Beginning in January 2016, a series of anti-LGBT public comments by government officials grew into a cascade of threats and [hatred] against LGBT Indonesians by state commissions, militant Islamists, and mainstream religious organizations.” This has resulted in law proposals that threaten the rights and safety of the LGBT community.
Asia

South and Central Asia
In the majority of South and Central Asia, same-sex relations are illegal. Punishments differ for each country. However, a common occurrence is that the punishments are rarely enforced. For example, according to the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), the Maldives have same-sex intercourse and marriage prohibited. Their punishments range from imprisonment, lashings, and the death penalty; however, these prohibitions are rarely enforced. The legality of same-sex relations is an issue in Asia. Human rights violations occur in Bangladesh, and Pakistan, where there are currently surges of violent attacks against transgender women.

Although there are still violations of LGBT rights in Asia, progress is advancing. According to HRW, Nepal is a leading country in regards to LGBT rights. They were the world’s first country to include a third gender on its federal census which later influenced Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India to do the same. India’s constitution retains a colonial-era law that criminalizes sexual activity “against the order of nature.” However, according to NQAPIA in 2018, the Supreme Court of India ordered a review of the country’s gay sex ban, which is pending. According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), there has been progress throughout Asia. In 2015 a “government-appointed panel recommended that lawmakers legalize same-sex marriage.”

Regarding public attitudes toward homosexuality in South and Central Asia, there is limited information. This is due to is being a “taboo” subject and not a general social norm. As a result, providing information to LGBT centers or surveys can cause one to become a social pariah. According to the International LGBTI Association (ILGA) found that 35 percent of Indians and 30 percent of Pakistanis in 2016 thought same-sex marriage should be legal and support in Kazakhstan stood at 12 percent.

Eastern Asia
Eastern Asia has fewer legal restrictions on LGBT rights than one can recognize as easily in Southern and Central Asia. South Korea’s constitution explicitly outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation and other factors. However, same-sex marriage is still not legalized, and there is often still discrimination based on sex and religion regardless of the law due to a lack of enforcement. The option to change gender is also available but comes at a cost to numerous civil liberties. China’s constitution does not outlaw LGBT activity, but it also does not have any laws protecting their rights. Similarly, to the rest of Asia, same-sex marriage is still not legalized, and gender change comes at a cost to one’s civil liberties. Japan also does not recognize same-sex marriage. However; many local municipalities recognize same-sex couples’ rights as “equivalent to marriage.” The option to change gender is also available as well as within their family registry.
The Middle East and North Africa

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, “same-sex relations are illegal in much of the region and are punishable by death in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.” In 2018, Lebanese courts made history and the potential rule that would lead to the decriminalization of homosexuality. HRW reported that “A district court of appeals in Lebanon issued a groundbreaking ruling on July 12, 2018, that consensual sex between people of the same sex is not unlawful.” Israel recognizes same-sex marriages performed in other countries, and same-sex couples enjoy civil rights, including residency permits for the partners of Israeli citizens. Egypt and Bahrain have gender-neutral morality laws that allow them to harass and arrest members of the LGBT community without explicitly outlawing it.

The Council on Foreign Relations found that “Israel stands apart from its neighbors in public attitudes toward same-sex couples: according to the ILGA survey, 49 percent of Israelis said same-sex marriage should be legal, compared to 19 percent of respondents in the United Arab Emirates, 16 percent in Egypt, and 14 percent in both Jordan and Morocco.”

The Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE) and HRW recently worked on a report to focus on LGBT activism and LGBT rights in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The report primarily focuses on 34 activists within these countries who are making progress for LGBT rights. The report found that some of the most effective steps in advocating for LGBT rights were to create a community, build alliances, media outreach, and to stay safe. These are the steps being taken in the Middle East and Northern Africa to promote progress for LGBT lives.

Sub-Saharan Africa

32 of Africa’s 54 nations have laws that criminalize consensual, same-sex conduct, according to Human Rights Watch, with varying provisions. Same-sex relations are punishable by death in Mauritania and Sudan, as well as in parts of Nigeria and Somalia. According to HRW, polling by Afrobarometer in 2016 found that 78 percent of Africans across thirty-three countries were intolerant of homosexuality. In 2018, there was a crackdown on LGBT people in Tanzania that resulted in a global outcry. HRW recognized that the African Union’s human rights committee adopted a resolution condemning violence against LGBT people in 2014. Also in this year, a group of African nations attempted to suspend the appointment of a UN expert charged with investigating anti-LGBT discrimination in 2016.

Although there have been some setbacks to LGBT rights, there has also been significant progress. According to HRW, “Afrobarometer found that majorities in three countries in addition to South Africa—Cape Verde, Mozambique, and Namibia—are tolerant of homosexuality. In 2015 Mozambique decriminalized same-sex relations. Moreover, in recent years, courts in
Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia have ruled in favor of LGBT advocacy groups.” In 2019 Botswana rescinded laws that criminalized homosexuality dating back to colonial rule, whereas in Kenyan High Court laws criminalizing homosexuality were upheld. This represents some of the differences between cultures, societies, and governments in Africa.

One of the outliers to anti-LGBT laws in Africa is South Africa. It is the only sub-Saharan African country where same-sex couples can marry. According to the HRW, “South Africa, is at the forefront of the fight for legal equality on LGBT issues internationally, yet is desperately failing lesbian and transgender people in their everyday lives at home.” This is because LGBT people “face extensive discrimination and violence in their daily lives.” This can be accounted for by the 2016 ILGA poll that found only 40 percent of South Africans are in favor of same-sex marriage. There are often failures in security and law enforcement that allow for homophobic crimes to persist.

Americas
According to HRW, in 2005, Canada became the first country in the Western Hemisphere to legalize same-sex marriage. Argentina followed them in 2010, Brazil and Uruguay in 2013, Mexico in 2015, and Colombia in 2016.

Support for same-sex marriage varies across the region. According to a 2016 survey by the International LGBTI Association (ILGA), 54 percent of Canadians, 48 percent of Chileans, and 57 percent of Argentines are in favor of same-sex marriage. In Central America, support is much lower: 33 percent of Costa Ricans, 28 percent of Nicaraguans, and 27 percent of Ecuadorians support same-sex marriage. Central American countries do not recognize same-sex couples, though some have limited anti-discrimination protections. Costa Rica’s constitutional court ruled that same-sex marriage must be legalized by mid-2020. Support for same-sex marriage also remains low in the Caribbean, at just 16 percent in Jamaica and 23 percent in the Dominican Republic. In Bermuda, a British territory, the parliament reversed the supreme court’s legalization of same-sex marriage in 2017; that was challenged in local courts and could now go to a London court of appeals.

According to HRW, Chile and Ecuador allow same-sex civil unions. The governments of Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay have enacted constitutional bans on same-sex marriage. Cuba, where homosexuality was once punished by internment in forced-labor camps, has changed markedly in recent years; the National Assembly passed an anti-discrimination law in 2013. Same-sex unions, however, are still not recognized.
Argentina is a global leader in LGBT rights; it was the first Latin American country and 10th country globally to legalize same-sex marriage. In 2012 Argentina passed a gender identity law “recognizing people’s right to identify their gender — the first law of its kind worldwide.” In 2015, Argentina ended a ban on blood donation from sexually active gay and bisexual men, something that the U.S. and many other countries have yet to do.”

Although Argentina is a global leader in LGBT rights, discrimination does persist; children are still bullied in school, and transphobia is prevalent. Refinery29 reports, “One 2017 survey found that over 70% of LGBTQ+ Argentinian youth said they were bullied in school. A 2012 survey found that 83% of trans women have experienced violence or discrimination. In 2015 activist Diana Sacayán’s murder marked the first time the country’s courts recognized transphobia as the motivation for a hate crime.” Argentina is leading the way globally for LGBT rights and has activists advocating for a quota of 1% of the government to be trans. Javier Corrales, a professor at Amherst College who focuses on LGBT rights in Latin America, points to income levels and the influence of religion in politics and overall strength of democracies for regional differences. This explains the pro-LGBT rights found in Argentina but no other Latin American countries.

Europe
According to HRW, more than half of the countries that allow same-sex marriage are in Western Europe, despite the colonial influence many European countries left. It is essential not to forget that according to “This Week in Asia,” more than half of the countries that currently legally prohibit sodomy do so based on laws created by the British. Same-sex marriage has been legalized in the Netherlands (2001), Belgium (2003), Spain (2005), Norway (2009), Sweden (2009), Portugal (2010), Iceland (2010), Denmark (2012), France (2013), the United Kingdom (2013), Luxembourg (2015), Ireland (2015), Finland (2017), Malta (2017), Germany (2017), and Austria (2019). Italy is the largest Western European country where same-sex marriage is not legal; its parliament, however, approved civil unions for same-sex couples in 2016.

Support for same-sex marriage is weaker in Eastern Europe. A 2017 Pew Research Center poll found that support for legal recognition of same-sex marriage is 16 percent in Belarus and just 9 percent in Ukraine. Support in Poland and Hungary, which both have constitutional bans on same-sex marriage, is 32 percent and 27 percent, respectively. At least ten other countries in Central and Eastern Europe have such prohibitions. Hungary and the Czech Republic; however, do recognize same-sex partnerships; in 2018, a Budapest court ruled that same-sex marriages performed abroad must be recognized as partnerships. Estonia also allows civil unions, though popular support for same-sex marriage in the Baltic states is low.
According to HRW in 2013, Russia made it a crime to distribute “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relationships among minors.” More than a dozen people have been fined for violations, including participating in protests and sharing articles on social media. Human rights groups say the law is a tool for anti-LGBT discrimination, and Europe’s top human rights court ruled that it was illegal in June 2017; though the decision is binding, the court has few means to enforce it. HRW reported that in Chechnya, a semiautonomous republic within Russia, dozens of men suspected of being gay have been detained, tortured, and even killed. Since 2017 a crackdown on the LGBT community and a new wave of detentions and killings were reported in late 2018.

Although same-sex marriage is growing with support, there is still a divide among nations. While in 2015 Ireland became the first country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage through a popular referendum, lawmakers in Northern Ireland have defeated bills to legalize same-sex marriage five times. Croats approved a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in a 2013 referendum, though the country’s parliament allowed civil partnerships a year later.

According to HRW, the European Union does not require its members to recognize same-sex marriage, though a 2018 ruling by the EU’s top court says they must uphold same-sex couples’ rights to freedom of movement and residence. A 2013 European Parliament report on human rights and democracy “encourages” EU institutions and member states to recognize same-sex marriage or civil unions as an “a political, social and human and civil rights issue”; however, the European Union is not able to impose such policy changes on its members. “Williams Institute’s Polarized Progress report ranks Iceland as the best in the world when it comes to social acceptance of LGBTQ+ folks.

**Involved Actors**

- **International LGBTI Association**—“ILGA is an umbrella organization representing 1,523 member organizations from 152 countries and territories. They engage with the UN’s treaty-making bodies the HRC, and NGOs to advocate for LGBT rights and concerns.” More information and Source: [https://ilga.org/united-nations](https://ilga.org/united-nations)

- **National Queer Asian Pacific Alliance**—“The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) is a federation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations. We seek to build the organizational capacity of local LGBT AAPI groups, develop leadership, promote visibility, educate our community, enhance grassroots organizing, expand collaborations, and challenge anti-LGBTQ bias and racism.” Source and More information [https://www.nqapia.org/wpp/home/](https://www.nqapia.org/wpp/home/)
● **Afrobarometer** - “A pan-African series of national public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, and society.” Find more information at https://www.afrobarometer.org/about/our-history

● **Pew Research Center** - “Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping the world. They conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis, and other data-driven social science research. They do not take policy positions.” More info and data at https://www.pewresearch.org/about/

● **Equal Rights Coalition** - The intergovernmental ERC is dedicated to the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons. They are made of 42 countries and work to promote LGBTI rights in member and nonmember states. Find more information at https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/coalition-equal-rights-droits-egaux.aspx?lang=eng

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**UN Resolutions and Activities**

● UN Human Rights Council (HRC) expressed concern for LGBT rights and peoples first in 2011

● UN HRC “In 2014 the council passed a resolution to combat anti-LGBT violence and discrimination. Two years later, the United Nations appointed its first-ever independent expert on sexual orientation and gender identity.”

● 30 June 2016, A/HRC/RES/32/2 Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity


● 10 Ways HRC has helped LGBT Rights EXCELLENT SOURCE all-encompassing https://www.hrc.org/blog/ten-ways-the-united-nations-has-protected-lgbtq-human-rights

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**Questions to Consider**

● When a country has both a culture that does not approve of LGBT rights but has laws that advocate LGBT rights create a division or political unrest? Should a country wait to take the lead on respecting LGBT rights legally or wait for their culture to embrace LGBT people?
- What is the power of the social LGBT movements of the past that LGBT movements today could learn?
- Does your countries legal policy match the social attitudes of the general public for LGBT rights?
- How can data collection be improved in areas where it may be dangerous to respond to a LGBT survey?
- Is there a correlation between democracy, colonialism and human rights? What is the connection between a human rights record and how the country treats LGBT members?

Further Resources
- [https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/same-sex-marriage-global-comparisons](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/same-sex-marriage-global-comparisons) Council On Foreign Relations site, all encompassing on international norms, LGBT UN information, and country specific policies
- [https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/16/after-grim-year-lgbt-rights-way-forward](https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/16/after-grim-year-lgbt-rights-way-forward) LGBT positives and negatives of the last year, shows areas of improvement, progress being made, and key issues that must be addressed country specifically

*(all information, data, quotes and research from these sources)*
Highlighted Timeline of Events

1600’s
- Colony of Virginia, Colony of Connecticut, criminalize sodomy
- Denmark criminalizes “relations against nature”
- Britain criminalizes sodomy and homosexuality causing those they have colonized to adopt similar laws

1700’s
- Executions for sodomy occur in Germany
- France creates a new penal code decriminalizing homosexuality
- Monaco, Luxemburg, Belgium decriminalize homosexuality

1800’s
- Netherlands, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, New Mexico, Empire of Japan, Honduras, Decriminalize homosexuality
- In England, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, outlawing sexual relations between men
- German Empire criminalizes homosexuality
- George Cecil Ives organizes the first homosexual rights group in England

1900’s
- New York City bar raid results in imprisonment for homosexuality 4-20 years
- Emma Goldman first begins speaking publicly in favor of homosexual rights.
- October Revolution in Russia repeals the previous criminal code in its entirety—including Article 995. Bolshevik leaders reportedly say that "homosexual relationships and heterosexual relationships are treated exactly the same by the law."
- USSR decriminalizes homosexuality
- Homosexuals in Germany placed in detention camps by Nazis
- Sweden, Switzerland, and Iceland decriminalize homosexuality
- Society Five (a homosexual rights organization) is formed in Melbourne, Australia;
- Sweden becomes the first country in the world to allow transsexuals to legally change their sex, and provides free hormone therapy
- Chile allows a trans person to legally change her name and gender on the birth certificate after undergoing sex reassignment surgery, becoming the second country in the world to do so
- Twelve women became the first group of women in Japan to publicly identify as lesbians, publishing one issue of a magazine called Subarashi Onna (Wonderful Women).
- Robert Grant founds the Christian Voice to take his anti-homosexual-rights crusade national in United States; AIDS is described as a "gay plague" by Reverend Jerry Falwell
- The lesbian and gay association "Ten Percent Club" is formed in Hong Kong

Late 1990’s
• Homosexuality is no longer an illness according to the World Health Organization (WHO)
• Many significant LGBT murders occur globally
• Don’t ask don’t tell policy in US military, did not end until 2011
• Antidiscrimination of homosexuality in South Africa
• Numerous LGBT organizations are founded globally
• Spread of Islam and homophobic sentiments in some cultures such as Indonesia’s

2000’s to Present
• UN Human Rights Council (HRC) expressed concern for LGBT rights and peoples first in 2011
• In 2012 Argentina passed a gender identity law “recognizing people’s right to identify their own gender — the first law of its kind worldwide.”
• UN HRC “In 2014 the council passed a resolution to combat anti-LGBT violence and discrimination. Two years later, the United Nations appointed its first-ever independent expert on sexual orientation and gender identity.”
• In 2015, Argentina ended a ban on blood donation from sexually active gay and bisexual men, something that the U.S. and many other countries have yet to do.”
• 30 June, 2016, A/HRC/RES/32/2 Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
• 2018 the Supreme Court of India ordered a review of the country’s gay sex ban still pending