

-Humanitarian Law RULEs!

Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law
Newsletter

June 2023

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The Acceptance of Homosexuality is on the Rise

The homosexual social movement has been around for about 150 years back in the 1870s.¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT+) had been introduced in 1990s² before added the “Q” stands for queer³, and a recognition movement of gays and lesbians was progressing by the 20th century.⁴

In the earlier day, 71 countries worldwide, mostly in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia considered homosexuality as a crime.⁵ Nevertheless, even without the criminalization, many LGBTQ+ people still cannot express their attitude as one due to hate crimes and discrimination against their sexuality.⁶ In addition, 11 countries, including Iran, Northern Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Brunei, Mauritania, Pakistan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates imposed a death penalty for the crime.⁷

Normally, developed countries with wealthier economies offer more acceptance of homosexuality; and the highest accepting countries are Sweden, Netherlands, and Germany.⁸ In addition, the first legal same-sex marriage countries are the Netherlands (2000), Belgium (2003), Canada (2005), and Spain (2005).⁹ At the same time, after a long struggle, public acceptance is growing including countries with strong cultural influence.¹⁰ China, the nation led by the Communist Party, is expected to eventually protect the rights of LGBTQ+ people.¹¹ However, public opinion in society remains divided depending on country, region and economic development despite the lawfulness of the same-sex marriage and the legal guarantee of the rights of LGBTQ+ people globally.¹²

The Cambodian Constitution¹³ ensures that Cambodian citizens are “equal before the law, enjoying the same rights, freedom and fulfilling the same obligation” despite different statuses.¹⁴ Statistically, homosexual activity is legal in Cambodia, although the same-sex marriage does not state in Cambodian law but some region recognized it as no law against the issue.¹⁵ The lack of recognition and protection of LGBTQ+ people made them feel isolated and prevent them from fully enjoying the rights to participate in the society.¹⁶ Nonetheless, on January 2023, a UN expert stated that Cambodia starts to integrating of LGBT persons in all sectors and protecting them from violence and discrimination.¹⁷

In general, even though the recognition of homosexuality has been widely accepted in some countries, it can be seen as a challenge when discussing such matters with family

¹ Bonnie J. Morris, 16 March 2023, *A brief history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender social movements*, American Psychological Association.

[A brief history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender social movements \(apa.org\)](#)

² Statista Research Development, 23 March 2023, *LGBTQ+ worldwide – Statistics & Facts*, Statista.

[LGBTQ+ worldwide - Statistics & Facts | Statista](#)

³ Erin Blakemore, 20 October 2021, *From LGBT to LGBTQIA+: The evolving recognition of identity*, National Geographic.

[From LGBT to LGBTQIA+: The evolving recognition of identity \(nationalgeographic.com\)](#)

⁴ Bonnie J. Morris, 16 March 2023, *A brief history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender social movements*, American Psychological Association.

[A brief history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender social movements \(apa.org\)](#)

⁵ Statista Research Development, 23 March 2023, *LGBTQ+ worldwide – Statistics & Facts*, Statista.

[LGBTQ+ worldwide - Statistics & Facts | Statista](#)

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Statista Research Development, 26 April 2023, *Number of Countries that criminalize homosexuality 2022*, Statista.

[Countries that criminalize homosexuality 2022 | Statista](#)

⁸ Jacob Poushter and Nicholas Kent, 25 June 2020, *Views of Homosexuality Around the World*, Pew Research Center.

[Views of Homosexuality Around the World | Pew Research Center](#)

⁹ David Masci, Elizabeth Podrebarac Sciuipac and Michael Lipka, 28 October 2019, *Gay Marriage Around the World*, Pew Research Center.

[Gay Marriage Around the World | Pew Research Center](#)

¹⁰ Julie Bhatia, 25 June 2020, *LGBTQ Acceptance Growing in U.S. and Other Countries Over Time*, U.S. News.

[LGBTQ Acceptance Growing in U.S. and Other Countries Over Time \(usnews.com\)](#)

¹¹ Eric Baculino, 07 July 2020, *Why is China raising the prospect of same-sex marriage?*, NBC News.

[Why is China raising the prospect of same-sex marriage? \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

¹² Jacob Poushter and Nicholas Kent, 25 June 2020, *Views of Homosexuality Around the World*, Pew Research Center.

LIBRARY HOUR

Monday to Friday
8.45am – 5.30pm

E-RESOURCES

E-Journals on (1) Human Rights Law Review and (2) Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law and other Free E-Resource

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and friends as half of the respondents are likely to have a negative reaction.¹⁸ Therefore, legal recognition plays a crucial role in affirming one's self-worth and social responsibility.¹⁹

[Views of Homosexuality Around the World | Pew Research Center](#)

¹³ The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, art. 31.

¹⁴ 30 July 2015, *LGBT Rights*, OHCHR.

[LGBT Rights | OHCHR](#)

¹⁵ LGBT Rights in Cambodia, Equaldex.

[LGBT Rights in Cambodia | Equaldex](#)

¹⁶ 30 July 2015, *LGBT Rights*, OHCHR.

[LGBT Rights | OHCHR](#)

¹⁷ 20 January 2023, *Cambodia: Legal recognition of LGBT families key to social integration says UN expert*, OHCHR.

[Cambodia: Legal recognition of LGBT families key to social integration says UN expert | OHCHR](#)

[UN expert | OHCHR](#)

¹⁸ Statista Research Development, 23 March 2022,

LGBTQ+ worldwide – Statistics & Facts, Statista.

[LGBTQ+ worldwide - Statistics & Facts | Statista](#)

¹⁹ 20 January 2023, *Cambodia: Legal recognition of LGBT families key to social integration says UN expert*,

OHCHR.

[Cambodia: Legal recognition of LGBT families key to social integration says UN expert | OHCHR](#)

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