



The issue:

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

In more than 70 countries, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people may be arrested, jailed or even killed, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



damn facts

In more than 70 countries, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people can be arrested, jailed or even killed, based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.¹²

Eight countries carry a death sentence for same-sex conduct.¹³

More than 31 murders of gay and transgender people have occurred in Honduras since mid-2009.¹⁴

One in 3 instances of extortion against gay and transgender people in Cameroon have been committed by victims' neighbors, 1 in 10 by family members and 1 in 10 by police officers.¹⁶

The Yogyakarta Principles outline 29 specific human rights as they related to gay and transgender people.¹⁶

a project of

Equality in Every Language: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

To be treated with equality, dignity and fairness is a fundamental right of *all* people.

Yet in many parts of the world, the oppression and mistreatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is not just common, but also culturally tolerated and accepted. In more than 70 countries, gay and transgender people can be arrested and jailed, or even killed, based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.¹

And around the world, gay and transgender people are regularly threatened, arbitrarily detained by police, forced into psychiatric "treatment," blackmailed, denied medical care, tortured... even murdered.²

WHAT CONSTITUTE HUMAN RIGHTS!

All human beings are entitled to certain inalienable rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948,³ helped codify these rights, but its enforcement has been inconsistent—particularly when it comes to sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 2006, a group of international human rights experts met in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to establish a set of international principles of human rights specifically relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Yogyakarta Principles detail 29 rights as they relate to gay and transgender people, including:⁴

- The right to equality and non-discrimination
- The right to recognition before the law
- The right to privacy
- The right to freedom from arbitrary deprivation of liberty
- The right to a fair trial
- The right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- The right to education
- Protection from medical abuses
- The right to freedom of opinion and expression
- The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- The right to participate in public and cultural life

WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TAKE PLACE!

Unfortunately, human rights violations against gay and transgender people abound. In many parts of the world, anti-gay sentiment is culturally evident, if not institutionalized across a country's laws and systems. For example:

In Iran, being gay—or, more specifically, engaging in same-sex conduct—can be punishable by death. Seven other countries also carry a death sentence related to people's



EQUALITY. EVERYWHERE.

www.allout.org

All Out brings people together of every identity—lesbian, gay, straight, transgender and all that's between and beyond—to advance the lives and freedoms of LGBT people around the world.



I G L H R C

www.iglhrc.org

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission is a leading international organization dedicated to human rights advocacy on behalf of people who experience discrimination or abuse on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

sexual orientation.⁵ Many other nations carry sentences of several years in prison.

Uganda infamously proposed legislation, dubbed the “Kill the Gays” bill, that would have required all gay Ugandans to be jailed for life.⁶ While this bill reportedly has been defeated, other countries have moved forward with their own anti-gay legislation. In late 2010, the Malawian parliament, for example, amended the country’s penal code to criminalize same-sex conduct between women.⁷

Transgender activists in Turkey are regularly harassed and arbitrarily detained by police.⁸

In 2009, the Philippines Commission on Election rejected a request in 2009 by a gay rights organization to register as a political party, saying the group advocated “immorality” and that gay people are a “threat to youth.”⁹ (This decision was later reversed.)

In Indonesia in 2010, fundamentalist groups threatened violence and so disrupted a conference of a respected international gay rights organization that police canceled the meeting and attendees were forced to flee in fear for their lives.¹⁰

A recent report found that more than 1 in 4 gay men in Botswana reported being victims of blackmail or extortion, simply because of their sexual orientation.¹¹ Similar instances of extortion occur elsewhere in Africa, and if they have the courage to report it to authorities, gay and transgender victims often get charged under sodomy laws.

IT’S TIME TO GIVE A DAMN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

It’s time to give a damn about international human rights.

It’s time to give a damn, because it’s the 21st century, and there is no place in today’s world for bigotry and hatred.

It’s time to give a damn, because human rights should be a given for every person, in every corner of the world.

But most of all, it’s time to give a damn...because it’s the right thing to do.

WE GIVE A DAMN. DO YOU?

I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS! Now What?

- **JOIN THE GIVE A DAMN CAMPAIGN:** The Give A Damn Campaign is for everybody who cares about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality, especially all you straight people out there!
 - Register now at www.wegiveadamn.org
- **GET INFORMED:** Learn more about the issues.
 - Watch a Damn Video or read people’s Personal Stories
 - Check out our Damn Blog, which is updated daily

- **GET INVOLVED:** Spread the word about equality to family and friends!
 - Share a Damn Video or tell us your Personal Story
 - Forward this PDF
- **VISIT OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERS’ WEBSITES**
 - International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission: www.iglhrc.org
 - All Out: www.allout.org

www.wegiveadamn.org



1 International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). www.iglhrc.org
 2 IGLHRC. “About Us,” April 2010. www.iglhrc.org
 3 United Nations. “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml
 4 The Yogyakarta Principles. “About the Yogyakarta Principles.” www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/index.html See also IGLHRC. www.iglhrc.org

5 Daniel Ottoson. “State-Sponsored Homophobia,” May 2010. www.igla.org
 6 International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. “Uganda’s ‘Kill the Gays’ Bill Appears to be Dead.” www.igla.org
 7–10 IGLHRC. www.iglhrc.org
 11 IGLHRC. “Nowhere to Turn: Blackmail and Extortion of LGBT People in Sub-Saharan Africa,” 2011. See also IGLHRC. “LGBT Africans Face Blackmail and Extortion on a Regular Basis,” February 2011. www.iglhrc.org

12 See 1.
 13 See 5.
 14 See 1.
 15 See 11.
 16 See 4.