



**Killing of LGBTIQ+ Persons**  
**Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions**  
**June 7, 2024**

Outright International works with partners around the globe to strengthen the capacity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) human rights movement, document and expose human rights violations against LGBTIQ people, and advocate for inclusion and equality. Founded in 1990, with staff in over a dozen countries, Outright works with the United Nations, regional human rights monitoring bodies, and civil society partners. Outright holds consultative status at the United Nations, where it serves as the secretariat of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

This submission is a response to the call for inputs from the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions (hereinafter “EJE”) for the upcoming thematic report on killings of LGBTIQ persons. This submission will highlight a number of recent (primarily from 2020 - 2024) examples of killings of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. The list of examples is non-exhaustive and was compiled by Outright International staff members in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and staff members engaging with the United Nations New York headquarters. It is organized by UN regional groupings of member states and listed in alphabetical order based on the name of the country in which the incident took place.<sup>1</sup> The examples are followed by a series of recommendations.

We fully affirm that a case in which a person is killed by a state authority on the basis of that person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics is an arbitrary execution not in compliance with international human rights law. We are deeply concerned by the increasing number of governments enacting the death penalty for consensual same-sex acts, including Uganda, which punishes same-sex intimacy with death under its 2022 Anti-Homosexuality Act, and Afghanistan, where there are indications the Taliban’s position is that consensual same-sex intimacy is punishable by death.<sup>2</sup> However, we have not covered these instances in detail in this report and have instead focused on extrajudicial killings by non-state actors.

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Groups of Member States, UN Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/regional-groups>.

<sup>2</sup> Risdal Kasasira, Ugandan court upholds anti-gay law that allows the death penalty in some cases, Associated Press (April 3, 2024) <https://apnews.com/article/uganda-antigay-law-constitution-court-651623657b0a971e755080c7bda40a8b>; Afghan LGBT, The Taliban Issues Four Orders of “Killing Under the Wall” on the Charge of “Sodomy” (May 5, 2023) <https://afghanlgbt.com/en/content/yB6D/>. See also article on Taliban’s edict to stone women who commit adultery, which would apply to lesbian sex: Ruchi Kumar, Taliban Edict to Resume Stoning Women to Death Met with Horror, The Guardian (March 28, 2024) <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/28/taliban-edict-to-resume-stoning-women-to-death-met-with-horror>.

## Africa:

- In January 2023, Edwin Chiloba, a 25-year-old prominent LGBTQ activist, was murdered in **Kenya**.<sup>3</sup>
- In April 2022, Sheila Adhiambo Lumumba, a 25-year-old non-binary lesbian, was sexually assaulted and murdered in Nairobi, **Kenya**. In December 2023, a man was convicted of the murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison.<sup>4</sup>
- Queer activists have connected a number of murders of LGBTIQ persons in **Namibia** in 2024 to the passage of a 2023 anti-LGBTIQ bill in Namibia's National Assembly and Council. An activist with the Namibia Equal Rights Movement, a youth-led organization working to end homophobia and discrimination, said: "The rise in hate crimes and violence towards LGBTIQ+ Namibians is a direct result of the passage of the anti-LGBTIQ+ bill by the Namibian Parliament and the rise in religious extremism in Namibia, fanning the flames of hate by church leaders... by passing that bill, Parliament sent a license to discriminate, to assault, to incite violence and to kill, towards LGBTIQ+ persons."<sup>5</sup>
  - In January 2024, Vernon Gavin, a 52-year-old queer man, was murdered by two men in Walvis Bay, **Namibia**.<sup>6</sup>
  - In March 2024, Lucky Uwuseb, a 35-year-old transgender woman, was found dead from a suspected hate crime in Golgota, **Namibia**. A suspect was arrested.<sup>7</sup>
  - In March 2024, Stanley Sebastian Cloete, a 36-year-old queer man, was robbed and murdered in Dorado Park, **Namibia**.<sup>8</sup>
  - In March 2024, Gurney Elrich Uirab, a queer man, was stabbed to death in Tsumeb, **Namibia**, after being followed by three people who used homophobic slurs against him. Uirab was stabbed by one of these people after standing up for himself.<sup>9</sup>
  - In May 2024, Christof Fredricks, 30-year-old transgender woman, was discovered dead with 32 stab wounds and her genitals mutilated and placed on her chest in Otjomuise, **Namibia**.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Juma Majanga, Five Suspects Held in Murder of Kenyan LGBTQ Activist, VOA (January 9, 2023) <https://www.voanews.com/a/five-suspects-held-in-murder-of-kenyan-lgbtq-activist/6911654.html>

<sup>4</sup> Erin Kilbride, Inadequate Kenyan Police Response to Brutal Killing of Non-Binary Lesbian, HRW (April 29, 2022) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/29/inadequate-kenyan-police-response-brutal-killing-non-binary-lesbian>; Daniel Itai, Transgender Woman Brutally Attacked in Namibia (16 January, 2024), <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2024/01/16/transgender-woman-brutally-attacked-in-namibia/>.

<sup>5</sup> Daniel Itai, Transgender Woman Brutally Attacked in Namibia (16 January, 2024), <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2024/01/16/transgender-woman-brutally-attacked-in-namibia/>.

<sup>6</sup> Adam Hartman, Walvis rape and murder suspects in court, The Namibian (4 January 2024), <https://www.namibian.com.na/walvis-rape-and-murder-suspects-in-court/>.

<sup>7</sup> Zorena Jantze, Member of LGBTQ community found dead in riverbed, Informanté (March 6, 2024), <https://informante.web.na/?p=355378>.

<sup>8</sup> Man robbed and murdered in his home in Dorado Park, Informanté (March 4, 2024); Zorena Jantze, Member of LGBTQ community found dead in riverbed, Informanté (March 6, 2024), <https://informante.web.na/?p=355378>.

<sup>9</sup> Zorena Jantze, Tsumeb man killed after allegedly responding to homophobic remarks, Informanté (March 27, 2024) <https://informante.web.na/?p=356207>

<sup>10</sup> Puyeipawa Nakashole and Shelleygan Petersen, Mutilated body of transgender woman discovered, The Namibian (May 2, 2024), <https://www.namibian.com.na/mutilated-body-of-transgender-woman-discovered/#:~:text=The%20body%20of%20a%20transgender,Laan%20in%20Windhoek%20on%20Thursday>.

- In late 2021, Obisike Donald Ibe, a 37-year-old queer man, was murdered in Abuja, **Nigeria**. The suspected perpetrator said he had committed the murder because Ibe wanted to have a “homosexual affair” with him.<sup>11</sup>
- In early 2021, a series of murders of LGBTQ persons took place in **South Africa**. Queer communities called for hate crime legislation to be passed in the wake of these murders, and criticized the government for not acting to prevent the killings.<sup>12</sup> The government has since passed legislation prohibiting hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.<sup>13</sup> The bill created a new criminal offense of a “hate crime” and a new criminal offense of “hate speech.”<sup>14</sup> It also aggravates sentences for existing crimes if they are hate-motivated. Punishment for hate crimes or hate speech may be fines, imprisonment, correctional supervision, a caution, or another punishment.<sup>15</sup>
  - In February 2021, Bonang Gaelae, a 29-year-old lesbian, was stabbed to death in South Africa’s Sebokeng township.<sup>16</sup> The attack was against both Gaelae and her transgender partner, who was injured.<sup>17</sup>
  - In March 2021, Nonhlanhla Kunene, a 37-year-old lesbian, was raped and murdered in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.<sup>18</sup>
  - In March 2021, Sphamandla Khoza, a 34-year-old gay man, was stabbed to death in Durban, South Africa. He was murdered by a number of people after they had been taunting him about his sexuality.<sup>19</sup>
  - In April 2021, Nathaniel Mbele, a gay man, was stabbed to death in a township near Vaal, South Africa, in what appeared to be an attack based on his sexuality.<sup>20</sup>
  - In April 2021, Andile ‘Lulu’ Nthuthela, a 41-year-old gay man, was found murdered, mutilated, and buried in a shallow grave after being reported missing on the Eastern Cape of South Africa.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Oditia Sunday, “I murdered him because he tried to lure me into homosexuality,” killer of Abuja doctor confesses, The Guardian (January 20, 2022)

<https://guardian.ng/news/i-murdered-him-because-he-tried-to-lure-me-into-homosexuality-killer-of-abuja-doctor-confesses/>

<sup>12</sup> Ashraf Hendricks, Queer community demands justice for gay man murdered in the Eastern Cape, GroundUp, April 17, 2021 <https://groundup.org.za/article/queer-community-demand-justice-gay-man-murdered-eastern-cape>.

<sup>13</sup> Act No. 16 of 2023: Prevention and combating of Hate Crimes and Hate speech Act, 2023, [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202405/50652preventionandcombatingofhatecrimesandhatespeech162023.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202405/50652preventionandcombatingofhatecrimesandhatespeech162023.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Hate Crimes Working Group, An easy-to-read explainer on the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill (2021)

<https://hwcg.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/An-easy-to-read-explainer-Prevention-and-Combating-of-Hate-Crimes-and-Hate-Speech-Bill-September-2021.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Kim Harrisburg, LGBTQ+ South Africans Resist 'War on Queerness' as Activists Demand Justice After Killings, Global Citizen (May 17, 2021), <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/fear-lgbt-south-africans-war-on-queerness/>,

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*; Roberto Igual, Queer hate rocks SA: Gay Gauteng Man Stabbed to Death, Mamba Online (April 14, 2021), <https://mamba.lgbt/2021/04/14/queer-hate-rocks-sa-gay-gauteng-man-stabbed-to-death/>

<sup>18</sup> Roberto Igeal, Lesbian Woman Murdered in Pietermaritzburg, Mamba Online (March 12, 2021) <https://www.mambaonline.com/2021/03/12/report-lesbian-woman-murdered-in-pietermaritzburg/>

<sup>19</sup> Unathu Nkanjeni, #JusticeforSpha: What you need to know about KZN man killed in alleged homophobic hate crime, Times Live (April 7, 2021), <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-04-07-justiceforspha-what-you-need-to-know-about-kzn-man-killed-in-alleged-homophobic-hate-crime/>

<sup>20</sup> Roberto Igual, Queer hate rocks SA: Gay Gauteng Man Stabbed to Death, Mamba Online (April 14, 2021), <https://mamba.lgbt/2021/04/14/queer-hate-rocks-sa-gay-gauteng-man-stabbed-to-death/>

<sup>21</sup> Ashraf Hendricks, Queer community demands justice for gay man murdered in the Eastern Cape, GroundUp, April 17, 2021 <https://groundup.org.za/article/queer-community-demand-justice-gay-man-murdered-eastern-cape>; Emma Powys Maurice, Gay

- In April 2021, Lonwabo Jack, a 22-year-old gay man, was stabbed to death, likely after being raped, in Mau Mau, Nyanga East, South Africa.<sup>22</sup>
- In February 2024, Diego Jacobs, a 21-year-old gay man, was murdered in Delft Township, **South Africa**. A former neighbor stabbed Jacobs in the neck after harassing him about his queer identity and using an epithet related to his sexuality.<sup>23</sup>

### **Asia and Pacific:**

- In **Afghanistan**, the Taliban’s return to power in August 2021 left many LGBTIQ Afghans fearing for their lives. Between September and October 2022, Outright International interviewed 22 LGBTIQ Afghans, all of them currently in Afghanistan. Their accounts suggest that Taliban security officials now appear to be pursuing LGBTIQ people – especially gay men and trans women – more systematically than in the first few months of Taliban rule. “Ghulam” (pseudonym), an activist in a major city who provided counseling to LGBTIQ people, disappeared in January 2022. Ghulam was ultimately found dead outside a police station, his body bearing bruises as if he had been whipped and beaten with the butt of a rifle. “Nabil” (pseudonym), Ghulam’s brother, said a doctor examine Ghulam’s body before burial and found evidence that Ghulam had been raped. Nabil said the doctor wanted to produce a written report stating Ghulam had been sexually assaulted, but the family refused out of fear it could be interpreted as evidence that he was gay. The family accused Taliban police of torturing and killing Ghulam, but Nabil said the Taliban police denied involvement. Nabil’s account was confirmed by a friend who also said he witnessed the brutalized body.<sup>24</sup>
- In September 2022, Nila, a 24-year-old person from the Hijra community, was stabbed to death in Dhaka, **Bangladesh**. LGBT rights campaigner Shahanur Islam said that the murder should not be seen as an isolated incident, but rather a part of a pattern of attacks against LGBT people around the country.<sup>25</sup>
- In December 2023, JusticeMakers Bangladesh released a report entitled “State of LGBTQI+ Rights in Bangladesh 2022.” In the report, JusticeMakers recorded 11 incidents of LGBTIQ persons being murdered across **Bangladesh** in 2022.<sup>26</sup>
- In March 2024, a 52-year-old gay man was murdered in Varachha, **India**. Three people lured him to an apartment through an online dating app, and when he arrived, they threatened to “out” his sexual orientation if he did not give them money. When the victim did not have money, they murdered him.<sup>27</sup>

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man found murdered on his 22nd birthday. He’s the fourth in less than a month, PinkNews, April 21, 2021, <https://www.thepinknews.com/2021/04/21/lonwabo-jack-gay-man-murder-south-africa-lgbt-hate-crime/>.

<sup>22</sup> Emma Powys Maurice, Gay man found murdered on his 22nd birthday. He’s the fourth in less than a month, PinkNews, April 21, 2021, <https://www.thepinknews.com/2021/04/21/lonwabo-jack-gay-man-murder-south-africa-lgbt-hate-crime/>.

<sup>23</sup> Roberto Igual, Hate Crime Murder of Gay 21-Year-Old Diego Jacobs in Cape Town, Mamba Online (February 7, 2024), <https://www.mambaonline.com/2024/02/07/hate-crime-murder-of-queer-21-year-old-in-cape-town/>.

<sup>24</sup> Outright International, *A Mountain on My Shoulders: 18 months of Taliban Persecution of LGBTIQ Afghans*, February 14 2023, available at: <https://outrightinternational.org/Afghanistan-Report2023>. Interviewees said they knew of 38 additional LGBTIQ Afghans who had been detained, assaulted, or, in a few cases, were believed to have been killed by Taliban officials. Details of these cases are not included in this report because they could not be confirmed by Outright, but these accounts suggest the abuse of LGBTIQ people go far beyond what is described here.

<sup>25</sup> Colin Stewart, Latest trans murder in Bangladesh is part of a worldwide problem, 76 Crimes (October 20, 2022) <https://76crimes.com/2022/10/20/latest-trans-murder-in-bangladesh-is-part-of-a-worldwide-problem/>

<sup>26</sup> Press Release: JMBF Publishes State of LGBTQI+ Rights in Bangladesh 2022: Reveals Alarming Levels of Violence, Advocate Shahanur Islam Blog (December 18, 2023) <https://shahanur.blogspot.com/2023/12/press-release-jmbf-publishes-state-of.html>

<sup>27</sup> Diamond worker lured over gay dating app murdered, Times of India (March 9, 2024) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/diamond-worker-murdered-in-surat-after-being-lured-over-gay-dating-app/articleshow/108339580.cms>.

- In June 2023, Poonam Kumari, a 27-year-old queer woman from Shahjahanpur, **India**, was strangled to death by a person who claimed he could change Kumari’s gender through a ritual. Kumari and her partner had faced opposition to their relationship from both of their families after her partner would not marry a man. Members of both families and the person who claimed to perform a gender-change ritual are accused of conspiring to murder Kumari.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2022, Deepika Bonam, a transgender person, was murdered by her partner in Telangana, **India**. Her partner also stole money she had earned by performing in the Bonalu festival in which transgender women play an important role.<sup>29</sup>
- In August 2021, Reshpal, a gay man, was stabbed to death by his son in Muzaffarnagar, **India**. The victim’s son said his father’s sexuality “tarnished the reputation” of the family.<sup>30</sup>
- In **Iraq**, members of armed groups, state security personnel, and the public have targeted LGBTQ persons for murder. The attacks are often in public and carried out during the day. The Iraqi state has largely let these murders and attempted murders take place with impunity.<sup>31</sup> In May 2020, a 27-year-old gay man saw his boyfriend abducted, beaten, and murdered with five gunshots in an area West of Baghdad, Iraq. In February 2020, both men had received multiple death threats online using homophobic slurs.<sup>32</sup>
- Many incidents of deadly violence against transgender people in **Pakistan** have been recorded within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where activists have said police do not take reports of violence seriously and attacks go underreported.<sup>33</sup> The province borders Afghanistan and has seen heavily militarized interventions and consequent illegal arms proliferation.<sup>34</sup>
  - In early 2022, Mano, a transgender woman, was shot dead by her boyfriend when she tried to collect money that he owed her. Her death came on the heels of five transgender women being killed in their homes and on the streets in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.<sup>35</sup>
  - In 2022, Farzana Riaz, who leads the civil society organization Trans-Action Alliance, said that since 2015, 91 transgender women were killed in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and there were 2000 registered cases of violence against transgender people during the same timeframe.<sup>36</sup>
  - In September 2020, Saad, a transgender man, was shot dead by his brother in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.<sup>37</sup>
  - In September 2020, a man killed one transgender woman and wounded another after open firing on a group of trans women in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>28</sup> 'Tantrik' kills lesbian in Uttar Pradesh on pretext of changing her gender, Deccan Herald (June 21, 2023)

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/tantrik-kills-lesbian-in-uttar-pradesh-on-pretext-of-changing-her-gender-1229756.html>

<sup>29</sup> Sumedha Pal, Why Lives And Deaths Of Trans Persons Remain Underreported, Undocumented, Behan Box (November 20, 2023) <https://behanbox.com/2023/11/20/why-lives-and-deaths-of-trans-persons-remain-underreported-undocumented/>.

<sup>30</sup> Josh Milton, Homophobe ‘stabs own father to death for being in a same-sex relationship’, PinkNews (September 13, 2021)

<https://www.thepinknews.com/2021/09/13/father-son-murder-india/>

<sup>31</sup> “Everyone Wants Me Dead”: Killings, Abductions, Torture, and Sexual Violence Against LGBT People by Armed Groups in Iraq, Human Rights Watch (March 23, 2022),

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/03/23/everyone-wants-me-dead/killings-abductions-torture-and-sexual-violence-against#9083>.

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> Shah Meer Baloch, Pakistan’s transgender women protest against rising tide of violence, The Guardian (April 1, 2022)

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/apr/01/pakistan-transgender-women-protest-against-rising-tide-of-violence>

<sup>34</sup> Govt Orders Clampdowns on Illegal Weapons, Dawn (June 13, 2024) <https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/1821766>

<sup>35</sup> Shah Meer Baloch, Pakistan’s transgender women protest against rising tide of violence, The Guardian (April 1, 2022)

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/apr/01/pakistan-transgender-women-protest-against-rising-tide-of-violence>

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> Transgender Man Killed By Brother In Northwestern Pakistan, RadioFreeEurope (September 11, 2020)

<https://www.rferl.org/a/transgender-man-killed-by-brother-in-northwestern-pakistan/30833868.html>

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

- A report based on data obtained from the Inspector General of the Punjab Police showed that 23 transgender people were killed in Punjab, **Pakistan**, in the seven years leading up to 2021. The report notes that this number is low due to underreporting. A member of the organization Youth Parliament for Transgender said of the low number of reports: “The biggest reason is that there are a large number of transgender people whose families are not ready to adopt them, so whenever there is an abuse or an accident with them, there is no one to report it...similarly, an important issue is that even if someone from the transgender community goes to the police station to report such a murder or accident, their complaint is not taken seriously.”<sup>39</sup>

## **Caribbean and Latin America:**

### **Caribbean:**

- In July 2023, Jonty Robinson, a 24-year-old gay man, was murdered in the Morne Rouge area of **Grenada**. While the police have said they have no evidence linking his death to homophobia, civil society groups including the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE) have raised concerns that authorities have not thoroughly or promptly investigated the perpetrator or motives of the murder. “There is additional responsibility of authorities where lives, particularly of gay men, are at risk, whether through public, domestic or intimate-partner violence, fuelled by public policy and discriminatory laws,” says ECADE’s executive director, Kenita Placide.<sup>40</sup>
- In April 2021, Latchman Singh (also known as Anthony, Marc Anthony, and Maria Venus Raj), a queer drag artist, was stabbed to death in **Trinidad and Tobago**. Members of the Caribbean Equality Project wrote: “Singh’s death comes as a devastating reminder of the horrific ongoing consequences of homophobia and sexual violence that continue to plague the landscape of the Caribbean and its diasporas.”<sup>41</sup>

### **Latin America:**

- In May 2024, three lesbian women - Pamela Fabiana Cobas, Mercedes Roxana Figueroa, and Andrea Amarante - died, and one other lesbian woman was left in critical condition, after a man threw a Molotov cocktail into their boarding house room in Buenos Aires, **Argentina**. Neighbors reported that the perpetrator had repeatedly harassed the women on the basis of their sexual orientation.<sup>42</sup> Argentinian human rights defenders have linked recent disparaging comments about LGBTIQ persons made by politicians to high levels of violence against queer communities.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Shebab Omer, Transgender people brutally killed in Punjab over past seven years (October 1, 2021)

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2021/10/01/transgender-people-brutally-killed-in-punjab-over-past-seven-years/>

<sup>40</sup> ECADE calls for action in Jonty Robinson murder case, Loop Caribbean News (August 8, 2023),

<https://caribbean.loopnews.com/content/ecade-calls-action-jonty-robinson-murder-case>.

<sup>41</sup> Colin Stewart, Mourners Protest Murder of Caribbean Drag Artist, 76 Crimes (May 20, 2021)

<https://76crimes.com/2021/05/20/mourners-protest-murder-of-caribbean-drag-artist/>.

<sup>42</sup> Mar Centenera, ‘They Were Killed Because They were Lesbians’: Attack on Women Burned Alive shocks Argentina, El País (May 15, 2024)

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-05-15/they-were-killed-because-they-were-lesbians-attack-on-women-burned-alive-shocks-argentina.html>

<sup>43</sup> Erin Kilbride, Lesbian Women Set on Fire in Argentina, Human Rights Watch (May 14, 2024)

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/14/lesbian-women-set-fire-argentina#:~:text=Three%20lesbian%20women%20have%20died,burned%20and%20died%20almost%20immediately.>

- Violence against LGBTQ persons in **Colombia** has continued post-conflict. Colombia Diversa, a human rights organization based in Bogotá, recorded that in 2023 alone 8 LGBTQ human rights defenders were killed in Colombia.<sup>44</sup>
- In February 2023, Aldinebin Ramos, a peacebuilder and the co-founder of the Association LGBTQ+ Chaparrel Diversa in **Colombia**, was gunned down in his home by unknown assailants.<sup>45</sup>

### **Eastern Europe:**

- In February 2022, Avaz Hafizli, a 24-year-old queer man and an LGBTIQ activist, was murdered, decapitated, and castrated by his cousin in an “honor killing” in **Azerbaijan**.<sup>46</sup>
- In July 2022, Sabrina Houston, a 37-year-old transgender woman, was stabbed to death in Harju, **Estonia** after a person discovered her transgender identity.<sup>47</sup>
- In October 2022, two queer men were shot and killed outside of an LGBT bar in Bratislava, **Slovakia**.<sup>48</sup> The perpetrator had posted an anti-LGBT and anti-Semitic manifesto on Twitter just before the killings.<sup>49</sup>

### **Western Europe and Other States:**

- In April 2021, David P., a 42-year-old gay man, was murdered by three people in Beveren, **Belgium**. The three people lured David to a park by creating a dating profile and arranging a date on Grindr, a gay dating app; they then attacked and killed him.<sup>50</sup>
- Between September 2010 and June 2017, a man killed eight gay men between the ages of 40 and 58 in Toronto, **Canada**.<sup>51</sup>
- In June 2022, two people were killed and eight others hospitalized when a man opened fire at a bar which describes itself as “the largest gay and lesbian venue in Oslo,” **Norway**. Organizers canceled Oslo’s annual pride parade following the shooting on the advice of police.<sup>52</sup>
- In April 2020 in **Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory in the Caribbean**, the Human Rights Campaign reported that there had been at least 10 killings of LGBTIQ persons in Puerto Rico over the

<sup>44</sup> Colombia Diversa, La realidad de la discriminación Situación de derechos humanos de las personas LGBTIQ+ en Colombia (December 2023)

<https://colombiadiversa.org/c-diversa/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Resumen-ejecutivo-Informe-Colombia-Diversa.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> Justice for Colombia, *Colombia Human Rights Update February 2024*, 1 March 2024,

<https://justiceforcolombia.org/news/colombia-human-rights-update-february-2024/>

<sup>46</sup> The Timeline Leading From Anti-LGBTI Instagram Posts to the “Honor Killing” of an LGBTI Activist in Azerbaijan, ILGA Europe (August 8, 2022)

<https://www.ilga-europe.org/blog/the-timeline-leading-from-anti-lgbti-instagram-posts-to-the-honour-killing-of-an-lgbti-activist-in-azerbaijan/>; Heather Cassell, Out in the World: LGBTQ Azerbaijani activists angered by lenient sentence in gay journalist’s murder, Bay Area Reporter (August 5, 2022) <https://www.ebar.com/story.php?ch=news&sc=news&id=317896>

<sup>47</sup> Estonian Court Sentences Killer of Trans Woman to 12 Years in Prison, Baltic Times (July 14, 2023)

<https://www.baltictimes.com/estonian-court-sentences-killer-of-trans-woman-to-12-years-in-prison/>; Sabrina Houston, Remembering Our Dead (July 9, 2022)

[https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2022/07/09/sabrina-houston\\_talinn-harju-estonia\\_96b64fb8](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2022/07/09/sabrina-houston_talinn-harju-estonia_96b64fb8)

<sup>48</sup> Michaela Terenzani and Peter Dlhopolec, Years of LGBT Intolerance in Slovakia Culminate in Two Killings (October 17, 2022) <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/17/years-of-lgbt-intolerance-in-slovakia-culminate-in-two-killings/>

<sup>49</sup> Elsa Maishman, Slovakia LGBT attack: Thousands gather at vigil outside Bratislava bar, BBC (October 14, 2022)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63267451>

<sup>50</sup> Hannah Ryan, He was lured to his death in a secluded park. In a pandemic, dating can be deadly for LGBTQ+ people, CNN (April 4, 2021) <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/04/europe/belgium-david-p-murder-lgbtq-pandemic-cmd-intl/index.html>

<sup>51</sup> Robin Levinson-King, Bruce McArthur: Toronto serial killer destroyed gay safe space, BBC (January 29, 2019)

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<sup>52</sup> Jessie Yeung, *Oslo shooting near gay bar investigated as terrorism, as Pride parade is canceled*, CNN (June 26, 2022), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/24/europe/norway-oslo-gay-bar-shooting-intl-hnk/index.html>.

previous 15 months. Five of the deaths took place over a two-month period in 2020. The Human Rights Campaign said that authorities were not giving sufficient attention to the killings.<sup>53</sup>

- In August 2023, a mass shooting targeted a queer and trans punk music event in South Minneapolis, **United States of America** (USA), killing one person and injuring six others.<sup>54</sup>
- In May 2024, a person in a car shot repeatedly at four different LGBTIQ bars in California, **USA**. While no one was killed, at least three people were hit by bullets and once was hospitalized.<sup>55</sup>
- In June 2023, a man attempted to murder a lesbian woman in Montana, **USA**. The man fired a rifle at her home, and then went to other homes occupied by people who identified as lesbian, gay or queer while armed with two assault rifles, a hunting rifle, two pistols and multiple magazines. He was recorded yelling about his hatred toward gay and lesbian residents of the community and his plan to “clean” them from his town.<sup>56</sup>
- In November 2022, five people - Daniel Ashton, a 28-year-old transgender man; Kelly Loving, a 40-year-old transgender woman; Ashley Paugh, a 35-year-old straight and cisgender woman; Derrick Rump, a 38-year-old gay man; and Raymond Green Vance, a 22-year-old LGBTIQ ally - were killed, and 19 injured, in a mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado Springs, **USA**.<sup>57</sup>

### Recommendations

- Member states must uphold the obligations set forth by international treaties to which they are a signatory and end targeted abuses, including killings, of LGBTIQ people.
- Member states should publicly call for an end to all violence against anyone based on a person’s perceived or actual sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics.
- Member states should adopt and enforce laws and regulations that prohibit all forms of violence and discrimination on any grounds, including a person’s perceived or actual sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics, and provide meaningful remedies including justice, compensation, and assistance to survivors of violence and their communities.

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<sup>53</sup> HRC Responds to Rash of Anti-LGBTQ Violence in Puerto Rico, HRC (April 30, 2020)

<https://www.hrc.org/news/hrc-responds-to-rash-of-anti-lgbtq-violence-in-puerto-rico>

<sup>54</sup> Reckon Media, Nudieland, a haven for queer and trans punks, shattered by hate-fueled mass shooting, August 15 2023, <https://www.reckon.news/lgbtq/2023/08/nudieland-a-haven-for-queer-and-trans-punks-shattered-by-hate-fueled-mass-shooting.html>; Star Tribune, Man shot at Minneapolis punk show was talented songwriter, dedicated friend, August 13 2023, <https://www.startribune.com/man-shot-at-minneapolis-punk-show-was-talented-songwriter-dedicated-friend/600296856/?refresh=true>

<sup>55</sup> Mira Lazine, Four LGBTQ+ bars targeted in mysterious drive-by shootings, LGBTQ Nation (May 20, 2024)

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2024/05/four-lgbtq-bars-targeted-in-mysterious-drive-by-shootings/>

<sup>56</sup> Tina Burnside, Montana man sentenced to 18 years in prison for shooting at and threatening LGBTQ residents in his town, officials say, CNN (June 15, 2023)

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/15/us/montana-john-howald-lgbtq-hate-crimes-sentencing/index.html>

<sup>57</sup> David K. Li and Chantal Da Silva, Authorities identify the 5 victims killed in the Colorado Springs LGBTQ club shooting, NBC (November 21, 2022)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/live-blog/live-updates-colorado-lgbtq-nightclub-shooting-victims-mourned-community-rcna58126>; Daniel Arkin, Deon J. Hampton and Steve Patterson, What we know about the victims of the Colorado Springs Club Q shooting, NBC (November 21, 2022)

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[https://gazette.com/special-coverage/continuing/club-q-shooting/club-q-victim-derrick-rump-bartender-was-the-heart-of-club-q/article\\_4c2d0856-69f7-11ed-a2d3-13d0360a245b.html](https://gazette.com/special-coverage/continuing/club-q-shooting/club-q-victim-derrick-rump-bartender-was-the-heart-of-club-q/article_4c2d0856-69f7-11ed-a2d3-13d0360a245b.html)



- Member states should remove laws that criminalize same-sex relations and otherwise stigmatize or discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics.
- Member states and United Nations entities should develop relationships with, meaningfully consult, and adequately resource LGBTIQ civil society organizations to ensure laws, policies, and programs addressing violence are inclusive of their needs.
- Member States should maintain protections for persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in United Nations resolutions, including by biannually renewing the resolution on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions with a reference to sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Member states and UN entities should sensitize police departments, judiciaries, and public institutions to the needs of LGBTIQ persons, ensuring that all people are respected and treated with dignity.
- Member states and UN entities should collect data on unlawful killings, and disaggregate that data by sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.
- Following the good practices evidenced by Colombia's Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition Commission and its Special Jurisdiction for Peace, states that have experienced armed conflict should take steps to investigate, prosecute, and provide reparations for gender persecution and any other serious crimes committed on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics during the armed conflict.