

LGBTIQ HUMAN RIGHTS · POLICY BRIEF

“LGBT PROPAGANDA” AND “PROMOTION” LAWS

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression on Sexual and
Gender Diversity

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KEY POINTS

- “LGBT propaganda” and “promotion” laws restrict neutral or positive information, expression, advocacy, services, and public recognition related to sexual orientation and gender diversity. Governments generally justify these laws as protecting children, defending “traditional values,” preserving public morality, or discouraging conduct already criminalized under domestic law, such as same-sex conduct.
- These laws are instruments of state discrimination that enforce invisibility and stigma against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) people and their families.
- “Propaganda” and “promotion” laws restrict freedom of expression, assembly, and association, leading to the closure or deregistration of civil society organizations, censorship and self-censorship in media and education, and the suppression of public health information.
- International human rights standards prohibit these laws. Courts, treaty bodies, and UN mechanisms have consistently found them to violate fundamental rights.
- States must repeal “propaganda” and “promotion” laws and ensure that human rights defenders, health workers, journalists, educators, LGBTIQ people, and allies can exercise their rights without fear of punishment.

What is the purpose of this policy brief?

This policy brief explains what “LGBT propaganda” and “promotion” laws are, where they exist, how they are applied, and whom they affect, and why they violate international human rights law. It also sets out what states must do to repeal them and how activists have challenged these laws in court and sustained their work under them.

What are “LGBT propaganda” and “LGBT promotion” laws?

“LGBT propaganda” and “LGBT promotion” laws are legislative or administrative measures that prohibit, restrict, or penalize public expression, information, advocacy, or support related to non-heterosexual orientations and diverse gender identities or expressions.¹ Their wording varies across jurisdictions, but their function is similar: they treat queer visibility as inherently harmful.

The term “propaganda,” frequently used in laws in Russia and former Soviet republics, frames factual and affirming information as harmful persuasion. The term “promotion,” frequently applied in laws in Africa, suggests that advocacy, service provision, community support, or public recognition improperly encourages homosexuality or gender diversity. This framing converts ordinary expressions, human rights advocacy, and access to information and inclusive education into suspect or punishable conduct.

These laws are usually presented as child protection measures, defenses of “traditional family values,” or safeguards for public morality. In some cases, they build directly on pre-existing laws, often of colonial origin, that prohibit consensual same-sex conduct. They extend criminal liability from private sexual conduct to public expression and advocacy. **Nigeria** illustrates this pattern: its Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act broadened the country’s colonial-era sodomy law to criminalize public displays of same-sex relationships and support for

LGBTIQ organizations.² **Uganda’s** Anti-Homosexuality Act followed a similar logic, expanding existing “unnatural offenses” provisions to penalize the “promotion” of homosexuality. In practice, these laws suppress positive and neutral references to sexual and gender diversity in education, media, culture, health information, and public life.³

“Propaganda” and “promotion” laws typically prohibit some or all of the following:

- Educational materials or public communications that address sexual orientation or gender identity in a positive or neutral manner
- Public expressions of affection or identity by LGBTIQ people
- LGBTIQ-themed events, marches, or gatherings in public spaces
- Advertising, media content, or online material affirming diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, or sex characteristics, or simply acknowledging their existence without condemnation
- Advocacy, service provision, or public support by civil society organizations working with LGBTIQ people
- Funding for LGBTIQ organizations or programs, including foreign or donor support
- Public statements or campaigns perceived as encouraging acceptance, recognition, or “normalization” of sexual and gender diversity.

Some of these laws restrict only what minors can see or hear; others apply to audiences of all ages. That difference shapes who faces liability and which authorities enforce it. Both versions rest on the same premise: that information about LGBTIQ lives endangers those who encounter it. Both also reach past their stated scope: publishers, broadcasters, and platforms that cannot rule out a minor in the audience restrict the material for everyone.

Where have these laws been enacted?

At least 16 countries have enacted anti-LGBTIQ “propaganda” or “promotion” laws, spanning at least four continents. In at least three countries, courts

have struck down these laws. In at least six countries, bills containing similar language have been proposed in parliament, but have not been enacted; at least one, in Ghana, remains pending. See the [Annex](#) for further information.

COUNTRIES WITH “PROPAGANDA” OR “PROMOTION” LAWS IN FORCE

Russia (2013)	Nigeria (2014)
Hungary (2021)	United States (2022)
Uganda (2023)	Kyrgyzstan (2023)
Bulgaria (2024)	Georgia (2024)
Iraq (2024)	Mali (2024)
Burkina Faso (2025)	Indonesia (2025)
Kazakhstan (2025)	Belarus (2026)
Niger (2026)	Senegal (2026)

Laws overturned by courts, proposed but not enacted, or passed but not yet in force are listed in the [Annex](#).

Who can be impacted by these laws?

“Propaganda” and “promotion” laws are framed as targeting sexual and gender minorities, but their reach extends far beyond these communities. Because they criminalize vaguely defined conduct —“promotion,” “encouragement,” “normalization” — they expose a wide range of people and institutions to liability, whether or not those affected are LGBTIQ themselves.

LGBTIQ people and their families. LGBTIQ individuals bear the direct brunt of these laws: they cannot display affection publicly, discuss their identities, or access accurate information about their own lives without risking fines or prosecution. The harm extends to their families. When parents cannot disclose their family structure in schools, or when books showing same-sex parents are banned, the children of LGBTIQ families face stigma and institutional exclusion. Similarly, parents are prohibited from publicly expressing support for their own LGBTIQ children.

Teachers, school counselors, librarians, and students.

Educators who discuss sexual orientation or gender identity—or simply keep books with LGBTIQ characters on shelves—risk disciplinary action or criminal liability. The resulting silence leaves LGBTIQ students without age-appropriate information, institutional support, or visible role models, contributing to higher rates of bullying, deteriorating mental health, and school dropout.⁴

Journalists, publishers, artists, and content creators.

Reporting on or depicting LGBTIQ lives can trigger fines, prosecution, or the seizure of creative work. Publishers withdraw books, streaming platforms are pressured to remove or geo-block content, and advertisers pull campaigns featuring same-sex couples or transgender people.

Healthcare providers and patients. Doctors, nurses, and HIV outreach workers who offer affirming care or information to LGBTIQ patients could face liability under these laws, which undermine health outcomes. This is particularly damaging for communities affected by HIV and sexually transmitted infections, where best practices depend on reducing—not reinforcing—stigma toward key populations. It also impacts transgender people seeking gender-affirming care and young people seeking sexual and reproductive health services.

Civil society organizations and their staff. Groups working on human rights and social inclusion, including LGBTIQ organizations as well as organizations addressing gender equality or a range of human rights issues, self-censor their publications, cancel events, and curtail advocacy for fear of fines, prosecution, or institutional closure.

Humanitarian and development organizations.

Domestic and international organizations delivering health, education, or humanitarian aid—along with their staff and donors—can be swept into liability even when their programs are not focused on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Multinational corporations and other private sector actors.

Companies operating across multiple jurisdictions often maintain global diversity and inclusion policies—inclusive advertising, employee resource groups, nondiscrimination protections—that can themselves become grounds for liability. Extending these same policies to local operations,

sponsoring Pride events, or featuring same-sex couples in marketing can expose businesses to fines and even criminal liability.

How have these laws been applied?

“Propaganda” and “promotion” laws are not merely symbolic. They have been used to imprison people, impose fines, censor publications, pressure educators and digital platforms, and create a climate of fear around any public reference to queer lives.

■ In **Russia**, authorities have repeatedly applied “propaganda” restrictions to online platforms, streaming services, publishers, and digital content. In 2023, a Russian court fined Google for failing to remove two YouTube videos depicting queer community life in St. Petersburg and same-sex couples raising children.⁵ In 2024, Russian film distributors, including Kinopoisk and Restream Media, faced administrative proceedings for listing the U.S. series *Supergirl*, which features a same-sex relationship, without the required age-restriction label.⁶ Kinopoisk was later fined 10 million rubles [US\$118,500] in a related case. In 2025, a Russian court fined Apple 7.5 million rubles [US\$88,900] after regulators said one of its streaming titles included scenes “promoting non-traditional relationships,” although Apple requested closed proceedings, so the title itself was never disclosed.⁷ In 2026, staff at one of Russia’s largest publishing houses were questioned over young-adult novels depicting same-sex relationships.⁸

■ **Hungary** has used its “child protection” framework to restrict access to LGBTIQ-related books. In 2023, a Budapest government office fined the bookseller Lira 12 million forints [US\$37,600] for selling *Heartstopper* and other books depicting homosexuality without closed wrapping and for placing them among literature aimed at minors.⁹

■ In the **United States**, Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Act restricts classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in public and charter schools. In 2023, officials in Charlotte County initially interpreted the law to exclude all books with LGBTQ characters from classroom

and school libraries. After public backlash, the district narrowed the directive to allow such materials in high school media centers for individual student use, but not for classroom instruction.¹⁰

Why does public visibility matter?

Because “propaganda” and “promotion” laws are built on the idea that even neutral or positive references to LGBTIQ lives are harmful, they do more than censor specific messages or content. They target public visibility itself.

For LGBTIQ people, especially young people, visibility can be a first point of orientation and support. Seeing diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics reflected in education, media, health information, and public culture helps people understand that they are not alone and that support exists. The absence of representation deepens isolation, reinforces stigma, and makes it harder to seek help from teachers, counselors, health providers, family members, or community organizations.

Visibility also matters beyond LGBTIQ communities. Inclusive information helps families, educators, journalists, health professionals, employers, and public officials understand LGBTIQ realities and respond without prejudice. This matters in particular where misinformation about queer people is actively deployed to justify state action against them.

This is why propaganda laws are so harmful. By suppressing public visibility, they create an environment in which LGBTIQ people can be discussed only as threats, controversies, or moral problems, rather than as students, parents, workers, artists, neighbors, or citizens. The result is not neutrality. It is state-enforced invisibility, which enables stigma, discourages institutional support, and normalizes discrimination.

What does international human rights law say?

International and regional human rights bodies have repeatedly found that laws restricting LGBTIQ-related expression are discriminatory. They violate multiple fundamental rights guaranteed under binding treaties.

Freedom of expression. Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds. The UN Human Rights Committee has confirmed that any restriction on expression must be strictly necessary, proportionate, and nondiscriminatory. Blanket prohibitions on LGBTIQ content fail all three requirements.

Freedom of assembly and association. Articles 21 and 22 of the ICCPR protect the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association. Bans on LGBTIQ events, the dissolution of civil society organizations, and the refusal to register LGBTIQ groups violate these rights.

Right to health. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) guarantees the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has confirmed that this right prohibits discrimination in access to healthcare on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.¹¹ By restricting health information and closing organizations that provide HIV prevention and other essential services, propaganda and promotion laws directly undermine states’ ability to deliver on this right.

Nondiscrimination. Articles 2 and 26 of the ICCPR prohibit discrimination on any ground, including sexual orientation and gender identity. The Human Rights Committee established this interpretation in the landmark case *Toonen v. Australia* (1994). In *G. v. Australia* (2017), it recognized gender identity as a protected ground, finding that Australia’s denial of legal gender recognition to a transgender woman

violated Article 26. The Committee has reaffirmed both grounds in numerous concluding observations and communications since.

“States should refrain...from censoring, withholding or intentionally misrepresenting health-related information, including sexual education and information, as well as from preventing people’s participation in health-related matters.”

— UN COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, GENERAL COMMENT NO. 14: THE RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH (2000)

Rights of the child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibits discrimination against all children, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Rather than protecting children, propaganda laws deny LGBTIQ youth access to information and support essential to their health, safety, and development. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called on states to ensure that children have access to age-appropriate, inclusive, and scientifically accurate sexuality education, as part of the mandatory school curriculum.¹² The Human Rights Council has also declared that states have the duty of providing educational programs, including comprehensive sexuality education, to all adolescents and youth.¹³

How have courts and human rights bodies responded?

Courts and human rights bodies across jurisdictions have found “propaganda” and “promotion” laws to be incompatible with human rights standards and have called on states to repeal them.

Bayev and Others v. Russia (European Court of Human Rights, 2017).¹⁴ The Court found that Russia’s “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships” provisions violated Articles 10 (freedom of expression) and 14 (nondiscrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court held that the law could not be justified by any legitimate aim under the Convention, that it was

incompatible with the values of a democratic society, and that it reinforced stigma and prejudice and encouraged homophobia.

“...by adopting such laws, the authorities reinforce stigma and prejudice and encourage homophobia, which is incompatible with the notions of equality, pluralism, and tolerance inherent in a democratic society.”

— *Bayev and Others v. Russia*, EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (2017)

Fedotova v. Russian Federation (UN Human Rights Committee, 2012).¹⁵ The Human Rights Committee found that Russia had violated Articles 19 (freedom of expression) and 26 (nondiscrimination) of the ICCPR through the enforcement of its propaganda law against a lesbian activist who was fined for publicly displaying posters affirming her sexual identity. It called on Russia to repeal the law and provide reparations to the applicant, affirming that the law could not be reconciled with the Covenant’s guarantees of equality and nondiscrimination.

Macaté v. Lithuania (European Court of Human Rights, Grand Chamber, 2023).¹⁶ The Court found that Lithuania’s restriction on a children’s book depicting same-sex couples violated Article 10 of the European Convention (freedom of expression), holding that measures limiting children’s access to information that portrays same-sex relationships as equivalent to different-sex relationships did not pursue any legitimate aim. Citing the ruling, Lithuania’s Constitutional Court declared the underlying provision unconstitutional in December 2024, finding that it violated children’s freedom of thought and the right to found a family.¹⁷

Commission v. Hungary (Court of Justice of the European Union, 2026).¹⁸ The Court ruled that Hungary’s 2021 amendment restricting content on sexual orientation and gender identity was incompatible with European Union (EU) law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. The Court found that Hungary had violated rights to privacy, freedom of expression and information, and the prohibition of discrimination, establishing an

important precedent for EU member states considering or adopting similar “propaganda”-style restrictions.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014). In its concluding observations on the Russian Federation, the Committee expressed concern that the Russian law prohibiting “propaganda of unconventional sexual relationships,” though framed as protective of children, in fact “encourage[s] the stigmatization of and discrimination against LGBTI persons, including children, and children from LGBTI families,” and that vague definitions of propaganda lead to “targeting and ongoing persecution, including through abuse and violence.” The Committee urged Russia to repeal its laws prohibiting “propaganda” of homosexuality and to ensure that “children who belong to LGBTI groups or children of LGBTI families are not subjected to any forms of discrimination.”¹⁹

Not every ruling has followed this trend, however. Courts do not always side with human rights protections, and outcomes can vary significantly depending on the domestic legal and political context.

Uganda’s Constitutional Court, Consolidated Constitutional Petitions Challenging the Anti-Homosexuality Act (April 3, 2024).²⁰ The Court struck down only a handful of provisions of the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act—including the duty to report suspected homosexuality and a ban on renting property “for purposes of homosexuality”—while upholding the criminalization of “promotion of homosexuality,” punishable by up to 20 years in prison, along with the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.” The ruling stands in contrast to the trend reflected above, and petitioners have appealed to Uganda’s Supreme Court.

What should states do?

- Repeal all laws prohibiting “LGBT propaganda” and “promotion” and any equivalent legislation that restricts discussion, expression, advocacy, or support related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.
- Ensure that freedom of expression protections explicitly cover discussion of LGBTIQ people and their rights in education, media, healthcare, and

public life, and that no other administrative or regulatory measure—such as broadcasting rules, curriculum guidelines, or content classification codes—is used to recreate the same restrictions under a different name.

- Protect the right to peaceful assembly and association for LGBTIQ people and organizations, and ensure that Pride events, advocacy activities, and community gatherings can take place safely and without discriminatory interference.
- Ensure that civil society organizations working on queer people’s human rights can register, operate, receive funding, and communicate freely.
- Implement comprehensive, inclusive sexuality education that affirms diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics in national curricula, in line with UNESCO standards and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.²¹
- Comply with the rulings and concluding observations of international and regional human rights bodies calling for the repeal of propaganda and promotion laws. States should report on their progress through their periodic reports to UN treaty bodies and through the Universal Periodic Review.
- Ensure that UN intergovernmental outcomes uphold the right to freedom of expression in matters related to sexual and gender diversity, including through education that fulfills the right to “seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds,” protected under Article 19 of the ICCPR.

How can activists protect their work while navigating propaganda and promotion laws?

Despite the severe restrictions posed by propaganda and promotion laws, LGBTIQ advocates and human rights defenders have developed strategies to continue their work and to challenge these laws at domestic and international levels.

Strategic litigation. Domestic and international litigation has become a key tool in challenging propaganda and promotion laws. Advocates have brought cases before the European Court of Human Rights, UN treaty bodies, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and national courts, securing landmark rulings that document state violations and establish legal precedents. While no propaganda or promotion law has yet been challenged before the Inter-American human rights system, its existing jurisprudence on sexual orientation and gender identity offers a strong legal foundation advocates could draw on should such laws emerge in the region.

Documentation. Systematic documentation of the enforcement and broader impacts of propaganda and promotion laws creates an evidentiary basis for litigation and advocacy. For example, the **Russian LGBT Network’s** annual discrimination monitoring reports, together with independent research analyzing court rulings under the “propaganda” law, have tracked hundreds of instances of enforcement since 2013—evidence that has fed directly into litigation before the European Court of Human Rights.²² In **Uganda**, the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum has documented how “promotion” provisions in the Anti-Homosexuality Act deter lawyers from providing legal assistance to queer clients.²³ This kind of documentation can support submissions to UN Special Procedures, treaty bodies, and the Universal Periodic Review, as well as to regional human rights mechanisms such as the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

Coalition building. Queer civil society organizations have built coalitions across sectors, including with journalists, educators, healthcare providers, and family rights advocates, to demonstrate the broad harm of promotion and propaganda laws beyond LGBTIQ communities alone. Framing these laws as threats to press freedom, children’s rights, and public health broadens the base of resistance. In **Uganda**, for example, the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law brought together 28 social justice organizations and international human rights groups to oppose the 2009–2014 Anti-Homosexuality Bill. The resulting law was struck down in 2014 on procedural grounds.²⁴ Following the

2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act, a coalition of Ugandan LGBTIQ organizations known as Convening for Equality successfully advocated with the World Bank to suspend new lending to the country on the grounds that the law effectively required Bank projects to be implemented in a discriminatory manner.²⁵

International engagement. Engaging with UN Special Procedures, treaty bodies, and the Universal Periodic Review allows civil society to hold states accountable even in the absence of domestic remedies. Coordinated engagement across mechanisms strengthens the international evidentiary record and maintains pressure on states.

International financial institutions. Propaganda and promotion laws undermine a state’s ability to deliver health, education, and development programs equitably, giving advocates a strong basis for engaging directly with international financial institutions. After **Uganda’s** 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act was enacted, the World Bank suspended new lending to the country, stating that the law undermined its policy to “protect sexual and gender minorities from discrimination and exclusion in the projects we finance.”²⁶ Civil society organizations, including Outright International, had called for the suspension, arguing that LGBTIQ Ugandans could not safely access World Bank–funded health, education, and housing programs without risking prosecution. The Bank resumed lending only after the Ugandan government complied with a requirement to engage LGBTIQ stakeholders and develop nondiscrimination measures to mitigate the Act’s exclusionary impact on Bank-financed programs. This kind of engagement gives advocates leverage even where domestic courts and legislatures are unresponsive.

ANNEX

LGBT “Propaganda” and “Promotion” Laws by Country/Jurisdiction

Note: This table covers laws that are in effect as of September 2026. Similar laws have been overturned by courts (Lithuania in 2024, Uganda in 2014, and the U.S. state of South Carolina in 2020), proposed in parliament but not enacted (Kenya, Moldova, Ukraine), or passed by parliament but not enacted (Ghana, pending presidential assent; Guatemala, archived in 2022; Romania, pending in the lower chamber).

COUNTRY	YEAR ENACTED / INTRODUCED	TYPE OF MEASURE	KEY PROVISIONS	STATUS
Russia	2013 (expanded in 2022)	Federal law	Prohibits “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships”; originally applied to minors, then expanded in 2022 to all ages. Punished by administrative fines up to approximately 400,000 rubles for individuals [US\$4,700] and 5,000,000 rubles for legal entities [US\$59,200].	In force; the European Court of Human Rights found it violated the European Convention in <i>Bayev and Others v. Russia</i> (2017); in 2023, the Russian Supreme Court designated the “international LGBT movement” as “extremist.”
Nigeria	2014	Law (Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act)	Extends colonial-era sodomy law and criminalizes public displays of same-sex relationships and support for LGBTIQ organizations. Provides up to 14 years’ imprisonment for entering a “same-sex marriage” and up to 10 years’ imprisonment for public displays of same-sex relationships and for managing or supporting LGBTIQ organizations.	In force.
Hungary	2021	Amendment to the child protection law	Prohibits showing content on homosexuality or gender reassignment to minors; restricts curricula, advertising, and broadcast media. Violations carry administrative penalties (fines and regulatory measures).	In force; the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled on April 21, 2026 (C-769/22) that it is incompatible with EU law.
Uganda	2023	Criminal law (Anti-Homosexuality Act)	Criminalizes same-sex sexual conduct and the “promotion” of homosexuality, including identification as LGBT and advocacy or funding, with up to 20 years’ imprisonment and heavy fines.	In force; the Constitutional Court in 2024 struck down some provisions, but upheld most of the law, including the sections on “promotion.”
Kyrgyzstan	2023	Law	Bans dissemination to minors of information deemed “harmful,” including information that “denounces family and traditional societal values, promotes non-traditional sexual relations or incites disrespect toward parents or other family members.” Dissemination is punished with administrative fines.	In force.

COUNTRY	YEAR ENACTED / INTRODUCED	TYPE OF MEASURE	KEY PROVISIONS	STATUS
Georgia	2024	Legislative package (“family values” laws)	Package of laws restricting LGBTIQ visibility and expression. Provisions include bans on “propaganda of same-sex relationships” and communications that “promote non-traditional sexual relations or challenge traditional family values,” and restrictions on public assemblies and campaigning deemed to promote such relationships. Penalties include fines and, in some cases, criminal charges punishable by up to 2–4 years’ imprisonment.	In force.
Bulgaria	2024	Amendment to the education law	Bans “propaganda, popularization and encouragement” of “non-traditional sexual orientation” or gender identity in schools, including in curricula and educational materials. Violations are subject to administrative sanctions, including fines and disciplinary measures.	In force.
Iraq	2024	Criminal law	Criminalizes same-sex relationships and “promoting homosexuality”, including advocacy and provision of gender-affirming care. Penalties include multi-year prison sentences for same-sex conduct and for acts deemed to “promote” or support homosexuality.	In force.
Mali	2024	Penal Code	Equates same-sex sexual relations with “indecent exposure” and “indecent assault”. Provides that any “unnatural sexual act committed with a person of the same sex” constitutes indecent exposure, and that any statement, image, writing, or act, public or private, likely to approve, encourage, promote, or facilitate such indecent exposure is punishable by 7 years’ imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 Western African CFA francs [US\$775–800].	In force.
Kazakhstan	2025 (signed December 30, 2025; in force January 1, 2026)	Amendments to multiple laws (media, education, advertising, child protection)	Bans the dissemination of information on “non-traditional sexual orientation” in public spaces and media. Violations result in administrative fines of approximately 280 USD and up to 10 days of administrative detention for repeat offenses, as well as suspension of licenses and blocking of content.	In force.
Burkina Faso	2025	Code of Persons and Family	Provisions criminalize same-sex sexual conduct and any conduct likely to “promote” homosexual or similar practices, punishable by imprisonment for two to five years and a fine of 2,000,000 to 10,000,000 Western African CFA francs [US\$3,300–16,500].	In force.

COUNTRY	YEAR ENACTED / INTRODUCED	TYPE OF MEASURE	KEY PROVISIONS	STATUS
Indonesia	2025	Presidential regulation	Presidential regulation on General Policy for National Defense 2025–2029 classifies the “dissemination of LGBTQ culture” as a non-military threat to national defense. It directs defense and security policy but does not itself set specific criminal penalties.	In force.
Senegal	2026	Penal code amendment	Increases penalties for same-sex sexual acts to 5–10 years’ imprisonment and criminalizes the “glorification” of such acts and the promotion, financing or support of “homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality...or any other similar practice”, through any public speech, writing, image or sound. “Promotion” offenses are punishable by 3–7 years’ imprisonment and fines of up to 5,000,000 Western African CFA francs [US\$8,800].	In force.
Niger	2026	New penal code	Provides prison sentences of 5–10 years and heavy fines for same-sex conduct and “LGBTQIA+ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual] practices,” and 10–20 years’ imprisonment for same-sex marriage and for managing, operating, or financing organizations supporting LGBTQIA+ communities.	In force.
Belarus	2026	Amendment to the Code of Administrative Offenses	Bans the “promotion” of “homosexual relations, gender changes, and childlessness,” including public expression, advocacy, and dissemination of information. Punished as an administrative offense by fines of up to 900 Belarusian rubles for individuals [US\$310] and up to 6,750 Belarusian Rubles for legal entities [US\$2,320], with higher fines, community service, and up to 15 days of administrative detention if minors can access the information.	In force.
United States (Florida and other states)	2022 (expanded 2023)	State law (“Don’t Say Gay”/“Don’t Say Trans”/Parental Rights in Education Act)	Restricts classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in specified grades (up to 12th grade in Florida and Kentucky). Enforcement relies on administrative and civil mechanisms (complaints, investigations, disciplinary action, and civil suits) rather than criminal penalties; implementation varies by school district.	In force; similar laws have been adopted in other states.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Outright generally uses the acronym “LGBTIQ” in our work, referring inclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and queer people. In this case, we describe these laws as “LGBT propaganda” and “promotion” laws because legislative debates and media coverage around these laws have often used the acronym LGBT. These laws rarely directly target intersex people, but their language is vague enough as to raise the risk of enforcement against intersex people and movements as well.
- 2 Human Rights Watch, “Nigeria: Anti-LGBT Law Threatens Basic Rights,” January 14, 2014, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/14/nigeria-anti-lgbt-law-threatens-basic-rights>.
- 3 Human Rights Watch, “Uganda’s President Signs Repressive Anti-LGBT Law,” May 30, 2023, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/05/30/ugandas-president-signs-repressive-anti-lgbt-law>.
- 4 Outright International, “Policy Brief: Inclusive Education for LGBTIQ people,” October 17, 2025, <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/human-rights-research/inclusive-education-lgbtqi-people>; “Policy Brief: Comprehensive Sexuality Education,” April 28, 2026, <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/human-rights-research/comprehensive-sexuality-education>.
- 5 Gay Times, “Russia Fines Google for Refusing to Remove LGBTQ+ Content,” May 12, 2023, <https://www.gaytimes.com/life/russia-fines-google-for-refusing-to-remove-lgbtq-content/>.
- 6 Reuters, “Two Russian Online Film Distributors Charged Under ‘LGBT Propaganda’ Law,” May 9, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/two-russian-online-film-distributors-charged-lgbt-propaganda-law-rcna151472>.
- 7 The Moscow Times, “Russian Court Fines Apple for Violating ‘LGBT Propaganda’ Law,” May 19, 2025, <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/05/19/russian-court-fines-apple-for-violating-lgbt-propaganda-law-a89134>.
- 8 Reuters, “Major Russian Book Publisher’s Staff Questioned Over ‘LGBT Propaganda,’” April 22, 2026, <https://www.globalbankingandfinance.com/major-russian-book-publishers-staff-questioned-over-lgbt/>.
- 9 NBC News, “Hungary Slams Hefty Fine on Bookstore Chain over ‘Heartstopper’ Graphic Novel,” July 2023 <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/hungary-slams-hefty-fine-bookstore-chain-heartstopper-graphic-novel-rcna94186>.
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ABOUT OUTRIGHT INTERNATIONAL

Outright International works together for better LGBTIQ lives. Outright is dedicated to working with partners around the globe to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTIQ human rights movement, document and amplify 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, governments, humanitarian and development institutions, and civil society partners. Outright holds consultative status at the United Nations, where it serves as the secretariat of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

**Together, for better LGBTIQ lives.
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