



MALAWI

POPULATION SIZE¹
17 million

GDP
US\$3.7 billion

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$900

EXPORTS
US\$1.4 billion

EXPORT ABSORBED BY U.S.
US\$87 million (6.1%)

IMPORTS
US\$2.4 billion

IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.
US\$104 million (4.3%)

U.S. ASSISTANCE
US\$203 million²
plus an additional US\$305.7 million in support through the Millennium Challenge Corporate Malawi Compact.³



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.

Consensual same-sex activity is a criminal offense in Malawi. The Penal Code⁴ criminalizes ‘carnal knowledge against the order of nature’ in section 153, which is generally interpreted to prohibit sexual intercourse other than penile/vaginal penetration. Additionally, section 156 of the Penal Code criminalizes “indecent practices between males” with a penalty of five years in prison upon conviction. In 2011 the Penal Code was amended to include, section 137A: the offense of “indecent practices” between females. As it stands, anyone suspected of engaging in same sex conduct can be tried and convicted in Malawi.

In July 2014, during the United Nations Human Rights Committee review of Malawi, the government claimed these criminal provisions were not being applied. However, the Malawian civil society organization, the Centre for Development of People (CEDEP) disputed this claim, based on its research in June. CEDEP researchers visited 23 prisons, requesting and revising prison records for the period between 2011 and 2014. The research revealed that, over that time period, 21 men had served time for adult same-sex sexual acts; at least 6 of those cases involved consensual sex between adults.

There is no legislation to protect employees against discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

July 2014

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all trade and demography data from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook found at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> (accessed on July 18, 2014), and refers to 2013.

² Department of State, “Congressional Budget Justification, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, Fiscal Year 2015,” March 4, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/222898.pdf> (accessed on July 18, 2014).

³ Millennium Challenge Corporation Malawi Compact program overview at <http://www.mcc.gov/pages/countries/program/malawi-compact> (accessed on July 20, 2014).

⁴ Act No. 22 of 1929, Chapter 7:01 Laws of Malawi

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

In Johannesburg, South Africa
Shehnilla Mohamed
Africa Regional Coordinator
Email: smohamed@iglhrc.org
Phone: +27 11 486 9345

In New York, U.S.A.
Marianne Møllmann
Director of Programs
Email: mmollmann@iglhrc.org
Phone: +1-212-430-6051