



NIGERIA

POPULATION SIZE¹
177 million

GDP
US\$502 billion

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$2,800

EXPORTS
US\$93.6 billion

EXPORT ABSORBED BY U.S.
US\$4.8 billion (5.1%)

IMPORTS
US\$56 billion

IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.
US\$5.6 billion (10.1%)

U.S. ASSISTANCE
US\$699 million²



Map Sources: UNCS, ESRI.
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.

In January 2014, President Goodluck Jonathan signed the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill – a law that not only criminalizes same-sex unions, broadly speaking, but also applies harsh jail sentences for depicting homosexual relations in public (directly or indirectly) or associating with organizations advocating for the human rights of individuals in same-sex relationships. Even before this law was adopted, Nigeria’s Criminal Code penalized “carnal knowledge against the order of nature” and “gross indecency” between two men. These “crimes” carry prison sentences of 3 or 14 years, respectively.³ The laws remain in force.

Almost as soon as the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill was signed into

law, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) started receiving reports about community violence against individuals suspected of being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. For example, on February 13, 2014, it was reported that approximately 10 men, perceived to be gay, were beaten by a mob of some 40 persons in the community of Geshiri near Abuja. The local police reportedly arrested 5 victims of the attack and later released them. Most of the men who were injured in the attack went into hiding.⁴

The assault on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals in Nigeria is taking place against the backdrop of a

general clamp-down on civil society, free speech and other human rights protections. For example, on July 2, the Nigerian Congress is considering legislation that would require civil society organizations to apply for advance permission before receiving support from abroad. The bill, which carries a prison term of two years for convictions, would severely curtail freedom of association and speech in Nigeria, both of which are essential for a stable and thriving business climate.

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

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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 Criminal Code Act, Chapter 77, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990, Sections 214 and 217.

⁴ Notes on file with IGLHRC.