



## SOUTH AFRICA

**POPULATION SIZE<sup>1</sup>**  
52 million

**GDP**  
US\$384 billion

**GDP PER CAPITA**  
US\$11,500

**EXPORTS**  
US\$91 billion

**EXPORT ABSORBED BY U.S.**  
US\$7.5 billion (8.3%)

**IMPORTS**  
US\$99.5 billion

**IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.**  
US\$7.4 billion (7.4%)

**U.S. ASSISTANCE**  
US\$514 million<sup>2</sup>



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 Aug 2013.

**SOUTH AFRICA** has a strong legal framework for the protection of the right to non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but there are high levels of violence against individuals who do not conform to prevailing gender norms.

In 1996, South Africa became the first country in the world to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation,<sup>3</sup> and in 2006 the first African country to legalize same-sex marriage.<sup>4</sup>

In 2003, the Constitutional Court declared the prohibition of adoption by same-sex couples unconstitutional.<sup>5</sup>

At the same, South Africa registers a high level of violence against gender non-conforming individuals, in particular lesbians, trans people, and black gay men.<sup>6</sup>

In 2011 a Human Rights Watch report concluded that abusers of people known or assumed to be lesbian, bisexual, or transgender act with near-total impunity.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to turning deadly, the violence leaves many scars in the LGBT community, and has a high cost to society as a whole.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> South Africa Constitution, Section 9(3).

<sup>4</sup> Preamble of the Civil Union Act 17 2006; *Minister of Home Affairs and Another v. Fourie and Another* 2006 1 SA 524.

<sup>5</sup> *Du Toit and Another v Minister of Welfare and Population Development and Others* 2003 2 SA 198.

<sup>6</sup> Coalition of African Lesbians and Action Men for Sexual Health and Rights, "Violence Based on Perceived or Real Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Africa," 2013 [http://www.cal.org.za/new/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/English-SOGL-Booklet.small\\_.pdf](http://www.cal.org.za/new/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/English-SOGL-Booklet.small_.pdf) (accessed on July 20, 2014) p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Watch, "We'll Show You You're a Woman: Violence and Discrimination Against Black Lesbians and Transgender Men in South Africa," December 2011, <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2011/12/05/we-ll-show-you-you-re-woman> (accessed on July 20, 2014).