ZAMBIA faces many challenges when it comes to advancing and protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) individuals, including the clear reluctance of authorities to protect these rights. During the 2012 constitutional review process, the country’s Human Rights Commission argued that the non-discrimination clause in the draft constitution should be interpreted to exclude LGBT individuals for “the protection of the greater good of society.”

Section 157 of the Zambian Penal Code criminalizes sexual relationships between men, whether consensual or not, under threat of imprisonment of 5 years. Section 155 criminalizes sodomy (in both same-sex and different-sex couples) with a penalty of up to 14 years. In April 2013, a state-owned newspaper published a story appealing to the public to report anyone, male or female, involved in homosexual activity “so that the law can take its course.”

The draft constitution explicitly defines a family as a heterosexual couple.

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

July 2014

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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.


5 Article 54.2.