



ZIMBABWE

POPULATION SIZE¹
13.8 million

GDP
US\$10.5 billion

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$600

EXPORTS
US\$3.1 billion

EXPORT ABSORBED BY U.S.
US\$14 million (0.5%)

IMPORTS
US\$4.6 billion

IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.
US\$60 million (1.3%)

U.S. ASSISTANCE
US\$161.8 million²



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS, The Times Atlas of the World.
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.

ZIMBABWE'S Criminal Law explicitly prohibits consensual sex between adult men with penalties including fines, prison for up to one year, or both, upon conviction. Articles 66 and 67 of the Criminal Law further contains several ambiguous provisions criminalizing undefined "indecent assault" which can and has been used to threaten and extort individuals who do not conform to prevailing gender norms, regardless of their sexual orientation, sex, or gender identity.

In August 2012, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) published a report documenting systemic human rights violations against individuals perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT), in many cases fuelled by homophobic and transphobic statements

by political and religious leaders.³ Immediately after the release of the report, police entered and raided the group's office in Harare without a warrant.⁴

The 2012 GALZ report noted an increase in public attacks against LGBT individuals in 2011 and 2012, which were believed to be linked to public debate about the possible inclusion of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the country's new constitution.

High-level politicians contribute to an environment that is difficult and often dangerous for anyone thought to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual. President Robert Mugabe has repeatedly called homosexual men and women "worse than pigs and dogs."⁵ In April 2014, he threatened to expel foreign diplomats who try to promote gay rights in Zimbabwe.⁶

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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 GALZ LGBTI Rights Violations Report 2011, on file with IGLHRC.

⁴ Human Rights Watch, "Zimbabwe: End Attacks on LGBT People, Police Harass Activists with Threats, Raids, Beatings, and Arrests," August 27, 2012 <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/08/27/zimbabwe-end-attacks-lgbt-people> (accessed on July 20, 2014).

⁵ Stewart MacLean "To hell with you": Robert Mugabe in rambling anti-homosexual rant at David Cameron's call for global gay rights," Daily Mail, February 26, 2012 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2106720/Robert-Mugabe-rambling-anti-homosexual-rant-David-Camerons-global-gay-rights.html> (accessed on July 20, 2014).

⁶ "Mugabe threatens to expel gay promoting diplomats," *New Zimbabwe*, April 18, 2014, <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-15320-Mugabe-to-expel-gay-promoting-envoys/news.aspx> (accessed on July 20, 2014).