



GAYTHER INDICES

Peter Williams | 2023 | London, United Kingdom

01 | OVERVIEW



Gayther is an online service home to one of the world's largest collections of current and relevant LGBTQIA+ information. Gayther compiles six unique indices each year to highlight and inform the community of the status of laws and the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals living within any given country. The indices assess the various laws, regulations, treatments in place or any

developments that occurred throughout the year to summarise the current status of how a particular country treats its local LGBTQIA+ community members.

The Gayther Equality Index is the leading and most widely used index on the platform, as it assesses and scores each country based on areas such as whether it still has laws in place that criminalise same-sex relationships, the status of forming same-sex marriages or civil unions, and the existence of any anti-discrimination laws. Based on the assessment, each country is given a score, which is converted into a position on the scale from very low to very high. The scale uses easy-to-understand terms and definitions, where a country that scores high or very high typically indicates that it has progressive laws. Those countries that score low or very low will likely be hostile towards the community, criminalising and even imposing a death sentence for those prosecuted.

The size and scale of the global community are unknown as only a few countries include LGBTQIA+ questions within their population census, which typically occur every ten years. For those countries that have included community-related questions, it does not necessarily mean

all participating would freely disclose their sexuality or gender identity, as they might be coming to terms with their identity, fear being outed or of any potential repercussions. Most predictions and estimates concerning the size of the LGBTQIA+ community are based on sample size research or best estimates. To help visualise and understand the potential size of the community, Gayther devised the population and dollar indices. The two indices were created using trusted sources and conservative calculations to predict and estimate the community's size by country, region, and how much it likely contributes to the world's economy.

The Gayther Banning Gay Conversion Therapy Index was created to track all countries worldwide that have either state endorsed or banned the practice. The Gayther Gender Recognition Index helps to highlight the laws, including any restrictions countries may impose on those transitioning and who require legal recognition of their transitioned gender. The final index, the Gayther' Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions Index, tracks all those countries that recognise same-sex unions or partnerships and any conditions, terms or restrictions it may have in place on those wishing to form a legal partnership.

All of the indices play an integral role across the Gayther platform, often used to communicate a country's current position and stance and the overall treatment of the community within regions and societies across the globe. The indices can help to quickly inform and provide the community with the necessary information to assess any possible risks or obstacles when visiting a particular country or region. Since Gayther introduced the indices in 2019, the world has seen many positive developments in the rules, regulations and treatments concerning the LGBTQIA+ community. Though positive, the movement for equality continues today and is becoming even more crucial in countries where the community is being singled out and targeted.

"Belonging to a Community is more than just a term or what we share and have in common. It is about how we come together for a common cause, supporting and lifting each other, whether at home or in how we show solidarity to those being persecuted or facing injustice right now around the world. The combined LGBTQIA+ community and potential influence are often underestimated, especially given the significant contribution it likely makes to society and the global economy as a whole," says Peter Williams, founder of Gayther.

"For many community members, they and those that came before them fought hard to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today, such as the right to marry, legal protection in many areas and freedom from discrimination. Today, with an increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and agendas and other countries remaining committed to criminalising and prosecuting same-sex relationships, it is even more important that the community remains united and people stay informed regarding what is happening around them."

02 | TAGS

equality, gay conversion therapy, population, dollar, contribution, society, size, same-sex marriage, civil unions, partnerships, gender recognition, legal, laws

03 | KEY FACTS

- **LGBTQIA+ Equality:** The 2023 Worldwide LGBTQIA+ Equality Index estimates that 35.8 million or 16.8% of the community live in countries that are classified as high or very high concerning the rights and protection of community members, compared to 23.4% or 49.6 million living in countries where it is illegal to carry out same-sex related acts and where it scores low or very low. Ten countries still issue death sentences as a maximum penalty to those prosecuted for same-sex relationships, and almost half (111 countries) have no anti-discrimination laws in place
- **Population and Economy:** In 2023, the Gayther Population Index estimates that there are over 212 million LGBTQIA+ people will be living in countries across the globe, and the Gayther LGBTQIA+ Dollar Index estimates that the community will contribute over 1.4 trillion US dollars to the world's economies
- **Gay Conversion Therapy:** In 2023, only 16 or 7% of countries have nationwide bans in place concerning the banning of Gay Conversion therapies and the countries of Iran and Malaysia have legalised the practice making it state-approved
- **Gender Identity Recognition:** In 2023, it is estimated that 41% or 87.1 million LGBTQIA+ individuals live within countries classified as high or very high regarding gender identity recognition. Europe is the continent with the highest number of countries recognising gender identities at 16.3% or 38 countries, followed by Asia at 9.9% or 23 countries
- **Same-Sex Marriage and Unions:** In 2023, 30.9% or 72 countries worldwide recognise some form of same-sex civil or partnerships, and 24.5% or 57 countries recognise same-sex marriages. Europe has the highest number of countries allowing same-sex unions or marriages at 68.8% or 33 countries, followed by the Americas at 45.3% or 24 countries