

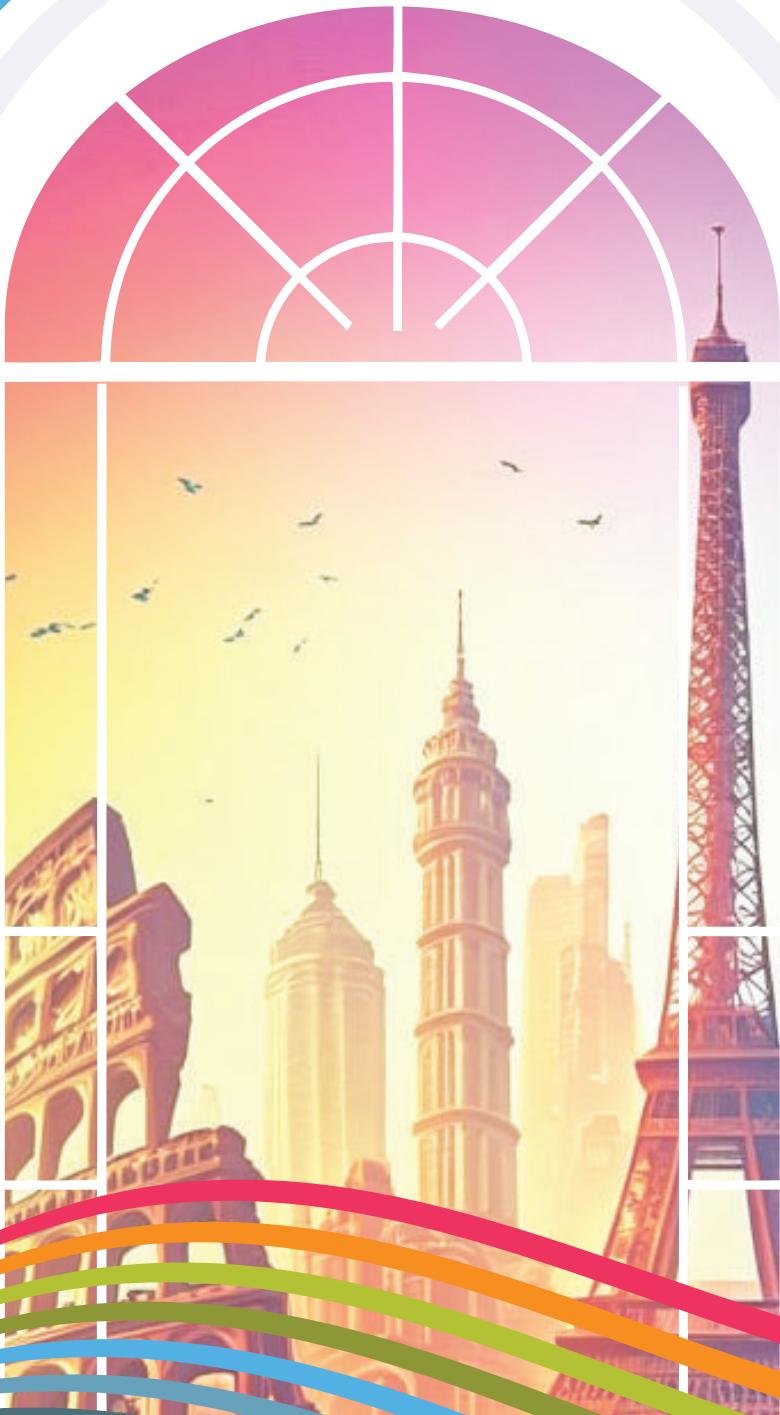
GAYTHER LGBTQIA+



TRAVEL

GUIDES

2025 | EDITION



TRAVEL AGENTS GUIDE



When we explore, we discover; when we discover, we grow. Explore the World and broaden your horizons with new cultures, sights, and experiences.

**Unforgettable memories that last a lifetime**

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# 00 FOREWORD

Travel is good for the soul, promoting a sense of adventure and appreciation of the world. It helps you explore unique cultures, meet new people, and discover interesting sights, sounds and experiences. It can also help you relax, appreciate life, and discover hidden or new talents. Today, many more people can explore at home and overseas with the wide range and availability of flights, low airfares and affordable accommodation.

Travellers will usually prioritise their requirements when planning a trip. People from the LGBTQIA+ community are no exception, with typically a higher disposable income than most average households. Many travellers from the community represent a huge market and opportunity for tour operators and travel agencies.

LGBTQIA+ travellers will typically have the same or similar wants and needs as their heterosexual peers, such as the desire for good quality travel solutions and value-for-money travel itineraries. With one exception, in addition to following the advice of their country's foreign office or department, LGBTQIA+ individuals also have to consider how any country they plan to visit treats people similar to them.

Though there might not be legal requirements in many countries around the world relating to informing travellers of LGBTQIA+-related risks, there is a moral obligation and duty of care to help keep customers safe and for them to have the best travel experience possible.

In this annually compiled guide, we will help you by providing tips, practical and easy-to-use tools, and information to be used when dealing with those who identify as LGBTQIA+.

*Thank you for downloading this guide and finding ways to inform and protect those from your area who might identify as LGBTQIA+.*

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Tour operators and travel agencies make money by offering memorable trips and helping find the best solutions to provide their customers with the best experience. Ultimately, all in the hope of building relationships, positive customer experiences, good reviews and repeat bookings. Though most people booking a holiday or vacation will often have already chosen their preferred destination or region, it can be problematic to assume that customers may have researched and understand any or all risks to them.

Though there might not be any legal requirement within your country to disclose such risks, the best practice might be to inform them or steer them in the right direction to understand any potential obstacles, even in a light-touch approach for them to carry out independent research before travelling. The biggest challenge in many cases is knowing if a customer identifies as LGBTQIA+ at the time of booking, as well as trying to avoid assumptions and always with the goal and hope that the customer will volunteer personal information and open up and be willing to inform the agent of their sexuality or gender identity, helping you find the best trip based on their requirements.

Let us now explore the considerations and strategies you could adopt to manage the relationship and expectations of LGBTQIA+ customers.

## 01 Criminalisation



As of 2025, there are still sixty-seven (67) countries that criminalise same-sex relationships, with those individuals prosecuted, thirty-one (31) countries handing down heavy punishments, five (5) countries ignoring vigilante groups administering torture, beatings and executions, and ten (10) enforcing a maximum penalty of death. Even with discretion, LGBTQIA+ travellers travelling to these destinations may have a hassle-free experience. Still, it does not mean it is without risk.

Especially if a traveller plans to meet or hook up with local members of the LGBTQIA+ community, using popular apps such as Grindr, Tinder, Scruff, Hinge, and Bumble today can present new risks that do not exist in their own country.

For example, in some of the countries that criminalise same-sex relationships, local police officers have operated sting operations in which they pose as interested users. Creating enticing profiles and engaging in conversations, all to entrap the local community and unsuspecting travellers.

Upon agreeing to meet, people are found in a situation where they are arrested, assaulted or extorted for large sums of money, all in a bid to avoid prosecution.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Many tour operators and travel agencies will likely serve people from various backgrounds and different sections of the community. Many will likely risk offending the wrong person if they assume incorrectly how a person might choose to identify and are not necessarily in the position to specialise or tailor advice to vulnerable groups.

Though a one-size-fits-all approach would likely not work, an option could be to incorporate a blanket prompt or catchall statement that you share with all customers, regardless of their background, sexuality, or gender identity. Especially if you are not explicitly informed about their sexuality or gender identity, one such example would be the standard adoption of a statement like

*"It is always advisable to check the foreign office travel advice service before departing, ensuring that you have all required visas and permits, you carry out independent research into your chosen destination such as the availability and any restrictions relating to the local currency, travel restrictions to parts or regions within the country, transport options, LGBTQIA+ rights etc."*

The above statement covers a range of subjects that will likely affect most customers and prompts them to research their chosen destination before booking their trip. The approach helps businesses keep their advice general while reducing the risk of causing offences while still getting the message across.

## 02 Accommodation Instructions



A common complaint from LGBTQIA+ travellers is unprompted changes to their hotel or accommodation bookings. Travellers will reserve a room with a double, queen or king-size bed, only to quickly discover upon arrival that the accommodation provider questioned their chosen room type or, in worst-case scenarios, had amended their reservation to a twin room.

Today, this problem occurs less frequently in large cities and within established hotel groups; however, it does still occur in destinations where they do not see many LGBTQIA+ travellers.

Seeing that there are two men or two women, the accommodation provider assumes a mistake has been made, changes their reservation, and, when the traveller checks in, finds out that rooms with double, queen or king beds are no longer available.

Though the intentions of the accommodation provider might not be malicious, questioning or being faced with changes can be upsetting and problematic for LGBTQIA+ couples when checking in.

### CONSIDERATIONS

When making a reservation or booking on behalf of a client, especially where they have been clear that they want a particular room type and where there could be a misunderstanding, one option could be to add a special instruction or note stating "client requires a double room, please not change or substitute". The problem occurs less now than before; simple instructions can help resolve potential issues.

## 03 Suitability



Tourism and the travel industry worldwide are typically more inclusive and respectful of LGBTQIA+ individuals than the government or people within the country in which they operate. When booking accommodation with smaller providers in less travelled areas or regions, it can be problematic for community members, who face the risk of being refused admission upon arrival or experiencing ongoing discrimination for the duration of their trip.

Even in countries where same-sex relationships may be decriminalised or where they may never have antiquated laws, travellers may still face problems due to societal attitudes towards the community. Though with discretion, some may avoid problems, it does not mean that they are without risk.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Especially when the customer has informed the agent that they identify as LGBTQIA+, researching and engaging with the accommodation provider before booking can resolve any potential problems. Understanding if other LGBTQIA+ individuals have stayed at the accommodation in the past, through online reviews, reaching out to the provider, only in the scenario where same-sex relationships are not illegal, to understand the sort of reception your clients might receive should a booking be made.

Engaging with the provider helps to establish if they have any opposition or beliefs that might affect the client's trip. Even where anti-discrimination laws might exist, if you have two accommodation providers offering similar products and services, one being more inclusive, then the choice is clear in terms of which would give a better overall experience to your client.

# 04 Reviews and Experiences



For any traveller, first-hand reviews and experiences are valuable. Though these reviews should never be taken as the unbiased truth, as people's expectations and motivations for creating a review can be different, they are a good overall indication of what a traveller might experience during their stay.

For LGBTQIA+ travellers, knowing that fellow community members visited a popular destination and stayed with a specific accommodation provider can reassure them when making a reservation. Even in the face of one or two negative reviews, most people can weigh up and assess if the reviewers' problems are systemic or one-off and situations that likely will not occur.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Many conventional operators and travel agencies often struggle with how to engage and approach the LGBTQIA+ community. Though asking a client a direct question about their sexuality or gender identity, handled the wrong way could be damaging, so could making the wrong assumptions. The simple approach is always to create a safe and open environment. Implementing clear policies, signs stating that we welcome all, testimonials from existing clients, especially those from the community, and referral schemes.

If you have staff with experience working with LGBTQIA+ customers, highlight their expertise, for example, in your newsletter or by agreeing with your staff to display a small rainbow sticker on their workstation.

These examples are all great ways to enable your customers to open up and trust you about their sexuality or gender identity, as well as any specific requirements or questions about their chosen destination. With testimonials and reviews, offering your clients ways to provide their reviews anonymously on public platforms is always good, as it will likely encourage more to be honest about their experience.

Even if you receive feedback that causes concern, it can present an opportunity to grow and put positive measures in place with future customers. The key is to create a positive environment for people to feel comfortable and open about themselves and their needs.

# 05 Healthcare



When travelling overseas, many of us pack what we need. We often believe we can get anything we need at our chosen destination. Though this statement is true for many trips and occasions, exceptions exist.

For example, imagine a scenario in which traveller plans to be sexually active during their trip and does not back sufficient conception. In that situation, they might be faced with problems upon their arrival. Contraception might not be readily available, only with a prescription from a local medical professional, or it might be banned altogether.

In the event of an emergency, such as lost or stolen luggage and personal items, travellers reliant on the more specialist medications used in hormone therapy, such as estrogen, testosterone blockers, and progestin or HIV medication, might struggle to obtain replacements for the duration of their trip.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Similar to the points raised within the criminalisation section, there is likely no obligation on booking agents to cover all personal circumstances, possible situations and potential issues for their clients. Adding a general statement like

*“..ensure you have sufficient medication for the duration of your trip, as some medicines may not be readily available.*

The points raised within this section are designed to highlight some of the main considerations relating to LGBTQIA+ travellers. Though there might not be any legal obligations on the tour operator or travel agency, the fact that you are reading this and might consider an approach that could work for you and your business is admirable.

All travellers must carry out their own research and understand any risks; however, some might be inexperienced or oblivious to the social and political situations in the countries they plan to visit.

Striking the right balance for you and your business is important; going too far in either direction could make you a niche or specialist business, potentially alienating new and existing clients.

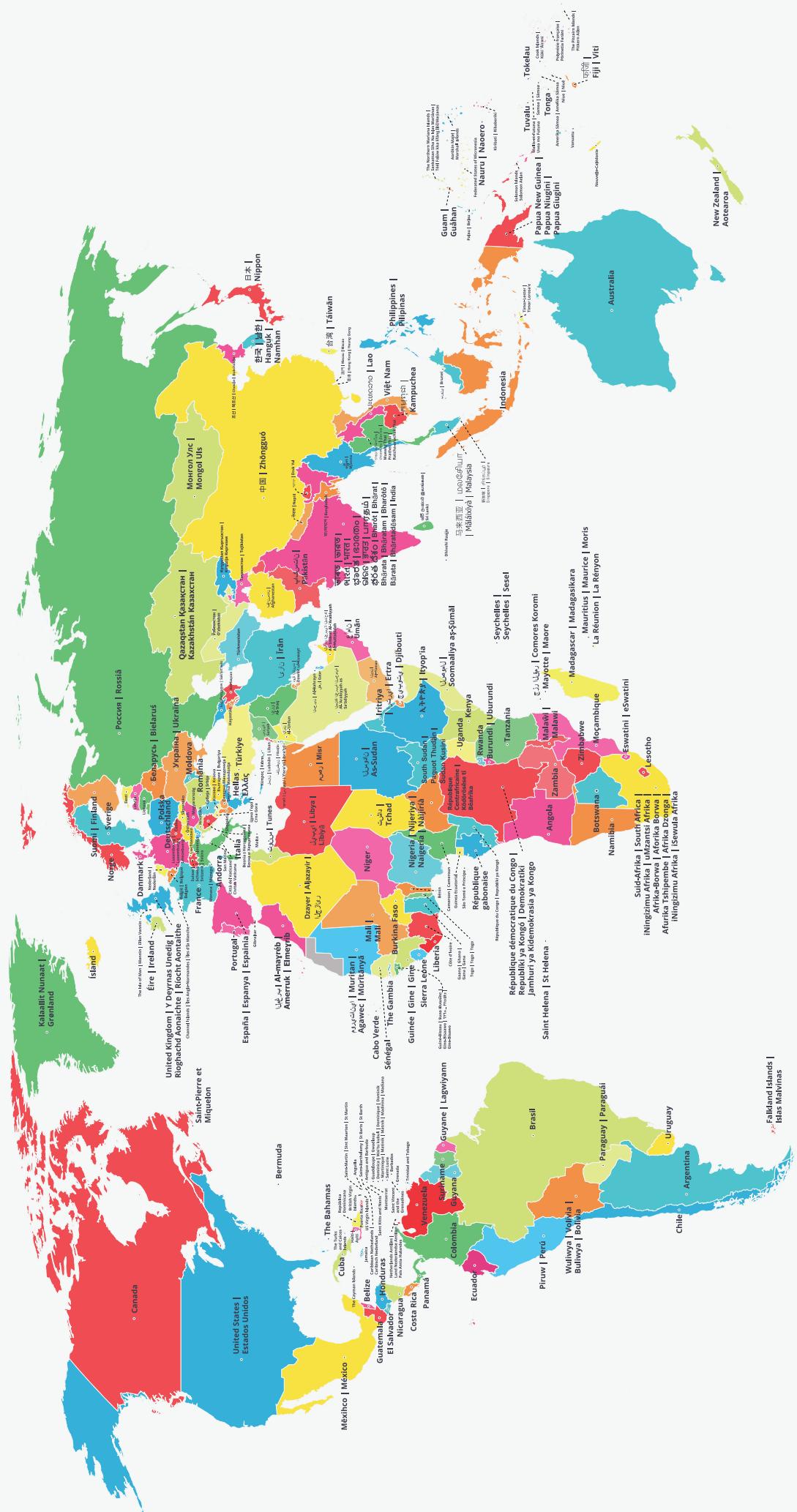
Well-thought-out and reasonable practices typically will not be seen as negative. Instead, it is seen as more of a company that cares about its customers. Any way you can help your customers stay safe and protected *shows you go above and beyond for your clients and will likely be reflected in repeat and referred business.*

## EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC)



If your clients reside within and are travelling to any of the European Union countries (27 countries), Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, they might be eligible to the EHIC, which provides them with access to emergency care for free or at a reduced rate depending on the country. Visit <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559> for more information





Each year, we at Gayther compile specific indices that relate directly and indirectly to the LGBTQIA+ community. To help you inform your customers of areas of potential interest, we have created a list of countries **in alphabetical order**, each with key highlights. To view any of the travel guides on Gayther, **click on the flag** found alongside the country name.

## HEADINGS EXPLAINED

1 COUNTRY	2 CONTINENT	3 EQUALITY STATUS
The name of the country or territory	The continent in which the country or territory is located	An annually calculated equality score based on the rules and general treatment of the LGBTQIA+ community within any given country
4 SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5 MAXIMUM PENALTY	6 GENDER RECOGNITION
Whether same-sex relationships are criminalised within any given country	For countries that criminalise same-sex relationships, the maximum penalty likely imposed	Whether the country or territory has laws relating to gender recognition
7 AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8 AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9 NON-PRESCRIPTION
Whether forms of contraception are generally available within the country	If available, whether contraception can be bought over the counter in a pharmacy, general store, etc	If available, whether contraception is available without a prescription that medical professionals typically issue

To understand what the ratings within the equality index mean, please refer to **section 5**

**IMPORTANT** | Statutes, laws and attitudes can often change and shift quickly. You and your client must carry out independent research before travelling to ensure the latest situation. Though we have endeavoured to ensure that all of the information used is up-to-date, we do not provide any guarantees to the accuracy and completeness of any information contained within the guides. By using the guides, you accept you are doing so at your own risk.

A B

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
AFGHANISTAN	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	IMPORT	-	-
ALBANIA	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
ALGERIA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	VIGILANTE	NO	YES	NO	YES

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON- PRESCRIPTION
AMERICAN SAMOA	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
ANDORRA	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
ANGOLA	AFRICA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO
ANGUILLA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
ARGENTINA	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
ARMENIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
AUSTRALIA	OCEANIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
AUSTRIA	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
AZERBAIJAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BAHAMAS, THE	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BAHRAIN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	YES	NO	NO	NO
BANGLADESH	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	YES	YES	YES	YES
BARBADOS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BELARUS	EUROPE	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BELGIUM	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
BELIZE	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BENIN	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
BERMUDA	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
BHUTAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
BOLIVIA	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
BOTSWANA	AFRICA	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 BRAZIL	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	YES	NO	NO
 BULGARIA	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
 BURKINA FASO	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 BURUNDI	AFRICA	LOW	YES	MEDIUM	NO	YES	NO	YES

## C

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 CAMBODIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO
 CAMEROON	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	VIGILANTE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 CANADA	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 CAPE VERDE (CABO VERDE)	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	NO
 CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 CAYMAN ISLANDS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO
 CHAD	AFRICA	LOW	YES	MEDIUM	NO	YES	NO	YES
 CHANNEL ISLANDS	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 CHILE	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 CHINA	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 COLOMBIA	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
 COMOROS	AFRICA	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	IMPORT	-	-

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 CONGO, D.REP	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO
 CONGO, REP	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 COOK ISLANDS	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 COSTA RICA	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	NO
 CROATIA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 CUBA	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 CYPRUS	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
 CZECH REPUBLIC (CZECHIA)	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES

## D E F

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 DENMARK	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 DJIBOUTI	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 DOMINICA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 EAST TIMOR (TIMOR-LESTE)	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	NO
 ECUADOR	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 EGYPT	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	NO
 EL SALVADOR	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 EQUATORIAL GUINEA	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 ERITREA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	VIGILANTE	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 ESTONIA	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 ETHIOPIA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 FALKLAND ISLANDS (LAS MALVINAS)	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 FIJI	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 FINLAND	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 FRANCE	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 FRENCH GUIANA	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 FRENCH POLYNESIA	OCEANIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-

## G H

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
 GABON	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 GAMBIA, THE	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 GEORGIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 GERMANY	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 GHANA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES
 GIBRALTAR	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 GREECE	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 GREENLAND	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 GRENADA	AMERICAS	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 GUADELOUPE	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 GUAM	OCEANIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 GUATEMALA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 GUINEA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES
 GUINEA-BISSAU	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON- PRESCRIPTION
GUYANA	AMERICAS	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	YES	NO	YES
HAITI	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	-	-
HONDURAS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
HONG KONG	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
HUNGARY	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON- PRESCRIPTION
ICELAND	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
INDIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
INDONESIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF	ASIA	LOW	YES	DEATH	YES	YES	NO	YES
IRAQ	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
IRELAND	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
ISLE OF MAN	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
ISRAEL	ASIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
ITALY	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
IVORY COAST (COTE D'IVOIRE)	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES



# J K L

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PREScription
JAMAICA	AMERICAS	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	YES	NO	YES
JAPAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
JORDAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	YES	NO	NO	NO
KAZAKHSTAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
KENYA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	YES	YES	NO	YES
KIRIBATI	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	IMPORT	-	-
KOREA, NORTH (D.REP)	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	NO	NO	NO
KOREA, SOUTH (REP)	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
KOSOVO, REPUBLIC OF	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
KUWAIT	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	NO
KYRGYZSTAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
LAOS	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
LATVIA	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
LEBANON	ASIA	LOW	YES	MEDIUM	YES	YES	NO	NO
LESOTHO	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	NO
LIBERIA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	MEDIUM	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
LIBYA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	VIGILANTE	NO	NO	NO	NO
LIECHTENSTEIN	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
LITHUANIA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
LUXEMBOURG	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES

# M

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   ILLEGAL SAME-SEX	5   MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
MACAU	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
MADAGASCAR	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
MALAWI	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	YES	YES
MALAYSIA	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES
MALDIVES	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
MALI	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES
MALTA	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
MARSHALL ISLANDS	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
MARTINIQUE	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
MAURITANIA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	YES	NO	YES
MAURITIUS	AFRICA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
MAYOTTE	AFRICA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
MEXICO	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
MICRONESIA, F.S.	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	NO
MOLDOVA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
MONACO	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
MONGOLIA	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
MONTENEGRO	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	NO	NO	NO
MOROCCO	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	YES	YES
MOZAMBIQUE	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
MYANMAR	ASIA	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	YES	YES	YES



# N O

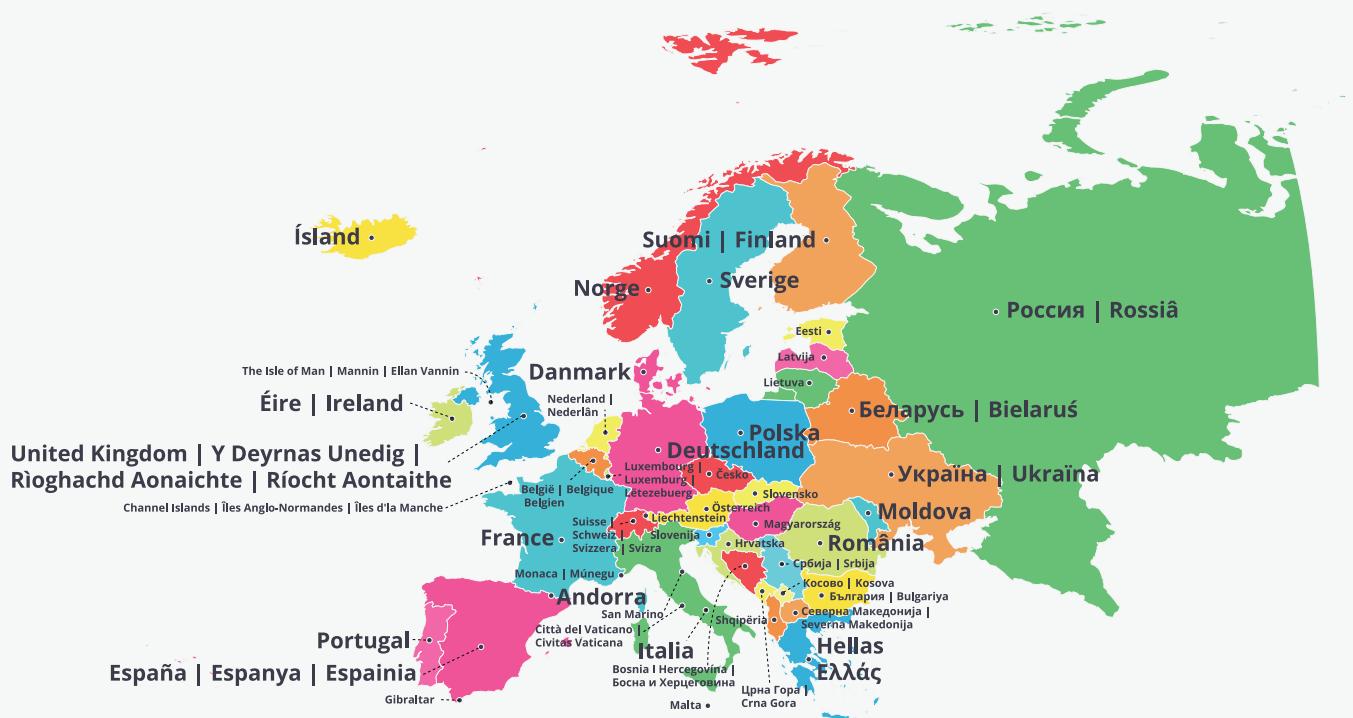
1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PREScription
NAMIBIA	AFRICA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
NAURU	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
NEPAL	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
NETHERLANDS	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
NEW CALEDONIA	OCEANIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
NEW ZEALAND	OCEANIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
NICARAGUA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
NIGER	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
NIGERIA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	YES	YES	YES
NIUE	OCEANIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
NORTH MACEDONIA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	OCEANIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
NORWAY	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
OMAN	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	NO	NO	NO

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PREScription
 PAKISTAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	HEAVY	YES	YES	NO	YES
 PALAU	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 PALESTINE, STATE OF	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 PANAMA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA	OCEANIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 PARAGUAY	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
 PERU	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
 PHILIPPINES	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	NO	-	-
 PITCAIRN ISLANDS	OCEANIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 POLAND	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
 PORTUGAL	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 PUERTO RICO	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 QATAR	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	NO	NO	NO
 REUNION	AFRICA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 ROMANIA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 RUSSIA	EUROPE	LOW	NO	MEDIUM	NO	YES	NO	NO
 RWANDA	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-



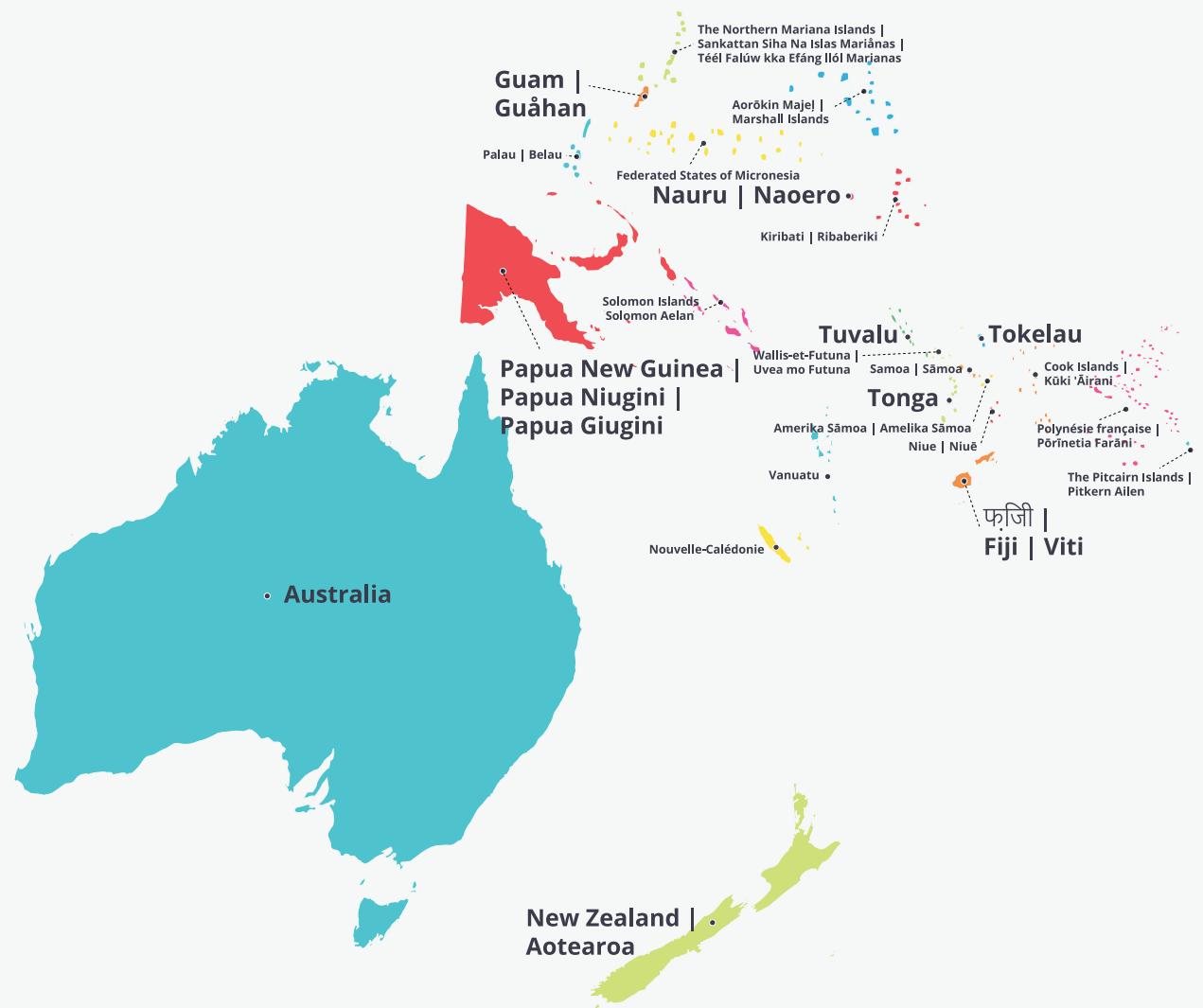
	1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGALITY	5   MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
	SAINT BARTHELEMY (BARTS)	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT HELENA	AFRICA	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	NO
	SAINT LUCIA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT MARTIN (DUTCH)	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT MARTIN (FRENCH)	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	AMERICAS	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	IMPORT	-	-
	SAMOA	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	YES	YES	NO	NO
	SAN MARINO	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-
	SAUDI ARABIA	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	NO	NO	NO
	SENEGAL	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	NO
	SERBIA	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
	SEYCHELLES	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	IMPORT	-	-
	SIERRA LEONE	AFRICA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	YES	NO	NO
	SINGAPORE	ASIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
	SLOVAKIA	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
	SLOVENIA	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
	SOLOMON ISLANDS	OCEANIA	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	IMPORT	-	-
	SOMALIA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	NO	NO	NO
	SOUTH AFRICA	AFRICA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON- PRESCRIPTION
 SOUTH SUDAN	AFRICA	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	IMPORT	-	-
 SPAIN	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 SRI LANKA	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	YES	YES	NO	YES
 SUDAN	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	NO	NO	NO
 SURINAME	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 SWAZILAND (ESWATINI)	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 SWEDEN	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
 SWITZERLAND	EUROPE	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 SYRIA	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-



	1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON-PRESCRIPTION
	TAIWAN	ASIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	NO
	TAJIKISTAN	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
	TANZANIA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	VIGILANTE	NO	YES	NO	NO
	THAILAND	ASIA	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	NO	YES
	TOGO	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	IMPORT	-	-
	TOKELAU	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	TONGA	OCEANIA	LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	TUNISIA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	NO	YES
	TURKEY (TURKIYE)	ASIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
	TURKMENISTAN	ASIA	LOW	YES	MEDIUM	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	TUVALU	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	YES	NOT ENFORCED	NO	NO	-	-
	UGANDA	AFRICA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
	UKRAINE	EUROPE	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)	ASIA	VERY LOW	YES	DEATH	NO	NO	NO	NO
	UNITED KINGDOM (UK)	EUROPE	HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)	AMERICAS	HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
	URUGUAY	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
	US VIRGIN ISLANDS	AMERICAS	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
	UZBEKISTAN	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	YES	YES

1   COUNTRY	2   CONTINENT	3   EQUALITY STATUS	4   SAME-SEX ILLEGAL	5   MAXIMUM PENALTY	6   GENDER RECOGNITION	7   AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTION	8   AVAILABILITY OVER THE COUNTER	9   NON- PRESCRIPTION
 VANUATU	OCEANIA	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	YES	YES	YES
 VATICAN CITY (HOLY SEE)	EUROPE	MEDIUM-LOW	NO	NONE	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 VENEZUELA	AMERICAS	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	NO	NO	NO	YES
 VIETNAM	ASIA	MEDIUM-HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	YES	NO	YES
 WALLIS AND FUTUNA	OCEANIA	VERY HIGH	NO	NONE	YES	UNKNOWN	-	-
 YEMEN	ASIA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-
 ZAMBIA	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	YES	YES	YES
 ZIMBABWE	AFRICA	LOW	YES	HEAVY	NO	UNKNOWN	-	-



## 03 TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

This section will explore many factors directly or indirectly affecting the LGBTQIA+ community. The points and explanations are general, as the laws and rules regarding travel vary by country.

### LEGAL RECOGNITION



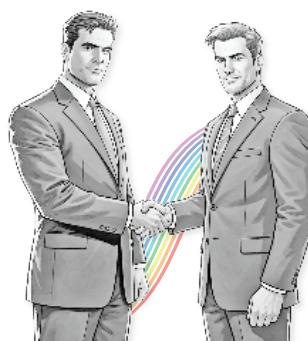
Every time someone travels overseas, once they enter that country, they are subject to its laws, rules, cultural etiquette, and what they legally recognise within the law. Same-sex marriage or partnership formed in one country might not be recognised in another, and a legal change of gender could be ignored for the duration of a trip.

Though gender recognition, same-sex unions and overall LGBTQIA+ rights have significantly improved over the years, those travelling to a new country or region should understand the risks, if any.

### DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS

A common phrase on many travel forums is that how a country treats its tourists is very different from how it treats its citizens, which is often true. Though there is no guarantee, visitors to a new country or region must also understand the relationship to their home country.

A good diplomatic relationship might mean your customer would be able to return home for LGBTQIA+ related issues arising during their trip without further prosecution. In contrast, a poor relationship might see your customers being detained and made into an example for political advantage.



## DISCRETION ADVISED



Though a country might be safe to visit and is free of conflict, if they are known to have antiquated LGBTQIA+ laws, it can pose a significant risk to travellers from the community. If they still choose to travel, then discretion is always advised.

Steps such as not confirming that they are in a same-sex relationship, as by doing so, they could be confessing to committing a crime. In some establishments, especially in rural areas or smaller providers, booking twin rooms is a reasonable measure to ensure their protection. If they plan to use popular apps to meet local people in their vicinity, not sharing their names, faces, or anything else that can help someone track them are all measures to protect them from being targeted.

## CULTURAL ETIQUETTE

Travelling is good for the soul; each time we travel, we have the opportunity to discover new cultures and ways of life. Culturally accepted norms in one country may not travel well. So, a hands-on customer travelling to countries within Asia may commit an offence by innocently touching the arm or tapping a person on the shoulder to get their attention.

In many Middle Eastern countries, any form of public display of affection, nudity or provocative is often seen as indecent, regardless of a person's gender or sexual orientation and could see them facing criminal prosecution.

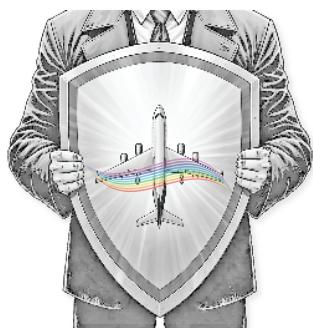


## URBAN VS RURAL



When travelling to countries that score high in the Gayther Equality Index, even those known to be progressive, customers might not have the same experience across the country. Typically, urban areas are more progressive and inclusive, with community members living in many places tourists will frequent. It does not mean rural communities will be hostile; it just means that travellers should manage their expectations.

# TRAVEL INSURANCE: LEGAL PROTECTION



For overseas travel, especially overseas, insurance is often recommended, if not mandatory, especially with some operators, such as cruise operators or ski holidays. One option frequently offered is legal protection cover. This coverage protects the traveller; should an incident occur while travelling overseas, the insurance will help to cover some or all of their legal costs; however, exclusions will typically apply.

One such exclusion relates to any criminal offence or breaking of the law while travelling. If an LGBTQIA+ traveller visited a country where same-sex relationships are considered illegal, a situation could arise where they might not get any financial support or payout from the legal protection cover for legal representation to fight the charges, as the situation would likely be considered an exclusion.

The points raised highlight some areas LGBTQIA+ travellers should consider when travelling to new destinations. Ultimately, the traveller is responsible for making any decisions; however, the more guidance provided, the better informed they will be.

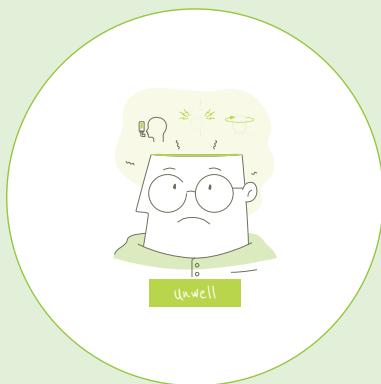
To support you in assisting LGBTQIA+ travellers, **in section 4**, we have included a customer checklist.



# COMMUNICATING DURING AN EMERGENCY

The Gayther Medical Diagnosis Interpreter (MDI) is a free online tool and a series of downloadable guides designed to help during a medical emergency. Before travelling, you can download the relevant guide, or if you have internet access, you can visit the online Gayther MDI service and use the tool. The MDI helps you translate how you feel, any symptoms, pre-existing conditions, and the assistance you need when communicating with a medical professional.

## HOW IT WORKS



### STEP 1

You begin to feel unwell and call for medical assistance.

### STEP 2

Using the intuitive MDI, you click or point out how you think and feel to the medical professional. The MDI highlights all significant symptoms, conditions and medications in all of the local languages of the place you are visiting.



### STEP 3

The medical practitioner will use the information you are communicating to help diagnose your condition and provide a suitable course of action and treatment.

Visit Gayther to use the MDI tool or download any of the available guides

<https://gayther.care/medical-diagnosis/>

# 04 LGBTQIA+ TRAVEL CHECKLIST

The travel guide checklist has been created to highlight key areas LGBTQIA+ travellers should consider when travelling overseas. Once you have checked out the relevant point, you can mark the box with a tick.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The list is not exhaustive; you are advised to carry out your independent research before travelling.

WHENEVER YOU  
COMPLETE A TASK



1

## ESTABLISH THE LGBTQIA+ EQUALITY STATUS



Looking into and establishing the country's equality status is always advisable. The equality status is a metric representing the views and how it treats its local LGBTQIA+ community.

*See a country's status within section 3*

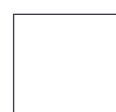


2

## OTHER TRAVELLERS EXPERIENCES



Before travelling, it is always advisable to read reviews, connect with people, and establish the experiences of all those who live within or have visited your chosen destination. There are many ways to connect [using services such as Trip Advisor, Gayther Affinity, Reddit, etc.](#)

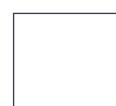


3

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVICE



Review your country's foreign affairs advice service for your chosen destination. Most countries provide guidance to their citizens concerning travelling to specific countries or regions. The advice is typically related to your country's status regarding diplomatic relationships, conflicts in the area and more.



4

## LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE



If travelling to a country or region that scores moderate or lower within the LGBTQIA+ Equality status, it is always advisable to establish the contact details for your country's embassy, high commission or consulate in all areas you plan to visit. Embassies are typically larger and well-staffed and offer a range of consular services. High Commissions are the embassies of a Commonwealth country located within another Commonwealth country. Consulates are generally smaller, offering fewer services. The size and scale of the overseas representative office can also be used to gauge the level of support they can offer.



5

## TRAVEL INSURANCE



When travelling overseas, obtaining some form of travel insurance is often mandatory, if not advised. When travelling to higher-risk regions or areas, it is possible to purchase a travel policy which includes some form of legal protection should the worst case happen. When searching for travel insurance, it is important to review what is included within the cover, any exclusions, and how to make a claim (if needed).



6

## ENTRY RULES AND REQUIREMENTS



Before travelling to any country, it is always advisable to establish all of the rules of entry, whether there are any visa requirements or any items prohibited by customs and excise, to avoid any problems upon arrival. If travelling to multiple regions and countries, items permitted in one country might not be allowed in another. If a visa is required, you might need to obtain it before you arrive in the country.



7

## MAKING CONNECTIONS AND NETWORKING



When arriving in a new country or area, if you plan to connect with the locals, you should consider researching what apps and services people tend to use, especially those many consider safe. Some apps and services are known to be used in scams and to entrap the local community, so reaching out to people living within the places you are visiting can help you avoid potential problems.



# 05 LGBTQIA+ EQUALITY STATUS

The Gayther Equality Index focuses on the LGBTQIA+ community's global status, rights and legal treatment. The index is compiled by reviewing and categorising the many rules and laws that directly affect and impact the community. Categories and areas include same-sex legal status, the right to marry, anti-discrimination laws and other key metrics. [Click here](#) to view the How it was calculated page to understand all the areas and how they contribute to the overall score.

## How can the LGBTQIA+ Equality Status help visitors and travellers?

The LGBTQIA equality index + indicates how well a country treats its citizens and the local community. Though many issues individuals face within a country, such as the right to marry or adopt, will not affect visitors or travellers, it helps to gauge attitudes. Countries where LGBTQIA+ identities are more widely accepted tend to have more progressive laws. Laws, especially in democratically elected governments, are typically driven and implemented based on consensus and high approval rates amongst most citizens. Where countries score lower on the equality scale, the LGBTQIA+ community will likely face hostility, including visitors and travellers to that country, unless they are discrete. Ultimately, the index is a great indicator; however, it is not the only one that can affect someone's travel experience. Research must be carried out when planning to travel to a particular area or region to ensure that there are no problems, such as extreme weather, outbreaks of diseases or violence.

**IMPORTANT** | The following section has been created to provide general and basic understandings regarding LGBTQIA+ global rights and treatments. It is essential that before travelling, you independently establish information relating specifically to your requirements and circumstances. If you are unsure or concerned about your safety regarding visiting a specific destination, it is advisable to consult with your country's foreign office, which will provide advice and guidance regarding destinations around the world.

## DEFINITIONS

<b>VERY HIGH</b>	Likely to be considered <b>Very Safe</b>	Countries classified as very high generally mean that they are the safest and have a range of progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Countries which have decriminalised or have never criminalised same-sex relationships and have extensive anti-discrimination laws in place  <b>LGBTQIA+ Travellers:</b> Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as very high will likely not
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		<p>experience discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Experiences and perspectives will be higher in cities than in rural and less populated areas. Community smartphone apps should be safe, and public displays of affection would be widely accepted.</p> <p><b>Attitudes toward the community:</b> Countries categorised as very high will likely see large groups of the population, society, and country be more accepting of LGBTQIA+ identities, especially in cities and populated areas. Acceptance levels may be slightly lower in rural areas and remote regions.</p>
<p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p>Likely to be considered <b>Safe</b></p>	<p>Countries classified as high are considered safe and have a range of progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Countries which have decriminalised or have never criminalised same-sex relationships and have some anti-discrimination laws in place</p> <p><b>LGBTQIA+ Travellers:</b> Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as high will likely not experience discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Experiences and perspectives will be higher in cities than in rural and less populated areas. Community smartphone apps should be safe, and public displays of affection may be accepted.</p> <p><b>Attitudes toward the community:</b> Countries categorised as high will likely see society and the country be widely more accepting of LGBTQIA+ identities, especially in cities and populated areas. Acceptance levels may be lower in rural areas and remote regions.</p>

<b>MEDIUM HIGH</b>	<p>Likely to currently have <b>Issues</b></p>	<p>Countries classified as medium-high are considered generally safe but may have minor issues. Many of the counties will have some progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Counties that have decriminalised or have never criminalised same-sex relationships and have some or no anti-discrimination laws in place</p> <p><b>LGBTQIA+ Travellers:</b> Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as medium-high might not experience some form of discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Experiences and perspectives will be higher in cities than in rural and less populated areas. Community smartphone apps should be safe, and public displays of affection will be less likely to be accepted.</p> <p><b>Attitudes toward the community:</b> Countries categorised as medium-high will likely see improvements in society and the country regarding LGBTQIA+ identities, especially in cities and populated areas. Acceptance levels may be lower in rural areas and remote regions.</p>
	<p>Likely to currently have <b>Serious issues</b></p>	<p>Countries classified as medium-low are where travel discretion is advised, considered a low-medium risk, and serious issues will probably arise within society or the government. Countries will likely have some progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Some countries have decriminalised same-sex relationships; however, most still have active laws. For those countries criminalising same-sex relationships, prosecutions will probably not be enforced. Many countries will also have some or no anti-discrimination laws in place.</p>

**LOW**

Likely to be considered  
**Not Safe**

**LGBTQIA+ Travellers:** Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as medium-low might experience some form of discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Experiences and perspectives will be higher in cities than in rural and less populated areas. Community smartphone apps might not be safe, so discretion is advised, and public displays of affection will likely not be accepted.

**Attitudes toward the community:** Countries categorised as medium-low will see attitudes lower than more accepting countries. Societies and the country may have seen improvements concerning LGBTQIA+ identities, especially in cities and populated areas. Acceptance levels may be lower in rural areas and remote regions.

Countries classified as low are where travel discretion is advised and considered a medium risk and unsafe. Countries will likely have no progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community; instead, legislation targeting or singling out the community and its members. Countries will criminalise same-sex relationships, and prosecutions are often still enforced. Penalties will range from medium (up to 2 years imprisonment) to heavy (up to life imprisonment)

**LGBTQIA+ Travellers:** Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as low will most likely experience discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Discretion is advised, even though some countries might be more tolerant of visitors. Community smartphone apps might be unsafe, so discretion is recommended, and there should be no public displays of affection.

**Attitudes toward the community:** Countries categorised as low will see attitudes less accepting,

## VERY LOW

### Likely to be considered Serious Risk / Dangerous

even hostile towards LGBTQIA+ identities. Though LGBTQIA+ communities exist within those countries, many will likely be discrete, hiding or suppressing their true identity. Many community members will probably live in major cities and populated areas, meeting community members secretly and hidden from those in authority. Acceptance levels will be lower in rural areas and remote regions, where vigilantes may take the law into their own hands.

Countries classified as very low are where travel discretion is advised and considered high risk, even dangerous. Countries will likely have no progressive laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community; instead, legislation targeting or singling out the community and its members. Countries will criminalise same-sex relationships, and prosecutions are often still enforced. Penalties will range from heavy (up to life imprisonment) to death sentences.

**LGBTQIA+ Travellers:** Visitors and travellers to countries categorised as very low, it is often dangerous, and people will likely experience discrimination or negative attitudes due to their sexuality or gender identities. Discretion is strongly advised, even though some countries might be more tolerant of visitors. Community smartphone apps might not be safe, so discretion is recommended. Not sharing physical locations and showing anything that could be used to identify you. It is strongly advised not to carry out any public displays of affection in any form.

**Attitudes toward the community:** Countries categorised as very low will see attitudes as poor and less accepting, even hostile towards LGBTQIA+ identities. Though LGBTQIA+ communities exist within those countries, many will likely be discrete,

hiding or suppressing their true identity. Many community members will probably live in major cities and populated areas, meeting community members secretly and risking their lives, often hidden from those in authority. Acceptance levels will be lower in rural areas and remote regions. Nationwide, should their identity be exposed, it could result, in extreme cases, in a death sentence.

learn more about the gayther

## PRIDE IN SERIES

The pride-in series is primarily about showcasing the exceptional groups and people that make up the global LGBTQIA+ community. Taking pride is about educating and sharing information about the various identities, sexualities and special groups. It is a platform that showcases and highlights the groups of individuals that make up the global community and hopefully helps people feel pride. Experiences and treatments will vary for people from different groups within the international community.



Many will share similarities and even unite within the common cause for equality and legal recognition. However, how a person chooses to identify can be very different depending on the country, society and culture that they live within. The pride-in series will help them connect with their community and provide many reasons to be proud, regardless of how they choose to identify or love. Whether a person is straight, gay, transgender or cisgender, the pride-in series is for everyone and highlights that we are all unique and special.

Learn more about the extensive resources available on Gayther, taking pride in all of the groups that form the global community, including those from conventional identities and sexualities. Ultimately, remembering that we are all unique and special and how we identify and choose to love is part but not the only thing that defines who we are as individuals. Love is love, and accepting those different to us is crucial in a free and fair society.

EXPLORE THE PRIDE IN SERIES TODAY  
<https://gayther.lgbt/community/pride-in-series/>



# DISCOVER GAYTHER

Gayther is an online service home to one of the world's largest current and relevant collections of LGBTQIA+ information. One such series is the free and extensive LGBTQIA+ travel guides. With over 600 fun and informative online guides and downloadable versions available, these guides are essential companions for any traveller.



## USEFUL INFO

All the information a traveller would need to know before their trip, from accepted currencies, languages spoken, electrical voltage and plugs used, and so much more.



## USEFUL PHRASES

Each guide also features useful phrases in the local languages, phrases and terms related to greetings, emergencies, instructions, directions and guidance.



## LGBTQIA+

The LGBTQIA+ section pulls information from the annually compiled equality index, including the status of many LGBTQIA+-related laws and treatments, such as criminalisation, recognition of same-sex relationships, gender recognition and much more.



## WEATHER

Each guide provides helpful weather information, whether the easy-to-understand temperature chart, with a scale from hot to cold, or average temperatures for each month of the year; the guide helps your customers plan their upcoming trip.



Lgbtqia+ global community



## HEALTH-RELATED

The Health section highlights key information about the healthcare system operated within that country, the availability of contraception, blood types and all other essential health factors.

## EMERGENCY INFO

Should the worst happen, Gayther offers extensive tools and guides to support travellers. Whether it is the emergency service contact numbers within each guide or the Medical Diagnosis Interpreter designed to help communicate a person's condition in the local languages, Gayther provides all the essential tools should an emergency arise.

EXPLORE THE LGBTQIA+ TRAVEL GUIDES TODAY

<https://gayther.com/world>



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