

HRC Global

LGBT TRAVEL ADVISORIES

A compilation of U.S. Department of State “travel advisories” for American LGBT travelers, supplemented with advisories made by the Australian, Canadian, Irish and United Kingdom governments for the purpose of comparison. These governments were selected because they provide English-language, LGBT-specific travel advisories. Reviewing these advisories should only be a first step when researching a potential travel destination.

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LGBT Travel Information – Adapted from guidance by the U.S. Department of State

By fighting for the rights of so many others, we realize that *"gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."* -- Secretary Clinton -- December 6, 2011

Attitudes and tolerance toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons vary from country to country, just as they vary among U.S. cities and states. Most LGBT travelers encounter no problems while overseas, but it helps to be prepared and research your destination before you go. There are a number of countries that provide legal protections to those who are LGBT. Unfortunately, there are others that do not, and a significant number that even criminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations. Persons convicted in these countries could be sentenced to prison, and/or be punished by fines, deportation, flogging, or even sentenced to death. Before choosing one's international destination, LGBT travelers should carefully consider the laws and biases of their international destination and decide how open one can be regarding one's sexual orientation or gender identity. Personal judgment and knowledge of local laws and customs before one goes will help ensure your safety. Consult Country Specific Information and links available throughout this document for other helpful resources.

Before You Travel

Where can I find this information?

- Invest in a good current guide book – many specialize in advice to LGBT travelers
- The Internet and the press that specializes in LGBT issues are also good resources
- Your travel agent or tour operator might have information about LGBT issues, particularly in the more popular holiday destinations
- Local LGBT groups are an excellent source of information about local laws and attitudes
- Sign up for the State Department’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Does the U.S. Department of State publish information about harassment or arrests of LGBT travelers or residents?

The Special Circumstances sections of some Country Specific Information documents, which are available on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, contain information about attitudes, harassment, or arrests relating to LGBT travelers. The annual Human Rights Report that the State Department publishes also includes a section specifically regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in each country.

What documents should LGBT individuals or families carry when traveling abroad?

The Department of State recommends that individuals carry legal/health documents that facilitate authorization for medical treatment or access in the event of a medical emergency while abroad. Parents should consider carrying documents regarding parentage and/or custody for accompanying minor children. Carry contact information for people in the United States, both legal and familial, and share your travel itinerary with someone in the United States. Program the contact information for the U.S. embassy or consulate in the countries you’re visiting into your phone. Check with that country’s embassy or consulate in the United States to learn about any special documentation requirements.

How do I document a change of name through marriage?

See Passport Services’ change of name documentation requirements on the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ website.

What is the policy of the U.S. Department of State regarding the passport identity of transgender travelers?

See Passport Services’ identification requirements for gender reassignments on the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ website.

How can I find HIV entry requirements of foreign countries?

The Department of State publishes Country Specific Information for every country on the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ website. We include HIV/AIDS entry restrictions, or lack of restrictions, in the section entitled Entry/Exit Requirements for U.S. Citizens. In some instances, the Country Specific Information refers travelers to that country’s embassy or consulate for additional information.

What is the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can provide you with current Travel Warnings, Alerts, and Country Specific Information. STEP also allows U.S. citizens abroad to get emergency and security messages from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Most importantly, the embassy or consulate will be able to locate and assist you in an emergency. When enrolling in STEP, be sure to include an email address or phone number where you can be reached while traveling.

While You're There

What are some issues to be aware of while traveling abroad?

- Be a responsible tourist - avoid potentially risky situations, and don't do anything that you wouldn't do at home
- Remember that you are subject to the laws and the judicial process of the country you're visiting
- Avoid excessive physical displays of affection in public, particularly in more conservative countries or regions
- If you intend to frequent Internet chat rooms or other meeting places, it's wise to find out about the local situation – police in some countries have been known to monitor such sites and locales with the intention of carrying out entrapment campaigns
- Be wary of new-found "friends" - criminals sometimes exploit the generally open and relaxed nature of the LGBT scene
- If you receive unwelcome attention or unwelcome remarks, it's usually best to ignore them
- Some resorts or LGBT neighborhoods can be quite segregated - be aware that local residents may not approve of expressions of sexuality when you are in surrounding areas
- You're more likely to experience difficulties in rural areas, so exercise discretion
- Some hotels, especially in rural areas, won't accept bookings from same-sex couples - it's best to check before you go

What should I do if I run into problems while overseas?

The American Citizens Services (ACS) Section of the U.S. embassy or consulate may be able to help you if you run into problems overseas, especially if you feel that you can't approach the local police or encounter difficulties with local authorities. Consular officers will protect your privacy, and will not make generalizations, assumptions, or pass judgment.

American consular officers monitor and record incidents U.S. citizens report to them about the treatment they receive from host authorities. U.S. embassies regularly raise issues of concern, especially inappropriate treatment or harassment of American citizens, with relevant officials.

Travel Advisories Gathered from the Following Sources:

U.S. Department of State:

- <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html>>

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

- <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/>

Canadian Government:

- <http://travel.gc.ca/>

United Kingdom Government:

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

- <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>

EUROPE

Albania

USA – Generally, LGBT individuals are not discriminated against while living, traveling, or working in Albania. Albanian law does not permit same-sex marriage and does not recognize a marriage certificate for same-sex couples from other countries, but it does not otherwise prosecute or discriminate against same-sex relationships. Same-sex married couples are not allowed to apply for Residency Permits as a family, but each partner may register individually. Despite the law and the government's formal support for LGBT rights, homophobic attitudes remain.

Australia – Exercise normal safety and precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal in Albania however you should be aware that it is not widely accepted.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. While homosexuality is not illegal in Albania, it is not widely accepted. Exercise discretion as Albanian society is very conservative.

UK – Over 80,000 British nationals visit Albania every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is not illegal but is not widely accepted. There have been incidents of assault against homosexuals. Avoid public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Andorra

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Spain. Spain welcomes LGBT travelers.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for the Principality of Andorra at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 30,000 British nationals visit Andorra every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Armenia

USA – There are no specific laws protecting LGBT individuals in Armenia, though there are no legal impediments to the organization of LGBT events. However, traditional cultural attitudes result in LGBT individuals often facing de facto discrimination and harassment by state and private actors.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Same-sex relationships are legal in Armenia, but are not widely accepted by society. There have been incidents of ‘hate speech’ from public figures directed at the LGBTI community towards whom discrimination is also widespread.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted in Armenian society.

UK – The border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is closed. There are frequent violations of the 1994 ceasefire between these countries from military emplacements along the border. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to parts of the regions of Tavush and Gegharkunik that border Azerbaijan. Homosexuality was decriminalised in 2003 but is still viewed with disapproval by many Armenians. Local LGBT groups occasionally suffer from verbal and physical harassment. Although same-sex couples are often seen holding hands and kissing in public, this is common in Armenian culture, and is not necessarily an indicator of sexual orientation. You should be discreet.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality was decriminalised in August 2003 but it’s still an unacceptable lifestyle for the majority of Armenians. We advise travelers to exercise discretion on visits to Armenia.

Austria

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Austria. The LGBT community is well-developed in all larger cities, such as Vienna, Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, and Salzburg, and the LGBT organizations generally operate freely. While there is some societal prejudice against LGBT persons, especially outside of Vienna, and other major Austrian cities, the country has become more liberal with laws and social opinion concerning sexual orientation and gender identity. Anti-discrimination laws also apply to LGBT persons and civil partnerships of same-sex couples are legal under a law, which became effective January 1, 2010, but are not equivalent to marriage.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 774,000 British nationals visit Austria each year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Azerbaijan

USA – LGBT individuals are not specifically enumerated in anti-discrimination laws. There are instances of societal intolerance, discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While there are no legal impediments to the organization of LGBT events, strong societal intolerance generally prevents these events from being organized. LGBT individuals have reported that although the law prohibits dismissal of employees for reasons related to sexual orientation, employers find other reasons to dismiss them. One of the main concerns for the local LGBT community is the perceived failure of law enforcement agencies to act on violations of LGBT individuals' rights.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal in Azerbaijan, however it is not widely accepted.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding areas. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted in Azerbaijani society.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Nagorno-Karabakh and the military occupied area surrounding it. While homosexuality is not illegal, LGBT people in Azerbaijan tend to keep a low profile as it is not acceptable to a large part of society. This is particularly true outside Baku and among the older generation. Public displays of affection are frowned upon, especially outside of Baku. Physical contact between men (holding hands, embracing etc.) is usually a sign of friendship.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual activity is legal in Azerbaijan, but many Azerbaijanis disapprove of public displays of affection. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Belarus

USA – Same-sex relations are not illegal in Belarus, but discrimination against members of the LGBT community is widespread, and harassment against LGBT individuals has occurred in the past.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Same-sex relationships are legal in Belarus, but are not widely accepted by society.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted in Belarusian society.

UK – Around 4,000 British nationals visit Belarus every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexual relationships are permitted under Belarusian law. However, Belarus remains a conservative society and the gay/lesbian scene is very low profile. Very few homosexuals are open about their sexuality.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is legal under Belarusian law. However Belarus is a conservative society, the gay/lesbian scene is very low profile and few homosexuals openly declare themselves. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Belgium

USA – LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Belgium. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Up to 1.8 million British nationals visit Belgium every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

USA – Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While reports of physical attacks on people identified as LGBT are rare, hate speech, especially on web portals, is much more common. Presently, there are some laws protecting the rights of the LGBT community but these laws are not universally enforced and the community has a relatively low profile. There are no Pride events and attempts to hold such events have not been supported by the Government.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal; however the local community is generally intolerant of same-sex relationships. Overt public displays of affection by persons of the same sex should be avoided.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Same-sex marriage is not recognized in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Homosexual activity is not widely accepted. Visitors are advised to exercise discretion.

UK – Most visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Bulgaria

USA – LGBT individuals are stigmatized by society in Bulgaria. While LGBT individuals are protected by the anti-discrimination law, hate speech and labor discrimination based on sexual orientation are not considered criminal offenses. There are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events; however, in the past, some marchers were attacked upon leaving Pride events. Additionally, in 2013 the scheduled pride parade was postponed due to police concerns that they could not effectively protect marchers, partly due to ongoing anti-government protests. The 2014 Pride parade occurred as scheduled.

LGBT couples do not have the same legal protections as heterosexual couples, and societal discrimination against LGBT individuals is widespread outside of larger cities. While violence against LGBT persons is rare, in general, public displays of affection should be avoided throughout Bulgaria.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Bulgaria at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Homosexuality is not illegal, but Bulgarians tend not to be very open about the subject and the gay community generally keeps a low profile. There are a few gay bars and clubs.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Croatia

USA – Although LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Croatia, they may face legal challenges as same-sex couples. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events. However, in previous years with the rise of LGBT activism, there were incidents related to hate towards LGBT groups, notably during annual pride events, both in Zagreb and Split. Individual cases of attacks on members of the LGBT community have been recorded and processed by the authorities. In 2014 Croatia enacted the Law on Life Partnership of Same-Sex Couples allowing for formal registration of same-sex unions.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal in Croatia. However, public displays of affection between same-sex couples have been known to provoke violent reactions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 400,000 British nationals visit Croatia every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Cyprus

USA – According to Section 6 of the [Department of State’s Annual Human Rights Report](#), anti-discrimination laws in the Republic of Cyprus cover employment, social protection, social insurance, social benefits, healthcare, education, participation in unions and professional organizations, and access to goods and services. In January 2014, homosexuality was decriminalized in the area administered by the Turkish Cypriots. Public attitudes tend to be socially conservative in Cyprus, but there have been no reports of violence against LGBT travelers. Despite legal protections, LGBT individuals face societal discrimination and few are open about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the Republic of Cyprus. In January 2014, homosexuality was decriminalized in the area administered by the Turkish Cypriots. Public attitudes tend to be socially conservative in Cyprus, but there have been no reports of violence against LGBT travelers.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted in Cypriot society.

UK – Around a million British nationals visit Cyprus every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal in the Republic of Cyprus, although it is not generally as widely accepted as it is in the UK. In the north of Cyprus homosexuality was decriminalised in January 2014.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexuality is legal in the Republic of Cyprus, although it’s not generally as openly accepted as in other parts of Europe. In the occupied north of Cyprus, homosexuality is illegal.

Czech Republic

USA – Travelers to Prague will find one of the most LGBT-friendly cities in central Europe. There is a comparatively large gay community in the city, centered in the Vinohrady district, with several openly gay venues catering to the local LGBT clientele. In contrast, outside of Prague—particularly in small towns—views are still relatively conservative and open displays of affection by same-sex couples are less common. LGBT travelers should use discretion when traveling in these areas. Please see the section of this report on crime and night life in the Czech Republic, as it applies equally to LGBT establishments.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 300,000 British nationals visit the Czech Republic every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Denmark

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Denmark. Danish law provides for same-sex marriage. Denmark is an open society where LGBT travelers do not normally encounter discrimination based on sexual orientation. The non-governmental organization LGBT.DK states on its website that Denmark is among EU leaders in a lack of discrimination against LGBT persons.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 150,000 British tourists visit Denmark every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal and Danish law allows same-sex marriages.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Estonia

USA – Estonian law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics, and the government generally respects these prohibitions. While the law is not specific regarding the forms of sexual orientation and gender identity covered, in practice all were understood to be included. Despite this, many Estonian LGBT activists report the authorities are unwilling to aggressively prosecute possible misdemeanors under penal code provisions involving incitement to hatred.

There are several LGBT night clubs in Tallinn that operate openly and in general without problems. In addition, there is an LGBT community center in Tallinn. LGBT public events, including the regional Baltic Pride event in 2011, have been held without incident. LGBT travelers should nonetheless consider exercising caution when visiting Estonia, especially with regard to expressing affection in public. According to local advocacy organizations, many LGBT persons, especially males, are reluctant to display affection in public (including holding hands) because incidents of verbal or physical assault have resulted. Many LGBT Estonians also do not reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity and avoid reporting incidents to police. As a result, individual police officers may have limited experience or knowledge with regard to specific concerns of LGBT individuals or the LGBT community more broadly.

The English-language website of the Estonian visitor's bureau has specific information regarding the LGBT community in Estonia.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 35,000 British tourists visit Estonia every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Finland

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Finland.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Finland are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

France

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in France or Monaco.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 17 million British nationals visit France every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Georgia

USA – LGBT individuals are protected by anti-discrimination laws in Georgia, and there are no legal impediments to the organization of LGBT events. However, traditional cultural attitudes result in LGBT

individuals often facing discrimination and harassment. In the past, some members of religious and LGBT minorities in Georgia have been targets of attacks. In 2013 on May 17, counter-protestors violently disrupted International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) rallies in Tbilisi, causing injuries to participants and police.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Regional Advisory for the Russian border regions, the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as the areas surrounding these regions. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted in Georgian society.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and against all but essential travel to areas near the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Homosexuality is legal in Georgia, but not widely accepted in society. On 17 May 2013, a rally to mark the International Day Against Homophobia was interrupted by a large crowd of protestors in Tbilisi. Supporters of the Georgian Orthodox Church both physically and verbally attacked those present, and a number of people were injured.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Germany

USA – Germany welcomes multitudes of gay and lesbian visitors each year, especially to Berlin, an internationally famous rainbow destination. Civil unions are legal for same-sex couples; same-sex marriage is not available in Germany. The LGBT community is protected by federal anti-discrimination laws and LGBT Pride events are officially encouraged by most large city governments, including those in Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Munich.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 2,000,000 British nationals visit Germany every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Greece

USA – LGBT individuals in Greece are protected by anti-discrimination laws and gender identity is among the grounds covered by laws against hate speech. There are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events. At the same time, non-government organizations report that social discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is widespread in Greece.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal but is not widely accepted in Greek society. Public displays of affection, by heterosexual or homosexual couples, are not recommended especially in rural areas. Prostitution is illegal in Greece for both heterosexual and homosexual acts, and any sexual conduct with a minor (under the age of 18 years) is illegal and treated as a criminal act.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 2 million British nationals visit Greece every year. Most visits are trouble-free, but you should take sensible precautions to protect yourself and your belongings.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Hungary

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Hungary. Provisions of a new criminal code prohibit certain forms of hate speech and prescribe increased punishments for violence committed against members of the LGBT community when anti-LGBT bias is a motivating factor. Societal pressures however continue to make association with an LGBT identity difficult, but the government has stated its commitment to protecting LGBT rights and does recognize same-sex partnerships, although not same-sex marriages.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 400,000 British nationals visit Hungary each year.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Iceland

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Iceland.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Icelandic authorities recognize same-sex marriages.

UK – Around 185,000 British tourists visited Iceland in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Ireland

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Ireland.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 3 million British nationals visit Ireland each year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – N/A

Italy

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Italy.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 2.5 million British nationals visit Italy every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Kosovo

USA – Kosovo law provides LGBT individuals with full legal rights, but LGBT persons face frequent discrimination in practice. LGBT individuals are protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

U.S. citizens should be aware that there have been attacks on LGBT individuals and the premises of LGBT organizations in Kosovo in the past. U.S. citizens should exercise caution when attending LGBT events, as with any other protests, demonstrations, or political events, as they could turn violent.

LGBT travelers should consider exercising caution when visiting Kosovo, especially with regard to expressing affection in public. Many LGBT Kosovars do not reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity, and avoid reporting incidents to police. As a result, individual police officers may have limited experience or knowledge with regard to specific concerns of LGBT individuals or the LGBT community more broadly.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. While homosexual activity is not illegal in Kosovo, it is not widely accepted. Overt public displays of affection by persons of the same sex should be avoided.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for Northern Kosovo. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in Kosovo.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the municipalities of Zvečan, Zubin Potok and Leposavic, and to the northern part of the city of Mitrovica. Most visits to Kosovo are trouble-free.

There are no laws against homosexual activity or same-sex couples in Kosovo. However, Kosovo is a conservative society and homosexual activity is not generally tolerated. Avoid public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Latvia

USA – There are no legal restrictions on private relations of same-sex individuals or the organization of public events related to LGBT persons in Latvia. In 2013 Mozaika, an NGO that promotes LGBT rights, received 19 reports of LGBT rights violations, which ranged from verbal and physical attacks to discrimination at work and bullying in schools. Non-governmental organizations complained of widespread intolerance and underreporting of such attacks and discrimination to authorities. Between June 15 and June 21 of 2015 Riga will host the EuroPride 2015 festival.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 48,100 British tourists visited Latvia in 2012. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Liechtenstein

USA – LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Liechtenstein. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Liechtenstein at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 2,600 British nationals visit Liechtenstein every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Lithuania

US – The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws. However, members of the LGBT community have experienced verbal and sometimes physical harassment.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Lithuania are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Luxembourg

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Luxembourg.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Luxembourg at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 120,000 British nationals visit Luxembourg every. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Macedonia

USA – A LGBT center was vandalized several times in the past two years, and persons attending a LGBT event in October 2014 were attacked by masked individuals with bottles and stones. We advise exercising caution when attending LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. However, LGBTI travelers should be aware of local sensitivities, and avoid public displays of affection.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in Macedonia.

UK – Most visits to Macedonia are trouble-free. Occasional acts of criminal violence occur, although foreigners are not generally targeted. Same-sex relationships aren't illegal, but Macedonians are not very open about the subject and there are few bars and restaurants which are LGBT friendly.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Malta

USA – There are no known safety and security issues of concern for LGBT individuals in Malta.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 450,000 British tourists visit Malta every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Moldova

USA – LGBT individuals are specifically protected by anti-discrimination laws with respect to employment, and organizations of LGBT events are generally allowed. However, traditional cultural attitudes result in LGBT individuals often facing de-facto discrimination and harassment by state and private actors.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Same-sex relationships are legal in Moldova, but are not widely accepted by society.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Regional Advisory for Transnistria.

UK – Most visits to Moldova are trouble-free. Homosexuality is not forbidden in Moldova, though the Moldovan government does not formally recognise unmarried or same-sex partners. There is an active social and lobbying group on gay and lesbian issues in Chisinau, but public attitudes are less tolerant.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Monaco

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in France or Monaco.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Monaco at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – There's no resident British diplomatic mission in Monaco. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Montenegro

USA – LGBT individuals are protected by anti-discrimination laws in Montenegro, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to organizing LGBT-related events. In practice, however, LGBT individuals are subject to widespread societal discrimination, ostracism, and harassment.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Montenegro at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Montenegro are trouble-free. There are no laws against homosexual activity. Same-sex couples are generally tolerated, but due to the nature of society you should avoid public displays of affection.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. There are no laws against homosexuality in Montenegro and same-sex couples are generally tolerated. However, we do advise discretion and it may be best to avoid public displays of affection.

Netherlands

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the Netherlands. LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in the Netherlands. Dutch law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, including in the areas of taxes, allowances, pensions, inheritance, and access to health care. The Dutch government prioritizes combating anti-LGBT violence. The police have special units to protect the rights of LGBT persons. The courts can provide higher penalties to perpetrators of violence against LGBT persons if it was motivated by bias. Since January 2014 elementary and secondary schools are obliged to pay attention to diversity and LGBT issues.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Same-sex marriage is legal.

UK – British nationals make around 1.8 million visits to the Netherlands every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – N/A

Norway

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Norway.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Same-sex marriage is legal.

UK – Around 581,000 British nationals visit Norway every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Poland

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Poland. Polish law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Although the government generally enforces these provisions, the social acceptance of LGBT persons is not as prevalent as in the United States.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 400,000 British nationals visited Poland in 2012. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Portugal

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Portugal.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 2.1 million British nationals visit Portugal every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Romania

USA – LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Romania; however, an annual gay pride parade in Bucharest has been the scene of violent protests in past years. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is not illegal but is not widely accepted in Romanian society.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Romania are trouble-free. Homosexuality is no longer illegal, but attitudes are conservative and the gay community keeps a low profile.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Russia

USA – Discrimination based on sexual orientation is widespread in Russia. Harassment, threats, and acts of violence targeting LGBT individuals have occurred. Government officials have been known to make derogatory comments about LGBT persons. In June 2013, the State Duma passed a law banning "the

propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" to minors. Russian citizens found guilty of violating the law could face a fine of up to 100,000 rubles (\$3,100). Foreign citizens face similar fines, up to 15 days in jail, and deportation. The law is vague as to what Russia considers propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations. As a result, commentators have suggested the law makes it a crime to promote LGBT equality in public. Violence against the LGBT community has increased sharply since the law was passed, including entrapment and torture of young gay men by neo-Nazi gangs and the murder of multiple individuals due to their sexual orientation. Many view this legislation as encouraging such violence, with the majority of attacks against members of the LGBT community going unreported.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is legal in Russia, but many Russians are socially conservative. Intolerance towards the LGBTI community is common, particularly beyond Moscow and St Petersburg. Violence against LGBTI people has been reported, but it is unlikely foreigners will be targeted unless they are engaged in political activism or are otherwise active in support of LGBTI rights. Public displays of affection by LGBTI people may attract disapproval.

Laws banning the “promotion of non-traditional sexual relationships” to minors entered into force in June 2013. This law makes it illegal to equate straight and gay relationships, as well as the distribution of material on gay rights. It introduces fines for individuals and media groups found guilty of breaking the law, as well as special fines for foreigners.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory for Russia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to crime. Although homosexual activity is not illegal in Russia, a federal law has been passed that prohibits public actions that are described as promoting homosexuality and “non-traditional sexual relations”. This law could render any homosexual and pro-homosexual statements punishable. Public actions (including dissemination of information, statements, displays or conspicuous behaviour) that contravene or appear to contravene this law may lead to arrest, the imposition of a fine and deportation. LGBT travelers, as well as their friends and families, have been targets of harassment and violence.

UK – British nationals made around 58,000 visits to Russia in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal in Russia, but there is still intolerance among some sections of the population. Be careful about public displays of affection. In June 2013 a law banning the promotion of ‘non-traditional sexual relations’ entered into force, but the definition and scope of prohibited activity is vague. Foreign nationals convicted under this law could face arrest and detention, fines and deportation. There have been reports that instances of harassment, threats, and acts of violence towards the LGBT community have increased following the introduction of the law.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is legal in Russia, but there is still a degree of intolerance among some sections of the population; be careful about public displays of affection. A law banning the promotion of “non-traditional sexual relations” entered into force in June 2013; it is unclear how this law will be applied, but it includes tougher penalties for non-Russians including arrest, fines and deportation.

San Marino

USA – N/A

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for San Marino at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 6,000 British nationals visited San Marino in 2010. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – N/A

Serbia

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Serbia. Serbia has active and increasingly-visible LGBT advocacy groups, and several LGBT bars operate openly and without problems in Belgrade. Many LGBT public events, including 2012 and 2013 Pride week events, have been held without incident although the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Pride parades were cancelled because of security concerns.

LGBT travelers should consider exercising caution when visiting Serbia, especially with regard to expressing affection in public. Many LGBT Serbians do not reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity, and avoid reporting incidents to police. As a result, individual police officers may have limited experience or knowledge with regard to specific concerns of LGBT individuals or the LGBT community more broadly.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. While homosexual activity is not illegal in Serbia, it is not widely accepted, and verbal and physical aggression towards the LGBTI community occurs. The Belgrade Pride Parade was banned from 2011 to 2013 due to high security risks, and again cancelled in 2014 due to severe flooding in Belgrade.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. While Serbian law forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation, homosexuality is not widely accepted by Serbian society. Visitors are advised to exercise discretion.

UK – Most visits to Serbia are trouble-free. There are no laws against homosexual activity. Same-sex couples are tolerated, but public displays of affection are inadvisable.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Slovakia

USA – Official protections for lesbian and gay individuals in Slovakia are technically the same as in other European Union countries, which were required to harmonize regulations relating to human rights and

anti-discrimination. Same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults is legal with the same age of consent as for opposite-sex sexual activity between consenting adults. There is no legislation allowing for same-sex civil union, same-sex marriage, or adoption by same-sex parents. In 2014, Slovakia adopted a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Much of society adheres to traditional ideas of marriage and family, and prejudice and official and societal discrimination persist. The first gay pride parade in Slovakia was held in Bratislava in 2010 but was disrupted by attacks by extremist groups. The parade is now an annual event, and has continued without major incident and with more effective cooperation between police and organizers. There are several gay and lesbian venues in the capital as well as in several other cities across Slovakia. There are occasional reports of anti-gay slurs or altercations between gay and lesbian persons and extremist individuals.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for the Slovak Republic at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Slovakia are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Slovenia

USA – There are no known safety and security issues of concern for LGBT individuals in Slovenia. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Slovenia at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 100,000 British nationals visit Slovenia every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Spain

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Spain. Spain welcomes LGBT travelers.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Spanish authorities recognize same-sex marriages.

UK – Over 12 million British nationals visit Spain every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Sweden

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Sweden.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Swedish authorities recognize same-sex marriages.

UK – Over 600,000 British nationals visited Sweden in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Switzerland

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Switzerland. LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Switzerland. LGBT individuals are protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – 698,375 British nationals visited Switzerland in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Turkey

USA – Intolerance towards homosexuality and homophobia continues to be widespread throughout Turkey, even if annual Gay Pride parades are held peacefully in Istanbul. LGBT individuals are not protected by anti-discrimination laws and have been the targets of violence in recent years. While the

Turkish constitution forbids discrimination against LGBT individuals, references in the law relating to “offenses against public morality,” “protection of the family,” and “unnatural sexual behavior,” are sometimes used as a basis for abuse by law enforcement officials. In addition, the law states that “no association may be founded for purposes against law and morality,” a clause which has been used by authorities in attempts to shut down or limit the activities of associations working on LGBT matters.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not illegal; however it is not widely accepted. Public displays of affection could result in prosecution for public order offences.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the border with Syria. Regional Advisory for Hakkari, Siirt, Sirnak, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kilis and Hatay provinces.

Homosexual activity is not illegal, but intolerance remains in some parts of the country. Avoid physical contact, including holding hands, in public.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to within 10 km of the border with Syria.

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- the remaining areas of Sirnak, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kilis and Hatay provinces
- Siirt, Tunceli and Hakkari provinces.

Over 2,500,000 British nationals visit Turkey every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Homosexuality is legal in Turkey. However, many parts of Turkey are socially conservative and public displays of affection may lead to unwelcome attention.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Ukraine

USA – Ukraine Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Eastern Ukraine. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is widespread in Ukraine, as harassment, threats, and acts of violence have been targeted at LGBT individuals. Government officials have been known to make derogatory comments about LGBT persons.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. While homosexuality is legal in Ukraine, public attitudes are less tolerant than in Australia.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for Crimea. Regional Advisory for Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Regional Advisory for the Kharkiv Oblast.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- Crimea
- Donetsk oblast
- Lugansk oblast

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- Kharkiv oblast

Although homosexuality is not prohibited by law, public attitudes are less tolerant than in the UK and public displays of affection may attract negative attention. There is no provision under Ukrainian legislation guaranteeing freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and there has been an increase in intolerance towards the LGBT community.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

United Kingdom

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the United Kingdom.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – N/A

Ireland – N/A

Vatican City (Holy See)

USA – N/A

Australia – N/A

Canada – N/A

UK – N/A

Ireland – N/A

AFRICA

Algeria

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Algeria.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Algeria. Penalties include fines and terms of imprisonment of up to three years. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal in Algeria and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to areas within:

- 450km of the Mali and Niger borders, with the exception of Tindouf town and Tamanrasset city
- 100km of the Mauritania border
- 100km of the Libya and Tunisia borders south of the town of SoUK Ahras

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- Tamanrasset city
- In Amenas
- Tindouf town
- the provinces of Boumerdès, Bouira and Tizi Ouzou east of Algiers (the area known as the Kabylie)

Homosexuality is illegal in Algeria. Sexual acts between people of the same sex are punishable by imprisonment.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexuality is illegal in Algeria. Sexual acts between people of the same sex are punishable by imprisonment and homophobic attacks can take place in this conservative society. We advise caution and discretion at all times.

Angola

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Angola. Penalties include fines, jail time, or labor. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal. There have been isolated reports of same-sex couples being harassed by their communities.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Consensual homosexual acts between adults are not illegal in Angola although they are not considered socially acceptable.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. The laws of Angola prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Angola.

UK – Most visits to Angola are trouble-free. Homosexual acts are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Benin

USA – While Benin’s laws on sexual morality provide scope for authorities to act against a range of sexual behavior, its penal code does not mention or criminalize same-gender sexual relations. In general, Beninese authorities do not act against those involved in same-gender relationships. Local social norms favor discretion in sexual relations and are not uniformly accepting of same-sex relationships.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are not illegal, but the local community is generally intolerant of same sex relationships.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Although homosexuality is not illegal, it is not socially accepted. Homosexual behaviour could lead to arrest under laws such as indecent exposure.

UK – There is no formal British diplomatic representation in Benin. Homosexuality is legal in Benin, but homosexual relationships are not universally accepted. You should be discreet.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Botswana

USA – The Botswana Penal Code states that, “any person who has carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature... is guilty of an offence and is liable for imprisonment.” While the meaning of Penal Code language is subject to interpretation, same-sex sexual relations are considered to be illegal in Botswana. Generally police do not target same-sex activity, and historically the law has not been enforced. While the Embassy is unaware of any official reports of violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, there is discrimination and stigma against LGBT persons, particularly in villages and rural areas outside the capital. It is recommended that LGBT travelers exercise caution with regard to expressing affection in public.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include fines and imprisonment of up to five years. The possession of pornographic material is illegal.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexuality is still an offence under law in Botswana, but is seldom pursued by the police or prosecuted in court anymore.

UK – Homosexuality is illegal in Botswana.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Burkina Faso

USA – Travel Alert: The State Department alerts U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to or residing in Burkina Faso and recommends U.S. citizens defer all non-essential travel. This Travel Alert will expire on January 29, 2015.

The law does not criminalize same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults, but LGBT persons face societal discrimination exacerbated by religious and traditional beliefs against LGBT status. Same-sex civil unions or marriages are not recognized by the government. Local LGBT organizations have no legal status, and repeated attempts by gay rights groups to register with the government were not approved, despite following correct procedures. In early 2013, there were public anti-LGBT demonstrations and inflammatory comments made by government officials. There have been instances of physical abuse of LGBT people that have not been pursued or prosecuted by law enforcement.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not illegal in Burkina Faso, but the local community is generally intolerant of same-sex relationships.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the area north of the Djibo-Dori line.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the area of Burkina Faso north of the town of Boulsa, due to its proximity to the border with Mali. Homosexuality is illegal.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Burundi

USA – Travel warning: Avoid non-essential travel. The Government of Burundi adopted a penal code in April 2009 that criminalizes same-sex sexual activity, with penalties ranging from a fine to imprisonment. To date, however, there are no reports that anyone has been prosecuted for such activities.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal in Burundi and penalties may include imprisonment. Homosexual activity may lead to harassment by the public and/or police.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- all areas within 1 km of the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Cibitoke province
- Ruvubu National Park
- the road north of Bujumbura airport towards Cibitoke
- the main road running west from Kayanza through the Kibira National Park

In Bujumbura you should take extra precautions in the areas of Kanyosha and Kamenge, where the risk to foreigners – particularly of opportunistic crime – is higher.

Homosexual acts were criminalised in 2009. Punishment includes a prison sentence of between three months and two years, and a fine.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual acts are illegal. We advise travelers to exercise caution and discretion.

Cameroon

USA – Travel warning: High risk of travel to Cameroon, avoid all travel to far North region of the country. Cameroon’s penal code punishes sexual relations between people of the same gender with jail terms of up to five years, and the Government of Cameroon actively prosecutes and convicts individuals under this code. Members of the LGBT community are advised to maintain a low profile to avoid harassment, discrimination, and possible detention. Allegations of brutality, illegal searches and seizures, and coerced confessions have been made against law enforcement officials investigating such cases. There are also reports of vigilante groups committing violent acts against suspected LGBT individuals.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include prison sentences from six months to five years, and a fine ranging from 20,000 to 200,000 CFA francs. Attacks and arrests targeting LGBTI individuals have been reported in the media.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal. Suspects may be subject to a fine and a prison term.

UK – The FCO advise against all travel to within 40km of the border with Nigeria’s Adamawa state within Cameroon’s North and Adamaoua provinces, and to within 40km of the border with Chad. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of North and Adamaoua provinces.

Homosexuality is not widely accepted in central African society and sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal in Cameroon. There is a growing intolerance of homosexuality in Cameroon. A number of attacks and arrests have been reported in the media.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Cape Verde

USA – There are no anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBT individuals in Cabo Verde. However, there were no reported cases of official or private discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, occupation, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care, and there were no reported incidents of violence against LGBT persons in 2013/2014. There are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

The Cabo Verdean Association of Gays Against Discrimination organized and celebrated for the second time Cabo Verdean Gay Week “Mindelo Pride” in the city of Mindelo, on Sao Vicente island, in June 2014, to promote equality and respect for sexual diversity. The Association of Cabo Verdean Gays Against Discrimination was established in 2011 as the first LGBT non-profit organization, with the goal to put Cabo Verde on the map of worldwide LGBT movements.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Cabo Verde at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy in Cape Verde.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Central African Republic

USA – Travel warning: Warns U.S. citizens against all travel.

Same-gender sexual relations are illegal in the CAR and the penal code criminalizes consensual same-gender sexual activity. The penalty for "public expression of love" between persons of the same gender is imprisonment for six months to two years or a fine of between 150,000 to 600,000 CFA francs (\$295 to \$1,185). When one of the participants is under age, the adult may be sentenced to two to five years' imprisonment or a fine of 100,000 to 800,000 CFA francs (\$200 to \$1,600). Although there have been no recent reports that police arrested or detained persons under these provisions, they remain illegal.

Australia – Do not travel.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Homosexual activity is illegal and penalties include the death sentence.

UK – Advise against all travel. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in Central African society and some sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal.

Ireland – Do not travel.

Chad

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Chad and recommends citizens avoid travel to all border regions, particularly those areas adjacent to Chad's eastern border and the Lake Chad region.

There are social and cultural strictures against homosexuality. The law prohibits, but does not define, "unnatural acts" and has not been used against LGBT persons. No other specific laws apply to LGBT persons. There are no known LGBT organizations in the country.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in Chad and some sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal. Penalties can include imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Regional Advisory for N'Djamena. Homosexuality is not widely accepted and some homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- areas within 30km of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic
- areas bordering Lake Chad including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol
- areas within 30km of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré

- the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi, and Tibesti
- the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché
- the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region, but with the exception of the capital N'Djamena to which the FCO do not advise against travel.

Homosexuality is not widely accepted in central African society and some sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. While there are no specific laws targeting LGBTI persons, homosexuality is not widely accepted in Central African societies. It is probably best to avoid all public displays of affection regardless of your sexual orientation.

Comoros

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in the Union of the Comoros. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal and penalties can include imprisonment and fines.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advisory for Comoros at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – There is no British diplomatic representation in Comoros. Consular assistance is provided by the British High Commission in Port Louis, Mauritius.

Homosexuality is illegal in Comoros and the Penal Code provides a punishment of up to five years imprisonment and heavy fines for acts that are found to be “indecent or against nature with an individual of the same sex”.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Congo, Republic of the

USA – LGBT individuals face societal discrimination and harassment, including from police soliciting bribes.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for the Republic of Congo at this time.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the Likouala province due to a large influx of displaced people from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). UNHCR estimates around 110,000 refugees are currently in Likouala province.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (a.k.a. DRC or Congo-Kinshasa,). U.S. citizens should avoid all but essential travel to the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, northeastern Orientale, and northern and central Katanga, where instability and sporadic violence continues.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are not illegal in the DRC. Prejudice against LGBT persons is widespread however. In the past year, individuals engaging in public displays of same-sex sexual conduct were subject to prosecution under public indecency provisions in the law on sexual violence and to harassment by the state security forces. Same-sex sexual orientation remains a cultural taboo. The DRC does not recognize same-sex marriages.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Regional Advisory for the eastern and northeastern areas of the DRC.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to eastern and north eastern DRC. The only exceptions to this are the towns of Bukavu and Goma, to which the FCO advise against all but essential travel. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Côte d'Ivoire

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Côte d'Ivoire. However, societal stigmatization of the LGBT community is widespread, and police, gendarmes, and members of the armed forces reportedly beat, imprison, verbally abuse, extort, and humiliate members of the LGBT community, particularly gays. The few LGBT organizations in the country operate freely, but with caution.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not illegal, however public displays of affection between members of the same sex can be considered an 'offence against public decency'. Penalties for this include fines and imprisonment for up to two years.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the western region bordering Liberia.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut-Sassandra, Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra. An outbreak of Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire has closed its land borders with Guinea and Liberia.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Djibouti

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Djibouti. U.S. citizens in Djibouti should evaluate their personal security situation in light of specific threats from terrorism.

The law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual conduct; however, the government has not taken any action against persons under the law, and there are no reported incidents of societal violence or discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. Societal norms do not allow for the public discussion of homosexuality, and persons generally do not openly acknowledge being gay. There are no known organizations for LGBT persons.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the Djibouti-Eritrea border. Homosexuality is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the border with Eritrea. Homosexual behaviour is illegal.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Egypt

USA – For information about LGBT rights in Egypt, you may review the State Department’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

State Department’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: *The law does not explicitly criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity, but it allows police to arrest LGBT persons on charges such as “debauchery,” “prostitution,” and “violating the teachings of religion,” which happened on rare occasions, and provides for up to 10 years in prison for these charges. Authorities did not effectively use anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBT individuals. Gay men and lesbians faced significant social stigma and discrimination in society, impeding their ability to organize or publicly advocate on behalf of LGBT persons. Information was not available on official or private discrimination in employment, occupation, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care based on sexual orientation and gender identity. There were no government efforts to address potential discrimination.*

There were few reports of violence against LGBT individuals, although intimidation and the risk of arrest greatly restricted open reporting and contributed to self-censorship.

According to the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, on October 13, the public prosecutor ordered the release of 11 suspects arrested the previous day on allegations they committed “homosexual acts” at a private gymnasium and sauna in northeast Cairo. Media reports claimed neighbors subsequently destroyed the facility.

According to a report on December 6, a censorship board demanded that 13 scenes be removed from a local film depicting a homosexual protagonist.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Under Muslim custom, homosexuality and sexual relations outside of marriage are considered immoral. Penalties for immorality include imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel.

Overt public displays of intimate affection are frowned upon in Egyptian culture. Demonstrations of homosexuality have been deemed an affront to public morals, and some Egyptian homosexuals have been jailed.

UK – The area to which the FCO advise against all but essential travel does not include the tourist areas along the Nile river (eg Luxor, Qina, Aswan, Abu Simbel and the Valley of the Kings) or the Red Sea Resorts of Sharm El Sheikh and Hurghada.

Although homosexuality is not illegal under Egyptian law, homosexual acts in public are illegal and homosexuals have been convicted for breaching laws on public decency.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Although homosexuality isn't in itself illegal under Egyptian law, homosexual acts in public are illegal and practising homosexuals have been convicted for breaching laws on public decency.

Equatorial Guinea

USA – There are very few openly LGBT individuals in Equatorial Guinea. There are no laws criminalizing sexual orientation, but societal stigmatization and traditional discrimination against the LGBT community are problematic. While discussions of sexual orientation and homosexuality are not completely taboo, and there are no legal impediments to LGBT lifestyles, LGBT lifestyles are not generally accepted.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not widely accepted and displays of intimate affection are illegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy in Equatorial Guinea. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in central African society and some sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Eritrea

USA – Travel warning: The U.S. Department of State strongly recommends U.S. citizens not travel to the country since there is increasing possibility U.S. citizens will not receive the requisite exit permit from Eritrean authorities.

The law criminalizes consensual same-sex activity. Anti-discrimination laws relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) persons do not exist, and there are no hate crime laws or other criminal

justice mechanisms to investigate LGBT bias-motivated crimes against LGBT persons. In the past, the government accused foreign governments of promoting homosexuality. In contrast with previous years, there were no reports that the government rounded up individuals considered gay or lesbian, or that gays or lesbians in the armed forces were subject to severe abuse. There were no known LGBT organizations in the country. In general, society stigmatized discussion of LGBT issues, and foreign male tourists reported that hotel staff in different cities told them that men could not share a room. For more detailed information about LGBT rights in Eritrea, you may review the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Homosexual behaviour is illegal, although the penalties are unclear. Be discreet.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual acts are illegal and we advise caution and discretion at all times.

Ethiopia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults is illegal and punishable by imprisonment under the law. There are some reports of violence against LGBT individuals; reporting was limited due to fear of retribution, discrimination, or stigmatization. There is no law prohibiting discrimination against LGBT persons. Persons did not identify themselves as LGBT persons due to severe societal stigma and the illegality of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults. Activists in the LGBT community stated they were followed and at times feared for their safety. There are periodic detentions of some LGBT persons, combined with interrogation and alleged physical abuse.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual behaviour is illegal and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal for both genders, and is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- within 10 km of the border with Eritrea, with the exception of the main road through Axum and Adigrat, and tourist sites close to the road (e.g. Debre Damo and Yeha)
- areas off the principal roads/towns within 10 km of the borders with Sudan and Kenya
- within 10km of the border with South Sudan
- the Nogob (previously Fik), Jarar (previously Degehabur), Shabelle (previously Gode), Korahe and Dollo (previously Warder) zones of the Somali region.
- within 100km of the Ethiopian border with Somalia and Kenya in the Afder and Liben zones of Ethiopia's Somali region
- the Danakil desert area: north of the Mille-Djibouti and Mille-Chifra roads, and east of the towns of Bere-Ale, Shehet, Didigsala and Chifra
- the four woredas (districts) (Akobo, Wantawo, Jikawo and Lare) of the Nuer zone and the Jore woreda of the Agnuak zone of the Gambella region

Homosexual acts (applying to both sexes) are illegal, and carry penalties of between 1 and 15 years imprisonment.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual activity is illegal and the subject is taboo for the majority of Ethiopians.

Gabon

USA – Although there have been no reports of violence against LGBT persons, discrimination is a problem, and most LGBT individuals choose to keep their status secret, except in trusted circles, due to fear of discrimination. Discrimination in employment and housing is a problem, particularly for LGBT persons open about their sexual identity. Landlords often turn away such persons. Stigma is a likely factor in preventing the reporting of incidents.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activities are not illegal, however the local community may be intolerant of homosexuality. Same-sex relationships are not recognised.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not widely accepted and some homosexual acts are illegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy in Gabon. Homosexuality is not widely accepted in central African society and some sexual acts between members of the same sex are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Gambia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are illegal in The Gambia. Prison terms can range from five years to life imprisonment, and there is strong societal discrimination against LGBT individuals. The Criminal Code was amended in October 2014 to include Section (144A) entitled Aggravated Homosexuality which sets out 7 specific categories, including being “a serial offender,” for which a person is “liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.” The Gambian authorities have called upon landlords and owners of bars, restaurants, and hotels to monitor activities that happen in their environments. A number of people have been arrested under this new law, while others suspected of being LGBT have fled the country. The President of The Gambia frequently uses violent, threatening public rhetoric to discourage LGBT individuals from travelling to The Gambia, and he participates in public protests against LGBT rights.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment for up to 14 years.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. The laws of the Gambia prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. Penalties include life imprisonment. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to the Gambia.

UK – Some foreign nationals have been detained by the police in relation to homosexuality and there has been an increase in inflammatory homophobic rhetoric across the country.

There is a zero tolerance towards LGBT people in The Gambia. The Gambian Criminal Code states that any person who has or attempts to have ‘carnal knowledge’ of any person ‘against the order of nature’ is guilty of a crime and could face 14 years’ imprisonment.

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There is increasing inflammatory homophobic rhetoric from the Gambian President and senior officials. Foreign nationals have been detained by the police in relation to suspected or alleged homosexuality. Gambian law criminalises the act of men dressing as women with a 5-year jail term.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Ghana

USA – Ghana’s criminal code outlaws “unnatural carnal knowledge” which is frequently interpreted by local authorities as consensual same-sex sexual relations and is criminalized as a misdemeanor in Ghana. The U.S. Embassy is aware of two recent arrests and related extortion attempts for such activities, but has received no reports of prosecutions.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal and criminalised as a misdemeanour in Ghana, punishable by imprisonment of up to three years. Same-sex marriages are not recognised by law.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal and same-sex marriages are not recognized.

UK – Homosexuality is illegal. Although there is a small gay community, there is no ‘scene’ and most Ghanaians don’t accept that such activity exists.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexuality in Ghana is illegal and can incur a penalty of up to seven years in prison. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Guinea

USA – Same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Guinea. Penalties include fines and jail time of up to three years in prison. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include fines and imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Advise against all but essential travel. Although homosexuality is not explicitly mentioned in the Guinean Penal Code, Article 325 of the Code states that ‘indecent acts and acts against nature committed with an individual of the same sex will be punished by imprisonment of six months to three years and a fine of 100,000 to 1,000,000 Guinean francs. If the act is with a minor of less than 21 years, the maximum sentence will be pronounced. If the act is committed with violence or attempted violence the sentence will be 5-10 years.’ We have no reports of any attacks on persons linked to their sexuality. However, homosexuality is not widely accepted or understood.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Guinea-Bissau

USA – In December 2008, Guinea-Bissau became one of 66 nations to sign the "United Nations Statement on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," which supports decriminalization of homosexuality and transgender identity.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Guinea-Bissau at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the area bordering Senegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy in Guinea-Bissau and our ability to provide assistance to British nationals is limited. The FCO is not aware of any laws against homosexuality. It is generally tolerated if couples are discreet.

Ireland – Do not travel.

Kenya

USA – Travel warning: U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Kenya.

Although authorities have rarely prosecuted persons for engaging in same gender sexual activity, it is a criminal act in Kenya. The Kenyan penal code criminalizes “carnal knowledge against the order of nature,” which is interpreted to prohibit consensual same-sex sexual activity, and specifies a maximum penalty of 14 years’ imprisonment. A separate statute specifically criminalizes sex between men and specifies a maximum penalty of 21 years’ imprisonment. Police have detained persons under these laws, particularly suspected sex workers, but released them shortly afterward. Travelers should be aware of cultural norms as well as the risk of possible arrest and imprisonment for such activities. Kenya is a relatively conservative society. Overt public displays of affection between persons of the opposite gender will likely garner serious disapproval, particularly in rural areas. Public displays of affection between persons of the same gender also risk serious disapproval, and possibly violence. LGBT advocacy organizations, such as the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya, have been permitted to register and conduct activities. However, societal discrimination based on sexual orientation is widespread. Violence against the LGBT community has also occurred, particularly in rural areas and among refugees. NGO groups report that police have intervened to stop attacks, but generally have not been sympathetic to LGBT individuals or concerns.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Some homosexual activity is illegal in Kenya and penalties may include imprisonment. Homosexual activity is frowned upon by some members of the community, and may lead to harassment by the public and or police.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Kenya. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution, due to the increasing number of terrorist attacks and incidents of crime. The laws of Kenya prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Kenya.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to

- areas within 60km of the Kenya-Somali border
- Garissa District
- the Eastleigh area of Nairobi
- Mombasa island and within 5km of the coast from Mtwapa creek in the north down to and including Tiwi in the south (this area does not include Diani or Moi international airport)
- Lamu County and those areas of Tana River County north of the Tana river itself

Homosexual activity is illegal. Public displays of homosexuality like holding hands or kissing in public places could lead to arrest and imprisonment.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Lesotho

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations between men are criminalized in Lesotho, although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions. There is no explicit prohibition of consensual same-sex sexual relations between women.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts between men are illegal under common law.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – There is no British diplomatic representation in Lesotho. Most visits to Lesotho are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Liberia

USA – Travel warning: Advises against non-essential travel to Liberia due to Ebola outbreak.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Liberia. The U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent prosecutions, but such activity remains illegal as a first degree misdemeanor with penalties ranging up to one year in prison.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal. Penalties include imprisonment up to one year.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal in Liberia. Local officials may refuse entry those attempting to enter Liberia as a same-sex couple. For more information, contact the Liberian government office accredited to Canada.

UK – Advises against all but essential travel. Homosexuality is illegal.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexuality is illegal in Liberia and we advise caution and discretion at all times.

Libya

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all travel to Libya and recommends that U.S. citizens currently in Libya depart immediately.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Libya. Penalties include fines or jail time.

Australia – Do not travel. Sexual relations outside of marriage are illegal in Libya and punishments include imprisonment.

Homosexual acts are illegal in Libya and punishments include a minimum three years imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Homosexual activity and sexual relations outside of marriage are illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Libya due to the ongoing fighting and greater instability throughout the country.

Homosexuality is considered a criminal offence in Libya, for which the minimum prison sentence is 3 years. The authorities are known to charge and convict homosexuals under this law. Sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law.

Ireland – Do not travel. Homosexuality is considered a criminal offence in Libya. Sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Madagascar

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Madagascar with and between persons under the age of 21, and Malagasy law contains no anti-discrimination protections for LGBT persons. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal and penalties can include imprisonment and fines.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal in Madagascar and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Batterie Beach, north of Tuléar, where there have been violent attacks including fatalities. The overall public order situation remains fragile, as exemplified by December's riots both in Morondava and Port Berge (Boriziny).

There are no laws against homosexuality.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Malawi

USA – Same-sex consensual relations are criminalized in Malawi, with males receiving penalties of up to fourteen years of hard labor for men and females up to five years of imprisonment for women. There is increasing space in public conversation regarding LGBT issues, and these laws have not been actively enforced for more than two years, but there are no plans at this time to repeal these laws.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexuality continues to be illegal in Malawi, despite an informal moratorium on the existing law. Penalties include imprisonment of up to 14 years. The local community is generally intolerant of same-sex relationships.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Malawi. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to crime. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Malawi are trouble-free. Homosexual acts are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual activity is illegal.

Mali

USA – Travel Warning: The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Mali. We strongly warn against travel to the northern parts of the country and along the border with Mauritania because of ongoing military operations and threats of attacks and kidnappings targeting westerners. Mali faces significant security challenges because of the presence in northern Mali of extremists and militant factions.

There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Mali. However, in practice, societal discrimination is widespread.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexual activity is not explicitly illegal in Mali but may be considered 'contrary to accepted standards of behaviour', which is a criminal offence subject to a prison term of up to two years.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Regional Advisory for northern Mali and areas bordering Mauritania.

Although homosexual activity is not a criminal offence, it may be considered contrary to accepted standards of behaviour and persons may face sanctions.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the provinces of Tombouctou, Kidal, Gao and Mopti
- parts of the provinces of Kayes, Koulikoro and Segou, as shown on the map

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of Mali.

Homosexuality is legal in Mali, but public displays of homosexuality like kissing in public isn't accepted.

Ireland – Do not travel.

Mauritania

USA – Travel warning: The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Mauritania, and urges those who travel to Mauritania to exercise extreme caution because of activities by terrorist groups in the region, including al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

There are no laws that protect LGBT persons from discrimination. Under sharia law, as applied in the country, consensual same-sex sexual activity between men is punishable by death if witnessed by four individuals, and such activity between women is punishable by three months to two years in prison and a fine of 5,000 to 60,000 ouguiya (\$17 to \$198). There were no criminal prosecutions during the year. There was no evidence of societal violence, societal discrimination, or systematic acts of government discrimination based on sexual orientation. Members of the LGBT community were rarely identified or discussed, likely because of the severity of the stigma and legal penalties for having been labeled as such. There were no organizations advocating for sexual orientation or gender-identity rights, but there were no legal impediments to the registration of such groups.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual activity between men is illegal in Mauritania and is punishable by prison sentences of up to three years.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the province of Tiris Zemmour (except the town of Zouérat)
- the province of Adrar (east of Atar)
- the provinces of Tagant and Hodh el Chargui
- within 50km of the Malian border
- within 25km of the Western Sahara border (except the Noukchott - Nouadhibou corridor)

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of the country, including the Nouakchott - Nouadhibou corridor.

Homosexuality is a punishable offence in Mauritania.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Mauritius

USA – The act of sodomy is a criminal offense in Mauritius for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. The penalty is up to five years imprisonment although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any arrests or prosecutions for such activities. Hotels and restaurants do not discriminate against LGBT travelers. However, travelers should consider exercising caution, especially with regard to expressing affection in public.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. While the law does not criminalise homosexuality, the act of sodomy is illegal regardless of sexual orientation.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. The laws of Mauritius prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Mauritius.

UK – While the law does not criminalise homosexuality, the act of sodomy is illegal regardless of sexual orientation.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexuality is not illegal in Mauritius, but it is as well to bear in mind that society in general is quite traditional in its outlook. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Morocco

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Morocco. Penalties include fines and jail time.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts and heterosexual relations outside marriage are illegal in Morocco and penalties can include imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Morocco. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the threat of terrorism in the region.

Homosexual activity is illegal.

Extramarital sexual relations are illegal. Hotels will refuse to allow couples who are unable to provide proof that they are married to stay in the same room, although foreigners are almost always exempt from having to provide proof.

Public displays of affection are frowned upon.

UK – Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is a criminal offence in Morocco. Be sensitive to local laws and customs and avoid public displays of affection. Complaints can lead to prosecution. Sexual relations outside marriage are punishable by law. It's not uncommon for hotels to ask couples to show evidence of marriage at the time of check-in, and if such evidence is not available, to insist on separate rooms.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is considered a criminal offence in Morocco. Sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law. Discretion and caution are advised at all times.

Mozambique

USA – Mozambique is a very tolerant society. Consensual same-sex relations are not criminalized and there is increasing space in public conversation regarding LGBT issues. There remains, however, some societal stigmatization and room for progress in terms of full equal treatment, such as in the registration of LGBT groups.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal and penalties may include being placed on a good behaviour bond, probation or internment in a workhouse or agricultural colony for up to three years.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Mozambique are trouble-free, but violent crime does occur, and there has been a recent significant increase in cases of criminal kidnappings.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality in Mozambique isn't illegal but social attitudes, particularly outside larger cities, are less tolerant.

Namibia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Namibia. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities between consenting adults, they remain illegal under Namibia's common law system.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexuality is not illegal in Namibia but the act of sodomy is illegal. Local communities may be intolerant of same-sex relationships.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Namibia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the high level of crime.

The laws of Namibia prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Namibia.

UK – Homosexuality is tolerated but Windhoek's only openly gay bar is regularly shut down by drug squad raids.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexuality is legal.

Niger

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Niger. U.S. citizens in Niger, and those considering travel to Niger, should evaluate their personal security situation in light of continuing threats to safety and security.

There is strong societal stigma against same-sex sexual activity in Niger, but no laws criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity in general. The law states, however, that an "unnatural act" with a person of the same sex who is under 21 is punishable by six months to three years in prison and a fine of between 10,000 and 100,000 CFA francs (\$20-\$206).

In January security forces arrested two individuals of the same sex who were found naked together in an isolated parked car. Authorities briefly jailed the two men and convicted them of public indecency. Ultimately authorities levied a small fine, and the men served no further jail time.

Gay men and lesbians experienced societal discrimination and social resentment. Reportedly, two gay rights associations conducted their activities secretly, in part because they are not officially registered. The social pressure to conform is great, and many LGBT individuals marry and have families, often while pursuing LGBT relationships in secret. There are no reports of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. International organizations and NGOs continued their awareness-raising efforts in this regard, focusing on social stigma in general. There are no documented cases of discrimination in employment, occupation, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care based on sexual orientation. Stigma or intimidation was a likely cause in preventing incidents of abuse from being reported.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexual acts are not illegal in Niger, however the law states that an "unnatural act" with a person of the same sex who is under 21 is punishable by six months to three years imprisonment and a fine of between 10,000 and 100,000 CFA. The local community is generally intolerant of same-sex relationships.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Regional Advisory for Niamey. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Aïr Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillabéri province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; areas within 40km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder and Maradi provinces.

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city Niamey. Homosexuality is illegal, but in practice is tolerated if discreet.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Nigeria

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Nigeria and recommends that U.S. citizens avoid all travel to Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states because of the May 14, 2013 state of emergency proclamation for those three states by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Consensual, same-sex sexual relations are illegal in Nigeria. Entering same-sex marriage contracts and civil unions (defined to include “any arrangement between persons of the same sex to live together as sex partners”) is also criminalized, with punishments including fines and prison sentences of up to 14 years. Same-sex marriage contracts and civil unions entered into in a foreign country are not recognized under Nigerian law. Public displays of affection between persons of the same sex are also punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment. Furthermore, the law allows for the prosecution of persons who support or belong to advocacy groups relating to LGBT issues, with prison sentences of up to 10 years. U.S. citizens who participate in free speech or assemblies relating to same sex marriage could potentially be prosecuted under this new law. In the following northern states, where Sharia law applies, penalties can also include death: Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexuality is illegal in Nigeria. It is an offence to enter into a same-sex marriage or civil union and penalties include imprisonment of up to 14 years. It is also an offence to register, operate or participate in gay clubs, societies or organisations, or make any public show of a same-sex relationship. Penalties for these offences include imprisonment for up to 10 years. Twelve northern Nigerian states have adopted Islamic Sharia laws, criminalising sexual activities between persons of the same sex. Adults convicted of engaging in homosexual activity in these states may be subject to the death penalty.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal. Since January 2014, convicted offenders can face up to 14 years in prison. Any person who “registers, operates or participates in gay clubs, societies or organisations” or anyone who makes “a public display of same sex amorous relationship” may face a prison sentence of up to 10 years. Furthermore, anyone who witnesses or abets any of these acts is also liable to a 10 year sentence. In certain northern states, where Sharia law is applied, penalties can include the death sentence.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- Borno State
- Yobe State
- Adamawa State
- Bauchi State
- Gombe State
- Kano city
- Okene City
- Riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States
- Warri city

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- Kano State
- Kaduna State
- Jigawa State
- Katsina State
- Sokoto State
- Zamfara State
- Kebbi State
- Jos city in Plateau State
- Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas of Plateau State
- Okene region of Kogi State
- Non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States
- Abia State

Homosexuality is generally viewed as unacceptable in Nigeria. On 7 January 2014 President Jonathan gave his assent to a ‘Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill’. The bill allows lengthy prison sentences for those entering into a same-sex marriage, those witnessing, aiding or abetting a same-sex marriage, the operation and support to gay clubs, societies and organisations and the public display of same-sex relationships.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. The public display of a same sex relationship is illegal under federal law. Prosecutions can result in custodial sentences of up to 14 years imprisonment.

Rwanda

USA – There are no laws that criminalize sexual orientation or consensual same-sex sexual relations; however, LGBT individuals face societal discrimination and abuse.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity may lead to harassment by the public and/or police.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – The eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains volatile, and there's a continuing risk that the security situation in the region could deteriorate rapidly. You should remain highly alert to the possibility of military incursions, stray bullets and/or artillery fire entering Rwanda.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

São Tomé and Príncipe

USA – While São Tomé and Príncipe has no laws criminalizing or limiting same gender relationships, there are as yet no legal protections for the community against discrimination. Some societal discrimination does exist.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Sao Tome and Principe at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy in São Tomé and Príncipe. Most visits to São Tomé and Príncipe are trouble-free. Homosexual acts are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Senegal

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Senegal. LGBT individuals routinely face discrimination, and there is strong societal disapproval. Travelers to Senegal should be aware that under Article 319 of the Senegalese penal code, “unnatural acts” are punishable by imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of CFA 1,000,000 (USD \$2,000). While authorities have not dedicated significant resources to prosecuting individuals under this article, there have been several prosecutions since 2008. In February 2014, a judge sentenced two men to six months in jail after they admitted in court to having consensual same-sex sexual relations. The men were arrested after a neighbor told police they were living together. In November 2013, five women were arrested for violating the law at a birthday party in a bar in Dakar. Following several days in prison, where they were harassed, the women were released

due to a lack of evidence. In October 2012, a court in Dakar sentenced a man for violating the law. In January 2012, two women were arrested following the circulation of a cell phone video that showed them kissing. They were detained and released on bail several days later but were never formally charged with a crime. These incidents were widely covered in local print and online media. Acts of aggression based on sexual orientation are considered routine.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include fines and imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Senegal. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to crime.

Homosexual activity is a criminal offence and could result in a prison sentence of one to five years.

UK – There is no gay scene in Senegal and article 319 of the penal code states that “an indecent or unnatural act with an individual of the same sex is punishable by 1-5 years imprisonment”.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Seychelles

USA – Consensual sexual relations between men are criminalized in Seychelles. The penalty is up to fourteen years of imprisonment. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal. Hotels and restaurants do not discriminate against LGBT travelers. However, travelers should consider exercising caution, especially with regard to expressing affection in public.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Seychelles at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Seychelles are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal in the Seychelles.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Sierra Leone

USA – Travel warning: The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens against non-essential travel to Sierra Leone (Ebola).

Consensual sexual relations between men are criminalized in Sierra Leone. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent prosecutions for consensual sexual activity between men, such activity is illegal and penalties can include imprisonment. While there is no explicit legal prohibition against sexual relations between women, lesbian girls and women can be victims of “planned rapes” initiated by family members in an effort to change their sexual orientation.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts between men are illegal, with penalties including imprisonment. Homosexual acts between women have not been criminalised.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. There is no Government of Canada office in Sierra Leone. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel. Homosexual acts are illegal in Sierra Leone.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Somalia

USA – Travel warning: The U.S. Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to Somalia.

Same-sex sexual contact is punishable by imprisonment from three months to three years. Antidiscrimination provisions do not apply to LGBT individuals. Society considers sexual orientation a taboo topic, and so there is no known public discussion of this issue in any region. Severe societal stigma against LGBT lifestyles typically prevents LGBT individuals from making their sexual orientation publicly known in Somalia.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts between men are illegal, with penalties including imprisonment. Homosexual acts between women have not been criminalised.

Canada – Avoid all travel. If you are currently in Somalia despite this advisory, you should leave immediately. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Somalia. The Federal Government of Somalia has adopted Shari'a law but is yet to implement it throughout the country. Al-Shabaab and other insurgent groups often have an extreme view on the implementation of Shari'a law.

Ireland – Do not travel.

South Africa

USA – South Africa is one of the most progressive countries in Africa in the protection of LGBT rights, but it still faces a number of challenges. The post-apartheid constitution outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation and the Constitutional Court (the equivalent of the U.S. Supreme Court) ruled in 2005 that gay marriage is allowable. Parliament passed a law in 2006 allowing same-sex couples to marry. As a result, South Africa has become a same-sex marriage tourism destination. There have been no reports of official mistreatment or discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Although the legal system protects LGBT individuals, public attitudes toward them are divergent. In a Pew Research Center study released in 2013, 61 percent of respondents said homosexuality should not be accepted by society, while just 32 percent said it should be accepted. Human rights groups reported

the local LGBT community, particularly in the townships, was subject to hate crimes, gender violence, and killings. There have been no reports of violence against U.S. citizens or tourists as a result of their sexual orientation, though tourists are frequently victims of violent crime. LGBT travelers outside of major cities should exercise caution when visiting traditional communities, as they may be less accepting of public displays of affection or LGBT culture than major cities and tourist destinations.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Most visits to South Africa are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal, and the South African authorities have introduced legislation which bans any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

South Sudan

USA – Travel warning: The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to the Republic of South Sudan.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in South Sudan with penalties up to 10 years' imprisonment. If non-consensual, the penalty is up to 14 years imprisonment. There are no reports that this law was enforced during this year. Societal discrimination against LGBT persons is widespread, and there are no known LGBT organizations. While there are no reports of specific incidents of discrimination or abuse during this year, stigma could have been a factor in preventing incidents from being reported.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties may include imprisonment. Homosexual activity is frowned upon by some members of the community, and may lead to harassment by the public and/or police.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Advise against all travel. Homosexual practices and extra marital relations are not culturally accepted.

Ireland – Do not travel. Extramarital relations are not culturally accepted. Homosexuality is illegal. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Sudan

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Sudan.

Sudanese law prohibits consensual same-sex sexual relations. Penalties include death; however, there are no recent reports of this law being enforced. A few LGBT organizations operate in Khartoum but cannot openly identify as LGBT entities, and the LGBT community is subject to harassment and is unable to seek legal protection. Anti-discrimination laws do not apply to LGBT persons. Official discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity occurs. Societal discrimination against LGBT persons is

widespread. Vigilantes target suspected gay men and lesbians for violent abuse, and there are public demonstrations against homosexuality. There are no reports of official action to investigate or punish those complicit in LGBT-related abuses.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexual practices and extra-marital relations are illegal and subject to severe penalties.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. The laws of Sudan prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. Third time convicted offenders can face up to life imprisonment or the death penalty. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Sudan.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the following parts of Sudan: Darfur, the Red Sea State border with Eritrea; the Abyei region; Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states; areas of Northern Kordofan and White Nile states south of the Kosti-El Obeid-En Nahud road. Homosexual practices and extra marital relations are illegal and subject to severe penalties. This includes inviting guests into hotel rooms. Sudanese society is not tolerant of homosexual relationships.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual practices and extramarital relations are illegal and subject to severe penalties under Islamic Sharia law.

Swaziland

USA – While colonial-era legislation against sodomy remains on the books, it has not been used to arrest gay men or lesbians. Societal discrimination against LGBT persons is prevalent, and LGBT persons generally conceal their sexual orientation and gender identity. Gay men and lesbians who are open about their sexual orientation and relationships face censure and exclusion from the chiefdom-based patronage system, which could result in eviction from one’s home. Chiefs, pastors, and members of government criticized same-sex sexual conduct as neither Swazi nor Christian. LGBT advocacy organizations have had trouble registering with the government. It is difficult to determine the extent of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation because victims are not likely to come forward, and most gay men and lesbians are not open about their sexual orientation.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts between men are illegal and penalties include a minimum of two years imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Swaziland. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the possibility of anti-government demonstrations and increased crime in some areas. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There’s no British High Commission in Swaziland. Most visits are trouble-free. Crime levels are relatively low for the southern Africa region, but you should take sensible precautions.

Ireland – N/A

Tanzania

USA – Tanzania is a conservative society. Public displays of affection between persons of the opposite gender garner serious disapproval; those between persons of the same gender risk provoking violent reactions. Consensual same-sex activity is illegal on the mainland and in Zanzibar. On the mainland acts of “gross indecency” between persons of the same sex are punishable by up to five years in prison. Same-sex intercourse carries a prison sentence of 30 years to life. The law in Zanzibar establishes a penalty of up to 14 years’ imprisonment for men who engage in same-sex sexual activity and five years for women. Since the burden of proof in such cases is significant, the law is rarely applied. In the past, individuals suspected of being gay or lesbian have instead been charged with loitering or prostitution. LGBT persons face societal discrimination that restricts their access to health care, housing, and employment. There is no openly gay community in Tanzania; discretion will greatly reduce the chance of any problems.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Some homosexual activity is illegal and penalties may include imprisonment. Homosexual activity is frowned upon by some members of the community, and may lead to harassment by the public and/or police.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal and is subject to significant penalty.

UK – Although most visits to Tanzania are trouble-free, violent and armed crime is increasing. Take sensible precautions to protect yourself and your belongings. Homosexuality is illegal in Tanzania (including Zanzibar).

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual activity is illegal in Tanzania, including Zanzibar.

Togo

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Togo. Penalties include fines and up to three years in prison.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for this country at this time.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Togo. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to an increase in violent crime, social unrest and politically motivated demonstrations. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There’s no formal British diplomatic representation in Togo.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Tunisia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Tunisia. Penalties include sentences of up to three years in prison. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal in Tunisia and are punishable by three years imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Tunisia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the risk of civil unrest and the heightened threat of terrorism in the region. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the Chaambi Mountain National Park area
- the Tunisia-Algeria border crossing points at Ghardinaou, Nefta and El Kef
- the militarized zone south of, but not including, the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba
- within 5km of the Libya border area from north of Dhehiba up to but not including the Ras Ajdir border crossing

Homosexuality is a criminal offence in Tunisia and sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is a criminal offence and sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law. Caution and discretion should be exercised at all times.

Uganda

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Uganda. This remains the case notwithstanding Uganda's Constitutional Court August 1st nullification of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. Social acceptance of homosexuality remains very low, and LGBT individuals – or suspected LGBT individuals – could face harassment, imprisonment, or blackmail and violence. Individuals or organizations viewed as supporting LGBT rights also face harassment. The Embassy advises all LGBT U.S. citizens who are resident or visiting Uganda to exercise caution.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual relations are illegal and are not tolerated. Westerners have been prosecuted for homosexuality in Uganda. On 1 August 2014 the Ugandan Constitutional Court annulled a law passed in February 2014 which had increased existing penalties for homosexual activity and introduced new penalties for promoting homosexual activity.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Uganda. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the threat of civil unrest, crime and armed banditry.

The laws of Uganda prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Uganda.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Katakwi, Amudat, Kapchorwa, Kween, and Bukwo in the

Karamoja region of north eastern Uganda with the exception of trips to Kidepo Valley National Park, which you should make by air. Around 15,000 British nationals visit Uganda every year.

In February 2014, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill was signed into law, increasing previous penalties and creating new criminal offences, including the 'promotion of homosexuality'. On 1 August 2014, the Constitutional Court overturned the law. Homosexuality remains illegal and not tolerated.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexual activity is illegal and there is very little social tolerance of homosexuality in Uganda. On 24 February the Anti-Homosexuality Bill was signed into law, which increases existing penalties and creates new criminal offences. While the Anti-Homosexuality Act was declared unconstitutional by Uganda's Constitutional Court on August 1st, homosexuality itself remains illegal.

Zambia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Zambia, and the law provides penalties of 15 years to life imprisonment. A lesser charge of "gross indecency" carries penalties of up to 14 years imprisonment. Zambian authorities have arrested and prosecuted suspected LGBT persons for such activities. Although, in general, non-Zambians have not been targeted for LGBT activities, the political and cultural environment is hostile towards LGBT persons.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal in Zambia and penalties include up to 14 years imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Zambia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to crime and frequent demonstrations. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Homosexuality is illegal in Zambia and those caught engaging in homosexual acts can be sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal in Zambia and can result in long prison sentences. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Zimbabwe

USA – The constitution of Zimbabwe specifically outlaws marriage between people of the same gender and allows for discrimination based on sexual orientation. Consensual sex between men is criminalized in Zimbabwe, with both parties subject to fines of \$5,000 and a year imprisonment or both. To avoid prosecution in cases where men are arrested for sexual relations, one individual frequently denies his earlier consent, resulting in a charge against the other party of aggravated indecent assault or indecent assault, which carries a sentence of up to life imprisonment. While there is no explicit legal prohibition against sexual relations between women, societal violence and harassment against LGBT individuals is pervasive. LGBT travelers are encouraged to exercise discretion when critiquing Zimbabwean laws or attitudes toward same-sex relationships, as both influential religious and political leaders promote intolerance. Criticism of leaders can be construed as "criminal insult" resulting in fines of \$300, up to one year imprisonment, or both.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Sodomy and homosexual acts between men are illegal in Zimbabwe. Penalties include fines up to or exceeding US\$5.000 and up to one year imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Zimbabwe. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the unpredictable security situation and carefully evaluate the implications for your security and safety. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There are laws against indecency, which effectively make homosexuality illegal in Zimbabwe.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

ASIA

Afghanistan

USA – The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to Afghanistan. The security situation in Afghanistan is extremely unstable, and the threat to all U.S. citizens in Afghanistan remains critical. Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Afghanistan. Homosexuality and cross-dressing are considered serious crimes in Afghanistan and possible punishment may include death.

Australia – Do not travel. Close contact between unmarried men and women (particularly non-Muslims and Muslims) and de facto relationships are illegal. The penalties for breaching these laws are severe. Homosexuality is illegal.

Canada – Avoid all travel due to the unstable security situation, ongoing insurgency, terrorist attacks, the risk of kidnapping and a high crime rate. Homosexual activity is illegal, as are extramarital affairs. Convicted offenders will be severely punished. Displaying affection in public is considered an offence.

UK – Advise against all travel. Homosexuality is illegal.

Ireland – Do not travel. Homosexuality is illegal in Afghanistan. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Bahrain

USA – While the law does not criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between consenting persons who are at least 21 years of age, LGBT activities are not socially accepted.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. While Bahraini law does not criminalize homosexual activity between consenting adults over 21 years of age, LGBTI activity is not socially accepted and is likely to attract the attention of Bahraini authorities under a number of broader morality and public order laws.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is illegal, and is punishable by imprisonment and deportation.

UK – Homosexual behaviour is illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal in Bahrain. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Bangladesh

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual activity is criminalized in Bangladesh and penalties include up to life imprisonment. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Bangladesh. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the fragile political situation. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Up to 75,000 British nationals visit Bangladesh every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Same sex relations are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal in Bangladesh. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Bhutan

USA – Although there are no laws that explicitly prohibit consensual same-sex sexual activity, laws against “sodomy or any other sexual conduct that is against the order of nature” exist. Under the penal code, a person can be imprisoned for as long as one year for engaging in such acts. One government official noted that prosecution under this law is rare, as criminal intent must be proven by the prosecution. There have been no reported cases of such charges. For more detailed information about LGBT rights in Bhutan, you may review the State Department’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Bhutan at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Bhutan are trouble-free. In 2013 there were no cases of a British national requiring consular assistance in Bhutan.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexuality is a criminal offence in Bhutan. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Brunei

USA – LGBT sex acts are criminalized in Brunei under Penal Code, Chapter 22, revised edition 2001, Section 377 (which criminalizes “unnatural offences”) and also under Brunei’s Sharia Penal Code. Possible punishments under current law include a fine and up to 10 years’ imprisonment. Brunei’s Sharia Penal Code increases the possible penalty for men convicted in Sharia court of having sex with another man; the maximum penalty is death by stoning if one participant is a Muslim, and lesser penalties of caning and imprisonment of up to seven years. Sexual acts between women also are illegal, with punishments including fines and whipping. The section of the Sharia Penal Code imposing the severest penalties, including stoning to death, has not yet been implemented and it is not yet clear how a determination would be made on whether the Penal Code, Chapter 22, or the Sharia Penal Code would be applied to a given case. Further information may be available from the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Washington, D.C. or by contacting an attorney in Brunei. A list of attorneys in Brunei is available on the Embassy’s website. While local media have reported on court hearings and police raids in such cases

as male prostitution and underage sodomy, punishment for LGBT sex acts has not been actively enforced.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal, and penalties may include prison sentences.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Around 13,000 British nationals visit Brunei every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Possession of pornographic material is illegal. Homosexual activity is illegal.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

Cambodia

USA – While there are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Cambodia, public attitudes remain negative towards LGBT individuals, and same-sex marriage is generally not permitted. There have been no reports of arrests or violence related to LGBT travelers.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the Preah Vihear temple area and surrounding border region.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the Preah Vihear (Khaoi Pra Viharn in Thai) temple area and the Ta Krabey/Ta Moan temple area located on the Thai-Cambodian border. Around 133,000 British nationals visited Cambodia in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free but there have been reports of assaults and armed robberies against foreigners.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

China

USA – Homosexuality and LGBT rights are not generally addressed under current Chinese laws. Homosexuality was decriminalized in China in 1997, but there are no civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Prejudices and discrimination still exist in many parts of the country. Same sex marriages are not legally recognized in China and local authorities will not provide marriage certificates to same sex couples. There are growing LGBT communities in some of China's largest cities and violence against LGBT individuals in China is relatively rare.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are not illegal in China, but you should be aware of local sensitivities.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Over 570,000 British nationals visit mainland China every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is not illegal although there are no specific laws in place to protect the rights of LGBT people.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

India

USA – An 1861 colonial-era law, known as Section 377 of India’s penal code, makes homosexual acts illegal in India. A 2009 New Delhi High Court ruling decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults. However, in December 2013, the Indian Supreme Court overturned the 2009 decision, again criminalizing homosexual acts. In its ruling, the Supreme Court stated such a change to the law must be made through the legislative process, not a court decision. Although prosecution under Section 377 is rare, LGBT visitors may wish to avoid drawing attention.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is a criminal offence in India. Though prosecutions are rare, you should be aware that a conviction for homosexual behaviour could carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for India. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to a continuing threat of terrorist attacks throughout the country at all times. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Over 800,000 British nationals visit India every year. Most visits are trouble-free. On 11 December 2013, the Indian Supreme Court set aside a 2009 ruling of the Delhi High Court that decriminalised homosexuality. Although prosecutions of gay people are rare, conviction for engaging in a homosexual act could lead to a prison sentence.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal in India. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Indonesia

USA – According to Indonesia’s national laws, homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia and is not specifically criminalized; however, local regulations in certain areas may effectively criminalize homosexual acts. In recent years, protesters have disrupted some LGBT events, but there are a number of LGBT organizations and venues across Indonesia, particularly in major cities and tourist areas.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Some aspects of Sharia (Islamic) Law have been introduced in Aceh Province and are enforced by local Sharia police. Sharia provisions relating to gambling, alcohol, prostitution, standards of dress and homosexual and extra-marital sex may be applied to anyone in Aceh, including non-Muslims and foreigners. Travelers should inform themselves of relevant provisions. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for Papua.

UK – Around 220,000 British nationals visit Indonesia every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Iran

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to carefully consider the risks of travel to Iran.

For more detailed information about LGBT rights in Iran, you may review the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013: *The law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activity, which may be punishable by death or flogging. Security forces harassed, arrested, and detained individuals they suspected of being gay. In some cases security forces raided houses and monitored internet sites for information on LGBT persons. Those accused of sodomy often faced summary trials, and evidentiary standards were not always met. Punishment for same-sex sexual activity between men was more severe than for such conduct between women.*

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual acts are illegal in Iran for both men and women and penalties include the death penalty and corporal punishment. This also applies to foreigners.

Canada – Avoid all travel. On September 7, 2012, Canada closed its embassy in Iran. Because of heightened regional tensions, Canadian travelers in Iran will be closely watched by Iranian authorities. Iranian irritation at the Embassy closure may heighten this scrutiny of Canadians.

Homosexual activity is a criminal offence. Those convicted may be sentenced to lashing, a prison sentence, and/or death.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to within 100km of the entire Iran/Afghanistan border; within 10km of the entire Iran/Iraq border; the province of Sistan-Baluchistan; and the area east of the line running from Bam to Jask, including Bam. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of Iran.

Homosexual behaviour, adultery and sex outside of marriage are illegal under Iranian law and can carry the death penalty.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Iraq

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all but essential travel to Iraq. Travel within Iraq remains dangerous given the security situation.

Neither hate crime nor antidiscrimination laws exist in Iraq, nor do other criminal justice mechanisms to aid in the prosecution of bias-motivated crimes against members of the LGBT community. The law prohibits discrimination based on race, disability, or social status, but it does not address the issue of sexual orientation or gender identity. Societal discrimination in employment, occupation, and housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and unconventional appearance is common in Iraq. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons often face abuse and violence from family and nongovernmental actors. In addition to targeted violence, members of Iraq's LGBT community remain at risk for honor crimes.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexuality, whilst legal, is considered taboo in Iraqi society. People suspected of engaging in homosexual acts may be charged with lewd conduct. Sodomy is illegal in Iraq.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Regional Advisory for the Kurdistan Regional Government-controlled provinces of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- Anbar province
- Ninewah province
- Salah-ah din province
- Diyala province
- Tam'mim (Kirkuk) province

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of Iraq, including the Kurdistan region.

Ireland – Do not travel.

Israel

USA – Travel Warning: The security environment remains complex in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and U.S. citizens need to be aware of the continuing risks of travel to these areas, particularly to areas described in this Travel Warning where there are heightened tensions and security risks.

Israel has anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT individuals. Acceptance and tolerance of LGBT people varies throughout the country and even from neighborhood to neighborhood. As of August 2014, the Law of Return allows for same-sex spouses of Jews making Aliyah to be eligible to make Aliyah with their spouses and receive Israeli citizenship. The West Bank and Gaza do not have specific laws regarding LGBT rights; however, laws barring public displays of affection between members of the opposite sex also apply to LGBT couples. LGBT travelers are encouraged to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, especially when entering religious or socially conservative parts of the country, as well as in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel's Aguda organization provides useful information on LGBT issues in Israel.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Islamic law applies in the Gaza Strip, including a prohibition on the consumption of alcohol and homosexual acts. Unmarried couples (including same-sex couples) are not permitted to live together or share hotel accommodation in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as is any public display of affection. Common-law relationships are not recognized.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- Gaza
- the Sheba'a Farms and Ghajjar along the border with Lebanon (the 'Blue Line')
- east of Route 98 along the Syrian border

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- all other parts of Israel within 5km of the Israeli/Lebanese border

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Japan

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Japan. While in recent years, open members of Japan's LGBT community have made social strides including winning elections to public office, LGBT activists warned that Japan remains an unwelcome place for sexual minorities. Japanese scholars have described Japan as being on the whole " more tolerant of sexual minorities than other countries in Asia," but they say that same-sex sexual behavior remains stigmatized in Japanese society. While overt violence against members of the LGBT community is rare, scholars note that many LGBT Japanese opt to remain anonymous to avoid bullying, harassment, or professional repercussions, resulting in social isolation.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Regional Advisory for the Fukushima nuclear power plant and its surroundings.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to the exclusion zones around the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility identified by the Japanese authorities. 220,000 British nationals visited Japan in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free.

In regard to sexual conduct in private, Japan is a tolerant society. However, public displays of affection are less common than in the UK.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Jordan

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are not illegal in Jordan. However, homosexual behavior is not considered culturally acceptable. Foreigners exhibiting such behavior are likely to be subject to harassment by individuals, including authorities, or potentially targeted by violence. Laws against adultery or breaches of modesty may be used against homosexual travelers. Gay and lesbian Jordanians hide their sexuality, especially from family members. Family members who discover that a relative is LGBT may target them for an honor killing. The Jordanian government does not grant or recognize same-sex marriage.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual relations are not illegal but are not socially acceptable in Jordan.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and subject to severe punishment.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to within 3km of the Syrian border from the Sad Al-Wihdeh Dam up to, but not including, the Jabr crossing. This is due to

the risk of small arms fire and stray mortars in the area. Around 81,000 British nationals visited Jordan in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

While Jordanian law may not explicitly prohibit homosexual acts, Jordan is a conservative society and public displays of affection between homosexual couples are not generally tolerated. You could be arrested under other Jordanian laws.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Under Jordanian law homosexuality is illegal. Public displays of affection between homosexual couples may lead to arrest and incarceration so caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Kazakhstan

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Kazakhstan. Negative social attitudes towards LGBT persons exist, and local LGBT persons are sometimes subject to physical and verbal abuse, as well as unwanted attention from police.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Same-sex relationships are legal in Kazakhstan, but are not widely accepted by society.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted by Kazakh society.

UK – You can travel to most places in Kazakhstan, but travel to any closed area requires advance permission from the Kazakh government. Most visits to Kazakhstan are trouble-free, but crime against foreigners does sometimes occur.

Although homosexuality is not illegal, it is often not tolerated, especially outside the major cities.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Although homosexuality isn't illegal in Kazakhstan, it's often not condoned or tolerated, especially outside the major cities. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Kuwait

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual conduct between males is illegal, with a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and fines. Cross-dressing is a crime, with a penalty of up to three years' imprisonment for imitating the appearance of the opposite sex in public. Societal discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity is common.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal in Kuwait and may attract terms of imprisonment of up to ten years.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Kuwait. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to crime and the general threat of terrorist attacks. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and are subject to severe punishment.

UK – Around 6,000 British nationals live in Kuwait and a further 40,000 visit each year. Most visits to Kuwait are trouble-free. Homosexual behaviour and any public display of affection between men and women is illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual behaviour is illegal. Any public display of affection between men and women is also illegal. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Kyrgyzstan

USA – The Kyrgyz Republic does not recognize sexual orientation as a protected category within the context of discrimination and there are no laws that define hate crimes in the Kyrgyz Republic to include LGBT individuals. LGBT individuals may be subject to discrimination in the application of current laws. U.S. citizens are encouraged to check the most current laws on LGBT issues, as proposed legislation may discriminate against the LGBT community.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Same-sex relationships are legal in the Kyrgyz Republic, but are not widely accepted by society.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is legal but not widely accepted by Kyrgyz society.

UK – Take care if you travel to the Oblasts (Provinces) of Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad. Homosexuality is legal, but not often discussed or recognised publicly. You should take care over public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexuality was legalised in 1998. However, homosexuality is not often discussed or recognised publicly. Care and discretion should be exercised at all times.

Laos

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations, or the organization of LGBT events in Laos. However, discrimination and social stigma toward same-sex couples is widely observed.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Public displays of affection, such as kissing, whether between opposite or same-sex couples, are not considered proper or polite.

UK – Unexploded ordnance in rural areas is an ongoing danger. Take care when travelling around Laos.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Lebanon

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to Lebanon because of ongoing safety and security concerns.

Current Lebanese law prohibits “unnatural sexual intercourse,” an offense punishable by up to one year in prison, although this provision has been recently interpreted in different ways by some Lebanese courts. While prosecutions are rare, the U.S. Embassy is aware that prosecutions have occurred for consensual same-sex relations between adults. Because homosexuality is taboo in Lebanon, very few people come forward about being arrested on these grounds. The authorities normally arrest people when caught in same-sex sexual conduct, or when they raid a gay club and men are found together dancing, kissing, or otherwise expressing affection.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Under Lebanese law, homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – The Lebanese Criminal Code includes a general provision concerning ‘every sexual act against nature’. Lebanese courts consider that this provision includes homosexuality. A criminal offence under this provision is punishable by a prison sentence of up to a year.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Malaysia

USA – An 1861 colonial-era law, known as Section 377 of Malaysia’s penal code, criminalizes homosexual acts. Several states in Malaysia have instated Islamic Sharia laws, applying to male and female Muslims, criminalizing homosexual and lesbian acts with up to three years imprisonment and whipping.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts between males are illegal and penalties include corporal punishment and long prison sentences. Homosexual acts between women may be considered an 'act of gross indecency with another' and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Malaysia. Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Around 435,500 British nationals visit Malaysia each year. Most visits are trouble-free, but incidents of petty crime, especially bag snatching, can affect visitors. Homosexual acts are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Maldives

USA – For more detailed information about LGBT rights in Maldives, you may review the State Department’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013: *The law prohibits same-sex sexual conduct. The punishment for men includes banishment for nine months to one year or 10 to 30 lashes. For women the punishment is house arrest for nine months to one year. No organizations focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) issues in the country. There were no reports of officials complicit in abuses against LGBT persons, although societal stigma likely discouraged individuals from reporting any such problems.*

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal in the Maldives.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for the Maldives. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the prevalence of petty crime and the possibility of civil unrest.

Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British Embassy or Consulate in Maldives. Most visits to Maldives are trouble-free. Same sex relations are illegal and convicted offenders could face lengthy prison sentences and fines.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Mongolia

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual conduct is not specifically prohibited under Mongolian law. However, NGOs, including Amnesty International and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, have criticized a section of the Mongolian penal code that refers to “immoral gratification of sexual desires,” arguing that it could be used against persons engaging in same-sex sexual conduct. There is no law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Civil Registration Law permits individuals who have had gender reassignment surgery to have their birth certificate and national ID card reissued to reflect the change, and the LGBT Center reported that transgender persons have successfully used this law to identify with their new gender.

The Mongolian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has reported that LGBT individuals frequently face violence and discrimination both in public and at home based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. There are reports that individuals have been assaulted and intimidated in public due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBT persons have also reported harassment and surveillance by police, and the NHRC has reported that police sometimes verbally abuse LGBT individuals who reported bias-motivated crimes. Despite training in recent years for police and investigators on how to handle cases involving LGBT rights, victims reported harassment by officers responding to initial complaints of crimes. No hate crime law or other criminal justice mechanisms exist to aid in the investigation, prosecution, or sentencing of bias-motivated crimes against the LGBT community.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are not illegal in Mongolia, however you should be aware of local sensitivities.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 10,000 British nationals visit Mongolia annually. Most visits are trouble-free. Although not illegal, homosexuality is not generally accepted socially. Some Mongolian men don't like seeing Mongolian women in relationships with foreign men. Be discreet to avoid causing offence.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Myanmar (Burma)

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual activity is illegal under section 377 of the Burmese penal code, which contains provisions against “sexually abnormal” behavior and entails punishments up to life imprisonment. Laws against “unnatural offenses” apply equally to men and women. These laws are rarely enforced; however, LGBT persons report that police used the threat of prosecution to extort bribes. In addition LGBT activists reported harassment by police, including arbitrary arrest (for example for loitering), detention, and in some cases rape by security forces and broad societal and familial discrimination.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal. Penalties include fines and imprisonment for up to ten years.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Burma. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the unsettled political situation and the possibility of civil unrest. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is technically illegal in Burma, although these laws are rarely enforced in practice. In June 2007, a European national was sentenced to 7 years in prison for committing homosexual acts.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is technically illegal in Burma, although these laws are rarely enforced in practice.

Nepal

USA – Same-sex sexual activity is not criminalized, and LGBT persons in Nepal actively and openly advocate for their rights. However, Nepal remains a conservative and traditional society and discrimination exists and there have been reports of low-level harassment of LGBT persons. Accordingly, LGBT travelers should be discrete and avoid public displays of affection.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexuality is not illegal in Nepal, however some incidents of harassment of LGBTI people have been reported.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 40,000 British nationals visited Nepal in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

North Korea

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State strongly recommends against all travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK). Travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea is not routine, and U.S. citizen tourists have been subject to arbitrary arrest and long-term detention.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Although homosexuality is not illegal in DPRK it is not considered acceptable by the authorities.

Canada – Avoid all travel.

UK – Very few British nationals visit North Korea and those that do are usually part of an organised tour. Most visits are trouble-free. However, the North Korean authorities have arrested other legal visitors, including 3 US citizens during recent years.

Although there is no specific legislation outlawing homosexuality in North Korea, same-sex relationships are considered unacceptable by the authorities.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Oman

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual conduct is illegal in Oman and is subject to a potential jail term of six months to three years.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Oman. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to potentially violent demonstrations and localized terrorist threats, particularly near the border with Yemen. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and are subject to severe punishment, including the death penalty.

UK – Most visits to Oman are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal in Oman.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual behaviour is illegal in Oman. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Pakistan

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to defer all non-essential travel to Pakistan.

Consensual same-sex sexual conduct is a criminal offense in Pakistan; however, the government rarely prosecutes such cases. LGBT persons rarely reveal their sexual orientation. No laws protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Discrimination against LGBT persons is widely acknowledged privately, but insufficient data exists for accurate reporting on these forms of discrimination, due in part to severe societal stigma and fear of recrimination for those who have come forward.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexuality is illegal. The act of sodomy is illegal in Pakistan and penalties include life imprisonment.

Canada – Avoid all non-essential travel. Homosexual activity is illegal, as is living together without being married.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the Federally Administered Tribal Area
- the districts of Charsadda, Kohat, Tank, Bannu, Lakki, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, Buner and Lower Dir in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
- the city of Peshawar and districts south of the city, including travel on the Peshawar to Chitral road via the Lowari Pass
- northern and western Balochistan
- travel on the Karakoram Highway between Islamabad and Gilgit

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- the Kalesh Valley, the Bamoboret Valley and Arandu District to the south and west of Chitral in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
- the city of Quetta
- the city of Nawabshah in Sindh Province, and areas of interior Sindh to the north of Nawabshah
- Gilgit-Baltistan

Homosexuality and co-habitation by an unmarried couple is illegal.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel. Homosexuality is illegal and we advise caution and discretion at all times.

Palestine

USA – Travel Warning: The security environment remains complex in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and U.S. citizens need to be aware of the continuing risks of travel to these areas, particularly to areas described in this Travel Warning where there are heightened tensions and security risks.

Israel has anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT individuals. Acceptance and tolerance of LGBT people varies throughout the country and even from neighborhood to neighborhood. As of August 2014, the Law of Return allows for same-sex spouses of Jews making Aliyah to be eligible to make Aliyah with their spouses and receive Israeli citizenship. The West Bank and Gaza do not have specific laws regarding

LGBT rights; however, laws barring public displays of affection between members of the opposite sex also apply to LGBT couples. LGBT travelers are encouraged to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, especially when entering religious or socially conservative parts of the country, as well as in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel's [Aguda](#) organization provides useful information on LGBT issues in Israel.

[Australia](#) – Exercise a high degree of caution. Islamic law applies in the Gaza Strip, including a prohibition on the consumption of alcohol and homosexual acts. Unmarried couples (including same sex couples) are not permitted to live together or share hotel accommodation in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

[Canada](#) – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as is any public display of affection. Common-law relationships are not recognized.

[UK](#) – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- Gaza
- the Sheba'a Farms and Ghajjar along the border with Lebanon (the 'Blue Line')
- east of Route 98 along the Syrian border

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- all other parts of Israel within 5km of the Israeli/Lebanese border

[Ireland](#) – Exercise extreme caution.

Philippines

[USA](#) – Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to the Philippines, in particular to the Sulu Archipelago, the island of Mindanao, and the southern Sulu Sea area. U.S. citizens should continue to defer non-essential travel to the Sulu Archipelago, due to the high threat of kidnapping of international travelers and violence linked to insurgency and terrorism there.

There is no prohibition on entry into the Philippines by lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. While there are no prohibitions against entry into the Philippine by transgender individuals, travelers should be aware that immigration officials may require supporting documents if the gender in the traveler's passport doesn't reflect the gender expressions of a transgender person. According to Philippine law, an individual's sex must match that assigned at birth as reflected on the official birth certificate, even in cases of post-operative sex reassignment.

Homosexuality is not illegal in the Philippines. However, there is currently no legal recognition for same-sex relationships. No federal law prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, though there is pending legislation in Congress that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Despite these legislative efforts, LGBT individuals continue to face implicit discrimination, harassment, and other human rights violations. A robust movement of NGOs, international organizations, and individual activists across the Philippines continues to advocate for strengthened legal protections, consistent enforcement of existing laws, and increased awareness of issues facing the LGBT community.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and vicinity.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to south-west Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago because of on-going terrorist activity and clashes between the military and insurgent groups. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the remainder of Mindanao for the same reasons. Around 133,665 British nationals visited the Philippines in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Qatar

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations between men are criminalized in Qatar. Persons convicted may be sentenced to lashings, a prison sentence up to seven years, and/or deportation.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual activity and sex outside of marriage is illegal in Qatar, and may lead to severe punishment, including imprisonment and fines. Foreigners have been imprisoned for having sex with people to whom they are not legally married.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Qatar. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the regional threat of terrorist attacks and when travelling by road. The laws of Qatar prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. Other related offences include being in a same-sex marriage and promoting homosexuality. Convicted offenders can face up to life imprisonment or the death penalty. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Qatar.

UK – Around 17,500 British nationals live in Qatar, and approximately 40,000 visit annually. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexual behaviour is illegal in Qatar.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual behaviour is illegal in Qatar. Any intimacy in public between men and women (including teenagers) can lead to arrest.

Saudi Arabia

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to carefully consider the risks of traveling to Saudi Arabia.

Same-sex sexual relations, even when they are consensual, are criminalized in Saudi Arabia. Violations of Saudi laws governing perceived expressions of, or support for, homosexuality, including on social media, may be subject to severe punishment. Potential penalties include fines, jail time, or death.

Australia – Reconsider your need to travel. Homosexual activity is illegal and penalties include the death penalty.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Saudi Arabia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the threat of terrorist attacks and security incidents. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and are subject to severe punishment, including the death penalty.

UK – Homosexual acts and adultery are illegal and can be subject to severe sanctions.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual behaviour is illegal in Saudi Arabia. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Singapore

USA – LGBT individuals do not enjoy full rights in Singapore. The Penal Code criminalizes any “act of gross indecency” between two men and prescribes a sentence not exceeding two years for those found guilty under this law. While the Singapore government has stated that it will not enforce this section of the penal code, the law remains on the statute books. Singapore does not recognize same-sex unions. LGBT individuals may have difficulty gaining employment in certain sectors of the civil service. The LGBT community organizes closed-door events regularly. However, the government is wary of issuing permits for open air events that openly champion LGBT issues, except for events held at the Speakers’ Corner at Hong Lim Park. In general, the Ministry of Manpower does not issue dependent passes (work permits) to partners in lesbian and gay relationships, even if legally married in another country.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts between men, including kissing, are illegal in Singapore and penalties include imprisonment. There is no specific law against homosexual acts between women, however you should be aware of local sensitivities.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Singapore. Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity, including kissing, is illegal.

UK – Around 450,000 British tourists visit Singapore every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Male homosexual acts are illegal in Singapore, but in a statement to Parliament in 2007 Singapore’s Prime Minister stated that ‘The Government does not act as moral policemen’ and that ‘we do not proactively enforce’ the law on this issue. Openly gay and lesbian support groups and social venues exist.

Ireland – Take normal precautions. Male homosexual acts are illegal in Singapore, but in a statement to Parliament in 2007 Singapore’s Prime Minister stated that ‘The Government does not act as moral policemen’ and that ‘we do not proactively enforce’ the law on this issue. Openly gay and lesbian support groups and social venues exist.

Sri Lanka

USA – For more detailed information about LGBT rights in [country name] you may review the State Department’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: *Same-sex sexual activity is punishable by a prison sentence of up to 10 years, and there were no legal safeguards to prevent discrimination*

based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In practical terms the criminal provisions were very rarely enforced. In recent years human rights organizations reported that, while not actively arresting and prosecuting members of the LGBT community, police harassed and extorted money or sexual favors from LGBT individuals with impunity and assaulted gays and lesbians in Colombo and other areas. Crimes and harassment against LGBT individuals were a problem, although such incidents often went unreported. Social stigma against LGBT persons remained a problem. There were reports that persons undergoing gender-reassignment procedures had difficulty amending government documents to reflect those changes. A civil society group that worked to advance LGBT rights reported close monitoring by security and intelligence forces.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal in Sri Lanka.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Sri Lanka. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the unpredictable security situation. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Sri Lanka are trouble-free. Same-sex relations are illegal but the FCO is not aware of any prosecutions.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal in Sri Lanka. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Syria

USA – Travel warning: The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens against all travel to Syria and strongly recommends that U.S. citizens remaining in Syria depart immediately. Syrian law criminalizes consensual same sex conduct under penal code article 520, which states that each sexual act "contrary to nature" is punishable by as long as three years imprisonment.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexuality is illegal and laws are strictly enforced.

Canada – Avoid all travel. The laws of Syria prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. Other related offences include being in a same-sex marriage and promoting homosexuality. Convicted offenders can face the death penalty.

UK – Advise against all travel.

Ireland – Do not travel. Homosexuality is illegal in Syria. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Tajikistan

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Tajikistan.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Consensual homosexual relationships or activities are not illegal in Tajikistan, although it is not considered socially acceptable or discussed in public.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for areas bordering Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan and Gorno-Badakhshan.

Homosexual activity is legal but is not widely accepted by Tajik society.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). Homosexuality is not illegal under Tajik law but local attitudes are conservative, particularly outside the main cities. You should take care over public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is not illegal under Tajik law but is still very much frowned upon socially. Be discreet and avoid public displays of affection.

Thailand

USA – Although there are no laws that criminalize sexual orientation or consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults in Thailand, some discrimination exists. LGBT groups report that in the case of sexual crimes police tend to downplay sexual abuse or not to take harassment claims from LGBT victims seriously. There are also reports of some continued commercial discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. For example, some nightclubs, bars, hotels, and factories may deny entry or employment to gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the Preah Vihear temple (Phra Viharn temple in Thai) area and surrounding border region. Regional Advisory for the southern provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala and Songkhla.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla on the Thai-Malaysia border. On 10 April 2014 the Australian authorities indicated that extremists might be planning to target westerners in the southern border provinces.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Timor-Leste

USA – The country's penal code and labor law make no reference to same-sex relationships. Gay men and lesbian women are not highly visible in the country, although there are some openly gay public personalities. An LGBT organization exists, and there have been no formal reports of discrimination

based on sexual orientation or gender identity, due in part to limited awareness of the issue and a lack of formal legal protections.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – There's no resident British diplomatic mission in East Timor.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Turkmenistan

USA – Anti-pederasty laws remain on the books in Turkmenistan and carry criminal penalties. Social norms in Turkmenistan are extremely conservative, and harassment, detention, and prison sentences are possible. We would strongly caution against displays of affection by homosexual or heterosexual couples.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Sexual relations between males are illegal in Turkmenistan and could attract prison sentences of up to two years.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Turkmenistan. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to heightened tensions throughout the region and crime. Homosexual activity is illegal. Individuals convicted of this offence may receive a jail sentence.

UK – Male homosexual activity is illegal, punishable by a custodial sentence. Homosexuality is still very much frowned upon socially. You should take care over public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality is illegal under Turkmen law and is still very much frowned upon socially. The issue of relationships between foreign men and local women is also sensitive. We advise caution and discretion at all times and you should avoid public displays of affection.

United Arab Emirates

USA – Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in the UAE. Penalties may include fines and imprisonment. Under interpretations of sharia, the punishment could include the death penalty. Although the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General are not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal. Cross-dressing is also a punishable offense and there have been reports that the government took action against cross-dressing individuals.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts and sex outside of marriage: Homosexual acts and all kinds of sex outside of marriage are illegal and may lead to severe punishment, including imprisonment and fines. Foreigners have been imprisoned for having sex with people to whom they are not legally married. De facto relationships and civil unions are not recognised in the UAE and any sexual acts within these relationships are considered to be sex outside of marriage. Intimate public

displays of affection between adults are socially unacceptable and may attract the attention of local authorities. There have been arrests and convictions for public displays of affection between adults of the opposite and same sex, including kissing.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for the United Arab Emirates. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the regional threat of terrorism. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and are subject to severe punishment, including the death penalty.

UK – Around 1 million British nationals visit the UAE every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexual relationships are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexual activity is illegal in the UAE.

Uzbekistan

USA – Sexual relations between men are against Uzbek law and punishable by up to three years' imprisonment. The law does not criminalize same-sex sexual activity between women. Same-sex sexual activity is generally a taboo subject in Uzbek society, and there are no known LGBT organizations. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, there was no known violence against the LGBT community in Uzbekistan in 2013. In this period there were no reports of official or societal discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care in Uzbekistan, but this may be attributed to the social taboo against discussing same-sex relationships rather than to equality in such matters.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Same-sex relationships are illegal in Uzbekistan, and penalties may include prison sentences.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Uzbekistan. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to the threat of terrorist attacks and crime. Homosexual activity is illegal. Convicted offenders may face jail sentences.

UK – Most visits to Uzbekistan are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal under Uzbek law and is still very much frowned upon socially. You should take care over public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexuality is illegal under Uzbek law. Caution and discretion are advised at all times.

Vietnam

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Vietnam.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 100,000 British nationals visit Vietnam every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Yemen

USA – The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the high security threat level in Yemen due to terrorist activities and civil unrest.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Yemen. Penalties include fines, jail time, or death. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal.

Australia – Do not travel. Homosexuality is illegal. Penalties for acts of sodomy range from imprisonment to death.

Canada – Avoid all travel. Common-law relationships, homosexual relations, adultery and prostitution are illegal and are subject to severe punishment.

UK – Advise against all travel.

Ireland – Do not travel. Homosexual activity is illegal in Yemen.

CARIBBEAN

Antigua & Barbuda

USA – Societal attitudes remain conflicted on the issue of LGBT rights. While some government officials have admitted to “open homophobia,” others assert that the country is mostly tolerant of LGBT persons, noting that the indecency law is rarely used except when some other crime has also been committed. Same-sex marriage is not allowed under local law, and even the impression that a same-sex marriage is taking place can be construed as a violation of the law. Visitors are warned against holding any type of ceremony or event that could appear to be a same-sex marriage. U.S. citizens have been arrested by the Antiguan police for this type of activity. Anecdotal reports of discrimination based on sexual orientation, especially by the police, suggest these were mostly verbal attacks.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Antigua and Barbuda at this time.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Antigua and Barbuda. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution in Antigua and Barbuda due to limited medical resources, unreliable public transportation and moderate crime rates.

UK – Over 64,000 British nationals visit Antigua and Barbuda each year. Most visits are trouble-free but there have been incidents of crime including murder, armed robbery and sexual assault. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Bahamas

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in The Bahamas.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for the Bahamas at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 24,000 British nationals visited The Bahamas in 2011. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Barbados

US – Although rarely enforced, the law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults with penalties of up to life imprisonment. No laws prohibit discrimination against a person on the basis

of real or perceived sexual orientation in employment, housing, education, or health care. Activists reported that stigma against LGBT persons persisted. While they maintained a low profile, one LGBT NGO noted no impediments to the organization's activities. Activists reported few violent incidents but suggested that social stigma and fear of retribution or reprisal due to their sexual orientation rendered the problem underreported.

Anecdotal evidence suggested LGBT persons faced discrimination in employment, housing, and access to education and health care. Activists suggested that while many individuals lived open LGBT lifestyles, disapprobation by police officers and societal discrimination against LGBT persons occurred. For instance, in May a police officer made anti-LGBT remarks to individuals stopped for making too much noise during a late-night LGBT group's "bus crawl" event. On August 5, unidentified individuals hurled stones and homophobic slurs at one of the flag bearers during the annual "Grand Kadooment" parade.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Barbados at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 168,000 British nationals visited Barbados in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free, but there have been incidents of crime including armed robbery and sexual assault. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of Barbados.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Bermuda

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Bermuda. However, Bermuda does not have any legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bermuda does not recognize same-sex marriage or civil unions.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – As Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory, there's no formal British diplomatic or consular representation. Most visits to Bermuda are trouble-free.

Homosexuality became legal under Bermuda law in 1994, but there's no official recognition of same-sex couples or partnerships. Attitudes to homosexuality are tolerant but conservative and some people may not approve of public displays of affection between same-sex couples.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

British Virgin Islands

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the BVI.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – As the BVI is a British Overseas Territory, there's no formal British diplomatic representation. Most visits to BVI are trouble-free.

Homosexuality is legal under BVI law. There's no provision for marriage or civil partnerships between same-sex couples. Attitudes in the main tourist destinations are tolerant. Throughout BVI, hotels and resorts are generally welcoming regardless of sexual orientation. Outside the tourist areas local attitudes can be conservative and some people may not approve of public displays of affection between same-sex couples.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Cayman Islands

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the Cayman Islands. There are segments of the Cayman Islands that look down on same-sex couples but in general, there is very little harassment or violence related to LGBT travelers.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – As the Cayman Islands is a British Overseas Territory, there's no formal British diplomatic or consular representation.

There's no provision for marriage or civil partnership ceremonies between same-sex couples. Same-sex partnerships, legally binding or otherwise, aren't recognised in Cayman law. Hotels and resorts are generally welcoming, regardless of sexual orientation. Local attitudes can be conservative and some people may not approve of public displays of affection between same-sex couples.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Cuba

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Cuba, but same-sex marriage is not legally recognized.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Cuba are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal in Cuba, but there are few places where gay people can socialise openly. Same-sex couples - particularly if one partner is Cuban - should be careful about public displays of affection, which can lead to unwelcome attention from the police and local authorities.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Dominica

US – Consensual same-sex conduct is illegal, and no laws prohibit discrimination against a person on the basis of sexual orientation. There are no legal impediments to organizations for LGBT persons. Anecdotal evidence suggests that societal discrimination against actual or perceived LGBT persons is common in Dominica’s socially conservative society. There are very few openly gay men or lesbians.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Dominica at this time.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Dominica. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to limited medical resources, generally poor road conditions, unreliable public transportation and moderate crime rates.

UK – Over 4,500 British nationals visited Dominica in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free but incidents of crime do occur. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Dominican Republic

USA – There is cultural discrimination against LGBT individuals in the Dominican Republic and the government does not legally recognize same-sex unions. There is no current anti-discrimination legislation specifically protecting the LGBT community, but the community receives some protection from general anti-discrimination legislation.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is not illegal in the Dominican Republic, however LGBTI travelers should be aware of local sensitivities, particularly in rural communities.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 108,300 British nationals visited the Dominican Republic in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is generally accepted in the Dominican Republic.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Grenada

US – Grenadian law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activities between men, providing penalties of up to 10 years' imprisonment. Prosecutions based on these laws are exceedingly rare, and have not targeted visitors in recent memory. Grenadian society is generally intolerant of same-sex sexual conduct, and many churches condemn it. Members of sexual minorities rarely acknowledge their sexual orientation openly. The Embassy has received no reports of violence linked to real or perceived sexual orientation.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Grenada at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 20,000 British nationals visited Grenada in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free but there have been incidents of crime including armed robbery and sexual assault. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of Grenada.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Guadeloupe

USA – The law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Guadeloupe is a French overseas territory. There is no formal British diplomatic representation. Several hundred British nationals visit Guadeloupe each year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Haiti

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State has issued this Travel Warning to inform U.S. citizens traveling to or living in Haiti concerning the lack of adequate emergency medical facilities and the security environment in Haiti.

While there are no laws in Haiti restricting the rights of LGBT individuals or advocacy groups, anti-LGBT sentiment exists. Persons openly identified as LGBT may be targeted for harassment, discrimination, or physical attacks.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory the neighbourhoods of Martissant, Carrefour, Bel Air and Cité Soleil, in the Port-au-Prince area.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to the Carrefour, Cite Soleil, Martissant and Bel Air neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince due to the risk of criminal activity.

Homosexuality is legal but the attitudes of many Haitians to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people is hostile.

Ireland – Avoid non-essential travel.

Jamaica

US – Jamaican law contains specific prohibitions on certain sexual activities. These prohibitions have been used to target LGBT individuals. The law prohibits “acts of gross indecency” (generally interpreted as any kind of physical intimacy) between persons of the same sex, in public or in private, and provides punishment of up to 10 years in prison. There is also an “antibuggery” law that prohibits consensual same-sex sexual conduct between men.

Negative attitudes towards LGBT issues are widespread in Jamaican popular culture and politics, and many Jamaicans see homosexuality as contrary to their religious beliefs. Although there is increasing public discourse about LGBT rights, there are continuous reports of serious human rights abuses against LGBT individuals, including assassinations, assault with deadly weapons, “corrective rape” of women accused of being lesbians, arbitrary detention, mob attacks, stabbings, immolations, and harassment of LGBT patients by hospital and prison staff. Young LGBT individuals bear the brunt of violence based on sexual orientation, creating a climate of fear that prompts many to emigrate. The gross indecency laws make those who remain vulnerable to extortion from neighbors who threaten to report them to the police as part of blackmailing schemes.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties range from 2 to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour. Verbal and physical aggression towards homosexuals occurs.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. The laws of Jamaica prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Jamaica.

UK – Around 151,000 British nationals visited Jamaica in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free. There are high levels of crime and violence, particularly in the capital Kingston. Jamaican laws make certain homosexual acts illegal. The attitude of many Jamaicans to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people is hostile.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Martinique

USA – The law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Martinique is a French overseas territory. There is no resident British diplomatic representation in Martinique. Several thousand British nationals visit Martinique each year; most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Montserrat

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Montserrat.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – As Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory there's no formal British diplomatic or consular representa Homosexuality is legal under Montserrat law, but there's no provision for marriage or civil partnerships between same-sex couples, and they aren't recognised in law. Throughout the island, the general public is very conservative. In general people aren't tolerant of homosexual couples and don't approve of public displays of affection between same-sex couples. Hotels don't discriminate against same-sex couples and are generally welcoming to all, regardless of sexual orientation.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Netherlands Antilles

USA – N/A

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Netherlands Antilles at this time.

Canada – N/A

UK – N/A

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Puerto Rico

USA – N/A

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Puerto Rico at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – N/A

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

St. Kitts & Nevis

US – The law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activity between men, which carries a penalty up to 10 years in prison, but there is relaxed enforcement of this law. The law does not prohibit sexual activity between women. There are no laws that prohibit discrimination against a person on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Societal attitudes towards the LGBT community impede the operation of LGBT organizations and the free association of LGBT persons. The government asserts that it does not regularly receive reports of violence or discrimination based on sexual orientation; however, unofficial reports indicate that violence and discrimination remain a problem. Anecdotal evidence suggests that LGBT persons are reluctant to report incidents of violence or abuse out of fear of retribution or reprisal due to their sexual orientation. In August 2013, the prime minister publicly called for tolerance toward LGBT persons and an end to discrimination and stigmatization as a way to combat the spread of HIV. He argued that discrimination against LGBT persons affected their willingness and ability to seek medical treatment or counseling on disease prevention.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Saint Kitts and Nevis at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 8,000 British nationals visited St Kitts and Nevis. Most visits are trouble-free but there have been incidents of crime including murder, armed robbery and sexual assault. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

St. Lucia

US – Consensual same-sex sexual activity is illegal under indecency statutes, and some same-sex sexual activity between men is also illegal under anal intercourse laws. Indecency statutes carry a maximum penalty of five years, and a sodomy conviction carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. No legislation protects persons from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. While the indecency statutes and sodomy laws are rarely enforced, there is widespread social discrimination against LGBT persons in the deeply conservative society. There are few openly LGBT persons in the country. There are few reported incidents of violence or abuse, but civil society representatives note that LGBT persons are reluctant to report incidents of violence or abuse out of fear of retribution or reprisal due to their sexual orientation.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Saint Lucia at this time.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Saint Lucia. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to limited medical resources, generally poor road conditions, unreliable public transportation, and moderate crime rates. The laws of Saint Lucia prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Saint Lucia.

UK – Over 70,000 British tourists visited St Lucia in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free, but there have been incidents of crime including murder, armed robbery and sexual assault. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under the laws of St Lucia.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

US – No laws prohibit discrimination against a person on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Consensual same-sex conduct is illegal under indecency statutes, and some sexual activity between men is also illegal under sodomy laws. Indecency statutes carry a maximum penalty of five years, and acts of sodomy carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, although these laws are rarely enforced. Anecdotal evidence suggests there is social discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexual, and transgender persons in the deeply conservative society, although local observers believe such attitudes of intolerance are slowly improving. Members of professional and business classes are more inclined to conceal their sexual orientation.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 15,000 British nationals visited St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2013. Certain homosexual acts are illegal under Vincentian laws.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Trinidad & Tobago

US – Although Trinidad and Tobago law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activity, with penalties of up to 25 years imprisonment, the government generally has not enforced such legislation, except in conjunction with more serious offenses such as rape. Immigration law also bars the entry of homosexual persons into the country, but this legislation has not been enforced.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment ranging from 5 years to life.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Trinidad and Tobago. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to a high crime rate.

UK – Over 30,000 British nationals visit Trinidad and Tobago every year. Most visits are trouble-free. There are high levels of violent crime, including murder, especially in parts of the capital Port of Spain. There are a number of laws which make certain homosexual acts illegal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

US – The current criminal code states that “carnal intercourse” with any person “against the order of nature” shall receive a punishment of 10 years’ imprisonment. This law was interpreted as including only sex between men, but the law was rarely enforced. Additionally, the Immigration Act prohibits “homosexual” persons from entering the country, but immigration authorities did not enforce that law. In May 2013, the Government of Belize (GOB) released its Revised National Gender Policy 2013 (RNGP), shortly after the closing arguments before the Supreme Court on a constitutional challenge to the “anti-sodomy” element of the Belize Criminal Code. The Court has not yet issued its decision. The RNGP was the first document that was endorsed by the Government of Belize cabinet to include sexual orientation as a protected status. This has generated some opposition and protest by socially conservative groups. The tourist friendly San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, remains relatively open and welcoming to the LGBT community. Outside of the tourist friendly Cayes, LGBT persons, especially males, are reluctant to display affection in public (including holding hands) because incidents of verbal or physical assault have been reported. There continues to be a significant hostile sentiment towards individuals who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT). LGBT issues are frequently highlighted in the press and can spur passionate discussions at community forums or public protests, and there have been some instances of violence reported against LGBT individuals.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include imprisonment of ten years.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Belize. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to a high rate of violent crime throughout the country. The laws of Belize prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex. LGBT travelers should carefully consider the risks of travelling to Belize.

UK – 8,199 British nationals visited Belize in 2011. Most visits are trouble-free. Overt homosexuality is generally considered to be socially unacceptable and some homosexual acts are illegal. There are no openly gay bars or clubs.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Costa Rica

USA – LGBT individuals enjoy full rights in Costa Rica. The LGBT community is protected by anti-discrimination laws, and there are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Around 45,000 British nationals visited Costa Rica in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free, but incidents of violent crime against tourists have increased.

Ireland – Exercise Caution.

El Salvador

USA –Travel Warning: The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens that crime and violence levels in El Salvador remain critically high.

There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in El Salvador. There is, however, widespread discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, access to health care, and identity documents. Public officials, including the police, have reportedly engaged in violence and discrimination against LGBT persons.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Despite the high levels of crime, most visits to El Salvador are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Guatemala

USA – While there is no legal recognition of same-sex partnerships or marriages, private same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults is legal. Antidiscrimination laws exist, but do not include specific protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBT rights groups regularly allege that police officers engage in extortion by waiting outside clubs and bars frequented by LGBT persons to demand that those engaged in sexual activities pay protection money or pay to avoid jail. Police often harass male and transgender individuals they believe to be sex workers, many of whom are minors. According to LGBT rights groups, gay and transgender individuals often experience police abuse. A lack of trust in the judicial system and a fear of further harassment or social recrimination discourage victims from filing complaints. There is general societal discrimination against LGBT persons in access to education, health care, employment, and housing.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Although same sex relationships are generally accepted in Guatemala City, more conservative attitudes prevail in other parts of the country.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Guatemala has one of the highest violent crime rates in Latin America. Take care in all parts of the country, including Guatemala City. You should carry personal ID when travelling (certified copies are fine). 35,065 British nationals visited Guatemala in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

In Guatemala City, local people are largely tolerant of different lifestyles and small displays of affection between same sex couples are accepted. Outside Guatemala City attitudes are more conservative and same-sex couples should avoid public displays of affection.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Honduras

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens that the level of crime and violence in Honduras remains critically high, although it has declined in the past two years. There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Honduras. Honduran law prohibits discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics. Despite this, many Honduran LGBT equality and human rights activists report that many crimes committed against the LGBT community go unpunished. There are several LGBT nightclubs in major Honduran cities such as Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and La Ceiba. Though rare, there have been cases of police harassment of patrons in some of these establishments. LGBT public events are held regularly without incident. Nonetheless, LGBT travelers should consider exercising caution when visiting Honduras, especially with regard to expressing affection in public. According to local advocacy organizations, many LGBT persons are reluctant to display affection in public (including holding hands) because of societal intolerance of same-sex relationships.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada –Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for parts of Valle, Choluteca and Olancho. Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – There is no British Embassy in Honduras. In Honduras, local people are largely tolerant of individuals' personal lifestyles and small displays of affection between same-sex couples are accepted. There is a more conservative attitude outside Tegucigalpa City and public displays of affection by same-sex couples are not recommended.

Ireland – Take Normal Precautions.

Nicaragua

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Nicaragua. While same-sex relations are not typically accepted culturally, harassment and/or violence against LGBT travelers is not common.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – There's no British Embassy in Nicaragua, but there is an Honorary Consul in Managua. Around 10,000 British tourists visited Nicaragua in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – N/A

Panama

USA – Same-sex marriages are not conducted nor recognized in Panama. LGBT individuals enjoy full legal rights in Panama. However, Panamanian law does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, and there is societal discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Although homosexual acts are not illegal, discretion is highly recommended since homosexuality is not socially acceptable in all areas.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Regional Advisory for the region beyond Yaviza. Although homosexual activity is not illegal, discretion is highly recommended in public places since homosexuality is not socially acceptable in all areas.

UK – Most visits to Panama are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Argentina.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal safety precautions.

UK – Most visits to Argentina are trouble-free, but you should keep a close eye on your personal belongings in public places.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Bolivia

USA – The Bolivian constitution prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Australia – Exercise high degree of caution. While homosexual activities are not illegal in Bolivia, homosexuality is not widely accepted in Bolivian society.

Canada – Exercise high degree of caution.

UK – Homosexuality is not illegal, but is frowned upon by the majority of Bolivians, more so in the Altiplano than in Santa Cruz, where attitudes tend to be more liberal.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Brazil

USA – LGBT people in Brazil enjoy many of the same legal protections as non-LGBT people. Although Brazilian federal law does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, several states and municipalities have administrative regulations that prohibit such discrimination and provide for equal access to government services. Same-sex civil unions (also called “stable unions”) are legal in Brazil, but in practice, petitions for same-sex civil unions have been denied by some notaries on an individual basis. Brazil grants temporary and permanent visas to same-sex partners of Brazilian citizens if they are found to be in a “stable union” under Brazilian law. There are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events.

Australia – Exercise high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is not illegal in Brazil, although gay and lesbian travelers should be aware of local sensitivities, particularly in rural communities.

Canada – Exercise high degree of caution.

UK – 169,732 British nationals visited Brazil in 2013. Most visits are trouble-free.

There is no legislation against homosexuality in Brazil. The country has a tradition of tolerance, but in recent years some attacks on homosexual couples have occurred. Since May 2011, Brazilian law recognises homosexual stable unions and gives homosexual couples equal rights.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Chile

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Chile. Laws exist that punish discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

There have been cases of discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity reported in Chile, as well as cases involving violence or killings due to the victims' real or perceived sexual orientation. According to civil society, authorities have appeared reluctant to investigate and prosecute cases involving anti-LGBT violence or discrimination. Laws also prevent transgender persons from changing gender markers on government-issued identity documents, including national identity cards and university diplomas, to match their outward appearance or chosen expression.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Most visits to Chile are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal in Chile and is increasingly widely accepted socially, although much of Chilean society is conservative.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Colombia

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State has issued this Travel Warning to inform U.S. citizens about the security situation in Colombia.

There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Colombia. Although a 2011 antidiscrimination law specifically prohibits discrimination based on race,

gender, disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, or social status, many of these prohibitions are not fully enforced. The government has taken measures to increase the rights and protection of LGBT persons, but there are reports of societal abuse and discrimination in rural areas on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. In urban areas there is generally more openness toward LGBT individuals. Members of the transgender community report instances where health-care providers or police officers refuse to accept government-issued identification with transgender individuals' names and photographs. Colombia Diversa, a Colombian NGO, has reported cases of police abuse of persons due to their sexual orientation, with the majority of reports coming from transgender individuals.

Australia – Exercise high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the port of Buenaventura in the department of Valle de Cauca
- the port of Tumaco in the department of Nariño

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- the departments of Putumayo, Arauca, Cauca, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía, Vichada, and Norte de Santander (except certain capital cities, as indicated on the map)
- the department of Chocó (except the whale-watching towns of Nuquí and Bahía Solano)
- the department of Nariño (except its capital and the Ipiales border crossing)
- the department of Meta (except its capital, Villavicencio, and the tourist site of Caño Cristales); visitors travelling to Caño Cristales should only do so with a reputable tour company travelling by air to and from the town of La Macarena
- within 20km of the Venezuelan border in the departments of La Guajira, César and Boyaca
- rural areas in northern Antioquia, southern Cordoba, southern Valle de Cauca, and southern Bolivar (as indicated on the map)

Homosexuality is legal but not widely accepted, especially in rural areas.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Ecuador

USA – Although Ecuador's constitution includes the principle of nondiscrimination and endorses the right to decide one's sexuality, LGBTI persons nonetheless may face censure and discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the areas immediately bordering Colombia. Regional Advisory for the area south of Cuenca.

UK – Around 26,500 British nationals visited Ecuador in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

French Guiana

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in French Guiana.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – There is no formal British diplomatic or representation.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Guyana

US – The laws of Guyana define marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman; there is no explicit protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity under the Constitution of Guyana.

Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Guyana for men. A male who commits “any act of gross indecency with another male person,” if found to be guilty, can be imprisoned for up to a maximum of two years. Anal intercourse is punishable with a maximum sentence of life in prison. Although the U.S. Embassy is not aware of any recent arrests or prosecutions for such activities, they remain illegal. There are no laws concerning same-sex sexual activity between women. It is common for police to use the law to intimidate men who are gay or perceived to be gay. LGBT persons who are victims of crime in Guyana are sometimes afraid to file police reports because they are fearful that charges could be brought against them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Guyana. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to high crime rates.

UK – Most visits to Guyana are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Paraguay

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Paraguay.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – A small number of British tourists visit Paraguay every year. Most visits are trouble-free, but violent crime is increasing.

Homosexuality is legal, but Paraguay is a conservative society. Be aware that public displays of affection are infrequent and may be frowned upon.

Ireland – Exercise caution.

Peru

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Peru.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the border area with Colombia. Regional Advisory for the border area with Ecuador.

UK – Around 56,000 British nationals visit Peru every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is legal in Peru but social attitudes are generally conservative. Any outward display of homosexual behaviour is likely to be frowned upon. Same-sex partnerships are not formally recognised.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Suriname

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Suriname.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Suriname at this time.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – Most visits are trouble-free, but burglary, armed robbery and violent crime occur in Paramaribo and in outlying areas.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Uruguay

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Uruguay. LGBT anti-discrimination laws have been in place since 2003. Civil unions have been legal since 2008 and same-sex marriage was legalized in 2013. Same-sex couples can also adopt children.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 20,000 British nationals visit Uruguay every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Venezuela

USA – Travel Warning: The Department of State has issued this Travel Warning to inform U.S. citizens about the security situation in Venezuela.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Regional Advisory for the area within 80 km of the Colombian border.

UK – Around 9,500 British nationals visit Venezuela every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Canada.

Australia – Exercise normal security precautions.

Canada – N/A

UK – Around 724,000 British nationals visit Canada each year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Mexico

USA – The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens about the risk of traveling to certain places in Mexico due to threats to safety and security posed by organized criminal groups in the country. Mexican law prohibits discrimination against LGBT individuals; however, LGBT persons report that the government does not always investigate and punish those complicit in abuses. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity remains, despite a growing public acceptance of LGBT individuals. U.S. citizens should exercise discretion in identifying themselves publicly as LGBT.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution.

Mexico City has passed a law allowing same-sex marriages. Same-sex civil unions are legally performed in Mexico City and the state of Coahuila. More conservative attitudes prevail in parts of the country and public displays of affection between members of the same sex may not be considered socially acceptable in some areas.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution.

UK – 424,860 British nationals visited Mexico in 2014. Most visits are trouble-free. Although civil unions between same-sex partners are now legal in Mexico City and the state of Coahuila, homosexuality in Mexico is generally tolerated, rather than accepted. Public displays of affection between same-sex couples may be frowned upon.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

United States

USA – N/A

Australia – Exercise normal security precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 3.8 million British nationals visit the United States every year. Most visits are trouble-free.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

SOUTH PACIFIC

Australia

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Australia. Australian federal law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. While same-sex marriage has not been legalized in Australia, same-sex unions are recognized as de facto unions and are afforded many of the same legal protections and rights as opposite-sex couples. Australia grants temporary and permanent visas to same-sex partners of Australian citizens.

Australia – N/A

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Over 620,000 British nationals visit Australia every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Australia has an established tradition of tolerance towards homosexuality, but there are still isolated incidents of homophobic crimes. Take care when visiting rural communities.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Fiji

USA – The new constitution provides that sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity and expression are prohibited grounds for discrimination; however, the right to equality and nondiscrimination may be limited for the purpose of adoption, marriage, devolution of property on death and pension, and excluding individuals from holding public office. The crimes decree does not criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity and recognizes male-on-male rape as a crime. Fiji law prohibits discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation; there are no laws specifically prohibiting discrimination against LGBT persons in other areas. In general attitudes toward LGBT individuals have become more accepting, especially among the young, and articles promoting tolerance are regularly found in the media. There may be some societal discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity, although there does not appear to be any systemic discrimination.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts between adults are not illegal in Fiji, but you should be aware of local sensitivities.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Although the laws of Fiji do not prohibit sexual acts between individuals of the same sex, homosexuality is not socially tolerated in rural areas.

UK – Around 25,000 British nationals visit Fiji every year. Most visits to Fiji are trouble-free. Homosexuality was decriminalised in February 2010, but gay and lesbian travelers should be aware of local sensitivities, particularly when visiting rural communities.

Ireland – Exercise caution. Homosexuality in Fiji legal. Discretion, and awareness of local sensitivities, is advised particularly when visiting rural communities.

Kiribati

US – Consensual same-sex sexual conduct between men is illegal, with a maximum penalty of five to 14 years' imprisonment, depending on the nature of the offense, but there have not been reports of prosecutions directed at gay, bisexual, or transgender persons under these provisions for sexual activity between consenting adults. There have not been reports of societal discrimination or violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Kiribati at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British diplomatic representation in Kiribati. Most visits to Kiribati are trouble-free. Homosexual relations are illegal.

Ireland – N/A

Marshall Islands

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Same sex relations in the RMI are not criminalized. Section 13 of the RMI Bill of Rights states: "All persons shall be free from unreasonable interference in personal choices that do not injure others and from unreasonable intrusions into their privacy." This clause, in Section 13, is respected in practice.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There's no British diplomatic representation in the Marshall Islands. Most visits to the Marshall Islands are trouble-free. Homosexuality is technically illegal in many Pacific countries, and the laws are occasionally enforced. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners may offend local inhabitants.

Ireland – N/A

Micronesia

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in FSM.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British diplomatic representation in the Federated States of Micronesia. Only a few British tourists visit the Federated States of Micronesia every year. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal in the Federated States of Micronesia. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners may offend.

Ireland – N/A

Nauru

US – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Nauru.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue travel advice for Nauru at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Nauru are trouble-free. Homosexuality is technically illegal in many Pacific countries and the law is occasionally enforced. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners may offend.

Ireland – N/A

New Zealand

USA – There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in New Zealand.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Around 200,000 British nationals visit New Zealand every year. Most visits are trouble-free. New Zealand has an established tradition of tolerance towards homosexuality, but there are still isolated incidents of homophobic related crimes. Gay and lesbian travelers should be aware of local sensitivities, particularly when visiting rural areas.

Ireland – Take normal precautions.

Palau

USA – As of 2014, Palau’s Penal Code no longer criminalizes private, consensual sexual activity of an “unnatural manner” between adults. There are no legal or governmental impediments to the organization of LGBT events. Palau’s constitution defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – There is no British diplomatic representation in Palau. Most visits to Palau are trouble-free.

Homosexuality is technically illegal in many Pacific countries and the law is occasionally enforced. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners may offend.

Ireland – N/A

Papua New Guinea

US – Same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Papua New Guinea. However, there are no known incidents of the prosecution, of consenting adults. Papua New Guinea is a conservative country and public displays of affection are not welcomed.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts are illegal and punishable by imprisonment. Overt public displays of affection by persons of the same sex should be avoided.

Canada – There is no nationwide advisory in effect for Papua New Guinea. However, you should exercise a high degree of caution due to high levels of serious crime, often involving the use of lethal weapons. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – 5,000 British nationals visited Papua New Guinea in 2012. Most visits are trouble-free. Homosexual acts are illegal; if found guilty, the penalty could be result in up to 14 years imprisonment.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexual acts are unlawful and punishment if convicted can include imprisonment. Adultery is also an offence and those convicted may be liable for compensation payments. Public displays of affection may cause offence so we advise discretion and caution at all times.

Samoa

US – Same-sex acts are a crime in Samoa, with prison terms of up to seven years. The Crimes Ordinance 1961 and the more recent Crimes Act 2013, which came into effect 1 May 2013, criminalize same-sex acts. There is no recognition of same-sex relationships, marriage or adoption by same-sex couples in Samoa. There are also no anti-discrimination laws in place. Although the country is historically tolerant towards homosexuality, especially with regards to “fa’afafine,” the third-gendered Samoans, efforts to modernize the law under the Crimes Act 2013 were unsuccessful; however, the updated statute did eliminate the section that made it an offence for a male to dress as a female. In many Samoan families it is not uncommon to raise a male child as a girl who plays an important role in domestic duties or the work force to provide for elderly parents and younger siblings. The Samoa Fa’afafine Association with the Samoan Prime Minister as their patron is very active in its charitable work, HIV education and prevention programs.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Travelers should be aware that even with the occurrence of men cross-dressing and behaving in a feminine manner within traditional Samoan culture, homosexual acts are illegal in Samoa and penalties include imprisonment.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Samoa are trouble-free but incidents of petty theft are fairly common. Gay and lesbian travelers should be aware that, despite examples of men cross-dressing and behaving in a feminine manner within traditional Pacific culture, homosexual acts in Samoa are illegal.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution.

Solomon Islands

US – While same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Solomon Islands, there are no known incidents of the prosecution, targeting, or harassment of consenting same-sex adults. We recommend that you avoid public displays of affection, which could be categorized by the Solomon Islands penal code as an act of gross indecency, a felony, liable to imprisonment for five years.

Australia – Exercise normal safety precautions. Homosexual acts are illegal and penalties include jail sentences.

Canada – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Homosexual acts are illegal in Solomon Islands and the penalties can include custodial sentences. Open displays of affection are likely to offend.

Ireland – Exercise extreme caution. Homosexuality is illegal in many Pacific countries. Be discreet and avoid public displays of affection, as they may offend local inhabitants.

Tonga

US – Under Tonga law, “sodomy with another person” is a crime, with a maximum penalty of 10 years’ imprisonment. We are not aware of reports of prosecutions under this provision for consensual sexual conduct between adults, regardless of the gender of the parties. We are also not aware of any reports of violence against persons based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Australia – Exercise normal security precautions. Sodomy is illegal in Tonga. The maximum penalty for a consensual act of sodomy is ten years imprisonment.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Tonga are trouble-free. The crime rate is relatively low. Homosexuality is technically illegal in many Pacific countries and the law is occasionally enforced. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners may cause offence.

Ireland – N/A

Tuvalu

US – Sexual conduct between males is illegal, with maximum penalties of seven to 15 years’ imprisonment, depending on the nature of the offense. In 2013, there were no reports of violence against persons based on sexual orientation or gender identity and no reports of prosecutions of consenting adults under these provisions. Social stigma or intimidation may have prevented incidents of discrimination or violence from being reported.

Australia – The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not issue a travel advice for Tuvalu at this time.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions. Homosexual activity is illegal.

UK – Most visits to Tuvalu are trouble-free. Homosexuality is illegal in Tuvalu. Those found guilty of consensual sex between adult males could face up to fourteen years imprisonment.

Ireland – N/A

Vanuatu

USA – Same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in Vanuatu. However, there are no known incidents of the prosecution, targeting, or harassment of consenting adults. Vanuatu is a conservative country, and we recommend that you avoid public displays of affection.

Australia – Exercise a high degree of caution. Homosexual acts between adults are not illegal in Vanuatu, however, you should be aware of local sensitivities. Open displays of affection between same-sex partners could attract adverse attention and may offend.

Canada – Exercise normal security precautions.

UK – Homosexuality is legal in Vanuatu but open displays of affection between same-sex partners will attract adverse attention and may offend some.

Ireland – N/A