

## **CLEIMUN19**

“Collaboration in a Polarized World: Hope for the Future?”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Human Rights

QUESTION OF: Violations of Human Rights against LGBTQ+ Communities

AUTHOR: Arushi Sharma

---

### **Introduction & Background**

The LGBTQ+(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning, along with many others) community has existed for much of human history, dating back to the ancient Greeks, Chinese and even Native Americans. However, as Abrahamic religions such as Christianity and Islam became well-established in much of the world and began to regulate law and behavior, many actions of LGBT individuals became condemned and unacceptable. However, in the years after World War II, the LGBT community became more prominent in advocating for their rights, and since then various nations around the world have begun to guarantee more rights to their LGBT citizens, but discrimination against the LGBT community continues to be a problem in recent years.

The causes for the oppression and discrimination of this community seems to due to a variety of factors, whether they be religious, political or simply due to personal unwillingness to accept those with different lifestyles from the majority. Despite great advancements toward the equality for the LGBTQ+ community, in many nations, those of the LBGTQ+ community are not legally allowed to get married or be in a relationship, have access to equal employment

opportunities, and are often criminally punished or even executed for simply being who they are. Currently, 23 nations around the world recognize of same-sex marriage, however 73 nations have laws criminalizing homosexuality.

---

### **Why does oppression and persecution of the LGBTQ+ community exist?**

From the Church to the State, the LGBTQ+ community has been persecuted based on reasons and beliefs from a variety of groups, often in combination, making it further difficult for LGBT peoples to secure their rights.

One of the key underlying causes of persecution of the LGBTQ+ community is religion. Many major world religions outline some sort of rule or values in regards to their perception of the LGBTQ+ community. Scriptures such as the Old Testament or the Quran clarify heterosexual relations and cisgender individuals to be natural by God's design and for any alternative to be considered as a grave sin. In reality, these statements are rather hypocritical of these religions as they simultaneously also promote that God or the Supreme Being loves and cares for all individuals regardless of wealth, class or gender, so why are LGBTQ+ individuals not welcomed?

Cultural norms and perceived morality are also often tied in with religion, causing further persecution of a small minority, who are perceived as incredibly different from most of the population, giving room to further oppression. Cultural norms often enforce a dominant, masculine model and a frail feminine model, which are norms that the LGBT community often defies.

Coupled with religious persecution is often support from various states that base their laws on a religious model and further enforce discrimination and persecution through local policing and capital punishment. Politicians have often supported and conducted persecution of the LGBTQ+ community to gain popularity among their citizens and leaders. Today, in various Islamic nations in the world, based on sharia law, have criminalized homosexuality, or have refused to recognize unions of same sex couples.

In the southern Russian republic of Chechnya, a Muslim dominated region, persecution of the LGBT has escalated in recent years because of religion. In the 1990s, the region of Chechnya was fighting for its independence from the Russian Republic and became independent from Russia. Rising as the leader of an independent Chechnya and in competition with Islamist warlords in the region, president Aslan Maskhadov adopted Islamic sharia law in 1996 and article 148 of the Chechen penal code made consensual sodomy (between two men or between man and woman) punishable by caning on the first two offences and execution on the third offence.

In Malaysia, an Islamic nation which operates in accordance to Sharia law, various arrests have been made of transgender women based on a law that prohibits “a male person posing as a woman.”

Another cause of this brutal oppression is simple ignorance and disregard by many law enforcement agents in various nations around the world. According to Amnesty International, law and governmental officials often provide the justification for this maltreatment of the LGBT community. For example, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe publicly called gay people “less than human” and therefore not deserving of human rights.

---

## **What forms does this oppression take?**

In Chechnya, gay men have been massacred and sent to labor camps where they are tortured for more information about other homosexuals. An independent newspaper in Russia, the *Novaya Gazeta*, was the first to report these killings in Chechnya on April 1st, 2017, claiming that a large number of men aged between 16 and 50 had disappeared from the streets of Chechen towns and cities and "were detained in connection with their non-traditional sexual orientation or suspicion of such".

In Egypt, an Islamic nation operating by sharia law, in September 2017, dozens of arbitrary arrests were made by law enforcements officials following the display of a rainbow flag(a symbol of the LGBTQ+ community) at a concert. Following this event, scores of arrests, forced anal examinations, and a formal media blackout on pro-LGBT speech took place, justified by a “debauchery” law that had been used in the early 2000s against the LGBT community, which was revived by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who used persecution as a political strategy.

Medical services are often used for homosexuals to force a change to heterosexuality. These medical interventions range from institutionalization to aversion therapy, and chemical castration. According to the American Psychological Association, “reports of abuse are rarely made due to fear of disclosure, lack of responsiveness, and knowledge that the authorities are often the perpetrators of the violence.”

Oppression doesn't merely consist of violence alone. Gender is a social construct, yet many members of the transgender community are unable to express themselves as the gender of

their choice due to limiting laws. According to Transgender Europe, 34 countries in Europe still do not allow a trans person to change their name and registered gender without surgery or some sort of medical procedure. However, in many nations, the transgender community is unable to fully access the proper healthcare and medication they need in order to reduce their gender dysmorphia and become the gender of their choice. According to Human Rights Watch, nearly 60% of transgender individuals in the United States lack access to proper healthcare. Lack of proper healthcare facilities are felt by all members of the LGBTQ+ community as proper infrastructure is lacking to accommodate specific needs of the community, seen with the higher rates in mental disorders and physical diseases such as HIV and AIDS, among LGBTQ+ populations.

---

### **Past Efforts To Solve This Problem**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all humans have the right to life, equality, freedom from discrimination as well as the right to marriage and a family.

In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council passed the first ever UN resolution solely devoted issues of LGBTQ+ rights which commissioned a study conducted by the UNHRC to examine the legal status of the LGBTQ community worldwide and determine where discrimination against this community is taking place. This resolution also organized a panel discussion for the Human Rights Council to discuss this multifaceted issue at length.

In 2012, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on extrajudicial killings and executions which addressed killings motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. In 2016, the HRC appointed an independent expert on LGBT issues to report to the Human Rights

Commission and the General Assembly on the status of LGBT individuals worldwide and highlight issues regarding to the LGBT community which need to be resolved and raise overall awareness.

---

### **Possible Solutions**

The LGBTQ+ community is a vast group of individuals, therefore, the persecution of the LGBTQ+ community is a multifaceted issue itself, as there are multiple ways in which various members of this community are being oppressed, whether by society, religion, or government. It is important to consider how the UNHRC can enforce its promises of guaranteeing universal human rights specifically for the LGBTQ+ community, especially with the high influence of social norms on this issue. Due to heavy government involvement driving most of the persecution of these individuals, delegates are reminded to retain national sovereignty when finding a solution to this vast problem. Along with focusing on the mass persecution of the LGBT community in select few places, such as Chechnya, it is also important to consider creating solutions that can truly be universal, such as perhaps focusing on improving health education and access to medication that can help members of the LGBTQ+ community worldwide. It is important for delegates to focus on creating resolutions that have a tangible impact and aid in empowering the LGBTQ+ community.

---

## Works Cited

1. <https://ok2bme.ca/resources/kids-teens/what-does-lgbtq-mean/>
2. <https://www.hrc.org/blog/ten-ways-the-united-nations-has-protected-lgbtq-human-rights>
3. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/32/2](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/32/2)
4. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/148/76/PDF/G1114876.pdf?OpenElement>
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gay\\_purges\\_in\\_Chechnya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gay_purges_in_Chechnya)
6. <https://euobserver.com/opinion/141268>
7. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED470419.pdf>
8. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/23/health/transgender-laws-around-the-world/index.html>
9. <https://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/LGBTHealthDisparitiesMar2016.pdf>