

# Being LGBTQI in the 21st Century

**LGBTQI stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex.**

## Definitions

**LESBIAN:** Women who experience sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to other women.

**GAY:** Used in some cultural settings to represent men who are attracted to men in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Not all men who engage in same-gender sexual behavior identify as gay, and as such this label should be used with caution.

**BISEXUAL:** A person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to more than one gender, not necessarily at the same time, in the same way, or to the same degree.

**TRANSGENDER:** A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on sex or gender assigned at birth. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

**QUESTIONING:** An individual who is unsure of and/or exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

**INTERSEX:** Intersex people are born with "sex chromosomes," external genitalia, or internal reproductive systems that are not considered "standard" for either male or female. The existence of intersexuals shows that there are not just two sexes and that our ways of thinking about sex (trying to force everyone to fit into either the male box or the female box) is socially constructed.

## A World Divided

Despite decades of proactive movements in support of the LGBTQI community, statistics indicate the road to justice and equality is still a long and daunting one.

Laws addressing same-sex relationships vary radically across the globe, from full marital recognition to imprisonment and even death. While laws in most affluent, secular countries have shifted in favor of acceptance, many anti-LGBTQI laws from a colonial past remain in the developing world.



As you can see from the map Middle East countries such as Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen call for the death penalty nationwide for same-sex relations, while other places can impose death penalties regionally, imprisonment.

## How many Countries in the UN declare homosexuality illegal?

Seventy-three countries, or 37 percent of the United Nations, declare same-sex physical relations **illegal**, according to a comprehensive survey of sexual orientation laws from the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA).



## What are the worst Countries to live in?

**1. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia** all impose the death penalty for consensual same-sex acts. Mauritania law allows for a sentence of death by stoning, but the country has a de facto moratorium on capital punishment.

**2. Malaysia** banned Sodomy and other same-sex acts under Islamic law. Last year, two women found guilty were punished by caning in a case that sparked a global outcry.

**3. Russia** introduced a wide-ranging law banning gay "propaganda" to minors in 2013 as President Vladimir Putin pursued an increasingly conservative social agenda. Human rights groups say the law has fuelled attacks on homosexuals.

**4. Nigeria** has long punished sodomy with imprisonment but a law passed in 2014 went further, banning gay marriage, same-sex "amorous relationships" and membership of gay clubs.

**5. Japan** forces transgender people to undergo sterilisation before their new gender can be legally recognised.

**6. Azerbaijan** where same-sex marriage and same-sex adoption are illegal. In 2017, LGBT+ people were subjected to a police crackdown that saw gay men tortured and beaten, according to rights groups.

**7. Tanzania** where homosexuality is punishable by up to 30 years in jail. A conviction could lead to a jail sentence of up to 30 years.

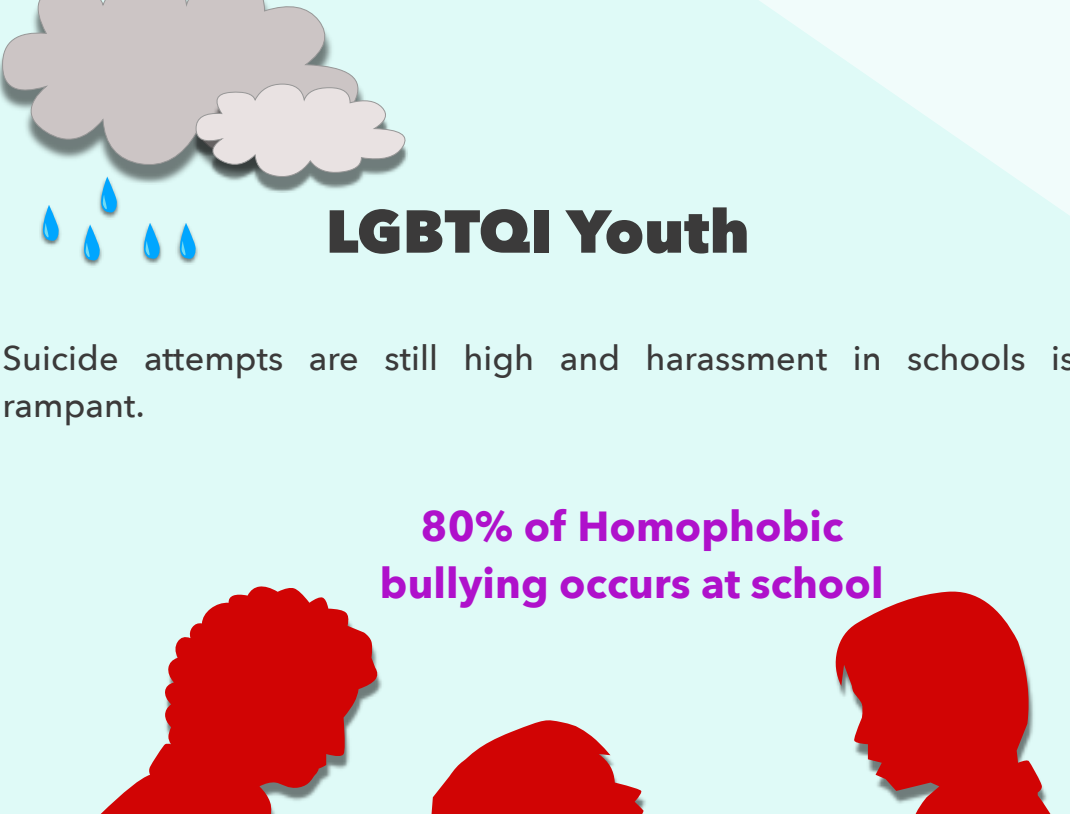
**8. The United States** has moved to roll back protections for LGBT+ people under President Donald Trump, whose administration also hopes to bar many trans people from serving in the military.

## LGBTQI in the UK Today

The UK today is a diverse and tolerant society. We have made great strides in recent decades in our acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, who make a vital contribution to our culture and to our economy.

In July 2017 THE UK Government launched a survey to gather more information about the experiences of LGBT people in the UK. The survey response was unprecedented. Over 108,000 people participated, making it the largest national survey of LGBT people in the world to date.

## Who responded?



## Findings show that:

Up to **13 in 100** people in the UK identify as either LGBTQI or I

## LGBTQI Hate Crimes still happen

**6 in 10** Experience verbal homophobic abuse

**2 in 10** Experience physical homophobic abuse

**1 in 10** Experience other types of homophobic abuse

Transgender men and women experience significantly higher rates of non-physical abuse compared with gay men and women



## LGBTQI Youth

Suicide attempts are still high and harassment in schools is rampant.

**80% of Homophobic bullying occurs at school**

The following bar chart shows the a comparison of the percentage of addecent boys and girls both hetrosexual and homosexual/ Bisexual who have thought about or attempted suicide.



## Thought About Suicide

## Attempted Suicide

## LGBTGI Mental Health

**3x** More likely to experience depression

## How can WE make a difference?

None of this is acceptable. Clearly, we have more to do. We have therefore published a comprehensive LGBT Action Plan that sets out what steps the government will take in response to the survey findings. This looks across the board at government services. We will also publish as much of the survey data as possible, so that stakeholders and researchers can make use of the findings.

Despite the progress we have made as a country, we should not be blind to the fact that LGBT people continue to face barriers to full participation in public life. We want to build a country that works for everyone, and that means tackling these burning injustices