

10

FAQs about LGBTIQs Situation in Egypt

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This document offers a nuanced glimpse into the deteriorating situation of individuals in the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt. Structured into a frequently asked question (FAQ) model, this document provides concrete answers to the most commonly asked questions about the legal background of criminalizing LGBTIQ+ persons in Egypt

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Since the forming of Bedayaa’s Legal Aid Program, the scope of its work has grown to span the LGBTIQ+ issues in Egypt. The program deals with a wide array of violence and discrimination of LGBTIQ+ that are increasingly severe in Egypt.

On one hand, there is an increase of arrests of homosexuals and trans persons and coerced anal examinations. On the other, the Egyptian authorities continue to turn a blind eye to violations, while there is no anti-discrimination policy or law in place.

This document offers a nuanced glimpse into the deteriorating situation of individuals in the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt. Structured into a frequently asked question (FAQ) model, this document provides concrete answers to the most commonly asked questions about the legal background of criminalizing LGBTIQ+ persons in Egypt and other social violence forms that arise on the grounds of being an LGBTIQ+ person in Egypt. Furthermore, one can find responses to forms of arrests, the position of the LGBTIQ+ persons in detention places and the situation of the trans persons in Egypt. This information is intended to provide accurate and relevant knowledge regarding the status quo of the LGBTIQ+ individuals in Egypt so stakeholders can use it as a reference while working on SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expressions, and Sex Characteristics) issues in Egypt.

Although this FAQ is designed to be accessible and helpful, it is not a complete discussion. This document is a compiled set of answers to questions that commonly arise when working with the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt; it is not a substitute for legal advice or litigation. It may not cover important issues that affect the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt. However, depending on your position and the purpose of using this document, you may wish to contact us for further information or advice.



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Are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-
persons, or intersex (LGBTI) people
criminally prosecuted in Egypt in
practice? What penalties are
imposed in practice?



Security campaigns led by the Interior Ministry typically target gay men and trans-women, whose arrest is later followed by charging them with habitual debauchery. According to Bedayaa Organization and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights reports,¹ the number of persons annually arrested and referred to trials in such cases increased five-fold with average of 66 cases per year since 2013, compared with 14 cases per year in the previous 10 years.

After a rainbow flag was raised at Mashrou' Leila concert in New Cairo in September 2017, police arrested 75 people.² Most of them were fined by the Cairo and Giza Misdemeanour Courts on charges of habitual debauchery, incitement to debauchery, and public indecency, and many were sentenced to six months–six years. 76 individuals' trials were heard in first—and second—instance courts in 2018.³ And the number increased to 92 individuals in 2019.⁴ Most defendants in these cases were sentenced from three months to three years in prison.

In practice the criminal charges that can be brought up against a person under the law 10/1961 are:

- Inciting debauchery.
- Practicing habitual debauchery in exchange for money.
- Promoting and advertising debauchery online using social media.
- Practicing debauchery in exchange for money.
- Running a brothel and pimping out individuals to commit debauchery.
- Public advertising for debauchery using “suspicious” body language and signs.

The arrested person/s can be sentenced for each charge separately and receive an accumulative sentence for each criminal offense. Generally, the minimum jail time is 3 months, and the maximum

¹ The Trap: Punishing Sexual Difference in Egypt, <https://eipr.org/en/publications/trap-punishing-sexual-difference-egypt>.

<https://rightsafrika.com/2020/03/08/repression-in-egypt-92-lgbtq-arrests-last-year/>

² The Trap: Punishing Sexual Difference in Egypt, <https://eipr.org/en/publications/trap-punishing-sexual-difference-egypt>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPREGStakeholdersInfoS34.aspx>, JS27-Joint Submission 27

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FCXznHRYcRhvvOQSx2o-gEYOL3rOHPij/view>

is 3 years, but in practice under the criminal procedure law articles 02/304, which states that if the accused is facing multiple crimes that are all connected, it will all count as only one crime.

The judges give out only one sentence in most of the cases. Few cases received accumulative sentences up to 12 years.⁵

Looking to the fact of the conservative and patriarchal nature of the Egyptian society, which believes that being a male is the highest social status as such you must fit the social norms of what a man should look and act, abandoning such privilege by being feminine male or trans person is something that must be punished.

That idea also reflects a lack of understanding by the Egyptian legal authorities of what being a trans woman is, as trans women are often seen as feminine gay men who are dressed as women to seduce other men into committing sexual acts.

With this fact, the Egyptian authorities does not only target gay men and trans women, but also bisexual men, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals. To put it plainly, it persecutes what appears as contradicting to social norms.

There are no legal articles that criminalize same sex act between women, although they are under the risk of facing law 10/1961 like what happened with “Sara Hegazy⁶” the woman who raised the rainbow flag at Mashrou’ Leila concert in 2017, faced many charges and one of them was based on law 10/1961. Even though lesbian, bisexual, and queer women do not face the same legal discrimination other groups face, they face different forms of social and family violence e.g., corrective therapy, forced marriage, marital rape, forced confinement inside homes and deprivation from education, work and travel. Adding to this, being a woman in Egypt in general is another battle, they face social violence, underage marriage, and virginity tests. Additionally, Egypt is known as one of the countries with the highest rates of sexual harassment⁷ and female genital mutilations.⁸


Egypt has significant deficiencies in legislations that protect women from social violence, domestic violence or violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In some cases, we document the cooperation of police officers to bring back lesbian or bisexual women to their parent’s house once the father reported her escape even if she is an “adult” not under his legal guardianship. Their escape usually comes due to long years of domestic violence and house confinement.

⁵ <http://english.ahram.org/NewsContent/1/64/217859/Egypt/Politics-/Egyptian-court-slashes-prison-sentence-in-homosexu.aspx>

⁶ <https://madamasr.com/en/2018/01/02/news/u/sara-hegazy-ahmed-alaa-released-on-bail-after-3-months-in-pretrial-detention-in-rainbow-flag-case/>

⁷ <https://harassmap.org/en/studies-and-reports/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/02/world/africa/egypt-video-assault.html>

⁸ <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/01/fgm-nada>



Is male and female homosexuality a statutory offence and is the performance of homosexual acts a criminal offence? What is the penalty under the law?

Even though homosexuality is not mentioned in the Egyptian penal code, the LGBTI community in Egypt face state persecution and social stigma. The Egyptian state condones violence and discrimination against LGBTI community, even though the committed violence is supposed to be punished by law e.g., blackmail, physical attack, accessory to murder and defamation.

The Egyptian state prosecutes LGBTI persons despite the absence of an explicit legal statute. In most trials, law 10/1961⁹ on the Combating of Prostitution and Debauchery is used, that sentenced the defendants to imprisonment for a period not less than one year and not more than three years, and a fine between 100 and 300 LE in the Egyptian administration and between 1000 and 3000 Lira in the Syrian administration. Even though this law was issued during the Syrian-Egyptian unity period (22nd of February 1958 and amended on 28th of September 1961) to only combat “sex working” among men and women, and it does not have any clear articles that criminalize homosexuality nor promoting of homosexuality. In Later judicial implementation of the law, the judges started interpreting the word (Debauchery) in the law as a synonym to male homosexuality.

As such it was a big shock to the Egyptian state and society during the Rainbow incident in 2017¹⁰ when a group of youth raised a rainbow flag during a rock concert in Cairo. The Egyptian state realized that what just happened is technically “not illegal” under the law, as there are no clear articles in the penal code that punishes neither homosexuality nor promoting it. Consequently, the general attorney then “Nabil Ahmed Sadak” decided to commission the State Security Prosecution¹¹ to investigate the incident, even though the State Security Prosecution is an exceptional prosecution body established to only investigate the most dangerous crimes against the Egyptian State such as terrorist attacks. Soon after several MPs drafted new laws proposals that criminalize Homosexuality and presented them to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the total number of these proposals was three; the most significant proposal of the three contained articles that punish Homosexuality with the minimum of one year and maximum of three years for first-time offenders and for the repeated offenders raised to five years.¹²

In February 2019, the Speaker of the House of Representatives “Ali Abdel Aal” passed a new proposal to the legislative committee in the Egyptian Parliament to be discussed, this proposal

⁹ <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5492d8784.html>

¹⁰ <https://egyptianstreets.com/2017/09/26/seven-arrested-for-raising-rainbow-flag-during-mashrou-leila-concert/>

¹¹ <https://tinyurl.com/usc7ya6> (Arabic content)

¹² <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/egypt-draft-law-criminalizes-homosexuality/>

contained new legal definition for prostitution and debauchery, as well as setting new punishments under the law, from one to five years¹³ and a fine of 5000 EGP to 50000 EGP .Even though the on-going discussion about the law 10/1961 and the new law proposals, it is yet to be amended or replaced, the trials continue to use law 10/1961.

In 2018 the Egyptian Parliament passed the new cybercrime law number 175/2018¹⁴ this law contained several vague articles that lacks a clear legal definition, which open room to use against LGBTI persons, for example, article 25 of the law states that anyone who violate the principles and values of the Egyptian family and the Egyptian society is to be punished by jail time of at least six months and a fine of minimum 50000 EGP and maximum 100000 EGP. This kind of vague language is a huge risk for any member of the LGBTI community who tries to have any kind of activity on the social media and the internet in Egypt.

It is worth mentioning that article 178 from the penal code (4)¹⁵ is used in some cases. This article states that whoever publishes, or shows, or prints advertising material or symbolic signs or brochures or photographs that violate public morals is to be punished with a maximum of two years jail time and with a fine of minimum 5000 EGP and maximum 10000 EGP.

¹³ [نص مشروع قانون مكافحة أعمال الفسق والفجور وممارسة الرذيلة الجديد لعام 2019](#)

¹⁴ <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/egypt-president-ratifies-anti-cybercrime-law/>

¹⁵ <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3f827fc44.html>

Is it the policy of the authorities to actively prosecute LGBTI people? At what scale does this take place? What form do police and criminal investigations



The state derives its popularity from appearing as a protector of the Egyptian values, morality, and traditions. As this current administration came after disposing a right-wing religious regime, they felt the need to prove to the Egyptian society that they did not dispose a religious regime to come with a liberal one that will destroy “Egyptian values and tradition”. In this retrospective, we can see why the Egyptian legal authorities made it their policy to actively discriminate and prosecute any group of people in the society that does not fit within the Egyptian values and tradition. LGBTI community included.

There is a dedicated police department (Public Morality Police) that is affiliated with the Ministry of Interior that is commissioned to arresting whoever not fitting with Egyptian society norms namely sex workers ‘females and males’, gay men, trans women and any reported non-normative sexual activities even if it is in private places, this unit investigate all cases under the law 10/1961. The “investigations” are often short and depends on the methods of the arrests.

The cases files show the most common methods of arresting LGBTI persons are:


Entrapment through dating applications on smart phones, where the police officers create fake accounts and pretend to be gay persons who are interested to meet for a date. When the LGBTI individual shows up at the meeting point, he/she get arrested. We noticed from examining the screenshots attached with the cases files, that the people speaking on behalf of the police always express their intention to pay money in foreign currency as a temptation to the users of these apps. We also noticed that the person speaking on behalf of the police always arrange the meetings in a public location e.g., public garden or just in the streets, so it would be easier to arrest them once they show up for the meeting. Once they are arrested, the police search the phones and print out all the conversations on the dating apps to use as “solo” evidence to prosecute the case further in the criminal courts or economical courts.

Sometimes the police tries to strike a deal with the accused, as they offer him/her to not prosecute the case if he/she cooperated and hand over other LGBTI individuals.

On the other hand, the awareness campaigns conducted by the NGOs working on LGBTI issues, the warning messages that the dating apps send to its users about digital security and how to avoid online entrapment, and the new security features like the change of the application icon and not displaying notifications undermined the online entrapment method, but did not erase it, as there is still a remarkable number of the LGBTI persons who got arrested through entrapment.

Sweeping meeting spots like some squares, streets, or coffee shops that the LGBTI community members often meet at. The police raid spots and randomly arrest people and then search them for anything that will indict that they do have sex e.g., condoms, lubes, and pictures to make a case against them and if they do not find anything, they would just claim that the arrested person was using seductive acts and signs to seduce people into committing debauchery.

The less common method for the police to use is to arrest from homes or hotel rooms. In the case of making an arrest from a hotel, they would move based on reporting they receive via someone who works in the hotel stating that there is a guest who looks "suspicious". In the case of making an arrest from a home, most likely they receive a report from neighbours.



Are there known cases where people have been convicted for their sexual orientation or gender identity based on other provisions of criminal law? If so, based on what other provisions?

Many known cases convicted based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, through its legal aid program; [Bedayaa](#) represented 168 LGBTI persons before the courts in 2018–2019 only. Some cases went publicly in the media for example:

1. The gay marriage case in 2014, 8 gay men received 3 years charges in the first-degree court.¹⁶
2. In 2016, a group of 11 persons (gay men and trans women) sentenced between 3–12 years.¹⁷
3. In 2017, mass arrest happened after raising the rainbow flag in a concert in Cairo, up to 75 persons arrested. First person arrested (gay man) received 6 years in prison.¹⁸
4. In 2018, 10 persons (gay men) arrested in Alexandria, they received 3 years sentence.¹⁹
5. In 2020, a foreigner Trans woman received 3 years sentence.²⁰

These are just few examples for the cases and jail time they received. It is worth mentioning that, according to the law, each case should receive a probation period equal to the sentence time, so if the convicted received 3 years jail time he/she will get 3 years of probation time. The implementation of the probation time obliges the convicted to spend 12 hours (between 6:00 am to 6:00 pm) in the police station's detention near to his/her residence.

As mentioned, the word homosexuality is not mentioned in the Egyptian penal code. In most trials, law 10/1961²¹ on the Combating of Prostitution and Debauchery is used to arrest and persecute LGBTI persons. In this law the word “Debauchery” is used to refer to male homosexuality or same sex act between two males.

Other provisions of law that used to arrest LGBTI persons include:

¹⁶ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/court-egypt-reduces-terms-men-gay-marriage-video-case>

¹⁷ <https://madamasr.com/en/2016/04/29/feature/politics/11-sentenced-to-3-12-years-in-prison-for-homosexuality/>

¹⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/06/egypt-mass-arrests-amid-lgbt-media-blackout>

¹⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/01/22/more-arrests-egypts-lgbt-crackdown-no-international-outcry>

²⁰ <https://tinyurl.com/yabgxkcr>

²¹ <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5492d8784.html>

- Penal Code 1937, Art. 269 bis Indecency²²

“Whoever is found on a public road or a travelled and frequented place inciting the passers-by with signals or words to commit adultery shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month. If the felon recurs to committing this crime within one year of the first crime, the penalty shall become imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding fifty pounds. A ruling of conviction shall necessitate placing the convict under police supervision for a period equal to that of the penalty”.


- Penal Code 1937, Art. 278 Scandalous Act

“Whoever commits in public a scandalous act against shame shall be punished with detention for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding three hundred pounds”.

²² <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/egypt/>



What is the position of LGBTI people in detention?



The Egyptian detention centres are known for widespread abuses, verbal, mental and physical violence are common practices by the Egyptian Police. In the absence of strong state institutions that oversee the Police and ensure the rule of law within the legal system, the Police is given de-facto immunity from any accountability when it comes to torture. Torture became the norm, expected as a package that comes with the arrest. In LGBTI cases abuses are causally related to their sexual orientation or gender identity, as it is common for the police to use the person sexuality or gender identity to incite inmates against them or to enact verbal and physical violence. With Trans cases on the other hand, especially Trans women, it is often that they are placed in a detention centre that does not fit their gender identity.

The practice of forced anal examinations: the practice is still going on by orders from the public prosecutor on men accused in debauchery cases. Even though anal examination does not have any medical or scientific background it is still used by the Egyptian authorities, medical and legal personnel in order to provide “medical” evidence that the detainees are indeed homosexuals.²³

According to Dr. Maged Louis, the deputy director of the Justice Ministry's Forensic Medical Authority, who said in 2015 that these examinations are necessary to determine if the person is gay or not. “A normal man's anus can't take more than one joint of the small finger”, he said.²⁴ His statements were backed once again by number of judges during the last crackdown on the LGBTI community in Egypt (The rainbow flag incident 2017) where these judicial sources stated to Tahrir newspaper:

“The act of anal examinations is normal in the process of investigations in debauchery cases²⁵”

The legal loophole for this is article (9) of the law 10/1961:


“Upon the apprehension of a person in the last category, it is permitted to send him for a medical examination. If it is discovered that he is carrying an infectious venereal disease, it is permitted to detain him in a therapeutic institute until his cure is completed”

As such the public prosecutor has the legal ground to send any person arrested under that law to the forensic office, where anal examinations are practiced.

²³ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/07/12/dignity-debased/forced-anal-examinations-homosexuality-prosecutions>

²⁴ <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/lesterfeder/egyptian-doctors-think-this-torturous-exam-can-detect-chroni>

²⁵ <https://www.tahrirnews.com/Story/841801/مصر-الطبيب-الشرعي-على-المثليين-في-الطبيب-الشرعي-مصر> (Arabic content)



If someone is alleged or known to be an LGBTI person or to engage in behaviour associated with LGBTI people, can this, in practice, lead to a disproportionate or discriminatory penalty for a criminal offence?

Yes. As mentioned in previous question, hotel employees and neighbours usually report to police any individuals who look, act, or announce his/her affiliation to LGBTI community.

Many cases have been documented for LGBTI persons who announced publicly his/her orientation, they have been subjected to social and family violence²⁶ or arrests in case of someone report the case to police.

On the other hand, those who are arrested from the streets—in circumstances of protests, demonstrations, and on the background of state of emergency situations—police officer inspect their handsets to validate their political identity; if the inspection results in disclosing evidence of LGBTI affiliation; he/she will be arrested based on law 10/1961.

²⁶ <https://raseef22.com/article/1072422-well-leave-you-a-nice-memento-on-your-pretty-face-how-hate-messages-and-threats-forced-a-gay-man-to-flee-egypt>

What is the situation of trans-persons? are they subjected to systematic discrimination?



First, the Egyptian state does not recognize trans-sexualism, as there are no legal articles that allows this procedure to happen, instead there are bylaws within the medical syndicate that also does not allow a person to transition rather “reassign” their gender as seen in Chapter (3) Article (43) in the Egyptian Medical Syndicate code of ethics:

“A doctor is prohibited from conducting sex change operations, as for sex reassignment surgeries it is allowed after receiving the approval from the special committee on sex reassignment in the medical syndicate and after having the case doing all the required hormonal and chromosome tests and after the case has spent at least two years of psychological and hormonal therapy²⁷”

The official “Fatwa” from El-Azhar²⁸ and other religious figures confirms, that for a person to go through any kind of sexual reassignment operation, they first have to prove that the issues they are having are biological and not mental and in 2019.

This was backed by a court verdict issued by the administrative court,²⁹ whereby it stated: “The freedom of a person is not absolute in changing their sex in the light of the current legal situation in Egypt, which lacks the existence of a legal structure for sex-changing operations that specifies cases of conducting it as a biological and medical necessity”.

The court backed its sentencing of refusing to change the legal paper for a Trans man by Al-Azhar official stand on sex reassignment operations and mentioned in its sentencing:

“Considering the principles of Islamic Sharia as the main source of legislation, the Islamic perception of sex change is a difference between sex reassignment and sex change operations, as the majority of Imams’ opinions permitted sex reassignment as a treatment for patients with organic disorders such as male and female intersex”

As such the transgender community is left with a legal and medical dilemma, as the system refuses to acknowledge their existence. The system is built around the Islamic Sharia that may allow only sex

²⁷ http://www.ems.org.eg/emsadmin/uploads/userfiles/file/لائحة_اداب_المهنة.pdf

²⁸ <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/j/jii/4750978.0002.302/--sex-change-in-cairo-gender-and-islamic-law?rgn=main;view=fulltext>

²⁹ <https://www.vetogate.com/2015510/الرقم-القومي-المتحول-جنسيا-في-الرقم-القومي>

reassignment after proving that a Trans person truly needs it for medical reasons. And even for trans people who can prove that, the system does not work in their favour, as the committee who supposed to approve cases for sex reassignment has no act that organizes the work of this committee, and when it should be held, or how long it should take to decide on cases.

All these left hundreds waiting for long periods for approvals. The approval is necessary to continue the legal process of changing their IDs. During this long period transgender individuals (Especially transgender women) start living as women within the society, which put them in a high risk of violence legally and socially.

One of the major problems that transgender women face is dealing with the military establishment since they are still listed as males in their IDs and Egypt applies compulsory military service for males over the age of 18 years. Trans women must go through a long process to receive an exemption from military service and sometimes this process fail. Job market for Trans individuals is another challenge, they face stigma, discrimination, and arbitrary dismissal specially when their IDs is not matching their gender identity.

Egyptian police do not understand the different between a transgender woman and a homosexual man, as such they view every transgender woman as a gay man who is dressed up as a woman to seduce men into debauchery for money, and view any gathering of Trans women in one flat as a hideout for prostitution. In other cases, the neighbours would attack transgender women in their flats and when the transgender women would call the police, the police would arrest them instead of the neighbours for the reason mentioned above.

Sadly, some judges do not care about the legality of the arrest procedures and the seriousness of the evidence and just settle for using female clothes and makeup as evidence of committing prostitution and debauchery without understanding that these evidences are nothing but important tools for trans women to use to live as a woman within the society. Other legal issues that face transgender persons is the lack of communication channels within the different executive branches and ministries inside the state; this often leads to being arrested, even though they would have governmental medical reports from the ministry of health stating that they are having gender identity disorder, but the Ministry of Interior does not acknowledge these kinds of reports.

With all these legal challenges, access to good health care is almost impossible unless you come from an upper social class, where money and power can award you with all what you need, as such there is a private costly underground medical system that operates in parallel to the official state system that provides healthcare to the trans community in Egypt with very high fees and undertrained medical staff who are not familiar with the needs of trans persons. The results are catastrophic in some cases.³⁰ The same goes to the process of changing gender remarks on the person ID, as there is no legal structure, and the law does not recognize transgender people, that created another underground system that works within the official system at the civil registry where “bribes” and “connections” are often used as a mean to change a person gender remarks on their ID.

³⁰ <https://www.almasyalyoum.com/news/details/1183960>

Are you aware of any cases of people being open about their sexual orientation? What consequences do people who are open about their sexual orientation face?



In most cases when people came out or were forcibly outed to their parents, they faced big clash from them, as mentioned before this violence can be in different forms³¹ e.g., forced marriages, conversion therapy, verbal and physical abuse. As for the society there are cases recorded of people being outed to the public and receiving a backlash because of it.

³¹ <https://docdro.id/4l8Oshu>
<https://docdro.id/C1G9ACR>

Please describe any serious cases of discrimination against LGBTI people by the authorities and/or other members of the public. If LGBTI people experience serious problems at the hands of members of the public, do they receive the authorities' effective protection?



1. In the absence of anti-discrimination laws, social ignorance fuelled by multiple state agencies means that individuals face more than one type of violence, such as exclusion, physical violence, arbitrary corrective treatment, and sexual and financial exploitation.
2. Following a visit to Egypt, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing affirmed that LGBTI persons in Egypt experience extreme discrimination in access to housing and as a result face homelessness and housing insecurity.
3. The state does not protect lesbian and bisexual women against domestic violence even if they turn to the police. On the contrary, the police cooperate with the family and return girls who have experienced violence to them. In some cases, documented by [the Alliance of Queer Egyptian Organizations](#), a lesbian woman said: her family had forcibly married her off and she was raped by her husband. Another woman said her family had subjected her to female genital mutilation after discovering her sexual inclination. A third woman said that her family had conducted a virginity test on her after discovering her sexual orientation.
4. Transgender men and women encounter workplace discrimination and at times harassment. They are miss gendered and denied entry to bathrooms according to their gender. They may be arbitrarily fired or suspended at work and may not be re-appointed to positions after they change their official documents. The state does not intervene to protect trans-people at work when they face arbitrary dismissal, verbal and sexual harassment, bullying, and rights violations.
5. The Egyptian medical system recognizes³² intersexuality as a disorder of sex development (DSD) and/or other disorders such as congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). Moreover, health care centres in Egyptian governorates do not provide diagnostic services for intersexuality, leaving diagnosis and management to the expertise of individual physicians in research centres and universities. Due to the lack of neonatal screening facilities, DSD and CAH go undiagnosed and unmanaged which results in a higher number of deaths, especially with male children with CAH,

³² "Clinical management of gender in Egypt: Intersexuality and transsexualism," Inas Mohamed Mazen, M.D. National Research Center Cairo, Egypt

who usually do not show genital ambiguity and, therefore, do not come to early medical attention for management as intersex persons. An additional barrier to adequate medical care for intersex persons in Egypt is the fact that medical insurance does not usually cover the high expenses of cytogenetic, hormonal, and surgical procedures for intersex persons, especially if age at diagnosis is late. Thus, many intersex persons who choose a reassigned sex are not fully examined or are lost to follow-up and, in the absence of adequate medical care, subsequently experience both social and psychological difficulties.

6. Regarding psychological treatment, numerous professional and pedagogical violations were documented in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). Some doctors and psychiatrists treat the LGBTI community in ways that diverge from international standards.³³ Some 52 members of the LGBTI community said they experienced various unorthodox practices from well-known psychiatrists in the past four years. These include behaviour modification techniques, intimidation, and forcing patients to read the treating physician's book on how to "cure" homosexuality. Some adults were also involuntarily committed to psychiatric institutions based solely on the consent of their families, ostensibly to correct their sexual orientation. All these practices run counter to the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), which affirm that homosexuality is not a mental disorder.³⁴
7. As to healthcare for LGBTI people living with HIV, officials at state-run testing and counselling centres discriminate based on SOGI and homophobia practice have been noticed, which affect the physical integrity and wellbeing of one of the main key populations (gay men) that have been estimated by 2018 Global AIDS Monitoring as 126000 individuals living in Egypt between 2014–2017.³⁵ According to UNAIDS which declare that there are 16,000 cases of people living with HIV in Egypt with 2300 new cases in 2017 which represents increase by %14. This great percentage reflects limitation of the Egyptian state in the field of awareness, testing, counselling, prevention, and treatment.

³³ Many advocates treating homosexuality with behavioural therapy and drugs such as sedatives, hormone suppressants, and anti-depressants

³⁴ See the ICD from WHO and the DSM from the APA.

³⁵ http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/unaids-data-2018_en.pdf



How are LGBTI people portrayed in the media?

Most media portrayal of cross-dressing or homosexuality has been negative in keeping with the traditional cultural and religious values of most Egyptians. More liberal portrayal of LGBTI issues in films and other forms of media tend to be subjected to government censorship or criticism from social conservatives. They mostly tend to feature a wealthy Egyptian man who has been raped when he was a child and having an affair with a lower-class man or other usual stereotypes of femininity as an affiliation to homosexuality or prostitution. However, these approaches promote public calls from social conservatives to censor or ban these films' exhibition, and sometimes the Egyptian censorship board request deletion of certain scenes in the films.

After a rainbow flag was raised at a concert in September 2017, the Supreme Media Council, that is responsible for media in Egypt and tasked with improving and elevating media performance,³⁶ banned any gay people from appearing in print or audio-visual media unless it was to admit their sin and repent.³⁷ In 2019, a TV presenter Mohammed al-Gheiti was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of LE3000 on charges of promoting perversion and contempt of religion³⁸ after hosting a gay person on air on his program on the LTC channel in August 2018.³⁹ The Supreme Media Council also issued a two-week broadcast ban on the channel for violating the council's rule on the appearance of **gay people or the promotion of their emblems.**

³⁶ Statement from the council

<https://tinyurl.com/y9yjlfn>

³⁷ The decree states, "The Supreme Media Council prohibits the propagation or publication of emblems of homosexuals because homosexuality is a disease and a disgrace that is better concealed than promoted until it can be treated and the disgrace eliminated, and this with the purpose of preserving public morals and conduct and out of a respect for the values of society and its correct beliefs. The propagation of such emblems is a corruption of society that must be penalized."

³⁸ Al-Gheiti was sentenced to two misdemeanors by the Sixth of October Misdemeanor Court (nos. 4542/2018 and 4541/2018) on charges of libel and defamation on his program, "Wake Up." In case no. 4542/2018, the court fined him LE100,001 as well as LE10,000 as compensation for libel in suit filed by lawyer Samir Sabri, case no. 11962/2018.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-46946612>

³⁹ <https://tinyurl.com/y24uhbvz>



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