



2.8. LGBTIQ persons

2.8.1. Legislative framework and developments

Consensual same-sex sexual acts continue to be punishable by law in Syria.⁷⁶² According to the article 520 of the 1949 Syrian Penal Code, ‘Unnatural Sexual Intercourse’ is a crime punishable for up to three years imprisonment,⁷⁶³ and it is applicable to men as well as women.⁷⁶⁴

According to a confidential source cited by the Netherlands MFA, since the fall of the Assad regime and as of late April 2025, criminal courts continued to apply the Penal Code;⁷⁶⁵ however, other confidential sources consulted were not aware of any LGBTIQ individuals who had been convicted under this section of the law.⁷⁶⁶ Instead, LGBTIQ individuals have been arrested and prosecuted under vague interpretations of other legal provisions, including offences related to public decency and morality,⁷⁶⁷ prostitution,⁷⁶⁸ or trafficking of illegal substances.⁷⁶⁹

- ⁷⁶²

Human Dignity Trust, Syria, last updated 6 January 2026, [url](#); ILGA World, ILGA World Database – Syria, [2026], [url](#)

- ⁷⁶³

HRW, World Report 2026, Syria: Events of 2025, 4 February 2026, [url](#); ILGA World, ILGA World Database – Syria, [2026], [url](#)

- ⁷⁶⁴

Human Dignity Trust, Syria, last updated 6 January 2026, [url](#); GEM, We Are Here, We Are Syrian, We Are Queer, Get Used to It, 2024, [url](#), p. 14

- ⁷⁶⁵

Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, May 2025, [url](#), p. 97

- ⁷⁶⁶

Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, January 2026, [url](#), p. 108

- ⁷⁶⁷

GEM, Syria: The Legal Position on LGBTQIA+ Individuals' "Fear of Entering the Police Station and Not Exiting", 5 May 2026, [url](#), pp. 2, 3; DK, DIS, Syria: Situation of LGBT+ persons, January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [768](#)

DK, DIS, Syria: Situation of LGBT+ persons, January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [769](#)

Worldcrunch, As Syria Faces New Divides, LGBTQ+ Hate Remains The Most Reliable Consensus, 22 February 2025, [url](#)