

LGBT QUARTERLY UPDATE



QUARTER THREE

JULY 23, 2014

HIV TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) persons traveling abroad face a diverse landscape of restrictions and prejudices, and the challenges are even more profound for travelers living with HIV. For HIV-positive travelers, failing to prepare adequately can result in wasted time, unexpected expenses, and embarrassment.

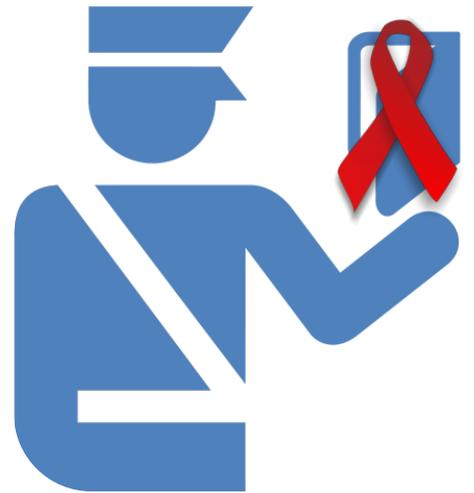
A few countries, including some major global business centers, have laws banning all individuals living with HIV from entering the country. For example, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE will deny entry to any traveler whom immigration officials suspect to be HIV-positive. Officials do not conduct HIV tests at the border, but they may examine travelers' baggage for medications. HIV-positive travelers who are discovered may be deported immediately at their own expense, and prevented from returning the future, even as tourists. Singapore imposes a similar entry ban, although the government allows travelers to apply for waivers.

In practice, these prohibitions may not prevent travelers with HIV from entering the country, but they will expose visitors to risk of deportation or permanent ban if their status is discovered. In Singapore, for instance, an HIV-positive traveler reported that his status was discovered when he was hospitalized for an unrelated medical emergency. The hospital notified authorities of the individual's status without his consent or knowledge, and his medical records were shared with the border control agency. When he attempted to return to Singapore for a business trip after briefly

leaving the country, customs officials stopped him at the airport and refused to allow him to re-enter.

Many more countries impose restrictions on travelers visiting for longer periods or applying for residency. Generally, tourists or short-term business travelers are unlikely to experience difficulties. However, many countries require visitors applying for residency or multiple-entry business visas to submit to a health screening, which includes an HIV test. Applicants found to be HIV-positive may be denied visas and, in some cases, immediately deported. A few countries allow exemptions that make it possible to obtain residency in certain circumstances. Australia, for instance, may issue a visa on the condition that a person does not require health care or community services, does not impose a significant cost on the community, and does not prejudice the access of Australian citizens or permanent residents to health care or community services.

Medication can pose the biggest complication for international travel. In many countries, access to advanced drugs is limited, and the quality of drugs - particularly generics - can be substandard. Counterfeit medications are also common even in countries with excellent healthcare systems. In Germany, for instance, investigators in 2009 discovered counterfeit versions of Combivir, an anti-viral combination of drugs produced by GlaxoSmithKline, in pharmacies in Bremen. When traveling internationally, HIV-positive persons should attempt to import sufficient supplies for



their entire stay. If it is necessary to acquire supplies locally, travelers should research the exact generic name of their medication, determine its availability in-country, and, if necessary, consider temporarily changing medications to one that is more readily available. Travelers can contact the destination country's embassy prior to departure to determine specific regulations on the import for personal use of their medications. *(Continued on page 2.)*

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FEATURE REPORT (CON'T.)

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Fortunately, for travelers with HIV, the overall legal climate is improving every year. In 2010 alone, six countries, including the United States, China, and India, removed all restrictions or significantly lessened restrictions on HIV travelers and even more states today are in the process of revising their entry policies in favor of HIV persons. Taiwan announced in April 2014 amendment to remove restrictions on entry, stay, and residence. As fewer and fewer countries discriminate against HIV-positive travelers, the likelihood of encountering embarrassment or harassment continues to decline. ■

GLOBAL HIV RESTRICTIONS GUIDELINES



COMPLETE BAN

Equatorial Guinea	Jordan	Iran	Brunei Darussalam	Qatar	Saudi Arabia
Sudan	UAE	Papua New Guinea	Singapore	Yemen	

HIV-status indicators

■	Certificate Required
■	Medication Ban
■	Immigration Form Self-Identification
■	Medication Flag



LONG-TERM RESTRICTIONS

China | Cuba | Kazakhstan | Kuwait
Malaysia | Nicaragua | Tonga | Turkmenistan

SHORT-TERM RESTRICTIONS

Bangladesh | Bhutan | Egypt | Eritrea | Kyrgyzstan | Marshall Islands
Russia | Suriname | Taiwan | Tunisia | Turks and Caicos



RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

Angola | Aruba | Bahrain | Belarus | Belize | Canada | Cyprus
Dominican Republic | Ecuador | Hungary | Indonesia | Israel | Lebanon | Mauritius
New Zealand | Oman | Paraguay | Rwanda | Samoa | Seychelles | Syria



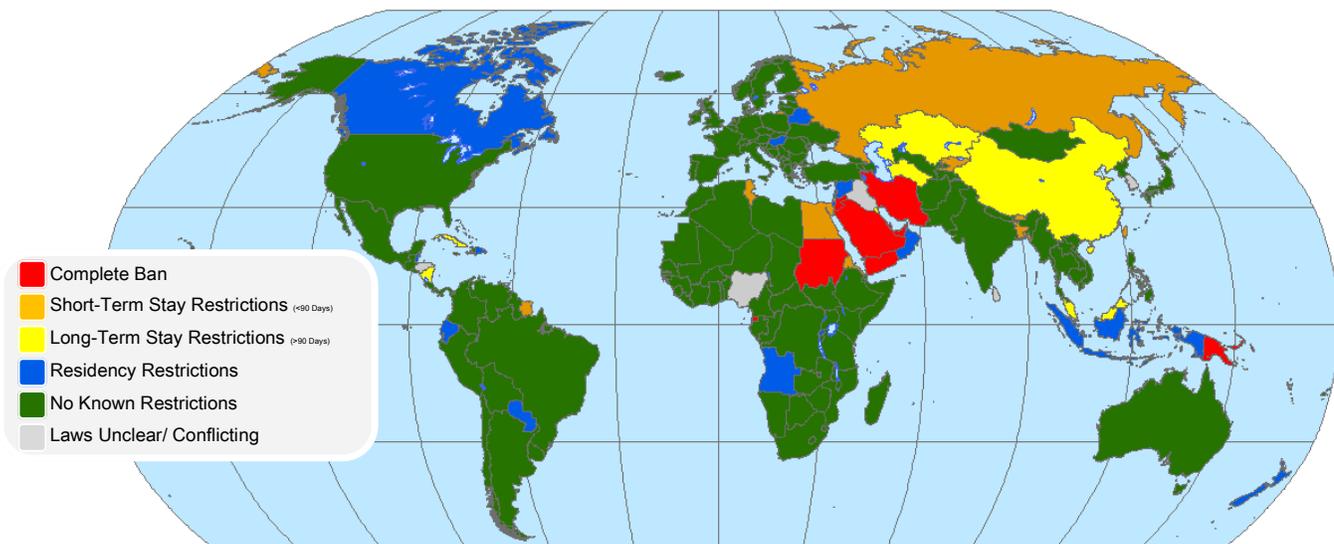
NO KNOWN RESTRICTIONS

Countries not listed in above categories are classified as having no known restrictions for entry, short-term visits, long-term visits, or persons seeking residency.



LAWS UNCLEAR / CONFLICTING

Anquilla | Bermuda | Cayman Islands | Micronesia | Honduras | Iraq
Nigeria | Saint Kitts and Nevis | Saint Vincent & the Grenadines | Sao Tome & Principe | South Korea | Sri Lanka



GHANA

As in many West African countries, same-sex relations are illegal in Ghana, and both political leaders and the general public tend to disapprove of homosexuality. According to Ghana's Criminal Code, "Whoever has unnatural carnal knowledge of any person sixteen years or over with his consent is guilty of a misdemeanor," with a punishment of up to three years in prison. It is unclear exactly how many people have been convicted and jailed under this law, but LGBT leader Prince MacDonald claimed in 2004 that "there are lots and lots of people in our prison home who have been caught by this unfriendly law."

Empowered by the law, political figures encourage discrimination against LGBT individuals. In July 2011, Western Region Minister Paul Evans Aidoo ordered the arrest of homosexuals under his jurisdiction, calling on landlords and tenants to report suspected LGBT persons. Then-president John Atta Mills told reporters months later



that "I, as president of this nation, will never initiate or support any attempts to legalize homosexuality in Ghana." The US State Department has identified multiple violations of LGBT rights in Ghana since 2012 in its annual report on Human Rights Practices. In April 2013, a secondary high school in the Ashanti Region expelled 19 students for allegedly practicing homosexuality, accusing them of recruiting their peers. Later that same month, an all-girls high school in Kumasi expelled 34 students for engaging in "lesbianism." Prior to the expulsion of the students, a group of men in 2012 assaulted nine people they suspected to be homosex-

ual in Accra. The attackers reportedly forced the victims from their homes, beating them with canes and sticks. Officials made no arrests.

LGBT support groups are nearly non-existent in Ghana, though the Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights (CEPEHRG) continues to operate quietly in support of the LGBT community under the guise of a group solely meant to combat AIDS in the country. Despite general hostility from the community, CEPEHRG receives donations and support from organizations around the globe. ■

JAPAN

Japan is one of the few countries in Asia that does not criminalize same-sex relations. Acceptance of homosexuality can vary from place to place and situation to situation, but, overall, the country tends to be tolerant of LGBT persons. The safety and security of LGBT individuals is unlikely to be a concern. Japan has one of the lowest levels of violent crime in the world, and LGBT persons are highly unlikely to experience and particular safety and security risks. Children reportedly have experienced bullying, according to a report published by the Bureau of Democracy, but LGBT adults, particularly foreign nationals, are unlikely to be targeted.

However, just because hate crimes are unlikely does not mean LGBT individuals face no challenges in Japan. Traditional



Japanese society stigmatizes homosexuality, often discouraging individuals from openly expressing their identities. In professional environments, such as offices or laboratories, Japanese co-workers may find open homosexuality discomfoting. Foreign visitors should use their best judgment based on the situation to determine how much to disclose about their sexuality.

Despite some occasional social discomfort,

the LGBT community enjoys a high degree of freedom and increasing levels of support from communities and the government. Akie Abe, wife of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, made an appearance at Tokyo's LGBT Pride Parade in April 2014. LGBT persons continue to garner support during elections, as well. Japan elected its first openly transgender person in 2003 and then elected its first openly gay man in 2011. ■

GLOBAL UPDATE

FRANCE

Anti-Gay Attackers Jailed

In April 2013, a group of men attacked Wilfred de Bruijn and his partner after spotting them on the street and shouting, "Look, homos!" Two of the attackers received sentences of two-and-half years, and a third received six months. ■

AUSTRIA

Lesbian Parliament Member Uninjured in Acid Attack

Austria's first open lesbian member of Parliament, Ulrike Lunacek, was attacked with acid during Vienna's annual pride parade. No injuries were reported, but equipment of a news crew conducting an interview with Luncek at the time was damaged. No charges are to be filed. ■

United States

United States Imposes Visa Bans on Ugandan Officials

The National Security Council Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden announced in June the US Department of State would begin instituting new measures in response to Uganda's anti-LGBT law. The announcement said the government will start preventing Ugandan officials involved in "serious human rights abuses, including against LGBT individuals," from entering. ■

KENYA

60 Arrested for Suspected Homosexuality

Kenyan police arrested more than 60 persons over the weekend of July 6 at a known gay bar in Nairobi. While officials have not released information on their charges, witnesses claim the patrons were not arrested under the nation's law governing the hours of alcohol consumption, but because of their sexuality. ■

MOROCCO

Appeals Court Upholds Conviction

The appeals court in Beni Mellal upheld the convictions of six people charged with "lewd or unnatural acts with an individual of the same sex." All six defendants claimed their confessions were signed after police threats. The court based its decision solely on the signed statements of the defendants, calling no witnesses and reviewing no other evidence. ■

KYRGYZSTAN

Parliament Passes Bill Banning Gay Propaganda

On June 17, the Kyrgyzstan Parliament's Human Rights Committee passed a bill to ban LGBT "propaganda," or the dissemination of information promoting a positive attitude toward same-sex relationships. Persons found guilty under the proposed law would be punished with fines and up to six months in prison. ■

UGANDA

Five Ugandans Arrested for "Promoting Homosexuality"

According to the *Daily Monitor* newspaper in Kampala, police arrested five Ugandans on charges of allegedly "promoting homosexuality" in the Pader District. The arrest of a teacher, two students, and two businessmen occurred after locals informed police of suspicions the group was recruiting students into homosexuality. ■

AUSTRALIA

First Same-Sex Parents Named on Birth Certificate

The Supreme Court of the state of Queensland ruled in favor of a lesbian couple, permitting both parents' names to be listed on their child's birth certificate. This is the first time in Australia where the birth certificate of a same-sex couple would be listed as the legal parents of a child at birth. ■

SOUTH AFRICA

First Openly Gay Black Parliamentarian Sworn In

On May 28, Zakhele Mbhele became the first openly gay black parliamentarian in all of Africa. The first gay parliamentarian ever in South Africa was Mike Waters, a white legislator, in 1999. ■

GAMBIA

President Claims He Would Kill Gay Asylum-Seekers

During a speech in May in the city of Basse, Gambian President Yahya Jammeh said that if he caught people claiming to be gay and requesting asylum, he would kill them. This is not the first time Jammeh has threatened violence against homosexuals. In 2008, Jaammeh told homosexuals to leave or face execution by beheading. ■

COLOMBIA

Re-Elected President Supports Same-Sex Marriage

President Juan Manuel Santos won reelection during the country's second round of voting by a 51-45 percent margin. Prior to voting, President Santos told the media that "Marriage between homosexuals to me is perfectly acceptable... For me it is important that they have their rights." His opponent, Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, expressed opposition to "marriage between partners of the same sex..." ■

LUXEMBOURG

Lawmakers Approves Same-Sex Marriage and Adoptions

In a vote of 56-4, the Chamber of Deputies, approved legislation to rewrite the nation's marriage laws to include, among other elements, the recognition of same-sex marriages and their right to adopt children. ■

REGIONAL RESOURCES

Front Page

HIV Travel

- <http://www.hivtravel.org/>

AIDS Map

- <http://www.aidsmap.com/>

UN AIDS

- <http://www.unaids.org/>

AIDS-Free World

- <http://www.aidsfreeworld.org/>

U.S. Department of State

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

Harvard School of Public Health

- <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/aids/aids.htm>

In-Focus

Ghana

Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights, Ghana

- <https://sites.google.com/site/cepehrq/>

Japan

Stonewall Japan

- <http://stonewall.ajet.net/>

Global Update

France

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/06/04/two-men-get-jail-terms-paris-antigay-attack>

Austria

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/06/17/lesbian-member-parliament-attacked-vienna-pride>

United States

- <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2014/06/u-s-imposes-visa-bans-on-ugandan-officials-over-gay-rights-abuses/>

Kenya

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/07/07/60-arrested-suspected-homosexuality-kenya-nightclub>

Morocco

- <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2014/06/un-official-gay-soccer-players-at-the-world-cup-should-declare-sexuality/>

Kyrgyzstan

- <http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/kyrgyzstan-human-rights-group-passes-gay-propaganda-bill180614>

Uganda

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/07/10/uganda-students-arrested-promoting-homosexuality>

Australia

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/05/30/australian-first-both-lesbian-parents-named-birth-certificate>

South Africa

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/05/30/south-africa-gets-its-first-openly-gay-parliamentarian>

Gambia

- <http://www.advocate.com/world/2014/05/16/gambian-president-gay-asylum-seekers-i-will-kill-them>

Colombia

- <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2014/06/16/pro-lgbt-colombian-president-re-elected/>

Luxembourg

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/19/luxembourg-gay-marriage-_n_5511360.html

General Resources

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

- <http://ilga.org/>

Human Rights Watch

- <http://www.hrw.org/>

Lambda Legal

- <http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

Human Rights Campaign

- <http://www.hrc.org/>

State Department LGBT Travel Information

- http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/lgbt/lgbt_5887.html

United Nations Free & Equal

- <https://www.unfe.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Worldwide

No Upcoming Events

Africa

No Upcoming Events

Americas

United States - July 29–August 1 - Las Vegas, National Business & Leadership Conference

Canada - July 28–August 3 - Montreal, Divers/Cite Art Festival

United States - July 31–August 3 - Portland, Queer Music Festival

United States - August 9–16 - Cleveland/Akron, Gay Games IX

United States - August 14–24 - Vancouver, Queer Film Festival

United States - September 4–7 - Las Vegas, Gay Days Expo

Asia

Hong Kong - September - Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Europe

Ireland - July 25–August 2 - Belfast, Pride Festival

Netherlands - July 26–August 3 - Amsterdam, Pride Week

Sweden - July 28–29 - Stockholm, Pride Festival

Denmark - August 27–31 - Copenhagen, Pride Festival

Italy - June 19–September 20 - Rome, Gay Village Open-Air Festival

Italy - July 17–20 - Rome, Italian Gaymes

Middle East / N. Africa

No Upcoming Events

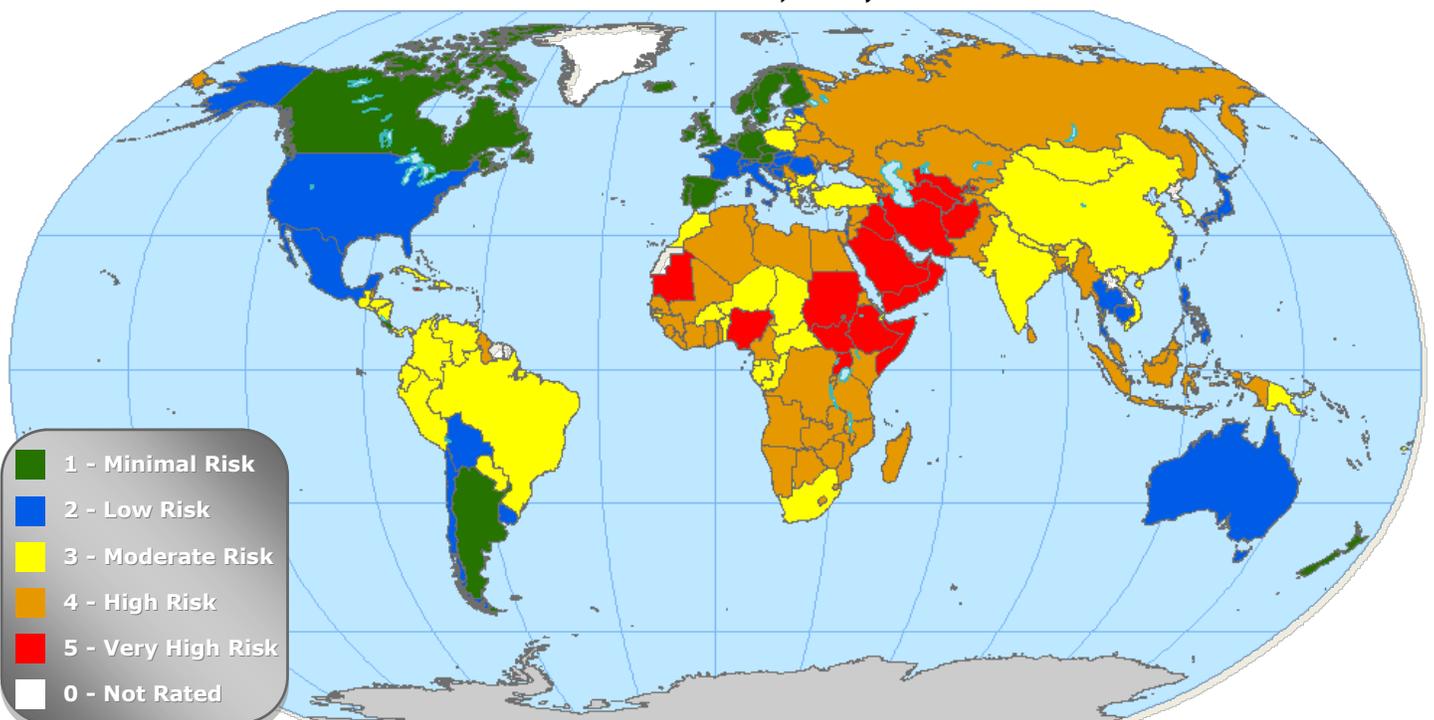
S. Pacific / Oceania

Australia - July 20–25 - Melbourne, International AIDS Conference

New Zealand - August 30–September 6 - Queenstown, Gay Ski Week

Russia / CIS

No Upcoming Events



Contact

We take great pride in addressing topics from around the world that may be of concern to the LGBT community. If you would like to suggest topic pieces, upcoming dates, or provide feedback, please contact Sean Williams at assessments@ijet.com.