

Lebanon

Country Conditions Report

Created by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Working Group

International Human Rights Program

University of Toronto

**Produced:** March 13, 2020

Natasha Williams

Ryan Riemenschneider

Asha Gordon

This document was prepared by law students and highlights information about publicly accessible country conditions available at the time it was prepared.  It is not exhaustive, nor is it updated on a regular basis.  The information provided here is not a substitute for legal advice or legal assistance, and the International Human Rights program at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law cannot provide such advice or assistance.

Table of Contents

[I. Introduction 2](#_Toc109646024)

[II. Legislation 2](#_Toc109646025)

[III. Canadian Jurisprudence 4](#_Toc109646026)

[IV. Domestic Jurisprudence 5](#_Toc109646027)

[V. International Law 6](#_Toc109646028)

[VI. Government Reports 9](#_Toc109646029)

[VII. Reports from International Agencies and NGOs 10](#_Toc109646030)

[VIII. Media Reports and Local Expertise 13](#_Toc109646031)

# **Introduction**

While Lebanon does not explicitly legislate against LGBTQ+ people, LGBTQ+ individuals are unable to freely exercise their rights in the country. In 2018, an appeals court ruled that consensual sex between people of the same sex is not unlawful; however, article 534 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes “sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature,” remains on the books and is still used to prosecute LGBTQ+ individuals. Furthermore, LGBTQ+ people face official and societal discrimination, harassment and violence, and receive little state protection. In Beirut, commonly known as the most LBGTQ+ friendly city in the Middle East, people still face discrimination and police abuses. There has only been one recent Lebanese refugee case in Canada, in which the Immigration and Refugee Board found in favour of the claimant because of a serious risk of persecution in Lebanon.

# **Legislation**

*Lebanon Constitution 1926 (revised 2004)*[[1]](#footnote-1)

* **Preamble** of the Constitution states that Lebanon is a democracy founded upon principles of fundamental freedoms such as, “freedom of opinion”, “freedom of belief”, “equality in rights and duties among all citizens without distinction or preference.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* **Article 7 (Rights and Obligations of Citizens)**: All Lebanese are equal before the law. They equally enjoy civil and political rights and assume obligations and public duties without distinction among them.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* **Article 8 (Personal Freedom)**: Personal freedom is guaranteed and protected by the law. No one can be arrested, jailed or suspended except according to the rules of the law[[4]](#footnote-4) (e.g., no arbitrary detention/conviction for non-criminal behaviour).
* **Article 12 (Employment Discrimination)**: Every Lebanese has the right to public employment, without any distinction, except on qualification and merit according to the conditions laid down by the law.[[5]](#footnote-5)

*Lebanese Penal Code 1943*[[6]](#footnote-6)

The basis for past criminalization related to sexual orientation and gender identity/expression in Lebanon has stemmed from the 1943 Lebanese Penal Code.

The relevant sections in the Code are certain provisions which broadly prohibit: (i)breaches of modesty, (ii) disguising oneself as a woman, (iii) infringing public morals and ethics, (iv) trading indecent material, (v) sexual intercourse “against nature.”

While homosexuality is not explicitly outlawed according to any legal provisions the sections below, especially Article 534, has been cited for criminalizing individuals across the spectrum of the LGBTQ+ community.

(i) **Article 209[[7]](#footnote-7)**

“The making or possession, importing or attempts to import for trade, distribution, for payment, copying, exhibition or display or attempts to display to the public, or for selling or attempts to sell, or (distribute)...anything in breach of modesty shall be punished with imprisonment from imprisonment from one month to one year and a fine from 20,000 Lira to 100,000 Lira.”

(ii) **Article 521**

“Any man who masquerades as a woman and enters a place specifically for women only or a place in which anyone aside from women are prohibited from entering may be jailed for no more than six months.”[[8]](#footnote-8)

* Article 521 has been used to target transgender women (e.g. cases where there is a mismatch between their gender identity and official government documents)

(iii) **Article 531** and **532**: infringing public morals and ethics[[9]](#footnote-9)

(iv) **Article 533:** trading indecent material[[10]](#footnote-10)

(v) **Article 534**

“Any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature is punishable by up to one year in prison”[[11]](#footnote-11)

* Article 534 does not specify what may qualify as “contrary to the order of nature.” Thus, the vagueness of Article 534 leaves it up to the complete discretion of the presiding judge whether or not to prosecute individuals under the provision.

# **Canadian Jurisprudence**

*Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board*

1. *RPD File No. VB4-*02936 (**2014**)[[12]](#footnote-12)

**Holding:** Refugee claim granted due to serious risk of persecution in Lebanon

* **Claimant testified as to fear of returning to Lebanon because of his sexual orientation**
* **Panel found there was a serious possibility of persecution in Lebanon**
* **Panel relied on Article 534 of the Penal Code and evidence of police abuse**

The claimant testified to his fear of returning to Lebanon because of his sexual orientation. He testified that he had lived his entire life hiding his sexuality and that his family was unaware of his sexual orientation. He feared persecution in Lebanon because of his sexual identity.

The panel found there was a serious possibility of persecution in Lebanon. They focused on Article 534 of the Penal Code, which, though rarely used, remains in effect. They found the central issue with Article 534 is that it impacts the ability of the LGBT community to access state protection. The panel noted that documentary evidence also showed the LGBT individuals face official and societal discrimination, and that someone who is outed will likely lose their employment.

The panel also relied on the Universal Periodic Review, noting that LGBT individuals are particularly vulnerable to police abuse. Lastly, the panel pointed to media reports of mass arrests and official governmental support of police action. The panel agreed with the claimant that the evidence showed the situation had become worse over time, not better.

The panel stated that there is a presumption the state will protect its citizens, but that they were satisfied the presumption had been rebutted in this case. They also found there was no Internal Flight Alternative, because even in Beirut, which appears the most gay-friendly city in the Middle East, LGBT persons still face risks and police abuses.

Holding that the claimant had provided sufficient credible evidence to demonstrate a serious possibility of persecution in Lebanon, the panel concluded the claimant was a Convention refugee.

# **Domestic Jurisprudence**

Lebanon does not publish its jurisprudence publicly, however Human Rights Watch published an article concerning a ground-breaking district court of appeal judgement.

1. Appeal Court Judgement - July 12, 2018[[13]](#footnote-13)

**Holding:** Consensual sex between same-sex partners is not unlawful

* **The penal code should be interpreted with “common sense” and principles of social justice.**
* **Consensual sex between adults of the same sex is not unnatural under Article 534.**

This ruling follows four lower court rulings between 2007 and 2017 that declined to convict gay and transgender people under s. 534 of the *Lebanese* *Penal Code*, and is the first ruling from an appeals court.

In 2015, nine people were arrested in Beirut on suspicion of being gay and transgender. They were acquitted by a criminal court in 2017, with the Court saying, “homosexuals have a right to human and intimate relationships with whoever they want, without any interference or discrimination in terms of their sexual inclinations, as it is the case with other people.” The Prosecutors appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeal in Mount Lebanon, where a majority upheld the acquittal.

The majority ruled that the penal code should be interpreted in accordance with "common sense" and principles of social justice, and held that consensual sex between adults of the same sex cannot be considered unnatural, so long as it does not violate morality or ethics. This case is not binding on all other courts in the country, but will be persuasive in subsequent cases.

# **International Law**

***UN Treaties*[[14]](#footnote-14)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Treaty** | **Date of Signature** |  **Date of Ratification** |
| ICCPR | N/A |  1972 |
| ICCPR - First OP | N/A |  N/A |
| ICCPR - Second OP | N/A |  N/A |
| ICESCR | N/A |  1972 |
| ICESCR - OP | N/A |  N/A |
| CAT | N/A  |  2000 |
| CAT - First OP | N/A |  2008  |

\*No declarations/reservations concerning the treaties Lebanon has signed.

***Human Rights Committee* (2018)**

UN List of Issues[[15]](#footnote-15)

* **LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face discrimination, police abuse and violence.**

The number of arrests under article 534 of the Penal Code has been rising and article 534 continues to be used to arrest and prosecute LGBTQ+ individuals. There have been allegations of hate speech and homophobic attitudes and bullying towards LGBTQ+ children in school, arbitrary arrests, forced HIV testing at police stations and violence and torture of LGBTQ+ individuals by police officers, instances of anal examinations (despite being banned in 2012), and impunity for these acts and a lack of legal protection.

Lebanon's Response[[16]](#footnote-16)

* **Most members of the judiciary continue to think of intercourse between same-sex individuals as "contrary to the order of nature" and impose penalties under Art 534.**
* **However, there is evidence that points to the state's evolution on this point.**

The judiciary shows leniency when imposing penalties and usually substitutes the penalty of imprisonment with a fine. Furthermore, the prohibition of torture and the legal rights of arrested persons apply to all people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity. Anal examinations to obtain evidence of same-sex intercourse have also been prohibited by Office of the Public Prosecutor. Lastly, four judgements have been rendered by individual judges that uphold the rights of "homosexuals" (2009, 2014, 2016, 2017); however, these have had little impact on the majority of decisions.

Concluding Observations[[17]](#footnote-17)

* **There continue to be instances of discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.**[[18]](#footnote-18)
* **The state should ensure its legal framework protects the rights of LGBTQ+ people.**

Individuals continue to be arrested and prosecuted under Art 534 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes "any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature," despite information about court judgments holding Art 534 not to apply to LGBTQ+ individuals. Discrimination, harassment, violence, and extortion are all aimed at LGBTQ+ individuals and there is no protection against these threats.

The state should ensure that its legal framework "contains a comprehensive list of grounds for discrimination in line with the Covenant, including sexual orientation and gender identity."[[19]](#footnote-19)

***Committee Against Torture* (2017)**

There is no clear and absolute prohibition of torture in the state's legislation.[[20]](#footnote-20)

***Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (2016)**

* **Discrimination is experienced by marginal groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals.**

There is a lack of effective remedies (legal or otherwise) available to victims of discrimination.[[21]](#footnote-21)

The Committee recommended that Lebanon:

1. Adopt a comprehensive legal framework for combatting discrimination that prohibits direct and indirect discrimination.
2. Enshrine in the Constitution principles of non-discrimination.
3. “Conduct campaigns to combat prejudice and stigma against members of marginalized groups, such as ... persons living with HIV, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.”[[22]](#footnote-22)

***Universal Periodic Review (2015)***

Canada’s response to the review: "As for sexual orientation, although Article 534 of the Penal Code stated that sexual intercourse contrary to nature was punishable, two court decisions had indicated that Article 534 did not apply to homosexuals. The judiciary had played an important role in preventing and opposing acts of violence or discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.”[[23]](#footnote-23)

UN Recommendations:[[24]](#footnote-24)

* Secure human rights of LBGT people by amending Art. 534 and by codifying protection against the discrimination of LGBT persons
* Attention to protection and enjoyment of equal rights for LGBT persons
* Decriminalize homosexuality and ensure non-discrimination
* Promote protection of LBGT persons
* Many countries recommended that Lebanon reform or repeal Art. 534

Lebanon “noted” rather than “supported” these recommendations, and did not agree to implement any of the recommendations relating to LGBTQ+ rights.[[25]](#footnote-25)

# **Government Reports**

***Canada***

1. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, “2019 National Documentation Package for Lebanon”(Last updated March 29, 2019)[[26]](#footnote-26)
* The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada produces National Documentation Packages (NDP) for every country where there is a claim for refugee protection. The most recent NDP published for Lebanon contains several documents regarding LGBTQ+ rights, located in section 6: *Sexual Minorities*. Some relevant documents include:
1. International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. “State-Sponsored Homophobia 2017: A world survey of sexual orientation laws: criminalisation, protection and recognition”(May 2017). Document #6.1[[27]](#footnote-27)
* **Outlines penal code provisions 534 and 209 used to harass LGBTQ+ people through restrictions on sex based on what is considered “natural” and “immodest” expression respectively.**
* **Outlines cases showing judiciary’s progress in recognizing LGBTQ+ as natural, but indicates there are still issues in daily life.**
1. Helem - Lebanese Protection for LGBTQ Individuals. “Human Rights Violations against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals in Lebanon: A Shadow Report submitted to the Human Rights Committee” (April 2017). Document #6.2[[28]](#footnote-28)
* **Comprehensive report examining LGBTQ+ issues stemming from penal code, police violence, and societal discrimination and violence.**
* **Includes recommendations to Lebanese government to foster positive change.**

***United States***

1. United States Department of State, “2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Lebanon” (2018)[[29]](#footnote-29)
* **Despite recently being ruled as no longer illegal in Lebanon, official and systemic discrimination still exists.**
* **Often face abuse from local gangs and discrimination in things such as employment.**
* **Victims rarely report abuse, and often seek UNHCR-sponsored protective services.**

The US Human Rights Report on Lebanon found that Internal Security Forces (ISSF) officers mistreated LGBTQ+ individuals in custody, particularly through forced HIV testing and threats to individuals as well as their families. The report cited the interference of government agents with Beirut Pride events and also commented on the potential of criminal charges of “incitement of immorality” and “breach of public morality” [*Penal Code Article 531 and Article 532*] pressed against the Pride event planners.

Additional scholarship by the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality and the Marsa Project points to discrimination experienced by transgender women in employment due to inconsistency between official documentation and gender expression.

# **Reports from International Agencies and NGOs**

***Human Rights Watch***

1. “2020 World Report: Lebanon,”[[30]](#footnote-30) 2020
* **LGBTQ+ individuals have seen some positive movement in the law, but are still unable to freely exercise their rights.**

Article 534 of the Penal Code still punishes "any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature" with one up to one year of imprisonment. However, in March 2019, a military prosecutor acquitted four military personnel accused of sodomy, ruling that homosexuality is not a crime. This follows the July 2018 appeals court ruling that consensual sex between people of the same sex is not unlawful, and four lower court rulings to the same effect. In September 2018, police disrupted a conference on the rights of LGBTQ+ people, telling organizers to stop all conference events.

1. “‘Don’t Punish Me for Who I Am’ Systemic Discrimination Against Transgender Women in Lebanon,”[[31]](#footnote-31) September 3, 2019

* **Transgender women face systemic discrimination and are at serious risk of violence from police and the public at large.**

Transgender women face discrimination in all areas, such as education, employment, housing and provision of health care. They also face issues of arbitrary arrests, which are often accompanied by physical violence. Along with police violence, transgender women face violence or threat of violence from members of the public and are denied police protection. It is difficult for transgender women to obtain identification documents that reflect their gender identity. Furthermore, article 534 of the Penal Codehas been used to arrest trans women who are misidentified as gay men. They can also be targeted under laws of "violating public morality," "incitement to debauchery" and "secret prostitution."

***Amnesty International***

1. “Lebanon 2019,”[[32]](#footnote-32) January 2020
* **LGBTI individuals and organizations are denied freedom to their basic rights.**
* **Reports suggest Article 534 of the Penal Code, as well as other laws criminalizing sex work, drug use and trafficking continue to be used to prosecute LGBTI individuals.**
* **In May 2019, the Lebanese government blocked access to the Grindr app.**
1. “LGBTI Community Activism in Lebanon a Story of Existence and Oppression,”[[33]](#footnote-33) May 17, 2019
* **Local Lebanese LGBTI activism started about 15 years ago, but there have been few changes in the law.**
* **LGBTI people’s existence is no longer criminalized, yet they do not enjoy the freedom to exercise their rights.**
* **State security officials have cracked down on LGBTI events in recent years, cancelling many events under the pretext of security concerns.**

Despite local LGBTI activism starting over a decade ago, there have been few concrete changes. Article 534 remains on the books, and Helem, a local LGBTI group, stated there had been more arrests under article 534 in 2018 than in previous years. Transgender women have been particularly targeted in this increase. Police patrols still arrest LGBTI people arbitrarily.

The public has become more accustomed to the presence of LGBTI people around them, but are not necessarily more accepting or supporting of their rights. There is still open hostility towards LGBTI individuals, evidenced by social media and a lack of acceptance in the media.

On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, LGBTI organizations held events and activities; however, as has become more common in recent years, state security officials cracked down on many of the events. In recent years films promoting homosexuality or with scenes presenting LGBTI people in a positive manner are censored and not allowed to be screened in public.

1. “Lebanon Ban on Gay Dating a Blow for Sexual Rights and Freedoms,”[[34]](#footnote-34) May 29, 2019
* **In January 2019, the Grindr app was blocked on some Lebanese mobile data networks, on the orders of the Lebanese Telecommunications Ministry. The app was used mainly by gay and trans men.**

***Freedom House***

1. “Freedom in the World 2019: Lebanon,”[[35]](#footnote-35) January 2020
* **LGBTQ+ people face both official and societal discrimination and harassment.**

In July 2018, an appeals court ruled that same-sex intercourse is not illegal. However, Penal Code Article 534, which bans "sexual intercourse against nature" is still on the books. NGOs are working in Lebanon to uphold the human rights of LGBTQ+ people and social acceptance is more common in urban areas such as Beirut; however, in May 2018 authorities detained the organizer of Beirut Pride and only released him once he signed a pledge cancelling the event.

***OutRight Action International***

1. “Activism and Resilience: LGBTQ Progress in the Middle East and North Africa,”[[36]](#footnote-36) 2018
* **The report indicates that the number of documented arrests under Article 534 have increased gradually from 2012-2016.**
* **The report suggests that many lawyers are less willing to take on cases concerning sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGI) rights making access to representation difficult.**
* **Study results in the report show that transgender women especially face a large amount of harassment and violence in public spaces.**

# **Media Reports and Local Expertise**

1. Coming Out in Lebanon”, L. Boushnak and M. Boshnaq, New York Times, 2017[[37]](#footnote-37)
	* + **Though not criminalized, LGBTQ+ people face societal discrimination such as street harassment, jeering, and many feel cautious or hesitant about presenting as LGBTQ+ in Beirut.**
		+ **Treatment is said to be worse outside of Beirut, especially in rural or conservative areas.**
		+ **Despite having first ever pride week (though without any parade) in the middle east in 2017, an event planned as part of the Pride festival was still cancelled after condemnation from Muslim Scholars.**
2. “Lebanon Is Known as Gay Friendly. But Pride Week Was Shut Down”, N. Homsi, New York Times, 2018[[38]](#footnote-38)
	* + **During the second annual pride week, the organizer was detained by police for lacking censorship approval. “…he was shown an inaccurate version of the event’s program that suggested it included what the authorities considered immoral and pornographic content.”[[39]](#footnote-39)**
		+ **Organizer was only released after promising to cancel all remaining events.**
		+ **Government official claimed they had received complaints of events that harm “public morals.”**
3. “Beirut Pride organizers cancel opening event after threats”, R. Savage, Reuters, 2019[[40]](#footnote-40)
* **The opening event of the third annual LGBTQ+ Pride Week event had to be cancelled due to threats of violence at the event, as well as to the owner of the venue.**
* **Religious officials are pressuring the government to ensure Pride stops occurring in Lebanon.**
1. “‘Love Always Wins’: Inside the Fight for LGBT Equality in Lebanon”, T. Teeman, Daily Beast, 2018[[41]](#footnote-41)
* **A study by Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality conducted in 2015 confirmed that while Lebanese people held “very negative views about homosexuality,”[[42]](#footnote-42) 90% [of Lebanese people] were against physical violence against LGBT people, and 65% were against Article 534” (article 534 criminalizes “unnatural sex”; it previously applied to consenting homosexual relationships).[[43]](#footnote-43)**
1. “Trans women attacked in Lebanon in broad daylight”, The Observers, 2018[[44]](#footnote-44)
* **In an exchange for prostitution, a man assaulted two transgender women in a town north of Beirut after finding out they were transgender.**
* **One of the women ran away, but the man pinned the other down and beat her. Onlookers formed a circle to watch, but did not intervene.**
1. “‘They would smash your head to death’: Escaping homophobia in the Middle East”, A. Issa, The Guardian, 2019[[45]](#footnote-45)
* **Some LGBTQ+ individuals from the Middle East try to escape to Lebanon, often as a step to move to a western country; however “even the wait was tumultuous, as families would often travel to Lebanon or Jordan to hunt down their estranged sons and daughters and kill them in the name of honour.”[[46]](#footnote-46)**
1. “Lebanon No Longer a Safe Haven for Activism”, R Younes, Human Rights Watch, 2019[[47]](#footnote-47)
* **Lebanese government shut down a conference for LGBTQ+ activism in the Middle East since the conference “disrupts the security and stability of society.”[[48]](#footnote-48)**
* **Though considered a safe haven for LGBTQ+ people, Lebanon has been cracking down on freedom of speech, especially regarding LGBTQ+ activism such as censoring the arts and limiting pride events in recent years.**
1. *Lebanon Constitution*, 1926, revised 2004, translated by Fouad Fahmy Shafik & Abed Awad (Oxford University Press), online: < <https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Lebanon_2004?lang=en> > [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Ibid* at Art 7 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Ibid* at Art 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Ibid* at Art 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Penal Code (Lebanon) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Ibid* at Art 209 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Ibid* at Art 521. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Ibid* at Art 531 and 532. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *Ibid* at Art 533. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Ibid* at Art 534. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *RPD File No VB4*-02936, [2014] RPDD No 137. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “Lebanon: Same-Sex Relations Not Illegal” (19 July 2018), online: *Human Rights Watch* <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/07/19/lebanon-same-sex-relations-not-illegal>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. “UN Treaty Body Database” (accessed 10 March 2020), online: *United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner* <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=96&Lang=EN>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Human Rights Committee, *List of issues in relation to the third periodic report of Lebanon*, UNOHCHROR, UN Doc CCPR/C/LBN/Q/3 (2017) online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Human Rights Committee, *Replies of Lebanon to the list of issues,* UNHRCOR, UN Doc CCPR/C/LBN/Q/3/Add.1 (2018) online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Lebanon,* UNOHCHROR, UN Doc CCPR/C/LBN/CO/3 (2018) online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. *Ibid* at paras 13-14. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Ibid* at para 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Lebanon,* UNOHCHROR, UN Doc CAT/C/LBN/CO/1 (2017) online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en>> at para 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Lebanon,* UNOHCHROR, UN Doc E/C.12/LBN/CO/2 (2016) online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en>> at para 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. *Ibid* at para 19. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Lebanon*, UNHRCOR, 31st Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/31/5 (2015) online: <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/LBIndex.aspx>> at para 61. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. *Ibid* at para 132.93-132.98. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Human Rights Council, *Matrice of recommendation*, UNHRCOR, 31st Sess (2015) online: <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/LBIndex.aspx>> at pp 5, 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *2019 National Documentation Package for Lebanon,* (Ottawa; Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, March 29, 2019) s. 6, online: < <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/ndp/Pages/index.aspx?pid=9737>> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Carroll, A. and Mendos, L.R., “State Sponsored Homophobia 2017: A world survey of sexual orientation laws:

criminalisation, protection and recognition”, *International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association*, (Geneva; ILGA, May 2017) page 130, online: <<https://ilga.org/downloads/2017/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2017_WEB.pdf>> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Helem, “Human Rights Violations against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals in Lebanon”, (April 2017), online: <<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/LBN/INT_CCPR_ICO_LBN_27152_E.pdf>> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. United States Department of State, “2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Lebanon”, (2018), online: <<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/LEBANON-2018.pdf>> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. “World Report 2020: Lebanon” (accessed 10 March 2020), online: *Human Rights Watch* <<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/lebanon#e81181>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. “‘Don’t Punish Me for Who I Am’ Systemic Discrimination Against Transgender Women in Lebanon” (3 September 2019), online: *Human Rights Watch* <<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/09/03/dont-punish-me-who-i-am/systemic-discrimination-against-transgender-women-lebanon>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. “Lebanon 2019” (accessed 10 March 2020), online: *Amnesty International* <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/lebanon/report-lebanon/>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Sahar Mandour, “LGBTI Community Activism in Lebanon a Story of Existence and Oppression” (17 May 2019), online: *Amnesty International* <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/05/lgbti-community-activism-in-lebanon-a-story-of-existence-and-oppression/>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. “Lebanon Ban on Gay Dating a Blow for Sexual Rights and Freedoms” (29 May 2019), online: *Amnesty International*  <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/05/lebanon-ban-on-gay-dating-app-grindr-a-blow-for-sexual-rights-and-freedom/>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. “Freedom in the World 2019: Lebanon” (accessed 10 March 2020), online: *Freedom House* <<https://freedomhouse.org/country/lebanon/freedom-world/2019>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. OutRight Action International, “Activism and Resilience: LGBTQ Progress in the Middle East and North Africa, 2018”, (2018), online: < [https://outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/MENAReport%202018\_100918\_FINAL.pdff](%20https%3A//outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/MENAReport%202018_100918_FINAL.pdff)> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. L. Boushnak and M. Boshnaq, “Coming Out in Lebanon”, *New York Times*, 30 December 2017, online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/30/world/middleeast/lebanon-coming-out.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. N. Homsi, “Lebanon Is Known as Gay Friendly. But Pride Week Was Shut Down”, *New York Times*, 16 May 2018, online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/world/middleeast/lebanon-beirut-gay-pride.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. *Ibid* at para 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. R. Savage, “Beirut Pride organizers cancel opening event after threats”, *Reuters*, 26 September 2019, online: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-lgbt-rights/beirut-pride-organizers-cancel-opening-event-after-threats-idUSKBN1WC01B> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. T. Teeman, “‘Love Always Wins’: Inside the Fight for LGBT Equality in Lebanon”, *Daily Beast*, 9 August 2018, online: <<https://www.thedailybeast.com/inside-the-fight-for-lgbt-equality-in-lebanon>> [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. *Ibid* at para 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. *Ibid* at para 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. “Trans women attacked in Lebanon in broad daylight”, *the Observers*, 26 July 2018, online: <https://observers.france24.com/en/20180726-transgender-lebanon-violence-police> [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. A. Issa, “‘They would smash your head to death’: Escaping homophobia in the Middle East” , *the Guardian*, 14 February 2019, online: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/14/they-would-smash-your-head-to-death-escaping-homophobia-in-the-middle-east> [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. *Ibid* at para 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. R. Younes, “Lebanon No Longer a Safe Haven for Activism”, *Human Rights Watch*, 9 October 2019, online: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/09/lebanon-no-longer-safe-haven-activism> [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. *Ibid* at para 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)