



# Ethiopia

## Country report for use in Canadian refugee claims based on persecution on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

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By: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Working Group

This document was prepared by law students and highlights information about publicly-accessible, English language country conditions available at the time it was prepared. It is not exhaustive, nor is it updated on a regular basis. The information provided herein 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.

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<b>I. Introduction</b>
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In Ethiopia, homosexuality is illegal, carrying a maximum sentence of imprisonment for 15 years.

LGBTI Ethiopians are heavily stigmatized and fear for their lives. Consequently, they live in hiding and the issue is shrouded in silence. The general population is strongly opposed to LGBTI rights and recently there have been attempts to worsen the penalties for same-sex sexual activities.

Ethiopia also has an anti-advocacy law which bars charities and NGOs that receive more than 10% of their funding from abroad from participating in activities that advance human rights and the promotion of equality. This has been very successful in shutting out human rights work from reaching the LGBTI community. Hence, there is not little information coming out of the country on living conditions for the LGBTI community.

Ethiopia is not a designated county of origin (DCO) in terms of Canada’s refugee determination process.



## II. Legislation

### 1. *Constitution of Ethiopia*, 1994:

Online: [http://www.eueom.eu/files/dmfile/ethiopian-constitution-1994\\_en.pdf](http://www.eueom.eu/files/dmfile/ethiopian-constitution-1994_en.pdf)  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Hornet/Ethiopian\\_Constitution.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Hornet/Ethiopian_Constitution.html) (Unofficial English translation)

- **Article 7 provides that in interpreting the Constitution, provisions using masculine words are understood to extend to women.**
- **Article 10 provides for the protection of human rights of peoples and citizens.**
- **Article 14 protects the rights of life, liberty and security of the person of everyone.**
- **Article 25 ensure equal protection of the law and lists enumerated grounds protected from discrimination; sexual orientation is not one of the enumerated grounds, but 'other status' is listed, indicating it is not an exhaustive list.**
- **Article 34, the provision addressing marriage does not protect, address or account for same-sex marriage.**

#### **Article 7 Gender**

In this Constitution, provisions enacted in the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender.

#### **Article 10 Human and Democratic Rights**

1. Human rights and freedoms as inherent rights of man are inalienable and inviolable.
2. The human and democratic rights of peoples and citizens shall be protected.

#### **Article 14 The Right to Life, Liberty and the Security of the Person**

Everyone by virtue of being human, has the inalienable and inviolable right to life, liberty and security of person.

#### **Article 25 The Right to Equality**

All persons shall be equal before the law and shall be entitled to equal protection of the law without any discrimination whatsoever. All persons shall be entitled to equal and adequate guarantees without distinction of any kind such as race, nation, nationality, colour, sex, language, religion, political or social origin, property, birth or other status.

#### **Article 34 Rights Relating to Marriage, the Individual and the Family**

1. All men and women attaining the legal age of marriage, shall have, without any distinction as to race, nation, nationality or religion, the right to marry and found a family. They shall have equal rights in the process of contracting the marriage, its



duration and dissolution. Regulations shall be enacted to protect the rights and interests of children in the event of dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be based on the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental basis of society and hence is entitled to protection from society and the state.
4. Particulars relating to the recognition of religious and customary marriages may be determined by law.
5. This Constitution shall not preclude the right of parties to voluntarily submit their dispute for adjudication in accordance with religious or customary laws. Particulars shall be determined by law.

2. *Criminal Code of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*

Proclamation No. 414/2004

Online: <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/arch/eth/TheRevisedCriminalCode.pdf>

- **Homosexuality is a criminal offence in Book Five, Title IV Crimes Against Morals and The Family, Chapter 1 Crimes Against Morals, Section II Sexual Deviations, Article 629.**
- **Article 630 imposes a minimum sentence of one year simple imprisonment and, in grave cases, a maximum sentence of “rigorous” imprisonment for fifteen years for homosexuality or indecent acts. The maximum penalty is only available when there are aggravating circumstances. Examples include: use of violence, intimidation or coercion; fraud; taking advantage of the victim’s inability to offer resistance; subjecting the victim to acts of cruelty or sadism; transmission of a venereal disease; or driving the victim to commit suicide.**
- **Article 631 deals specifically with same-sex activity with minors; the sentences range from three years “rigorous” imprisonment to “rigorous” imprisonment for life.**
- **Article 106 and 108 explain the difference between simple and “rigorous” imprisonment, with the conditions of enforcement of rigorous imprisonment being more severe.**

**Article 629 *Homosexuality and Other Indecent Acts***

Whoever performs with another person of the same sex a homosexual act, or any other indecent act, is punishable with simple imprisonment.

**Article 630 *General Aggravation to the Crime***

- (1) The punishment shall be simple imprisonment for not less than one year, or, in grave cases, rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years, where the criminal:
  - a) takes unfair advantage of the material or mental distress of another or of the authority he exercises over another by virtue of his position, office or capacity as guardian, tutor, protector, teacher, master or employer, or by virtue of any



- other like relationship, to cause such other person to perform or to submit to such an act; or
- b) makes a profession of such activities within the meaning of the law (Art. 92).
- (2) The punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from three years to fifteen years, where:
- a) the criminal uses violence, intimidation or coercion, trickery or fraud, or takes unfair advantage of the victim's inability to offer resistance or to defend himself or of his feeble-mindedness or unconsciousness; or
  - b) the criminal subjects his victim to acts of cruelty or sadism, or transmits to him a venereal disease with which he knows himself to be infected; or
  - c) the victim is driven to suicide by distress, shame or despair.

### **Article 631 *Homosexual and Other Indecent Acts Performed on Minors***

- (1) Whoever performs a homosexual act on a minor, is punishable:
- a) with rigorous imprisonment from three years to fifteen years, where the victim is between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years; or
  - b) with rigorous imprisonment from fifteen years to twenty-five years, where the victim is below thirteen years of age.
- (2) A woman who performs a homosexual act on a female minor, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years.
- (3) Whoever performs any other indecent act on a minor of the same sex, is punishable with simple imprisonment.
- (4) Where the victim is the pupil, apprentice, domestic servant or ward of the criminal, or a child entrusted to his custody or care, or in any other way directly dependant upon or subordinate to him:
- a) in the case of sub-article  
(1) the punishment to, be imposed upon such criminal shall be more severe than when the crime is committed by another person;
  - b) in the case of sub-article  
(2) the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from three years to ten years;
  - c) in the case of sub-article  
(3) the punishment shall be simple imprisonment for not less than six months.
- (5) Where the sexual outrage has caused death or grave physical or mental injury upon the victim, or where the victim is driven to suicide by distress, shame or despair, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment for life.

### **Article 106 *Simple Imprisonment***

- (1) Simple imprisonment is a sentence applicable to crimes of a not very serious nature committed by persons who are not a serious danger to society. Without prejudice to conditional release, simple imprisonment may extend for a period of from ten days to



three years. However, simple imprisonment may extend up to five years where, owing to the gravity of the crime, it is prescribed in the Special Part of this Code, or where there are concurrent crimes punishable with simple imprisonment, or where the criminal has been punished repeatedly. The Court shall fix the period of simple imprisonment in its judgment.

- (2) The sentence of simple imprisonment shall be served in such prison or in such section thereof as is appointed for the purpose.

### **Article 108 Rigorous Imprisonment**

- (1) Rigorous imprisonment is a sentence applicable only to crimes of a very grave nature committed by criminals who are particularly dangerous to society. Besides providing for the punishment and for the rehabilitation of the criminal, this sentence is intended also to provide for a strict confinement of the criminal and for special protection to society. Without prejudice to conditional release, the sentence of rigorous imprisonment is normally for a period of one to twenty-five years but where it is expressly so laid down by law it may be for life.
- (2) The sentence of rigorous imprisonment shall be served in such prisons as are appointed for the purpose. The conditions of enforcement of rigorous imprisonment are more severe than those of simple imprisonment.

### 3. The *Revised Family Code of Ethiopia*

Proclamation No. 213/2000

Online: <http://www.refworld.org/country,LEGAL,,ETH,,4c0ccc052,0.html>

- **While marriage or spouse is not defined, the Code only refers to marriage or a union as between a man and a woman.**

### **Article 2 – Marriage Concluded before an Officer of Civil Status**

Marriage shall be deemed to be concluded before an officer of civil status when a man and a woman have appeared before an officer of civil status for the purpose of concluding marriage and the officer of civil status has accepted their respective consent.

### **Article 3 – Religious Marriage**

Religious marriage shall take place when a man and a woman have performed such acts or rites as deemed to constitute a valid marriage by their religion or the religion of one of them.

### **Article 4 – Marriage According to Custom**

Marriage according to custom shall take place when a man and a woman have performed such rites as deemed to constitute a valid marriage by the custom of the community in which they live or by the custom of the community to which the [sic] belong or to which one of them belongs.



4. Anti-advocacy and anti-terrorism laws in Ethiopia: these two laws were mentioned in a couple sources I found though I was not able to find the laws themselves which I assume indicates that there is no English translation currently available. The source that the others most often referred to was the article in Newsweek.

Online: <http://www.newsweek.com/graveyard-homosexuals-244926>

- **The anti-terrorism law allows the government to hand down 20-year sentences to anyone who "writes, edits, prints, publishes, publicizes, [or] disseminates" statements that the government considers terrorism.**
- **The police can search and arrest anyone they please, from reporters to activists, without a warrant.**
- **The anti-advocacy law bars charities and nongovernmental organizations that receive more than 10 percent of their funding from abroad from participating in activities that advance human rights and the promotion of equality.**
- **Both laws were adopted in 2009.**

### III. Canadian Jurisprudence

#### ***Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada Decisions***

No cases regarding Ethiopians claiming refugee status on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### ***Federal Court of Canada Decisions***

1. *Liban v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2008 FC 1252

**Holding:** The application for judicial review is allowed and a reassessment of the risk to the applicant should be conducted by another officer after a hearing.

- **The applicant feared being subjected to mistreatment due to his bisexuality and alcohol addiction if removed to Ethiopia.**
- **The officer did not find the applicant to be a credible witness and also noted that a hearing was not required by law in the circumstances.**
- **The judge concluded that in the circumstances the officer was bound to hold a hearing.**

Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, a hearing should be held where certain factors prescribed by regulation are present. The factors are whether (a) there is evidence



raising a serious issue of the applicant's credibility; (b) the evidence is central to the application for protection; and (c) the evidence, if accepted, would justify allowing the application. The judge was persuaded by the officer seeming to accept that homosexuals and alcoholics would be subjected to mistreatment in Ethiopia. If the applicant's evidence had been accepted, the officer would likely have allowed the application. Therefore the judge took the officer's claim that there was "insufficient objective evidence" as really saying that the officer disbelieved the applicant. If the applicant was believed, the officer would likely have found the applicant was at risk.

2. *Talke v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2000 CarswellNat 1531

**Holding:** Applicant had not met the burden of satisfying the tribunal that he had a well-founded fear of persecution.

- **The Court found that government was aware of his conduct during his years of service but still permitted him to pursue studies and obtain a passport.**

The applicant, a citizen of Eritrea, is homosexual and maintains he was beaten, detained and removed from active military duty because of his homosexuality. Documentary evidence showed that the Ethiopian Criminal Code was being used by the Eritrean government until it could draft and ratify its own legislation. The applicant was caught engaging in homosexuality, but was not formally charged. He was serving his two years of compulsory service but because of the incident was committed to office work. During his service he was allowed to pursue studies and obtain a B.A. and was then granted a passport to study for an M.A. in the U.S.

**IV. Domestic Jurisprudence**

No English language Ethiopian jurisprudence available.

**V. International Law**

***UN Treaties***

Treaty	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification
ICCPR	N/A	1993
ICCPR – <i>First OP</i>	N/A	Not ratified



ICCPR – <i>Second OP</i>	N/A	Not ratified
ICESCR	N/A	1993
ICESR – <i>First OP</i>	N/A	Not ratified
CAT	N/A	1994
CAT – <i>First OP</i>	N/A	Not ratified

### **Human Rights Committee**

1. “Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant, First Periodic report of States parties, Ethiopia” (July 28, 2009)

Online:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2fETH%2f1&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2fETH%2f1&Lang=en)

Contains no information relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity.

### **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

1. “Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Combined initial, second and third periodic reports submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, Ethiopia” (March 28, 2011)

Online:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fETH%2f1-3&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fETH%2f1-3&Lang=en)

Contains no information relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity.

**\*Note:** The ‘List of Issues’ published in response to above state party report (found online: [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fETH%2fQ%2f1-3&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fETH%2fQ%2f1-3&Lang=en)) asks that the Committee be informed whether the Penal Code will be amended to decriminalise homosexuality pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2 on Non-discrimination.

**\*Note:** (*Shadow Reports from Civil Society Organizations: I couldn’t read the report from African Rights Monitor, it said the file was invalid. The one from Advocates for Human Rights did not pertain to LGBT right.*)

### **Committee Against Torture** (if state has ratified CAT)

1. “Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention, Initial reports of States parties due in 1995, Ethiopia” (February 16, 2010)



Online:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CAT%2fC%2fETH%2f1&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CAT%2fC%2fETH%2f1&Lang=en).

Contains no information relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity.

### ***Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council***

1. “National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, Ethiopia (January 30, 2014)

Online: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ETSession19.aspx>

Contains no information relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity.

### ***Regional Treaties and Monitoring Bodies***

1. African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, ratified in 1998  
“The Fifth and Sixth Periodic Country Report (2009-2013) on the Implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights n Ethiopia” (April 2014)

Online: [http://www.achpr.org/files/sessions/55th/state-reports/5-2009-2013/periodic\\_report\\_ethiopia\\_2008\\_2013\\_en](http://www.achpr.org/files/sessions/55th/state-reports/5-2009-2013/periodic_report_ethiopia_2008_2013_en).

Contains no information relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity.

<b>VI. Government Reports</b>
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### ***Canada***

1. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, “Report: The State of Human Rights for LGBT People in Africa” (July 2014)

Online: <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/HRF-HRC-Africa-Report.pdf>

- **Same-sex sexual activity is criminalized and punishable by imprisonment.**
- **A 2007 poll found that 97 percent of the Ethiopian public agreed that homosexuality should be outlawed.**
- **There are no charities, health clinics or advocacy organizations serving the LGBT community in Ethiopia and many LGBT activists have been forced to flee the country.**
- **In 2014, plans were announced to pass new legislation making homosexuality an “unpardonable offence.” Although these plans were later scrapped, Ethiopia remains very hostile to its LGBT citizens.**



- In 2012 one government official proclaimed that the country would be “the graveyard of homosexuality.”

### ***United States of America***

1. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, “Ethiopia” (2013)

Online:

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dliid=220113#wrapper>.

- **Consensual same-sex sexual activity is illegal and punishable by imprisonment under the law.**
- **There is no law prohibiting discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals.**
- **There were some reports of violence against LGBT individuals; reporting was limited due to fear of retribution, discrimination, or severe stigmatization.**
- **Activists in the LGBT community fear for their safety.**
- **There were periodic detentions of some in the LGBT community, combined with interrogation and alleged physical abuse.**
- **The AIDS Resource Center in Addis Ababa reported the majority of self-identified gay and lesbian callers, most of whom were male, requested assistance in changing their behaviour to avoid discrimination.**
- **Many gay men reported anxiety, confusion, identity crises, depression, self-ostracism, religious conflict, and suicide attempts.**
- **There is societal stigma and discrimination against persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.**
- **Persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS reported difficulty accessing services.**

### ***Australia***

1. Refugee Review Tribunal, “Country Advice: Ethiopia” (March 30, 2012)

Online: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5146eff72.html>

- **There is evidence that homosexuality is viewed adversely and with considerable hostility by the broader community.**
- **Discrimination against homosexuals appears to be widespread and is not seen by the government to be a human rights issue.**
- **The threat of arrest for same-sex sexual activity and societal discrimination are sources of potential harm to LGBT individuals and activists**
- **The United Nations Human Rights Committee responsible for reviewing the implementation of the ICCPR in Ethiopia has observed that that the**



criminalization of same-sex sexual activity raised serious issues. In response, the Ethiopian delegation stated that homosexuality was a criminal act in Ethiopia, but that it did not know of anyone who had been prosecuted under this law and that there was “no possibility of changing the law on this subject at present.”

- According to a writer for Ezega.com, it’s natural for lawmakers to make homosexuality illegal given community attitudes and the influence of religious dogma, whereby it is seen as “something that is sin in the eyes of the almighty god and contrary to human nature.”
- A May 2009 article indicated that tight government restrictions and social stigma had driven homosexuals into virtual hiding.
- Religious figures including heads of Ethiopia’s Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches adopted a resolution against homosexuality in December, 2008.
- ETHIOGLBTI is a gay rights organization in Ethiopia that aims to increase public awareness and understanding of LGBTI issues. A representative of the group reported that homosexuality is still perceived as non-existent and that “nothing is out in the open, it’s a hidden community.”

## VII. Reports from International Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations

### *Human Rights Watch*

1. “Ethiopia,” World Report 2015.

Online: <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/ethiopia>

- Ethiopia’s criminal code punishes consensual adult same-sex relations with up to 15 years in prison.
- In March, Ethiopia’s lawmakers proposed legislation that would make same-sex conduct a non-pardonable offence; however, in April, the government dropped the proposed legislation.
- Ethiopia came under consideration for the Universal Periodic Review in May 2014, and they rejected all recommendations to decriminalize same-sex conduct and to take measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation.

### *Behind the Mask*

1. “Homosexuality in Ethiopia,” 2009

Online: <http://www.globalgayz.com/homosexuality-in-ethiopia/221/>



- About 45% of the population is Muslim, 40% is Christian.
- A majority of Ethiopians think homosexuality is a white disease and an inexcusable sin.
- It is extremely difficult to live openly gay.
- If someone knows that you are gay they will not shake your hand.
- Many gays and lesbians face intimidation and harassment from state, religious, and tribal law so they cannot explore their sexual orientation freely and openly.
- Rush, a 26 years old gay Ethiopian man living in South Africa, said “They [meaning gays and lesbians] have so many problems, specially this state, tribal as well as religious law, as you know their sentence is death so our life is in disaster there.”
- Rush claimed to have known of two gays who were executed by the government.
- Rush said he used to think homosexuality was a disease or abnormality but after moving to South Africa realised it is natural.
- One lesbian is known to have been granted asylum in 1995 by the US.
- Ethiopia voted against ILGA having consultative status at the UN in January and on April 30, 2002. Berhane Meskel Abebe, the Ethiopian representative on the UN Committee on NGOs, said his country voted against ILGA because homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Ethiopia and it “doesn’t go with our society’s belief and general culture and practice.”

### VIII. Newspaper and Media Reports

1. “Surprise: Ethiopia’s Government Says ‘No’ to Anti-Gay Movement,” Steve Williams, Care2, April 21, 2014  
Online: <http://archive.globalgayz.com/africa/ethiopia/surprise-ethiopias-government-says-no-to-anti-gay-movement/>
  - The government prevented a religiously motivated anti-gay rally that had been planned for April 26.
  - The rally failed to get support from Orthodox church officials.
  - Possible reason: church officials said they had been “threatened” — which may mean human rights groups advocating on behalf of LGBT persons in the country had spoken out about possible cuts to Ethiopia’s aid.
  - The threat to Ethiopia’s LGBT population still remains.
  - The majority of Ethiopia’s population identifies as Orthodox Christian and the Church is very powerful.



- In recent months religious leaders have moved toward emphasizing so-called rehabilitation for homosexuals.
- A two-pronged attack: further stigmatizing gay people through pursuing discriminatory legislation while offering LGBT persons only one way out in the form of ‘rehabilitation.’
- Ethiopia’s officials having backed off from further criminalization has been read as a small victory for LGBT rights.

2. “Gay Ethiopian faces uncertainty, peril if deported,” Maria Sacchetti, The Boston Globe, March 12, 2014

Online: <http://archive.globalgayz.com/africa/ethiopia/gay-ethiopian-faces-uncertainty-peril-if-deported/>

- Federal immigration officials in Boston are seeking to deport a gay man to Ethiopia.
- Officials arrested the 19-year-old man in January, shortly after he lost his student visa.
- “This is a very serious deal,” said the student’s uncle. “Back in his country, it will be like death.”
- Ethiopia is among dozens of nations, 77 at last count, where it is a crime to be gay or lesbian, according to the United Nations.
- In Ethiopia, according to the State Department, gay people have been jailed, interrogated, and allegedly abused, and many reported anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts.
- In November, the student posted in an online forum that he was gay and was looking for support from the college community.
- He seems to suffer emotional troubles and many are worried for his safety if forced to return to Ethiopia.
- A mental health evaluation has been requested.

3. “A Graveyard For Homosexuals,” Katie J. M. Baker, Newsweek, December 13, 2013

Online: <http://archive.globalgayz.com/africa/ethiopia/a-graveyard-for-homosexuals/>

- Openly gay behaviour on the streets of Ethiopia’s capital could lead men to be expelled, beaten up, fired, disowned, or jailed.
- According to the 2007 Pew Global Attitudes Project, 97 percent of Ethiopians think homosexuality should be outlawed.
- Ethiopia’s anti-terrorism law allows the government to hand down 20-year sentences to anyone who “writes, edits, prints, publishes, publicises, [or]disseminates” statements that the government considers terrorism, so police can search and arrest reporters and activists without a warrant.



- Ethiopia's anti-advocacy law bars charities and NGOs that receive more than 10% of their funding from abroad from participating in activities that advance human rights and the promotion of equality.
  - As a result of these laws there are no health centres, charities, publications or nightclubs that serve the LGBT community.
  - The few reputable organisations that once existed have been forced to remove any mention of human rights from their mandates.
  - Ethiopia refuses to fund or permit any MSM (men who have sex with men) targeted HIV prevention, treatment or care programs.
  - Most Ethiopians think that homosexuality is a Western disease.
  - Ethiopia welcomes international religious groups that preach homophobia.
  - Last June, a documentary called No Silence – About the 666 Satanic Act of Homosexuality in Ethiopia made national headlines with newspaper articles alleging that homosexuality was a contagious disease and the moral equivalent of child rape.
  - In December 2011, the 16th International Conference on Aids and Sexually Transmitted Infections, hosted in Addis, led to widespread protests when religious leaders learned that African Men for Sexual Health and Rights planned to discuss LGBT-related issues.
  - In 2012, Robel Hailu was the first Ethiopian and Black African to enter the international Mr. Gay World contest. Hailu moved to Cape Town after nonstop death threats, and believes he'd be arrested if he returned to Ethiopia.
4. "Ethiopia: Anti-gay forces seek action against anti-HIV agency," Colin Stewart, Erasing 76 Crimes, August 14, 2013  
Online: <http://archive.globalgayz.com/africa/ethiopia/ethiopia-anti-gay-forces-seek-action-against-anti-hiv-agency/>
- Rainbow-Ethiopia HIV and Social Support Services is Ethiopia's one gay-friendly anti-AIDS agency.
  - Anti-gay civil societies, religious groups and local government officials accused Rainbow-Ethiopia of spreading homosexuality and urged the government to take strong and restrictive legal measures against foreign agents like Rainbow-Ethiopia.
  - Rainbow-Ethiopian is the only organization working in Ethiopia against HIV/AIDS among LGBT people.
  - Dr. Seyoum Antonios, the head of United For Life Ethiopia, wants Ethiopia to impose the death penalty for homosexuality and has said that "Africa will become a graveyard for homosexuality!"
  - The attacks against Rainbow-Ethiopia are part of a pattern of anti-homosexuality initiatives.



- **The anti-gay community announced that they will establish a national civil society coalition to coordinate their anti-homosexuality campaign and to urge the government to pass a tough anti-gay bill like the one in Nigeria.**
  - **A representative from the Ethiopian Inter-Religious Council Against Homosexuality (EICAH) said that passage of the death penalty for gay people “looks promising.”**
5. “Ethiopia: Newspaper warns of gay ‘infestation,’” Dan Littauer, PinkNews, June 21, 2012  
Online: <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2012/06/21/ethiopia-newspaper-warns-of-gay-infestation/>
- **A popular Ethiopian daily newspaper alleged that the U.S. and Europe are plotting to export, spread and promote homosexuality in Ethiopia.**
  - **The article published by Yenga daily, on June 18th, describes homosexuality as a rapidly-growing ‘infestation’ whose carriers are now ‘estimated’ to have reached 16,000.**
  - **It also alleged that gays have an average of 75 sexual partners a year, and their ‘promiscuous’ nature propels some to have seven to nine sexual partners a day.**
  - **It described how homosexuality is coming to Ethiopia through students who receive scholarships to study in the U.S. and Europe.**
  - **It also lists the United Nations, Embassies of European and North American countries, and International NGOs as agents conspiring to spread homosexuality.**
  - **It reported that the national anti-homosexual conference that was held in Addis Ababa demanded urgent measures be taken, including the death penalty.**
  - **Ethiopian LGBT activists have reported increasing levels of homophobia since the anti-homosexuality conference, including death threats.**
6. “Ethiopian Mr Gay World Contestant May Have Difficulty Returning Home After Show,” Behind The Mask, March 5, 2012  
Online: <http://ilga.org/ethiopian-mr-gay-world-contestant-may-have-difficulty-returning-home-after-show/>
- **There are reports that Ethiopia’s Mr Gay World contestant, Robel Hailu, may have difficulties returning home after receiving death threats.**
  - **LGBT rights are not recognized in Ethiopia, all homosexual activity in Ethiopia is criminalized, and the public acknowledgement or promotion of homosexuality is overwhelmingly rejected by Ethiopian society.**
  - **By coming out in such a public manner Hailu will have a hostile reception when he returns to Ethiopia.**



- **Kukkuk also said “I do not think LGBTI people in the West really have an idea what black LGBTI Africans have to deal with on a daily basis. That is why most of them still are, and will remain, closeted.”**
- **This competition is the most publicised gay contest in the world and uses the attention it garners to focus attention on the plight of LGBTI people worldwide, with 2012’s focus being on African LGBTIs specifically/**

## **IX. Scholarship**

No sources directly concerning Ethiopian LGBT rights could be found.