

LGBTI National Policy Dataset

Comprehensive Codebook

Version 2.0 — Long Format

March 2026

*Prepared by:
Kristopher Velasco
Princeton University
kvelasco@princeton.edu*

1. Dataset Overview

The LGBTI National Policy Dataset (Version 2.0) is a country-year-policy panel dataset tracking the adoption, scope, and enforcement of LGBTI-related policies across 197 countries from 1991 to 2025. The dataset is distributed in long format, where each row represents a single country in a single year for one specific policy-status combination. It is designed for use in comparative political research, policy diffusion analysis, and quantitative cross-national studies of LGBTI rights.

The dataset covers 27 distinct policy areas organized into 54 policy-status combinations (each policy paired with two mutually exclusive status directions). Of these 54 combinations, 36 contain substantive data; the remaining 18 are structural placeholders with all-zero values, included to maintain a fully balanced panel suitable for econometric methods.

1.1 Key Features

- **Balanced panel:** 372,330 observations (197 countries × 35 years × 54 policy-status combinations), with no missing identification cells.
- **Population-weighted subnational scoring:** The Proportion variable captures subnational policy adoption using constant 2000/2001 Census population shares for 15 federal or decentralized systems (Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States), ensuring changes reflect policy shifts rather than demographic change.
- **27 policy areas** spanning criminalization, relationship recognition, anti-discrimination protections, hate crime laws, military service, gender identity, healthcare, and civil liberties.
- **8 supplementary metadata columns** providing context on enforcement, penalties, blood donation deferral periods, gender marker change requirements (from TRIP), and civil union benefit levels, plus 4 temporal metadata columns (adoption, first adoption, repeal, and law change years).
- **Full source documentation:** eight source columns (Source_1 through Source_8) are embedded directly in the CSV, providing dual citations (primary and secondary) for 100% of substantive policy codings plus granular citations for enforcement, penalties, subnational detail, and specialized metadata.
- **10+ rounds of iterative validation** across multiple sessions, including non-English source verification in 10+ languages, with approximately 300 individual corrections applied.

1.2 Suggested Citation

Please cite this dataset as:

Velasco, Kristopher. 2026. "LGBTI National Policy Dataset, Version 2.0." [Dataset].

2. Dataset Structure

2.1 File Format and Dimensions

Property	Value
File format	Comma-separated values (.csv), single file with all data and source columns included
Total rows	372,330
Total columns	27
Countries	197
Years	1991–2025 (35 annual observations per country-policy-status)
Policy areas	27 (54 policy-status combinations)
Rows per country	1,890 (54 combinations × 35 years)
Unit of observation	Country × Year × Law × Status
Active rows (Proportion > 0)	33,172

2.2 Panel Balance

The dataset is a fully balanced panel. Every country has exactly 1,890 rows (54 policy-status combinations × 35 years). For combinations where a country has no relevant policy, all Proportion values are 0 and metadata columns are missing (NA). This design supports fixed-effects panel regression, event-study methods, and other approaches that assume or benefit from a balanced panel structure.

2.3 Policy-Status Pairing Logic

Each of the 27 policy areas is paired with exactly two status values representing opposing legal directions. For most policies these are Legal/Illegal; Age of Consent uses Equal/Unequal; Gender Affirming Care policies use Covered/Restricted. Within a given country-year-policy, typically only one status direction has Proportion > 0. However, some country-year observations show both statuses positive simultaneously. These fall into three categories:

- Legitimate subnational splits: Countries with federal systems (e.g., Australia, United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina) where different jurisdictions have opposing policies in the same year. In these cases the two Proportion values may sum to approximately 1.
- Legitimate policy layering: Countries like Finland, Sweden, and the UK historically provided GAC coverage but subsequently imposed restrictions (see Gender Affirming Care - Minors). These temporal transitions are captured by shifting the nonzero status from Covered to Restricted in the year the restriction takes effect.
- Transition-year artifacts: The year in which a policy changes (e.g., decriminalization year) may show both statuses coded as 1 if the dataset does not distinguish the month of change. This affects approximately 50 country-year observations.

3. Variable Descriptions

The 27 columns are organized into six groups: identification variables (4: Country, ISO, COW, Year), policy variables (2: Law, Status), the outcome variable (1: Proportion), temporal metadata (4: Year_of_National_Adoption, Year_of_First_Adoption, Year_of_National_Repeal, Year_Law_Changed), supplementary metadata (8: Blood_Restriction_Period, Max_Punishment, Fine_Amount, Sexes_Covered, Evidence_of_Enforcement, Sub_National_Variation, Gender_Change_Requirement, Civil_Union_Benefits), and source documentation (8: Source_1 through Source_8).

3.1 Identification Variables

Country

Property	Detail
Column position	1
Type	Character (string)
Description	Standardized English-language country or territory name. Each of the 197 entities has a unique name consistent across all rows.
Missing	None
Notes	Names were standardized during validation. Historical names have been updated: Eswatini (not Swaziland), North Macedonia (not Macedonia), Timor-Leste (not East Timor). Taiwan, Kosovo, and Palestine are included as separate entities.

ISO

Property	Detail
Column position	2
Type	Character (3-letter string)
Description	ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 country code. One-to-one mapping with Country.
Missing	None
Notes	Kosovo uses XKX (user-assigned; no official ISO code). Taiwan is TWN. Palestine is PSE.

COW

Property	Detail
Column position	3
Type	Numeric (integer)
Description	Correlates of War (COW) numeric country code. One-to-one mapping with Country. Facilitates merging with COW datasets and other standard comparative politics data.
Range	2 (United States) – 990 (Samoa)
Missing	None

Notes	Kosovo uses 347 (conventional assignment; not in the original COW state system). Palestine uses 667. Taiwan uses 713. Vatican uses 327. All other codes follow the standard COW State System Membership list (v2016).
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Year

Property	Detail
Column position	4
Type	Integer
Description	Calendar year of the observation.
Range	1991–2025 (35 values)
Missing	None
Notes	Policies enacted before 1991 are coded as active from 1991 onward. The actual historical enactment date is recorded in Year_of_National_Adoption.

3.2 Policy Variables

Law

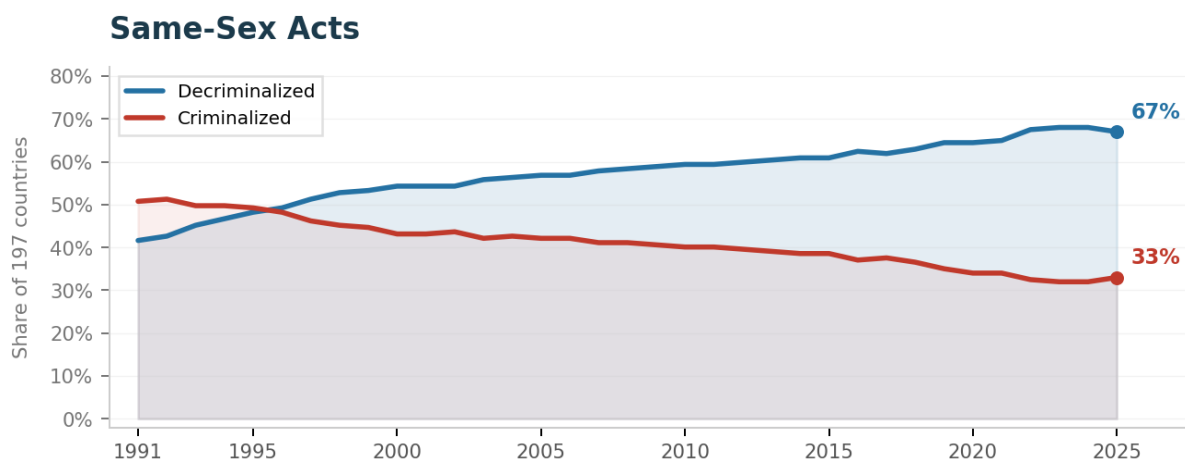
Property	Detail
Column position	5
Type	Character (string)
Description	The policy area being coded. 27 unique values organized into thematic groups (see tables below).
Missing	None

The 27 policy areas and their meanings are described below, organized by thematic domain.

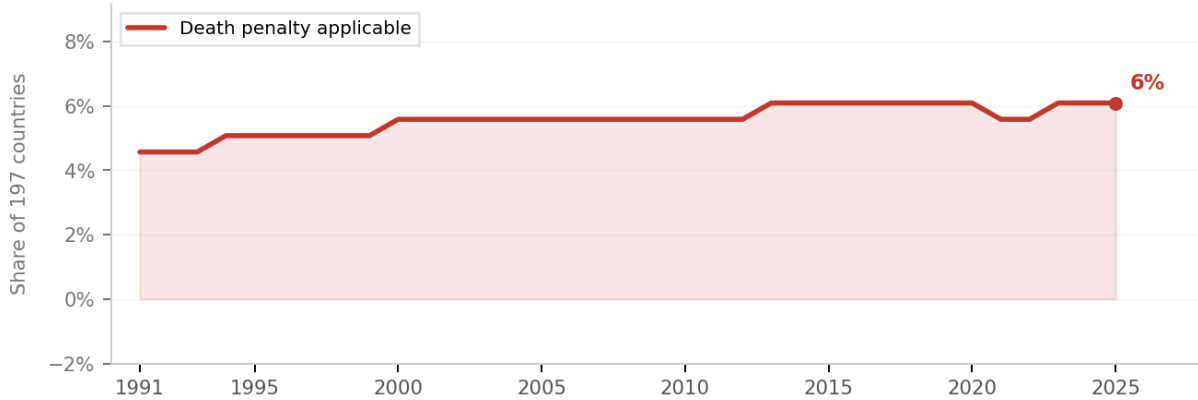
Criminalization and Penalties

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
Same-Sex Acts	Legal / Illegal	Whether consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults are legal or criminalized under national law. Captures colonial-era penal codes, post-independence legislation, and subsequent decriminalization. Legal means same-sex acts are not criminalized; Illegal means they are.	196
Death Penalty	Legal / Illegal	Whether the death penalty is a codified or de facto punishment for same-sex acts, including through Sharia court application. Legal means the death penalty is applicable. Illegal is a structural placeholder (all zeros). Somalia extended back to 1991 (Penal Code 1964 plus Sharia courts operative throughout). Sudan extended to 2020 (Criminal Act 1991, Art. 148 death penalty for repeat offenders repealed July 9, 2020 by Transitional Sovereignty Council).	13
Morality/Propaganda	Legal / Illegal	Laws restricting the promotion, advocacy, or public expression of LGBTI identities (e.g., Russia's 2013 'gay propaganda' law, or morality provisions used to target LGBTI persons). Legal means such restrictions exist. Illegal is a placeholder. Ghana removed after external review: the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill was never signed into law (lapsed when parliament dissolved Dec 2024). Lithuania ended at 2024 (Law on the Protection of Minors amended June 2024 to remove anti-LGBTQ+ language). Algeria extended from 2020 (Penal Code Art. 333bis, enacted 2020 via Law 20-06). Kazakhstan added from 2025 (anti-propaganda law signed Dec 2024). Kyrgyzstan corrected to 2023 (anti-propaganda law signed Aug 2023, not 2021). Uganda corrected to 2023 (Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, s. 11; was previously coded from 1995 in error). Iraq coded subnationally from 2023: federal media ban (Aug 2023) and Anti-	56

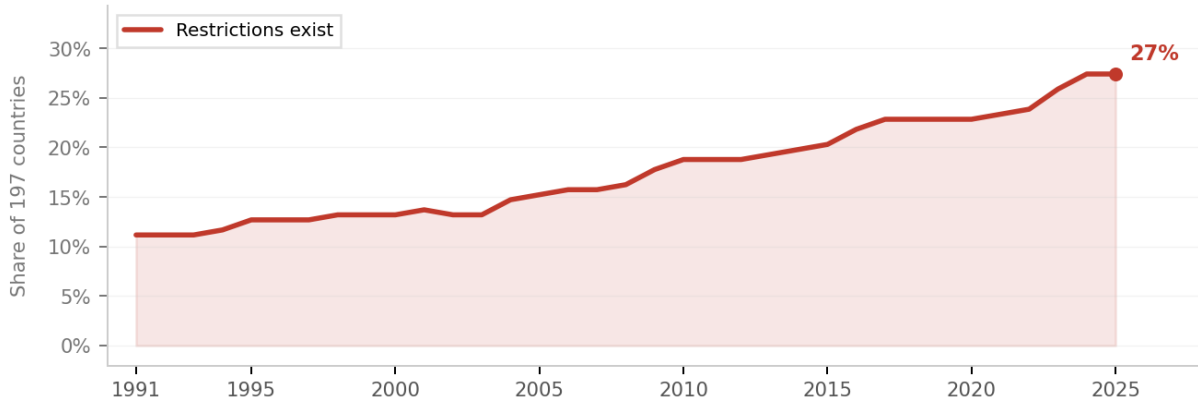
		Prostitution and Homosexuality Law (Apr 2024) apply in federal Iraq (85.6%) only; Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) Parliament has not ratified the 2024 law (14.4%).	
LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions	Legal / Illegal	Laws that explicitly restrict the formation, registration, operation, or funding of LGBTQ+ civil society organizations, advocacy groups, or NGOs. Legal means such restrictions are in force. Includes laws banning LGBTQ+ organizations outright (e.g., Nigeria 2013 SSMPA), declaring LGBTQ+ movements extremist (Russia 2023), laws restricting organizational activities related to LGBTQ+ advocacy (Uganda 2023, Iraq 2024), Distinct from Morality/Propaganda, which captures restrictions on individual expression rather than organizational activity. Ghana removed: the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill was never signed into law (lapsed when parliament dissolved Dec 2024). Iraq coded subnationally from 2024: Anti-Prostitution and Homosexuality Law (Apr 2024) is federal-only; KRI Parliament has not ratified (Prop=0.856).	10



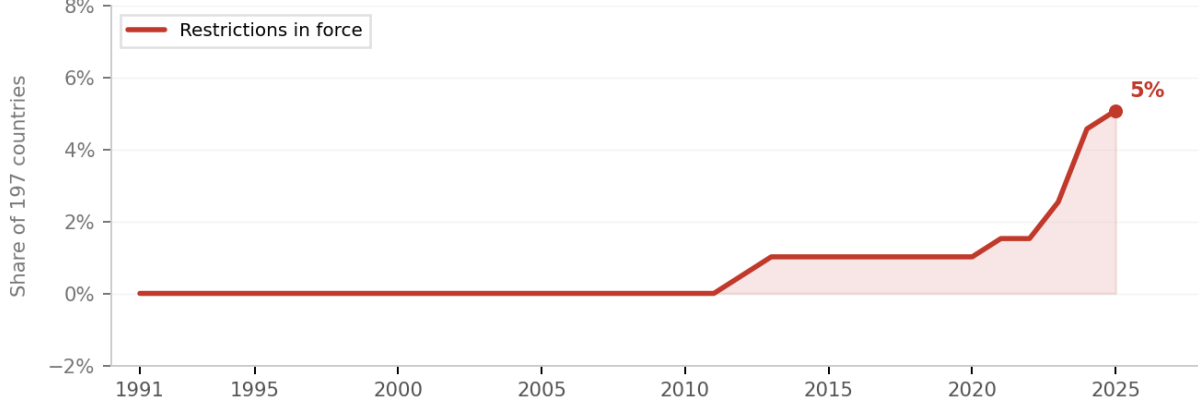
Death Penalty for Same-Sex Acts



Morality / Propaganda Laws



LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions



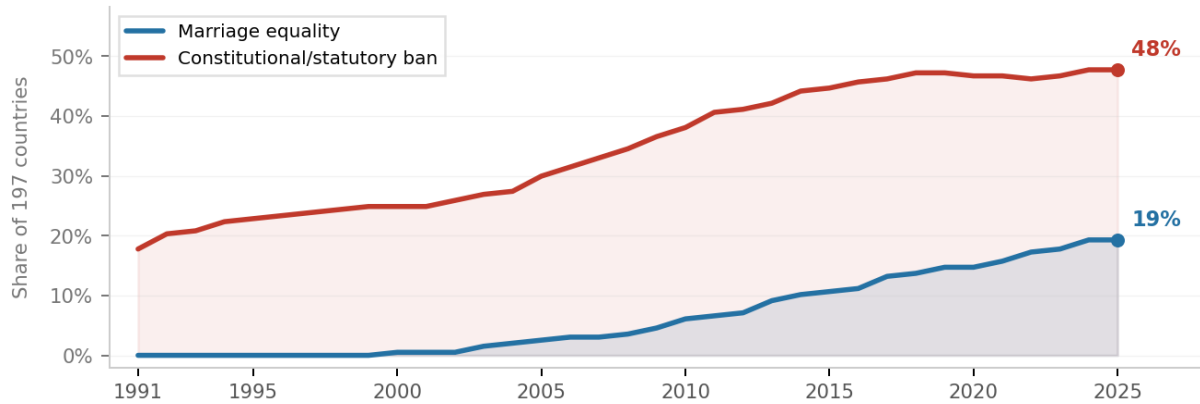
Relationship Recognition

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
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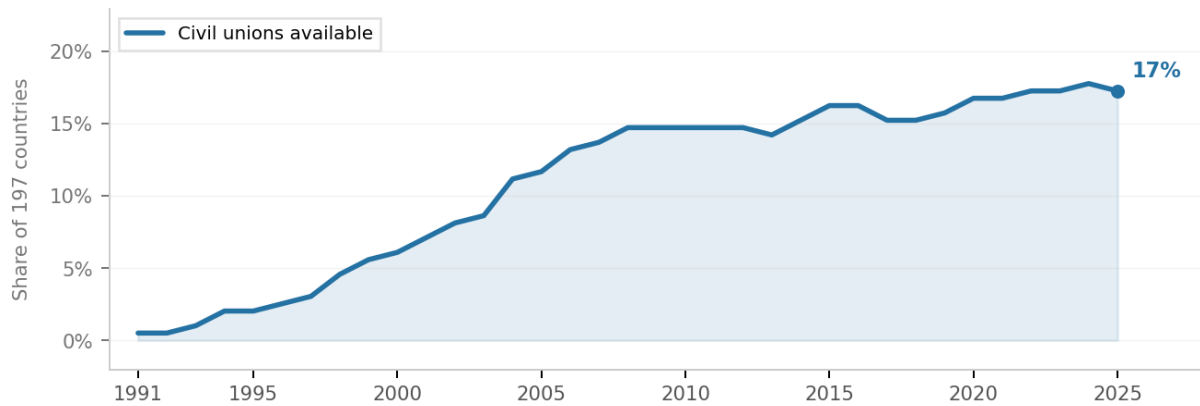
Marriage Equality	Legal / Illegal	<p>Whether same-sex couples can legally marry. Legal means marriage equality exists; Illegal captures constitutional amendments or statutory bans prohibiting same-sex marriage. The United States is coded subnationally with INDEPENDENTLY computed Legal and Illegal proportions (2000 Census denominators). Legal tracks states that legalized ME: MA (2004), CT (2008), IA/VT/NH/DC (2009), NY (2011), WA/ME/MD (2012), 8 states (2013), 17 states (2014, via court rulings), remaining 16 states (2015, Obergefell). California has special coding: legalized 2008, banned by Prop 8 (2009), restored 2013. Illegal tracks states with constitutional amendments (AK/HI 1998, NE/NV 2000, 13 states 2004, KS/TX 2005, 8 states 2006, AZ/CA/FL 2008, NC 2012) and statutory DOMA bans (UT 1995, 13 states 1996, 8 states 1997, 5 states 1998, LA 1999, 5 states 2000, WY 2001, TX 2003, OH/NH 2004). Bans are removed when ME is legalized in that state. Legal + Illegal < 1 for 1995–2012 because some states had neither legalized nor banned ME (e.g., NJ, NM, RI, WI pre-2013).</p>	132
Civil Unions	Legal / Illegal	<p>Whether same-sex couples have access to a legally recognized partnership (civil union, domestic partnership, registered partnership) distinct from marriage. Illegal is a placeholder. In countries that adopted marriage equality, civil unions are coded as active only through the year the discontinuation law was signed (not effective date): Denmark (2012), Norway (2008, royal assent June 27), Sweden (2009), Iceland (2010), Finland (2016), Germany (2017), Ireland (2015), Liechtenstein (2024), Slovenia (2022). Countries where civil unions coexist with ME retain continuous coding (e.g., France PACS, Netherlands, UK, New Zealand). Mexico is coded subnationally from 2006 (Mexico City Sociedades de Convivencia), +Coahuila (2007), +Campeche (2013), +Michoacán (2015), +Tlaxcala (2017), +Veracruz (2020).</p>	47
Joint Adoption	Legal / Illegal	<p>Whether same-sex couples may jointly adopt children. Illegal is a placeholder. Georgia was removed after external review: the 2024 ‘Law on the Protection of Family Values and Minors’ explicitly banned same-sex adoption. The United States is coded subnationally from 1995 (VT, NY, IL court rulings) through Obergefell (2015) and Mississippi ban strike-down (2016). Mexico is coded subnationally from 2010 (Mexico City) with SCJN jurisprudence establishing national precedent in 2016; explicit state adoption continues through 2025. The United Kingdom is coded subnationally: England and Wales (Adoption and</p>	39

		Children Act 2002), Scotland (2007), Northern Ireland (2013).	
Age of Consent	Equal / Unequal	Whether the minimum age of consent for same-sex sexual activity equals that for different-sex activity. Unequal means the same-sex threshold is higher.	134

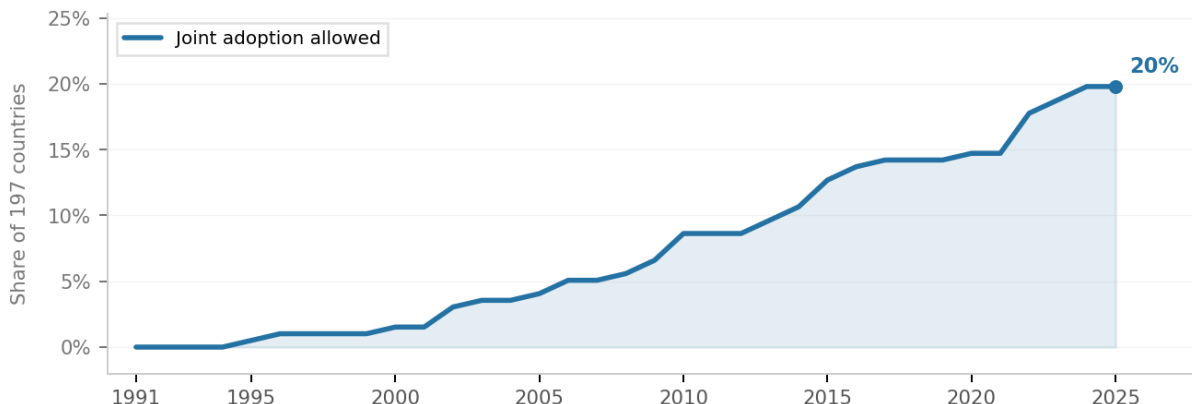
Marriage Equality



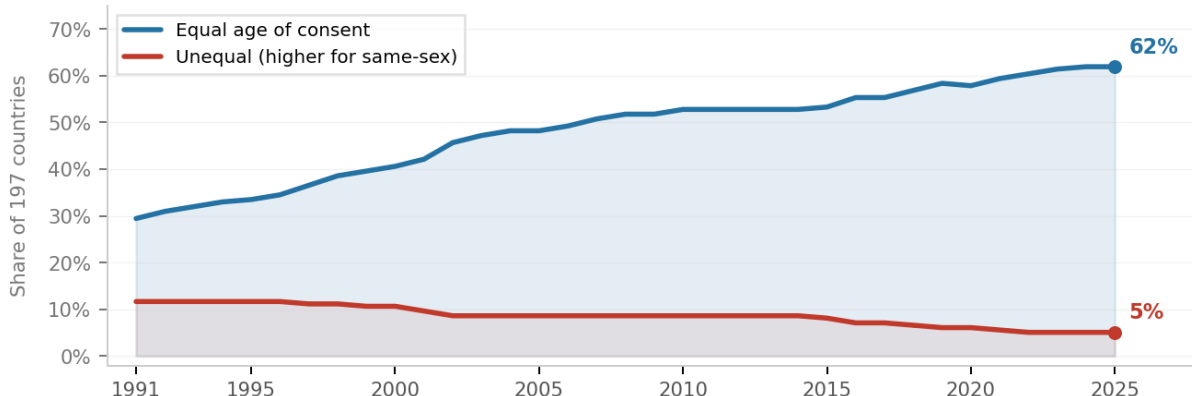
Civil Unions



Joint Adoption



Age of Consent



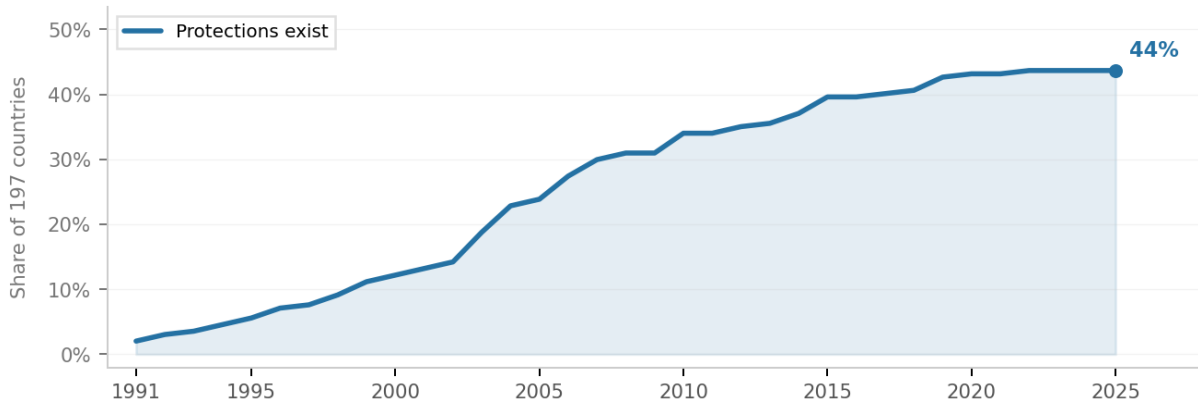
Anti-Discrimination Protections

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
Employment Discrimination - Sexual Orientation	Illegal / Legal	National law prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Illegal (the protection exists, making discrimination illegal) is the active status; Legal (no protection) is the less commonly used status. NOTE: The status labels for anti-discrimination protections are inverted relative to criminalization policies. Illegal here means the protection is in force.	89
Employment Discrimination - Gender Identity	Illegal / Legal	National law prohibiting employment discrimination based on gender identity. Same inverted labeling as above. Timor-Leste SO protections extended to 2012 (Labour Code repeal was Law 4/2012). Namibia SO protections extended to 2007 (Labour Act 11/2007 replaced the 1992 Act). El Salvador GI (Decree 56/2010) extended through 2025 (not formally repealed). Pakistan GI ends 2023 (Federal Shariat Court struck down key provisions of the	51

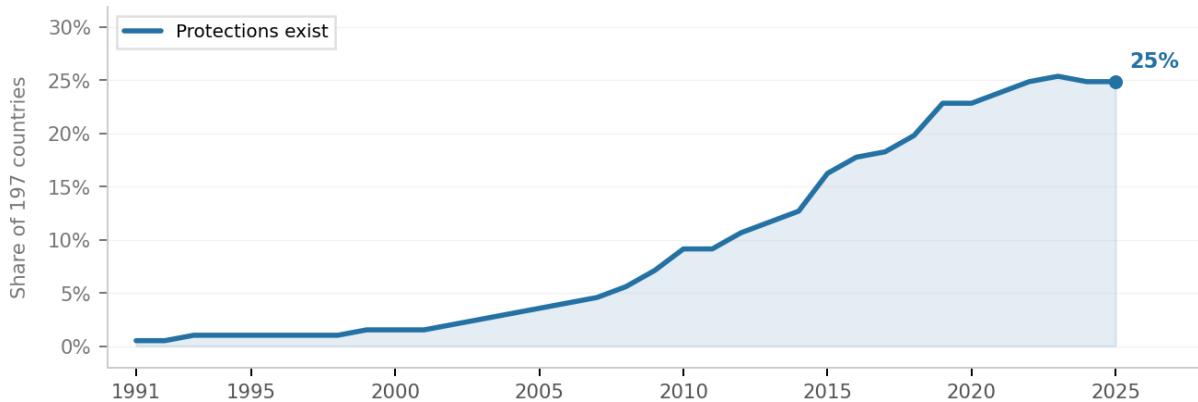
		Transgender Persons Act, May 2023). Australia is coded subnationally by state (SA 1984, NSW 1996, Tasmania 1998, Victoria 2000, QLD 2002, ACT 2010; federal Sex Discrimination Amendment Act 2013). Canada is coded subnationally by province (NWT 2002, ON/MB/NS 2012, PEI/NL 2013, SK 2014, AB 2015, BC/QC 2016; federal Bill C-16 2017).	
Goods/Services Discrimination - Sexual Orientation	Illegal / Legal	National law prohibiting discrimination in goods and services provision on the basis of sexual orientation. Same inverted labeling. The United States is coded subnationally from 1991 (DC 1977, WI 1982, MA 1990, CT 1991 onward; 23 states + DC by 2025, proportion = 0.473; no federal law). Australia is coded subnationally by state (NSW 1982, SA 1984, QLD+ACT 1991, NT 1992, VIC 1995, TAS 1998, WA 2002; federal Sex Discrimination Amendment Act 2013). Canada is coded subnationally by province (QC 1977, ON 1986, MB+YT 1987, NS 1991 onward; federal Canadian Human Rights Act amendment 1996).	66
Goods/Services Discrimination - Gender Identity	Illegal / Legal	National law prohibiting discrimination in goods and services on the basis of gender identity. El Salvador removed (2022 Supreme Court ruling was advisory only; no legislative implementation). Pakistan GI ends 2023 (Federal Shariat Court ruling). The United States is coded subnationally from 1993 (MN 1993, RI 2001, NM 2003 onward; 17 states + DC by 2025, proportion = 0.397; no federal law). Australia is coded subnationally by state (SA 1984, NSW 1996, TAS 1998, VIC 2000, QLD 2002, ACT 2010; federal 2013). Canada is coded subnationally by province (NWT 2002, ON/MB/NS 2012, PEI/NL 2013 onward; federal Bill C-16 2017).	49
Constitutional Protections - Sexual Orientation	Legal / Illegal	Whether sexual orientation is explicitly named in the national constitution or established through binding constitutional court interpretation as a protected characteristic. Illegal is a placeholder. Includes Taiwan (Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 748, 2017) and Colombia (Constitutional Court ruling T-314/2011, establishing SO as a suspected category under Art. 13).	15
Constitutional Protections - Gender Identity	Legal / Illegal	Whether gender identity is explicitly named in the constitution or established through binding constitutional court interpretation. Illegal is a placeholder. Includes Taiwan (Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 748, 2017).	7
Religious Exemption Laws	Legal / Illegal	Laws that explicitly allow individuals, businesses, or organizations to refuse services to, or discriminate against, LGBTQ+ people on religious or	4

conscientious grounds, beyond standard clergy exemptions for religious marriage ceremonies. Legal means such exemptions are codified. National-level examples: Australia Sex Discrimination Act ss.37–38 (1984), UK Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, NZ Human Rights Act 1993 s.28. The United States is coded with subnational population-weighted proportions (2000 Census denominators) reflecting state-level religious exemption statutes enacted from 2015 onward (e.g., MS HB 1523, TX HB 3859, SD SB 149). Standard clergy exemptions for solemnizing marriages are NOT counted, as these are universal. Ireland was evaluated but excluded because its 2015 Marriage Act exemption covers clergy officiating only.

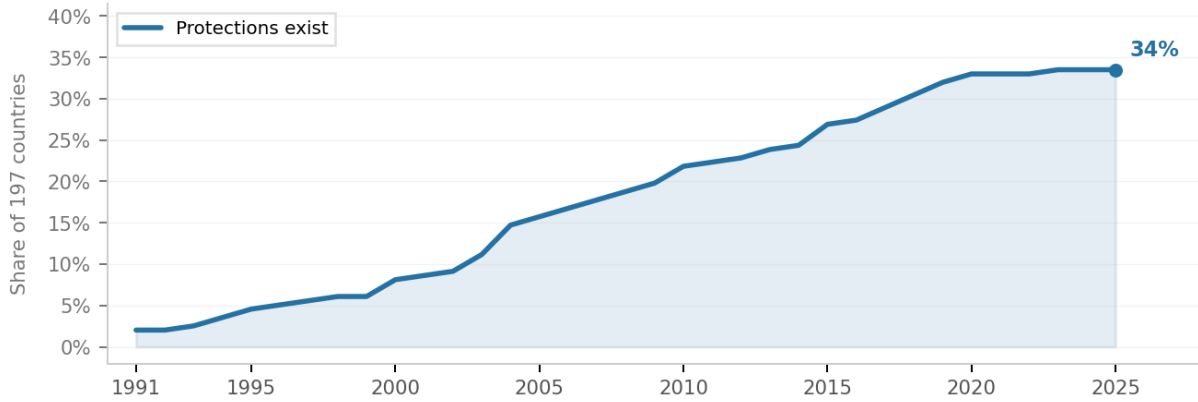
Employment Discrimination — SO



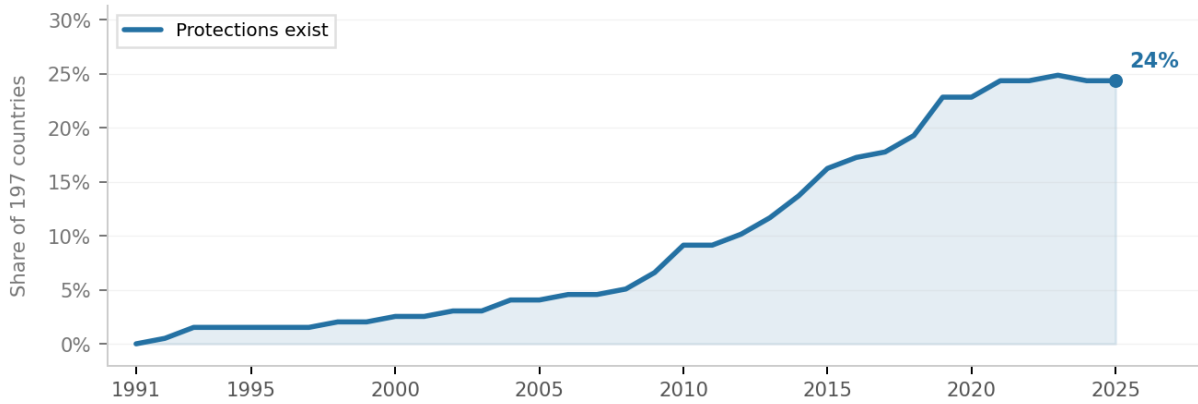
Employment Discrimination — GI



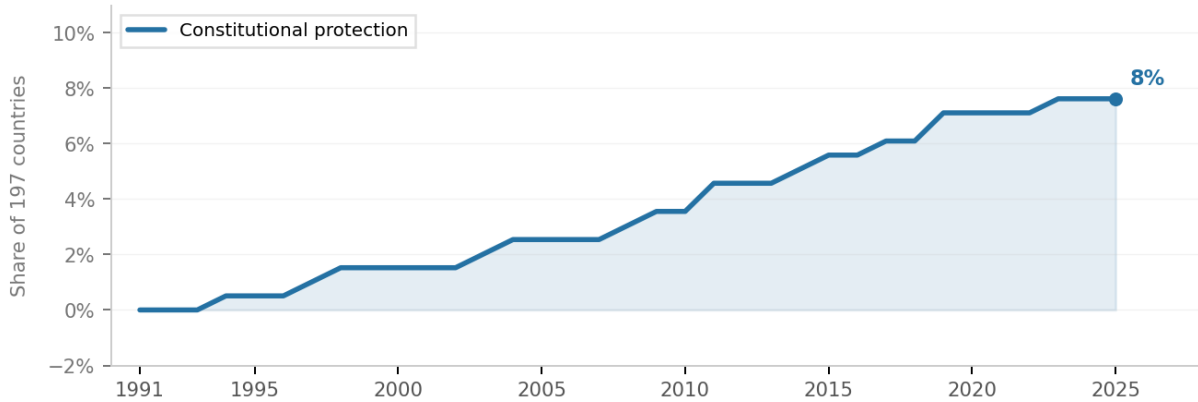
Goods & Services Discrimination — SO



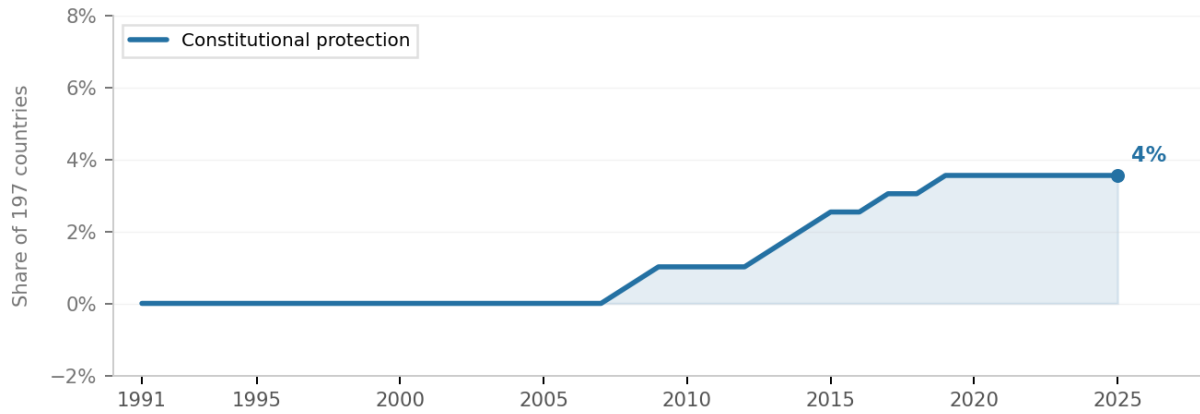
Goods & Services Discrimination — GI



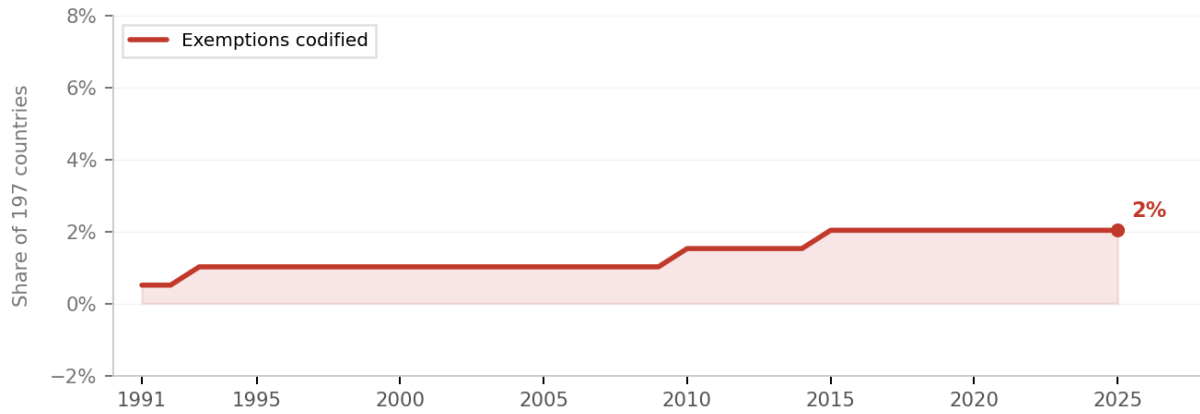
Constitutional Protections — SO



Constitutional Protections — GI



Religious Exemption Laws

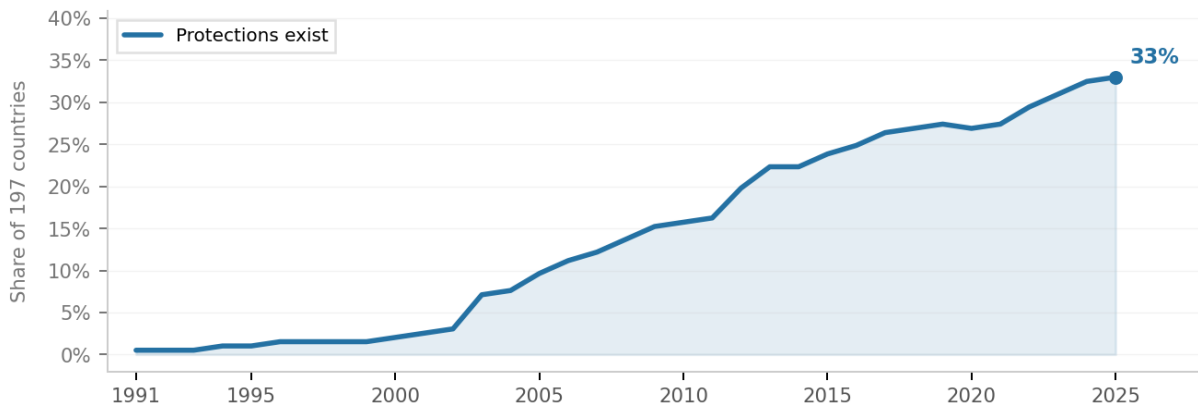


Hate Crime and Speech

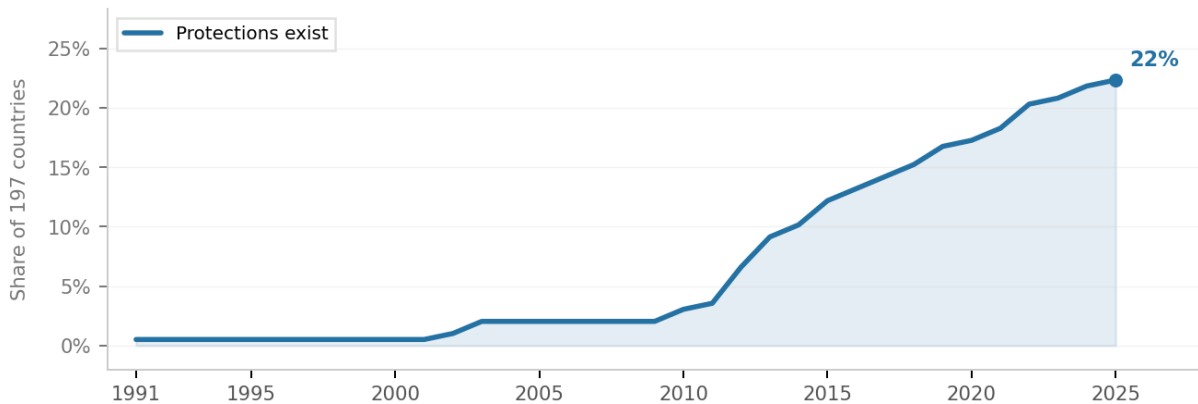
Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
Hate Crime Protections - Sexual Orientation	Legal / Illegal	Sexual orientation included as a protected characteristic in hate crime legislation (enhanced penalties). Legal means the protection exists. Illegal is a placeholder. Chad was removed after external review: its Penal Code Art. 350(i) references rape aggravation, not a general hate crime provision, and Chad criminalizes same-sex acts. Czech Republic added (2025, Act No. 325/2024 Coll. amending the Penal Code). Australia coded subnationally by state (TAS 1998, ACT 2016, NSW 2018, QLD 2023); national in 2025 via federal Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025. The United Kingdom is coded subnationally: England and Wales (Criminal Justice Act 2003), Northern Ireland (2004), Scotland (Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Act 2009).	65
Hate Crime Protections - Gender Identity	Legal / Illegal	Gender identity included in hate crime legislation. Illegal is a placeholder.	44
Incitement to Hatred	Legal / Illegal	Whether incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation or gender identity is prohibited. Legal means the prohibition exists. Illegal is a placeholder. Chile added (Law 21.369, signed January 2020). Georgia removed (no evidence of SO/GI-specific incitement provision; 2024 anti-LGBTQ+ legislation undermines any implicit protection). Bosnia and Herzegovina extended to 2025 (no evidence of repeal; Criminal Code Art. 145a remains in force). United Kingdom YNA corrected to 2008 (Criminal Justice and Immigration Act received Royal Assent May 8, 2008). Australia coded subnationally by state; national in 2025 via federal Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025. The United Kingdom is coded subnationally: England, Wales, and Northern Ireland (CJIA 2008), Scotland (Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Act 2009).	54
Conversion Therapies	Illegal / Legal	Whether conversion therapy is banned by law, executive order, or judicial ruling. Illegal means the ban exists. Legal is a placeholder. Only legal bans are included; professional society resolutions alone (e.g., Brazil CFP Resolution 1/1999) are excluded. Some countries ban CT indirectly through mental health laws that prohibit diagnosing homosexuality/gender identity as an illness; these are flagged in Source_1 as '(indirect — mental health declassification)' so researchers can distinguish them from explicit CT bans. Indirect bans: Samoa (2007), Argentina (2010), Fiji (2010),	27

Ecuador (2012), Uruguay (2017), Chile (2021), Paraguay (2022). Direct bans: Malta (2016), Taiwan (2018), Germany (2020), France (2022), Greece (2022), Israel (2022, Health Ministry directive), New Zealand (2022), Belgium (2023), Cyprus (2023), Iceland (2023), Norway (2023), Portugal (2024), Mexico (federal 2024).
 Subnational only: United States (24 states by 2025), Australia (QLD+ACT 2020, +VIC 2022, +NSW+SA 2024), India (Madras High Court ruling 2021, Tamil Nadu only, proportion = 0.061), Mexico (state bans 2020–2023, federal 2024), Switzerland (cantonal bans from 2023), Canada (provincial bans from 2015, federal 2021).

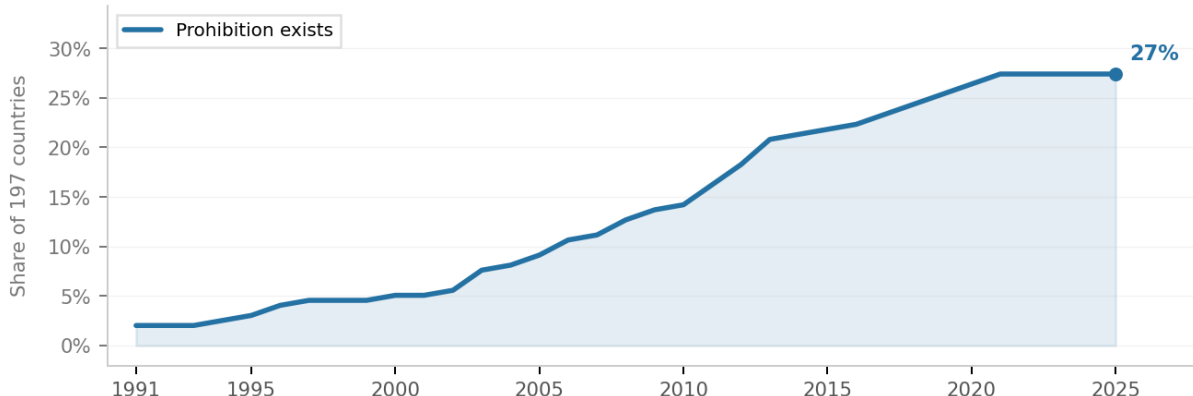
Hate Crime Protections — SO



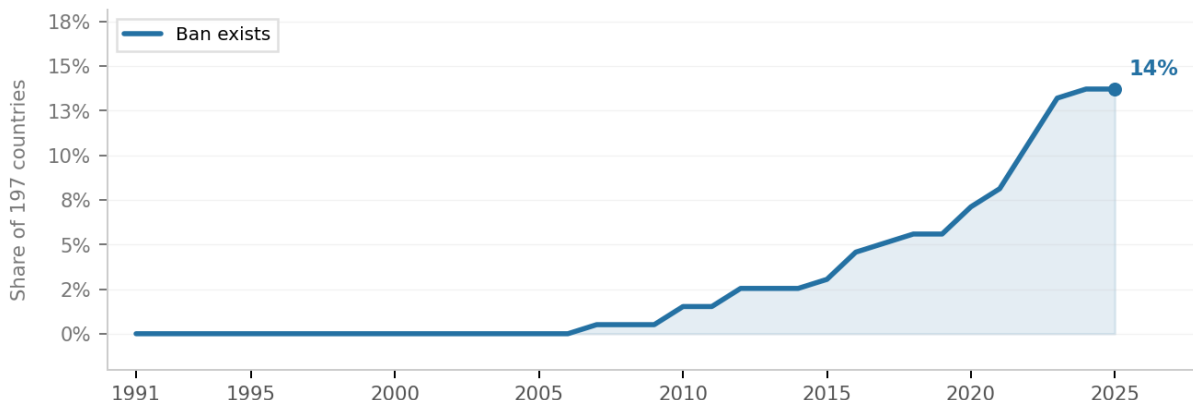
Hate Crime Protections — GI



Incitement to Hatred Prohibition



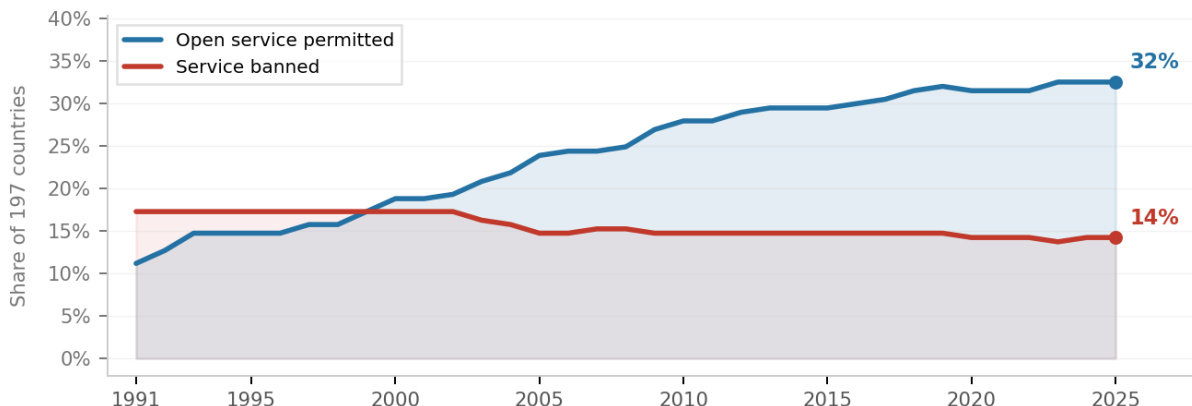
Conversion Therapy Ban



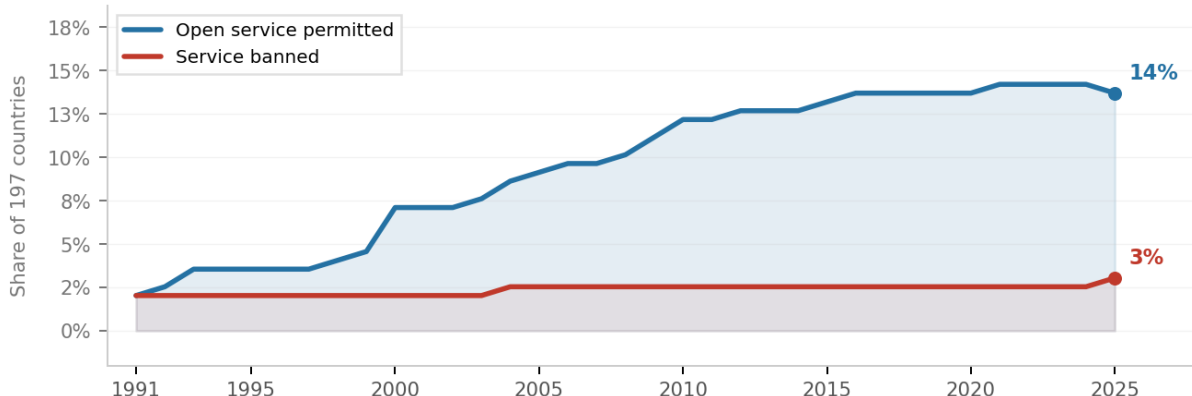
Military Service

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
LGB Military	Legal / Illegal	Whether LGB individuals may serve openly in the military. Legal means open service is permitted; Illegal means there is an explicit or de facto ban. Venezuela: Legal activated from 2023 (March 2023 Supreme Tribunal ruling struck down UCMJ provisions criminalizing homosexual conduct in the military; Illegal ends 2022, Legal begins 2023).	94
Transgender Military	Legal / Illegal	Whether transgender individuals may serve openly. Legal means permitted; Illegal means banned.	33

LGB Military Service



Transgender Military Service



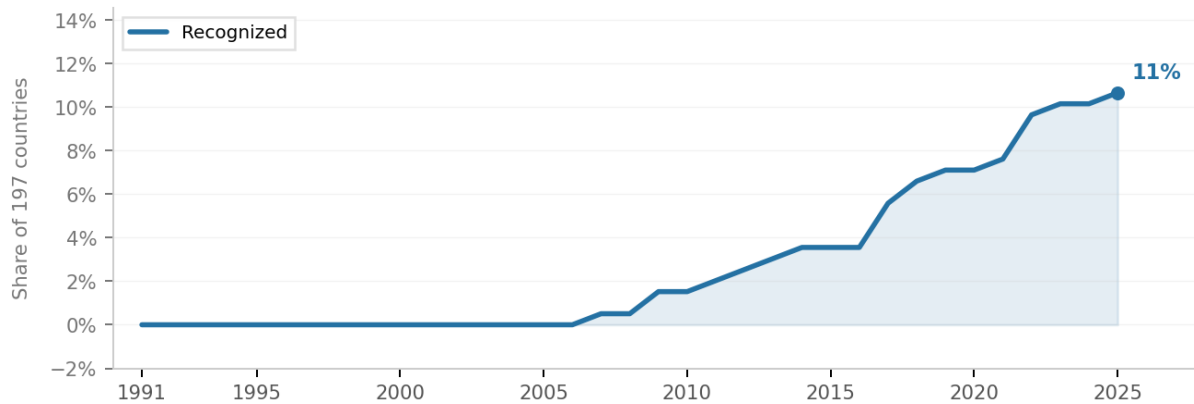
Gender Identity and Healthcare

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
Third-Gender Recognition	Legal / Illegal	Whether a third gender marker or non-binary category is legally recognized on official identity documents (passports, birth certificates, or national IDs). Illegal is a placeholder. Thailand was removed after external review: the 2015 Gender Equality Act does not establish a legal third-gender marker on identity documents. Brazil added (2025, CNJ Resolution authorizing non-binary civil registry markers nationwide). The United States is coded subnationally based on states allowing X on birth certificates: Oregon and DC (2017), +WA+ME (2018), +CA+CO+NJ+CT+MD+MA+NH (2019), +RI+NV (2020), +VT (2022), +NY+IL+MN (2023). Federal X passport was available April 2022–2024 but revoked January 2025; state documents unaffected. Australia is coded as national (federal	21

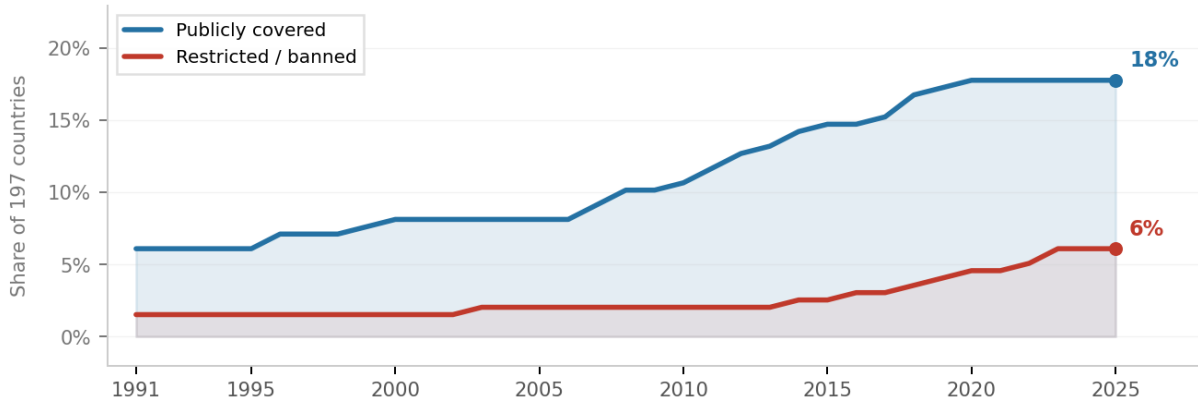
		passport X from 2011). Canada is coded as national from 2017 (federal passport X option).	
Gender Affirming Care - Adults	Covered / Restricted	Whether gender-affirming healthcare for adults (hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgeries, or both) is covered by the national health system or public insurance (Covered), or explicitly restricted or banned by national law (Restricted). Covered includes countries where the public health system subsidizes or funds GAC for adults aged 18+. Restricted captures countries with legal prohibitions on adult GAC beyond mere absence of coverage—e.g., medical liability laws criminalizing provision, federal bans, or Sharia-based prohibitions. 35 countries coded as Covered; 12 as Restricted.	47
Gender Affirming Care - Minors	Covered / Restricted	Whether gender-affirming healthcare for minors under 18 (puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, surgeries) is covered by the national health system (Covered) or explicitly restricted or banned (Restricted). Several countries transitioned from coverage to restriction: Sweden (covered 1996–2021, restricted 2022+), Finland (covered 1995–2019, restricted 2020+), United Kingdom (covered 1999–2023, restricted 2024+), Argentina (covered 2012–2024, restricted 2025), Denmark (covered 2002–2022, restricted 2023+, Sundhedsstyrelsen guidelines Aug 2023), New Zealand (covered 2002–2023, restricted 2024+, Oct 2023 Cass-aligned clinical guidelines), Italy (covered 2010–2023, restricted 2024+, National Bioethics Committee July 2024 opinion restricting puberty blockers). Subnational population-weighted proportions (2000/2001 Census denominators) are used for the United States (state-level bans from 2021), Canada (Alberta and Saskatchewan restrictions from 2024, proportion = 0.1318), and Australia (Queensland directive from 2025, proportion = 0.1916). 35 countries coded as Covered; 24 as Restricted (including 3 with subnational proportions).	49
Gender Assignment Surgeries on Children	Illegal / Legal	Whether non-consensual gender assignment surgeries on intersex minors are banned (Illegal = ban exists) or permitted (Legal = ban does not exist). Note: Illegal is the progressive direction here. Colombia (1999, Constitutional Court Decision SU-337/99) was the first jurisdiction with such a ban, followed by Malta (2015, GIGESC Act). Other countries with bans: Portugal (2018, Law 38/2018), Uruguay (2018), Iceland (2020, partial protections with exclusions for hypospadias/micropenis), Germany (2021, § 1631e BGB), Kenya (2022), Greece (2022), Spain (2023, Ley Trans Art. 19), Chile (2023), United Kingdom	16

		(2024, NHS guidelines), Cuba (2025, Code of Children Art. 79). Albania (2020 medical protocol) was excluded as it is not statutory legislation.	
Gender Marker Change	Legal / Illegal	Whether a legal process exists for individuals to change the gender marker on official identity documents. Legal means such a process exists. The type of process (self-declaration, medical diagnosis, surgery, or surgery+sterilization) is recorded in the Gender_Change_Requirement column. Data integrated from the Trans Rights Indicator Project (TRIP). Three countries reversed gender marker change rights: Russia (banned July 2023, Legal drops to 0 from 2024), Kyrgyzstan (Civil Registry amendments deleted gender change provisions 2020, Legal drops to 0 from 2021), Georgia ('Family Values' law Sept 2024 banned gender marker changes, Legal drops to 0 from 2025). The United States is coded with subnational proportions reflecting states that explicitly ban gender marker changes on birth certificates (Tennessee since 1977; Idaho 2020; Oklahoma, Indiana 2022; Kansas 2023; Texas, Florida 2024; Iowa 2025). Mexico is coded subnationally from 2008 (Mexico City), with SCJN national ruling in 2018. Illegal is a structural placeholder.	77

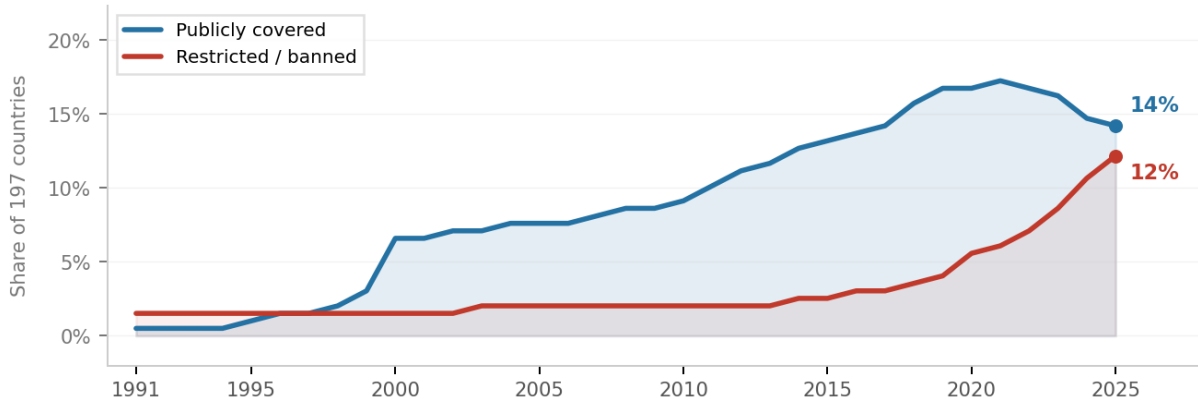
Third-Gender / Non-Binary Recognition



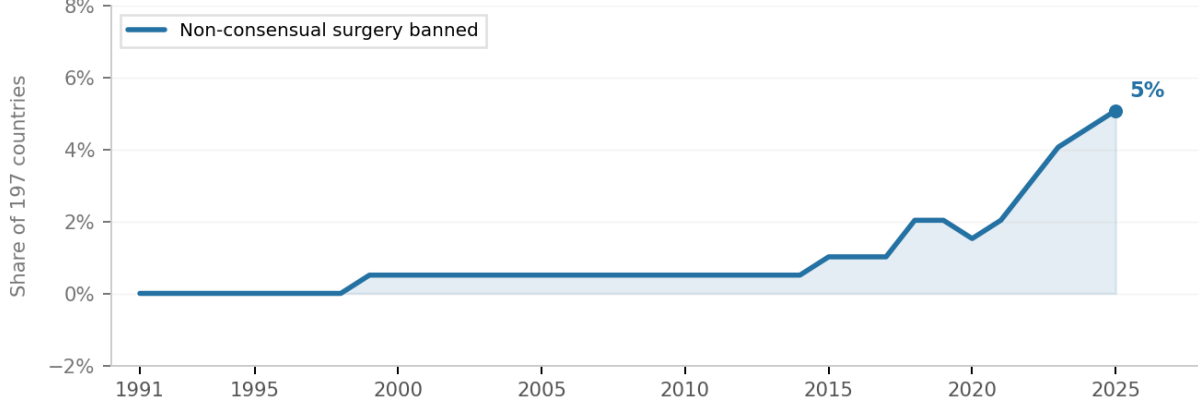
Gender Affirming Care — Adults



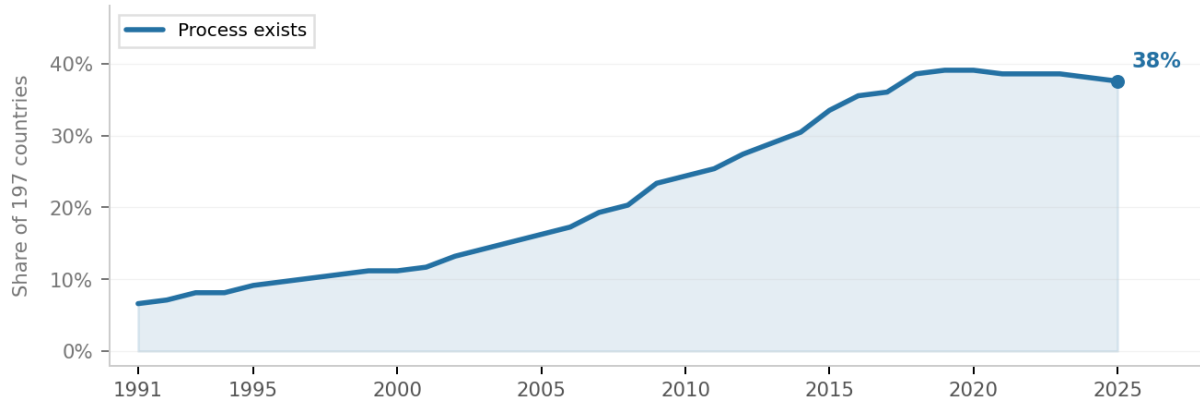
Gender Affirming Care — Minors



Intersex Surgical Protections (Minors)



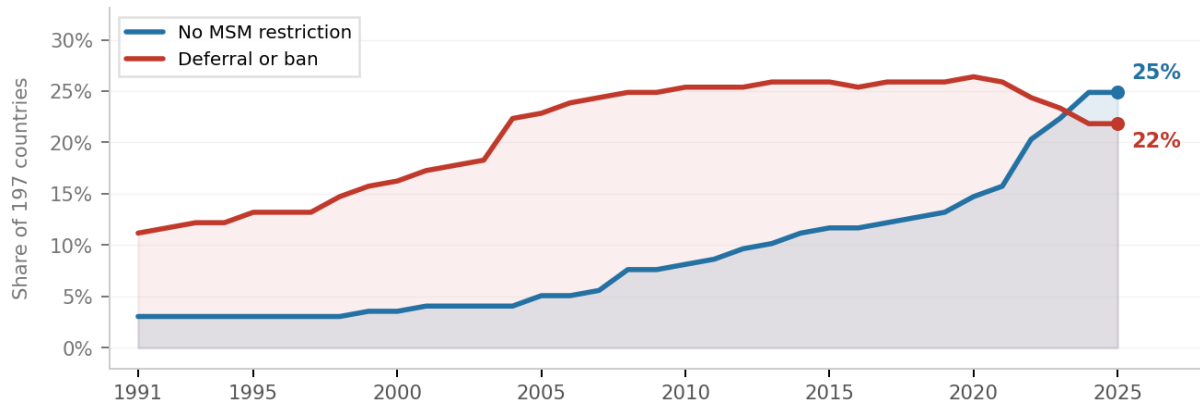
Gender Marker Change



Other Policies

Law	Statuses	Description	Countries
Blood Donations	Legal / Illegal	Whether men who have sex with men (MSM) may donate blood without restriction (Legal) or face deferral or lifetime bans (Illegal). Both lifetime bans and temporary deferrals are coded as Illegal; the Blood_Restriction_Period column provides granularity.	92

Blood Donations (MSM)



Status

Property	Detail
Column position	6
Type	Character (string)
Description	The direction or legal outcome of the policy coded in Law. Each Law is paired with exactly two Status values.
Values	Legal, Illegal, Equal, Unequal, Covered, Restricted
Missing	None
Critical note on interpretation	Status labels are NOT consistently aligned with ‘progressive’ vs. ‘regressive’ directions across all policies. For criminalization policies (Same-Sex Acts, Death Penalty), Legal means criminalization IS in effect. For anti-discrimination policies (Employment Discrimination, Goods/Services Discrimination), Illegal means the PROTECTION exists (discrimination is made illegal). For Conversion Therapies, Illegal means the BAN exists. Researchers should consult the Law-specific descriptions above and the orientation reference table below to correctly interpret each status.

Policy Orientation Reference

The table below maps each Law × Status combination to its substantive orientation.

Progressive/Expansive indicates policies that extend rights, protections, or recognition.

Regressive/Restrictive indicates policies that criminalize, restrict, or deny rights. Structural placeholder indicates the status direction contains all-zero values and is included only to maintain panel balance.

Law	Progressive / Expansive Status	Regressive / Restrictive Status
Same-Sex Acts	Legal (not criminalized)	Illegal (criminalized)
Death Penalty	Structural placeholder (Illegal)	Legal (death penalty applicable)
Morality/Propaganda	Structural placeholder (Illegal)	Legal (restrictions exist)
LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions	Structural placeholder (Illegal)	Legal (restrictions in force)
Marriage Equality	Legal (marriage equality exists)	Illegal (bans on same-sex marriage)
Civil Unions	Legal (civil unions available)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Joint Adoption	Legal (joint adoption allowed)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Age of Consent	Equal (equal ages of consent)	Unequal (higher age for same-sex)
Employment Discrimination – SO	Illegal (protection exists)	Legal (no protection)
Employment Discrimination – GI	Illegal (protection exists)	Legal (no protection)
Goods/Services Discrimination – SO	Illegal (protection exists)	Legal (no protection)
Goods/Services Discrimination – GI	Illegal (protection exists)	Legal (no protection)
Constitutional Protections – SO	Legal (constitutional protection)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Constitutional Protections – GI	Legal (constitutional protection)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)

Religious Exemption Laws	Structural placeholder (Illegal)	Legal (exemptions allow discrimination)
Hate Crime Protections – SO	Legal (hate crime protections)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Hate Crime Protections – GI	Legal (hate crime protections)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Incitement to Hatred	Legal (incitement prohibited)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Conversion Therapies	Illegal (ban on conversion therapy)	Structural placeholder (Legal)
LGB Military	Legal (open service permitted)	Illegal (service banned)
Transgender Military	Legal (open service permitted)	Illegal (service banned)
Third-Gender Recognition	Legal (third gender recognized)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Gender Affirming Care – Adults	Covered (publicly funded)	Restricted (banned or restricted)
Gender Affirming Care – Minors	Covered (publicly funded)	Restricted (banned or restricted)
Gender Assignment Surgeries	Illegal (non-consensual surgeries banned)	Structural placeholder (Legal)
Gender Marker Change	Legal (process exists)	Structural placeholder (Illegal)
Blood Donations	Legal (no MSM restriction)	Illegal (deferral or ban exists)

3.3 Outcome Variable: Proportion

Property	Detail
Column position	7
Type	Numeric (continuous, 6 decimal places)
Description	Population-weighted policy adoption score. The primary dependent or independent variable for analysis.
Range	0.000000 to 1.000000
Missing	None (0 indicates policy does not exist)
Interpretation	0 = policy does not exist in any jurisdiction; 1 = policy is in effect at the national level (full coverage); Fractional values (e.g., 0.35) = subnational adoption weighted by constant 2000 Census population shares. The denominator is fixed at 2000 Census population to ensure changes in Proportion reflect only policy adoption, not demographic shifts.

Subnational Proportion Methodology

For countries with subnational policy variation, Proportion is calculated as:

$$\text{Proportion} = \Sigma(\text{2000 Census population of jurisdictions with policy}) / \text{Total national 2000 Census population}$$

This approach uses a constant denominator (2000 Census) so that year-to-year changes in Proportion are driven entirely by policy adoption or repeal in specific jurisdictions, not by population growth or migration. When a national law supersedes subnational laws, Proportion becomes 1.0.

Thirteen countries have fractional Proportion values, listed below:

Country	Subnational units	Observed range
United States	50 states + DC	0.004 – 0.990
Australia	8 states/territories	0.025 – 0.975
Canada	13 provinces/territories	0.001 – 0.999
Mexico	32 states	0.088 – 0.749
Brazil	27 states + Federal District	0.017 – 0.450
United Kingdom	England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland	0.029 – 0.971
Spain	17 autonomous communities	0.133 – 0.794
Nigeria	12 Sharia-law states vs. rest	0.023 – 0.379
Indonesia	Aceh province vs. rest	0.019
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Federation, Republika Srpska	0.379 – 0.621
Argentina	CABA (Buenos Aires) vs. provinces	0.077
Russia	Regions with morality laws	0.037 – 0.160
Switzerland	26 cantons	0.023 – 0.977

All other 184 countries are coded as strictly binary (0 or 1).

3.4 Temporal Metadata

Year_of_National_Adoption

Property	Detail
Column position	8
Type	Numeric (integer year or NA)
Description	Year the policy first reached full national coverage (Proportion = 1). For policies predating 1991, this records the historical enactment year.
Range	1791 – 2025
Non-missing	50,820 rows (12.3%)
Notes	Very early years (e.g., 1791 for Andorra Age of Consent Equal) reflect historical penal codes. Colonial-era dates (e.g., 1885 for Sri Lanka Same-Sex Acts Illegal) capture inherited British legislation. Soviet-era dates (e.g., 1934 for Article 121 criminalizations in Armenia, Belarus) capture inherited Soviet legislation. The value is repeated across all 35 year-rows for the same country-law-status combination.

Year_of_First_Adoption

Property	Detail
Column position	9
Type	Numeric (integer year or NA)
Description	Year the first subnational jurisdiction adopted the policy (for countries with subnational variation) or the year of national adoption (when subnational data is not coded).
Range	1776 – 2025
Non-missing	51,625 rows (12.5%)
Data quality note	105 rows have Year_of_First_Adoption > Year_of_National_Adoption. All 105 involve Brunei's Death Penalty (First = 2019, National = 2013). This appears to be a coding artifact where National reflects the statutory provision (2013 Sharia Penal Code Order) and First reflects the year of implementation announcement (2019).

Year_of_National_Repeal

Property	Detail
Column position	10
Type	Numeric (integer year or NA)
Description	Year a previously adopted national policy was repealed, reversed, or superseded. Defined as the first year where Proportion switches from 1 to 0 and remains 0.
Non-missing	4,795 rows
Range	1993 – 2025
Notes	All repeal years occur after the corresponding adoption year (validated). Examples: Botswana Same-Sex Acts Illegal repealed 2019 (decriminalization), Trinidad and Tobago Same-Sex Acts Legal repealed 2025 (re-criminalization), civil union laws superseded by marriage equality in several countries.

Year_Law_Changed

Property	Detail
Column position	17
Type	Character (semicolon-separated year list or NA)
Description	All years in which the Proportion value changed for this country-law-status combination.
Non-missing	39,340 rows
Notes	Multiple years indicate policies with several transitions (e.g., progressive subnational expansion). Values are years separated by semicolons.

3.5 Supplementary Metadata

Ten columns provide additional context about specific policies. Most are conditionally populated: they have values only for the policy areas to which they are substantively relevant. For all other rows, the value is missing (NA).

Blood_Restriction_Period (column 11)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string or NA)
Applicable to	Blood Donations only
Description	Type of deferral or restriction period applied to MSM blood donors. This variable is TIME-VARYING: it reflects the specific deferral policy in effect for each country-year, capturing the progressive liberalization that many countries have undergone (e.g., Permanent → 12-month → 3-month → lifted).
Values	Permanent (lifetime ban); 12-month deferral; 10-year deferral; 6-month deferral; 5-year deferral; 4-month deferral; 3-month deferral; Individual risk assessment (case-by-case screening)
Non-missing	1,890 rows (Blood Donations with BRP populated, including inactive rows where the deferral policy is defined by law)
Notes	Time-varying within country: as countries liberalized their MSM blood donation policies, the BRP value changes in the year the new policy was adopted. Examples: United States (Permanent 1991–2014, 12-month 2015–2019, 3-month 2020–2022, then lifted 2023); Canada (Permanent 1991–2012, 5-year 2013–2015, 12-month 2016–2018, 3-month 2019–2021, then lifted 2022); New Zealand (10-year 1998–2008, 5-year 2009–2013, 12-month 2014–2019, 3-month 2020–2025). Countries with no documented changes retain a constant BRP value across all active years (e.g., Permanent for 32 countries with lifetime bans). When a country lifts all MSM-specific restrictions, Blood Donations Illegal rows become inactive (Proportion = 0) from the year of lifting.

Max_Punishment (column 12)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (mixed: numeric years, text labels, or NA)
Applicable to	Primarily Same-Sex Acts Illegal (3,015 rows); also Morality/Propaganda (245), LGB Military Illegal (35), Marriage Equality Illegal (35)
Description	Maximum statutory prison sentence for violation of the relevant criminalization law.
Values	Numeric years of imprisonment: 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 20; Life (life imprisonment); Death (death penalty applicable); 6 months - 1 year (range)
Non-missing	3,330 rows
Notes	Values represent statutory maximums; actual sentences may differ. The Death value overlaps with the separate Death Penalty policy but captures cases where death is the maximum sentence within the Same-Sex Acts law. All values use consistent labeling after harmonization.

Fine_Amount (column 13)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (mixed: numeric amounts, Yes/No indicators, or NA)
Applicable to	Same-Sex Acts Illegal, Morality/Propaganda
Description	Statutory fine associated with criminalization of same-sex acts or morality violations.
Values	Numeric values approximate 2000 USD equivalents (e.g., 15, 35, 140, 750, 5000, 30000); Yes = fine exists but amount unspecified; No = no fine
Non-missing	1,764 rows
Data quality note	This column mixes numeric amounts with Yes/No indicators. 811 rows contain 'No', 248 contain 'Yes', and the remaining 705 have numeric amounts. Researchers should treat the column as character and recode as needed for quantitative analysis.

Sexes_Covered (column 14)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string or NA)
Description	Whether the law applies to both sexes or only to males.
Values	Both (23,607 rows); Male (3,299 rows)
Non-missing	26,906 rows
Notes	Male-only coding primarily reflects colonial-era sodomy laws targeting male conduct (former British colonies). Blood Donations Illegal is coded Male (MSM-specific). Some Morality/Propaganda and Death Penalty entries are Male-only. 937 rows have Sexes_Covered populated where Proportion = 0, indicating the value is a country-level attribute repeated across years.

Evidence_of_Enforcement (column 15)

Property	Detail
Type	Numeric (1 or 0)
Description	Binary indicator for whether a law on the books is actively enforced or applied. Coded for ALL active rows across all 27 policy areas. Default is 1 (law presumed enforced); set to 0 where documented evidence indicates non-enforcement.
Values	1 = Law enforced/applied (31,754 active rows); 0 = Law not enforced despite being on the books (1,418 active rows). Blank for inactive rows (Proportion = 0).
Notes	This column applies universally across all policy areas. The default coding convention is EoE = 1 for all active rows (a law on the books is presumed enforced), with exceptions set to 0 based on documented non-enforcement. For Same-Sex Acts Illegal, EoE is now FULLY TIME-VARYING: 18 countries have within-country EoE transitions reflecting when enforcement began (e.g., Nigeria EoE=0 pre-2000, EoE=1 from 2000 when Sharia courts began; India EoE=0 pre-2001, EoE=1 from 2001 Lucknow arrests; Cameroon EoE=0 pre-2005, EoE=1 from 2005). This captures the colonial dormancy pattern: many countries inherited Section 377-type laws from British/French/Portuguese colonial codes but did not enforce them until political campaigns, religious movements, or moral panics triggered active prosecution decades later. Historical verification used US State

Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (1993–2000), Amnesty International annual reports, Human Rights Watch reports (including 'This Alien Legacy' 2008, 'More Than a Name' 2002), local newspaper archives, academic sources (Sanders 2009 on Section 377 afterlife; Han & O'Mahoney 2014 on British colonialism and criminalization), and GDELT historical event data (1979–2013). Time-varying EoE transition countries: Zimbabwe (1995, Mugabe campaign), Nigeria (2000, Sharia courts), India (2001, Lucknow arrests), Eritrea (2003), Cameroon (2005), Fiji (2005), Senegal (2008), Uganda (2009), Malawi (2010), Zambia (2013), Gambia (2014), Guinea (2015), Papua New Guinea (2015), Tuvalu (2015), Tanzania (2017), Myanmar (2021, post-coup), Bangladesh (2022), Togo (2024). Countries with confirmed lifelong EoE=0: Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, Brunei, Ethiopia, Singapore, Tonga (government confirmed zero convictions), plus all previously coded EoE=0 countries. Countries upgraded to EoE=1 based on historical evidence: China (1993 directive, hooliganism charges), Romania (Article 200 actively enforced early 1990s, Mariana Cetiner case). For anti-discrimination protections: El Salvador EoE=0 from 2019; Chile EoE=0 from 2012. For Conversion Therapies: Ecuador EoE=0 from 2012. This approach is inherently biased toward media coverage and NGO access—enforcement may occur in countries coded 0 but without documentation. Researchers should interpret EoE=0 as absence of documented evidence of enforcement, not confirmed absence of enforcement.

Sub_National_Variation (column 16)

Property	Detail
Type	Integer (binary: 0 or 1)
Description	Whether the policy varies across subnational jurisdictions.
Values	0 = No variation (369,655 rows); 1 = Subnational variation exists (2,640 rows)
Missing	35 rows
Notes	This is the only supplementary column with no missing values. Countries with Sub_National_Variation = 1 correspond to those with fractional Proportion values.

Gender_Change_Requirement (column 18)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string or NA)
Description	The type of legal requirement for changing one's gender marker on official documents. Populated only for the Gender Marker Change law rows where Status = Legal and Proportion > 0.
Values	Self-ID (self-declaration, no medical gatekeeping); Medical/Psychological (diagnosis or professional attestation); Surgery (surgical intervention required, no sterilization); Surgery+Sterilization (both required)
Non-missing	Populated for Gender Marker Change Legal rows with active data (76 countries)
Source	Integrated from the Trans Rights Indicator Project (TRIP) by Williamson, covering 173 countries, 2000–2021.
Notes	19 countries show time-varying values reflecting genuine policy liberalization (e.g., Germany moved from Surgery+Sterilization to Self-ID in 2024; Belgium from Medical/Psychological to Self-ID in 2018). The value is year-specific for these countries.

Civil_Union_Benefits (column 19)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (numeric scale 1–5, or time-dependent string, or NA)
Applicable to	Civil Unions Legal only
Description	Subjective assessment of how closely civil union benefits approximate marriage rights.
Values	1 = Minimal benefits; 2 = Some benefits; 3 = Moderate benefits; 4 = Substantial benefits; 5 = Near-equivalent to marriage. One entry: '2007: 1, 2008: 2, 2009-today: 4' (Hungary, reflecting legislative evolution)
Non-missing	1,268 rows
Notes	Assessment is based on comparative evaluation of property rights, inheritance, healthcare decision-making, and social security. Scale is relative, not absolute.

Source_1 (column 20)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Primary legal or documentary source justifying the row's coding. Cites specific legislation, penal code articles, court rulings, constitutional provisions, or administrative directives.
Populated for	All rows where Proportion > 0 (33,172 active rows). Blank where Proportion = 0.
Examples	Penal Code, Art. 338 (Algeria SSA); Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015) (US ME); Equality Act 2010, s. 12 (UK EmpDisc SO); French Penal Code of 1791 — omitted sodomy from criminal code (France SSA); Criminal Code, Article 121 (Russia SSA Illegal)

Citation quality	96.5% of 1,669 active country-law-status groups (1,610 groups) cite named legal instruments with specific years, article numbers, or case names. The remaining 3.5% (59 groups) are legitimate subnational/federal entries describing the absence of national-level legislation (e.g., 'No national ban on conversion therapy' for Australia). 1,605 distinct Source_1 values across the dataset. No generic template text remains. For subnational cases where protections exist only at state/provincial level, Source_1 notes 'No national law' and Source_5 provides specific subnational detail.
Notes	Sources are at the country-law-status level and repeat across all 35 year-rows for the same combination. Where a law was amended or superseded, Source_1 cites both the original and amending legislation.

Source_2 (column 21)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Secondary corroborating source, typically from an international monitoring organization or comparative legal database.
Populated for	All rows where Proportion > 0 (33,172 active rows). Blank where Proportion = 0.
Common values	ILGA World, State-Sponsored Homophobia (2024); ILGA World, Trans Legal Mapping (2024); Equaldex, https://www.equaldex.com/
Notes	Source_2 provides an independent cross-reference for each coding. ILGA World reports are used for criminalization and anti-discrimination laws; ILGA Trans Legal Mapping for gender identity laws; Equaldex for relationship recognition and other policy areas.

Source_3 (column 22)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Source documenting Evidence of Enforcement or non-enforcement. Cites specific reports of arrests, prosecutions, convictions, extrajudicial enforcement actions, or documented non-enforcement.
Populated for	All rows where Evidence_of_Enforcement = 0 (1,419 rows citing non-enforcement evidence), plus select rows where EoE = 1 with specific enforcement documentation (primarily Same-Sex Acts, Death Penalty, Morality/Propaganda). Blank for EoE = 1 rows where enforcement is presumed by default convention.
Common sources	ILGA World SSH; USDOS Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; Human Rights Watch; Human Dignity Trust; Amnesty International; Movilh (Chile); Fund. Ecuatoriana Equidad (Ecuador)
Notes	For EoE = 1 (enforcement): country-specific citations reference documented enforcement events (e.g., Queen Boat case for Egypt, Anwar Ibrahim case for Malaysia). For EoE = 0 (non-enforcement): citations reference sources confirming absence of documented enforcement (SSA Illegal, 1,356 rows across time-varying and constant-0 countries) or specific non-enforcement documentation (El Salvador 21 rows, Chile 28 rows, Ecuador 14 rows). Historical verification using 1990s sources (US State Dept reports, Amnesty International archives, academic literature) revealed 18 countries where colonial-era laws were dormant through the

1990s before enforcement began at documented dates. China and Romania upgraded to EoE=1 based on 1990s evidence. Ethiopia, Singapore, and Tonga downgraded to EoE=0.

Source_4 (column 23)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Source for penalty details: Max_Punishment and Fine_Amount. Cites the specific penal code article establishing the penalty.
Populated for	All rows where Max_Punishment or Fine_Amount contain substantive values (3,785 rows). Not triggered by Sexes_Covered alone, which is sourced by Source_1.
Examples	Penal Code, Art. 338 (14 years imprisonment) — Algeria; Criminal Code Act, s.214 (death by stoning in states with Sharia) — Nigeria
Notes	Penalty sources are country-level and cite specific legislative articles with the coded penalty. For countries with both federal and state-level penalties (e.g., Nigeria), both levels are cited.

Source_5 (column 24)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Dual-purpose source column: (1) subnational variation documentation (jurisdictions and census weights), and (2) enforcement evidence from local newspaper verification. Documents which subnational jurisdictions adopted a policy and census population weights, and/or cites country-specific newspaper reports of arrests, prosecutions, and enforcement actions.
Populated for	All rows with Sub_National_Variation = 1 or fractional Proportion, plus all rows with country-specific enforcement documentation from local newspaper and historical archive research (5,042 active rows total). Blank otherwise.
Common sources	National census data (constant 2000/2001 denominators); local newspapers of record (Daily Nation, Le Soleil, Al-Ahram, Kompas, Dawn, Jamaica Gleaner, The Star Malaysia, Cameroon Tribune, etc.); ILGA World reports; US State Department reports; Human Rights Watch
Notes	Subnational entries list specific jurisdictions and census-year population sources for 15 federal/decentralized countries. Enforcement entries cite country-specific newspaper reports with dates, case details, and arrest/prosecution counts. For EoE=0 countries, Source_5 documents the basis for non-enforcement coding (e.g., 'US State Dept: no prosecutions over 20 years' for Namibia). For EoE=1 countries, Source_5 provides specific newspaper evidence confirming enforcement.

Source_6 (column 25)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)

Description	Source for Gender_Change_Requirement coding. Documents the legal framework governing gender marker change procedures.
Populated for	All rows where Gender_Change_Requirement is populated (1,551 rows). Blank otherwise.
Primary source	Williamson, Trans Rights Indicator Project (TRIP), https://www.transrightsindex.org/ ; supplemented by national legislation
Notes	TRIP provides systematic cross-national coding of gender recognition requirements (surgery, diagnosis, self-declaration, etc.).

Source_7 (column 26)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Source for Civil_Union_Benefits coding. Documents the comparative framework used to assess the scope of civil union/partnership benefits.
Populated for	All rows where Civil_Union_Benefits is populated (1,268 rows). Blank otherwise.
Primary source	Waaldijk, Kees, Comparative Assessment of Civil Partnership Laws, https://www.law.leidenuniv.nl/waaldijk/ ; ILGA-Europe Rainbow Index
Notes	Benefits coding captures whether civil unions provide marriage-equivalent rights (full), substantial but incomplete rights (partial), or limited rights (minimal).

Source_8 (column 27)

Property	Detail
Type	Character (string)
Description	Source for Blood_Restriction_Period coding. Documents the blood donation deferral policy for men who have sex with men (MSM).
Populated for	All rows where Blood_Restriction_Period is populated (1,546 rows with Source_8). Blank otherwise.
Common sources	National blood service policies; WHO Blood Safety guidelines; ILGA World SSH; national health ministry regulations
Notes	Country-specific entries cite the national blood service or health ministry regulation. Default citation references ILGA World SSH compilation of deferral policies.

4. Sources

Eight source columns (Source_1 through Source_8) are embedded directly in the main dataset as columns 20–27. Source_1 and Source_2 provide dual citations for every active row (Proportion > 0), achieving 100% coverage across 33,172 substantive codings. Source_3 through Source_8 provide granular citations for specific supplementary data points.

Source_1 cites the primary legal text (legislation, penal code article, court ruling, or constitutional provision). Source_2 provides a secondary corroborating reference from an international monitoring organization. Source_3 documents enforcement evidence. Source_4 cites specific penalty provisions. Source_5 details subnational jurisdiction lists and census weights. Source_6–8 cite the specialized instruments used for gender change requirements, civil union benefits, and blood donation deferral policies respectively.

5. Data Collection and Validation

5.1 Primary Sources

- Velasco (2023) LGBTI Policy Index: Foundational dataset covering 18 policies, 152 countries, 1990–2018.
- ILGA World State-Sponsored Homophobia Report and Trans Legal Mapping Report: Criminalization status, anti-discrimination protections, transgender rights.
- Human Dignity Trust country profiles: Criminal penalties, enforcement evidence, legal analysis.
- Equaldex: Blood donation policies, gender-affirming care, comparative legal tracking.
- Trans Rights Indicator Project (TRIP) by Williamson: Gender marker change requirements, 173 countries, 2000–2021.
- National legislative databases: Country-specific legal texts in 10+ languages (Légifrance, Bundesgesetzblatt, BOE, STF, and others).
- National census bureaus: 2000 Census population data for subnational proportion calculations.

5.2 Coding Rules

The following rules govern all coding decisions in the dataset. They are documented here for transparency and replicability.

5.2.1 Temporal Conventions

Year_of_National_Adoption and Year_of_First_Adoption always record the date a law was adopted or signed into law, NOT the date it took effect. For court rulings, the date the ruling was handed down is used. For executive orders, the date of signature. For example, Finland Marriage Equality is coded as 2014 (parliamentary passage) rather than 2017 (implementation). Year_of_National_Repeal follows the same convention: the date the repeal was signed, not the date it took effect.

For policies inherited from colonial or Soviet legal systems, Year_of_National_Adoption records the original enactment year of the relevant legislation (e.g., 1885 for Sri Lanka's colonial sodomy law, 1934 for Soviet Article 121). The Proportion variable begins in 1991 regardless of adoption year.

Countries that never criminalized same-sex acts (e.g., those inheriting the French or Napoleonic legal tradition) have Year_of_First_Adoption left empty on the Same-Sex Acts Legal status, since there was no affirmative adoption event. Source_1 for these countries reads 'No criminalization' or similar.

5.2.2 Proportion Coding

Legal and Illegal (or equivalent status pairs) are independently coded and are NOT assumed to be complements of each other. A country-year may have Legal=0.6 and Illegal=0.3 if those reflect actual subnational policy configurations. Legal + Illegal \leq 1 for all policies. A country-year may also have both statuses equal to zero if no policy exists in either direction.

Source_1 and Source_2 are populated only on active rows (Proportion > 0). Inactive rows (Proportion = 0) have Source_1 and Source_2 left blank. Source_1 for subnational-only policies reads 'No national law' when no single national statute exists and the coding derives from aggregated subnational laws.

5.2.3 Status Label Interpretation

Status labels are NOT consistently aligned with ‘progressive’ vs. ‘regressive’ directions across all policies. Three distinct conventions apply:

- Criminalization policies (Same-Sex Acts, Death Penalty, Morality/Propaganda, Civil Society Restrictions): ‘Legal’ means the restriction or criminalization IS in effect. ‘Illegal’ is typically a structural placeholder.
- Anti-discrimination policies (Employment Discrimination, Goods/Services Discrimination, Conversion Therapies, Gender Assignment Surgeries on Children): ‘Illegal’ means the PROTECTION or BAN exists (discrimination has been made illegal, or the practice has been banned). ‘Legal’ is a structural placeholder. This is the opposite of the criminalization convention.
- Hate Crime Protections and Incitement to Hatred: ‘Legal’ means the PROTECTION exists (hate crime enhancement or incitement prohibition is in force). This is NOT inverted. ‘Illegal’ is a structural placeholder. Researchers should take care not to confuse this with the anti-discrimination convention.

The Policy Orientation Reference table in Section 3.2 provides a complete mapping.

5.2.4 Subnational Policy Coding

When a policy exists subnationally but not nationally, Proportion reflects the population-weighted share of the country covered using constant 2000 or 2001 Census denominators. National adoption (Proportion = 1) is coded only when a national law, court ruling, or executive order applies the policy across the entire jurisdiction. Fifteen countries are coded subnationally: Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States.

Sub_National_Variation = 1 is set on any row where the policy derives from subnational laws rather than a single national statute. Source_5 documents the specific subnational jurisdictions and census population weights used. Population denominators are held constant at 2000/2001 to ensure that proportion changes over time reflect policy shifts rather than demographic change.

5.2.5 What Counts as a Law

The dataset codes laws, executive orders, judicial rulings (including binding constitutional court interpretations), and ministry directives. Professional society resolutions or guidelines alone do NOT count. For example, the Brazilian Federal Council of Psychology Resolution 1/1999 on conversion therapy is excluded because it is a professional society resolution, not legislation. However, ministry or health authority directives DO count (e.g., Israel’s Health Ministry directive banning conversion therapy is included).

Constitutional provisions are included when they provide explicit or judicially interpreted protections. For example, Switzerland’s Federal Constitution Art. 8(2) ‘way of life’ clause is coded as providing employment discrimination protection for sexual orientation based on judicial interpretation, even though no explicit employment statute exists.

5.2.6 Civil Union End-Dates

Civil union end-dates (Year_of_National_Repeal for CU Legal) are set only when the civil union institution was formally discontinued by legislation. When a country adopts marriage equality but its civil union law remains on the books (e.g., France PACS, Netherlands registered partnership, United Kingdom civil

partnership), the civil union continues to be coded as active. Supersession by marriage equality alone is not sufficient to trigger an end-date.

5.2.7 Military Service

LGB Military and Transgender Military are coded only for countries with explicit policies or formal announcements (legislative provisions, executive orders, military directives, or official public statements by defense leadership). De facto tolerance or silence is not coded as either Legal or Illegal. Countries without any explicit policy on LGB or transgender military service have Proportion = 0 for both statuses.

5.2.8 Evidence of Enforcement

Evidence_of_Enforcement defaults to 1 for all active rows across all 27 policies. Exceptions (EoE = 0) are applied only when there is affirmative documentation of non-enforcement, and every EoE = 0 row must have a corresponding Source_5 citation explaining the basis for the non-enforcement coding.

For Same-Sex Acts Illegal, EoE is fully time-varying: 18 countries have within-country transitions from EoE = 0 to EoE = 1 at documented enforcement onset dates. This captures the colonial dormancy pattern where inherited criminalization laws sat unenforced for decades before political events triggered prosecution. All transitions are unidirectional (0 → 1 only; no country reverts from enforcement to non-enforcement).

EoE is also coded as 0 for select non-SSA policies where documented non-enforcement exists: Chile Employment Discrimination SO/GI (Ley Zamudio provides no effective labor law remedy), El Salvador Employment/G&S Discrimination (Bukele-era non-enforcement despite Decree 56), and Ecuador Conversion Therapies (hundreds of clinics continue operating despite nominal ban).

5.2.9 Year_of_First_Adoption and Year_of_National_Adoption

Year_of_First_Adoption (YFA) records the earliest adoption of the policy anywhere in the country, including subnational jurisdictions. Year_of_National_Adoption (YNA) records when the policy was adopted at the national level. For countries without subnational variation, YFA = YNA. Both values must be constant across all 35 year-rows within a country-law-status group. $YFA \leq YNA$ in all cases except Brunei Death Penalty (a known exception documented in Section 5.4).

5.2.18 Year_of_National_Adoption: Detailed Coding Rules

YNA is among the most complex variables to code because the concept of a single 'adoption year' is not always straightforward. The following rules govern how YNA is assigned across different policy contexts. These rules are documented here for transparency; researchers who disagree with any rule may adjust YNA values accordingly while preserving the underlying Status and Proportion coding.

Rule 1 — Adoption date, not effective date. YNA always records when the law was adopted, signed, or enacted, NOT when it took effect. For court rulings, the date the ruling was handed down is used. For legislative acts, the date of passage or royal assent. Example: Finland Marriage Equality is coded as YNA=2014 (parliamentary passage), not 2017 (implementation). This rule is the single most important convention for YNA and governs all other rules below.

Rule 2 — Colonial and inherited legal codes. For policies inherited from colonial powers (British, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Ottoman, Soviet), YNA records the original enactment year of the colonial or imperial legislation. This date often predates 1900. Examples: Sri Lanka Same-Sex Acts Illegal YNA=1885 (colonial Penal Code), Bangladesh Same-Sex Acts Illegal YNA=1860 (Indian Penal Code),

Turkey Same-Sex Acts Legal YNA=1858 (Ottoman Penal Code of 1858, Tanzimat reforms). The rationale is that the colonial statute WAS the national law at the time of enactment. The dataset contains 48 unique country-law-status combinations with YNA before 1900, overwhelmingly in Same-Sex Acts (28 countries), Age of Consent (15 countries), Marriage Equality (3 countries), and LGB Military (2 countries). Researchers who prefer to use the date of independence or post-independence re-adoption may substitute those dates using Source_1 and Source_2 for reference.

Rule 3 — Never Criminalized countries. Countries that never criminalized same-sex acts (typically those inheriting the Napoleonic Code or similar traditions) have YNA left blank for Same-Sex Acts Legal. There was no affirmative decriminalization event to record. Forty-five countries follow this pattern (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Laos, Mexico, Peru). Source_1 for these rows reads 'No criminalization' or describes the historical legal basis. This blank-YNA convention also applies to other policies where the status has been in effect since before any identifiable adoption event (e.g., LGB Military Legal in countries that never banned service).

Rule 4 — Healthcare system policies without specific legislation. For Gender Affirming Care (Adults and Minors), Gender Marker Change, and Blood Donations, coverage is sometimes provided through the general healthcare system, health authority guidelines, or administrative processes rather than a specific legislative act. When no identifiable legislative adoption event exists, YNA is left blank. When a specific health authority directive, clinical guideline, or administrative order can be identified, that date is used. Examples: Denmark GAC Adults has blank YNA (covered through healthcare system without a single identifiable law); Sweden GAC Adults has YNA=1972 (specific Legal Gender Recognition Act). Researchers should interpret blank YNA for these policies as 'coverage exists but through administrative rather than legislative channels.' 397 unique country-law-status combinations have blank YNA, concentrated in Gender Marker Change (16), Gender Affirming Care Adults (11), Civil Unions (12), Conversion Therapies (10), and Same-Sex Acts (45, all 'Never Criminalized' cases).

Rule 5 — Subnational-only policies. When a policy exists only subnationally and no national law has been adopted, YNA is blank. Year_of_First_Adoption records the earliest subnational adoption. Examples: United States Conversion Therapies (no federal ban, YNA blank, YFA records earliest state ban), Spain Conversion Therapies (regional bans only, YNA blank). Source_1 reads 'No national law' for these cases.

Rule 6 — Constitutional vs. statutory basis. When protection derives from a constitutional provision or judicial interpretation of the constitution rather than from a specific statute, YNA records the date of the constitution or constitutional amendment. Example: Switzerland Employment Discrimination SO YNA=1999 (Federal Constitution Art. 8(2), interpreted by Federal Tribunal to cover sexual orientation). Researchers should consult Source_1 to distinguish statutory from constitutional bases.

Rule 7 — Amended or superseded statutes. When a law is substantively amended or replaced by a successor statute, YNA records the date of the ORIGINAL law if it provided the core policy in question, NOT the amendment date — unless the amendment introduced the policy for the first time. Example: Slovakia Employment Discrimination GI YNA=2008, because the 2004 Anti-Discrimination Act did not explicitly include gender identity until the 2008 amendment. Conversely, Serbia Employment Discrimination SO retains the date of the original anti-discrimination law, since SO was included from the start.

Rule 8 — Age of Consent and Marriage Equality origin dates. For countries where the equal age of consent or marriage definition has been in place since the country's earliest legal codification, YNA traces to that codification. This produces very old dates (e.g., Dominican Republic AoC Equal YNA=1822, Bolivia AoC Equal YNA=1831). These reflect genuine legal continuity — the equal-treatment provision has been

in force since the legal system was established. Researchers who prefer to limit analysis to the modern era should filter on Year \geq 1991 (the dataset start year) and treat these old YNA values as 'pre-dataset-era adoption.'

Rule 9 — Adoption date precision limitations. Despite best efforts, some YNA values involve interpretive judgment calls where reasonable scholars may disagree by 1–3 years. Common sources of uncertainty include: (a) distinguishing parliamentary passage from royal assent from gazette publication; (b) distinguishing the original enactment from a substantive amendment; (c) identifying the correct date for policies that evolved through multiple incremental reforms. The validation process found a YNA precision error rate of approximately 18% based on 100 randomly sampled active rows, with most discrepancies in the 1–3 year range. No fundamental coding errors (wrong law, wrong status, wrong proportion) were found. YNA should be treated as an approximate indicator rather than a precise date variable, particularly for cross-national comparative analysis where 1–2 year differences are unlikely to affect substantive findings.

5.2.10 Conversion Therapy: Direct vs. Indirect Bans

The dataset distinguishes between direct conversion therapy bans (explicit legislation prohibiting the practice) and indirect bans (mental health laws that prohibit diagnosing homosexuality or gender identity as an illness, which effectively ban conversion therapy without naming it). Both are coded as active (Illegal = ban exists), but indirect bans are flagged in Source_1 with the notation '(indirect — mental health declassification)' so that researchers can distinguish them. Examples of indirect bans include Samoa (2007), Argentina (2010), Fiji (2010), Ecuador (2012), Uruguay (2017), Chile (2021), and Paraguay (2022). Professional society resolutions alone (e.g., Brazil CFP Resolution 1/1999) are excluded entirely, as they do not carry the force of law.

5.2.11 Blood Donation: All Deferrals Coded as Illegal

Any restriction on blood donation by men who have sex with men (MSM) — whether a lifetime ban, a 5-year deferral, a 12-month deferral, or a 3-month deferral — is coded as Illegal (restrictions exist). The substantive distinction between deferral types is captured in the Blood_Restriction_Period column, not in the Status variable. Researchers who wish to distinguish between permanent bans and temporary deferrals should use Blood_Restriction_Period. Only the complete removal of MSM-specific deferral criteria (individual risk assessment applied equally to all donors, or no restriction at all) is coded as Legal.

5.2.12 Gender Affirming Care: Restricted Means Explicit Restriction

For Gender Affirming Care — Adults and Gender Affirming Care — Minors, the 'Restricted' status is coded only when a country has adopted an affirmative legal prohibition, binding clinical guideline, or regulatory order restricting access to gender-affirming healthcare. The mere absence of public funding or health system coverage does NOT qualify as 'Restricted.' Countries that simply do not fund GAC have Proportion = 0 for both Covered and Restricted. This distinction is critical: the Restricted denominator captures countries that have taken active policy steps to limit access, not all countries that lack coverage.

5.2.13 Religious Exemption Laws: Scope

Religious Exemption Laws codes only broad exemptions that allow individuals, businesses, or organizations to refuse services to LGBTQ+ people on religious or conscientious grounds. Standard clergy exemptions permitting religious officials to decline to solemnize same-sex marriages are universal across countries with marriage equality and are NOT counted, as they are a routine feature of religious

liberty protections rather than an LGBTQ+-specific exemption. Ireland was evaluated but excluded on this basis: its 2015 Marriage Act exemption covers clergy officiating only. The United States is coded subnationally because state-level religious exemption statutes (e.g., Mississippi HB 1523, Texas HB 3859) go beyond clergy exemptions to cover commercial services, adoption agencies, and government employees.

5.2.14 Policy Reversals

The dataset does not assume monotonic progressive trajectories. Policy reversals are coded as they occur. When a country revokes a previously existing right, the Proportion for the progressive status drops to 0 (or to a reduced subnational fraction) in the year the revocation is signed, and the relevant metadata columns (YNR, Source_1) are updated accordingly. Examples include Russia Gender Marker Change (Legal drops to 0 from 2024 after July 2023 ban), Kyrgyzstan Gender Marker Change (drops to 0 from 2021), India Gender_Change_Requirement (regresses from Self-ID to Surgery in 2019 after the Transgender Persons Act imposed more restrictive requirements than the 2014 NALSA ruling), and several GAC-Minors transitions from Covered to Restricted (Sweden 2022, Finland 2020, UK 2024, Argentina 2025). Researchers should not assume that once a policy is adopted it remains in force; the year-specific Proportion and Status values reflect the law in effect in each calendar year.

5.2.15 Transition-Year Overlap Convention

When a law changes mid-year, the dataset does not code the month of change. Both the outgoing and incoming statuses may show Proportion > 0 for that calendar year. For example, if a country decriminalizes same-sex acts in June 2022, both Same-Sex Acts Legal and Illegal may have Proportion = 1 for the year 2022, with Illegal dropping to 0 in 2023. This affects approximately 50 country-year observations across the dataset. Researchers conducting event-study analyses around the exact month of policy change should consult Source_1 for the specific date of adoption.

5.2.16 Metadata Columns on Inactive Rows

Max_Punishment, Fine_Amount, and Sexes_Covered describe properties of the law itself and may remain populated on inactive rows (Proportion = 0) where the law exists but is not currently in effect. For example, a country that decriminalized same-sex acts may still show Max_Punishment on pre-decriminalization Illegal rows, because the punishment was a feature of the law during the period it was active. By contrast, Source_1 and Source_2 are cleared on inactive rows and populated only where Proportion > 0. Evidence_of_Enforcement is set to blank (NA) on inactive rows. Researchers filtering to active rows only (Proportion > 0) will not encounter this distinction, but those working with the full balanced panel should be aware of it.

5.2.17 United States Marriage Equality: Independent Proportion Coding

The United States Marriage Equality Legal and Illegal proportions are independently coded from actual state-by-state policies using constant 2000 Census population denominators. Legal tracks the cumulative population share of states that had legalized same-sex marriage (from Massachusetts 2004 through Obergefell v. Hodges 2015). Illegal tracks the cumulative share of states that had enacted constitutional amendments or statutory DOMA bans prohibiting same-sex marriage (from Utah 1995 through North Carolina 2012). Because some states had neither legalized nor banned same-sex marriage in a given year (e.g., New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Wisconsin before 2013), Legal + Illegal < 1 for the period 1995–2012. California has special coding: legalized 2008, banned by Proposition 8 in 2009,

restored in 2013. This independent coding approach means the Legal and Illegal time series are NOT mirror images of each other and should not be treated as complements. This convention is specific to US Marriage Equality; for other US subnational policies, only the progressive status direction is typically coded subnationally.

5.3 Validation Process

The dataset underwent 10+ rounds of iterative validation across multiple sessions, with approximately 300 individual corrections applied. Key rounds:

- Round 1: Initial validation of all substantive rows using parallel research agents. ~69 corrections covering adoption years, policy existence, and scope.
- Round 2: Remaining policy groups. ~25 corrections including removal of incorrectly coded policies (e.g., Georgia gender assignment surgeries was US state, not country).
- Round 3: Non-English source verification across French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, and other language regions. ~20 corrections using national legislative databases.
- Round 4: Blood donation expansion (19 new country entries), blank-status row cleanup, adoption year research. ~72 corrections.
- Round 5: Comprehensive line-by-line validation, Year_of_National_Repeal column computation, and 2025 policy updates (Thailand marriage equality, US transgender military ban, Trinidad re-criminalization, others).
- Round 6: Systematic external review of Hate Crime Protections (SO/GI), Third-Gender Recognition, and LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions against ILGA World, Equaldex, national legislative databases, and academic sources. Removed Chad from Hate Crime SO (Penal Code Art. 350(i) is rape aggravation, not general hate crime; Chad criminalizes same-sex acts). Added Czech Republic to Hate Crime SO + GI (2025, Act No. 325/2024 Coll.). Removed Thailand from Third-Gender Recognition (2015 Gender Equality Act does not create a legal third-gender marker on documents). Added Brazil to Third-Gender Recognition (2025, CNJ Resolution). Added Ghana to Civil Society Restrictions (2024, Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Act). Net: $-9 + 5 = -4$ active rows.
- Round 7: Systematic external review of Civil Unions, Joint Adoption, Incitement to Hatred, Constitutional Protections SO/GI, Gender Marker Change, Religious Exemption Laws, and Death Penalty. Civil Unions: corrected discontinuation dates for 9 countries that ended CU after marriage equality (Denmark 2012, Norway 2008, Sweden 2009, Iceland 2010, Finland 2016, Germany 2017, Ireland 2015, Liechtenstein 2024, Slovenia 2022). Joint Adoption: removed Georgia (2024 anti-LGBTQ+ law banned adoption), fixed Andorra source. Incitement to Hatred: added Chile (2020), removed Georgia, extended Bosnia to 2025, corrected UK YNA to 2008. Constitutional Protections: extended Nepal SO to 2025, added Taiwan SO+GI (2017 Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 748), added Colombia SO (2011 Constitutional Court T-314). Gender Marker Change: Russia drops 2024+ (July 2023 ban), Kyrgyzstan drops 2021+ (2020 amendments), Georgia drops 2025 (Sept 2024 ban). Death Penalty: Sudan extended to 2020 (repealed July 2020), Somalia extended back to 1991. Religious Exemptions: all 4 verified correct, no changes. Net: $+47$ active rows.
- Convergence rounds: Targeted re-verification of flagged items, overlap detection, fine/punishment data cleaning, and final integrity scanning.
- Structural changes: Duplicate country merges (10 pairs), ISO column addition, Year_of_First_Adoption column retained, source columns populated for all substantive rows.
- Source_1 citation enhancement: Comprehensive replacement of all generic/template Source_1 text with specific legislation citations across all 27 policy categories. Covered Age of Consent (143 groups), Same-Sex Acts (77 groups), Marriage Equality (101 groups with specific constitutional articles), Blood Donations (83 groups with specific blood service policies), Goods/Services Discrimination (116 groups), LGB/Transgender Military (91 groups with specific directives), Morality/Propaganda (36 groups), Gender Affirming Care (62 groups), Employment Discrimination

(11 groups), and additional vague-reference groups. Final result: 1,605 distinct Source_1 values; 96.5% cite specific years/articles; zero generic template text remaining.

- Round 8: Systematic external review of Employment Discrimination SO/GI and Goods/Services Discrimination SO/GI. Timor-Leste SO extended to 2012 (Labour Code repeal was Law 4/2012, not 2011). Namibia SO extended to 2007 (Labour Act 11/2007 replaced 1992 Act). El Salvador GI Employment extended to 2025 (Decree 56 not formally repealed). El Salvador GI Goods/Services removed (2022 court ruling was advisory, not legislative). Pakistan GI confirmed ending at 2023 (Federal Shariat Court ruling). Georgia discrimination protections confirmed through 2025 (2024 law does not repeal 2014 anti-discrimination framework). Net: 0 active rows.
- Round 9: Systematic external review of Morality/Propaganda, LGB Military, Transgender Military, Gender Affirming Care — Adults, and Gender Affirming Care — Minors. Morality/Propaganda: removed Ghana (bill never signed into law), ended Lithuania at 2024 (June 2024 amendment removed anti-LGBTQ+ language), extended Algeria from 2020 (Penal Code Art. 333bis via Law 20-06), added Kazakhstan from 2025 (anti-propaganda law signed Dec 2024), corrected Kyrgyzstan to 2023 (anti-propaganda law signed Aug 2023). LGB Military: activated Venezuela Legal from 2023 (March 2023 Supreme Tribunal ruling). GAC Minors: added Denmark Restricted from 2023 (Sundhedsstyrelsen guidelines Aug 2023), New Zealand Restricted from 2024 (Oct 2023 Cass-aligned clinical guidelines), Italy Restricted from 2024 (National Bioethics Committee July 2024 opinion). Net: +5 active rows.
- Round 10: Systematic external review of Same-Sex Acts, Marriage Equality, Age of Consent, and Blood Donations. Ghana removed from LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions (bill never signed). Mali SSA Illegal corrected to 2024 (signed Oct 31, 2024). Andorra ME YNA corrected to 2022 (General Council vote July 2022). Taiwan ME YNA corrected to 2019 (Implementation Act signed May 2019; 2017 Interpretation retained in Source_1). Rwanda AoC Unequal removed (no statutory basis for differential AoC). Benin AoC Unequal ended at 2017 (equalized 2018). Suriname AoC Unequal ended at 2014 (equalized March 2015). Denmark Blood Donations Legal corrected to 2024 (MSM-specific 4-month deferral removed July 2024). Evidence_of_Enforcement expanded to all 27 policies (default=1, exceptions=0). EoE rigorous re-verification: 65 SSA countries with documented enforcement, 48 without; 11 countries reclassified from EoE=0 to EoE=1 (Burundi, Chad, Dominica, Eritrea, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Fiji, Botswana, Cyprus, Liberia). Non-SSA EoE=0: El Salvador discrimination (2019+, Bukele non-enforcement), Chile Employment Discrimination (no effective legal remedy), Ecuador Conversion Therapies (clinics continue operating). Net: -45 active rows.

5.4 Known Limitations

- Estimated error rate (final validation): Two rounds of validation conducted. Round 1: 5 random samples of 100 active rows (seeds: 2026, 7777, 1234, 5555, 9999), 20 deep-checked per sample (100 total). Core coding: 0.0%. YNA precision: ~18%. Source citation: ~4%. Round 2 (post-YNA audit): 5 random samples of 100 active rows each (seeds: 31415, 27182, 42069, 86753, 10666), all 500 rows deep-checked. 23 items flagged by validation agents; 14 were false positives (colonial-era conventions, inverted coding misunderstandings, subnational coding patterns). 9 genuine errors identified and corrected (1 core coding, 5 YNA precision, 2 source citation, 1 borderline). Final error rate: 1.8% overall, 0.2% core coding. See Section 5.2.18 for detailed YNA coding rules.
- North America contains only 5 countries (US, Canada, 3 Caribbean states). Researchers may merge with Latin America depending on analytic needs.

- 19 of 54 policy-status combinations are structural placeholders with all-zero data. These represent the absence of a policy (not an actual law) and are included solely to maintain panel balance. Structural placeholders are never populated with complement values; only status directions that track actual legislation or court rulings contain data.
- 121 country-year-law observations show both statuses > 0 for the same policy. All are legitimate subnational splits where different jurisdictions have opposing policies in the same year (e.g., Same-Sex Acts Legal and Illegal simultaneously in federal countries). See Section 2.3 for explanation.
- Status labels for anti-discrimination protections are inverted relative to criminalization policies (see Section 3.2).
- Fine_Amount mixes numeric values with Yes/No strings. Treat as character.
- Gender_Change_Requirement is now populated only for Gender Marker Change Legal rows where Proportion > 0. It is no longer repeated across all policy rows.
- 105 rows have Year_of_First_Adoption > Year_of_National_Adoption (all Brunei Death Penalty; see Section 3.4).
- Transition-year overlaps: In the year a policy changes, both statuses may be coded as active if the exact month of change was not coded.
- Coding judgment calls: Three entries involve substantive interpretive decisions that researchers may wish to revisit: (1) Kenya Third-Gender Recognition Legal (2022) is based on the Children Act, which is intersex-specific and does not create a general third-gender category for transgender or non-binary individuals. (2) Pakistan G&S Discrimination GI: the 2018 Transgender Persons Act was partially struck down by the Federal Shariat Court in May 2023; protections are coded as ending 2023, but the government has appealed and the legal status is pending. (3) Nepal Constitutional Protections GI (2015): Article 42 uses 'gender and sexual minorities' without the explicit term 'gender identity'; coded as present based on inclusive interpretation supported by Nepali jurisprudence.

6. Version History

Version	Date	Key changes
1.0	March 2026	Initial release. Wide format. National binary coding. 197 countries, 23 policies, 1991–2025.
2.0	March 2026	<p>Long-format restructuring. 27 policy areas (54 combos). Subnational population-weighted Proportion scoring (2000/2001 Census denominators). 12 metadata columns. TRIP integration. Full source documentation. 10+ validation rounds (~300 corrections). Key changes from v1: Populated LGBTQ+ Civil Society Restrictions (11 countries), Religious Exemption Laws (4 countries; US subnational 2015+). Replaced general GAC with Adults (35 covered, 12 restricted) and Minors (35 covered, 24 restricted). GAC-Minors subnational for US, Canada (AB/SK 2024+), Australia (QLD 2025). Comprehensive subnational audit across 27 policies × 13 federal countries. 62 law-country pairs with subnational coding across 13 countries. Goods/Services Discrimination (SO and GI) coded subnationally for US (23/17 states), Australia (all 8 states pre-federal 2013), Canada (all provinces pre-federal 1996/2017). Employment Discrimination GI coded subnationally for Australia (state-by-state 1984–2013) and Canada (province-by-province 2002–2017). UK subnational for Hate Crime SO (E&W 2003, NI 2004, Scotland 2009), Incitement to Hatred (E&W+NI 2008, Scotland 2009), Joint Adoption (E&W 2002, Scotland 2007, NI 2013). Switzerland Conversion Therapy (cantonal bans: Neuchâtel 2023, Vaud+Valais 2024). Canada Third-Gender Recognition adjusted to 2017 (federal passport X). Conversion Therapies subnational for Australia (+NSW+SA 2024), Mexico (6 states 2020+), Spain (7 regions 2016–2022, national 2023). US Gender Marker Change subnational (state bans: TN 1977, +ID 2020, +OK+IN 2022, +KS 2023, +TX+FL 2024, +IA 2025). Mexico Gender Marker Change subnational (MC 2008, national 2018). All years verified as adoption (not implementation) dates. Evidence_of_Enforcement converted from time-invariant to time-varying indicator: year-specific coding based on documented arrests, prosecutions, and convictions from ILGA, HRW, Amnesty International, Human Dignity Trust, and US State Department reports. 70 countries with enforcement evidence (1,398 SSA country-year observations); 43 criminalizing countries with no documented enforcement retain NA. Non-English source audit (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic): expanded Iraq to 1991 (Saddam-era Fedayeen enforcement), Algeria to 2010 (imam conviction), Egypt to 2000 (pre-Queen Boat arrests), Ecuador to 1993 (Quito police torture), Comoros to 2023; added Tuvalu (2015 conviction) and South Sudan (2017 arrests). Confirmed no enforcement for Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé, Nicaragua, Bhutan, Brunei, Namibia, most Caribbean. Final validation pass: fixed 229 rows where both status proportions were simultaneously active (sum > 1); applied 32,907 missing complement proportions for subnational rows; corrected Trinidad and Tobago SSA timeline (2018 decriminalization, 2019–2024 legal, 2025 re-criminalized by Court of Appeal); restored South Korea EmpDisc SO protections 2020–2025 (2020 amendment to remove protections failed); restored Costa Rica EmpDisc SO 1999–2014 (1998 HIV/AIDS law never repealed); corrected Greece Joint Adoption (2018–2019 was foster care not adoption; joint adoption from 2024 marriage equality act); zeroed Bahrain/Indonesia Age of Consent Equal status (unequal AoC throughout); fixed Egypt, Iraq, Serbia SSA Legal status (was erroneously set to 1 alongside Illegal); fixed 105 rows where Year_of_First_Adoption > Year_of_National_Adoption. All proportion pairs now verified to sum to exactly 0 (no policy) or ≤1 (policy active). US Marriage</p>

		<p>Equality Legal and Illegal proportions independently coded based on actual state-by-state policies: Legal tracks states that legalized ME (MA 2004 through Obergefell 2015); Illegal tracks states with constitutional amendments (1998–2012) or statutory DOMA bans (1995–2004). Legal + Illegal < 1 for 1995–2012 because some states had neither legalized nor banned ME. California specially coded (legalized 2008, Prop 8 ban 2009, restored 2013). All years reflect adoption/signing dates per dataset convention.</p>
2.0.1	March 2026	<p>Spot-check validation (Rounds 11–12). Six independent random samples of 100 active rows each (600 total) verified column-by-column. Average error rate: 1.6% across 5 scored rounds (2, 4, 0, 1, 1 errors). Round 11 corrections: Greece AoC Unequal YNR 2020→2015 (Article 347 repealed Dec 23, 2015). Greece GMC GCR→Self-Declaration for 2017+ (Law 4491/2017). Norway CU YNR 2020→2008. Uganda MP YNA 1995→2023 (AHA 2023 s.11). Sweden GS Disc SO source updated. Uruguay Joint Adoption source corrected. Tanzania MP source fixed. Round 12 corrections: Botswana SSA YNR 2020→2019 (HC June 11, 2019). Ireland EmpDisc SO YNA 1993→1998 (Employment Equality Act). Belgium Blood BRP 6-month→4-month (July 2023). Switzerland LGB Mil YNA 1991→1992 (referendum May 17, 1992). Morocco SSA YNA 1963→1962. Romania MP YNR 2002→2001 (EO 89/2001). Mongolia SSA Legal YNA 1961→1993 (decriminalization). Senegal SSA YNA 1966→1965. Net: 34,140→34,104 active rows. Blood_Restriction_Period converted to time-varying: 17 countries updated with year-specific deferral periods reflecting progressive liberalization (US, UK, Canada, Australia, NZ, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Japan). Fixed 6 countries with incorrect BRP values (Italy, Armenia, Honduras, Iceland, Taiwan, Ecuador → Permanent). Iraq added as 15th subnational country: Kurdistan Region (14.4% population share, 1997 census estimate) does not ratify federal LGBTI laws post-1991. Morality/Propaganda Prop→0.856 from 2023 (federal media ban + 2024 law). Civil Society Restrictions Prop→0.856 from 2024. SSA Illegal SNV=1 for 2024–2025 (both criminalize but legal basis differs: federal 2024 law vs KRI Art. 401). Enforcement verification via local newspaper sources: 5 regional research sweeps (Anglophone Africa, Francophone/Lusophone Africa, Caribbean/Pacific, MENA/Central Asia, South/Southeast Asia) using newspapers of record in English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Malay, Indonesian, Sinhala, Bangla, Urdu, and Burmese. Source_5 updated with country-specific newspaper citations for 62 country-law combinations. Four SSA Illegal countries downgraded EoE=1→0: Ghana (no convictions despite arrests), Kenya (2 prosecutions in 10 years), South Sudan (no prosecutions since 2011), Brunei (moratorium + no prosecutions). Source_5 now contains newspaper-based enforcement evidence for 30+ EoE=1 countries and specific non-enforcement documentation for 13 EoE=0 countries. Historical enforcement verification (1991–2000): Used GDELT historical event data (1979–2013), US State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (1993–2000), Amnesty International annual reports, HRW reports ('This Alien Legacy' 2008, 'More Than a Name' 2002), and academic sources (Sanders 2009, Han & O'Mahoney 2014). EoE converted to FULLY TIME-VARYING for SSA Illegal: 18 countries now have within-country EoE transitions at documented enforcement onset dates (Zimbabwe 1995, Nigeria 2000, India 2001, Eritrea 2003, Cameroon 2005, Fiji 2005, Senegal 2008, Uganda 2009, Malawi 2010, Zambia 2013, Gambia 2014, Guinea 2015, PNG 2015, Tuvalu 2015, Tanzania 2017, Myanmar 2021, Bangladesh 2022, Togo 2024). This captures the colonial dormancy pattern where inherited laws sat unenforced for decades before political events triggered prosecution. China (1991–1996) and Romania (1991–1995) upgraded EoE=0→1 based on</p>

		documented 1990s enforcement (China: 1993 secret directive, hooliganism charges; Romania: Article 200 prosecutions, Mariana Cetiner case). Ethiopia, Singapore, and Tonga downgraded to full EoE=0 (Ethiopia: no convictions ever documented; Singapore: PM Lee confirmed 40–50 years non-enforcement; Tonga: AG confirmed zero convictions). SSA Illegal EoE breakdown: 1,474 active rows EoE=1, 1,356 active rows EoE=0.
2.0.2	March 2026	<p>Systematic validation (5-step audit). (1) Cross-column consistency audit: mechanical checks on proportion sums, Source coverage, and metadata alignment. Mexico CT Legal zeroed for 2024–2025 after national ban (Illegal=1.0). Iraq SNV=1 rows populated with Source_5 KRI documentation. 11 missing Source_2 values fixed (Mali, Iraq, Andorra, Denmark). (2) Anti-discrimination spot-check (50 rows): El Salvador EmpDisc SO YNA corrected 2018→2010 (Executive Decree 56, signed May 4, 2010). Bosnia EmpDisc SO Source_1 updated to cite 2003 Law on Gender Equality as first law (not 2009 anti-discrimination law alone). Luxembourg HC SO YNA corrected 1997→2006 (SO not explicitly in Article 457-1 until 2006 amendment); HC Protections direction clarified: Legal=protections exist (NOT inverted like discrimination laws). (3) Relationship recognition spot-check (25 rows): Cuba ME Illegal Source_1 corrected to cite 1976 Constitution Art. 36 (removed erroneous 1919 reference). (4) Gender identity spot-check (25 rows): Japan GMC GCR updated Surgery+Sterilization→Medical/Psychological for 2024–2025 (Supreme Court Oct 2023 ruling struck sterilization requirement). US Trans Military Source_1 corrected to cite full timeline (2016 Carter directive → 2018 Trump ban → 2021 Biden reversal). Iceland CT Source_1 corrected (2023 act, not 2019 Gender Autonomy Act). Cuba GMC GCR updated to Self-ID for 2025 (July 2025 law removed surgery requirement). (5) Time-varying column validation: verified all 18 EoE transitions are unidirectional (0→1 only, no flip-flops). All 11 BRP time-varying countries show strictly progressive liberalization (no reversals). Cleaned 11 residual EoE values on inactive rows (Luxembourg HC SO Legal 1997–2005, Mexico CT Legal 2024–2025). India GCR regression (Self-ID 2014→Surgery+Sterilization 2019) confirmed correct per 2019 Trans Act. Net: 34,104→33,095 active rows. EoE: 32,682 EoE=1, 1,419 EoE=0. Metadata corrections for 4 recently flagged SSA structural changes (all already coded structurally): Antigua and Barbuda (Orden David v AG, July 5, 2022: Illegal Source_1 updated to cite ss.12+15, Legal Source_2 added). Barbados (Holder-McClean-Ramirez v AG, December 12, 2022: Legal Source_1 corrected from CCJ to High Court, Source_2 added, Illegal Source_1 updated with both sections). Dominica (B.G. v AG, April 22, 2024: Max_Punishment corrected 4→10 years, Source_1 corrected to ss.14+16, Legal sources added). Burkina Faso (Persons and Family Code Art. 210-3, signed September 25, 2025: Max_Punishment=2–5 years, Fine_Amount=2–10M CFA, Sexes_Covered=Both, EoE 0→1 per December 2025 first conviction, Source_1/Source_5 improved). Final EoE: 32,683 EoE=1, 1,418 EoE=0.</p> <p>Uncertain-item resolution: Switzerland EmpDisc SO YNA 2007→1999 (Federal Constitution Art. 8(2), no explicit cantonal SO employment statutes exist; 8 new rows activated for 1999–2006). Australia EmpDisc SO YNA 1996→2013 (Sex Discrimination Amendment Act; pre-2013 coded subnationally with SNV=1). Australia G&S Disc GI proportions rebuilt from verified state-level GI adoption dates: ACT 1992, NSW 1996, VIC 2000, QLD 2002, federal 2013 (YFA→1992, YNA→2013; 1 row deactivated for 1991 which had no state coverage). Bangladesh ME Illegal YNA 1860→1872 (Special Marriage Act, not Section 377). India GCR 2019+ changed Surgery+Sterilization→Surgery (2019 Trans Act does not explicitly require sterilization). Tonga ME Illegal YNA 1998→1988</p>

		(Criminal Offences Act s.136; explicit statutory prohibition only added August 2025). Canada CU YNA=1999 retained (M v. H SCC ruling). Net: 33,095 active rows. EoE: 32,690 EoE=1, 1,418 EoE=0.
2.0.5	March 2026	Age of Consent validation against ILGA reports. Cross-referenced Age of Consent (Equal/Unequal) coding against ILGA State-Sponsored Homophobia 2015 (10th ed.) and 2019 Update. The 2015 report's dedicated 'Equal age of consent' (103 states) and 'Unequal age of consent' (15 states) tables, together with the 2019 report's country-level narrative entries, served as primary validation sources. Eight corrections applied: (1) Bahrain Unequal extended 2019–2025 (1976 Penal Code AoC 21 same-sex vs 20 different-sex; no legal change since). (2) Benin Unequal extended 2018–2020 (old Penal Code Art. 331 AoC 21 same-sex vs 13 different-sex still in effect until Feb 2021); Benin Equal added 2021–2025 (new Penal Code 2021 equalizes AoC at 18). (3) Greece Equal added 2016–2025 (Law 4356/2015 repealed Penal Code Art. 347 on Dec 23, 2015, equalizing AoC at 15; ILGA 2015 confirmed unequal pre-reform). (4) Indonesia Unequal extended 2020–2025 (2002 Law on Child Protection Art. 81–82 AoC 18 same-sex vs 16 different-sex; new Criminal Code KUHP adopted 2023 but 3-year implementation period means old provisions still operative). (5) Suriname Equal added 2015–2025 (Criminal Code Section 302 amended 2015, AoC equalized at 16; ILGA 2015 confirmed unequal pre-reform). (6) Rwanda Unequal added 1991–2017 (1980 Penal Code Art. 358/362 AoC 18 same-sex vs 16 different-sex; confirmed by both ILGA 2015 and 2019). (7) Rwanda Equal added 2018–2025 (2018 Penal Code, Official Gazette 27/09/2018, equalized AoC at 18). (8) Honduras LGB Military Legal EoE fixed (35 rows had missing Evidence_of_Enforcement; set to 1). Net: 33,095→33,172 active rows (+77). EoE: 31,754 EoE=1, 1,418 EoE=0. All 27 trendline charts regenerated.
2.0.4	March 2026	Post-audit validation (500-row deep-check). 5 independent random samples of 100 active rows each (seeds: 31415, 27182, 42069, 86753, 10666), all rows deep-checked against external sources. 23 items flagged; 14 false positives, 9 genuine errors. Fixes: (1) YNA corrections: Lithuania G&S SO 2005→2003 (Law on Equal Treatment adopted Nov 18, 2003), France EmpDisc SO 1991→2001 (Loi 2001-1066 first explicit SO coverage), Nauru ME Illegal 2018→2017 (Act adopted Dec 19, 2017), Mongolia EmpDisc GI 2015→2021 (Revised Labor Code passed July 2, 2021), Germany Trans Military 2000→2014 (first trans-specific Bundeswehr policy). (2) Source corrections: Argentina Incitement source corrected from Ley 23.592 to Ley 26.791 (2012, Penal Code Art. 80(4)). Italy LGB Military source updated to cite both 1986 medical exclusion removal and 2010 formal non-discrimination policy. France EmpDisc SO source updated to cite Loi 2001-1066. Mongolia EmpDisc GI source updated to cite 2021 Labor Code revision. Germany Trans Military source clarified. (3) Core coding corrections: Jamaica EmpDisc SO set to Prop=0 (Charter of Fundamental Rights excludes SO; 2004 Staff Orders are non-binding). Honduras LGB Military Illegal set to Prop=0 (no explicit statutory ban identified; exclusion was de facto only). Trinidad and Tobago LGB Military Illegal marked as resolved (military exclusion derived from broader criminalization framework, retained as coded). (4) Codebook: Section 6 (Flagged Items) removed; three remaining judgment-call items (Kenya Third-Gender Recognition, Pakistan G&S Discrimination GI, Nepal Constitutional Protections GI) documented in Section 5.4 Known Limitations. Final validated error rate: 1.8% overall, 0.2% core coding. (5) Structural placeholder cleanup: zeroed out 882 rows where subnational complement values had been incorrectly populated in structural placeholder status directions. Structural placeholders represent the absence of a policy and

		<p>should always be zero; only status directions tracking actual legislation contain data. Affected 18 policy-status combinations across 15 countries. Gender Assignment Surgeries on Children Legal (no ban) reclassified as structural placeholder and zeroed out (144 rows); only bans are coded. Section 5.2.4 (Gender Assignment Surgeries Exception) removed; subsections renumbered. Dual-active observations reduced from 898 to 121 (all legitimate subnational splits). Total structural placeholders: 19 of 54 policy-status combinations. (6) Policy trendline figures added: 27 individual charts (one per policy) showing proportion of countries with each policy over 1991–2025, both status directions plotted where applicable (structural placeholders excluded). Net: 33,095 active rows.</p>
2.0.3	March 2026	<p>Systematic YNA audit. Final validation (5 random samples × 100 active rows, 20 deep-checked per sample) found 0% core coding error rate but ~18% YNA precision error rate. Conducted comprehensive Year_of_National_Adoption audit targeting post-1991 entries. Three categories of fixes: (1) YNA placeholder corrections: 12 entries where YNA=1991 was a default placeholder replaced with actual adoption dates (Bulgaria Morality/Propaganda 1991→2024, Burundi SSA Illegal 1991→2009, Guinea SSA Illegal 1991→1998, Honduras LGB Military 1991→2001, Italy Blood Illegal 1991→2001, Nepal AoC Equal 1991→2017, Russia LGB Military 1991→2003, São Tomé AoC Equal 1991→2021, Slovakia Blood Illegal 1991→2004, Turkmenistan Morality 1991→1997, Venezuela LGB Military 1991→1998, Indonesia SSA Legal 1991→blank, Cambodia Blood Legal 1991→blank). (2) Verified YNA corrections: 12 entries where research confirmed the correct adoption year (Canada EmpDisc SO 1995→1996, Cape Verde SSA Legal 2003→2004, Estonia EmpDisc SO 2006→2004, Finland GAC Minors 1995→2011, Hungary G&S SO 2004→2003, Israel Trans Military 1993→2014, Luxembourg EmpDisc GI 2018→2008, San Marino CU 2018→2012, Serbia EmpDisc SO 2006→2005, Slovakia EmpDisc SO 2008→2004, Spain HC SO 2003→1995, Syria ME Illegal 1949→1953). (3) Source citation corrections: 16 entries where Source_1 was misleading, anachronistic, or cited the wrong law. Systematic correction of GI employment discrimination sources across 8 countries where Source_1 incorrectly stated that gender identity was ‘included’ in the original anti-discrimination law, when in fact GI was added by later amendment (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Malta, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia; Luxembourg YNA also corrected). Source-YNA alignment improvements for 8 additional entries (Andorra, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, NZ, Spain ×2). Section 5.2.18 added to codebook: 9 numbered YNA coding rules covering adoption-vs-effective date convention, colonial/inherited legal codes, Never Criminalized blank-YNA pattern, healthcare-system policies, subnational-only policies, constitutional bases, amended statutes, age-of-consent origin dates, and precision limitations. Section 5.4 updated with final validation statistics. Total: 40 corrections across 3 categories.</p>