



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Sudan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 21 September 2016**

### **Treatment of homosexuals**

A document published in June 2015 by the *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency* notes that:

“Same-sex acts are illegal in Sudan and South Sudan and societal discrimination is widespread against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. In Sudan, the overwhelming majority of the population considers non-conforming sexuality and gender expression socially unacceptable. Few people dare talk about sexual orientation or gender identity publicly, for fear of personal attacks and threats to their safety. There are reports of vigilantes targeting suspected LGBTI people for violent abuse and public demonstrations against homosexuality. Criminalisation, discrimination and stigmatisation have made LGBTI people invisible; they often lack access to basic rights such as personal security, legal protection, and healthcare, and basic information about sexuality and sexual health. Regardless of the frequency of the implementation of so-called sodomy laws, their mere existence usually results in a more hostile social climate for LGBTI people” (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (11 June 2015) *The Rights of LGBTI People in Sudan and South Sudan*).

In January 2016 *Freedom House* reviewing events of 2015 notes:

“Same-sex sexual acts are illegal, though this prohibition does not appear to be strongly enforced. Official and societal discrimination against LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) individuals are widespread” (Freedom House (27 January 2016) *Freedom in the World 2016: Sudan*).

A report issued in April 2016 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that:

“LGBTI persons are not considered a protected class under antidiscrimination laws. The law does not specifically prohibit homosexuality but criminalizes sodomy, which is punishable by death. Antigay sentiment was pervasive in society. LGBTI individuals expressed concern for their safety and did not identify themselves publicly. There was at least one confirmed case of an individual detained, beaten, and harassed by authorities because of his suspected affiliation with LGBTI-friendly groups. LGBTI organizations increasingly felt pressured to suspend or alter their activities due to threat of harm. Several LGBTI persons felt compelled to leave the country due to fear of persecution, intimidation, or harassment. There were no reports of official action to investigate or punish those complicit in LGBTI-related discrimination or abuses” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sudan*).

No information on any of this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

### **References**

Freedom House (27 January 2016) *Freedom in the World 2016: Sudan*  
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/freedom-world-2016-sudan>

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Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (11 June 2015) *The Rights of LGBTI People in Sudan and South Sudan*

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United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sudan*

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
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