



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Zimbabwe - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 3 December 2015

Treatment of homosexuals/lesbians

A report published by *Human Rights Watch* in January 2015 commenting on events of the preceding year notes that:

“The government of Zimbabwe continues to violate rights of LGBT people guaranteed in the new constitution and international law, including the rights to non-discrimination; liberty and security of the person and privacy; freedom of expression and thought; association; and peaceful assembly” (Human Rights Watch (29 January 2015) *World Report 2015: Zimbabwe*).

The *United States Department of State* issued a report in June 2015 reviewing events of 2014 including stating that:

“LGBT individuals reported widespread societal discrimination based on sexual orientation” (United States Department of State (25 June 2015) *2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Zimbabwe*).

A COI research compilation released in January 2015 by the *Asylum Research Consultancy* includes a secondary source which points out that:

“LGBT people remain a marginalised and stigmatised group...” (Asylum Research Consultancy (January 2015) *Zimbabwe Country Report*, p.205).

In March 2015 the *United Kingdom: Foreign and Commonwealth Office* states in a report that:

“LGB&T people continued to be harassed and intimidated by the state” (United Kingdom: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (12 March 2015) *Human Rights and Democracy Report – Zimbabwe*).

NewsDay in September 2015 states that:

“Zimbabwe has one of the worst LGBT rights records on the African continent, with the country’s leader frequently demonising homosexuality” (*NewsDay* (30 September 2015) ‘*We are not gays! Mugabe tells UN general assembly*’).

In October 2015 *Pink News* points out that:

“Homosexuality is not against the law in the country, but LGBT people often face harsh government clampdowns...” (Pink News (16 October 2015) *Zimbabwe warns against gay rights protests during AIDS conference*).

References

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Pink News (16 October 2015) *Zimbabwe warns against gay rights protests during AIDS conference*

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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

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Freedom House
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Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
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Online Newspapers
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