



Suriname

Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Submitted by **The Advocates for Human Rights,**
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

and

Suriname Men United

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States, including LGBTIQ+ individuals who have experienced discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. The Advocates also partners with a global network of LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders on reporting to the United Nations.

The Advocates had the expert support of **Khaleem Ali** in writing this report. Khaleem is a Trinidadian-born Attorney-at-Law and human rights defender based in Saint Lucia with more than a decade of experience in activism. He attended multiple sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and meetings of the UN Human Rights Committee (ICCPR) as an expert on human rights issues in the Caribbean Region, namely, the death penalty and LGBTQIA+ rights. He has previously Chaired the Working Group on Women and Gender at the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and now Chairs the Latin America and Caribbean Working Group for UNODC's GenJust Programme. Khaleem currently serves on the board of the Greater Caribbean for Life; a regional entity focused on the abolition of the Death Penalty.

This report was submitted with the support of **Suriname Men United**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Although Suriname is making progress toward implementing some of its previous-cycle recommendations, there is still significant social stigma against LGBTIQ+ people, which contributes to significant discrimination by State and non-State actors.
2. There are increased protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and, to a lesser extent, gender identity, but these protections are neither universal nor consistently applied. There are no legislative protections against discrimination on the basis of gender expression or sex characteristics.
3. LGBTIQ+ youth are at particular risk of systemic exclusion, which creates barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights.
4. There remains a significant lacuna of legal protections for LGBTIQ+ people.
5. In this report, we use the acronym LGBTIQ+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other sexual and gender minorities. These terms do not necessarily include everyone who may experience violations of their human rights on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics (“SOGIESC”), which is why we also include a “+” with the acronym. Any use of a modified acronym is intentional in that we are speaking only about certain members of the LGBTIQ+ population.
6. This report benefited from the expert guidance of experienced human rights advocates Kenneth van Emden, Isaura Morsen, Vergey Miles, and Milton Castelen.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Equality and non-discrimination; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI); Sexual & Gender-based violence

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented

7. In its Third Cycle UPR, Suriname received and noted five recommendations to promote equality and non-discrimination for LGBTI+ people by passing legislation that specifically addresses discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.¹ Suriname also received and accepted 3 recommendations related to sexual and gender-based violence affecting the LGBTI+ community.²
8. Article 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname (“Constitution”) prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, education, birth, sex, race, political opinion, language, economic position, or any other status.³ The catch-all “any other status” is frequently given a broad interpretation by courts to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
9. In 2015, the Government enacted the Act S.B. 2015 No. 44,⁴ which modified the Criminal Code,⁵ criminalizing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.⁶ The 2015 law also criminalizes hate speech in relation to sexual orientation.

10. In 2022, the Government enacted the Equal Treatment in Employment Act⁷ (the “Act”), which includes protections against discrimination based on “sexual attraction, orientation and gender identity in the workplace.”⁸ According to Article 1(b)(c) of the Act, the personal scope of this Act is limited to employees in the private sector and does not include civil servants. Therefore, LGBTQ+ civil servants do not benefit from its protections, and an employee in the civil service who faces discrimination must resort to the general laws such as Article 8 of the Constitution or the Criminal Code for recompense.
11. With the exception of the protections based on gender identity, of for example transgender and non-binary people in the Act, there are no legislative or policy protections for transgender people on the basis of gender identity by State and non-State actors outside of employment. There are also no legislative or policy protections against discrimination on the basis of gender expression or sex characteristics by State or non-State actors.
12. Additionally, in 2024, Suriname’s National Assembly was one of the first parliaments in the Americas region that approved the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the national census.⁹ The 2021-2035 Gender Vision Policy¹⁰ that strives to eradicate discriminating stereotypes and gender discrimination falls short to address LGBTIQ+ topics. The only reference to LGBTIQ+ people in the document is in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 5.1, which aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.¹¹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women’s recommendation 11b is referenced in the Policy document, calling for the amendment of Article 8, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of Suriname to recognize intersecting forms of discrimination against rural, Maroon, and Indigenous women; women with disabilities; and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex women. The Policy document indicates, however, that amending the Constitution is not easy, as a two-thirds majority vote is required. For this reason, the document allocates 10 to 15 years to implement that recommendation. The Bureau Gender Affairs of Ministry of Home Affairs helps to provide training sessions on gender and gender related issues to target groups. Additionally, since 2021, the Higher Vocational Education of the Civil Servants has included a gender-sensitive curriculum.¹²
13. Despite some progress in legal protections for LGBTQ+ people, many LGBTIQ+ people continue to experience discrimination, harassment, and violence by both State and non-State actors.¹³ The Government also does not consistently enforce its own protections against discrimination.¹⁴
14. For example, when a lesbian woman and her partner attempted to report a theft to the police, they were blamed for the theft; the officer said it was “God’s condemnation of their lesbian sexual behavior.”¹⁵ The police prevented the women from filing a report and illegally detained them overnight at the police station, despite the women being the victims of the theft.¹⁶ Similar reports have been made regarding police providing harsh and unfair treatment to transgender people and gay men seeking their assistance.¹⁷
15. There are also credible reports that security forces have physically assaulted and arbitrarily arrested transgender individuals.¹⁸ Unlike many of its Caribbean Community (CARICOM) counterparts, Suriname does not have a dedicated, independent police oversight body. All complaints against police officers are investigated and dealt with internally. This stymies

any attempt at redress for this type of conduct by officers and allows it to continue unchecked.¹⁹

16. Discrimination by non-State actors also impedes LGBTIQ+ people's fully enjoyment of their human rights. For example, a Surinamese-born and Dutch-raised transgender woman who has moved back to Suriname notes that she gained public attention after videos were posted of her arguing with a security guard after she had tried to use the women's toilets in a shopping mall. She has also lost out on economic opportunities because of her gender identity and expression, including being "sidelined" from her job in Paramaribo's Javanese market in Kwatta. Her colleague was concerned that a transgender salesperson would cost their stall sales revenue because people would not wish to buy from a transgender person.²⁰
17. Additionally, some religious institutions directly oppose LGBTIQ+ rights. Christian-based groups such as the Association of Full Gospel and Pentecostal Churches vocally opposed the acceptance of LGBTIQ+ individuals, citing their "unnatural" lifestyle.²¹
18. A 2024 survey conducted among LGBTIQ+ individuals showed that 67% of those individuals had experienced discrimination in the prior year.²² One transgender individual reported that despite meeting all the requirements to be a flight attendant, people in the human resources department informed them that their application is "immediately taken out of the pile" each time they apply.²³
19. There are also incidents of LGBTIQ+ people experiencing physical violence, including two respective groups of students beating their classmates because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Civil society organizations note that there is a higher rate of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people in regions with "strong religious influences"²⁴ (see paragraph 17 above).
20. In addition, some religious leaders and family members have subjected lesbian, gay, and transgender people to "demon exorcisms"²⁵ and other forms of so-called "conversion therapy."
21. In particular, LGBTIQ+ youth face considerable stigma, discrimination, and violence from family members, including but not limited to, expulsion from the home. These individuals are at increased risk of homelessness and housing insecurity; exposure to violence and exploitation; barriers to education, healthcare, and employment; and increased risk of criminalization and mental health harm. These cumulative human rights violations are further complicated by the lack of specialized shelters or safe housing, family mediation mechanisms sensitive to SOGIESC issues, and coordinated social services for displaced LGBTIQ+ youth.²⁶
22. According to a study reported in 2022, 86% of people between the ages of 16 and 25 who identify as members of the LGBTIQ+ community have indicated problems with their self-image due to bullying or discrimination.²⁷
23. In 2022, the Government of Suriname launched a zero-tolerance policy against bullying, which was prompted by a video of a 15-year-old student being assaulted on account of his sexual orientation.²⁸ The ministry emphasized the serious consequences that bullying can have on the lives of the victims, and warned that "physical violence in bullying constitutes a crime."²⁹ It is unclear whether this policy is consistently enforced.

24. Research indicates that after coming out to family members, some family members inflict violence on their LGBTQ+ relatives.³⁰ Following this domestic violence, some LGBTQ+ people left their homes or went abroad in order to stop future acts of violence.³¹
25. Studies have shown a consistent trend in increasing violence, harassment, and discrimination toward the transgender individuals and men who have sex with men (MSMs) from 2020 to 2024.³² In 2026, it was reported that overall crime rates in Suriname dropped 23%, yet cases of domestic violence have risen.³³ While domestic violence is a priority area for the State's Gender Vision Policy for 2021-2025, the path to implementation of new protective measures is unclear.³⁴
26. Despite this evidence of violence, in 2022, the State indicated that it has not received any complaints regarding violence, harassment or discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals.³⁵ Moreover, the State identified that education on human rights, including LGBTIQ+ rights, were incorporated into the Law Enforcement Officer training curricula.³⁶ Official reports of violence against LGBTIQ+ people, however, are likely not representative of actual cases, as individuals cite a fear of retribution. Discrimination by police (see paragraph 15 above) likely also has a chilling effect on LGBTIQ+ reporting the violence they have experienced.³⁷
27. Although there are some legal protections for LGBTIQ+ people, there are also several lacunae, including legal protections for intersex minors against non-medically necessary and permanent medical interventions and restrictions on or prohibitions against the use of so-called "conversion therapies" that attempt to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.³⁸

National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

28. During its last UPR, Suriname received and supported 14 recommendations related to the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles and to allocate sufficient resources in the national budget to do so.³⁹
29. The Government of Suriname announced its NHRI in 2016, though civil society organizations (CSOs) documented little progress on the establishment of the NHRI from 2017 to 2021. During this time, the Government used the exact same language to describe its NHRI policy measure in its annual budget: "The Human Rights Bureau will be transformed into a Human Rights Institute with a broader mandate, more authority and a better structure. This according to the Paris Principles [sic]."⁴⁰
30. In 2022, CSOs were consulted in the initial drafting of enabling legislation but were not involved in subsequent developments. Neither CSOs nor the National Assembly have received final draft legislation, and it is unknown whether the Government has incorporated CSOs' feedback into the draft bill.⁴¹
31. As of November 2024, the Government of Suriname reported that the draft legislation was under review by the State Council.⁴²
32. In its 2025 budget, the Government noted that the NHRI "staffing and organizational plan is being prepared, and the tasks and powers are being reviewed."⁴³ Furthermore, the budget

stated that “an awareness campaign has been carried out” and that “existing institutions for legal protection... are being evaluated and decentralized.”⁴⁴ While this budget notes concrete steps being taken—in contrast to prior budgets, whose descriptions provided minimal information—no major milestones have been reported.

Sexual & reproductive health and rights

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

33. During its last UPR, Suriname received and supported three recommendations related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁴⁵ The recommendations made included: advancing access to education and medical services in the area of sexual and reproductive health, providing comprehensive school curriculum regarding sexuality education, and developing a program that provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education.
34. While there is no information regarding whether the Government is implementing this education in schools, the Ministry of Health released its 2020-2030 goals for national sexual and reproductive health and rights. It outlined that some of its goals include developing legislation for sexual and reproductive health services to create a standard for all services, enhance sexual and reproductive health services in primary care, facilitate the dissemination of information, and strengthen the partnership between public and private entities.⁴⁶ It appears Suriname is continuing to work towards expanding education regarding sexual and reproductive health, but it is unknown whether this sexual education contains any information on LGBTIQ+ sexualities in line with international standards or whether this information will come from CSOs instead of the Government.
35. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is available, but only through private providers. This disproportionately affects individuals who are either poor and/or do not have access to private medical care.⁴⁷

Rights related to name, identity & nationality

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Fully Implemented

36. During its last UPR, Suriname received and noted one recommendation to implement appropriate gender recording in the deeds of the civil registry and to allow updating the registers of birth following “gender and sex reassignment.”⁴⁸
37. Suriname currently lacks any legislation on legal gender recognition. In 2022, the High Court ruled in favor of a plaintiff seeking to change their legal gender, finding that privacy protections and protections from discrimination extended to transgender people. The Court rejected the State’s argument that legal gender recognition should be left to the National Assembly (parliament) to decide.⁴⁹
38. Unfortunately, the Court also determined that “complete gender reassignment surgery,” psychological assessments, and “gender screenings” were prerequisites before a transgender person could request legal gender recognition, despite international trends toward requiring less invasive or no surgical interventions prior to legal gender recognition.⁵⁰ Although gender-affirming care is available, there are social stigmas

associated with individuals who have undergone gender-affirming care. Further, gender-affirming care can be costly. Finally, there is also no recognition of non-binary gender.

39. Though the plaintiff in this court case is the only person who has successfully changed their legal gender in the country,⁵¹ the case recognized that these fundamental rights extend to transgender people.

Rights related to marriage & family

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

40. During its last UPR, Suriname received and noted one recommendation to update Article 80 of the Civil Code—which defines marriage as a union of one man and one woman—to be gender neutral to guarantee the right to family life by LGBTI+ persons.⁵²
41. Suriname recently updated its Civil Code in 2025, the provision on marriage has not been made gender neutral, nor does it permit same-sex marriage. This follows the trend that any significant protection of rights for LGBTIQ+ individuals comes solely from international law or through strategic litigation rather than Suriname’s own legislature which has a mandate to reform the law.
42. In 2018, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) held that same-sex marriage is a human right under the American Convention on Human Rights of which Suriname is a signatory. Despite this ruling, Suriname has yet to codify any same-sex marriage protections in its laws.⁵³
43. In 2023, the Constitutional Court of Suriname, decided that Article 80 of the previous Civil Code was exclusively drafted for different-sex marriages and did not have the intention to exclude same-sex marriages. For that reason, Article 80 was not found discriminatory and was consequently upheld. The Court also found that marriage and family law of Suriname is silent on LGBTIQ+ family and privacy rights, which is inconsistent with Suriname’s obligations under treaty law, such as the American Convention on Human Rights. According to the Court, updating Suriname’s legislation in accordance with treaty law is the prerogative of the legislature.⁵⁴ This follows the trend of other courts in the region.
44. Additionally, in early 2025, a judge ruled in favor of two same-sex couples that were married outside of Suriname and had requested their marriages be recognized but were denied. The court held that the Suriname Central Bureau for Civic Affairs must register the marriages in order to comply with the international treaties to which Suriname had acceded.⁵⁵

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

45. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Suriname:
- Enact comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination by State and non-State actors based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, and ensure consistent enforcement of this legislation.

- Ensure that the current protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity are consistently enforced and provide sufficient public information on how LGBTIQ+ people can exercise these rights.
- Adopt an independent police oversight body that impartially, promptly, and thoroughly investigates all claims of violations of human rights by police officers.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ organizations, develop and fully fund public education campaigns on LGBTIQ+ people and their human rights, so as to foster positive attitudes toward LGBTIQ+ people.
- Explicitly acknowledge stigma and social exclusion of LGBTIQ+ people as structural human rights barriers requiring preventative policy responses.
- Develop targeted protection mechanisms, including emergency housing, psychosocial support, and family mediation for LGBTIQ+ youth displaced due to their identity.
- Ensure access to education, healthcare, and social services for homeless or at-risk LGBTIQ+ individuals without discrimination.
- Recognize that, in exceptional circumstances where national protection fails, international protection mechanisms, including asylum, may constitute a necessary last-resort measure.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ organizations, draft and enact legislation that simplifies the legal gender recognition process and remove all surgical and medical barriers to legal gender recognition.
- Engage transparently with civil society organizations in ongoing processes to establish Suriname’s NHRI and bring it into compliance with the Paris Principles.
- Implement comprehensive sexuality education across different age groups that corresponds with international standards, including factually accurate LGBTIQ+-specific sexuality education.
- Amend Article 33, Book 1 of the Civil Code to permit same-sex marriages, compatible with the IACHR decision mandating same-sex marriage.

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1. ¶ 98.22 Take the necessary steps towards the adoption of legislative and other measures to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji); ¶ 98.25 Enact legislation that specifically addresses discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Israel); ¶ 98.26 Consider passing legislation that specifically addresses discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina); ¶ 98.27 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia).

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6. ¶ 97.64 Continue taking measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Chile); ¶ 97.68 Strengthen the efforts to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, children and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy); ¶ 97.75 Seek training for law enforcement and judicial officers to ensure accountability for gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex

communities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ¶ 98.23 Make article 80 of the Civil Code gender neutral to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to family life by LGBTI+ persons (Iceland).

³ GRONDWET [CONSTITUTION] Dec. 18, 1987, S.B. 1987 no. 116, art 8 (Suriname).

⁴ Staatsblad van de Republiek Suriname [Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname], No. 44 (2015), Arts. 175, 175a, 176, 500a. Also available at <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/102211/SUR102211.pdf>.

⁵ Wetboek van Strafrecht (G.B. 1911, no. 1) [Criminal Code (Official Gazette 1911, no. 1)].

⁶ ILGA World, “Database: Suriname,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/suriname-lgbti>.

⁷ Wet Gelijke Behandeling Arbeid (S.B. 2022, no. 137) [Equal Treatment in Employment Act (Official Gazette 2022, no. 137)]. Also accessible at https://www.dna.sr/media/ikeltftw/sb_2022___137.pdf.

⁸ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 8 (Jul. 2024). Also available at

[https://ccprcentre.org/files/media/INT_CCPR_CSS_SUR_58661_E_\(2\).pdf](https://ccprcentre.org/files/media/INT_CCPR_CSS_SUR_58661_E_(2).pdf).

⁹ *Suriname*, OUTRIGHT INTERNATIONAL (Jan. 27, 2026, 2:37 PM), <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/suriname>.

¹⁰ Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau of Gender Affairs, *Gendervisie-Beleidsdocument [Gender Vision Policy Document]*, (June 2019), <https://gov.sr/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-juli-nederlandse-printversie-gender-vision-policy-document-2021-2035-1.pdf>

¹¹ Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau of Gender Affairs, *Gendervisie-Beleidsdocument [Gender Vision Policy Document]*, (June 2019), <https://gov.sr/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-juli-nederlandse-printversie-gender-vision-policy-document-2021-2035-1.pdf>.

¹² MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, NATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION +30, 29 (Nov. 2024), https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/b30_report_suriname_en.pdf.

¹³ Carla Alma Bakboord, Saskia Keuzenkamp & Sawitri Saharso, *Surinamese–Hindustani Same-Sex Love Individuals: Coping with Negative Responses from Parents in a Collectivistic Culture*, SEXUALITY & CULTURE 846 (Nov. 22, 2022).

¹⁴ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 8 (Jul. 2024).

¹⁵ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).

¹⁶ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).

¹⁷ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).

¹⁸ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 12 (Jul. 2024).

¹⁹ The Law on Police Use of Force Worldwide, “Suriname,” accessed Mar. 17, 2026, <https://www.policinglaw.info/country/suriname>.

²⁰ Moïse Manoël-Florisse, *One trans woman’s journey to find her cultural roots in Suriname*, Erasing 76Crimes, Feb. 25, 2024, <https://76crimes.com/2024/02/25/one-trans-womans-journey-to-find-her-cultural-roots-in-suriname/>.

²¹ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 13 (Jul. 2024).

²² Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 13 (Jul. 2024).

²³ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 221 (2024).

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- ²⁴ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 11 (Jul. 2024).
- ²⁵ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 212 (2024).
- ²⁶ Email from Suriname Men United to The Advocates for Human Rights (Mar. 11, 2026) (on file with authors).
- ²⁷ STARNIEUWS, *AWJ Calls on Young People to Stop Bullying* (Oct. 21, 2022) <https://www.starnieuws.com/index.php/welcome/index/nieuwsitem/72504>.
- ²⁸ CARIBBEAN NATIONAL WEEKLY, *Suriname Launches Zero-Tolerance Policy Against Bullying* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/news/caribbean-news/suriname/suriname-launches-zero-tolerance-policy-against-bullying/>.
- ²⁹ STARNIEUWS, *AWJ Calls on Young People to Stop Bullying* (Oct. 21, 2022) <https://www.starnieuws.com/index.php/welcome/index/nieuwsitem/72504>.
- ³⁰ Carla Alma Bakboord, Saskia Keuzenkamp & Sawitri Saharso, *Surinamese–Hindustani Same-Sex Love Individuals: Coping with Negative Responses from Parents in a Collectivistic Culture*, *SEXUALITY & CULTURE* 855 (Nov. 22, 2022).
- ³¹ Carla Alma Bakboord, Saskia Keuzenkamp & Sawitri Saharso, *Surinamese–Hindustani Same-Sex Love Individuals: Coping with Negative Responses from Parents in a Collectivistic Culture*, *SEXUALITY & CULTURE* 855 (Nov. 22, 2022).
- ³² Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 12 (Jul. 2024).
- ³³ Times of Suriname, *Crime Rate Drops but Domestic Violence Rises* (Jan. 1, 2026 13:00), <https://www.surinametimes.com/artikel/crime-rate-drops-but-domesticviolence-rises>.
- ³⁴ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 17 (Jul. 2024).
- ³⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Fourth Period Report Submitted by Suriname under Article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020*, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/SUR/4 ¶ 70 (Dec. 5, 2022).
- ³⁶ United Nations, *Common Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of States Parties: Suriname*, U.N. Doc. HRI/CORE/SUR/2022 ¶ 142 (Jan. 11, 2022).
- ³⁷ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).. For example, a lesbian woman who had reported theft to the police later stated “...we will never again go to the police station to file a complaint. We will just try to solve the problem ourselves.” *Id.*
- ³⁸ ILGA World, “Database: Suriname,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/suriname-lgbti>.
- ³⁹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6. ¶ 97.13 Establish and operationalize a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile); ¶ 97.13 Establish and operationalize, in consultation with stakeholders, in particular with human rights civil society organizations, a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Haiti); ¶ 97.13 Step up efforts to establish and operationalize a national human rights institution as per the Paris Principles (Nepal); ¶ 97.13 Establish and operationalize a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine); ¶ 97.13 Establish and fully operationalize a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia); ¶ 97.13 Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (France); ¶ 97.14 Consider operationalization of the National Human Rights Institute in accordance with the Paris Principles (India); ¶ 97.15 Continue the progress to establish and operationalize a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, involving also possible bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia); ¶ 97.16 Intensify efforts to operationalize the work of the National Human Rights Institute in line with the Paris Principles (Iraq); ¶ 97.17 Advance the goal to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia); ¶ 97.18 Take steps to operationalize the National Human Rights Institute

(Pakistan); ¶ 97.19 Make further efforts to fully operationalize the National Human Rights Institute in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea); ¶ 97.20 Take dedicated measures to effectively operationalize the National Human Rights Institute, established in 2016, in compliance with the Paris Principles, with a broad mandate, including the promotion and protection of women’s rights, children’s rights and gender equality (Slovenia). Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1. ¶ 98.21 Operationalize the National Human Rights Institute by allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources in the national budget (Maldives).

⁴⁰ Center for Civil and Political Rights, “Is there a National Human Rights Institution in Suriname,” accessed Feb. 10, 2026, <https://ccprcentre.org/ccprpages/is-there-a-national-human-rights-institution-in-suriname>.

⁴¹ Projekta, *Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Suriname*, 5 (Jul. 2024).

⁴² MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, NATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION +30 10 (Nov. 2024), https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/b30_report_suriname_en.pdf.

⁴³ S.B. 2025 no. 122, Afdeling 1. Ministerie van Justitie en Politie, p. 65 (Suriname).

<https://www.dna.sr/media/oatbmkcu/s-b-2025-no-122-wet-staatsbegroting-2025-compleet-28-10.pdf>.

⁴⁴ S.B. 2025 no. 122, Afdeling 1. Ministerie van Justitie en Politie, p. 65 (Suriname).

<https://www.dna.sr/media/oatbmkcu/s-b-2025-no-122-wet-staatsbegroting-2025-compleet-28-10.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021),

U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6. ¶ 98.37 Advance in the development and implementation of measures to guarantee access to education and medical services in the field of sexual and reproductive health appropriate for each age group (Colombia); ¶ 98.38 Provide access to comprehensive sexuality education as part of the school curriculum (Denmark); ¶ 98.39 Develop a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education programme, focusing on the prevention of adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (Mexico).

⁴⁶ *National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy of Suriname 2020-2030*, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (2020), https://suriname.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/Final%20Suriname%20SRH%20policy%202020-2030%20J.Terborg_MOH_UNFPA2%2C%20JT290420.pdf.

⁴⁷ UNFPA Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, “Maternal Health,” accessed Mar. 17, 2026,

<https://caribbean.unfpa.org/en/topics/maternal-health>.

⁴⁸ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1. ¶ 98.24 Review and make compatible with applicable law all policies and measures on gender recording in the deeds of the civil registry, to allow supplementing the registers of birth following gender and sex reassignment (Iceland).

⁴⁹ ILGA World, “Database: Suriname,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/suriname-lgbti>.

⁵⁰ Equaldex, “LGBT Rights in Suriname,” accessed Feb. 10, 2026, <https://www.equaldex.com/region/suriname>.

⁵¹ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).

⁵² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1. ¶ 98.23 Make article 80 of the Civil Code gender neutral to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to family life by LGBTI+ persons (Iceland).

⁵³ Cecilia Miller, *LGBT Rights in Suriname: Everything You Should Know Before You Visit!*, QUEER IN THE WORLD (Jan. 27, 2026, 2:55 PM), <https://queerintheworld.com/lgbt-rights-in-suriname/>.

⁵⁴ Carla Bakboord & Jonneke Koomen, *Leskepi Mi: Respect for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Suriname* 214 (2024).

⁵⁵ *2 same-sex couples win lawsuit against state*, TIMES OF SURINAME, (Jan. 27, 2026, 2:58 PM), <https://www.surinametimes.com/artikel/2-same-sex-couples-win-lawsuit-against-state>.