



**Guyana**

**Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: LGBT+ Rights**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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and

**SASOD Guyana**

**for the 49th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**April – May 2025**

**Submitted 11 October 2024**

**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.

**Khaleem Ali** is a youth human rights defender based in Trinidad and Tobago with more than a decade of experience in activism. He attended the 137th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and the 52nd meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee (ICCPR) as an expert on human rights issues in the Caribbean Region. He has subsequently been appointed to working groups at the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in France and as a consultant on Youth, Peace, and Security for the UNESCO Support Group (Eastern Caribbean). Khaleem currently serves on the board of the Greater Caribbean for Life, a regional entity focused on the abolition of the Death Penalty.

**SASOD Guyana** is a human rights organisation and movement that works to eradicate all forms of discrimination in Guyana, especially on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and to promote the human rights of all people, especially those facing discrimination. SASOD Guyana advocates under three main areas: Homophobia Education, Human Rights & Human Services.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana (“Guyana”) has no law that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and as a result lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual or gender minorities (LGBT+) people experience stigmatization and discrimination with little available redress.
2. The Government of Guyana retains colonial era laws criminalizing consensual same-sex activities, that, although not enforced, lead to stigmatization, discrimination, and violence against those in the LGBT+ community.
3. A constitutional reform committee exists to consult with the Guyanese people regarding changes to Guyana’s constitution, which could include expanding a constitutional anti-discrimination provision to include discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. This change would require majority approval of Guyana’s Parliament and the Guyanese citizens who vote.
4. Despite the Government’s reluctance to adopt protections for LGBT+ people, public surveys indicate that a majority of people are receptive changes in the law to protect the LGBT+ community.
5. In this report, we use the acronym LGBT+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender. These terms necessarily do not include everyone who may experience violations of their human rights on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression (SOGIE) status, 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 LGBT+ population.

### I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

**Theme: Equality & non-discrimination; Right to an adequate standard of living**

#### **Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Partially Implemented**

6. In Guyana’s Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review (Third Cycle), Costa Rica recommended that the Government of Guyana modify its Prevention of Discrimination Act “to include all grounds of discrimination, broaden the scope of its application beyond the labour sphere and adjust it to international human rights standards.”<sup>1</sup> Guyana supported this recommendation, noting that this Act is not limited to the labour sphere.<sup>2</sup>
7. Canada also recommended that Guyana implement a court decision finding unconstitutional a law criminalizing cross-dressing.<sup>3</sup> Guyana supported the recommendation<sup>4</sup> and repealed the law in 2021.<sup>5</sup>
8. Guyana further supported recommendations<sup>6</sup> that it reinforce raising awareness to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes,<sup>7</sup> and make normative adjustments to ensure the inclusion of the LGBT+ community in the country’s economic activities.<sup>8</sup> Despite its support of the recommendations, the Government has taken few steps to implement these recommendations.

9. Three recommendations urged Guyana to prevent discrimination and violence against the LGBT+ community, including one recommendation to provide police with trainings to sensitize them to responding to LGBT+ victims of violence and discrimination.<sup>9</sup> The Government of Guyana supported these recommendations,<sup>10</sup> but has taken few actions to implement these recommendations.
10. In its Third-Cycle review, the Government noted<sup>11</sup> Australia’s recommendation to allocate adequate resources to ensure the LGBT+ community’s full enjoyment of rights.<sup>12</sup>
11. The Government also noted ten recommendations<sup>13</sup> to protect LGBT+ individuals by amending Guyana’s Constitution and laws to expand the grounds of prohibited discrimination or by repealing laws that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity.<sup>14</sup>
12. In 2022 Guyana acknowledged to the Human Rights Committee that Guyana’s laws do not specifically prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity,<sup>15</sup> but pointed to Article 149(1) of its Constitution and the Prevention of Discrimination Act,<sup>16</sup> which both prohibit discrimination on a variety of other grounds.
13. Article 149(1) of the Constitution proscribes discrimination because of “race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, age, disability, marital status, sex, gender, language, birth, social class, pregnancy, religion, conscience, belief or culture.”<sup>17</sup> The Prevention of Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination in employment and other area based on “race, sex, religion, colour, ethnic origin, indigenous population, national extraction, social origin, economic status, political opinion, disability, family responsibilities, pregnancy, marital status or age.”<sup>18</sup> Neither law expressly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.<sup>19</sup>
14. Despite global trends toward decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults, Guyana remains the only country in South America that continues to criminalize such activity and the only country in North and South America where the law criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity has not been challenged in court.<sup>20</sup>
15. There are reports that LGBT+ people face discrimination in the workplace, including employers refusing to hire LGBT+ people.<sup>21</sup> Under the current law, “[e]mployers use the lack of this protected status to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons” and lack any form of redress when they do experience discrimination.<sup>22</sup>
16. There is widespread discrimination against LGBT+ individuals in Guyana, including official and social discrimination in employment, access to education and medical care, and in public spaces.<sup>23</sup> Transgender activists note that this widespread discrimination against all LGBT+ people puts them at the “lowest socioeconomic level in society.”<sup>24</sup>
17. The Government seems to be making some efforts to eradicate stigma of being in the LGBT+ community.<sup>25</sup> The National AIDS Programme under the Ministry of Health provided sexual and reproductive health and rights services at the PRIDE events during the 2023 PRIDE month, offering on-site check-ups and treatment.
18. Despite these improvements, members of the LGBT+ community in Guyana are often reluctant to seek medical checkups and treatment for sexually transmitted infections or diseases due to the social stigma associated with being a member of the LGBT+ community and fear of being shamed. Discrimination from healthcare staff who are intolerant of the LGBT+ community has also been experienced.

19. In its response to the Human Rights Committee’s May 2024 recommendation that the Government of Guyana adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination,<sup>26</sup> the Government noted that amendments expanding Article 149 protections to include sexual orientation, and sexual identity will be subject to review during a 2024 constitutional review process.<sup>27</sup>
20. A constitutional reform committee was appointed in 2024 to solicit feedback from people about constitutional changes,<sup>28</sup> but amending Article 149 of the Constitution requires approval by a majority of all legislators and a majority of all voting Guyanese.<sup>29</sup>
21. The Government’s position is contrasted by the results of a public opinion poll conducted in 2022, which found that 72.4 percent of people polled saying they “accept and tolerate LGBT persons.”<sup>30</sup> More specifically, 53.9 percent of respondents said they are “likely to support” decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults and 49.6 percent said that the Government should prioritize protections for LGBT people.<sup>31</sup> One of these protections includes legislation that protects against workplace discrimination, which 72 percent of respondents support. Further, the poll found that the number of people who reported “hating” LGBT people had decreased from 25 percent in 2013 to 12 percent in 2022.
22. Guyana retains colonial-era laws that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between adult men.<sup>32</sup> Section 351 of Guyana’s Criminal Law (Offences) Act provides that a male committing an undefined “act of gross indecency” with another male can be sentenced to two years in prison.<sup>33</sup> Under Section 352 of the Act, everyone attempting to commit buggery can be imprisoned for ten years,<sup>34</sup> and under Section 353 of the Act everyone committing buggery can be sentenced to life imprisonment.<sup>35</sup> Section 354 of the Act provides that everyone who in a public space commits a vague “indecent act” may be sentenced to two years imprisonment.<sup>36</sup>
23. Because there are no gender-recognition laws that permit transgender people to be legally recognized as their gender, the Government legally classifies transgender women as men. Thus, if transgender women engage in consensual sexual activity with cisgender men, they would also be criminally liable under buggery laws.
24. These laws are not currently being enforced. Reports suggest, however, that police sometimes use the laws to intimidate men they perceive to be gay or bisexual and transgender women.<sup>37</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, “[these laws] are broad, vaguely worded, and serve to legitimize bias and hostility toward ... gay, bisexual and transgender ([L]GBT) people.”<sup>38</sup>
25. Although the Government reported to the Human Rights Committee in 2022 that it is considering the repeal of sections 352 to 354, the Government noted that “[a]s with all complex or controversial matters the GoG [Government of Guyana] will involve national stakeholders.”<sup>39</sup> Guyana did not explain what the process for such involvement would be, why the involvement is necessary or who the national stakeholders are.
26. In its 2022 State Part report to the Human Rights Committee, the Government noted that it was “unable to verify instances of ill-treatment of LGBTQI persons in police custody and prison, as there have been no formal reports of these instances in recent times to the relevant bodies.”<sup>40</sup> Although the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) is mandated to investigate any

police failure to adequately handle reports of discrimination, abuse, violence and death regarding any citizen, including those in the LGBT+ community,<sup>41</sup> the PCA’s Chairman has alleged that the Police Commissioner is not reviewing complaints made to the PCA.<sup>42</sup>

27. Despite the PCA system being in place to report violations of human rights, it is possible that LGBT+ people do not report all the violations they experience to the PCA for fear of further victimization and/or police inaction with regard to their case.
28. Non-State actors continue to inflict violence upon LGBT+ people. When LGBT+ people do report these incidents of violence to police, police seldom investigate these reports.<sup>43</sup> LGBT+ people have reported police officers verbally harassing LGBT+ people outside of police stations and police discriminating against and verbally and physically abusing LGBT+ people arriving to report crimes committed by non-State actors.<sup>44</sup>
29. Further, “[t]rans women have their cases mishandled and face an ineffective police complaint process. When cases do end up in the courts, they encounter discrimination and even outright denial of access to the courts because of [their] gender expression.”<sup>45</sup>
30. In July 2024, a shooter shot and killed a transgender sex worker in a “targeted crime.”<sup>46</sup> The individual was standing with someone else on a street in Georgetown when a car approached and someone inside the car shot the transgender individual.<sup>47</sup>
31. In 2021, a cisgender man and a transgender woman returned to Guyana after being married in the U.S. Photos of their marriage had gone viral in Guyana, and upon their return the couple’s home was ransacked and they faced death threats. They have since left Guyana and sought asylum in the U.S.<sup>48</sup>
32. A Guyanese news source reported in 2021 that the brother of a 21-year-old transgender woman’s girlfriend allegedly shot the transgender woman “largely because of her sexual [sic] identity.”<sup>49</sup>
33. Despite non-State actors engaging in violence with LGBT+ people, a 2022 survey found that 72.4% of surveyed Guyanese said they were “accepting” or “tolerant” of “homosexuals,” representing a 28.5% increase from those giving such responses to a 2013 survey.<sup>50</sup> According to report, 49.6% of those surveyed believed that the Government should protect the rights of gay, bisexual and transgender people,<sup>51</sup> and 53.9% of those surveyed were “somewhat likely,” “likely,” or “very likely” to support decriminalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity between two men.<sup>52</sup>

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

34. The coauthors of this stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Guyana:
  - Amend Article 149(1) of the Constitution to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.
  - Amend the Prevention of Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and/or sex characteristics.
  - Take steps to raise public awareness on LGBT+ issues in order to mitigate social prejudices, stigmatization, harassment, discrimination, and violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and/or sex

characteristics.

- Repeal sections 352 to 354 of the Criminal Laws (Offenses) Act.
- Immediately instruct police to cease enforcing or threatening to enforce any law criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity between adult men.
- Adopt legislation in consultation with LGBT+ organizations that permits transgender individuals to change their legal gender.
- Develop mandatory police training and procedures for responding to claims of discrimination and violence against LGBT+ people.
- Establish an independent body tasked with overseeing LGBT+ protection. Ensure that this body has resources for proper functioning and sufficient sub-offices in various regions to be able to provide refuge, support, and redress to LGBT+ people.
- Establish a special taskforce for dealing with crimes related to gender identity and expression.
- Permit and provide funding to civil society organizations to collect and publish annual data on human rights violations perpetrated by State and non-State actors against LGBT+ people.
- Establish a Joint Select Committee within Parliament on the theme of human rights focusing on marginalized communities, inclusive of the LGBT+ community, so as to collect and make public data on the the lived experiences of LGBT+ people.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.43 Promote the pertinent modifications to the Prevention of Discrimination Act in order to include all grounds of discrimination, broaden the scope of its application beyond the labour sphere and adjust it to international human rights standards (Costa Rica).

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶ 100.43.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶100.57 Implement the 2018 ruling of the Caribbean Court of Justice regarding the unconstitutionality of the law banning cross-dressing (Canada).

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶ 100.57.

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶ 115.

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶¶ 100.46, 100.49.

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.46 Reinforce awareness-raising to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes (Timor-Leste).

<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.49 Make the necessary normative adjustments to ensure the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the economic activities of the country (Dominican Republic).

<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.48 Continue advancing in the fight to prevent and combat all acts of violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Chile); ¶ 100.54 Continue taking all necessary measures to guarantee lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people the full enjoyment, on equal terms, of their human rights, repealing the norms that penalize and stigmatize them, and investigating and punishing

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cases of violence or discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina); ¶ 100.59 Integrate sensitization training into the national police curriculum to improve responses to violence and discrimination against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity and develop a State policy on preventing and addressing discrimination of persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland).

<sup>10</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶¶ 100.48, 100.54, 100.59.

<sup>11</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶ 100.107.

<sup>12</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.107 Allocate adequate resources for programmes ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights of women, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and indigenous peoples (Australia).

<sup>13</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana*, (Sept. 30, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/Add.1, ¶¶ 100.40, 100.41, 100.51, 100.52, 100.53, 100.55, 100.56, 100.58, 100.60, 100.61.

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guyana* (Mar. 20, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/44/16/, ¶ 100.40 Consider amending article 149 of its Constitution, to ensure its compliance with international human rights law (Brazil); ¶ 100.41 Review existing legislation to repeal provisions that stigmatize or discriminate against people or certain sectors of the population on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability (Mexico); ¶ 100.51 Modify article 149 of the Constitution to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, update the Prevention of Discrimination Act to include these grounds of discrimination and decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between adults (Spain); ¶ 100.52 Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ¶ 100.53 Repeal the laws that criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status or conduct, including sections 351 to 353 of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act (United States of America); ¶ 100.55 Repeal all provisions of law criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults, including those of the same sex, and take legislative and other measures to protect survivors of violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Australia); ¶ 100.56 Repeal legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex activity between adults (Canada); ¶ 100.58 Revise the legal framework to decriminalize homosexuality and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Netherlands); ¶ 100.60 Repeal any legal provisions that discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity and take all necessary steps to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from all forms of discrimination, including the decriminalization of consensual same-sex conduct between adults (Ireland); ¶ 100.61 Decriminalize homosexuality and take measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy).

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Document CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶ 114.

<sup>16</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶¶ 81-83.

<sup>17</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 1:01, CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ACT, §149(1) (2012). Available online at: <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 23, 2024).

<sup>18</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 99:08, Prevention of Discrimination Act (2012), §4(2). Available online at <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 23, 2024).

<sup>19</sup> *LGBTQ community unite to draw attention to Inequalities*, Guyana Chronicles, June 30, 2024, <https://guyanachronicle.com/2024/06/30/lgbtq-community-unite-to-draw-attention-to-inequalities/> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).

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- <sup>20</sup> Moïse Manoël-Florisie, *Despite progress, Guyana holds tight to its homophobia*, Erasing 76 Crimes, Jan. 10, 2024, <https://76crimes.com/2024/01/10/despite-progress-guyana-holds-tight-to-its-homophobia/>.
- <sup>21</sup> Mosa Telford, *An Inclusive Guyana Means Respecting our Gay and Transgender Neighbours*, Stabroek News, Stabroek News, Jan. 27, 2024, <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2024/01/27/features/think-on-that/an-inclusive-guyana-means-respecting-our-gay-and-transgender-neighbours/>.
- <sup>22</sup> *Guyana's Transgender community Calls for Protection under Anti-Discrimination Laws*, UNAIDS, Feb. 28, 2022, [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2022/february/20220228\\_guyana-transgender-anti-discrimination-laws](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2022/february/20220228_guyana-transgender-anti-discrimination-laws) (accessed Aug. 23, 2024). See also, *LGBTQ community unite to draw attention to Inequalities*, Guyana Chronicles, June 30, 2024, <https://guyanachronicle.com/2024/06/30/lgbtq-community-unite-to-draw-attention-to-inequalities/> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024). (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>23</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights, *Co-operative Republic of Guyana's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: LGBT+ Human Rights*, (Minneapolis, MN: The Advocates for Human Rights, Feb. 2024), ¶ 13.
- <sup>24</sup> *Guyana's Transgender community Calls for Protection under Anti-Discrimination Laws*, UNAIDS, Feb. 28, 2022, [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2022/february/20220228\\_guyana-transgender-anti-discrimination-laws](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2022/february/20220228_guyana-transgender-anti-discrimination-laws).
- <sup>25</sup> *SASOD Making Strides in Dual Battle Against HIV/AIDS and LGBTI+ Stigma*, Guyana Standard, June 11, 2023, <https://www.guyanastandard.com/2023/06/11/sasod-making-strides-in-dual-battle-against-hiv-aids-and-lgbtqi-stigma/>.
- <sup>26</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Guyana*, (May 3, 2024), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/CO/3, ¶ 15(a).
- <sup>27</sup> *Government of Guyana comments on the Advanced Unedited Version of the Concluding Observations*, Department of Public Information, accessed Aug. 23, 2024, ¶ 14. Available online at <https://dpi.gov.gy/a-release-from-the-government-of-guyana/>.
- <sup>28</sup> *Diverse 20-member Constitution Reform Commission appointed*, News Room, Apr. 3, 2024, <https://newsroom.gy/2024/04/03/diverse-20-member-constitution-reform-commission-appointed/>.
- <sup>29</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 1:01, CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ACT, §164, (2012). Available online at: <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>30</sup> *New 2022 poll finds LGBT acceptance has soared in Guyana*, Caribbean News Service, 2022, <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/new-2022-poll-finds-lgbt-acceptance-has-soared-in-guyana/>.
- <sup>31</sup> *New 2022 poll finds LGBT acceptance has soared in Guyana*, Caribbean News Service, 2022, <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/new-2022-poll-finds-lgbt-acceptance-has-soared-in-guyana/>.
- <sup>32</sup> *Types of criminalization: Guyana*, Human Dignity Trust, accessed Aug. 23, 2024. Available online at <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/guyana/>.
- <sup>33</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 8:01, Criminal Law (Offences) Act, § 351 (2012), Available online at <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>34</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 8:01, Criminal Law (Offences) Act, § 352 (2012), Available online at <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>35</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 8:01, Criminal Law (Offences) Act, § 353 (2012), Available online at <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>36</sup> Laws of Guyana, Cap. 8:01, Criminal Law (Offences) Act, § 354 (2012), Available online at <https://www.mola.gov.gy/laws-of-guyana> (accessed Aug. 16, 2024).
- <sup>37</sup> *Types of criminalization: Guyana*, Human Dignity Trust, accessed Aug. 23, 2024. Available online at <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/guyana/>.
- <sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Dominica High Court Decriminalizes Same-Sex Conduct: All Caribbean Nations Should Repeal Similar Criminal Laws," Apr. 24, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/04/24/dominica-high-court-decriminalizes-same-sex-conduct>.



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- <sup>39</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶ 116.
- <sup>40</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶ 117.
- <sup>41</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Guyana under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2021*, (May 31, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GUY/3, ¶ 118.
- <sup>42</sup> *Police Complaints Head Accuses Top Cop of Violating Act*, Strabroek News, Aug. 15, 2023, <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2023/08/15/news/guyana/police-complaints-head-accuses-top-cop-of-violating-act/>.
- <sup>43</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights, *Co-operative Republic of Guyana's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: LGBT+ Human Rights*, (Minneapolis, MN: The Advocates for Human Rights, Feb. 2024), ¶ 34.
- <sup>44</sup> Natassia Rambarran and Alessandra Hereman, SASOD Guyana, Guyana Trans United, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, *Desires for care and access to services among transgender persons in Guyana* (Georgetown: SASOD, 2020), 5.
- <sup>45</sup> Natassia Rambarran and Alessandra Hereman, SASOD Guyana, Guyana Trans United, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, *Desires for care and access to services among transgender persons in Guyana* (Georgetown: SASOD, 2020), 5.
- <sup>46</sup> *Transgender sex worker's murder was 'clearly targeted' – SASOD's Joel Simpson*, News Room, July 14, 2024, <https://newsroom.gy/2024/07/16/transgender-sex-workers-murder-was-clearly-targeted-sasods-joel-simpson/>.
- <sup>47</sup> *Suspect in sex worker's murder remanded*, Guyana Chronicle, July 20, 2024, <https://guyanachronicle.com/2024/07/20/suspect-in-sex-workers-murder-remanded/>.
- <sup>48</sup> Ralph Thomassaint Joseph, *Fleeing Persecution in Guyana, LGBTQ Couple's Life in New York is a "Dream Come True," Documented*, Feb. 14, 2024, <https://documentedny.com/2024/02/14/lgbtq-love-guyana-nyc-caribbean-equality/> (accessed Aug. 23, 2024).
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