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Somalia
Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
LGBTQ+ Human Rights

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

and ILGA World

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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.

ILGA World is a global federation comprising over 1,900 member organisations across more than 160 countries and territories. Dedicated to advancing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons, ILGA World works to promote equality, challenge discrimination, and amplify the voices of LGBTI communities worldwide.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an overview of human rights developments related to the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual- and gender-minority (LGBTQ+) people in Somalia since Somalia's last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2021.
2. The criminalization of private consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults leaves sexual and gender minorities at serious risk of harm and systematic exclusion. LGBTQ+ individuals in Somalia report cultural exclusion, threats, violence, and may face the death penalty in parts of Somalia and Somaliland. Local militia groups enforce violent punishments for LGBTQ+ individuals and those who support them, leading to significant limitations on free expression. Somalia's criminalization of same-sex sexual activity enables a culture where LGBTQ+ individuals are subject to conversion therapy, disownment, and violence, and many such individuals eventually seek safety outside of the country.
3. In this report, we use the acronym LGBTQ+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual and gender minorities. 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), 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 LGBTQ+ population.
4. This report was written in collaboration with an unnamed human rights organization in Somalia that did not wish to be named for fear of reprisals for reporting on human rights violations experienced by LGBTQ+ people. Given the severe social norms against LGBTQ+ people and the lack of protection for both LGBTQ+ people and all human rights defenders, our unnamed partners expressed concerns for their safety. They did, however, provide information about their work with LGBTQ+ people and validated secondary research.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Theme: Equality and non-discrimination; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons (LGBTI)

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

5. In its Third Cycle UPR in 2021, Somalia received three recommendations pertaining specifically to equality and non-discrimination for LGBTQ+ people.¹ Three Member States recommended decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.² Somalia noted these recommendations, explaining that: "All legislation in Somalia, including the Somali Constitution, must be fully in line with the Islamic Shariah."³ The concept that is advocated for in this recommendation goes against the Islamic Shariah. Therefore, recommendations such as this one cannot be accepted by Somalia."⁴

6. The United States also submitted to Somalia an advanced question, asking “The 1963 penal code criminalizes ‘carnal intercourse with a person of the same sex’ with a penalty of three months to three years’ imprisonment. What is the government’s plan to revise its laws so that LGBTQI+ persons are not targeted for prosecution on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity?”⁵
7. Since its 2021 Third-Cycle Review, Somalia’s legal landscape related to the criminalization of LGBTQ+ relations has not changed. Under Article 409 of Penal Code 1962, Somalia still criminalizes “acts of ‘carnal knowledge’ and ‘an act of lust’ with a person of the same sex.”⁶ Under Article 410, “security measures may also be imposed” in regard to same-sex sexual activity.⁷ Criminalization applies to both men and women, and the Penal Code imposes a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment for consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.⁸ While the Penal Code provides that the age of criminal liability is 14, and children between the ages of 14 and 18 are eligible for reduced punishments,⁹ reported experiences of discrimination and sentencing for LGBTQ+ youth are equal to the punishment faced by adults. The Penal Code of 1962 has been adopted by both Somalia and Somaliland.
8. In addition to the Penal Code, all same-sex sexual activity (consensual and non-consensual) is forbidden under Sharia law with a maximum penalty of death.¹⁰ The Provisional Constitution of Somalia, adopted in 2012, affirmed the primacy of Sharia law in Somalia, stating that “no law can be adopted that is not complaint with Sharia law.”¹¹ Although the Penal Code does not permit a death sentence for individuals convicted of same-sex sexual activity, Sharia law may impose the death penalty and multiple reports indicate certain Islamic courts have sentenced individuals found to have engaged in same-sex sexual activity to death; the de facto authorities then execute these individuals.¹²
9. In the northern region of the country, which refers to itself as the politically unrecognized area Somaliland, the Islamist militias who are the de facto authorities enforce the death penalty without Government intervention. In August 2024, news reports indicated that the Islamist group al-Shabaab executed one man and one teenager for having same-sex sexual relations.¹³ The 2024 execution occurred “in the presence of hundreds of civilians” and al-Shabaab announced that they had “executed [the men] according to the Islamic sharia.”¹⁴ This report indicates that local militias enforcing sharia law continue to enforce the death penalty against individuals found to have or believed to have engaged in consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.
10. State and non-State actors frequently subject LGBTQ+ people to violence, discrimination, and exclusion. A number of reports indicate ongoing instances of LGBTQ+ people fleeing their homes or the country to seek refuge or asylum due to fears of violence.¹⁵ The ongoing criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults contributes to a cultural atmosphere where LGBTQ+ individuals are unsafe and unprotected from harm. Even when the Government itself is not enforcing the death penalty, LGBTQ+ individuals may fear violence and harm from family members or others in their community.
11. In 2023, a 25-year-old gay man began to experience threats after his friend discovered he had a boyfriend.¹⁶ The man stated, “I’m very scared [that] the Islamic Youth Movement will know that I am gay[.] They will kill me. If my father finds out he will kill me or any

of my uncles. Now I don't go to work, I don't go out. [...] Even my mother will hate me and disown me. [...] There are religious organizations that are proud of killing homosexuals[.] If they find out about me, they will kill me.”¹⁷

12. The Government of Somalia and the de facto authorities in Somaliland both imprison a significant number of LGBTQ+ individuals. One individual incarcerated for religious apostasy reported coming across other individuals in jail because of their real or assumed sexual orientation, and that Somaliland judges indicated a rising number of cases against “homosexual” behavior.¹⁸ A report from 2023 indicated that 40 people were being held for “homosexuality” in Somaliland at one time, with 36 awaiting trial.¹⁹
13. Detention conditions in Somalia regularly do not meet international human rights standards, and LGBTQ+ individuals in detention are likely to face overcrowding, inadequate food and clean water, poor sanitation, and widespread diseases.²⁰
14. Somalia has no laws against so-called “conversion therapy” or any similar practices—whether they be committed by individuals or institutions—that seek to forcibly change the sexuality or gender identity of LGBTQ+ individuals. In fact, “rehabilitation centers” to which families send relatives they know or believe to be LGBTQ+, are common. These centers inflict physical and psychological violence on those who are sent there.
15. In 2020, the BBC reported the story of a 20-year-old man from Somaliland who experienced various forms of violence and discrimination for his sexuality.²¹ At age 12, “Mohamed” was sent to a rehabilitation center designed to “reform” young adults who do not comport with the norms of Somali culture. The conditions in these centers were severe, and staff members sexually abused Mohamed and other “patients.”²² People held in the “rehabilitation center” were also given potent drugs intended to induce “spiritual enlightenment.”²³ Mohamed was eventually forced to flee Somaliland to avoid being killed by his family or a militia group.²⁴
16. Another report from 2023 indicated that a Swedish teenager taken to Somalia was forced to enter a similar reformation institution due to being “too feminine.”²⁵ There, he was beaten and forced to pray for several hours a day. Children kept in such institutions are “burned and branded in various ways [...] beaten and locked in the dark for days, without food or water.”²⁶
17. Beyond criminalizing same-sex sexual activity, Somalia also lacks all other legal protections for LGBTQ+ people. Somalia does not allow same-sex unions; adoption by same-sex couples; legal gender recognition; or gender-affirming medical care; and it does not have laws that specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.²⁷ Somalia also lacks hate crime laws which protect LGBTQ+ individuals from violence, hate speech, and intimidation.²⁸

Freedom of opinion and expression

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

18. As part of the Third Cycle UPR, Somalia received one recommendation to end impunity for attacks against LGBTQ+ people.²⁹ Somalia noted this recommendation and referred to the same comment indicating the State Party’s assertion that the recommendation ran

contrary to Islamic Shariah.³⁰

19. As noted above, Article 409 of Penal Code 1962 criminalizes same-sex sexual activity. It is estimated, however, that 80-90% of all legal cases in Somalia are resolved through informal justice mechanisms rather than the official court system.³¹ Xeer, or customary law, is a collection of unwritten agreements, passed down orally from generation to generation and is one of the most common forms of dispute resolution in Somalia.³² It is also reported that many individuals utilize local ulamas (Muslim scholars) to apply Sharia law to resolve disputes.³³
20. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Xeer can result in discriminatory outcomes for women, especially related to gender-based violence.³⁴ Reported cases of violence against women were often brought through Xeer or Sharia courts rather than being prosecuted through the formal justice system.³⁵ Xeer decisions consistently lack justice for victims of rape.³⁶ Due to a general lack of reporting, it is unclear how Xeer courts may treat persons of diverse sexual orientations and/or gender identities.³⁷
21. LGBTQ+ Somali who experience harassment, sexual violence and physical violence by state actors or nonstate actors very rarely report these incidents due to fear of retaliation, imprisonment or death.³⁸ Thus, the actual extent of violence and discrimination committed against LGBTQ+ Somali is difficult to determine.³⁹
22. There are, however, a few documented reports of family members and community members threatening physical violence and even death against LGBTQ+ individuals.⁴⁰ Additionally, since Somalia's last UPR, local militias have been able to continue inflicting violence and enforcing the death penalty on LGBTQ+ individuals with impunity.⁴¹
23. A confidential source that fears reprisals for working on the human rights of LGBTQ+ people in Somalia reports an uptick in abuses directed at human right defenders (HRDs), including journalists, such as raids on their homes by unidentified armed assailants, surveillance by clan elders and informal security actors, arrests without formal charges, and forced evictions coupled with broader social exclusion.⁴²
24. The same source reports that over two dozen HRDs have received death threats, often via social media, phone calls or anonymous notes.⁴³ These threats are sometimes incited by local clerics or militia-aligned actors. HRDs working with LGBTQ+ populations experience severe psychological trauma and legal intimidation. Many of these individuals cannot access safe legal representation or trauma services due to stigma and institutional neglect.⁴⁴
25. The combined effect of severe restrictions on civil society with the widespread discrimination against LGBTQ+ people at all levels makes it "practically impossible" for LGBTQ+ organizations to register and function.⁴⁵
26. HRDs working on all issues often risk their lives, their safety, and their privacy to do their work. They also frequently face cyber security challenges as a result of their work.⁴⁶

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

27. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Somalia:

- Repeal Penal Code Articles 409 and 410, which criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity.
- Draft and adopt legislation that forbids the use of the death penalty to punish consensual same-sex sexual activity.
- Prohibit the use of sharia courts or customary law to resolve allegations of consensual same-sex sexual activity.
- Draft and adopt hate crime legislation in coordination with LGBTQ+ organizations to protect gender and sexual minorities from harassment, violence, and extrajudicial killings.
- Draft and adopt legislation banning the use of so-called “conversion therapy” or similar practices.
- Prosecute individuals and institutions responsible for operating abusive centers and provide reparations and rehabilitation to survivors.
- Draft and adopt legislation in coordination with LGBTQ+ organizations to permit legal gender recognition.
- Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.
- End impunity for attacks against journalists; civil society and human rights defenders; women; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people by conducting timely and impartial investigations, prosecuting perpetrators, and ending military trials of journalists.
- In collaboration with LGBTQ+ organizations, establish secular public education campaigns addressing the human rights of LGBTQ+ people in an effort to reduce public stigma.
- Immediately release all individuals detained solely on the basis of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.
- Ensure transparent and effective investigations in cases where HRDs have been harassed or harmed, and adopt a law protecting HRDs in accordance with international standards.
- Take measures to prevent law enforcement from arbitrarily arresting HRDs based on their work protecting and promoting the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons by training the police on comprehensive equality and non-discrimination principles.
- Facilitate registration and ease restrictions on working conditions for civil society organizations, including but not limited to those focused on the human rights of

LGBTQ+ people.

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- ¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia*, (July 7, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/11, ¶132.71-132.73.
- ² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia*, (July 7, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/11, ¶132.71 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland); ¶132.72 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Italy); ¶132.73 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Spain).
- ³ The sources used in this report spell “Shariah” in many different ways, including Shariah, sharia, shariah, etc. We follow the spelling of the original source as much as possible.
- ⁴ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia – Addendum*, (Sep. 10, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/11/Add.1, ¶71.
- ⁵ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia*, (February 26, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/38/SOM/1.
- ⁶ Somalia Penal Code of 1962, art. 409, available at [https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20\(1962\)%20-%20TR\(en\).pdf](https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20(1962)%20-%20TR(en).pdf).
- ⁷ Somalia Penal Code of 1962, art. 409, available at [https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20\(1962\)%20-%20TR\(en\).pdf](https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20(1962)%20-%20TR(en).pdf); *see also* Human Dignity Trust, “Country Profile: Somalia” (2024), available at <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/somalia>.
- ⁸ Somalia Penal Code of 1962, art. 409, available at [https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20\(1962\)%20-%20TR\(en\).pdf](https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20(1962)%20-%20TR(en).pdf).
- ⁹ Somalia Penal Code of 1962, art. 59-60, available at [https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20\(1962\)%20-%20TR\(en\).pdf](https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20(1962)%20-%20TR(en).pdf).
- ¹⁰ Somalia Penal Code of 1962, art. 409, available at [https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20\(1962\)%20-%20TR\(en\).pdf](https://database.ilga.org/api/downloader/download/1/SO%20-%20LEG%20-%20Penal%20Code%20(1962)%20-%20TR(en).pdf).
- ¹¹ Human Dignity Trust, *Country Profile: Somalia* (2024) <https://humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/somalia/>; ILGA World Database, *Somalia* (last accessed August 26, 2025), <https://database.ilga.org/somalia-lgbti>.
- ¹² United Nations Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Somalia*, CCPR/C/SOM/CO/1 (Mar. 17, 2023), available at https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4046158/files/CCPR_C_SOM_CO_1-EN.pdf?ln=en.
- ¹³ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and Teenager for Homosexuality, AFRICANEWS (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>.
- ¹⁴ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and Teenager for Homosexuality, AFRICANEWS (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>.
- ¹⁵ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and Teenager for Homosexuality, AFRICANEWS (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>; BBC, “Don’t come back, they’ll kill you for being gay,” BBC News, (July 27, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53438112>; SVT Nyheter, “Yasin låstes in på uppfostringsanstalt: Skulle sluta vara homosexuell,” SVT Nyheter (Apr. 5, 2022), <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/granskning/ug/yasin-lastes-in-pa-uppfostringsanstalt-skulle-sluta-vara-homosexuell-ar5j5n>.låstes in på uppfostringsanstalt: Skulle sluta vara homosexuell,” SVT Nyheter, (Apr. 5, 2022), <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/granskning/ug/yasin-lastes-in-pa-uppfostringsanstalt-skulle-sluta-vara-homosexuell-ar5j5n>.
- ¹⁶ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and Teenager for Homosexuality, AFRICANEWS (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>.
- ¹⁷ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and Teenager for Homosexuality, AFRICANEWS (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>.
- ¹⁸ Jama Kayse, *Opinion – Human Rights Concerns as Somaliland Seeks International Recognition*, E-International Relations (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.e-ir.info/2025/01/13/opinion-human-rights-concerns-as-somaliland-seeks-international-recognition/>.
- ¹⁹ News Desk, “40 People Held for Homosexuality in Somaliland, Committee Reports Increase in Arrests,” HalqabsiNews, (Mar. 11, 2023), <https://halqabsi.com/2023/03/40-people-held-for-homosexuality-in-somaliland-committee-reports-increase-in-arrests/>.
- ²⁰ Ben Christman, “Report on the Treatment of Gay Persons in Somalia” (2016), https://www.academia.edu/21559454/Report_on_the_Treatment_of_Gay_Persons_in_Somali.

²¹ BBC, “Don’t come back, they’ll kill you for being gay,” BBC News, (July 27, 2020),

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53438112>.

²² BBC, “Don’t come back, they’ll kill you for being gay,” BBC News, (July 27, 2020),

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53438112>.

²³ BBC, “Don’t come back, they’ll kill you for being gay,” BBC News, (July 27, 2020),

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53438112>.

²⁴ BBC, “Don’t come back, they’ll kill you for being gay,” BBC News, (July 27, 2020),

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²⁵ SVT Nyheter, “Yasin låstes in på uppfostringsanstalt: Skulle sluta vara homosexuell,” SVT Nyheter, (Apr. 5, 2022), <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/granskning/ug/yasin-lastes-in-pa-uppfostringsanstalt-skulle-sluta-vara-homosexuell--ar5j5n>.

²⁶ SVT Nyheter, “Yasin låstes in på uppfostringsanstalt: Skulle sluta vara homosexuell,” SVT Nyheter, Apr. 5, 2022, <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/granskning/ug/yasin-lastes-in-pa-uppfostringsanstalt-skulle-sluta-vara-homosexuell--ar5j5n>. (translated to English).

²⁷ ILGA World Database, *Somalia* (last accessed Aug. 26, 2025), <https://database.ilga.org/somalia-lgbti>.

²⁸ Ben Christman, *Report on the Treatment of Gay Persons in Somalia* (2016),

https://www.academia.edu/21559454/Report_on_the_Treatment_of_Gay_Persons_in_Somali.

²⁹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia*, (July 7, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/11, ¶132.144 End impunity for attacks against journalists, civil society and human rights defenders, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by conducting timely and impartial investigations, prosecuting perpetrators and ending military trials of journalists (Canada).

³⁰ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Somalia – Addendum*, (Sep. 10, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/11/Add.1, ¶144 (referring to ¶71).

³¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia*, HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01, at 18 (Sep. 2022),

<https://www.refworld.org/policy/countrypos/unhcr/2022/en/124152>.

³² UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia,” HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01 (Sep. 2022),

<https://www.refworld.org/policy/countrypos/unhcr/2022/en/124152>, p. 17.

³³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia*, HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01, at 18 (Sep. 2022),

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³⁴ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia*, HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01, at 18 (Sep. 2022),

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³⁵ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia*, HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01, at 18 (Sep. 2022),

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³⁶ International Development Law Organization (IDLO), *Accessing Justice: Somalia’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Centers*, at 10 (Jan. 20, 2021), www.idlo.int/fr/publications/accessing-justice-somalias-alternative-dispute-resolution-centers.

³⁷ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia*, HCR/IPC/SOM/2022/01, at 114 (Sep. 2022),

<https://www.refworld.org/policy/countrypos/unhcr/2022/en/124152>.

³⁸ Human Dignity Trust, “Country Profile: Somalia,” Human Dignity Trust (2024),

<https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/somalia/>.

³⁹ Human Dignity Trust, “Country Profile: Somalia,” Human Dignity Trust (2024),

<https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/somalia/>.

⁴⁰ Colin Stewart, “Somali man fears for his life after being outed at work,” 76Crimes (Aug. 20, 2023),

<https://76crimes.com/2023/08/20/somali-man-fears-for-his-life-after-being-outed-at-work/>.

⁴¹ Ismail Akwei, “Al Shabaab executes Somali man and teenager for homosexuality,” AfricaNews (Aug. 13, 2024),

<https://www.africanews.com/2017/01/11/al-shabaab-executes-somali-man-and-teenager-for-homosexuality/>

⁴² Email from Somali NGO to The Advocates for Human Rights, (June 11, 2025) (on file with authors).

⁴³ Email from Somali NGO to The Advocates for Human Rights, (June 11, 2025) (on file with authors).

⁴⁴ Email from Somali NGO to The Advocates for Human Rights, (June 11, 2025) (on file with authors).

⁴⁵ ILGA World Database, *Somalia* (last accessed August 26, 2025), <https://database.ilga.org/somalia-lgbti>.

⁴⁶ Email from Somali NGO to The Advocates for Human Rights, (Oct. 11, 2025) (on file with authors).