

In its 1st UPR in February 2010, only Sweden made a recommendation regarding SOGI to Qatar (which was 'noted'): "To ensure that LGBT persons are not discriminated against and, as an immediate step, to amend the provisions of the penal code criminalizing consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex and to ensure that no one is punished for such activity under Sharia law". This recommendation was repeated at the Interactive Dialogue session, but the State gave **no response** to either. At its 2nd cycle UPR in mid-2014, only one mention of LGBT workers was made in relation to the upcoming World Cup, to which it appears the State made **no response** at all.

SAUDI ARABIA



There is no codified Penal Law in Saudi-Arabia.

Instead, the country applies strict Islamic Sharia law. According to the interpretation, Sura 7:80/81, describes sexual intercourse between men as a misdemeanour, but does not specify a punishment. However, just as all sexual relations outside of marriage are illegal, the penalty for a married man is generally understood to be death by stoning. The penalty to be imposed for same sex sexual acts is a matter of dispute. According to a **report** to the German parliament "some call for whipping, and others believe they are quoting the Prophet that "both men to be killed". However, same-sex sexual behaviour is not listed in the Sharia as one of the crimes deserving of death – as are murder, adultery, apostasy, or highway robbery".

In its 1st cycle UPR in February 2009, there were four **brief mentions** of sexual orientation-related content in civil society submissions, yet no recommendations to Saudi Arabia from other States or any other mentions of SOGI. However, in Saudi Arabia's October 2013 **review** (2nd cycle UPR), there were no civil society inputs on SOGI, no recommendations and no mentions by the State on SOGI-related issues. At the United Nations, Saudi Arabia has continually **refused** to accept that the human rights framework includes SOGI issues.

Although Saudi Arabia does not have a codified criminal code, there is a morality law enforcement **agency** called the 'Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice', that arrests and detains people who violate the traditional teachings of Wahhabism, including same-sex sexual behaviour and diverse gender expression. They operate in-person and online, and are known to be particularly **vicious** regarding LGBT people.

There are no LGBT groups or organisations operating in Saudi Arabia that are known in the region, and opportunities for people to meet have been severely restricted. According to the Council of Ministers **Resolution** in 2001, "[a]ll internet users in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall refrain from publishing or accessing data containing some of the following: 1. Anything contravening a fundamental principle or legislation, or infringing the sanctity of Islam and its benevolent Shari'ah, or breaching public decency".

Authorities in Saudi Arabia **arrested** several people on "suspicion of homosexuality" in raids on two parties in the city of Jeddah in June 2015. In March 2016, it is **reported** that a doctor in Jeddah was arrested by the Committee for Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice for flying the rainbow flag, although he had been unaware of its meaning. Also in March 2016, from Jeddah, **ominous attention** has been brought to online communications amongst sexual and gender minorities. However, in May 2016, regarding the death penalty for same sex sexual relations, a leading cleric **noted**, "[b]y condemning homosexuals to death they are committing a graver sin than homosexuality itself".

In October 2016, the **Concluding Observations** of the Committee on the Rights of the Child observed a worry that, *inter alia*, LGBT children are subject to persistent discrimination in Saudi Arabia. As such it was recommended that the State adopt "a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination".

The Saudi authorities **raided** a resort south of Saudi capital, Riyadh in February 2017, and detained 35 Pakistani citizens, describing them as "faggots", and releasing photographs of some of the individuals who were cross-dressing. Corroboration of the event has not been obtained, but it is **reported** that two members of the group were brutally **killed** by the authorities, a claim that the State **denies**.

SINGAPORE



Penal Code (Chapter 22), 1872, Revised Edition 2008.

Outrages on decency

Section 377A

[GROSS INDECENCY]

"Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years."

Section 377 criminalising "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" has been already repealed by the **Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2007, No. 51**, which came into force on 1 February 2008.

Section 294

[OBSCENE ACT]

"Whoever, to the annoyance of others —

(a) does any obscene act in any public place; or

(b) sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words in or near any public place, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 months, or with fine, or with both."

Section 354

[OUTRAGE MODESTY]

"Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage the modesty of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years, or with fine, or with caning, or with any two of such punishments."

In October 2014, Singapore's highest court, the Court of Appeal, **found** that Section 377A infringed the rights of individuals of diverse sexual orientation, and felt that the legislature should **address** the issue, and law should not be made by the Court. Reportedly, an internet blogger **commenting** that one of the judges acted with bias (his text is available in this article), was sentenced with a fine of approximately €6,000, upheld at his appeal in December 2015. Kaleidoscope Trust **reports** (at 46) that section 377A is rarely used now to prosecute LGB people, but sections 354 and 294 are deployed more frequently

In June 2015, the Pink Dot rally **attracted** more than 28,000 participants in Hong Lim Park.. Similar number of attendees populated the June 2016 rally, but it is notable that there was a particular **emphasis** by the State on ensuring 'foreign entities' are not funding this agenda (2016 saw significant new funding partners for this event).

In January 2016, at its 2nd cycle UPR, Singapore **received** 12 recommendations, 11 of which called for repeal of Section 377A, and one of which focused on bias in media representation of LGBTI persons and issue, and another which called for general non-discrimination. Singapore "noted" (effectively rejected) all 12 recommendations.