

CAMEROON

**Penal Code** of 1965 / 2016.**Article 347bis****[SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH... SAME SEX]**

'Whoever has sexual relations with a person of the same sex shall be punished with imprisonment from 6 (six) months to 5 (five) years and fine of from CFAF 20,000 (twenty thousand) to CFAF 200,000 (two hundred thousand).'

The country's three leading (and only) lawyers who represent LGBT people **described** a slight moderation of official attitudes to same-sex sexual relations in the recent period, following international pressure and national advocacy. However, Cameroon remains extremely hostile and dangerous to LGBT people, according to a year-end **report** from Humanity First, a Yaoundé-based organisation seeking improved health care for LGBTI Cameroonians and recognition of their human rights.

Cameroon rejected all seven SOGI recommendations in its 1st cycle UPR in April 2008. Other than accepting one recommendation to, "[i]nvestigate police violence that took place on persons because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation", it rejected a further 14 recommendations on non-discrimination and decriminalisation made in its 2nd UPR in January 2013, amidst a violent period in the country regarding SOGI issues. The State voluntarily pledged the following: "[f]or instance, regarding the issue of homosexuality, Cameroon was committed not to aggravate current criminal penalties, to continue to apply legal provisions, guarantee a fair trial to alleged homosexuals, and continue not to apply any discriminatory measure against them".

In February 2014, in its concerns about LBT women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at para. 37(c) **urged** that Cameroon should "[r]aise awareness among political, traditional and religious leaders, as well as members of civil society, about the possible withdrawal of article 347bis of the Penal Code".

In its review of 2016, *76 Crimes* reports that anti-gay Cameroonians **threatened and harassed** LGBTI rights advocates in Douala, Cameroon, driving some of them from their homes. In Yaoundé, Cameroon, Jules Eloundou, president of Humanity First, was the **target** of two homophobic attacks in the guise of burglaries. In early-2017, efforts commenced to **create** a Human Rights Observatory that will act as a urgently needed watchdog against violations of the rights of LGBT people and human rights defenders.