

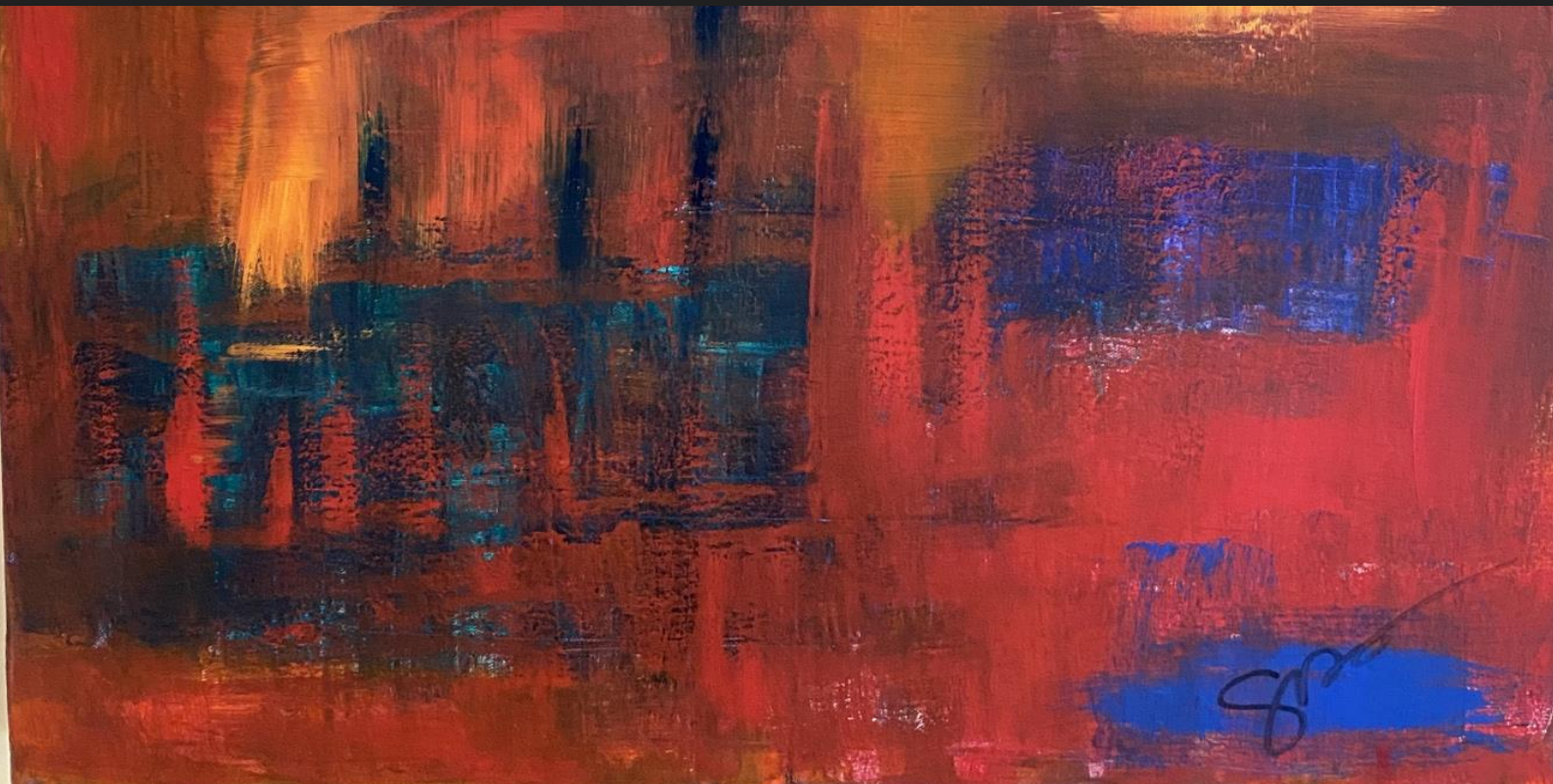


F&M GLOBAL BAROMETERS

LGBT Human Rights in 203 Countries and Regions
2011 - 2018

January 2021

SUSAN DICKLITCH-NELSON
fandmglobalbarometers.org



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Over 50 grassroots activists, scholars, and policymakers from more than 40 countries served as regional peer review experts, reviewing data for 203 countries.

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Table of Contents

COPYRIGHT	1
SUGGESTED CITATION	1
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
KEY FINDINGS	3
UPDATES TO THE GLOBAL BAROMETERS	4
INTRODUCTION	5
METHODOLOGY	7
THE GLOBAL BAROMETER OF GAY RIGHTS (GBGR) SCORECARD	8
GBGR MOKKEN SCALE ANALYSIS	10
CORRELATION BETWEEN GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE INDEX AND GBGR SCORES	13
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	15
GBGR TRENDS	15
REGRESSION DIMENSION SCALE ANALYSIS	18
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	20
DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS	20
DE JURE PROTECTIONS	20
<i>De Jure Protections—Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation</i>	20
<i>De Jure Protections—Same-sex marriage is allowed</i>	22
<i>De Jure Protections—No criminalization of sexual orientation</i>	23
DE FACTO (CIVIL AND POLITICAL) PROTECTIONS	26
<i>De Facto (Civil and Political) Protections—Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality</i>	26
LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY	28
SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS	31
SOCIETAL PERSECUTION	33
CONSIDERATION OF STRUCTURAL FACTORS AND GBGR SCORES	34
EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS	37
STATISTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GBGR SCORE AND TOURISM	37
GLOBAL OUTLOOK	39
APPENDICES	42
APPENDIX 1. 2018 WORLD GBGR SCORES	42
APPENDIX 2. GLOBAL BAROMETER OF TRANSGENDER RIGHTS (GBTR) SCORECARD	47
APPENDIX 3. TRENDS IN GBGR SCORE BY COUNTRY AND REGION, 2011 – 2018	48
APPENDIX 4. 2018 GBGR COUNTRY SCORE DISTRIBUTION BY REGION	62
APPENDIX 5. USA STATE-BY-STATE GBGR ANALYSIS OF 2000 AND 2018 DATA	65
CONTACT	66

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report systematically summarizes the updated research findings for the 2018 Franklin & Marshall College Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR®). The F&M GBGR is based on 27 items drawn from international human rights law. The F&M GBGR measures the extent to which countries are adhering to international human rights norms in their treatment of LGBT individuals, ranking countries on a scale of A (protecting) to F (persecuting). Using GBGR world data from 2018, we analyze the variance in levels of state and societal protection and persecution of LGBT people in 203 countries and regions and examine several factors that may help account for this variation from 2011-2018.

KEY FINDINGS

Although overall world GBGR scores continue to improve, the world remains far from a protecting place for LGBT people. Globally, the majority of countries in the world continue to be ranked as persecuting toward LGBT individuals. This report focuses exclusively on F&M GBGR data from 2011-2018. F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR) data will be updated in next year's annual report pending peer review.

Table 1. 2018 GBGR Highlights

62% of countries received an F on the GBGR <ul style="list-style-type: none">An improvement from 75% in 2011
10% of countries received an A on the GBGR <ul style="list-style-type: none">An improvement from 6% in 2011
The GBGR world mean score improved to 47.7% in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">From 40.6% in 2011
Western Europe continues to be the most protecting region in the world for sexual minorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">The most persecuting region is the Middle East and North Africa.
Luxembourg, Malta, Uruguay, and Wales (all tied for first place) are the most rights-protecting countries for sexual minorities in 2018.
Somalia is the most persecuting country in the world for sexual minorities in 2018.
51 countries had hate crimes legislation in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">An increase from 29 in 2011
28 countries allowed same-sex marriage in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">An increase from 10 in 2011
72 countries and regions continued to criminalize homosexuality in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">10 countries decriminalized between 2011 and 2018

Our research shows that there is an associated decrease in GBGR score in countries with high percentages of religious practitioners. Other structural factors, such as low life expectancy and non-democratic political system, were associated with lower GBGR scores and thus the availability of human rights protections for sexual minorities.

We recognize that our quantitative analysis provides only a partial and broadly focused accounting of the differences that drive the rights protections we are studying. Some factors are difficult to quantify and compare across all countries, which encourages our interest in producing in-depth case studies that reveal country-specific triggers for change. Similarly, global analysis will provide macro trends, but regional analysis factoring in similar geographies, cultural backgrounds, and levels of development will lead to greater granularity in predictive factors for regions that may help us better complement our quantitative models.

This year's research furthers our confidence in the GBGR as a measurement tool. For instance, we compared the findings of the William's Institute Global Acceptance Index (GAI) with the F&M GBGR and found significant positive correlation between the GAI and GBGR scores showing that generally, countries with higher GBGR scores also have higher GAI scores, and vice versa. Comparing the results of the GBGR to the GAI provides convergent validation of the GBGR tool and offers another empirical assessment of its measurement properties. In addition, a Mokken scale analysis (MSA) of the 2018 GBGR data shows the tool has strong scalability properties.

Similarly, we tested the utility of sub-scales as predictive tools independent of other GBGR items. Specifically, we tested whether GBGR dimensions independently predict different country-level characteristics.

And finally, we suggest further research that explores the relationship between GBGR score and several economic indicators, such as tourism receipts.

UPDATES TO THE GLOBAL BAROMETERS

The F&M GBGR was expanded from 197 countries in our 2019 report to 203 countries and regions in 2020. In addition, there were several updates to the coding methodology for some items and a top-to-bottom review of the GBGR database based on 2018 peer review expert comments.

Updates on GBGR and GBTR scores and results can be found on the F&M Global Barometers website: <http://fandmglobalbarometers.org>

INTRODUCTION

The Year 2020 will forever be known as the COVID-19 year. Although COVID-19 crippled governments, businesses and families alike, the impact on the LGBT² community was particularly troubling. Many governments scapegoated the LGBT community and used the pretext of COVID-19 to harass, detain, torture, and otherwise abuse individuals within the LGBT community.³

The F&M Global Barometers provide the framework for objectively documenting and uniformly monitoring and analyzing global progress towards the human rights protection of LGBT individuals.

Countries continue to vary widely in the extent to which they are protective or persecuting toward LGBT individuals. This report systematically analyzes the global persecution and protection of LGBT individuals through the application of the GBGR. Using GBGR world data from 2011-2018, we analyze the variance in levels of state and societal persecution and protection of LGBT individuals in 203 countries and regions, and examine several factors that may help account for the variation in global and regional human rights protection for LGBT individuals.

A distinctive component of the GBGR is the utilization of regional peer review experts (PRE) for quality control and accuracy. This data has been reviewed by more than 50 experts from over 40 countries.⁴

Measuring the extent to which countries are human rights protective or persecuting toward LGBT people is the main goal of the F&M Global Barometers. Key challenges persist in data availability, both from the perspective of tracking data on LGBT human rights as well as data to test correlation or causality. Taking a quantitative assessment approach will without doubt sacrifice granularity and nuance available through case study and qualitative assessment. Similarly, there are things that can and cannot be quantified or measured and must be supplemented with in-depth case study analysis.

We also recognize that there is often great variation within countries that the GBGR alone cannot measure, especially in federal systems or very large countries. That is why we launched our first domestic application of the GBGR methodology to a case study of the United States. The GBGR was adapted to represent state-by-state analysis of human rights protections for LGB individuals for the years 2000 and 2018

²No index will capture all the nuances of lived reality, especially one that attempts to paint a truly global picture of LGBTI rights. Nor will there be universal agreement with the GBGR and GBTR terminology. We use the term "homosexuals" and "gay" interchangeably to refer to gays and lesbians. For simplicity sake, we refer to lesbian, gays, and bisexuals as "sexual minorities." The F&M GBGR focuses on "sexual minorities" while the F&M GBTR focuses on transgender individuals. In this report, we will use the term LGBT to represent minorities based on their sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and sex characteristics.

³See for example; UNAIDS. 2020. Press Release UNAIDS and MPact are extremely concerned about reports that LGBTI people are being blamed and abused during the COVID-19 outbreak, Available at: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2020/april/20200427_lgbti-covid (Accessed November 24, 2020).

⁴ Although 2018 GBTR data has been collected, the data has not been peer-reviewed as of October 2020 and thus will not be included in this report.

(see [Appendix 5](#) and the fandmglobalbarometers.org website). Although the US scored a **C—Resistant** on the GBGR in 2018, different U.S. states scored lower or higher on the GBGR, providing fertile ground for in-depth case-study analysis.

Most importantly, establishing a comparative database of progress and setbacks on human rights for LGBT people allows for baseline data comparison and analysis.

As indicated in greater detail in our first study,⁵ the F&M Global Barometers examine state level as well as societal level human rights indicators to determine the extent to which countries are human rights protective or persecuting. Each item in the GBGR and GBTR are individually sourced with sources and citations providing evidence for each binary designation. The project is ambitious, examining 203 countries and regions from 2011-2018.

The primary sources for the GBGR include the United States Department of State (USDOS) Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) State Sponsored Homophobia annual reports,⁶ Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, secondary sources including local newspaper reports, international media coverage, and multi-region shadow reports by local and international non-governmental organizations.

One of the challenges of a reliance on secondary sources is occasional discrepancies between sources. For example, we found occasional discrepancies between USDOS Human Rights Reports and ILGA reports on certain items and had to refer to the original legislative or constitutional source for clarification and corrections.

Both the GBGR and GBTR operationalize fundamental international human rights concepts drawn from key articles within International human rights law. Focusing on fundamental human rights and freedoms, the GBGR and GBTR draw from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights principles,⁷ the Yogyakarta Principles of 2006,⁸ and the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10.⁹ The human rights examined by the GBGR and the GBTR reflect civil and political rights as well as social, cultural, and economic rights.¹⁰

⁵ Dicklitch-Nelson, Susan, Scottie Thompson Buckland, Berwood Yost, and Indira Rahman. 2019. [A Comparative Analysis of LGBT Human Rights in 197 Countries: 2011-2017](#). Lancaster, PA: Franklin & Marshall College.

⁶ Ramón Mendos, Lucas. 2019. [State-Sponsored Homophobia 2019](#), 376. 13th ed. Geneva, Switzerland: ILGA.

⁷ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). 1948. [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), Article 2, G.A. res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc A/810 at 71.

⁸ International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). 2007. [Yogyakarta Principles](#).

⁹ International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). 2017. [Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10](#).

¹⁰ The philosophical basis for the F&M GBGR & GBTR is more comprehensively laid out in our first report: Dicklitch-Nelson, Susan, Scottie Thompson Buckland, Berwood Yost, and Indira Rahman. 2019. [A Comparative Analysis of LGBT Human Rights in 197 Countries: 2011-2017](#). Lancaster, PA: Franklin & Marshall College.

METHODOLOGY

The GBGR examines 27 items across all countries. Initially, we tracked 197 countries, and in 2020 we added England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and stopped tracking North Korea because of a lack of reliable information, bringing the total number of countries to 203. The GBGR has five dimensions:

Dimension I: *De jure* protections

Dimension II: *De facto* protections (civil and political rights)

Dimension III: LGBT rights advocacy

Dimension IV: Socio-economic rights

Dimension V: Societal persecution

The GBGR is a flexible index in that its scores can be used as a proxy for how human rights protective or persecuting countries are toward LGBT individuals or each dimension can be analyzed separately or comparatively with other dimensions. For example, Dimension I: *De Jure* protections can be compared with Dimension III: LGBT rights advocacy to see the variance between legislative protections and civil society advocacy (a proxy for LGBT visibility).

The GBGR ranks countries on a scale of 0 to 100 percent based on their protection or persecution of LGBT individuals. It employs binary variables, i.e., 0 or 1, to score items. Each item in the Global Barometers is weighted equally. A country will receive one point if evidence supports the item in the affirmative and a zero if in the negative. For example, the item **“No death penalty for sexual orientation”** would receive a one if there is no death penalty for sexual orientation, but if the country has the death penalty for sexual orientation, it would receive a zero. There are obvious drawbacks to a dichotomous ranking system, but these are mitigated by the effects of summative weighting and the structural necessity of simplifying the methodology to one or zero due to the large sample size.

To enable valid and replicable coding, the scorecard was simplified to a 27-point scale.¹¹ The item scores are then summed to determine a raw score for a country for a particular year. The highest possible score is 27/27 while the lowest possible score is 0/27. The raw score is then converted to a percentage score, with corresponding rankings from A – F.^{12,13}

¹¹ An early iteration of the GBGR had 29 items. We removed “Gays are allowed to donate blood” and “HIV/AIDS patients are not discriminated against in the workplace”. The first item was removed because of its specific focus on men’s same-sex sexual activity. The second item was removed because it was duplicative of the item “Workplace anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation,” and it was difficult to decipher whether individuals were being discriminated against because they had HIV/AIDS or because of their sexual orientation.

¹² If a country does not have a military, then the final score will be divided by 26 not 27.

¹³ While the composite scores presented by the GBGR offer an accurate and objective score for each country, we recognize that unique historical, cultural, and political forces have shaped and continue to shape many of the items measured on the scorecard, particularly the *de jure* protections. As described in the analysis below, criminalizing

Countries are categorized as **persecuting** 0-59 percent, **intolerant** 60-69 percent, **resistant** 70-79 percent, **tolerant** 80-89 percent, and **protecting** 90-100 percent. Categories are color-coded (red, orange, yellow, green, and blue), and correspond to a grade of “F”, “D”, “C”, “B”, or “A” based on their percentage scores.¹⁴ Countries with a score of “F” receive a failing human rights report card; “D” unsatisfactory; “C” average; “B” very good, and “A” excellent.

Table 2. GBGR and GBTR Scoring

GBGR/GBTR Category	GBGR/GBTR Score	Corresponding Human Rights Report Card Grade	Grade Definitions
Protecting	90 – 100%	A	Excellent
Tolerant	80 – 89%	B	Very Good
Resistant	70 – 79%	C	Average
Intolerant	60 – 69%	D	Unsatisfactory
Persecuting	0 – 59%	F	Failing

To reduce intercoder variation in data collection and verification, the GBGR employs a coding handbook. This coding handbook is utilized for first stage data collection, internal verification, and regional and country peer-review expert verification.

Additionally, the Global Barometers partners with peer review experts from all over the world to triple-verify our data. The triple-verification process is crucial to the accuracy and integrity of our data. 2018 data for our sister barometer, the **F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR)**, is pending peer review and will be made available in next year’s report. The GBTR employs the same methodology as the GBGR. Based on peer review expert feedback, the GBTR was expanded to 17+ items in its most recent iteration (see [Appendix 2](#)). Two new items, “**No legislation criminalizing gender identity or expression**” and “**Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on gender identity or expression,**” will feature in our next annual report.

THE GLOBAL BAROMETER OF GAY RIGHTS (GBGR) SCORECARD

The GBGR scorecard consists of 27 items and five dimensions: De Jure Protections, De Facto (civil/political protections), LGBT rights advocacy, Socio-economic rights

legislation in many parts of the world originates from colonial era Penal Codes and remnants from other externally imposed legal regulations of sexuality and sexual minorities.

¹⁴ Because persecuting countries comprise such a large category of 0-59 percent, the red color is lightened every ten percentage points, so that the lightest red represents countries that earn 50-59% and the darkest red hue represents the countries at the bottom ten percent.

and Societal persecution. Each item is derived from international human rights principles, as more fully explained in the first GBGR/GBTR report.¹⁵ See Table 3 below.

Table 3. Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) Scorecard

Item Number	Global Barometer of Gay Rights Scorecard
DE JURE PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES	
1	No death penalty for sexual orientation
2	No life sentence for sexual orientation
3	No prison term for sexual orientation
4	No criminalization of sexual orientation
5	Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation
6	Sexual minorities are not restricted or banned from serving in the military
7	Civil unions for sexual minorities are allowed
8	Same-sex marriage is allowed
DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES	
9	Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on sexual orientation
10	Head of state supports legalization of homosexuality
11	Head of state supports same-sex civil unions/same-sex marriage
12	Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality
13	Hate speech laws include sexual orientation
14	Sexual minorities have the right to privacy
15	Sexual orientation does not prejudice the right to a fair trial
LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY	
16	LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register
17	LGBT organizations exist
18	LGBT organizations are able to peacefully and safely assemble
19	LGBT pride events are allowed by the state
20	Security forces provide protection to LGBT pride participants
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS	
21	Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation
22	Workplace anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation
SOCIETAL PERSECUTION	
23	No known acts of murder against sexual minorities
24	No known acts of violence against sexual minorities
25	Crimes based on sexual orientation are reported to police
26	Same-sex couples are allowed to jointly adopt
27	Individuals are not discriminated against in access to medical treatment because of their sexual orientation

¹⁵ Dicklitch-Nelson, Susan, Scottie Thompson Buckland, Berwood Yost, and Indira Rahman. 2019. [A Comparative Analysis of LGBT Human Rights in 197 Countries: 2011-2017](#). Lancaster, PA: Franklin & Marshall College.

GBGR MOKKEN SCALE ANALYSIS

A Mokken scale analysis (MSA) was conducted on the 2018 GBGR data to assess its measurement characteristics. MSA assesses the patterns of item scores that taken together are expected to represent some underlying latent variable. MSA was chosen as the appropriate tool for assessing the scalability of the GBGR because assumptions underlying traditional factor and reliability analyses are violated in a scale such as the GBGR where items are expected to differ in their frequency distributions (van Schuur, 2003).¹⁶ The following MSA was conducted using the **mokken** package in R.¹⁷

The MSA of the GBGR items assessed whether all of the items formed a scale such that the scalability coefficients are positive and are greater than or equal to an appropriate lower bound.¹⁸ Review of MSA output shows two items (“**No known acts of murder against sexual minorities**” (SP23) and “**No known acts of violence against sexual minorities**” (SP24)) are negative, but that all remaining items produce item scalability coefficients greater than .3 (Table 4). The test-scalability coefficient for the entire scale is 0.71 (0.02 SE), which suggests strong scalability properties. Removing items SP23 and SP24 meets the requirements of the model—together the remaining items are positive, all are significantly above the .3 threshold, and the test-scalability coefficient is improved to 0.80 (0.02 SE).

Table 4. Item Scalability Coefficients (H) and Standard Errors for 2018 GBGR Items (Top) and Scale Coefficients (Bottom)

	Full-Scale		Scale Excluding SP23 and SP24	
Item	H	SE	H	SE
DJ_1	0.832	-0.014	0.954	-0.015
DJ_2	0.762	-0.039	0.848	-0.047
DJ_3	0.81	-0.025	0.861	-0.026
DJ_4	0.81	-0.025	0.861	-0.026
DJ_5	0.675	-0.038	0.727	-0.039
DJ_6	0.767	-0.029	0.823	-0.028
DJ_7	0.794	-0.025	0.861	-0.023
DJ_8	0.819	-0.03	0.886	-0.025
DF_9	0.801	-0.027	0.838	-0.029
DF_10	0.793	-0.03	0.843	-0.031
DF_11	0.756	-0.028	0.817	-0.028
DF_12	0.705	-0.037	0.757	-0.037
DF_13	0.727	-0.032	0.791	-0.032
DF_14	0.82	-0.023	0.862	-0.024
DF_15	0.77	-0.033	0.809	-0.034
GRA_16	0.755	-0.037	0.812	-0.038

¹⁶ A full description of Mokken scaling analysis procedures can be found in Sijtsma and van der Ark (2017): A tutorial on how to do a Mokken scale analysis on your test and questionnaire data: *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology* (70): 137 – 158 and van Schuur (2003): Mokken Scale Analysis: Between the Guttman Scale and Parametric Item Response Theory: *Political Analysis* (11): 139 - 163. These authors also note that factor analytic solutions for scales comprised of dichotomous data like the GBGR are difficult to interpret.

¹⁷ Version 3.0.3 (2020-09-15)

¹⁸ We used the standard convention of $c = .3$.

GRA_17	0.677	-0.06	0.801	-0.062
GRA_18	0.653	-0.047	0.693	-0.048
GRA_19	0.797	-0.029	0.85	-0.029
GRA_20	0.742	-0.035	0.792	-0.035
SER_21	0.722	-0.033	0.774	-0.034
SER_22	0.766	-0.03	0.814	-0.03
SP_23	-0.13	-0.131		
SP_24	-0.039	-0.086		
SP_25	0.649	-0.041	0.676	-0.044
SP_26	0.786	-0.043	0.855	-0.041
SP_27	0.676	-0.04	0.709	-0.042
H	0.705	0.02	0.803	0.02
α	0.952		0.96	
Λ_2	0.959		0.963	
MS	0.965		0.973	

MSA assumes monotone homogeneity among the scale items. A straightforward test of monotone homogeneity assesses whether the probability of a positive response to any scale item increases as the subjects' scale values increase. The scalability issues created by including items SP23 and SP24 in the GBGR is demonstrated by reviewing the rest scores (the subject's scores on the remaining items when that item is removed) for two scale items, DJ4 (**"No criminalization of sexual orientation"**) and SP23.

For the assumption of monotone homogeneity to hold, scores on any individual item should increase as subjects total scores increase. Table 5 shows the grouped rest scores from the lowest scoring countries to the highest scoring countries. As expected, the proportion of countries that decriminalized homosexuality increases as expected with each higher scoring quartile of countries. This pattern is not true of responses to SP23 - the proportion of countries with reported acts of murder is actually *highest* among the highest scoring group of countries. This suggests that this item is measuring a trait unrelated to rights protections for sexual minorities.

Table 5. Test of Monotone Homogeneity for two items

Score	N	Homosexuality is Legal % Yes	Score (Excluding DJ4)	N	No Murder % Yes	Score (Excluding SP23)
0 – 4	39	0.03	3.1	48	0.90	2.6
5 – 11	56	0.55	7.3	46	0.87	7.4
12 – 18	45	0.98	15.7	45	0.91	15.6
19 +	45	1.00	22.7	46	0.76	22.8

There are several possible explanations for this inconsistency. One hypothesis is that as a country becomes more human rights protective, civil society and stakeholders that document and report these data become stronger following an increase in human rights protections. A second hypothesis signals a possibly more disturbing trend of potential violent backlash to sexual minorities as they are afforded more human rights. These hypotheses should be tested with additional in-depth qualitative case studies.

CORRELATION BETWEEN GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE INDEX AND GBGR SCORES

Comparing the results of the GBGR to the LGBT Global Acceptance Index (GAI) provides convergent validation of the GBGR tool and offers another empirical assessment of its measurement properties. Convergent validation assesses how independent measures of the same concept are associated. The GAI provides a “measure of the relative level of social acceptance of LGBT people and rights in each country”¹⁹ and as such provides a useful comparative indicator to the GBGR. We would expect some but not perfect correlation between the indicators given their purposes.

There was a significant positive correlation between GAI and GBGR scores showing that, generally, countries with higher GBGR scores also have higher GAI scores, and vice versa.²⁰ However, there are countries that do not fit into this pattern (e.g., Nepal, Syrian Arab Republic, Armenia, Kosovo). The GAI and GBGR, although positively correlated, are measuring similar ideas, but that the two indicators also produce differences may be valuable in understanding different components of the lived experiences of LGBT+ people.

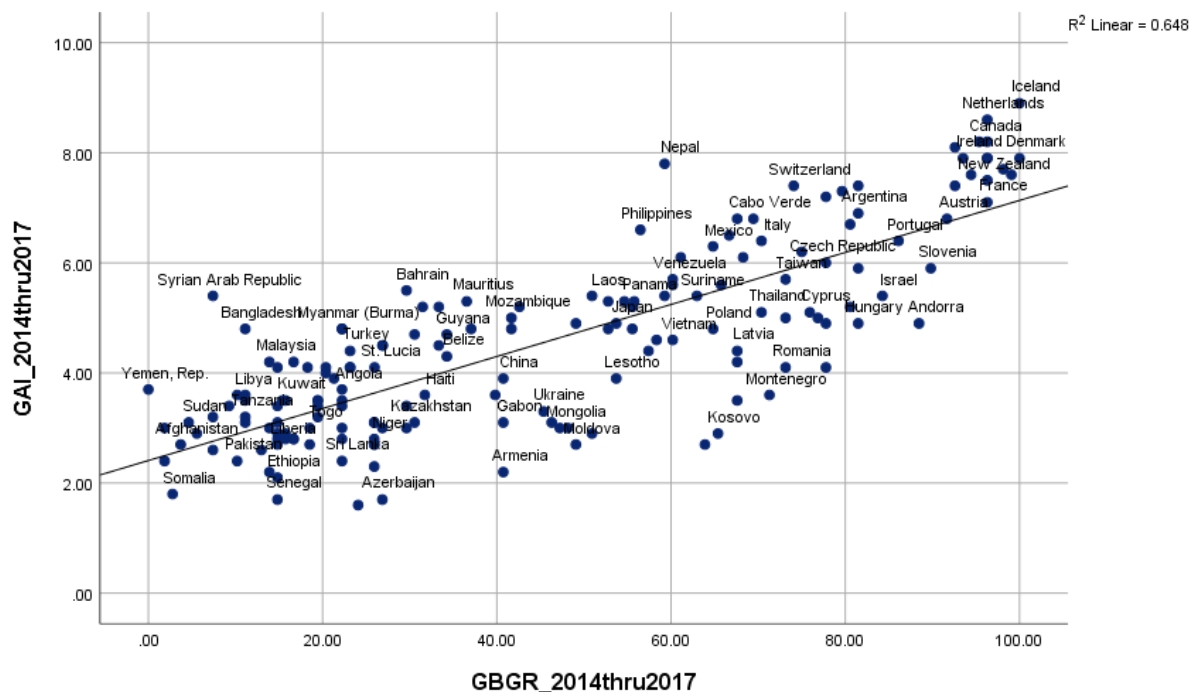


Figure 1. Correlation between GAI and GBGR scores (2014-2017 data)

¹⁹ Flores, Andrew R. 2019. [Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 174 Countries, 1981 to 2017](#). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

²⁰ $r^2=0.648$, $p<0.05$. Note that 2014-2017 GAI data are available for 171 of the 204 GBGR countries - 33 countries do not have GAI scores and were not included in this comparison.

There are several possible explanations for divergence in the GAI and GBGR scores for Nepal, Syrian Arab Republic, Armenia, and Kosovo. In each of these cases, except for Kosovo, the country has a high GAI score and a low GBGR score. These countries may have greater societal acceptance than is indicated through legal protections, whereas in the case of Kosovo, there is much higher legal protections but lower societal acceptance. This is in fact consistent with what we have found to be the case and would warrant further in-depth case study analysis.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section summarizes trends in GBGR scores since 2011 and discusses attributes that help account for the protection or persecution of sexual minorities.

GBGR TRENDS

GBGR scores have increased globally from 2011-2018. The world mean score remains in the “F-Persecuting” category overall (47.7). The number of countries in the “A-Protecting” category has risen from 6% in 2011 to 10% in 2018. Countries in the “B-Tolerant” category has risen from 7% in 2011 to 9% in 2018. Countries in the “C-Resistant” have risen from 8% in 2011 to 10% in 2018. Countries in the “D-Intolerant” category have remained nearly unchanged; 7% of countries were Intolerant in 2011, and 8% were intolerant in 2018. There has been the biggest decrease in countries in the “F-Persecuting” category: 72% of countries were Persecuting in 2011, down to 62% in 2018 (Table 6).

Table 6. GBGR tolerance trends in the world, 2011-2018

Tolerance Category	Year							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
A – Protecting	6%	6%	7%	7%	8%	9%	9%	10%
B – Tolerant	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	8%	10%	9%
C – Resistant	8%	8%	9%	11%	10%	9%	8%	10%
D – Intolerant	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%	8%	8%
F – Persecuting	72%	72%	70%	67%	67%	67%	65%	62%
World Mean GBGR Score	41.9	42.5	43.3	44.3	44.8	46.1	46.8	47.7

The global results are graphically portrayed in the two maps of the GBGR 2018 results below. Figure 2 illustrates the stark geographical categorization of the GBGR. Figure 3 shows the same data but with a color breakdown of the persecuting category that encompasses scores from 0-59 percent in 10 percent increments. The breakdown of the persecuting category allows for greater visual distinction of countries' progress in human rights protection or persecution of LGB people.

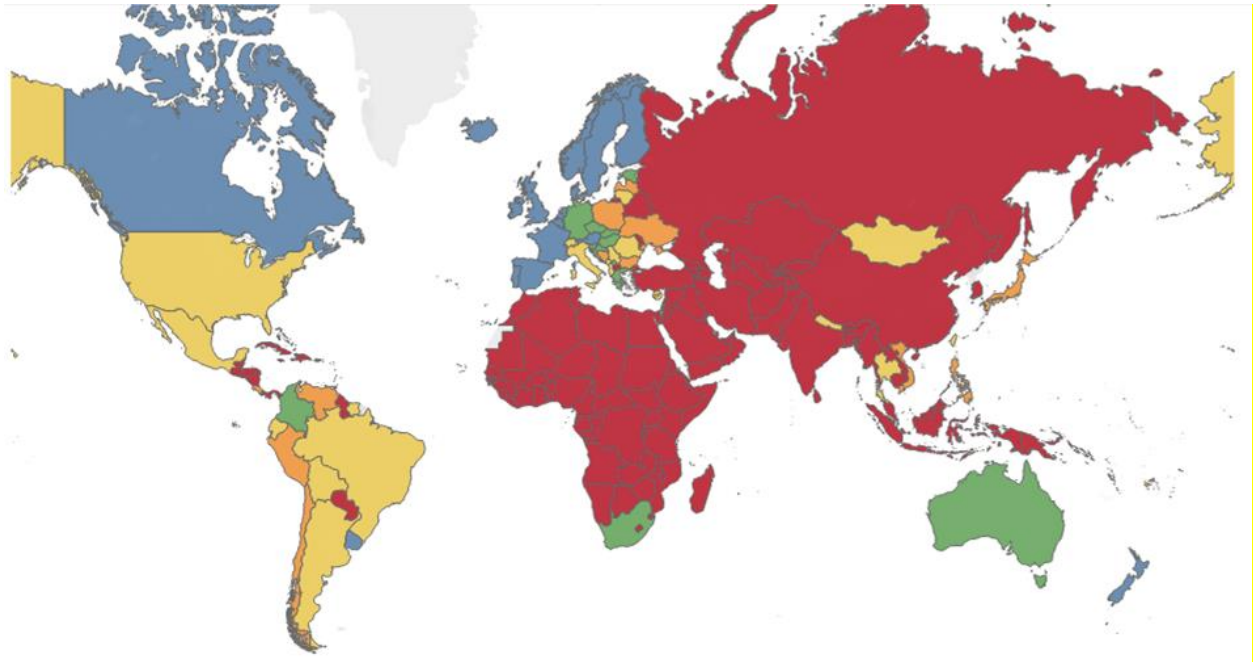


Figure 2. Map of 2018 GBGR

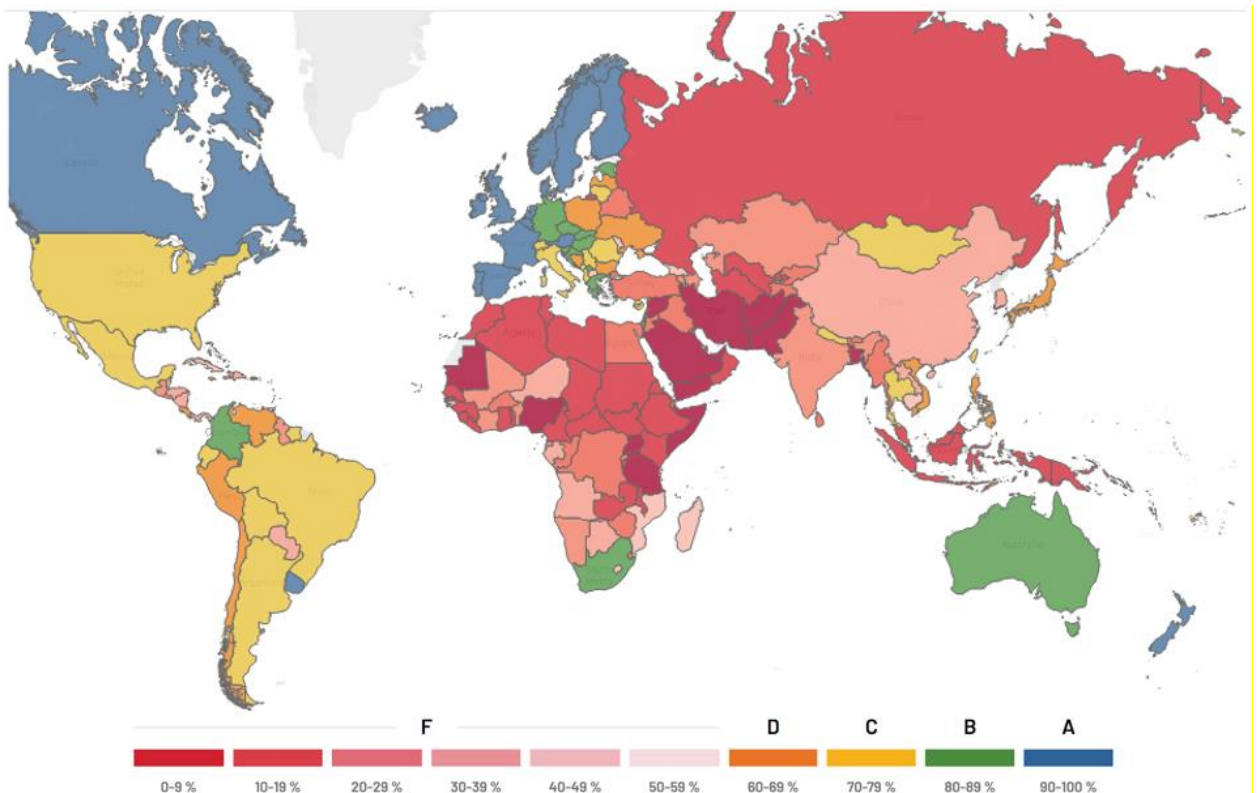


Figure 3. Map of 2018 GBGR with color gradations in the persecuting category

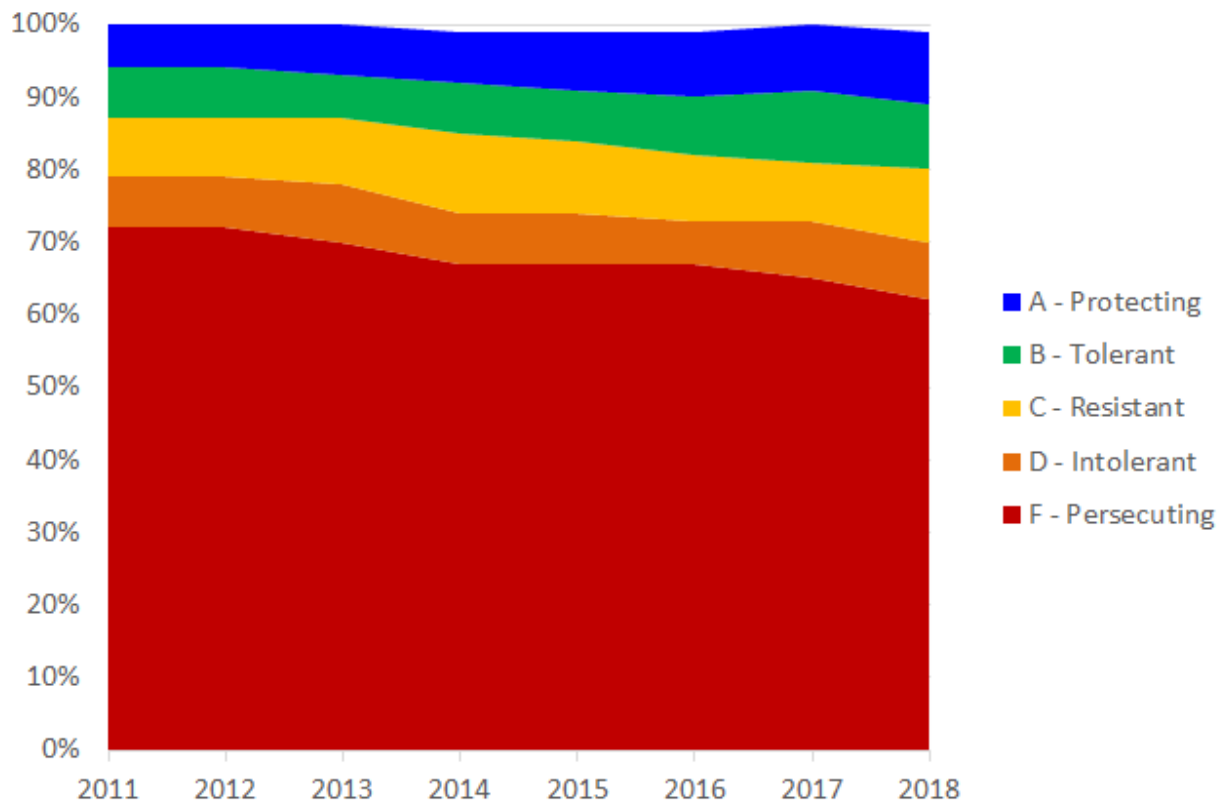


Figure 4. Area Graph of GBGR Country Classifications from 2011-2018

Figure 4 offers a visualization of the proportion of countries that are in each category. "F-Persecuting" remains the largest category, though there has been a gradual decrease since 2011.

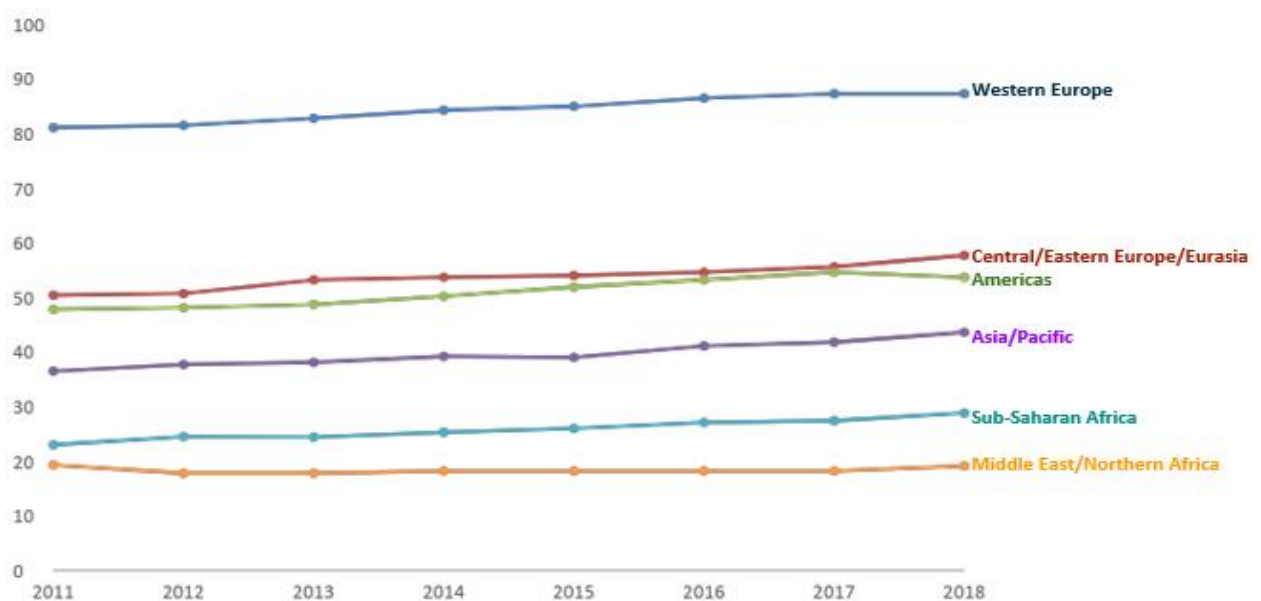


Figure 5. GBGR trends by region, 2011-2018

Figure 5 shows the changes in GBGR scores by regions of the world from 2011 to 2018. The region that is most rights-respecting is Western Europe; while the Middle East/Northern Africa region is the most persecuting region towards LGB individuals. Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Americas, and Central/Eastern Europe/Eurasia all lie in the “F-Persecuting” category overall. There is a significant, positive trend in GBGR scores over time.

REGRESSION DIMENSION SCALE ANALYSIS

Discussions about the scalability of the GBGR items also raised questions about the utility of the sub-scales as predictive tools independent of other GBGR items. Specifically, do GBGR dimensions independently predict different country-level characteristics and thus contribute important empirical understanding to rights protections at the country level?

Table 7. Regression Dimension Score Analysis, GBGR (2018)²¹

GBGR Dimension	GDP per Capita		Religiosity		Life Expectancy		Democracy		Internet Users		Freedom Rating	
	B	Sig.	B	Sig.	B	Sig.	B	Sig.	B	Sig.	B	Sig.
De Jure Protections	9350.7	.400	-4.65	.459	10.551	.002	0.210	.191	28.602	.024	0.207	.359
De Facto (Civil & Political) Protections	12150.1	.200	-5.02	.355	-.814	.784	-0.148	.308	-4.411	.688	-0.073	.706
LGBT Rights Advocacy	1625.3	.791	-5.33	.129	2.232	.237	0.094	.311	10.629	.134	0.461	.000
Socioeconomic Rights	-3507.4	.489	-1.12	.694	4.019	.010	0.119	.131	12.715	.029	0.098	.337
Societal Persecution	28960.6	.000	-5.88	.169	-.920	.688	0.555	.000	11.585	.184	0.418	.007
R-sq	.28		.23		.37		.33		.33		.34	
Adjusted R-sq	.26		.21		.35		.31		.31		.32	
GBGR Total Score	-3E-05	0.809	0.326	0.010	0.864	0.020	14.241	0.020	0.085	0.435	22.024	0.000

²¹ Sources for independent variables are: Mean years of schooling: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/>; freedom status: <https://freedomhouse.org/content/freedom-world-data-and-resources>; life expectancy at birth: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>; GDP per capita: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>; internet users: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>; rural population: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS>; democracy: http://www.eiu.com/Handlers/WhitepaperHandler.ashx?fi=Democracy_Index_2017.pdf&mode=wp&campaignid=DemocracyIndex2017; and religious affiliation: <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2012/12/globalReligion-tables.pdf>, and <https://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projection-table/2020/percent/all/>.

Following the approach used in the previous analyses, we conducted regression analyses using the GBGR dimension scores to predict country-level characteristics. We note that of the selected characteristics chosen, at least one of the GBGR dimension scores provided an independent for each variable (Table 7). GDP per capita significantly predicted Societal Persecution scores; religiosity did not predict any of the GBGR dimension scores, but significantly predicted overall GBGR scores. Life expectancy at birth significantly predicted de jure protection, socioeconomic rights, and GBGR scores. Democracy significantly predicted societal persecution and GBGR scores. Rate of internet users significantly predicted de jure protection and socioeconomic rights scores. Freedom rating significantly predicted LGBT rights advocacy, societal persecution, and GBGR scores. We believe this data provides empirical justification for the continued use of these subscales.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS

This section will offer a dimension-by-dimension analysis of trends that have contributed to the rise in the GBGR world mean score from **41.9% in 2011** to **47.7% in 2018** (see Table 6, [Summary of Findings](#)). Overall, countries experienced some level of increase in score for 24 out of 27 items on the GBGR, while two items regressed. For at least 18 items, there has been a 5% increase in the number of countries that scored positively on that item from 2011 – 2018. The analysis below examines the items with the greatest percentage change from 2011-2018.

DE JURE PROTECTIONS

The *de jure* protections dimension of the GBGR saw moderate positive change from 2011 – 2018, largely driven by four items. The items below are listed in order of greatest percentage change from 2011-2018.

Item number	GBGR item
5	Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation
8	Same-sex marriage is allowed
7	Civil unions for sexual minorities are allowed
4	No criminalization of sexual orientation

De Jure Protections—Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation

In 2011, only **29 countries** explicitly included sexual orientation in hate crimes legislation. That number rose to **51** in 2018; around a quarter of the countries studied on the Global Barometers now offer such protections.

Table 8. Countries adopting hate crimes legislation between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year
Mongolia	2017
Peru	2017
Austria	2016
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2016
Samoa	2016
Cabo Verde	2015
El Salvador	2015
Northern Cyprus	2014
US Virgin Islands	2014
Albania	2013
Georgia	2013
Greece	2013
Honduras	2013

Hungary	2013
Kosovo	2013
Montenegro	2013
Slovakia	2013
Argentina	2012
Chile	2012
Malta	2012
Sao Tome and Principe	2012
Serbia	2012

Among the 22 countries that adopted hate crimes legislation in this period, **Serbia** and **Malta** stand out as early adopters, leading other European countries like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Slovakia in the early 2010s. Their trajectories in terms of LGB human rights record could not be more different in the latest peer-reviewed dataset.

In 2011, Malta placed in the **C—Resistant (74%)** category while Serbia placed in the **F—Persecuting (56%)** category. In 2018, Malta scored a perfect **100%** on the GBGR—sharing that distinction with countries like Luxembourg and Uruguay—placing it firmly the **A—Protecting** category. While Serbia moved from the **F—Persecuting** category in 2011 to the **C—Resistant (70%)** category in 2018, progress on Serbia's GBGR score has been stalled since 2014. Regardless, the number of Central/Eastern European countries adopting hate crimes legislation in the early 2010s seems to partially explain GBGR global trends by region, where Central/Eastern Europe seems to trail only Western Europe in terms of rights for sexual minorities while being approximately tied with the Americas (see Figure 5, [Summary of Findings—GBGR Trends](#)).

Predictably, among the Americas, Argentina stands out as an early adopter of hate crimes legislation for sexual minorities. Although in 2018 Argentina places in the **C—Resistant (78%)** category, Argentina's robust legal protections for sexual minorities can be credited for its place in the **B—Tolerant (81%)** category from 2012 – 2017. It remains a leader in LGB rights among its South American counterparts, losing points largely in the **De Facto Protections** and **Societal Persecution** dimensions.

Less predictable is the presence of Chile on the list, placing in the **F—Persecuting (56%)** category in 2011, moving up to various points in the **C—Resistant** category from 2012 – 2017, but falling down to **D—Intolerant (67%)** in 2018. The fluctuation in scores may indicate the Chilean administration's change in attitudes towards LGB issues in recent years. Sebastián Piñera was elected President of Chile in December 2017—he has openly opposed same-sex marriage.²² **“Same-sex marriage is allowed”** remains the only item on the *de jure* dimension in which Chile scores a 0.

²² As per comment from regional peer review expert.

De Jure Protections—Same-sex marriage is allowed

An exceedingly small number of countries officially recognize same-sex marriage as of 2018. In 2011, only **10 countries** recognized same-sex marriage. The number rose to **28** in 2018.

Table 9. Countries legalizing same-sex marriage between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year	Means of Passage
Australia	2017	Legislature
Germany	2017	Legislature
Finland	2017	Legislature
Malta	2017	Legislature
Colombia	2016	Judiciary
Ireland	2015	Referendum
Luxembourg	2015	Legislature
United States	2015	Judiciary
Puerto Rico	2015	Judiciary
US Virgin Islands	2015	Legislature
England	2014	Legislature
Scotland	2014	Legislature
Wales	2014	Judiciary
Brazil	2013	Judiciary
France	2013	Legislature
New Zealand	2013	Legislature
Uruguay	2013	Legislature
Denmark	2012	Legislature

Among the 18 countries that legalized same-sex marriage between 2011 and 2018, countries from Western Europe once again lead the pack. The Americas follow shortly behind, with Brazil, Colombia, the United States and its territories Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. The regional differences in how same-sex marriage legislation materialized is notable. Aside from Ireland, the only country on the list above (see Table 9) to have legalized same-sex marriage via public referendum, most European countries have legalized same-sex marriage through their main legislative bodies, which require members of the legislature to take a vote on the issue.²³ In contrast, Brazil, Colombia, and the United States have won the right to marriage equality through rulings made by their supreme judicial bodies.

The case of same-sex marriage in the United States stands out due to the alacrity with which marriage equality followed decriminalization. In the early 2000s, a significant number of US states had already decriminalized homosexuality; in a historic move in 2003, the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) struck down criminalization of

²³ Caollai, Éanna Ó and Mark Hilliard. 2015. "[Ireland becomes first country to approve same-sex marriage by popular vote.](#)" *The Irish Times* May 23.

consensual same-sex sexual conduct nationwide in *Lawrence v Texas* on the grounds of an individual's fundamental right to privacy.²⁴ A little over a decade later in 2015, marriage equality was made the law of the land in *Obergefell v Hodges* in a tight 5-4 decision.²⁵ The legalization of marriage equality was sufficient to promote the United States from the **D—Intolerant (63%)** category in 2014 to **C—Resistant (78%)** in 2015. As of 2018, the US places in **C—Resistant (74%)** due to a point decrease in the **“Head of State supports same-sex marriage”** item. By and large, it is SCOTUS which has been the catalyst of LGBT human rights progress in the US, especially in light of political gridlock in the US legislature which relegates progressive LGBT legislation like the Equality Act to stagnation.²⁶ This is reflective of the political culture of the US, in which major civil rights issues in recent memory have been decided via judicial intervention.

In terms of legislative accomplishments, the United States in this period is most comparable to Brazil, which like the United States climbed categories from **D—Intolerant (67%)** in 2011 to **C—Resistant (74%)** in 2018. While Brazil may have led the Americas by legalizing same-sex marriage in 2013, the United States was the first in the region to score positively in the **“Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation”** item. The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 is the only major US LGBT human rights legislation in recent memory to have materialized through the legislative processes instead of through judicial intervention.²⁷ Colombia surges ahead of both countries, placing in the **B—Tolerant (85%)** category.

Notably, none of the independent (non-territory) Caribbean countries which comprise the “Americas” region, like Barbados and Dominica, have legalized same-sex marriage between 2011 – 2018. However, the more pressing issue for these countries is the matter of decriminalization of same-sex sexual acts—in this respect, Trinidad and Tobago, which decriminalized in 2018, may serve as a model.²⁸

The item **“Civil unions for sexual minorities are allowed”** fares better than the item **“Same-sex marriage is allowed”**—in 2011, **32 countries (16% of countries)** allowed same-sex civil unions, a number that increased to **44 countries (22% of countries)** in 2018.

De Jure Protections—No criminalization of sexual orientation

From 2011 – 2018, ten countries officially decriminalized homosexuality—as of 2018, **sexual orientation was not criminalized in 131 countries and regions but was still**

²⁴ Human Rights Watch. 2003. “[Lawrence v. Texas: Constitutional Right to Privacy of Gays and Lesbians in the United States](#).” *Human Rights Watch* July 1.

²⁵ Liptak, Adam. 2015. “[Supreme Court Ruling Makes Same-Sex Marriage a Right Nationwide](#).” *New York Times* June 27.

²⁶ Killough, Ashley. 2019. “[House passes Equality Act to increase protections for sexual orientation and gender identity](#).” *CNN* May 17.

²⁷ DiMascio, Jen. 2008. “[Senate passes hate crimes bill](#).” *Politico* October 22.

²⁸ Sopelsa, Brooke. 2018. “[Trinidad and Tobago set to decriminalize homosexuality](#).” *NBC News* April 12.

criminalized in 72 countries and regions. While at first glance these modest gains may not seem to contribute meaningfully to positive GBGR score trends, the summative weighting nature of the items in the Global Barometers ensures that **“No criminalization of sexual orientation”** remains the single most important item in terms of countries realizing positive gains on the GBGR.

Table 10. Countries decriminalizing homosexuality between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year of decriminalization
India	2018
Trinidad and Tobago	2018
Belize	2016
Nauru	2016
Seychelles	2016
Mozambique	2015
Northern Cyprus	2014
Palau	2014
Lesotho	2012
Sao Tome and Principe	2012

Not shown in the table are countries like Chad which formally criminalized homosexuality for the first time in 2017 and others like Gabon that formally criminalized homosexuality in 2019 but then decriminalized in 2020.²⁹ Angola decriminalized in 2019,³⁰ followed by Botswana later in the same year.³¹

India serves as an illuminating example of the sometimes-uneven nature of LGBT human rights progression.

In July 2009, the Delhi High Court struck down Section 377 of the British-era Indian penal Code as unconstitutional, a ruling that was overturned by the Supreme Court of India in 2013 in *Suresh Kumar Koushal v. Naz Foundation*.^{32, 33} In September 2018, the Supreme Court of India would revisit the *Naz Foundation* ruling in *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* and declare Section 377 unconstitutional, as it applied to the criminalization of consensual sex between adults of the same sex in private.³⁴

The ruling is significant both globally and regionally. *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* ensures that sexual minorities are no longer criminalized in the second-most populous country in the world. Regionally, countries in Southeast Asia that were formerly British colonies share significant similarities to the Indian Penal Code, including Section 377. Although India has languished in the **F—Persecuting** category since 2011, the September 2018 ruling serves as a reminder that decriminalization is

²⁹ Reuters staff. 2020. "[Gabon lawmakers vote to decriminalize homosexuality](#)." Reuters June 23.

³⁰ Reid, Graeme. 2019. "[Angola Decriminalizes Same-Sex Conduct](#)." Human Rights Watch January 23.

³¹ Reuters staff. 2019. "[Botswana's High Court decriminalizes homosexuality](#)." Reuters June 11.

³² Sing, Harmeet Shah. 2009. "[India court: Gay sex is legal](#)." CNN July 2.

³³ Mahapatra, Dhananjay. 2013. "[Supreme Court makes homosexuality a crime again](#)." Times of India December 12.

³⁴ Kidangoor, Abhishyant. 2018. "[India's Supreme Court Decriminalizes Homosexuality in a Historic Ruling for the LGBTQ Community](#)." Time September 6.

possible in even the most conservative societal context. The judgment further noted "Section 377 is arbitrary. The LGBT community possesses rights like others. Majoritarian views and popular morality cannot dictate constitutional rights. We have to vanquish prejudice, embrace inclusion and ensure equal rights."³⁵ It embodies a model for the kind of legal and societal activism and persistence required to secure LGBT human rights in the region.

Similar to India, Trinidad and Tobago decriminalized homosexuality in 2018. In April 2018, the Trinidad and Tobago High Court of Justice declared the country's buggery laws unconstitutional.³⁶ Among the independent (non-territory) Caribbean countries that the GBGR tracks, Trinidad and Tobago may serve as a model for other Caribbean nations fighting for decriminalization. Of the Caribbean nations that retain British colonial era laws that criminalize homosexuality, Barbados in particular faces a daunting task. The 1966 Barbados constitution includes a "savings clause" that prevents judicial review of British colonial era laws, meaning that for Barbados, decriminalization may have to be a battle fought in international human rights court, according to activists.^{37, 38} However, with the election of Prime Minister Mia Mottley in 2018, Barbados's "first female prime minister, who is also pro-LGBT," there may be hope for decriminalization.³⁹

³⁵ The Wire Staff. "[Supreme Court Scraps Section 377: 'Majoritarian Views Cannot Dictate Rights,' Says CJL](#)," *The Wire* September 7.

³⁶ Sopelsa, Brooke. 2018. "[Trinidad and Tobago set to decriminalize homosexuality](#)," *NBC News* April 12.

³⁷ Berrera, Francisco. 2018. "[I Have to Leave to Be Me.](#)" *Discriminatory Laws against LGBT People in the Eastern Caribbean*. New York, NY: Human Rights Watch.

³⁸ Mann, Arshy. 2017. "[Why LGBT Bajans can't sue the government to end anti-gay laws](#)," *Xtra* April 20.

³⁹ Cassell, Heather. 2018. "[Barbados elects pro-LGBT female prime minister](#)," *The Bay Area Reporter* May 30.

DE FACTO (CIVIL AND POLITICAL) PROTECTIONS

The *de facto* protections dimension of the GBGR saw moderate positive change from 2011 – 2018, largely driven by three items:

Item number	GBGR item
12	Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality
10	Head of state supports legalization of homosexuality
11	Head of state supports same-sex civil union/same-sex marriage

De Facto (Civil and Political) Protections—Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality

Table 11. Countries with majority LGBT acceptance between 2011 and 2018

Country/Re	Year of majority acceptance
Botswana	2018
Bulgaria	2018
Cambodia	2018
Ecuador	2018
Mongolia	2018
South Africa	2018
South Korea	2018
Sri Lanka	2018
Vietnam	2018
Colombia	2017
Croatia	2016
Fiji	2016
Ukraine	2016
Namibia	2015
Cyprus	2014
Mozambique	2014
Poland	2014
Angola	2013
Hungary	2013
Israel	2013
North Cyprus	2013
United Kingdom	2013
Venezuela	2013

In 2018, there were **72 countries (or 36% of all countries in the Global Barometers dataset)** where the majority of the population accepted sexual minorities.

Cambodia, Mongolia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam are notable in the list as representatives of the Asia/Pacific region, especially since the Asia/Pacific region overall lies overall in the F—Persecuting category, ahead of only Sub-Saharan Africa

and Middle East/North Africa (see Figure 5, [Summary of Findings—GBGR Trends](#)).

According to the Global Acceptance Index by the Williams Institute, “Social attitudes about LGBT people can heavily influence whether LGBT people are accepted or rejected by employers, family members, teachers, clergy, and society in general.”⁴⁰ The item **“Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality”** measures the extent to which LGBT individuals are offered societal acceptance which impacts the day-to-day lived realities of sexual minorities. In some instances, there may be a discrepancy between the societal acceptance and legal protections (see [Methodology—Correlation between GAI and GBGR Scores](#)).

Of the Asia/Pacific region countries that reached majority acceptance of sexual minorities, Vietnam moved 15% points from the **F—Persecuting (52%)** category in 2011 to the **D—Intolerant (67%)** category in 2018. Part of this impressive 15% points increase in score can be attributed to Vietnam's gradually changing views of sexual minorities, especially in urban centers like Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam's GBGR score belies its societal attitudes towards LGBT individuals. While it is legally not possible for same-sex couples to get married, they can still hold weddings—in fact, in 2015, the Law on Marriage and Family came into effect, declaring it illegal to ban gay weddings.⁴¹ Additionally, in the vein of regional counterparts such as Thailand, societal attitudes towards LGBT tourists are generally more tolerant. There may need to be further study on the interplay between GBGR score, tourism, and societal acceptance of sexual minorities (see [Exploratory Analysis](#)).

Lastly, as of 2018, there were **129 countries (or 64% of all countries)** where the **“Head of state supports legalization of homosexuality”**—16 more than in 2011. However, only **51 countries (or 25% of all countries)** in 2018 have heads of state that score positively in the item **“Head of state supports same-sex civil union/same-sex marriage.”** The discrepancy between these two items is expected since legalization of same-sex civil union/marriage tends to trail decriminalization of homosexuality—in some cases, even if public opinion may favor decriminalization, it may not favor legalization of same-sex civil union/marriage. In 2018, of the **131 countries (65% of countries)** in the world where there is **“No criminalization of sexual orientation”** (see [De Jure Protections—No criminalization of sexual orientation](#)), only **28 countries** allowed same-sex marriage and only **44 countries** allowed same-sex civil unions (see [De Jure Protections—Same-sex marriage is allowed](#)).

⁴⁰ Flores, Andrew R. 2019. [Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 174 Countries, 1981 to 2017](#). 4. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

⁴¹ Stowe Family Law. 2014. [“Vietnam set to lift gay marriage ban.”](#) Stow Family Law [blog] December 29.

LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The LGBT Rights Advocacy dimension saw the largest increase in score from 2011 - 2018 among all dimensions due to several items.

Item Number	GBGR item
19	LGBT pride events are allowed by the state
20	Security forces provide protection to LGBT pride participants
16	LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register
17	National LGBT rights organizations exist

Table 12. Countries allowing pride events for the first time between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year of pride event
Angola	2018
Barbados	2018
Fiji	2018
Kenya	2018
Liberia	2018
Madagascar	2018
Micronesia	2018
Swaziland (Eswatini)	2018
Trinidad and Tobago	2018
US Virgin Islands	2018
Lebanon	2017
Namibia	2017
Bhutan	2016
Kiribati	2016
Nauru	2016
Seychelles	2016
Timor-Leste	2016
Jamaica	2015
Serbia	2014
Cabo Verde	2013
Moldova	2013
Mongolia	2013
Sao Tome and Principe	2013
Ukraine	2013
Zimbabwe	2013
Dominican Republic	2012
Laos	2012
Macedonia	2012
Myanmar	2012
Palau	2012
Vietnam	2012

As of 2018, **121 countries (or 60% of countries)** allowed pride events, compared to **92 (45% of countries)** in 2011. **95 countries (47% of countries)** offered security forces as protection for such events. Between 2011 and 2018, the number of countries allowing LGBT organizations to officially register increased from **121** to **137**. However, the number of countries where LGBT organizations exist exceed that figure—from **154** in 2011 to **169** in 2018.

The only item that does not significantly contribute to a score increase in the LGBT Rights Advocacy dimension is “**LGBT rights organizations are able to peacefully and safely assemble.**” In 2018, only **103 countries (51% of countries)**, allowed LGBT organizations to assemble without fear of state or societal retaliation, despite the fact that homosexuality is decriminalized in **131 countries (65% of countries)**. This indicates that there may be some instances where LGBT visibility and organizing infrastructure may either trail in countries that have recently decriminalized or that there is not enough civil society impetus to organize public assembly due to fear of backlash, societal or otherwise. A deeper dive may be needed to identify countries where this backlash occurs and to understand the source and intensity.

There have been gains in **16 countries** from 2011 – 2018 in terms of LGBT civil society organizations being officially recognized by the state. In 2011, **121 countries (59% of countries)** allowed LGBT organizations to legally register with the state, a number that rose to **137 countries (68% of countries)** in 2018. This increase in the number of countries allowing legal registration of LGBT NGOs tracks with positive decriminalization trends (see [Discussion of Findings—No criminalization of sexual orientation](#)).

Largely due to the efforts of grassroots activists and organizations, the LGBT Rights Advocacy dimension of the Global Barometers saw major gains. However, the increasing public visibility of LGBT civil society has not come without accompanying challenges. For example, Tunisia and Turkey both stand out as countries which have regressed—these countries had allowed pride events at some point before 2018 but not in 2018. Both Tunisia and Turkey have political elites that have actively targeted sexual minorities' right to free association and assembly, leading over the years to scoring zero in the items “**LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register**” and “**LGBT organizations are allowed to safely and peacefully assemble.**”

Tunisia and Turkey have thus languished in the **F—Persecuting** category since 2011, and a major re-imagining of public attitudes towards sexual minorities needs to occur in order to create the political will necessary to prevent active state obstruction of LGBT human rights.

In some cases, increased LGBT visibility has been met with violence. In 2016, the first pride event held in Kenya's (**F—Persecuting**) Kakuma refugee camp was met with substantial public backlash, including death threats.⁴² Decriminalization efforts would go on to fail in 2019, indicating prejudices in both the legal and societal spheres.⁴³ There were, however, relative bright spots in this period. Although Asia/Pacific islands

⁴² Glass, Jess. 2018. “[LGBT refugees attacked and threatened with death after holding Pride celebration in camp.](#)” *PinkNews* June 20.

⁴³ O'Donnell, Jefcoate. 2019. “Kenya's Bid for LGBT Equality Hits a Wall.” *Foreign Policy* May 24.

states such as Kiribati, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru, and Palau place in the **F—Persecuting** category, these states have allowed LGBT pride events. For these islands, the 2010s have been marked by a series of events leading to greater societal openness to LGBT individuals, although legal protections remain lacking.

SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

The **Socioeconomic Rights** dimension saw moderate positive change from 2011 to 2018, with more countries offering both workplace and housing discrimination protections to sexual minorities.

Item Number	GBGR item
22	Workplace anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation
21	Fair housing laws include sexual orientation

In 2011, **62 countries (30% of countries)** had workplace anti-discrimination laws that specifically included sexual orientation. By 2018, this number increased to **80 countries (39% of countries)**.

Table 13. Countries adopting workplace anti-discrimination laws between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year
Brazil	2018
Macedonia	2018
Nepal	2018
Thailand	2018
Mongolia	2017
Peru	2017
Liechtenstein	2016
Albania	2015
Kiribati	2015
Suriname	2015
Ukraine	2015
Cuba	2014
Northern Cyprus	2014
Honduras	2013
Puerto Rico	2013
Samoa	2013
Chile	2012
Moldova	2012

Fair housing laws seem to trail workplace anti-discrimination laws, with only **60 countries (or 30% of countries)** having adopted fair housing legislation protective of sexual minorities by 2018, compared to **49 countries (or 24% of countries)** in 2011.

Table 14. Countries adopting fair housing legislation between 2011 and 2018

Country/Region	Year
Andorra	2018
Italy	2018
Macedonia	2018
Poland	2018
Greece	2017
Malta	2017
Mongolia	2017
Peru	2017
Suriname	2015
Liechtenstein	2016
Cuba	2014
Northern Cyprus	2014
Chile	2012

Rarely do countries have standalone fair housing legislation which explicitly includes sexual orientation. Fair housing protections for sexual minorities are often presumptively included as part of broader efforts, such as adding anti-discrimination language to a country's constitution to include sexual orientation, or passed in conjunction with bills that offer workplace protections.

SOCIETAL PERSECUTION

There has been comparatively little movement in this dimension from 2011 to 2018. Two items are primarily responsible for the change in this dimension:

Item number	GBGR item
25	Crimes based on sexual orientation are reported to police
24	No known acts of violence against sexual minorities

Unlike the **De Jure Protections** dimension, where scores rarely tend to regress once legal rights for sexual minorities are secured, the **Societal Persecution** section shows greater variance due to the responsiveness of its items to societal changes. Sexual minorities globally are routinely victims of violence based on their sexual orientation. The “**Crimes based on sexual orientation are reported to police**” item attempts to measure, in part, whether sexual minorities who are victims of violence feel comfortable in coming forward to report their experiences. In 2011, only **47 countries (23% of countries)** scored positively in this item. That number increased to **69 countries (34% of countries)** in 2018, with the greatest increase occurring between 2017 and 2018 (**52 countries to 69 countries**). That 22 more countries get a point for this item indicates that despite yearly fluctuations, there is an overall rise in the number of countries where reporting of this kind is becoming slowly but gradually normalized.

Most notably, and perhaps alarmingly, the number of countries scoring positively for the item “**No known acts of violence against sexual minorities**” decreased from **83 countries** in 2011 to **54** in 2018, meaning that in **73% of countries** there was definitive evidence of some type of violence perpetuated against sexual minorities on the basis of their sexual orientation. The explanation for this massive spike in known acts of violence against sexual minorities may be manifold (see [Methodology—GBGR Mokken Scale Analysis](#)). Increased visibility in countries that have recently decriminalized or have held pride events might lead to targeted violence. Reporting mechanisms and infrastructure may have improved to track more isolated cases of violence, as more and more countries have adopted formal reporting infrastructure as standard practice. Conversely, victims of violence may feel more comfortable coming forward to state authorities. Due to the limitations of binary coding, this item does not measure the extent or magnitude of violence that occurred—only whether it is known to have occurred. Interestingly, the number of countries that scored positively on the item “**No known acts of murder against sexual minorities**” fluctuated very little from **172 countries (or 84% of countries)** in 2011 to **175 (or 86% of countries)** in 2018, indicating that this item responds differently to movement in LGBT human rights than its counterpart, “**No known acts of violence against sexual minorities.**”

CONSIDERATION OF STRUCTURAL FACTORS AND GBGR SCORES

How do we account for global and regional protection or persecution of sexual minorities? Prior research by Dicklitch-Nelson et al (2019) has explored how economic growth, social trust, social movements, religion and democratization can account for differences in the way a country treats sexual minorities.⁴⁴ The analyses that follow update these prior analyses with more recent data to explore how economic growth, religion, political regime, and rates of internet access play a role in how rights protective or persecuting a country is towards LGBT individuals. These ideas were operationalized into seven independent variables – GDP per capita, life expectancy, educational attainment, rate of rural population, religiosity, democracy, and rates of internet users.⁴⁵ These variables were then tested to predict GBGR and GBTR scores (see Figure 6).

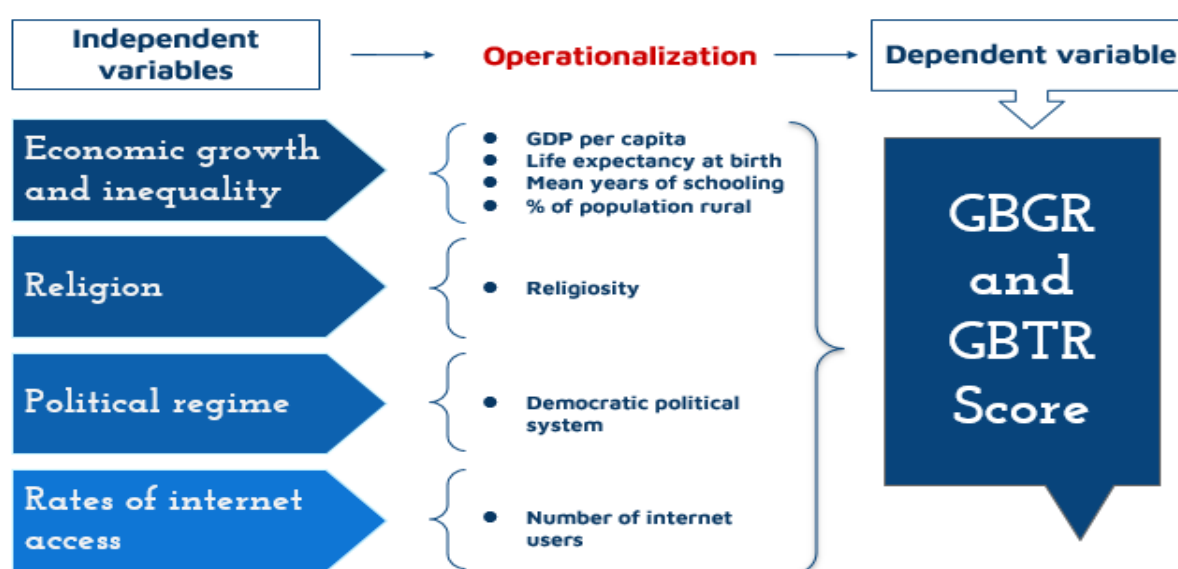


Figure 6. Accounting for variance in GBGR/GBTR scores

⁴⁴ Dicklitch-Nelson, Susan, Scottie Thompson Buckland, Berwood Yost and Danel Draguljić. 2019. "From persecutors to protectors: Human rights and the F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR)." *Journal of Human Rights*: 1-18.

⁴⁵ Religiosity is measured by the religious composition by country (in percentages). These estimates are based primarily on the 2010 revision of the UN World Population Prospects data. The most current data for this predictor is from 2010 (Pew Research Center 2012). Religious composition refers to the percentage of people within each country who identify themselves as being a part of a religious group (religious groups included in the survey were Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, folk religions, Jewish, and other religions). The last category is "unaffiliated," meaning adherents do not identify as being a part of any religion). These categories total 100 percent; thus, the religious composition of each country can be calculated. For this research, we combined all religious groups into one percentage, and compared that to the percentage of "unaffiliated" to determine the religiosity score for each country. Sources for independent variables are: Mean years of schooling: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/>; freedom status: <https://freedomhouse.org/content/freedom-world-data-and-resources>; life expectancy at birth: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>; GDP per capita: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>; internet users: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>; rural population: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS>; democracy: http://www.eiu.com/Handlers/WhitepaperHandler.ashx?fi=Democracy_Index_2017.pdf&mode=wp&campaignid=DemocracyIndex2017; and religious affiliation: <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2012/12/globalReligion-tables.pdf>, and <https://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projection-table/2020/percent/all/>.

Descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations) were calculated for each predictor based on the GBGR score category of the country for the entire world. GDP per capita, mean years of schooling, life expectancy, internet users, and having a democratic political system were highest in “protecting” countries, while religiosity and percent of the population that is rural were highest in “persecuting” countries. The scores for the world as a whole are shown in the last row of the table (see Table 15).

Table 15. Descriptive statistics for GBGR scores, 2018

Tolerance Category	GDP per capita		Mean years of schooling		Religiosity		Life expectancy		Rural population		Internet users		Democratic political system	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
A - Protecting	21	52363	21	11	21	78	21	82	21	16	21	88	15	83%
B - Tolerant	18	25396	18	11	18	82	18	78	18	28	18	78	2	17%
C - Resistant	21	17062	21	9	21	91	21	76	21	34	21	63	1	5%
D - Intolerant	17	22319	17	10	17	88	17	75	17	32	17	66	1	7%
F -Persecuting	126	7366	126	8	126	95	126	69	126	48	126	42	2	2%
Total World	203	24901	203	10	203	87	203	76	203	32	203	68	165	23%

Table 16. Summary of multiple regression analysis, world GBGR 2018

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-7.259	30.453		-0.238	0.812
GDP per capita	0.000	0.000	0.034	0.336	0.737
Mean years of schooling	0.185	0.725	0.021	0.256	0.799
Religiosity	-0.442	0.139	-0.219	-3.191	0.002
Life expectancy at birth	1.071	0.415	0.295	2.580	0.011
Democratic political system	19.801	6.579	0.234	3.010	0.003
Rural population	0.105	0.118	0.081	0.888	0.376
Internet users (per 100 people)	0.182	0.135	0.179	1.349	0.179
Dependent Variable: GBGR Score					

A multiple regression was run to predict GBGR score from the key predictors in Table 15 (GDP per capita, mean years of schooling, religiosity, life expectancy, democratic political system, percent of the population that is rural, and internet users). Religiosity, life expectancy and having a democratic political system significantly predicted GBGR score.⁴⁶ Lower rates of religiosity, higher life expectancy, and having a democratic political system are associated with a higher GBGR score, or how rights respective or rights persecuting countries are towards sexual minorities. These structural factors provide strong support to the argument that there is a correlation between GBGR score and economic development and political system (Table 16).

⁴⁶ Statistics for the full model are: $F(7, 152) = 21.085$, $p < .001$, adj. $R^2 = .481$.

EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

STATISTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GBGR SCORE AND TOURISM

In addition to the multiple regression analysis in the Results Section, this section aims to suggest further research areas regarding the relationship between GBGR score and several economic indicators, such as tourism receipts.⁴⁷ This exploratory analysis is inspired by a recent and growing body of literature on the importance of LGBT rights and their contribution to many economies across the world. In an analysis of 39 emerging economies from 1990-2011, by incorporating the Global Index on Legal Recognition of Homosexual Orientation (GILRHO) in various statistical models, Badgett (2014) found strong evidence that countries with more rights for LGB people have higher levels of economic development (HDI and GDP per capita).⁴⁸ In a more recent study, Badgett (2019) expanded the data set to 132 countries from 1966-2011. Using a fixed effects regression approach, the study found "an additional point on the 8-point GILRHO scale of legal rights for LGB persons is associated with an increase in real GDP per capita of approximately \$2000."⁴⁹

Besides economic development, economic losses due to discrimination against LGBT people and exclusive policies could be significant and have been recorded in various studies and reports. A case study of South Africa, published by the Williams Institute at UCLA, estimated an annual economic cost of US\$316.8 million due to wage discrimination and underemployment related to sexual orientation and gender expression.⁵⁰ NGO Open For Business calculated that anti-LGBT policies could cost Kenya up to US\$1.2 billion per year (equivalent to 1.7% of the country's GDP).⁵¹ In addition, Kenya is also missing out on economic growth and job creation opportunities, as the country's anti-LGBT policies undermine its national reputation and drive away international travelers and industry investments.⁵² Consulting firm Out Now Global estimated that the annual value of total spending on travel by LGBT people exceeded US\$210 billion in 2018.⁵³ Europe, which includes many countries with high GBGR scores, dominated the LGBT tourism market with US\$76.5 billion share.⁵⁴

Given the tremendous economic benefits generated by the tourism industry and its

⁴⁷ As defined by the World Tourism Organization, tourism receipts are the consumption expenditures of international inbound visitors, including their payments to national carriers for international transport, as well as prepayments and payments afterwards made for goods and services provided by the destination country. Laimer, Peter and Jürgen Weiß. 2006. [Data Sources on Tourism Expenditures. The Austrian Experiences Taking into Account the TBoP Requirements](#), 8. Vienna, Austria: Statistics Austria.

⁴⁸ Badgett, Lee, Sheila Nezhad, Kees Waaldijk, and Yana van der Meulen Rodgers. 2014. [The Relationship Between LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development](#). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

⁴⁹ Badgett, Lee, and Yana Rodgers. 2019. "The Relationship Between LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development: Macro-Level Evidence." *World Development* 120: 1-14.

⁵⁰ Nyeck, S.N., and Debra Shepherd. 2019. [The Economic Cost of LGBT Stigma and Discrimination in South Africa](#). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

⁵¹ Open for Business. 2019. [The Economic Case for LGBT+ Inclusion in Kenya](#), 32.

⁵² Open for Business. 2019. [The Economic Case for LGBT+ Inclusion in Kenya](#), 32.

⁵³ Out Now. 2018. "LGBT Travel Market—Annual Spend Now Exceeds USD\$218 billion." Out Now [blog] November 6.

⁵⁴ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Center for the Promotion of Imports. 2018. [The European market potential for LGBTQ tourism](#). The Hague, Netherlands: CBI.

potential growth if LGB travelers are welcomed in more destinations, it would be helpful to test for the relationship between LGB inclusiveness and tourism receipts in various rigorous econometric models.

For instance, we envision conducting a longitudinal study focusing on the net effect of GBGR score on tourism revenue, controlling for other relevant variables such as number of internet users, GDP per capita, and trade openness (ratio between the sum of exports and imports and GDP). There are several reasons for selecting these control variables. First, traveling requires money and GDP per capita generally reflects the status of a country's economic health and its citizens' capability to contribute to the international tourism receipts. A study published by PricewaterhouseCoopers examined the correlation between GDP per capita and number of air trips for nearly 200 countries in 2013, and found that as GDP per capita increases, propensity to fly increases.⁵⁵

Second, internet usage has had a great impact on the tourism industry in the last decade with the rise of online booking sites and online payment methods that facilitate travelers' plans and experiences. In terms of international trade, as trade increases the volume of transactions among countries, investors and consumers potentially get more familiar with conducting business and visiting trade partners more frequently. A case study of Thailand, using panel data from 207 trading partners of Thailand from 1998-2010, found a positive correlation between trade openness and tourism demand. In particular, "a percentage increase in trade share to GDP contributed about 0.046 percent of short-term foreign tourism demand and 0.807 percent of long-term tourism demand in Thailand".⁵⁶

We believe research that focuses on identifying the relationship between LBGT rights protections and other economic indicators may encourage the development of more tolerant and rights-protective policies, thus strengthening and broadening human rights throughout the world.

⁵⁵ Morphet, Hayley, and Claudia Bottini. 2015. [Propensity to fly in emerging economies: What do the trends mean for aviation infrastructure investment?](#) London, United Kingdom: PwC.

⁵⁶ Chaisumpunsakul, Wipaporn, and Piriya Pholphirul. 2018. "[Does international trade promote international tourism demand? Evidence from Thailand's trading partners.](#)" *Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences* 39(3): 393-400.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Although the world mean GBGR score has continued to increase since 2011, global LGBT human rights experienced uneven progress since 2018. Public opinion on the acceptance of homosexuality has also remained sharply divided as noted by the Williams's Institute Global Acceptance Index (GAI)⁵⁷ and the most recent Pew Research center report.⁵⁸ However, despite uneven progress there has been a steady improvement in global attitudes towards sexual minorities. But continued threats to LGBT human rights exist.

Consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults is still widely criminalized in the world, although there have been recent repeals of anti-sodomy laws in some countries since 2018 like **Angola** and **Botswana**.^{59,60} In an unusual move, **Gabon** formally criminalized homosexuality in 2019, then decriminalized homosexuality in 2020.⁶¹ **Bhutan** is on its way to decriminalizing homosexuality in 2020 after the lower house of Parliament voted to repeal two sections of the country's 2004 criminal code which made "unnatural sex" between consenting adults illegal.^{62,63}

In contrast, **Kenya**'s High Court upheld its criminalization statute in 2019, much to the disappointment of active LGBT non-governmental organizations in Kenyan civil society.⁶⁴ **Brunei** not only maintained its criminalization of homosexuality, but went one step further in infamously introducing the death penalty for homosexuality.⁶⁵ **Russia** continued its purges against gay men and lesbians in Chechnya.⁶⁶

LGBT individuals continue to be considered social pariahs and scapegoats for political, economic, and social ills within their countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased this. In some countries, like **Ukraine** and **Senegal**, the LGBT community has been scapegoated for causing COVID-19, citing a "divine retribution for immoral behaviors."⁶⁷ Other governments like **Uganda** and **Tanzania** have used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to crackdown on the LGBT community.^{68,69}

The challenges to LGBT rights are not simply temporal or fleeting. The rise of right-wing populist/nationalist parties in Europe and elsewhere also constitutes a

⁵⁷ Flores, Andrew R. 2019. [Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 174 Countries, 1981 to 2017](#). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

⁵⁸ Poushter, Jacob and Nicholas Kent. 2020. ["The Global Divide on Homosexuality Persists."](#) Pew Research Center June 25.

⁵⁹ Angola's parliament struck down criminalization of homosexuality in 2019, but President of Angola did not sign the new penal code until November 2020, and the new penal code will actually come into effect in February 2021. In addition, discrimination based on homosexuality was also outlawed. Reid, Graeme. 2019. ["Angola Decriminalizes Same-Sex Conduct."](#) Human Rights Watch January 23.

⁶⁰ Human Rights Watch. 2019. ["Botswana: High Court Strikes Down Sodomy Laws."](#) Human Rights Watch June 11.

⁶¹ Human Dignity Trust. 2019. ["Gabon's retrogressive step criminalizing same-sex activity marks it as outlier against global trend."](#) Human Dignity Trust December 17.

⁶² Associated Press. 2019. ["Rights group cheers Bhutan's move toward legalizing gay sex."](#) ABC News January 9.

⁶³ Knight, Kyle. 2020. ["Bhutan on Brink of Overturning Same-Sex Conduct Ban."](#) Human Rights Watch January 17.

⁶⁴ Human Rights Watch. 2019. ["Kenya: Court Upholds Archaic Anti-Homosexuality Laws."](#) Human Rights Watch May 24.

⁶⁵ After considerable international pressure, the Sultan of Brunei placed a moratorium on the death penalty for homosexuality. BBC News. 2019. ["Brunei says it won't enforce death penalty for gay sex."](#) BBC News May 6.

⁶⁶ Human Rights Watch. 2019. ["Russia: New Anti-Gay Crackdown in Chechnya."](#) Human Rights Watch May 8.

⁶⁷ Reid, Graeme. 2020. ["A Global Report Card on LGBTQ+ Rights for IDAHOBIT."](#) Human Rights Watch May 18.

⁶⁸ President Museveni blamed the international LGBT community for the nation-wide protests that broke out after the arrest of presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobbi Wine). See: Kutchu Times. 2020. ["President Museveni blames LGBT community for nation-wide protests."](#) Alturi and Ghoshal, Neela. 2020. ["Uganda LGBT Shelter Residents arrested on COVID-19 Pretext."](#) Human Rights Watch April 3.

⁶⁹ Ghoshal, Neela. 2020. ["Tanzania: Govt Should Change its Tune on LGBTIQ Health and Rights."](#) Human Rights Watch February 13.

fundamental threat to some of the inroads made with LGBT human rights.⁷⁰ Politicized homophobia has been used as a rallying cry against “the global gay agenda”⁷¹ and the demise of the “traditional family.”⁷² This has manifested for example, in state crackdowns bans on “LGBTQ propaganda” in **Hungary** and **Russia** and “LGBT free” zones in **Poland**.^{73,74,75} As one scholar noted, the Putin regime is using “traditional values” to refute LGBT rights as human rights, justifying the introduction of “anti-homopropaganda” laws and claiming “moral sovereignty” over Western immoral values.⁷⁶

However, significant progress has been made in some regions. Although **Brazil** elected the self-described homophobic Jair Bolsonaro as its head of state, the Brazilian supreme court ruled in favor of anti-discrimination laws.⁷⁷ Similarly, in the **United States**, although the administration of President Donald Trump launched attacks on the human rights of the transgender community,⁷⁸ the U.S. Supreme Court solidified employment non-discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.⁷⁹ Meanwhile, in **Argentina**, the government instituted a one percent transgender quota in the military,⁸⁰ and in **Switzerland**, a majority of citizens voted to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.⁸¹

Other countries made history by legalizing same-sex marriage in 2019,⁸² including **Austria**, **Ecuador**, **Northern Ireland**,⁸³ and **Taiwan**. **Costa Rica** legalized same-sex marriage in 2020.⁸⁴ **Montenegro** legalized same-sex civil partnerships in 2020, which will come into effect in 2021.⁸⁵

Singular country events may portray either a rosy or dismal picture for the human rights of LGBT individuals, but they do not paint the complete picture. As some analysts have noted, there is no linear march toward progress.⁸⁶ Because the Franklin & Marshall College Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) examines multiple dimensions of human rights protection and persecution, the scores provide an accurate and comprehensive assessment of the lived realities of LGBT people in each country. The objective, reliable, and quantifiable measurement tool presented

⁷⁰ The Pew Research Center suggests that supporters of several right-wing populist parties in Europe, including Spain, Poland, Hungary, France and Germany are less likely to see homosexuality as acceptable. See Poushter, Jacob and Nicholas Kent. 2020. “[The Global Divide on Homosexuality Persists](#).” Pew Research Center June 25.

⁷¹ Dicklitch-Nelson, Susan. 2020. “[Are LGBT Human Rights in Uganda a Lost Cause?](#)” *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* February 27.

⁷² Wilkinson, Cai. 2014. Putting “[Putting “Traditional Values” into Practice: The Rise and Contestation of Anti-Homopropaganda Laws in Russia](#).” *Journal of Human Rights* 13(3): 363-379.

⁷³ Haynes, Suyin. 2020. “[Why a Children’s book is becoming a Symbol of Resistance in Hungary’s Fight over LGBT Rights](#).” *Time Magazine* October 8.

⁷⁴ Human Rights Watch. 2018. “[No Support” Russia’s “Gay Propaganda” Law Imperils LGBT Youth](#).” *Human Rights Watch* December 11.

⁷⁵ Ciobanu, Claudia. 2020. “[A Third of Poland Declared LGBT Free](#).” *Balkan Insight* February 25.

⁷⁶ Wilkinson, Cai. 2014. Putting “[Putting “Traditional Values” into Practice: The Rise and Contestation of Anti-Homopropaganda Laws in Russia](#).” *Journal of Human Rights* 13(3): 363-379.

⁷⁷ Teixeira, Fabio. 2019. “[Brazil’s top court rules to make homophobia a crime](#).” *Reuters* May 24.

⁷⁸ Thoreson, Ryan. 2020. “[Trump Administration Doubles Down on Trans Discrimination](#).” *Human Rights Watch* June 25.

⁷⁹ Thoreson, Ryan. 2020. “[US Supreme Court Ruling a Victory for LGBT Workers](#).” *Human Rights Watch* June 15.

⁸⁰ Bollinger, Alex. 2020. “[Argentina’s army now has a 1% transgender quota while the US still bans transgender members](#).” *LGBTQNation* November 24.

⁸¹ Peltier, Elian. 2020. “[Swiss Vote to Penalize Public Homophobia](#).” *The New York Times* February 9.

⁸² Pew Research Center. 2019. “[Same-Sex Marriage Around the World](#).” Pew Research Center October 28.

⁸³ Stewart, Philippa H. 2019. “[Northern Ireland Strikes Victory for Equality](#).” *Human Rights Watch* October 24.

⁸⁴ Cabrera, Cristian González. 2020. “[Costa Rica First in Central America to Legalize Same-Sex Marriage](#).” *Human Rights Watch* May 26.

⁸⁵ Euronews with AP, AFP. 2020. “[Montenegro becomes first country in Balkans to legalize same sex civil partnerships](#).” *Euronews* July 2.

⁸⁶ Ayoub, Phillip M., and Douglas Page. 2020. “[When do Opponents of Gay Rights Mobilize? Explaining Political Participation in Times of Backlash against Liberalism](#).” *Political Research Quarterly* 73(3): 696-713.

in the GBGR enables meaningful analysis of trends and comparison across countries and regions to prompt further action and analysis.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. 2018 world GBGR scores

Table A1. Ranking countries by their 2018 GBGR scores

Rank	Country	GBGR Score	Tolerance Category
1	Luxembourg	100	A - Protecting
2	Malta	100	A - Protecting
3	Uruguay	100	A - Protecting
4	Wales	100	A - Protecting
5	Belgium	96	A - Protecting
6	Canada	96	A - Protecting
7	Denmark	96	A - Protecting
8	Finland	96	A - Protecting
9	France	96	A - Protecting
10	New Zealand	96	A - Protecting
11	Norway	96	A - Protecting
12	Austria	93	A - Protecting
13	England	93	A - Protecting
14	Ireland	93	A - Protecting
15	Netherlands	93	A - Protecting
16	Portugal	93	A - Protecting
17	Scotland	93	A - Protecting
18	Spain	93	A - Protecting
19	Sweden	93	A - Protecting
20	United Kingdom	93	A - Protecting
21	Iceland	92	A - Protecting
22	Australia	89	B - Tolerant
23	Hungary	89	B - Tolerant
24	Northern Ireland	89	B - Tolerant
25	Puerto Rico	89	B - Tolerant
26	Andorra	88	B - Tolerant
27	Liechtenstein	88	B - Tolerant
28	Colombia	85	B - Tolerant
29	Croatia	85	B - Tolerant
30	Estonia	85	B - Tolerant
31	Greece	85	B - Tolerant
32	Slovenia	85	B - Tolerant
33	US Virgin Islands	85	B - Tolerant
34	Czech Republic	81	B - Tolerant
35	Germany	81	B - Tolerant
36	Israel	81	B - Tolerant
37	Slovakia	81	B - Tolerant
38	South Africa	81	B - Tolerant
39	Kosovo	81	B - Tolerant
40	Argentina	78	C - Resistant

41	Cyprus	78	C - Resistant
42	Ecuador	78	C - Resistant
43	Italy	78	C - Resistant
44	Lithuania	78	C - Resistant
45	Romania	78	C - Resistant
46	Brazil	74	C - Resistant
47	Cabo Verde	74	C - Resistant
48	United States	74	C - Resistant
49	Albania	70	C - Resistant
50	Bolivia	70	C - Resistant
51	Mexico	70	C - Resistant
52	Mongolia	70	C - Resistant
53	Montenegro	70	C - Resistant
54	Nepal	70	C - Resistant
55	North Cyprus	70	C - Resistant
56	Serbia	70	C - Resistant
57	Suriname	70	C - Resistant
58	Switzerland	70	C - Resistant
59	Taiwan	70	C - Resistant
60	Thailand	70	C - Resistant
61	Monaco	69	D - Intolerant
62	Bulgaria	67	D - Intolerant
63	Chile	67	D - Intolerant
64	Latvia	67	D - Intolerant
65	Philippines	67	D - Intolerant
66	Poland	67	D - Intolerant
67	Timor-Leste	67	D - Intolerant
68	Ukraine	67	D - Intolerant
69	Vietnam	67	D - Intolerant
70	Costa Rica	65	D - Intolerant
71	Bosnia and Herzegovina	63	D - Intolerant
72	Fiji	63	D - Intolerant
73	Japan	63	D - Intolerant
74	Peru	63	D - Intolerant
75	Seychelles	63	D - Intolerant
76	Venezuela	63	D - Intolerant
77	Palau	62	D - Intolerant
78	Bahamas	59	F - Persecuting
79	Cuba	59	F - Persecuting
80	Georgia	59	F - Persecuting
81	Hong Kong SAR, China	59	F - Persecuting
82	Lesotho	59	F - Persecuting
83	Sao Tome and Principe	59	F - Persecuting
84	Marshall Islands	58	F - Persecuting
85	Micronesia	58	F - Persecuting
86	Nauru	58	F - Persecuting

87	Vanuatu	58	F - Persecuting
88	Cambodia	56	F - Persecuting
89	Guinea-Bissau	56	F - Persecuting
90	Macedonia, FYR	56	F - Persecuting
91	Mozambique	56	F - Persecuting
92	Trinidad and Tobago	56	F - Persecuting
93	Madagascar	52	F - Persecuting
94	Moldova	52	F - Persecuting
95	Belize	48	F - Persecuting
96	Botswana	48	F - Persecuting
97	Honduras	48	F - Persecuting
98	Laos	48	F - Persecuting
99	Niger	48	F - Persecuting
100	South Korea	48	F - Persecuting
101	Panama	46	F - Persecuting
102	China	44	F - Persecuting
103	Gabon	44	F - Persecuting
104	Nicaragua	44	F - Persecuting
105	Paraguay	44	F - Persecuting
106	Mauritius	42	F - Persecuting
107	Angola	41	F - Persecuting
108	Dominican Republic	41	F - Persecuting
109	Haiti	38	F - Persecuting
110	El Salvador	37	F - Persecuting
111	Equatorial Guinea	37	F - Persecuting
112	Guatemala	37	F - Persecuting
113	India	37	F - Persecuting
114	Mali	37	F - Persecuting
115	Kiribati	35	F - Persecuting
116	Armenia	33	F - Persecuting
117	Azerbaijan	33	F - Persecuting
118	Benin	33	F - Persecuting
119	Cote d'Ivoire	33	F - Persecuting
120	Guyana	33	F - Persecuting
121	Kazakhstan	33	F - Persecuting
122	Namibia	33	F - Persecuting
123	Rwanda	33	F - Persecuting
124	Singapore	33	F - Persecuting
125	Samoa	31	F - Persecuting
126	Barbados	30	F - Persecuting
127	Bhutan	30	F - Persecuting
128	Congo, Rep. (Brazzaville)	30	F - Persecuting
129	Jamaica	30	F - Persecuting
130	Jordan	30	F - Persecuting
131	Kyrgyzstan	30	F - Persecuting
132	Swaziland (Eswatini)	30	F - Persecuting

133	Tajikistan	30	F - Persecuting
134	Antigua and Barbuda	26	F - Persecuting
135	Bahrain	26	F - Persecuting
136	Burkina Faso	26	F - Persecuting
137	Congo, D.R. (Kinshasa)	26	F - Persecuting
138	Sri Lanka	26	F - Persecuting
139	Turkey	26	F - Persecuting
140	Zimbabwe	26	F - Persecuting
141	Belarus	22	F - Persecuting
142	Djibouti	22	F - Persecuting
143	Egypt, Arab Rep.	22	F - Persecuting
144	Iraq	22	F - Persecuting
145	Myanmar (Burma)	22	F - Persecuting
146	St. Kitts and Nevis	22	F - Persecuting
147	Tonga	22	F - Persecuting
148	West Bank	22	F - Persecuting
149	St. Lucia	19	F - Persecuting
150	Ghana	19	F - Persecuting
151	Indonesia	19	F - Persecuting
152	Kenya	19	F - Persecuting
153	Kuwait	19	F - Persecuting
154	Lebanon	19	F - Persecuting
155	Liberia	19	F - Persecuting
156	Malawi	19	F - Persecuting
157	Morocco	19	F - Persecuting
158	Papua New Guinea	19	F - Persecuting
159	Russian Federation	19	F - Persecuting
160	Senegal	19	F - Persecuting
161	Tunisia	19	F - Persecuting
162	Dominica	15	F - Persecuting
163	Grenada	15	F - Persecuting
164	Solomon Islands	15	F - Persecuting
165	Tuvalu	15	F - Persecuting
166	Algeria	15	F - Persecuting
167	Burundi	15	F - Persecuting
168	Central African Republic	15	F - Persecuting
169	Chad	15	F - Persecuting
170	Comoros	15	F - Persecuting
171	Eritrea	15	F - Persecuting
172	Ethiopia	15	F - Persecuting
173	Gambia	15	F - Persecuting
174	Guinea	15	F - Persecuting
175	Malaysia	15	F - Persecuting
176	Oman	15	F - Persecuting
177	Qatar	15	F - Persecuting
178	Sierra Leone	15	F - Persecuting

179	South Sudan	15	F - Persecuting
180	Togo	15	F - Persecuting
181	Brunei Darussalam	11	F - Persecuting
182	Cameroon	11	F - Persecuting
183	Gaza	11	F - Persecuting
184	Libya	11	F - Persecuting
185	Sudan	11	F - Persecuting
186	Turkmenistan	11	F - Persecuting
187	Uganda	11	F - Persecuting
188	Uzbekistan	11	F - Persecuting
189	Zambia	11	F - Persecuting
190	Afghanistan	7	F - Persecuting
191	Bangladesh	7	F - Persecuting
192	Iran, Islamic Rep.	7	F - Persecuting
193	Maldives	7	F - Persecuting
194	Mauritania	7	F - Persecuting
195	Nigeria	7	F - Persecuting
196	Pakistan	7	F - Persecuting
197	Saudi Arabia	7	F - Persecuting
198	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	7	F - Persecuting
199	Syrian Arab Republic	7	F - Persecuting
200	Tanzania	7	F - Persecuting
201	United Arab Emirates	7	F - Persecuting
202	Yemen	7	F - Persecuting
203	Somalia	4	F - Persecuting

Appendix 2. Global barometer of transgender rights (GBTR) scorecard

Table A2. Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR) scorecard with two additional items

Item Number	Global Barometer of Transgender Rights Scorecard
DE JURE PROTECTION OF GENDER MINORITIES	
1	Country has legal recognition of gender identity
2	No criminalization of gender identity
3	Gender minorities are allowed to serve in the military
4	No physiological alteration requirement for gender identity recognition
5	No psychiatric diagnosis requirement for gender identity recognition
DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES	
6	No arbitrary arrest based on gender identity
LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY	
7	LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register
8	LGBT organizations exist
9	LGBT organizations are able to peacefully and safely assemble
10	LGBT pride events are allowed by the state
11	Security forces provide protection to LGBT pride participants
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS	
12	Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include gender identity
13	Workplace anti-discrimination laws include gender identity
SOCIETAL PERSECUTION	
14	No known acts of murder against gender minorities
15	No known acts of violence against gender minorities
16	Crimes based on gender identity are reported to police
17	Individuals are not discriminated against in access to medical treatment because of their gender identity

Appendix 3. Trends in GBGR score by country and region, 2011 – 2018

Caribbean

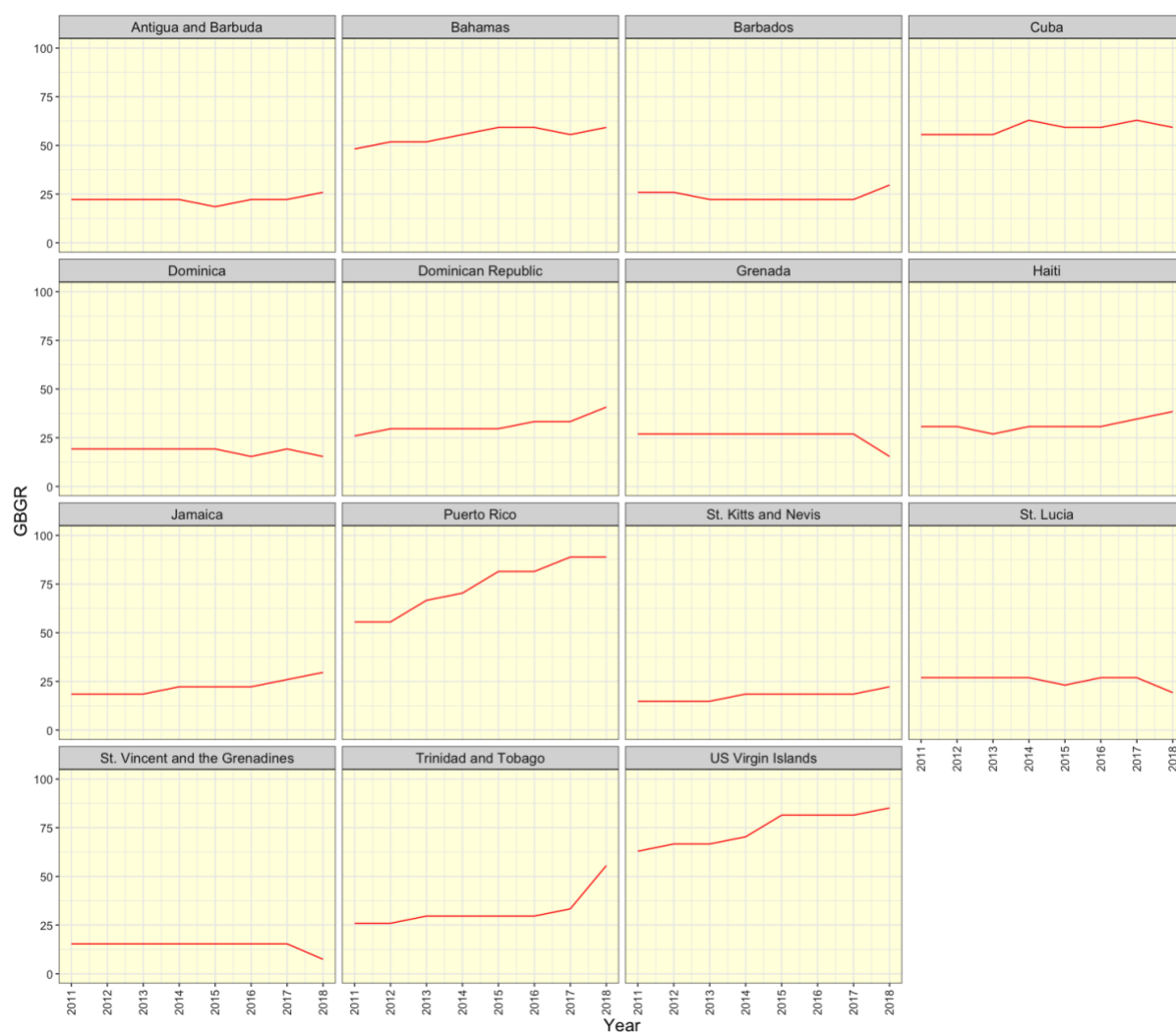


Figure A1. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Caribbean

Central America

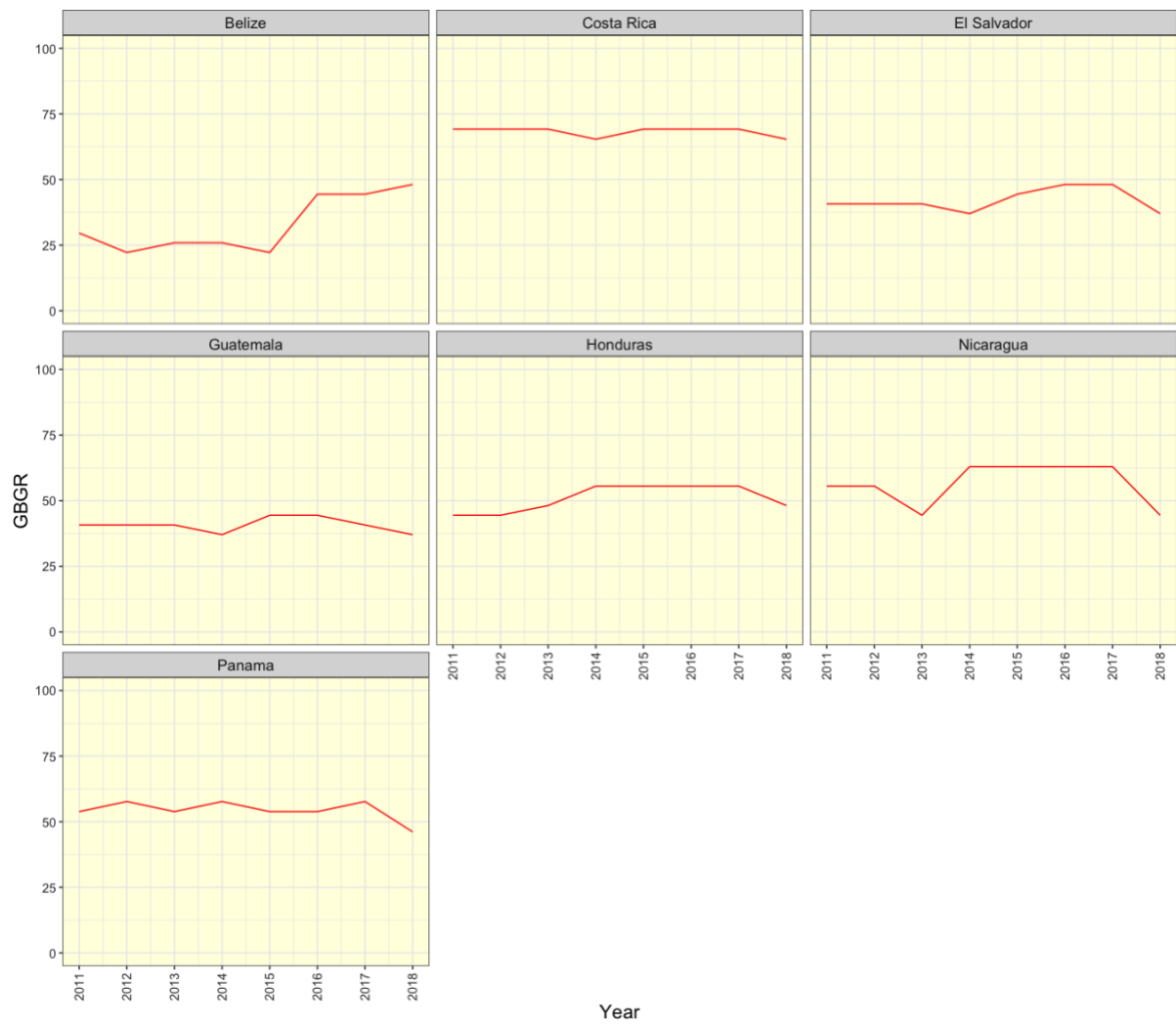
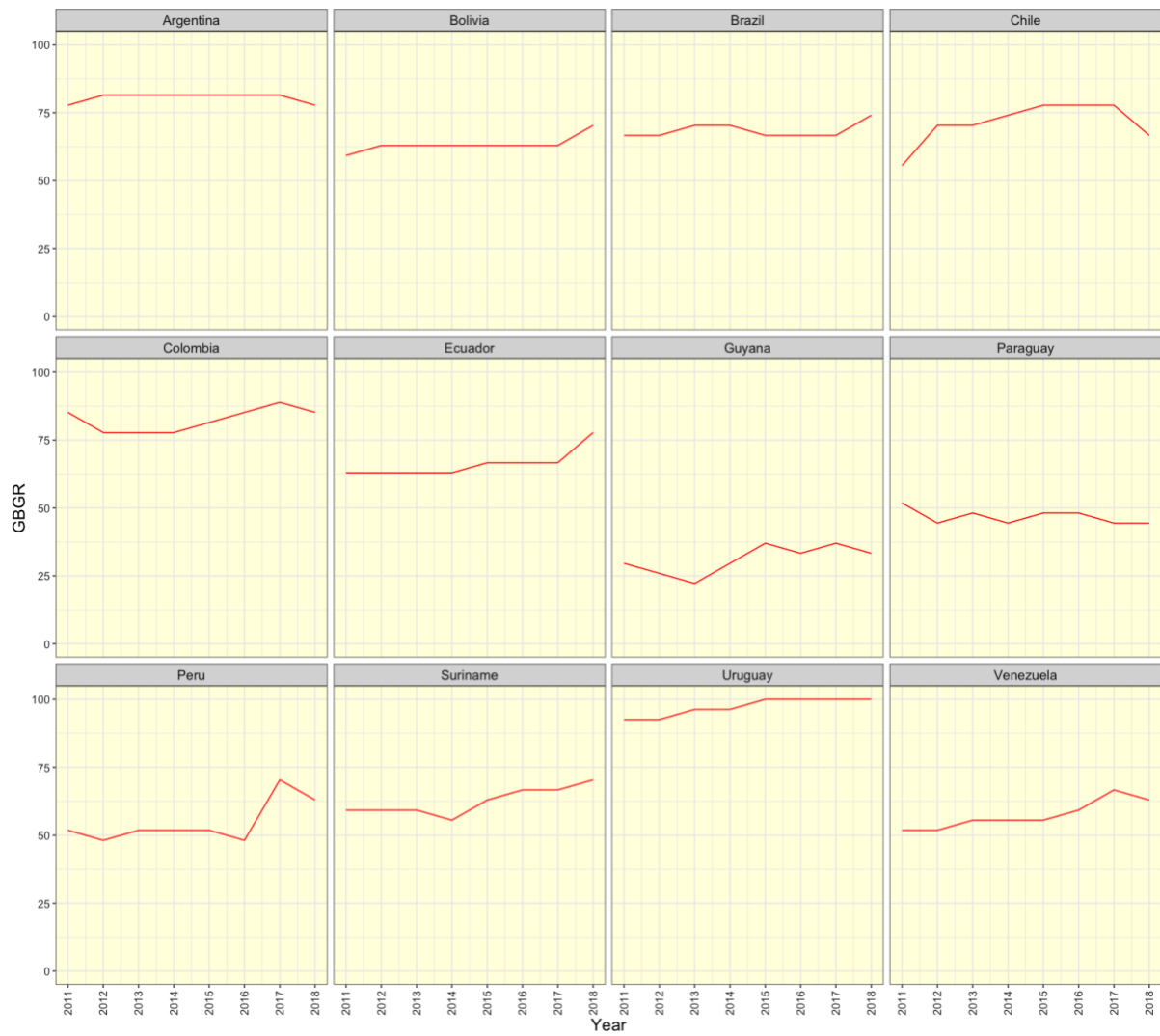


Figure A2. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Central America

South America



North America

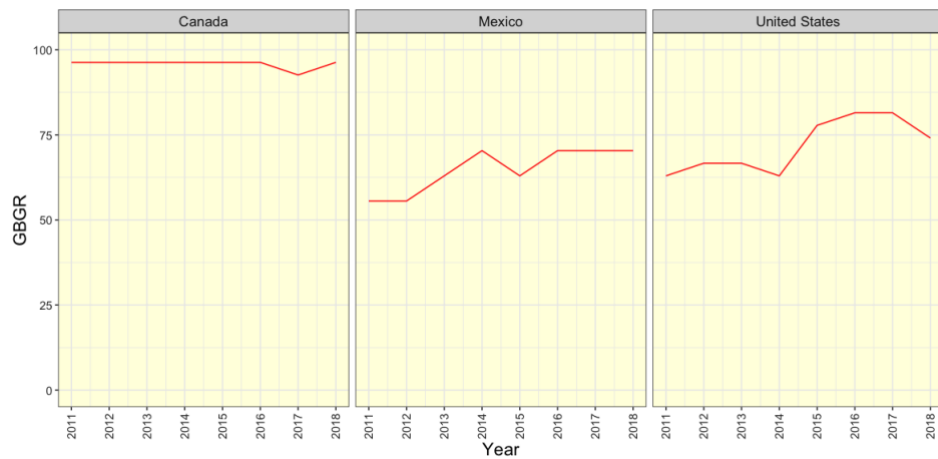


Figure A3. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: South and North America

Western Europe

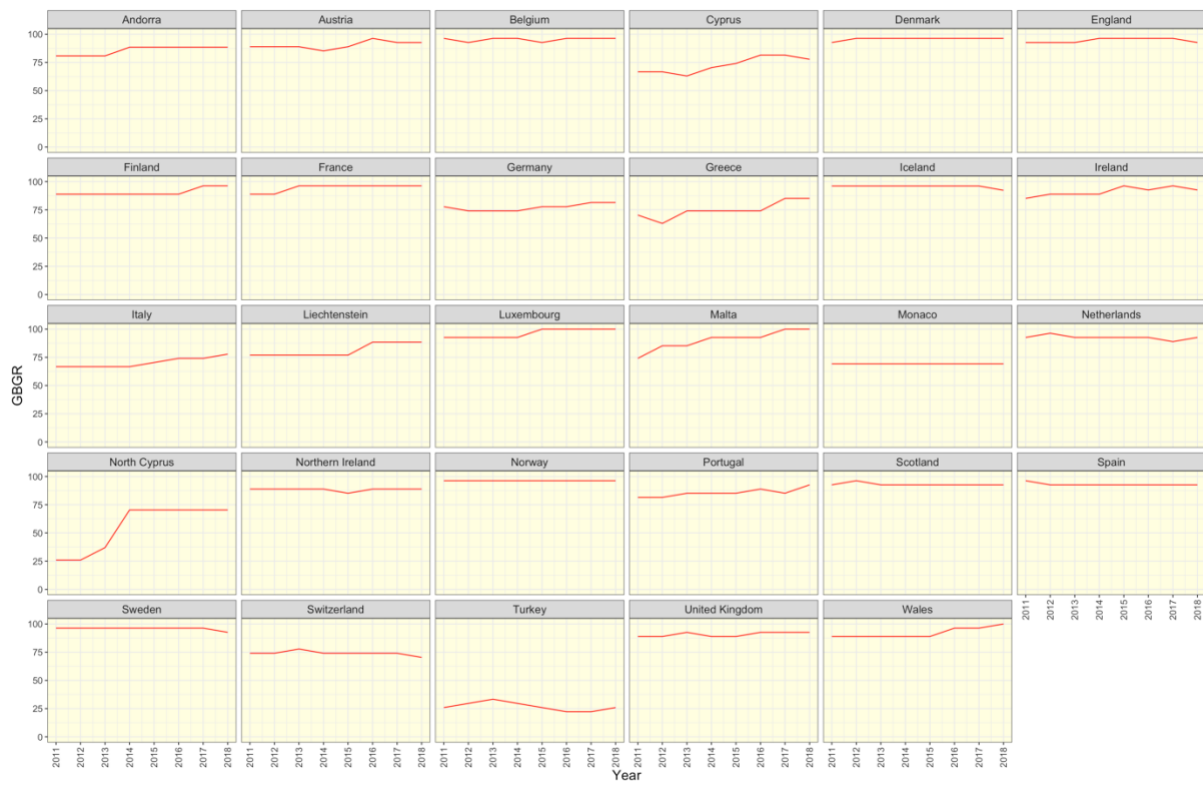


Figure A4. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Western Europe

Eurasia

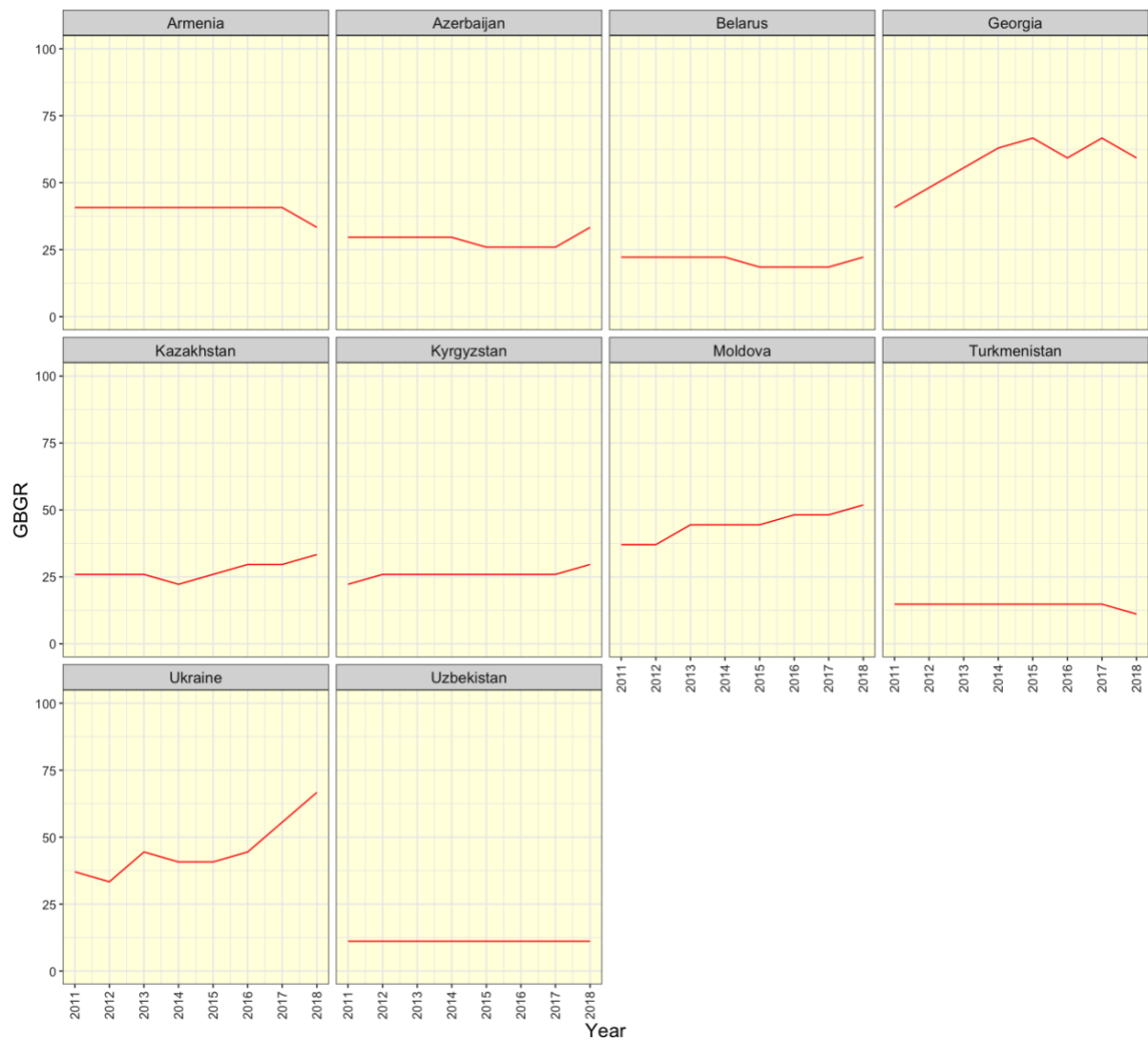


Figure A5. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Eurasia

Central and Eastern Europe

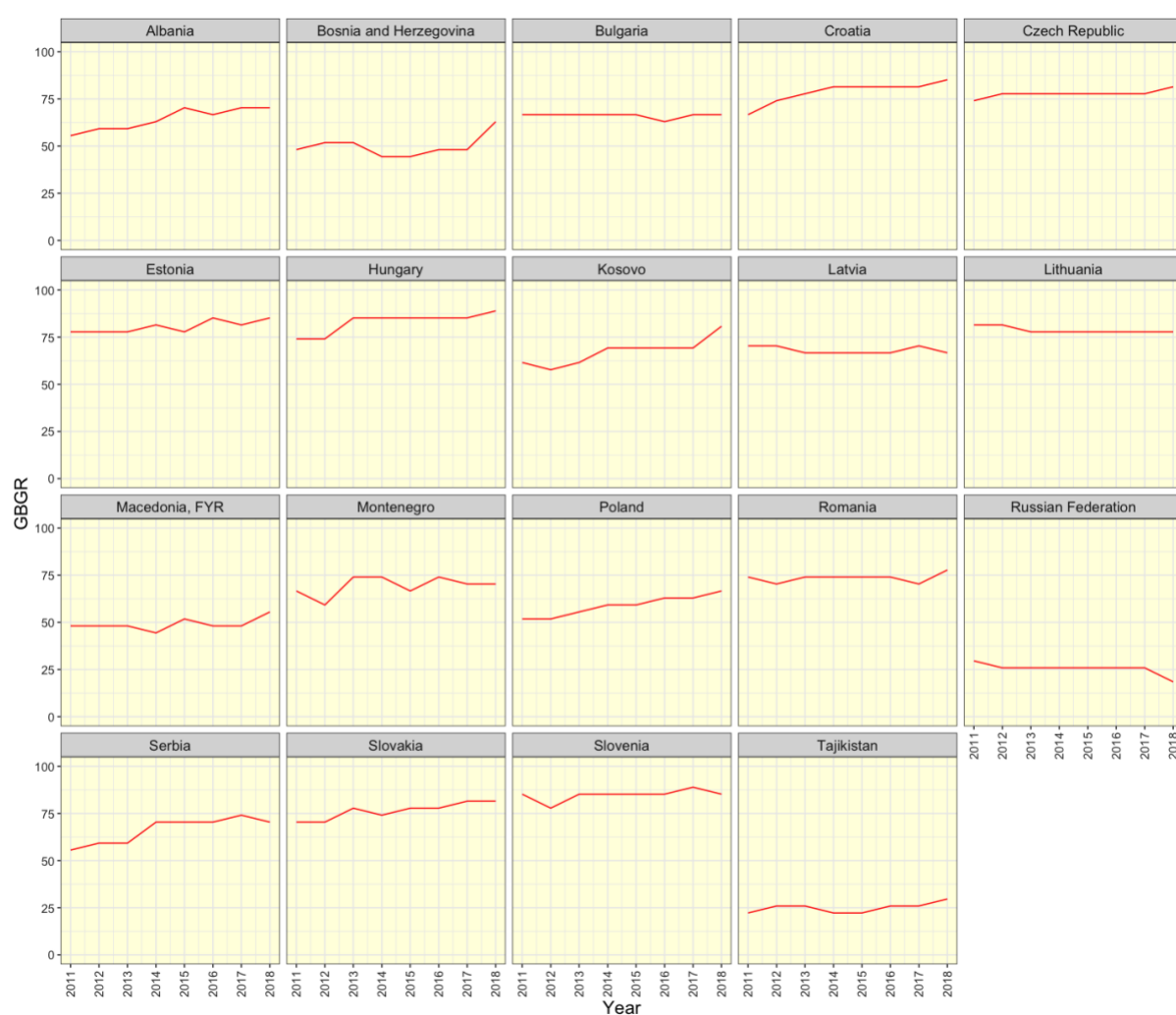


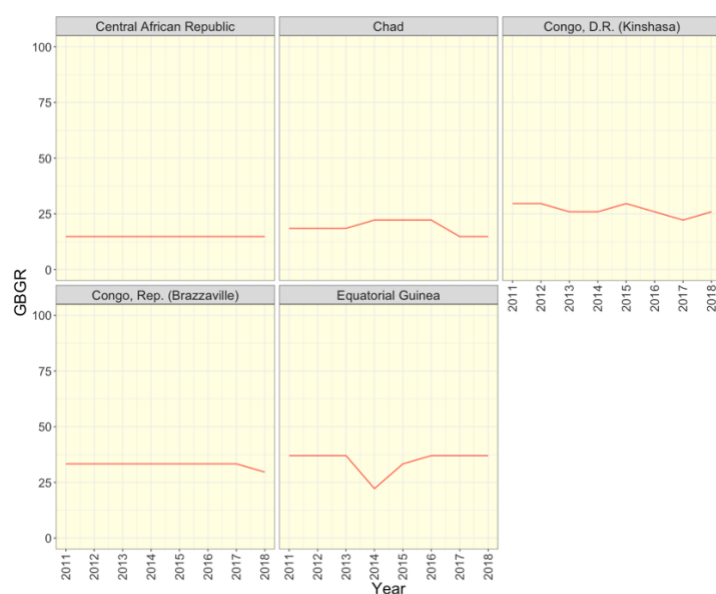
Figure A6. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Central and Eastern Europe

East Africa



Figure A7. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: East Africa

Central Africa



West Africa

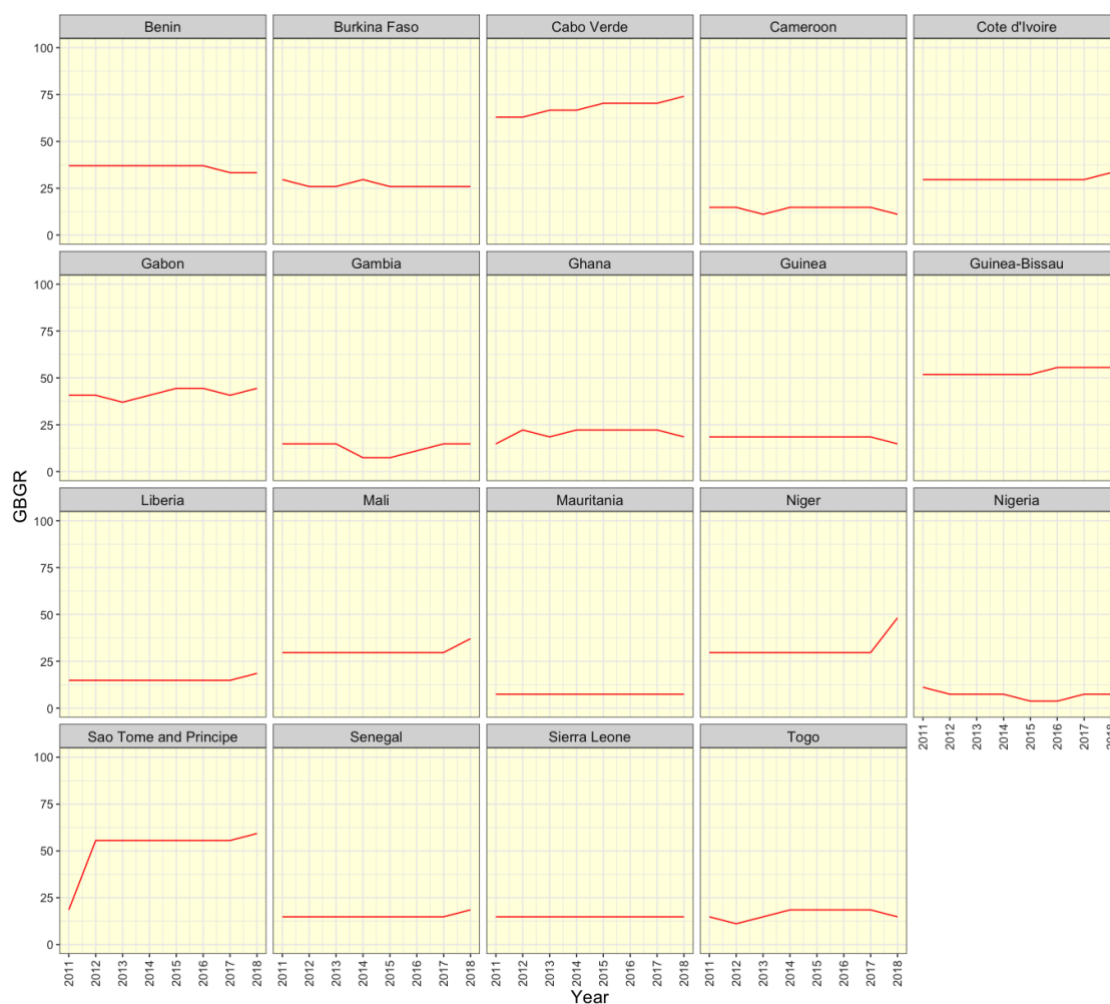
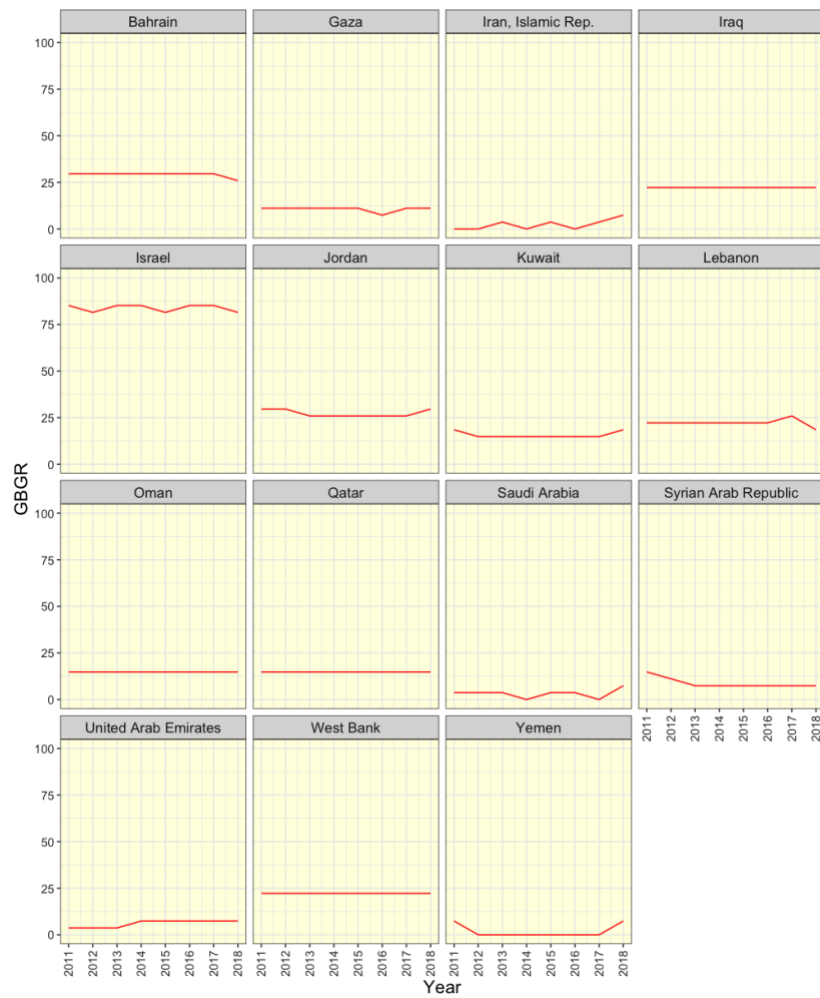


Figure A8. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Central and West Africa

Middle East



North Africa

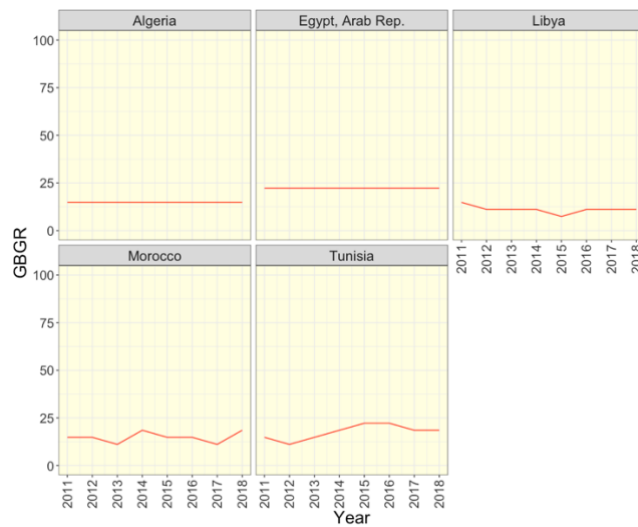


Figure A9 . Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Middle East and North Africa

Southern Africa

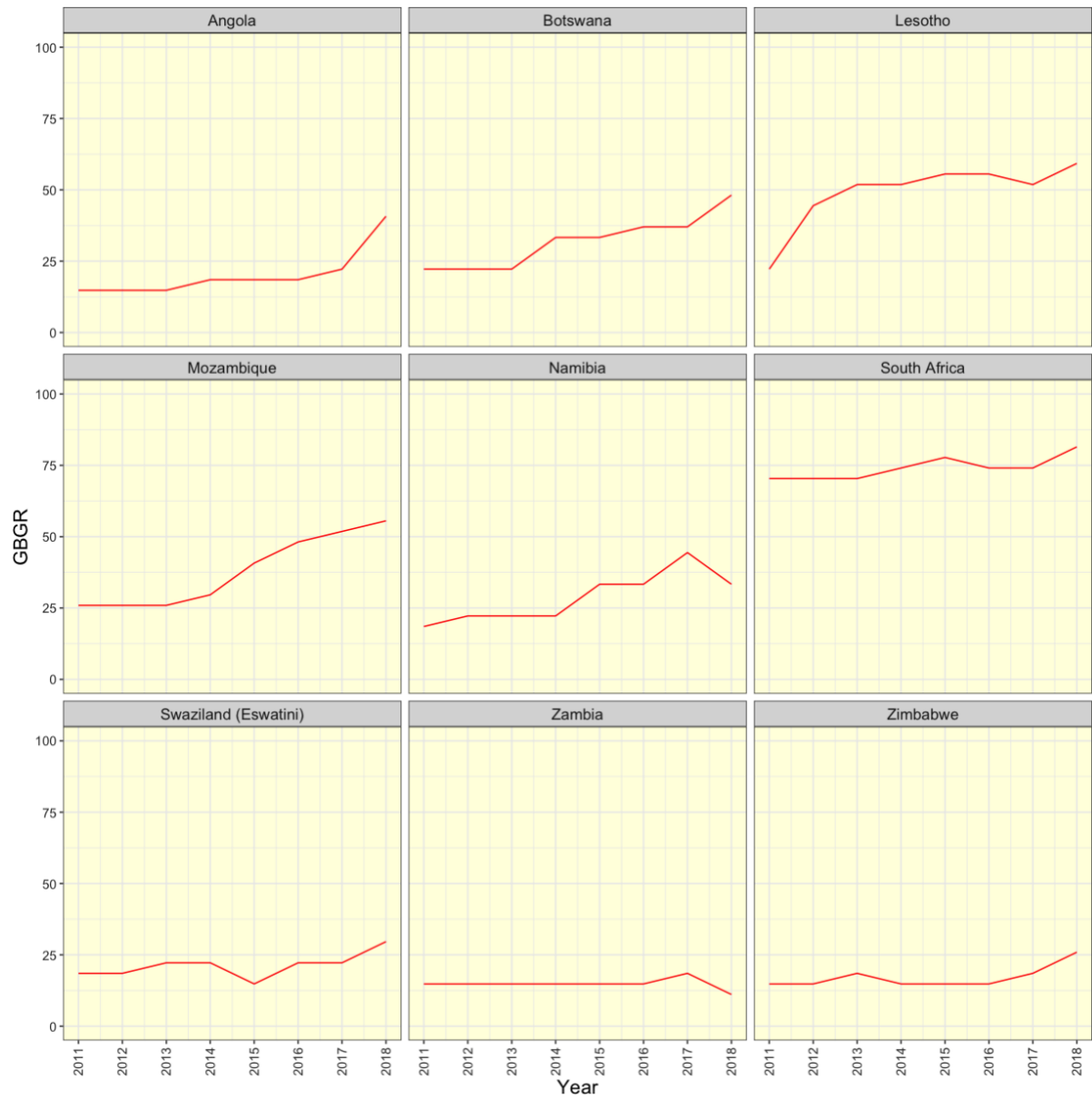


Figure A10. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Southern Africa

Southeast Asia

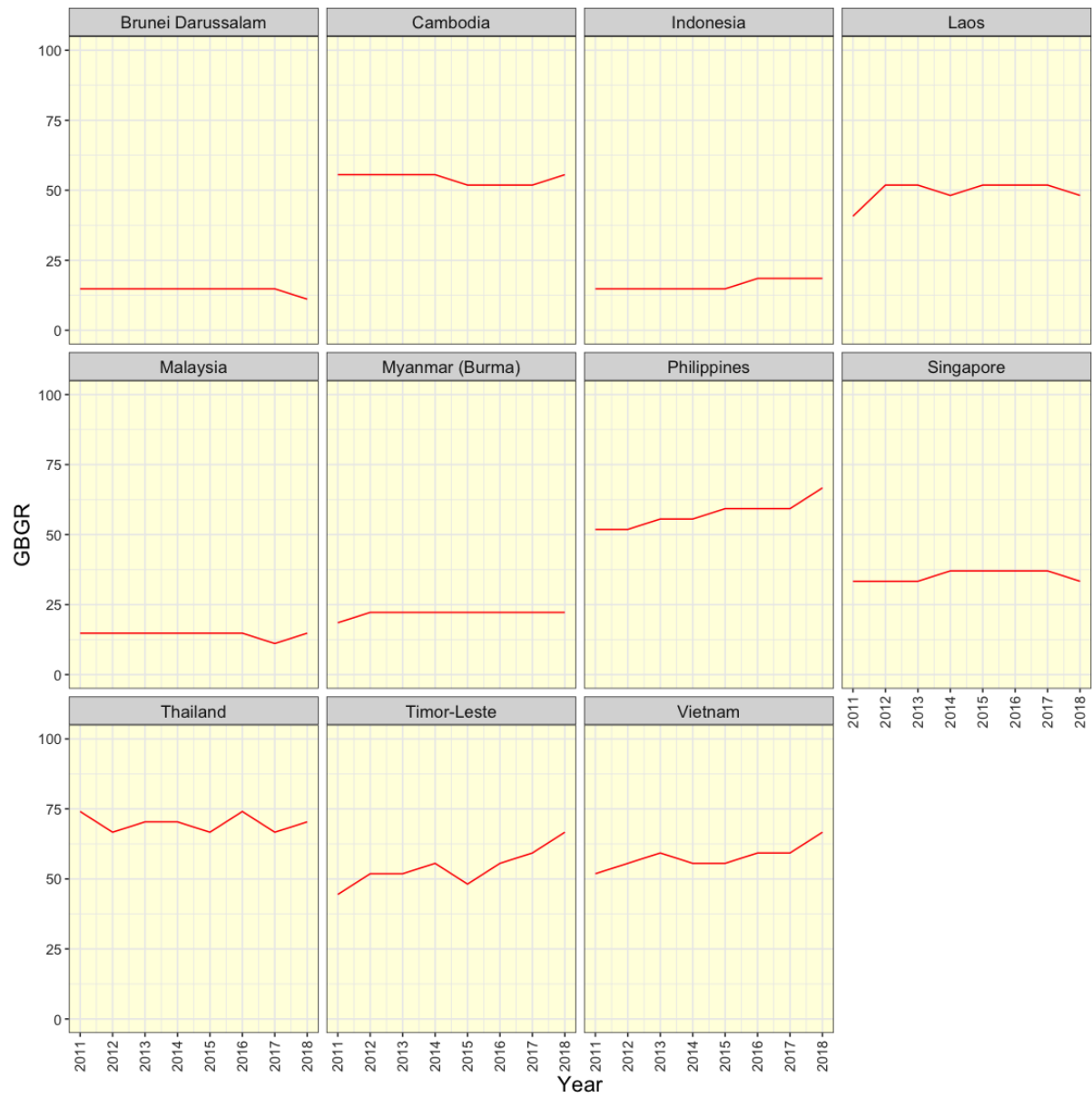


Figure A11. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Southeast Asia

Southern Asia

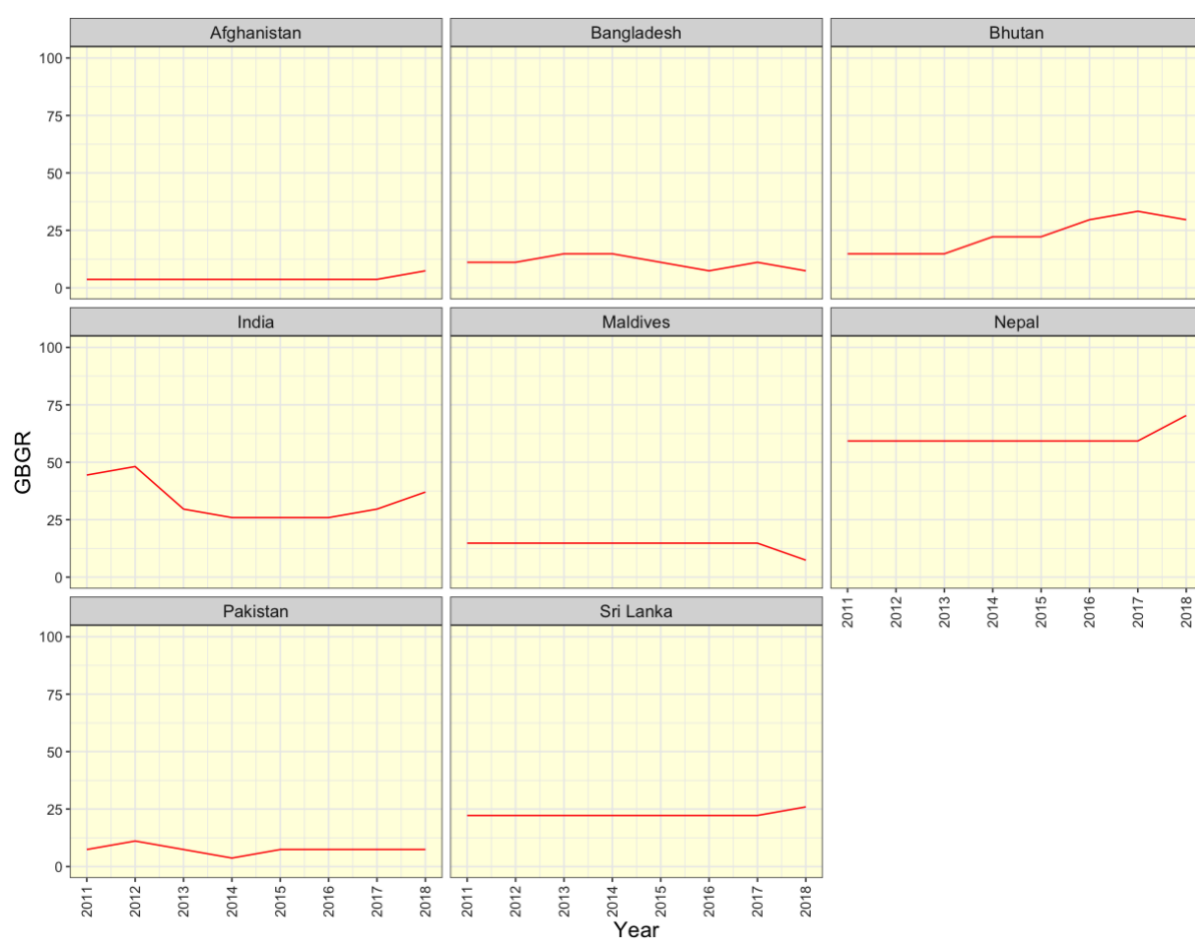


Figure A12. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Southern Asia

East Asia

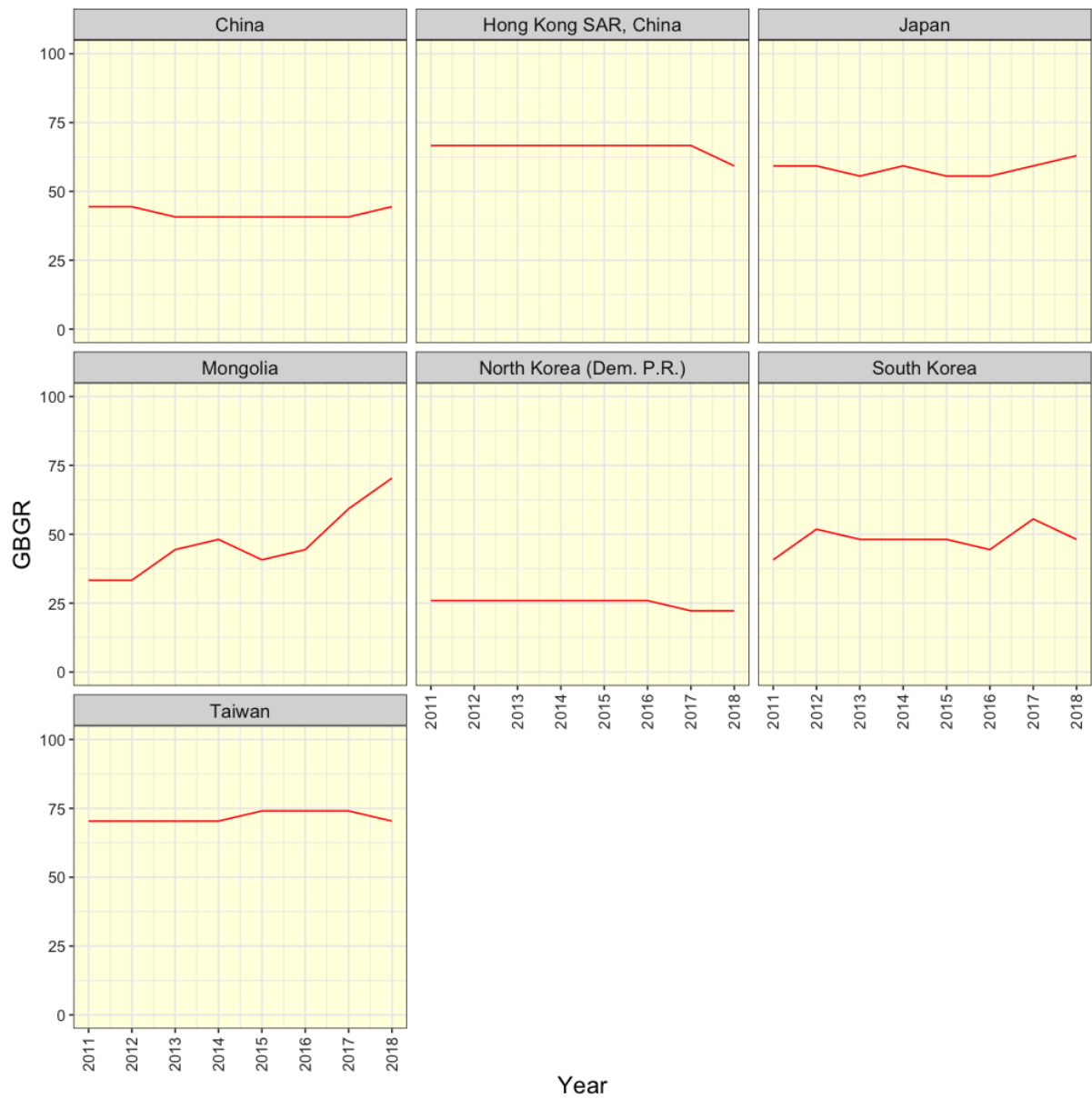


Figure A13. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: East Asia

Oceania



Figure A14. Sub-Regional GBGR Country Score Trends: Oceania

Appendix 4. 2018 GBGR country score distribution by region

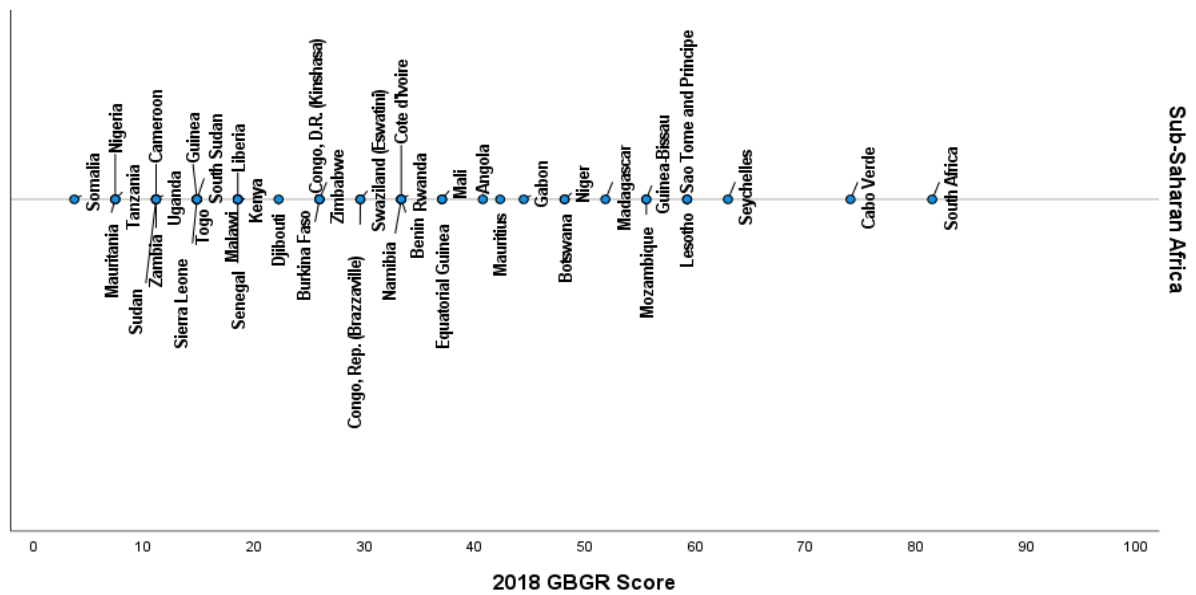


Figure A15. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Sub-Saharan Africa

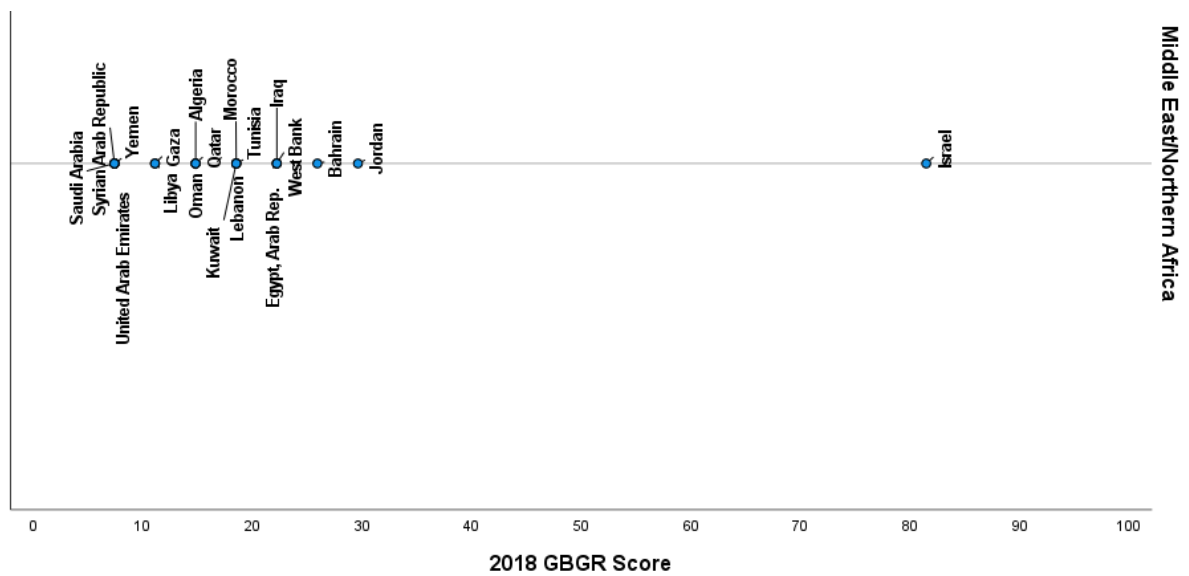


Figure A16. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Middle East/North Africa

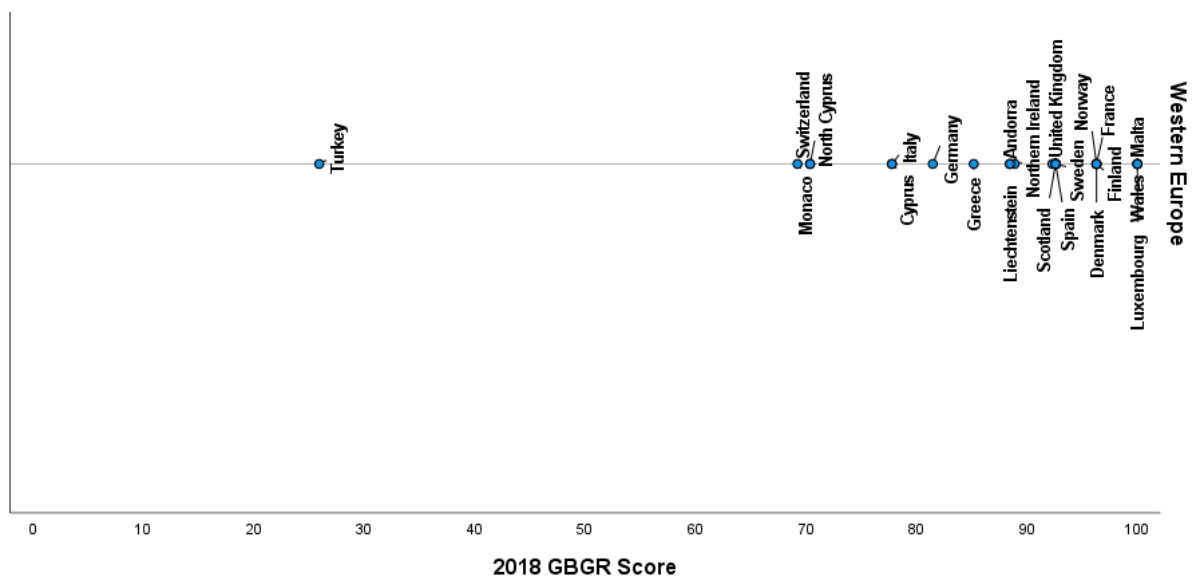


Figure A17. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Western Europe

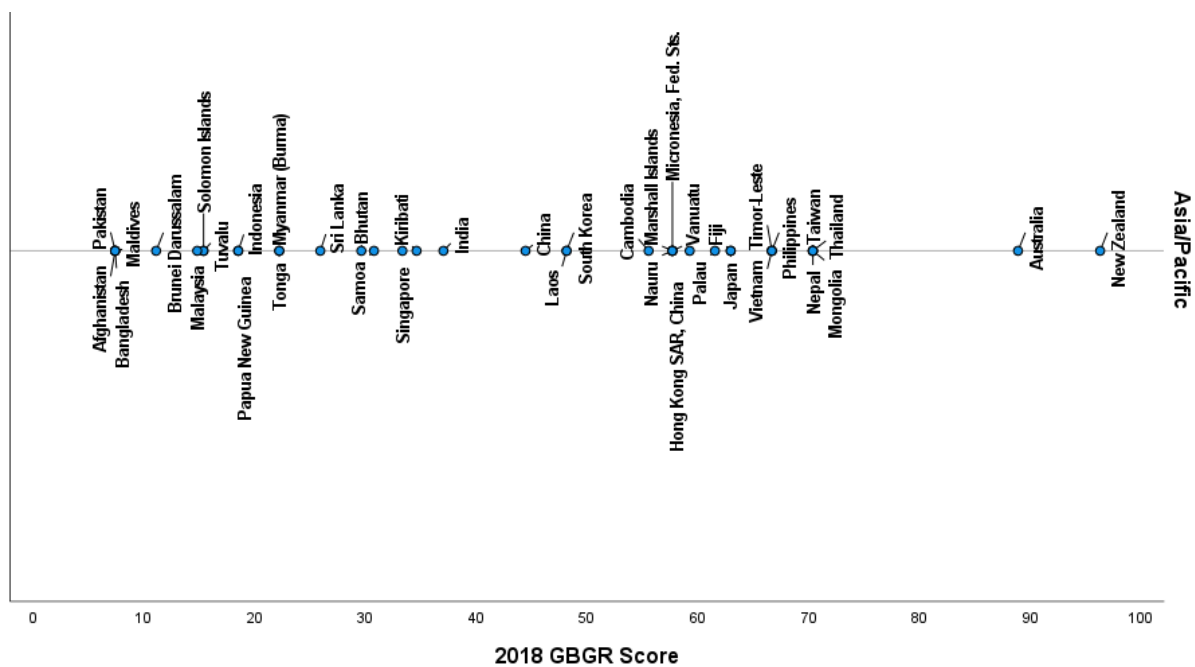


Figure A18. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Asia/Pacific

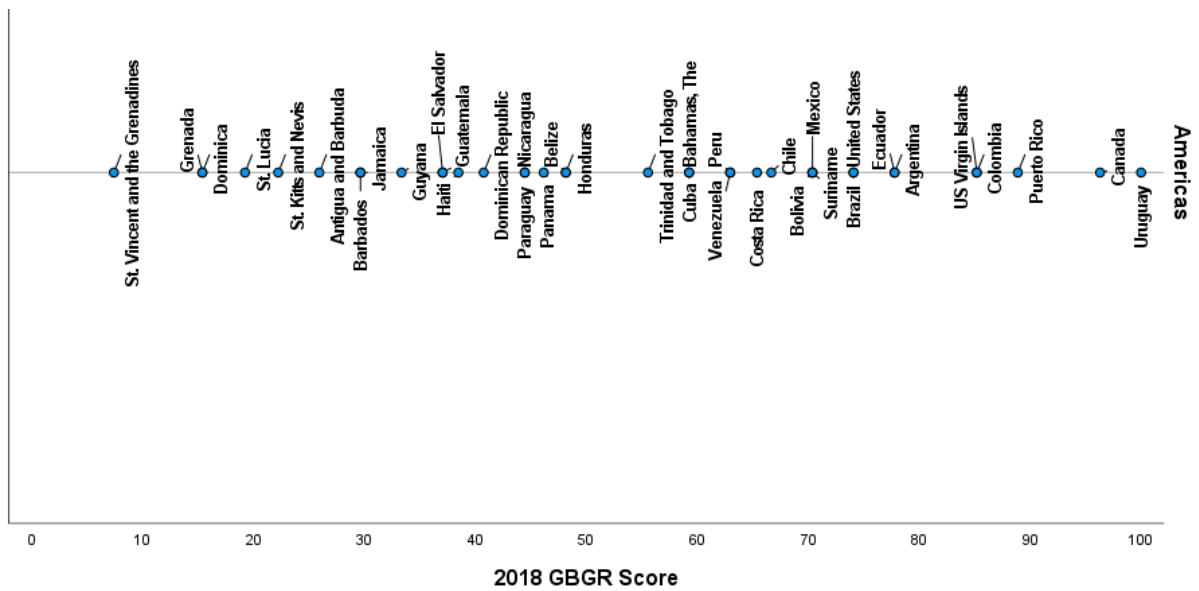


Figure A 19. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Americas

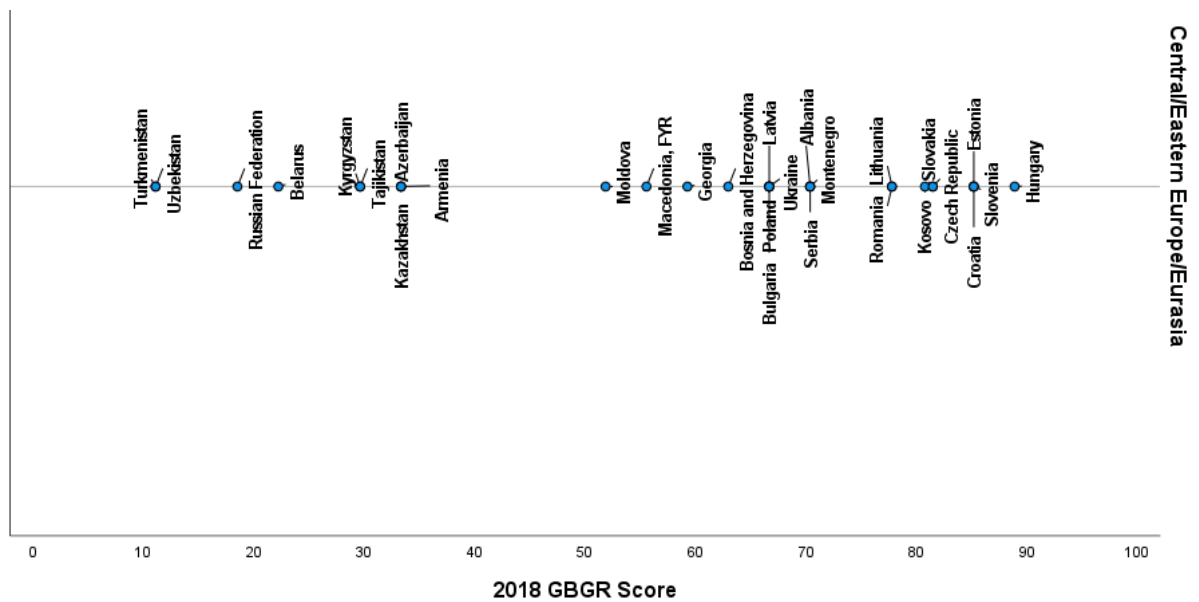


Figure A20. GBGR Score Distribution by Country: Central/Eastern Europe and Eurasia

Appendix 5. USA state-by-state GBGR analysis of 2000 and 2018 data

USA GBGR

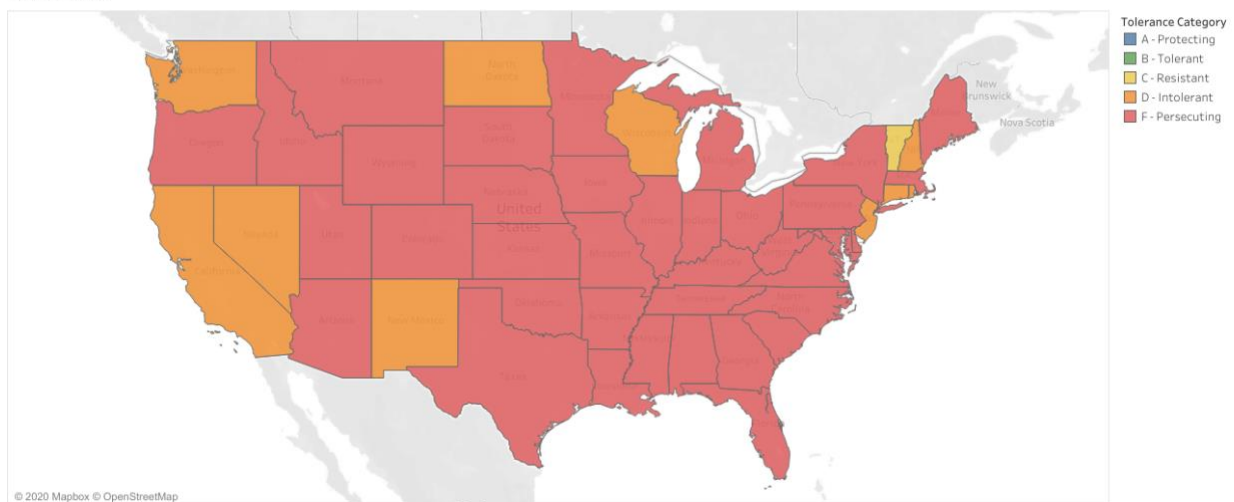


Figure A21. 2000 GBGR categories: US States

USA GBGR

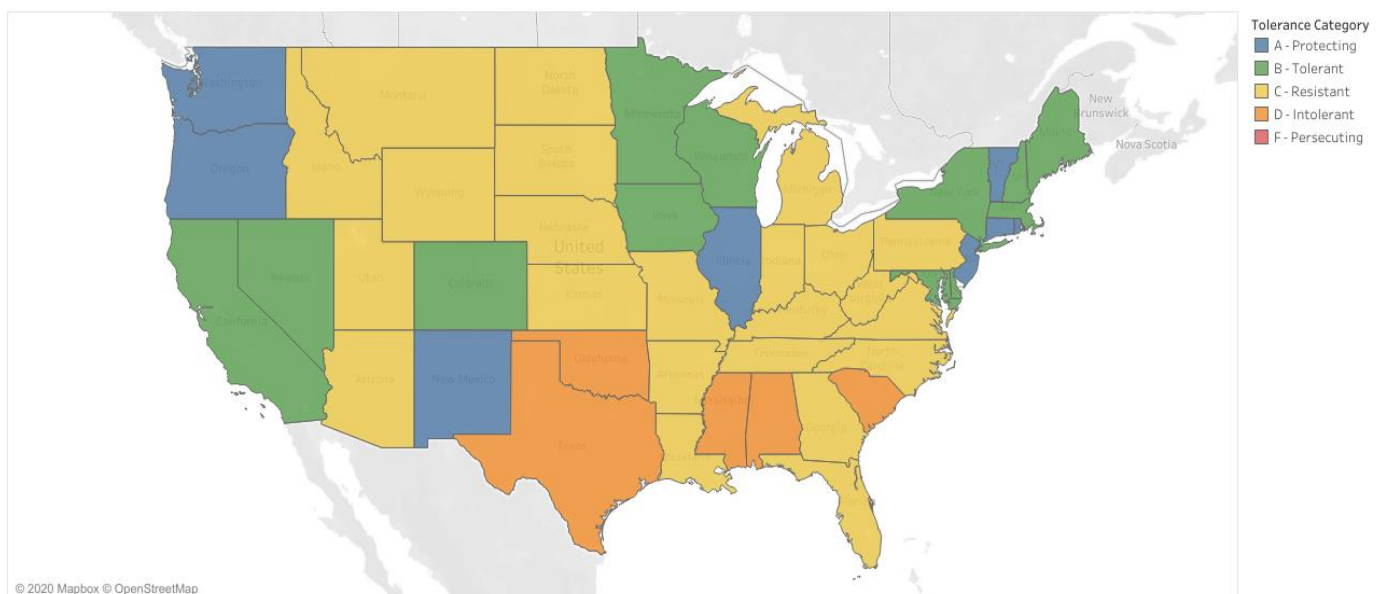


Figure A22. 2018 GBGR categories: US States

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