



**F&M GLOBAL  
BAROMETERS**



**F  
(11%)**

**GBGR (2020)**

**F  
(12%)**

**GBTR (2020)**

**F  
(34%)**

**GBPI (2022)**

# Asylum Profile: Uganda

Based on the data from the F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR), the F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR), and the F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI), Uganda fails to protect, and instead actively persecutes their LGBTQI+ citizens.

Homosexuality is criminalized with a life sentence, there are no legal protections for LGBTQI+ Ugandans, societal acceptance of the LGBTQI+ population is low, and acts of violence and discrimination at the hands of the police are high. While the bill was ultimately denied, several MPs attempted to impose the death penalty for homosexual acts in 2019 [1]. Recently, on March 1, 2023, a Ugandan lawmaker proposed draft legislation that would punish “‘promotion, recruitment and funding’ related to LGBTQ activities” [2].

Advocacy groups such as Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) exist, but activism is severely curtailed. Police frequently raid LGBTQI+ activism meetings. In 2020, police and government officials in Kyengera raided a shelter and arrested 20 LGBTI persons. The mayor, Abdul Kiyimba, beat two of the detainees. Two of the detainees reported undergoing anal examinations while imprisoned [3]. In 2019, at least four activists were killed, including Brian Wasswa, who was attacked in his home and died of injuries [4].

The GBPI results echo the findings of the barometers. The 215 respondents in Uganda confirmed that the country is an extremely unsafe place for LGBTQI+ people. Many respondents cited fears of arbitrary arrest and violence as a primary concern. Others wrote that they had been fired from their jobs or cast out from their families when their sexualities were revealed. Several people reported difficulties meeting and organizing with other LGBTQI+ people due to the intense societal stigma.

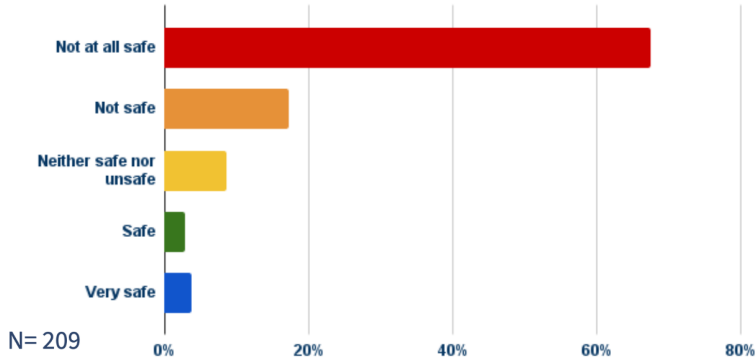
*“Am on [sic] deep fear of being harassed and arrested by the police coz [sic] of my sexual orientation, I also face difficulty to get [sic] a job here in my country, I was also chased away from my home by my family hence dropping out of school so trust me when I tell you that life is very hard[.] I hv [sic] no academic qualifications, I hv [sic] no job, I lack food and [a] home[.]” - Transgender woman/queer, rural, aged under 25*

*“Well living in Uganda as agay [sic] man is one of the most fearful situations because of the hostile environment around [the] LGBT community. I was chased away from a family gathering because my brother told them about my sexuality and now it [is] close [to] a year [sic] [and] non[e] of my family communicates to [sic] me[.]” - Gay, city, aged 25-35*

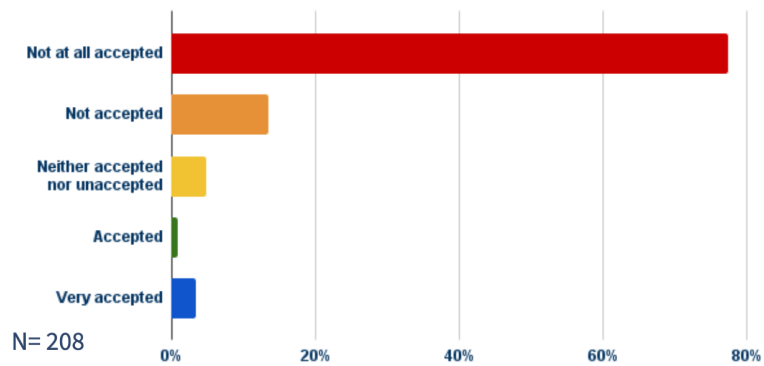
*“In general as a feminist and an advocate against gender stereotypes and stigma it would be a lie if I said I ever feel safe in Uganda...my sexuality and work are both crimes that would put me at a very high risk of...imprisonment, murder and discrimination. As an organization owner...the 15 persons I house in my shelter are victims of homophobic attacks, family resentment, discrimination, and stigmatization from the community. Who wouldn't be afraid in such a country with poor policies?” - Lesbian, city, aged under 25*

# GBPI Question Breakdown

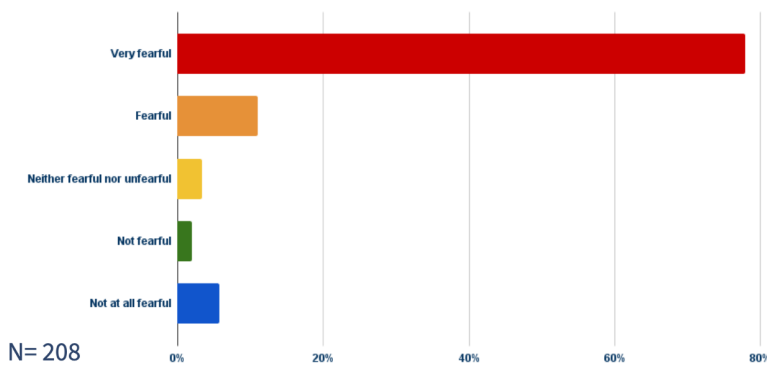
**Q1: "...how safe do you feel living as a L, G, B, T or I person in your country?" (Uganda 2022)**



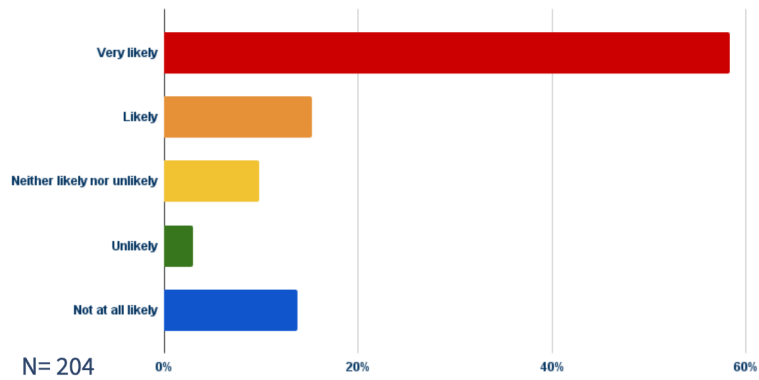
**Q2: "...how accepted do you feel as a LGBTI person by your society?" (Uganda 2022)**



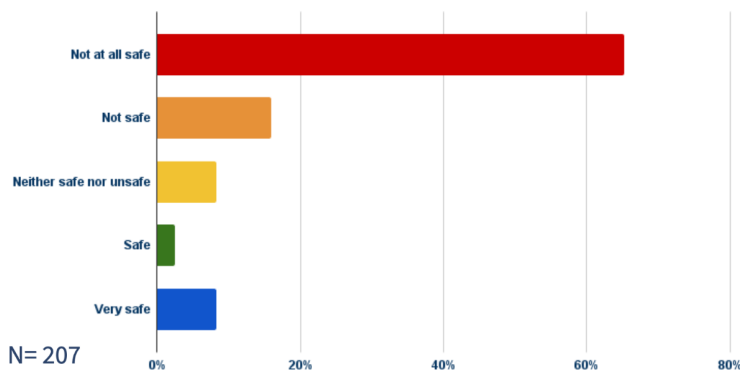
**Q3: "...how fearful are you of being arrested, harassed or blackmailed by security forces/police because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?" (Uganda 2022)**



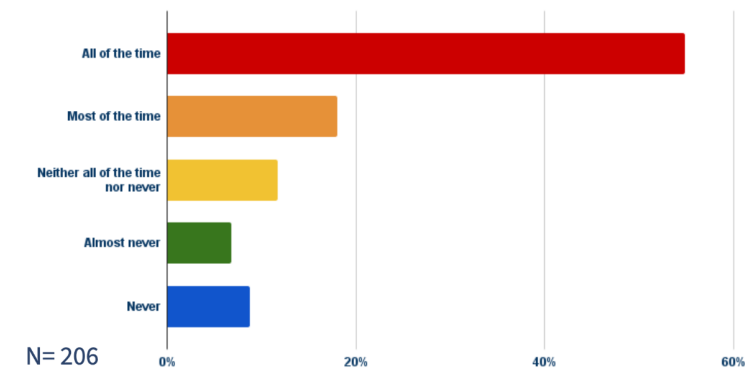
**Q4: "...how likely are you to be a victim of violence due to your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status ?" (Uganda 2022)**



**Q5: "...how safe do you feel gathering with LGBTI people in public?" (Uganda 2022)**



**Q6: "...how frequently do you experience discrimination in your day-to-day life due to your LGBTI status?" (Uganda 2022)**



The GBPI data from Uganda reflects overwhelmingly negative results. On all six questions, more than half of respondents selected the most negative option. 77% of respondents reported that they feel “not at all accepted” by their society and 78% reported feeling “very fearful” of security forces. Comparatively, only 4% of respondents felt “very safe” and 9% of respondents reported “never” experiencing discrimination.

# GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Uganda)

## 1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. No death penalty for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2. No life sentence for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3. No prison for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4. No criminalization of sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5. Hate speech laws includes sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
6. Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7. Sexual minorities are not restricted or banned from serving in the military	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8. Civil unions for sexual minorities are allowed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
9. Same-sex marriage is allowed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 2 DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10. Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
11. Head of state supports legalization of homosexuality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
12. Head of state supports same-sex civil unions / same-sex marriage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13. Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14. Sexual minorities have the right to privacy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
15. Sexual orientation does not prejudice the right to a fair trial	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



*“Every day is a day [where] you never know what will happen to your life [,] but anytime anyone could kill you and be supported by society [.]” - Gay, city, aged 25-35*

# GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Uganda)

## 3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16. LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register (by the state)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
17. National LGBT rights organizations exist	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
18. LGBT rights 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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 4 SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21. Workplace anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
22. Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
23. Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
24. Same-sex couples are allowed to jointly adopt	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 5 SOCIETAL PERSECUTION

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25. No known acts of murder against sexual minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
26. No known acts of violence against sexual minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
27. Crimes based on sexual orientation are reported to police	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



*“I don’t experience discrimination on a day-to-day basis because I’m closetted [sic] and straight-acting; it’s otherwise impossible to live openly as a gay man in Uganda.” - Gay, city, aged 25-35*

# GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (Uganda)

## 1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. No criminalization of gender identity or expression	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2. Gender identity minorities are not restricted or banned from serving in the military	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3. Country has legal recognition of gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4. No physiological alteration requirement for legal gender recognition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5. No psychiatric diagnosis requirement for gender identity recognition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 2 DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
6. Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on gender identity or expression	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7. LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register (by the state)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8. National LGBT rights organizations exist	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
9. LGBT rights 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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



*“I was chased from job where I used to work when they realized it [sic] that am gay” -Gay, city, under 25*

# GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (Uganda)

## 4 SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12. Workplace anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13. Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14. Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## 5 SOCIETAL PERSECUTION

◀ Year ▶

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15. No known acts of murder against gender identity minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
16. No known acts of violence against gender identity minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
17. Crimes based on gender identity are reported to police	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



*“We need to be rescued in order to live our lives the way we are supposed to live.” - Gay, city, under 25*

*“We live in fear here in Uganda that some gay people here few weeks back were killed in cold blood...” - Gay, city, under 25*

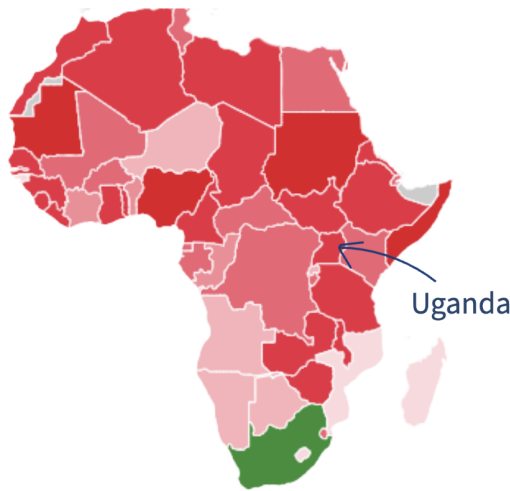
## GBGR/GBTR Methodology

The F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) and the F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR) measure the state- and societal-level protection and persecution of LGBTQI+ people worldwide. Based on 27 items for the GBGR and 17 items for the GBTR, both barometers assess five dimensions: de facto and de jure protections, the sanction or suppression of LGBTQI+ advocacy, socio-economic rights, and societal persecution of LGBTQI+ persons. Each item is scored on a binary scale (0/1), triple-verified by our research team, and then the country's overall score is calculated with a percentage (0-100%) and assigned a letter grade (A-F) where 100% (A) is the most protective and 0% (F) is the least protective.

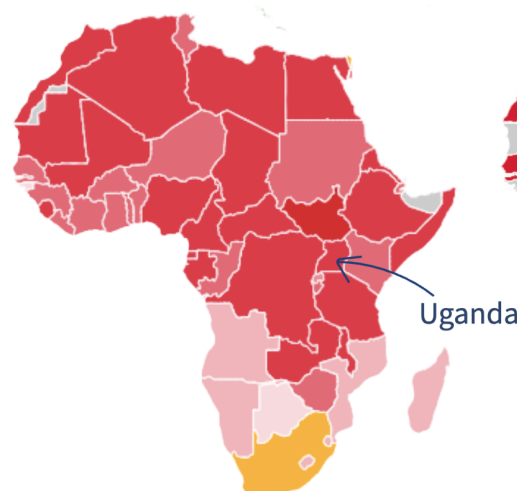
## GBPI Methodology

The F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI) is a joint project between the F&M Global Barometers and the Council for Global Equality. Launched between June 28 and September 29, 2022, the survey garnered over 160,000 responses from 204 countries.

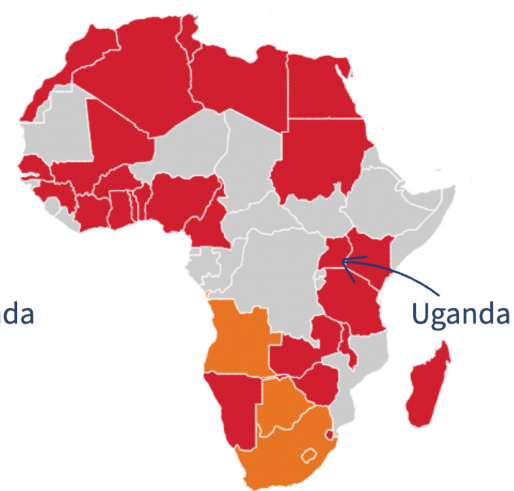
The GBPI gauges the lived human rights reality of LGBTQI+ people worldwide. Available in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), it asks six basic questions, to which the respondents answer from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). The overall score for each country is then assigned a percentage (0-100%) and letter grade (A-F) where 100% (A) is the most protective and 0% (F) is the least protective.



Africa GBGR (2020) Map

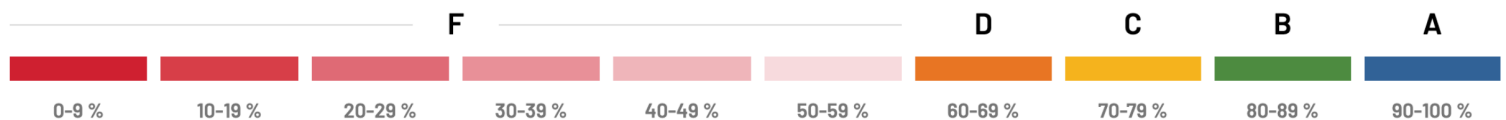


Africa GBTR (2020) Map

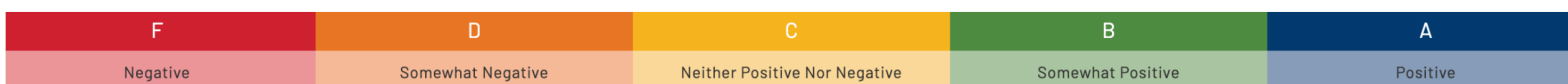


Africa GBPI (2022) Map

### GBGR/GBTR Grading Scale



### GBPI Grading Scale



[1] Bhalla, N. (2019, October 14). Uganda denies plans to impose death penalty for gay sex amid global concern. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-uganda-lgbt-rights/uganda-denies-plans-to-impose-death-penalty-for-gay-sex-amid-global-concern-idUSKBN1WT23I>

[2] Muhumuza, R. (2023, February 28). Ugandan lawmaker introduces new anti-LGBTQ legislation. The Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/article/lgbtq-rights-uganda-africa-bb09f1747ca18a0b707e49ea964fa92>

[3] U.S. Department of State. (2020). 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Uganda. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/uganda/>

[4] Fitzsimmons, T. (2019, October 16). Amid 'Kill the Gays' bill uproar, Ugandan LGBTQ activist is killed. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/amid-kill-gays-bill-uproar-ugandan-lgbtq-activist-killed-n1067336>