



**F&M GLOBAL  
BAROMETERS**



**F  
(33%)**

**GBGR (2020)**

**F  
(47%)**

**GBTR (2020)**

**F  
(57%)**

**GBPI (2022)**

# Asylum Profile: El Salvador

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), El Salvador fails to adequately protect their LGBTQI+ population.

While homosexuality is decriminalized, there are few de jure or de facto protections for LGBTQI+ citizens aside from hate speech laws. No protections on the basis of sexual orientation exist, and there is no legal recognition of gender identity.

LGBT advocacy is allowed by the state, but groups have not been able to peacefully demonstrate in the past decade. From 2011-2020, murders of gender identity and sexual orientation minorities were reported each year. Human Rights Watch reported that between Oct. 2019 - Apr. 2020, seven trans women and two gay men were murdered [1].

The GBPI results echo the findings of the barometers. The 605 respondents in El Salvador confirmed that the country is largely an unsafe place for LGBTQI+ people. Several respondents noted difficulties finding employment due to their sexual orientation and cited the lack of protections as a primary reason they did not feel safe or accepted. Targeted gang violence was also a major cause of concern for respondents.

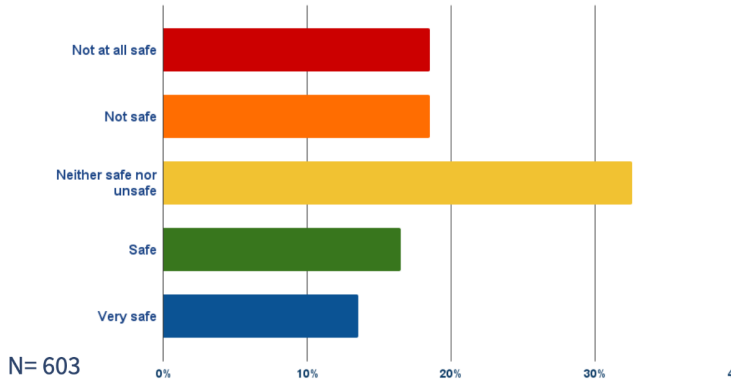
*“Likewise, in the public security institutions, you cannot take use [sic] as a homosexual in the public health system without first feeling harassed or discriminated against by the same medical staff for safer [sic] care you must approach NGOs or institutions oriented to the collective.”*  
- Gay, city, aged 25-35

*“In our country there is a lot of discrimination towards our population and almost no chance in any opportunity ...”*  
- Gay/Trans-woman, city, aged under 25

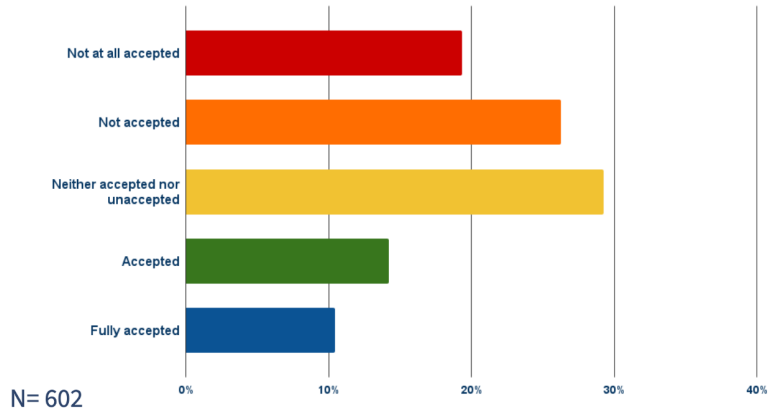
*“I feel very afraid since I have been a victim of aggressive rapes on three occasions, the last of which I was infected with HIV. The gangs extort money from me and have beaten me on several occasions [sic] I suffer from death threats from the gangs. I have called the police, and they have mocked me. I feel persecuted [sic] I have tried to take refuge in churches but they do not accept me. I am currently taking refuge in a teacher’s house since I have been looking for help in a school for a year, I cannot go out for fear that they will find me and do me more harm...”* - Gay, city, aged 25-35

# GBPI Question Breakdown

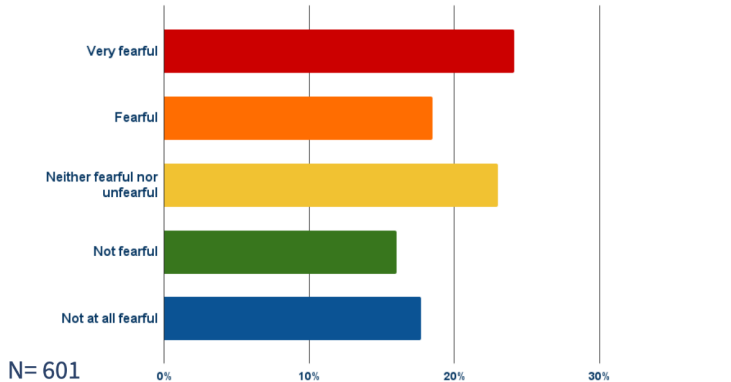
Q1: ...how safe do you feel living as a L, G, B, T, or I person in your country? (El Salvador - 2022)



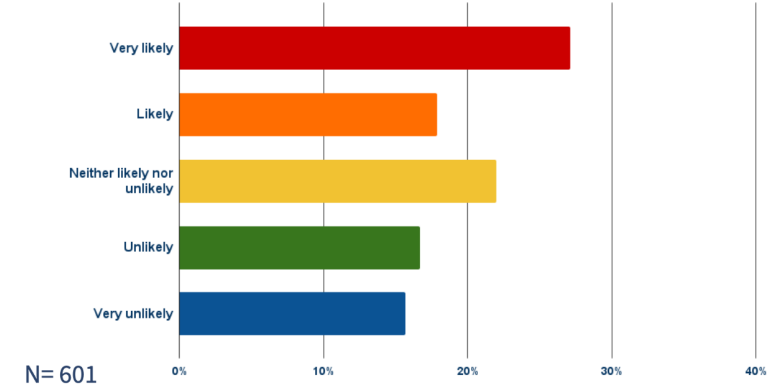
Q2: ...how accepted do you feel as an LGBTI person by your society? (El Salvador - 2022)



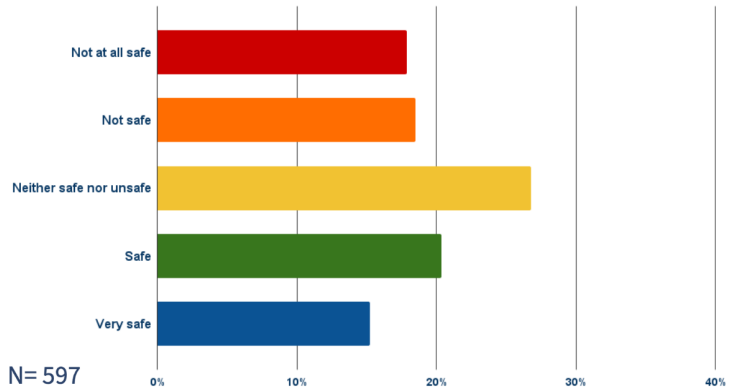
Q3: ...how fearful are you of being arrested, harassed or blackmailed by security forces/police because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status? (El Salvador - 2022)



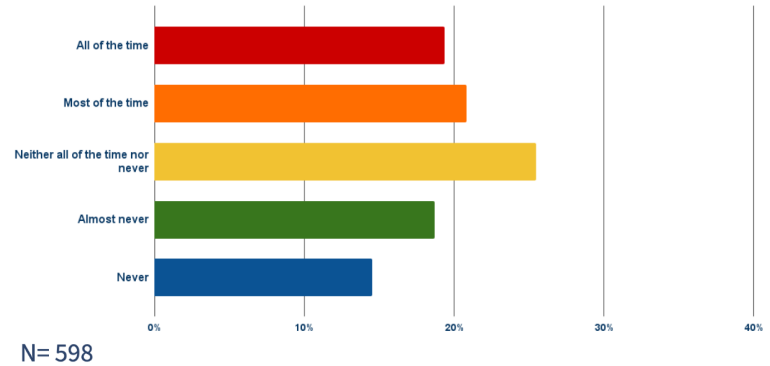
Q4: ...how likely are you to be a victim of violence due to your sexual orientation, gender identity or or intersex status? (El Salvador - 2022)



Q5: ...how safe do you feel gathering with other LGBTI people in public? (El Salvador - 2022)



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



The GBPI results reveal that violence and fear of security forces are the most prevalent threats to the safety and well-being of LGBTQI+ people in El Salvador. In Questions 3 and 4, which ask respondents to rate their fear of security forces and the likelihood that they will experience violence, “very fearful” and “very likely” were the options selected with the highest frequency. Respondents also did not feel wholly accepted or safe, and many reported experiencing discrimination in their daily lives. Respectively, only 14% and 10% of respondents felt very safe and fully accepted.

# GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (El Salvador)

## 1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES

	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

	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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Yes

No

*“It is difficult to be accepted in a society that is poor... they think that being a person with sexual differences [sic] we are sick, it is difficult to find a job due to our sexual preference” - Gay, city, aged 25-35*



**F&M GLOBAL  
BAROMETERS**

# GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (El Salvador)

## 3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

	Year							
	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

	Year							
	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

	Year							
	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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



“...the very fact of being different from what the law and religion shows [sic] is an effort to at least live a little in peace, it must be hidden in certain areas to avoid suffering harassment or acts of violence, either verbal or physical by other people.” - Non-binary, city, aged under 25

# GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (El Salvador)

## 1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES

	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

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

## 3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

	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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



*“Although the government tries to tell the media that LGTB [sic] human rights are respected is a lie to what we face in real life in our country”  
- Gay, city, between 36 and 55.*

# GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (El Salvador)

## 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
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

	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 are in a time where society does not accept us for our sexual orientation. And we fear being victims of buling [sic] and discrimination” - Gay, rural, between 25 and 35*

## GBGR/GBTR Methodology

The F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) and the 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.

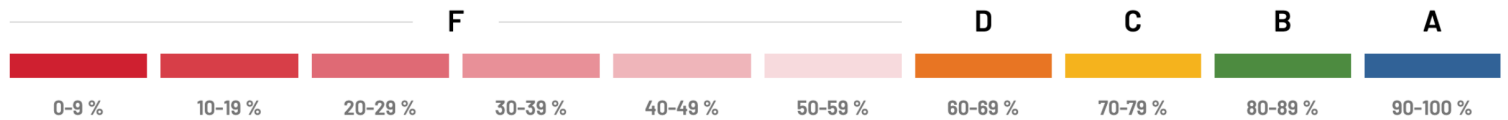
## GBPI Methodology

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.

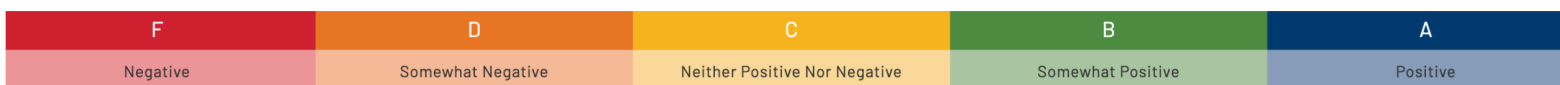
The GBPI gauges the lived human rights reality of LGBTQI+ people worldwide. Available in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), it asks six basic questions, to which the respondents answer from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). The overall score for each country is then assigned a percentage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



### GBGR/GBTR Grading Scale



### GBPI Grading Scale



[1] Human Rights Watch. (2021). "El Salvador: Events of 2020." <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/vcountry-chapters/el-salvador#194231>