



F&M GLOBAL BAROMETERS

Asylum Profile: Jamaica



F
(33%)

GBGR (2020)

F
(47%)

GBTR (2020)

F
(43%)

GBPI (2022)

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), Jamaica fails to adequately protect their LGBTQI+ population.

Homosexuality is criminalized with a maximum punishment of imprisonment for ten years. As a result of the criminalization of homosexuality, there are no legal protections for LGBTQI+ Jamaicans, and societal acceptance of the LGBTQI+ population is low. Acts of violence against sexual orientation minorities occurred every year between 2011-2020.

LGBTQI+ advocacy groups, such as J-Flag, exist and are allowed to register; however, groups have had mixed results peacefully and safely assembling. In 2019, Homer Davis, Mayor of Montego Bay, criticized Montego Bay Pride and refused to allow the event to take place at the city's cultural center [1]. Several activists have been murdered [2], including one of the co-founders of J-Flag [3].

The GBPI results echo the findings of the barometers. The 159 respondents in Jamaica confirmed that the country is an extremely unsafe place for LGBTQI+ people. Many wrote that in order to stay safe, it was essential to hide their sexual orientation and that they live in fear of being discovered. Respondents also expressed fear for their physical safety, recounted incidents of beatings and muggings, and several people reported that they had lost friends to murders motivated by homophobia.

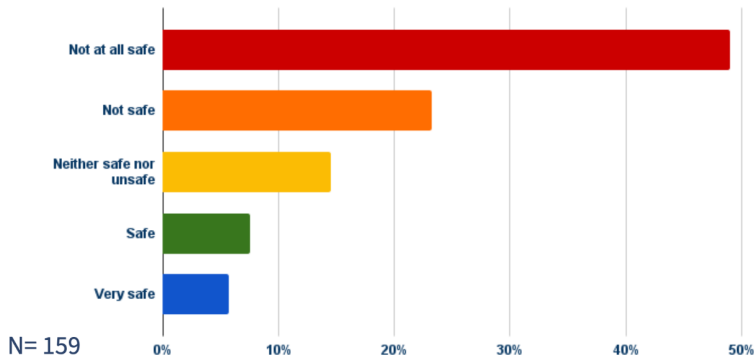
"Gays are highly discriminated against in Jamaica to the point where straight men are disguising themselves [;] they come on grindr, extort gay people, kill them, beat and robbed them. We have to be very careful how we portray our self [sic] in public[;] we have to be careful of what we wear or dress and how we speak [,] even disguising our true self [sic] out of fear of being physically harmed or killed." - Bisexual, city, aged 25-35

"My friend was killed for being gay, and also for being one who did not ascribe to the rigid societal male norms like myself. I have so much more that I can describe and tell about the human rights abuses that I, as well as others, have experienced and suffered by the hands of Jamaican civil servants and the wider public." - Gay/queer/gender non-conforming, city, aged 25-35

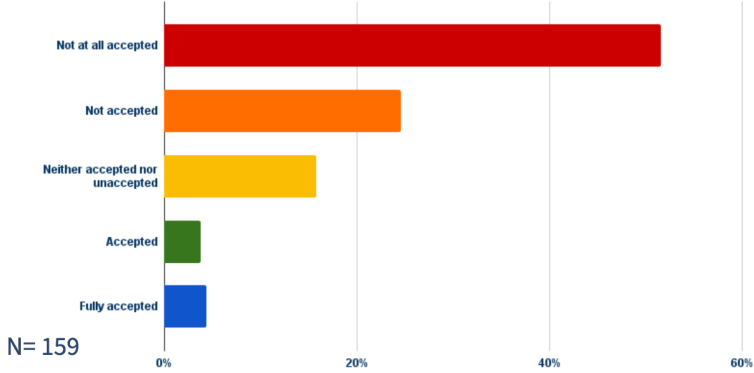
"It seems relatively safe to go about daily lives [sic] for those who are not overly flamboyant in conduct or attire. Discrimination [sic] is more subtle in most areas but can [be] psychologically impactful. The threat of physical violence is still present and may even be effected [sic] by family members [,] and so one has to be careful to remain in the closet as far as is possible or at least avoid evidence to confirm suspicions regarding [one's] orientation and or sexual activities." - Gay, rural, aged 36-55

GBPI Question Breakdown

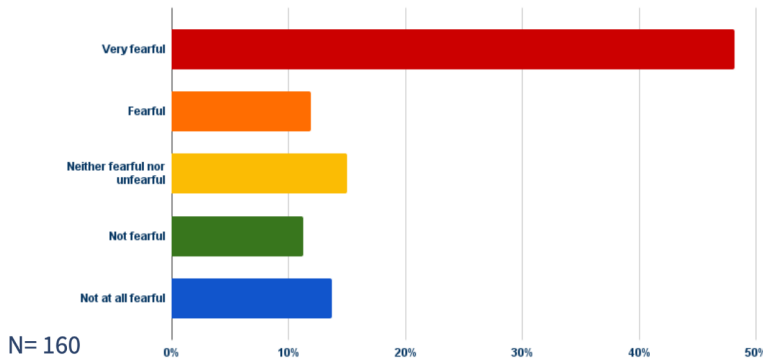
Q1: ...how safe do you feel living as a L, G, B, T or I person in your country? (Jamaica - 2022)



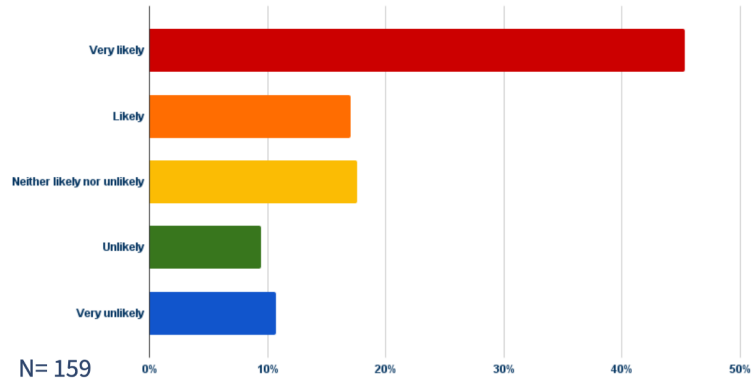
Q2: ...how accepted do you feel as an LGBTI person by your society? (Jamaica - 2022)



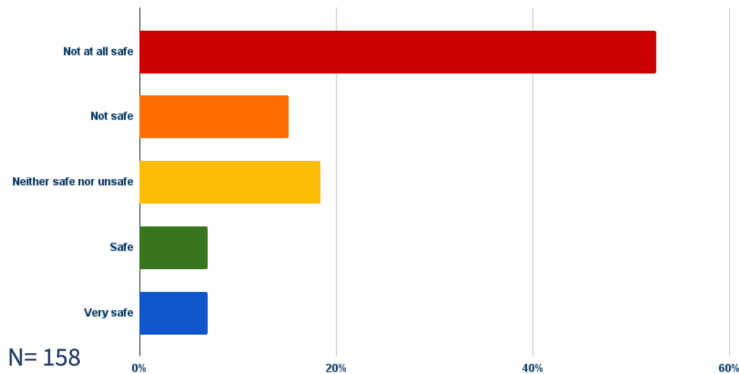
Q3: ...how fearful are you of being arrested, harassed or blackmailed by security forces/police because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status? (Jamaica - 2022)



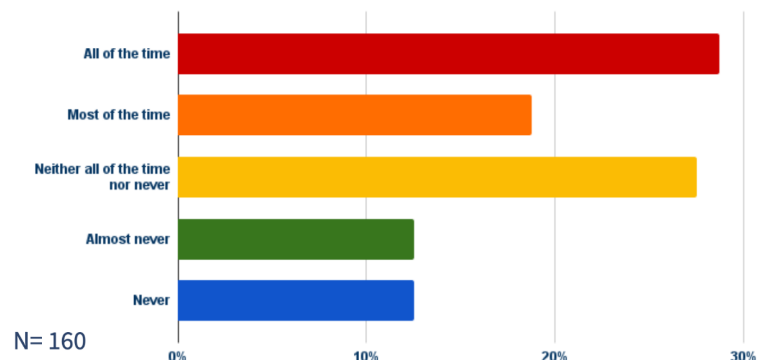
Q4: ...how likely are you to be a victim of violence due to your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status? (Jamaica - 2022)



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



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



The GBPI results reveal high levels of fear and experiences with violence. Half of respondents reported feeling not at all safe (49%), not at all accepted (52%), very fearful of security forces (48%), and not at all safe gathering with other LGBTI people in public (53%). 45% of respondents felt that they were very likely to experience violence due to their identity. On the whole, the highest score for the most positive categories was only 14% (Not at all fearful of security forces). Respectively, only 6% and 4% of respondents felt very safe and fully accepted.

GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Jamaica)

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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Yes

No

“Jamaica [sic] society just doesn’t accept the lgbtq community. It’s hard to be yourself without being discriminated, bullied or even being hurt by other persons. I wish I could just leave this country and go somewhere else where I can actually be myself and be loved and wanted.” - Gay, city, aged under 25

GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Jamaica)

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 am not out....Gay persons are by no means safe in Jamaica. Some Jamaican guys pretend to be gay in an attempt to hurt persons who are actually gay. I feel like a prisoner in my country. I am so sad each day." - Gay, rural, aged between 36 and 55

GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (Jamaica)



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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

4 SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

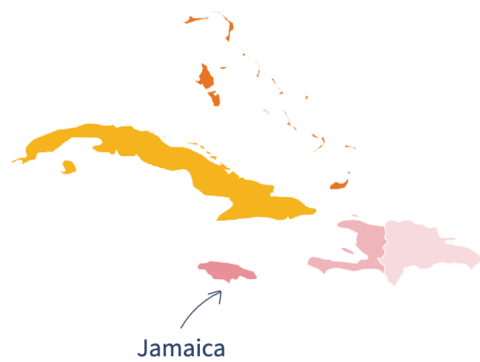
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12. Workplace anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13. Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14. Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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. 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), with 100% (A) being the most protective and 0% (F) being the least protective.



Caribbean GBGR (2020) Map



Caribbean GBTR (2020) Map



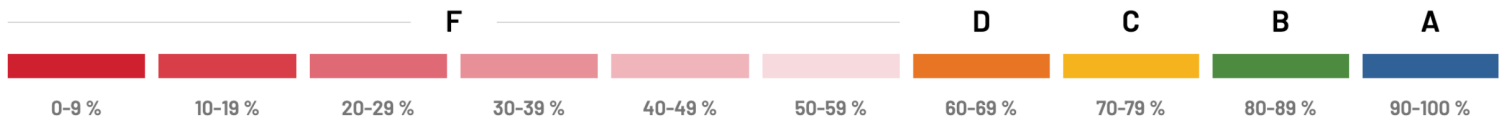
Caribbean GBPI (2022) Map

GBPI Methodology

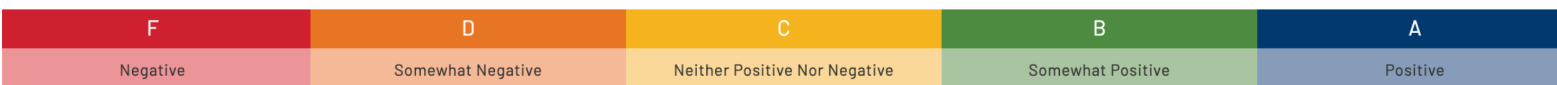
The F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI) is a joint project between the F&M Global Barometers and the Council for Global Equality. Launched between June 28 and September 29, 2022, the survey garnered over 160,000 responses from 204 countries.

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] The Fight for Montego Bay Pride Goes On. (2019, October 21). Human Rights Campaign. <https://www.hrc.org/news/the-fight-for-montego-bay-pride-goes-on>

[2] Beresford, M. (2017, September 2). Jamaican gay activist found murdered in his home. PinkNews. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2017/09/02/jamaican-gay-activist-found-murdered-in-his-home/>

[3] Kebede, R. (2015, December 10). Jamaica activist challenges anti-gay law in bid to end violence, discrimination. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-jamaica-lgbt-reform/jamaica-activist-challenges-anti-gay-law-in-bid-to-end-violence-discrimination-idUSKBN0TT30Q20151210>

