The F&M Global Barometers Methodology: Quantifying LGBT+ Human Rights Protections Worldwide

F&M GLOBAL BAROMETERS

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Background Note No. 1

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1. Introduction

1.1 Who We Are

The F&M Global Barometers (FMGB) was founded in 2010 by Dr. Susan Dicklitch-Nelson at Franklin & Marshall College, a private liberal arts college in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The project's mission is to create a comprehensive, objective database on LGBTQI+ human rights for use in scholarly research, domestic and foreign policy, and diplomatic efforts to improve LGBTQI+ rights and lived human rights realities across the globe.

1.2 Our Projects

- *F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR):* The GBGR, the inaugural project of the F&M Global Barometers (FMGB), was first launched in 2011, with a case study of Uganda.[1] The barometer includes 27 items in five dimensions for each of the 204 countries, with sources and citations for each item. Although some changes were made to the original Barometer of Gay Rights (BGR) to account for issues in accessibility to macro-level comparison data, the F&M GBGR has remained consistent in its focus on measuring both state and societal level respect or repression of the human rights of sexual minorities.

- *F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR):* The GBTR began data collection in 2017 in order to capture the unique challenges faced by gender identity minorities. Although LGBT individuals are often grouped together, their human rights reality is different, and that difference needs to be documented and monitored separately. This barometer includes 17 items in five dimensions for each of 204 countries. Now with over ten years of triple-verified, peer-reviewed data, this project complements its partner project, the GBGR.

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[1] Dicklitch, S, Yost, B, and Dougan, B (2012). "Building a Barometer of Gay Rights (BGR): A Case Study of Uganda and the Persecution of Homosexuals", *Human Rights Quarterly* 34, 2: 448-471.

- *F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI):* The fourth project under the FMGB umbrella is the F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI), created in collaboration with the Council for Global Equality (CGE) and launched in 2022 The GBPI is a survey that measures the lived realities of LGBTQI+ individuals through six simple questions on safety, acceptance and discrimination.

- *The LGBTQI+ Human Rights Report Cards (HRRC):* The HRRC were created for the White House Summit(s) for Democracy in collaboration with the Council for Global Equality. The HRRCs measure the protection or persecution of the LGBTQI+ community in 110 democracies from 2020-2022. This measure includes 30 items in three dimensions.

2. F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) and F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR) Methodology

Both the GBGR and the GBTR operationalize fundamental international human rights concepts drawn from key articles within international human rights law. The GBGR and GBTR draw from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights principles including: freedom and equality in dignity and rights (Article 1); the right to physical security (Articles 3, 5); equal protection under the law (Articles 6-11); right to privacy (Article 12); right to marriage (Article 16); freedom of expression or opinion (Article 19); right to peaceful assembly and association (Article 21); and the right to work (Article 23).[2]

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[2] *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. [Online]. Available: https://www.un.org/en/universal-declarationhuman-rights/ [Accessed 15 November 2019].*

The Yogyakarta Principles of 2006[3] and the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10[4] also provided foundational guidance to the development of the 27 GBGR and 17 GBTR items. The human rights examined by the GBGR and the GBTR reflect civil and political rights as well as social, cultural and economic rights. Principle 30 of the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 encapsulates the philosophical foundation for the items in the GBTR: "Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, has the right to state protection from violence, discrimination and other harm, whether by government officials or by any individual or group."[5]

The data set includes 204 countries grouped into regions based on the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) country classifications, plus England, Gaza, Hong Kong, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, Scotland, U.S. Virgin Islands, Wales, and West Bank.

Both barometers measure five dimensions:
        Dimension I: De Jure Protection,
        Dimension II: De Facto (Civil & Political) Protection,
        Dimension III: LGBT Rights Advocacy,
        Dimension IV: Socio Economic Rights, and
        Dimension V: Societal Persecution.

Table 1 and **Table 2**, below, illustrate the items and dimensions on which the GBGR and GBTR focus.

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[3] *International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). (2007). Yogyakarta Principles - Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, Available: https://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/ [Accessed 15 November 2019].*
[4] *International Commission of Jurists. (2017). Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10: Additional Principles and state obligations on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics to complement the Yogyakarta Principles. Available: https://yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles-en/ [Accessed November 15, 2019].*
[5] Ibid.

Table 1: F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights 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
23	Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation
24	Same-sex couples are allowed to jointly adopt
	SOCIETAL PERSECUTION
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

Table 2: F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights Scorecard

Item Number	Global Barometer of Transgender Rights Scorecard
	DE JURE PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES
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 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
14	Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include gender identity
	SOCIETAL PERSECUTION
15	No known acts of murder against gender minorities
16	No known acts of violence against gender minorities
17	Crimes based on gender identity are reported to police

The F&M Global Barometers® utilize a unique methodology combining quantitative research design with qualitative, real-world considerations. For example, not only do the F&M Global Barometers measure legislative action or inaction on indicators like "No criminalization of sexual orientation," they also capture real-world considerations such as the existence of violence against LGBT persons.

Both the GBGR and GBTR rank countries on a scale of 0 to100 percent based on their protection or persecution of SOGI minorities. The GBGR and GBTR employ binary

variables, i.e., 0 or 1, to rank items on the barometers. Each item is assigned either 0 or 1 based on whether countries perform positively or negatively with respect to that item. The items are then summed to determine a raw score for a country for a particular year. The highest possible score is 27/27 or 17/17 on the GBGR and GBTR respectively, while the lowest possible score is 0/27 or 0/17. The raw score is then converted to a percentage score, with corresponding rankings from A – F. If a country does not have a military, then the final score will be divided by 26 not 27, or 16 not 17.

Each item in the GBGR and the GBTR is weighted equally with a one or zero. A country will receive one point if evidence supports the item in the affirmative and a zero if in the negative. For example, no death penalty for sexual orientation would receive a one, but if the country has the death penalty for sexual orientation, it would receive a zero. There are obvious drawbacks to a binary ranking system, but these deficits 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.

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 the colors correspond to a grade of F, D, C, B or A based on their percentage scores. Countries with a score of F receive a failing human rights report card; D, unsatisfactory; C, average; B, very good; and A, excellent. **Figure 1,** below, illustrates the grading system for the GBGR.
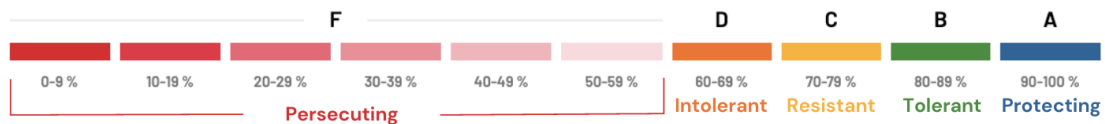
Figure 1: GBGR and GBTR Grading Scale

To reduce intercoder variation in data collection and verification, the GBGR and GBTR employ an F&M GBGR/GBTR coding handbook. This coding handbook is utilized for first stage data collection, internal verification, and regional and country peer-review verification.

2.1 Coding the F&M Global Barometers Database

The 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 primary sources for the GBGR and GBTR databases are desk-based research, including 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, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Transrespect vs. Transphobia, ILGA Trans Legal Mapping Report, Human Dignity Trust and Transgender Europe. Secondary sources include local newspaper reports, international media coverage, and multi-region shadow reports by local and international non-governmental organizations.

Coders use a double-blind process in coding. Additionally, the Global Barometers have partnered with peer review experts (PREs) from all over the world to triple-verify our data. In the past, we have partnered with over 35 scholars, grassroots activists, and policy professionals from more than 30 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania who reviewed the data. The triple-verification process is crucial to the accuracy and integrity of our data.

3. F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI) Methodology

The GBPI is an ambitious, pioneering survey aimed at gauging the LGBTQI+ community's perception of their lived human rights reality in 204 countries and territories.

There is a paucity of qualitative data on the lived experiences of the global LGBTQI+ community. Legislation does not always translate into lived human rights reality, and the existing survey data on LGBTQI+ individuals often focuses on the extent to which cisgender and heterosexual individuals accept LGBTQI+ people.

For example, the Williams Institute's Global Acceptance Index (GAI) relies on 30 years of data from more than 2,750 surveys to gauge change in acceptance toward LGBT people in 175 countries. The GAI, however, focuses primarily on LGB people and fails to adequately measure attitudes toward transgender, queer, or non-binary individuals. Recognizing this gap, the Williams Institute partnered with Ipsos Public Affairs in 2017 to create a survey that focused on global attitudes toward transgender people. The total survey sample was 19,747 in 27 countries; only 16 countries made it to the final report.[6] It is clear that there was a significant gap in research on LGBTQI+ individuals -- not only from the perspective of inclusivity of identity -- but more importantly from the perspective of making the LGBTQI+ community the subject rather than the object of research. Few, if any, existing surveys directly asked the LGBTQI+ community about their lived human rights realities. The F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI) fills this data void.

The survey was launched from June 28 - September 29, 2022. The GBPI was created to balance the almost exclusive focus on legislative protections so as to inform activists, policy-makers, government officials, and laypeople on the global human rights realities of LGBTQI+ people *in their own words*.

The F&M Global Barometers team created the survey in collaboration with the Council for Global Equality and the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College. Understanding that most people do not enjoy taking surveys, we designed the survey to be short but efficient, getting at key issues facing LGBTQI+ people worldwide: safety, violence, acceptance, fear, victimization, safety in gathering, and level of discrimination. The survey passed a rigorous Franklin & Marshall College Institutional Review Board (IRB) process to ensure that LGBTQI+ individuals would not be endangered in any way through their participation in the survey.

The GBPI survey was translated into four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) by professional translators and then shared with global LGBTQI+ community partners in order to ensure that translations were culturally sensitive and inoffensive.

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[6] Global Attitudes Toward Transgender People," *Ipsos,* January 29, 2018
https://www.ipsos.com/en/global-attitudes-toward-transgender-people.

The FMGB partnered with the Council for Global Equality, Grindr4Equality, Eden, Her, and LGBTQI+ civil society organizations worldwide to disseminate the survey. The survey was internet-based and housed on a dedicated ADA-compliant website on the F&M Global Barometers website.

The survey asked respondents to rate their lived human rights experiences as members of the LGBTQI+ community on a Likert scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest (negative) and 5 being the highest (positive). Each country was assigned a letter grade between A-F using a standardized grading scale (see **Figure 2. GBPI Grading Scale**). The letter grades were further quantified so that an F corresponded to between 0-59%, a D between 60-69%, a C between 70-79%, a B between 80-89%, and an A between 90-100%.

F	D	C	B	A
Negative	Somewhat Negative	Neither Positive Nor Negative	Somewhat Positive	Positive

Figure 2: GBPI Grading Scale

The GBPI questions are as follows:

- **Question 1 (Safety):** During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all safe" and 5 means "very safe," how safe do you feel living as an L, G, B, T or I person in your country?

- **Question 2 (Acceptance)**: During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all accepted" and 5 means "fully accepted," how accepted do you feel as an LGBTI person by your society?

- **Question 3 (Fear)**: During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "very fearful" and 5 means "not at all fearful," how fearful are you of being arrested, harassed or blackmailed by security forces/police because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?

- **Question 4 (Violence):** During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "very likely" and 5 means "not at all likely," how likely are you to be a victim of violence due to your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?

- **Question 5 (Safety in Gathering)**: During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all safe" and 5 means "very safe," how safe do you feel gathering with other LGBTI people in public?

- **Question 6 (Discrimination)**: During the past 12 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "all the time" and 5 means "never," how frequently do you experience discrimination in your day-to-day life due to your LGBTI status?

Demographic questions were included which allowed for disaggregation of survey responses based on:
a) Country
b) Location: rural v. urban
c) Age: under 25, Between 25 and 35, Between 36 and 55, and Over 55,
d) Identity: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender man, Transgender woman, Intersex, Queer, Non-binary or Other.

Individuals taking the survey could opt to select one or multiple identities. They also had the option of leaving comments, which many did, and the option of not answering any particular question or not providing demographic information.

4. GBPI Survey Results

The F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index garnered over 171,000 responses from over 204 countries and territories. When "cleaned," the completed surveys totaled 167,382 from 204 countries and territories.[7] The highest response rate came from Mexico with 26,018 completed surveys. The second and third highest responses came from the United States, 14,046 responses, and Spain, 11,706 responses. Sixty-one countries with fewer than 30 responses were omitted. These include: Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Bhutan, Brunei, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Gaza, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mozambique, Nauru, Niger, North Korea,

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[7] Duplicate surveys were removed as were surveys that were not filled out by individuals who did not identify as a member of the LGBTQI+ community.

Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, West Bank, and Yemen. **The total N= of countries included in the final data set is 136**. In total, there are 136 countries included in our analysis. Both the average and median global scores were **F (59%).**

Figure 3 below illustrates the global frequency of GBPI responses.   To better capture the spectrum of responses, Mexico is also omitted from this map due to the fact that it had the highest response size (26,018).
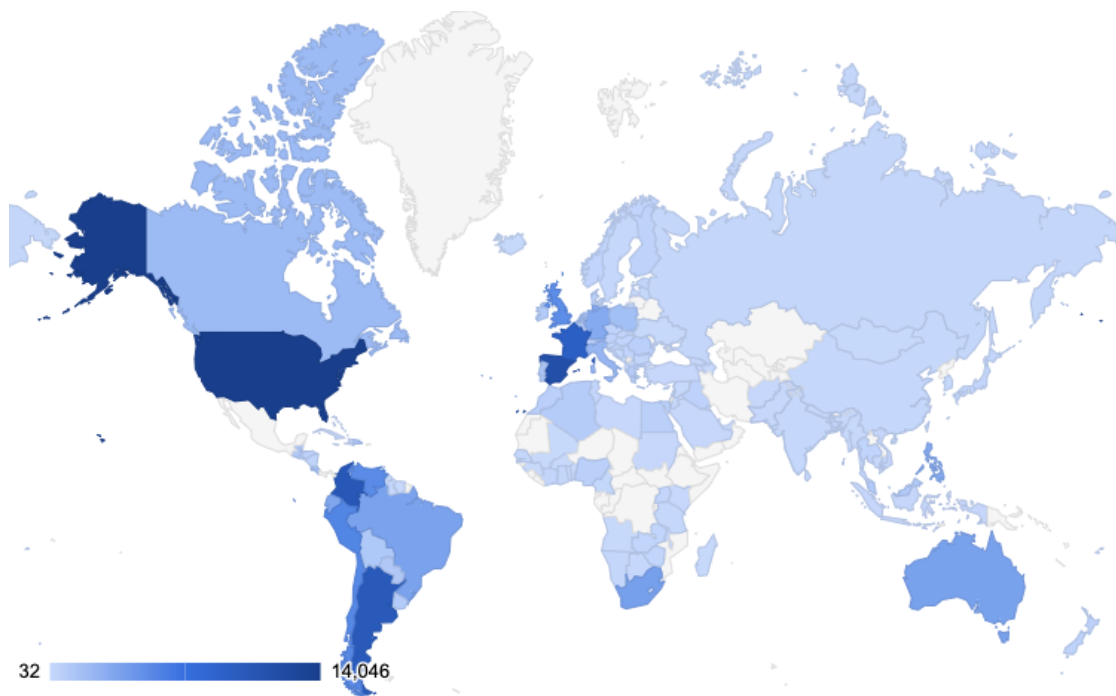
Figure 3: Global Response Frequency Map

The GBPI response by identity is broken down in Figure 4, below.
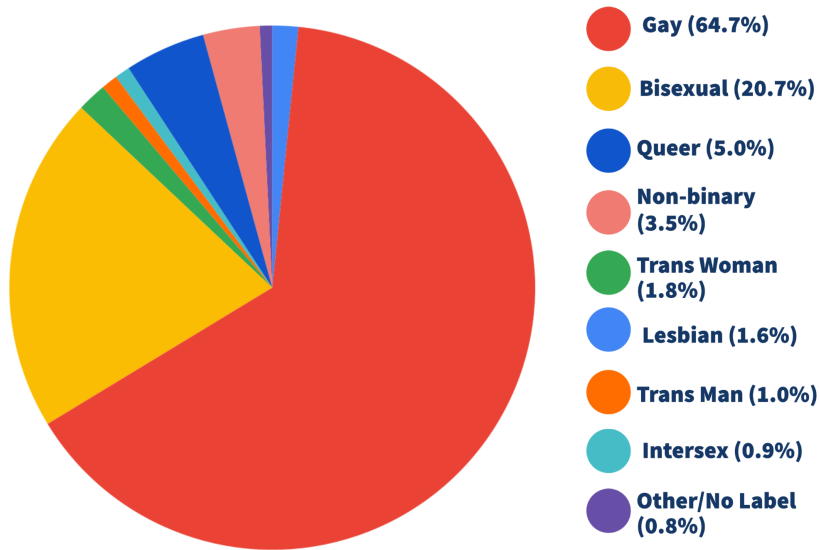
Figure 4. GBPI Response overview by Identity

The highest response rate at almost 65 percent was from individuals that identified as gay. The second highest response rate was from individuals that identified as bisexual with almost 21 percent.

The GBPI response by region is broken down in Figure 5, below. As expected, the region with the highest response rate was the Western Hemisphere with almost 58 percent, then Europe/Eurasia with almost 29 percent response rate.
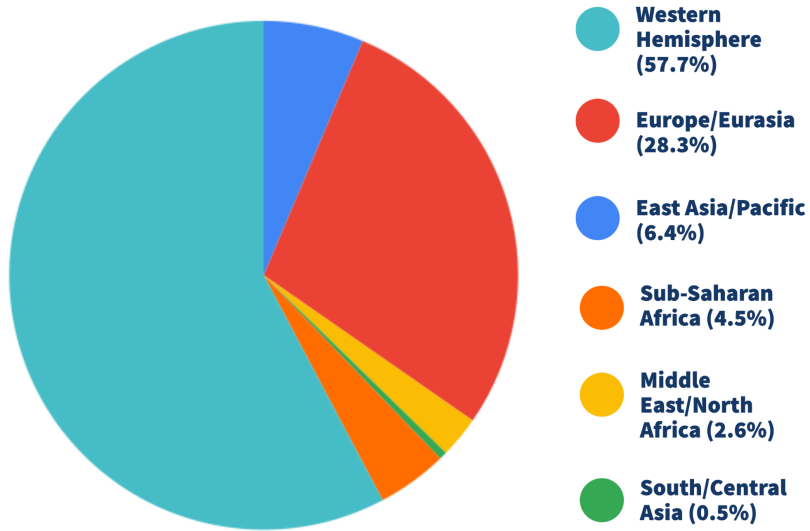
Figure 5. GBPI Response Overview by Region

Legend:
- Western Hemisphere (57.7%)
- Europe/Eurasia (28.3%)
- East Asia/Pacific (6.4%)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (4.5%)
- Middle East/North Africa (2.6%)
- South/Central Asia (0.5%)

Conclusions

The F&M GBGR, GBTR and GBPI combined provide crucial insight into the legislative and lived human rights realities of LGBT people worldwide. Although it is impossible to capture all the nuances of legislative protections or lived realities, these barometers afford a comprehensive and detailed assessment of how human rights protecting or persecuting countries actually are toward their LGBT populations.

Appendix 1: Global GBPI Response Rate

Country	Total Entries
Guinea Bissau	1
Kiribati	1
Lithuania	1
Nauru	1
Sao Tome and Principe	1
Tajikistan	1
Tonga	1
Turkmenistan	1
Tuvalu	1
Kyrgyzstan	2
Marshall Islands	2
Micronesia	2
North Korea	2
Timor-Leste	2
Vanuatu	2
Ethiopia	3
Solomon Islands	3
Eritrea	4
Dominica	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	5
Yemen	5
Palau	6
Equatorial Guinea	7
Monaco	7
Comoros	8

Country	Total Entries
Gaza	8
Laos	10
Liberia	10
Papua New Guinea	10
Samoa	10
Cabo Verde	11
Chad	11
The Gambia	11
Sierra Leone	12
South Sudan	12
Uzbekistan	12
Bhutan	13
Kazakhstan	13
Mauritania	13
Mozambique	14
Seychelles	14
Moldova	15
Niger	15
Somalia	15
Djibouti	16
Saint Vincent and t..	16
West Bank	16
Panama	18
Rwanda	18
Saint Lucia	18
Congo (Kinshasa)	19

Country	Total Entries
Central African Rep..	20
Burundi	25
Congo (Brazzaville)	25
Antigua and Barbuda	26
Gabon	26
Oman	26
Belarus	28
Iran	29
Brunei	30
Kosovo	30
Lesotho	32
Mali	32
Guinea	33
Mongolia	34
Madagascar	35
Syria	36
Grenada	37
Togo	40
Benin	42
Burma	43
Azerbaijan	44
Qatar	45
Ukraine	46
Angola	54
Eswatini	54
Barbados	56
Mauritius	56
Burkina Faso	57

Country	Total Entries
Maldives	58
Montenegro	58
Suriname	58
Bahrain	59
South Korea	60
Iceland	64
Luxembourg	71
Malawi	72
Libya	74
Saudi Arabia	74
Belize	75
Bahamas, The	76
Turkey	76
Cuba	79
Afghanistan	83
Haiti	83
Cambodia	88
Nepal	89
North Macedonia	89
Sudan	89
Kenya	90
Cyprus	96
United Arab Emirates	97
Pakistan	104
Liechtenstein	105
Tanzania	107
Malta	108
Fiji	109

Country	Total Entries
Guyana	109
Sweden	112
Hong Kong	114
Andorra	115
Armenia	115
Botswana	116
Kuwait	116
Trinidad and Tobago	122
Bosnia and Herzegovina	124
Latvia	126
Jordan	127
China	132
India	135
Albania	137
Indonesia	145
Georgia	151
Vietnam	153
Jamaica	161
Russia	170
Senegal	176
Sri Lanka	183
Namibia	197
Ghana	205
Lebanon	206
Cameroon	209
Slovenia	209
Uganda	215
Tunisia	227

Country	Total Entries
Cote d'Ivoire	229
Taiwan	232
Bangladesh	237
Japan	251
Slovakia	252
Zimbabwe	256
Estonia	258
Singapore	261
Bulgaria	268
Zambia	279
Norway	310
Hungary	343
Thailand	349
Nicaragua	381
Serbia	381
Croatia	397
Czechia	397
Finland	447
Austria	460
New Zealand	467
Iraq	506
Denmark	529
Israel	546
Honduras	586
El Salvador	605
Nigeria	625
Egypt	638
Switzerland	644

Country	Total Entries
Romania	681
Morocco	698
Greece	830
Algeria	865
Belgium	924
Ireland	966
Uruguay	974
Malaysia	1,025
Paraguay	1,143
Guatemala	1,145
Bolivia	1,205
Portugal	1,305
Dominican Republic	1,382
Poland	1,754
Netherlands	1,836
Costa Rica	1,894
Canada	2,108
Italy	2,308
Germany	3,147
Philippines	3,257
Ecuador	3,478
Brazil	3,659
Australia	3,750
South Africa	3,865

Country	Total Entries
United Kingdom	5,132
Venezuela	5,247
Chile	5,436
Peru	5,640
France	9,346
Argentina	10,124
Colombia	10,441
Spain	11,706
United States	14,046
Mexico	26,018

Inquiries

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