



2.8. LGBTIQ persons

2.8.1. Legislative framework and developments

Consensual same-sex sexual acts continue to be punishable by law in Syria.^{[762](#)} According to the article 520 of the 1949 Syrian Penal Code, ‘Unnatural Sexual Intercourse’ is a crime punishable for up to three years imprisonment,^{[763](#)} and it is applicable to men as well as women.^{[764](#)}

According to a confidential source cited by the Netherlands MFA, since the fall of the Assad regime and as of late April 2025, criminal courts continued to apply the Penal Code;^{[765](#)} however, other confidential sources consulted were not aware of any LGBTIQ individuals who had been convicted under this section of the law.^{[766](#)} Instead, LGBTIQ individuals have been arrested and prosecuted under vague interpretations of other legal provisions, including offences related to public decency and morality,^{[767](#)} prostitution,^{[768](#)} or trafficking of illegal substances.^{[769](#)}

- ^{[762](#)}

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- ^{[763](#)}

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