



2.8.2. Treatment by state, non-state and societal actors

Sources have documented abuses against LGBTIQ individuals during the Syrian conflict by state [770](#) and non-state actors, [771](#) including HTS. [772](#)

The Guardians of Equality Movement (GEM), the first Syrian LGBTIQ organisation, [773](#) documented 'waves of violence' against several Syrian transgender women in the first two months of 2025, [774](#) implicating both non-state armed groups and security forces in multiple cities. [775](#) In February 2025, online videos reportedly showed Syrian authorities arresting transgender individuals. [776](#) According to the GEM, since December 2024, armed groups linked to the new authorities as well as non-state actors were implicated in serious violations against LGBTIQ individuals including 'entrapment through dating apps, home raids, abductions, arbitrary arrests, torture, humiliation, threats of physical violence and disfigurement, as well as other dangerous practices such as forced filming and public shaming'. [777](#)

Sources indicate that homophobia is prevalent in Syrian society. [778](#) According to confidential sources interviewed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as of September 2025 the situation of LGBTIQ individuals 'did not change', with LGBTIQ related issues remaining 'a major taboo' in Syrian society. [779](#) LGBTIQ individuals in Syria were in general not open about their sexual orientation or gender identity, due to the risk of family and social rejection, stigmatisation, discrimination and violence. [780](#) The Beirut-based media outlet Daraj noted that there was no legislation in Syria protecting LGBTIQ individuals from violence and discrimination. [781](#) According to a May 2026 report by the GEM, LGBTIQ individuals often refrain from reporting crimes for fear that disclosing their identity will result in them being framed as perpetrators, leaving them unprotected against homophobic or transphobic violence. [782](#)

- [770](#)

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GEM, Syria: The Legal Position on LGBTQIA+ Individuals' "Fear of Entering the Police Station and Not Exiting", 5 May 2026, [url](#), p. 6

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