

**A Comprehensive Analysis of Protection Against Violence and Discrimination in the Context of
Human Rights: Expression, Association, and Assembly**

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An Analysis of LGBTQ+ Rights Across the World: The Impact of Laws and Policies

Russia serves as a case study highlighting challenges to LGBTQ+ human rights ingrained in the country's laws and policies. One significant law is Russia's 2013 Federal Law "for the Purpose of Protecting Children from Information Advocating a Denial of Traditional Family Values," also known as the "gay propaganda" law, which severely limits speech and depictions of LGBTQ+ relationships. This legal framework leads to significant intolerance and discrimination toward LGBTQ+ people because it denies them what is central to tolerance: representation. Without proper representation, action-based programs to ensure LGBTQ+ inclusion in society are hindered. Young people can grow up only seeing heterosexual forms of affection, which can lead to generations of homophobia. This act of censorship through the internet, television, press, and radio fundamentally limits the rights of LGBTQ+ people and does not truly support the individual's right to speech.¹

Beliefs rooted in religion and religious leaders often play a major role in the well-being of LGBTQ+ people in these contexts. This is especially significant when religiously motivated forms of hatred are included in the policies of a country.

The consequences of this hate can best be explained by a positive feedback loop: engaging in hateful acts towards LGBTQ+ individuals leads to intolerance, which then translates into discrimination against the community and acts of physical or verbal violence. This is a never-ending loop where LGBTQ+ people continue to face higher and higher levels of hatred. It is central that legislators address the increasing homophobia and transphobia present in society and make efforts to protect the human rights of LGBTQ+ people as well as the human right to religion, or the lack thereof.

An Analysis of the Human Rights of LGBTQ+ Americans: The Impact of Laws and Policies

¹ "No Support: Russia's "Gay Propaganda" Law Imperils LGBT Youth | HRW." 11 Dec. 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/12/12/no-support/russias-gay-propaganda-law-imperils-lgbt-youth>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.

Just in 2023, over 510 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced in state legislatures, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).² Of these bills, an astounding 84 were signed into law across 23 of 50 states in the United States of America. One example of an anti-LGBTQ+ law in the United States is that of the State of Florida’s House Bill 1557, the Parental Rights in Education law, commonly referred to as the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill. As the name suggests, one central component of the policy was to “prohibi[t] classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels or in a specified manner.”³ This policy is similar to the aforementioned “Gay Propaganda” Law in Russia, where there are limited opportunities for LGBTQ+ representation. This policy specifically targets LGBTQ+ youth and educators in Florida, hindering the creation of inclusive classrooms across the state that adequately represent the realities of LGBTQ+ identities in the United States. Other bills passed in Florida have worked in conjunction with House Bill 1557, further governing the representation and voice of LGBTQ+ people in the public education system.⁴

These infringements on the LGBTQ+ identities of individuals in the United States are widespread across the country. Curriculum censorship is a significant issue in the United States as groups, families, and individuals work to prevent portions of curricula from being taught in schools; in fact, the American Civil Liberties Union tracked 28 bills in 2023 focusing on this critical issue. Hawaii currently has House Bill 509 and Senate Bill 1428 in its state legislation for consideration to “ban instruction related to sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools.”⁵

In Texas, over 55 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced just in 2023. As of the writing of this report, six bills were passed into law, two are being sued in court, one is still being introduced, and 48 were defeated. One particular policy is Texas Senate Bill 17, which requires universities

² “Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in U.S. State Legislature...| American Civil Liberties Union.” 21 Dec. 2023, <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2023>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.

³ “House Bill 1557 (2022) - The Florida Senate.” <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1557/?Tab=BillText>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.

⁴ <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1069/BillText/er/PDF>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.

⁵ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=509&year=2024. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.

to close diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and prevent the implementation of mandatory training that includes context on marginalized communities.⁶

Conclusion

Around the world, numerous laws, policies, and practices ban or restrict LGBTQ+ persons' human rights. From restrictions on school curriculum to laws on "gay propaganda," LGBTQ+ youth are growing up in increasingly harmful spaces that isolate them. Discriminatory laws not only undermine LGBTQ+ human rights but also cultivate intolerant and prejudiced environments. In order to recognize and confront the injustices this community faces, there must be proper education and advocacy on these issues and topics.

⁶ "Texas Senate approves bill that would ban diversity programs in public universities." 20 Apr. 2023, <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/04/19/texas-senate-dei-universities/>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2024.