

Gay Rights In The Middle East

SEXUAL FREEDOM

Country	Homosexuality Legal	Legal Protection for Gays from discrimination and hate crimes	Honor Killing* Outlawed
Egypt	YES (But gays are prosecuted under lewd conduct laws.)	NO	NO
Iran	NO (Gays are put to death.)	NO	NO
Jordan	YES (But reports of gays seeking asylum elsewhere)	NO	NO
Lebanon	NO	NO	N/A
Libya	NO	NO	N/A
Palestinian Authority	YES (But no protection from hate crimes)	NO	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO (Gays are put to death.)	NO	NO
Syria	NO (3 years imprisonment)	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES	YES

* "Honor killing" is when a male kills a female family member who has had sex – or is rumored to have had sex – outside of marriage, either by choice or because she was raped. Some countries have no or only light penalties for this kind of killing.

Sources: Amnesty International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Division at www.ai-lgbt.org; on PA, The New Republic, 8/19/02, Yossi Klein Halevi, "Refugee Status," www.tnr.com.

Honor Killings: The Star (Amman) 11/30/99; MEMRI Special Dispatch no. 63 at www.memri.org; U.S. Department of State, 1999 Human Rights Reports at www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm.

**Israel is the only country
in the Middle East that
supports gay rights**