



COI QUERY

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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Situation of LGBTIQ people; legislation and implementation; treatment by the state; treatment by society; availability of state protection; access to support services

The information provided in the query concerns the situation of LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer). However, sources might use other terms' variations due to the diverse terminology used across sources.

For further information see EUAA's Practical Guide, [COI Research guide on LGBTIQ](#).

1. Legislation

In Cameroon, same-sex relations are forbidden and penalised by law.¹ The Penal Code amended in 2016 as Law 2016/007,² establishes the following:

'Whoever has sexual relations with a person of the same sex shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 5 (five) years and a fine of from CFAF 20 000 (twenty thousand) [about EUR 30.5] to CFAF 200 000 (two hundred thousand) [about EUR 305]'.³

Additionally, the Law 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 Relating to Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality in Cameroon states in Section 83 (1) that:

'Whoever uses electronic communication devices to make sexual proposal to a person of the same sex shall be punished with imprisonment for from 01 (one) to 02 (two) years or a fine of from 500,000 (five hundred thousand) [about EUR 762.24] to 1,000,000 (one million) [about EUR 1 524.49] CFA francs or both of such fine and imprisonment.'⁴

The law was enforced according to the 2022 Country report on Human Rights practices published by the US Department of State (USDOS).⁵ USDOS noted that LGBTIQ+ identity was not explicitly penalised by law.⁶

¹ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 2

² ILGA, State-sponsored homophobia, December 2020, [url](#) p. 114

³ Cameroon, Law No. 2016/007 Relating to the Penal Code, 12 July 2016, Section 347-1, [url](#)

⁴ Cameroon, Law No. 2010/012 relating to Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality in Cameroon, 21 December 2010, Section 83(1), [url](#)

⁵ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 45

⁶ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 46



2. Treatment by the state

USDOS noted that state authorities, including government officials and law enforcement forces, discriminated against LGBT people.⁷ Authorities did not protect ‘lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people’ and according to Human Rights Watch (HRW) security forces arrested them arbitrarily.⁸

For instance, Erasing 76 Crimes, a site that focuses on news in countries with anti-LGBTI laws,⁹ reported that in January 2023, in the town of Mfou, located east of the country’s capital Yaoundé, two Cameroonian women were arrested, facing charges of homosexuality and private outrage of modesty,¹⁰ as per Articles 347-1 and 295 of the penal code.¹¹ According to the same source, the two women were detained for more than eleven months Mfou Prison without trial. Following delays and the misplacement of their case file, the judge declared them guilty on 14 December 2023, fining and sentencing them to 13 and 12 months in prison respectively. The total fines amounted to 385 000 [about EUR 586] CFA francs.¹²

Between March 2022 and May 2022, HRW documented the arrest of six people and detention of 11 individuals for ‘alleged consensual same-sex conduct and gender nonconformity’. According to the same source, each of the arrested individuals had previously experienced assaults by groups of people. In certain instances, the police reportedly demanded a bribe before releasing them.¹³

In October 2022, two men working in Mfou were sentenced to six months in prison after their boss filed a complaint with police, accusing them of homosexuality.¹⁴ According to Alice Nkom, a lawyer who defends LGBTQ people, the authorities of Cameroon arrested ‘more than a hundred’ LGBTIQ people in 2021 due to their sexual orientation, some of whom are awaiting trial, and over forty people have been imprisoned as a result.¹⁵ In Bertoua in February 2021, 12 people were arrested on ‘homosexuality-related charges’ and one woman among those arrested denounced the violence they suffered at the gendarmerie station where they were brought.¹⁶ The same source reported that the offices of Colibri, an organisation working on HIV prevention and treatment services, located in Bafoussam, West Region, were raided by police officers in February 2021 and 13 people were arrested on ‘homosexuality charges’.¹⁷

⁷ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), pp. 45-46

⁸ HRW, Cameroon: Rising Violence Against LGBTI People, 11 May 2022, [url](#)

⁹ Erasing 76 crimes, About, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰ Erasing 76 Crimes, PLEASE DONATE: We helped free a lesbian couple in Cameroon, 9 January 2024, [url](#)

¹¹ Cameroon, Law No. 2016/007 Relating to the Penal Code, 12 July 2016, Section 347-1, [url](#)

¹² Erasing 76 Crimes, PLEASE DONATE: We helped free a lesbian couple in Cameroon, 9 January 2024, [url](#)

¹³ HRW, Cameroon: Rising Violence Against LGBTI People, 11 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴ Erasing 76 Crimes, Cameroon: Readers’ generous gifts have set Alan and Otto free, 24 July 2023, [url](#)

¹⁵ France 24, Alice Nkom, Cameroon’s tireless defender of LGBTQ rights, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶ HRW, Cameroon: Wave of Arrests, Abuse Against LGBT People, 14 April 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷ HRW, Cameroon: Wave of Arrests, Abuse Against LGBT People, 14 April 2021, [url](#)



According to a BTI report from 2022, there was evidence of ‘significant discrimination and unequal access to justice’ for LGBT people in Cameroon.¹⁸

Organisations working on LGBTIQ topics could not register as such, despite no legislation prohibiting that registration explicitly, and had to declare to focus on human rights at large or on health-related issues.¹⁹ These organisations were subject to violent attacks for their activities.²⁰ They were also targeted by law enforcement forces.²¹

The Association for the Advancement of Women (AVAF, *Association pour la Valorisation de la Femme*), an organisation based in Yaoundé that works to empower the lesbian community,²² denounced in July 2021 an attack on their offices.²³ Freedom House added that LGBT people, did not see their interests duly represented by elected politicians and were usually excluded from ‘positions of political influence’.²⁴ The criminalisation and social stigma in Cameroon on LGBT people were deterrents to their active involvement in politics.²⁵

The visit of the French ambassador for the rights of LGBT people, scheduled for the end of June 2023, was cancelled after Cameroon reiterated that homosexuality was a crime²⁶ and [informal translation] ‘it was not possible talking about LGBT+ in Cameroon’.²⁷ HRW reported that ‘government and political officials’ said about LGBT people that they were “against nature”, “an anomaly,” “vampire citizens,” “destructive of the family,” “destructive of the state,” or as using “satanic and demonic practices”.²⁸

In June 2023, the National Communication Council (NCC), the Cameroon’s regulatory media organ, issued a statement addressed to the media emphasising that homosexuality was prohibited and penalised by virtue of the Cameroonian law.²⁹ The same statement called on the media and journalists to withdraw [informal translation] ‘programs that break the law, the good traditions and customs of the country’.³⁰ In case of non-compliance with the requirement, they would face suspension.³¹ On 22 September 2023, the NCC suspended the TV station Canal+ *Elles* for broadcasting ‘scenes with homosexual people’.³² The NCC decided to lift the

¹⁸ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report – Cameroon, 23 February 2022, [url](#), p. 14

¹⁹ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 47

²⁰ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 15; Erase 76

crimes, Cameroon: LGBTI community and defenders remain target of homophobic acts, 14 September 2023, [url](#)

²¹ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Cameroon, 2023, [url](#)

²² Planet Romeo Foundation, AVAF, n.d., [url](#)

²³ Erasing 76 crimes, Vandalism of another LGBT center in Cameroon, 26 July 2023, [url](#); ProtectDefenders.eu, Success Story | Trainings of HRDs from AVAF in Cameroon, 10 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Cameroon, 2023, [url](#)

²⁵ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 32

²⁶ Mimi Mefo Info, Cameroon: Government challenges French LGBTQ Ambassador’s visit, tells him he’s ‘NOT welcome’, 21 June 2023, [url](#); RFI, Cameroon says French ambassador for LGBT rights isn’t welcome, 22 June 2023, [url](#)

²⁷ Mimi Mefo Info, Cameroon: Government challenges French LGBTQ Ambassador’s visit, tells him he’s ‘NOT welcome’, 21 June 2023, [url](#)

²⁸ HRW, Online Incitement Against LGBT People in Cameroon, 11 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁹ Cameroon, CNC, Communiqué du 12 juin 2023, 12 June 2023, [url](#), p. 1

³⁰ Cameroon, CNC, Communiqué du 12 juin 2023, 12 June 2023, [url](#)

³¹ VOA Africa, Cameroon Communication Council Prohibits LGBTI Scenes on TV, 16 June 2023, [url](#)

³² Mimi Mefo Info, Ban on Canal+ Elles for airing gay contents lifted, 12 October 2023, [url](#)



suspension of the TV station on 9 October 2023 when Canal+ *Elles* discontinued the emission of the programme at stake and committed to avoiding future situations.³³

3. Treatment by society

LGBT people suffered violence and discrimination by society in Cameroon.³⁴ USDOS noted that families and communities discriminated against LGBT people.³⁵ The Observers, a collaborative site and TV show on France 24,³⁶ produced a video documenting instances of violence against gay and transgender people. Commenting on the video, France 24 noted that 'LGBT people in Cameroon face daily threats, violence and suspicion. They are often the victims of beatings, evictions from their homes, prison sentences or even death, all because of their sexual orientation or gender expression'.³⁷

Washington Blade, a US news outlet on LGBT topics,³⁸ gathered the statements of the director of a Cameroonian NGO about the influence of religion: “is strongly against the LGBT community as most religious leaders here abhor the practice and discourage believers to associate or accept identifying as LGBT as being normal”.³⁹ Sources interviewed by the CEDOCA between June and July 2021 confirmed the opposition of religious leaders to ‘homosexuals’.⁴⁰ The nomination of an openly homosexual US ambassador to Cameroon provoked the public opposition from a religious leader⁴¹ and political scientist.⁴²

Fair Planet, a non-profit organisation reporting on human rights and environmental justice,⁴³ noted that some Cameroonians considered homosexuality as ‘occultism’ because they did not understand romantic feelings between people of the same gender.⁴⁴ The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) interviewed a representative of the organisation Colibri, working on the defense of sexual minorities, who said that [informal translation] ‘homosexuality is perceived as a curse, a sin, a cult, a dishonour, a mental trouble, witchcraft. It is used to obtain favours, a position, a public contract or power. This perception prevents homosexuals from ‘coming out’. Most use ‘*façade marriages*’ to hide and go on with their

³³ Mimi Mefo Info, Ban on Canal+ Elles for airing gay contents lifted, 12 October 2023, [url](#); Actu Cameroun, Médias: le CNC lève la suspension de Canal+ Elles, 9 October 2023, [url](#)

³⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Cameroon, 2023, [url](#); USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 45; Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report – Cameroon, 23 February 2022, [url](#), p. 26

³⁵ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), pp. 45-46

³⁶ France 24 Observers, Who we are, n.d., [url](#)

³⁷ France 24 Observers, The fight against homophobia and transphobia in Cameroon, 7 April 2022, [url](#)

³⁸ Washington Blade, About, n.d., [url](#)

³⁹ Washington Blade, Report documents continued persecution of LGBTQ, intersex people in Cameroon, 24 January 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁰ CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroon: L’homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), p. 27

⁴¹ Actu Cameroun, Un prêtre catholique demande au Cameroun de refuser l’accréditation du nouvel ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, 12 June 2023, [url](#)

⁴² Actu Cameroun, Njoya Moussa (politologue): « les USA veulent amener le Cameroun à lever l’interdiction de l’homosexualité », 25 June 2021, [url](#)

⁴³ Fair Planet, About, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴ Fair Planet, Behind Closed Doors: Lgbtq+ People Struggle In Cameroon's Shadows, 25 July 2023, [url](#)



lives'.⁴⁵ Homosexuality was considered as something foreign, a feature imported from the West and alien to local cultures.⁴⁶

Sources reported that LGBT people were forced to live their identity in secret⁴⁷ or hide it.⁴⁸ The Executive Director of Humanity First Cameroon, an organisation that works to fight HIV/AIDS and defends the rights of vulnerable people and LGBT,⁴⁹ noted that society had different views on homosexuals depending on their financial situation.⁵⁰ In the same interview with the CEDOCA, he emphasised that families could pretend to accept homosexuals who were well-off but they still needed to hide their identity publicly due to the [informal translation] 'intolerance at the core of Cameroonian society'.⁵¹ The differentiated treatment based on financial resources was also corroborated by sources cited by the Swiss SEM.⁵² Families were reported as pressuring LGBT people to change and particularly in the case of lesbians some families arranged [informal translation] 'corrective rapes or non-consensual marriage'.⁵³

Alice Nkom, the founder of the first anti-homophobia NGO in Cameroon, the Association for the Defence of Homosexual Rights (Adefho), told France24 in 2021 that when she started to advocate more publicly about her work, she started to receive threats and was called 'a witch' for her activities.⁵⁴ She also mentioned that despite the fact that attacks and arrests increased, 'attitudes are starting to change in Cameroonian civil society'.⁵⁵

Treatment of lesbian women

Incidents targeting lesbian women, as reported by sources consulted within the timeframe of this response, include the following:

Erasing 76 crimes reported in December 2023 that a school in Mbalmayo expelled two girls when the teacher intercepted a love message that one of them sent to the other.⁵⁶ The article informed that both girls were 'violently abused' when their families learnt about the incident.⁵⁷ The same source informed about a previous case in which two lesbians could no longer continue their education because their families refused to continue funding them when they

⁴⁵ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 8

⁴⁶ France24, Au Cameroun, l'homophobie continue de faire des victimes, 23 February 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁷ Fair Planet, Behind Closed Doors: Lgbtq+ People Struggle In Cameroon's Shadows, 25 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁸ CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroun: L'homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), pp. 18-19

⁴⁹ Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Stories, Humanity First Cameroon, n.d., [url](#)

⁵⁰ Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroun: L'homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), p. 19

⁵¹ Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroun: L'homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), p. 19

⁵² Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 9

⁵³ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 9

⁵⁴ France 24, Alice Nkom, Cameroon's tireless defender of LGBTQ rights, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁵ France 24, Alice Nkom, Cameroon's tireless defender of LGBTQ rights, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁶ Erasing 76 crimes, Cameroon: Two school girls lose their right to education because of a lesbian love note, 1 December 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Erasing 76 crimes, Cameroon: Two school girls lose their right to education because of a lesbian love note, 1 December 2023, [url](#)



learnt about their sexual orientation.⁵⁸ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

A Cameroonian LGBT rights activist told the BBC in November 2023 that she ‘was threatened with “corrective rape” for being gay in Cameroon’.⁵⁹ USDOS mentioned that ‘anecdotal reports’ referred to ‘corrective rape’ suffered by LGBT people.⁶⁰

According to Erasing 76 crimes, in November 2021 discrimination increased after a video of sexual content was shared online showing the footballer Gaelle Enaganouit with another woman.⁶¹

In February 2021 FiLiA, a women-led volunteer organisation promoting women’s human rights and based in the United Kingdom (UK),⁶² published an interview with Tua, a lesbian woman from Cameroon who talked about the discrimination she suffered due to her sexual orientation and how her mother forced her into a marriage.⁶³

Treatment of treatment of gay men

Incidents targeting gay men, as reported by sources consulted within the timeframe of this response, include the following:

In November 2023, Erasing 76 Crimes reported that in a remote village of Cameroon, a gay man fled after village leaders, attributing his homosexuality to witchcraft, subjected him to an exorcism, ‘consisting of purification rites, incantations and ritual dances’.⁶⁴

In April 2023, Atlantic chronicles, a news organisation headquartered in Buea,⁶⁵ reported that a student at the University of Buea was ‘severely beaten’ over alleged homosexual activities.⁶⁶

On 10 April 2023, a group of armed men attacked 10 LGBTI individuals attending a party in Yaoundé. A person interviewed by HRW explained that three men beat and rubbed him because of his sexual orientation, while noting that witness of the incident did not intervene.⁶⁷

In March 2022, a group of around 15 armed men vandalized at least two homes in Douala, targeting individuals suspected of being LGBTI. The attackers later contacted the police, leading to the arrest of at least six men on charges of homosexuality. As per the same source, one individual was released on the same day, and the remaining five were released in April 2022.⁶⁸

⁵⁸ Erasing 76 crimes, Cameroon punishment for being lesbian: No school — unless you help, 1 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁹ BBC, LGBT rights: I was threatened with “corrective rape” for being gay in Cameroon, 14 November 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁰ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 47

⁶¹ Erasing 76 crimes, Lesbian sex tape boosts human rights abuses in Cameroon, 16 November 2021, [url](#)

⁶² FiLiA, About, n.d., [url](#)

⁶³ FiLiA, #127 Tua: Journey to Asylum, 1 February 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁴ Erasing 76 Crimes, Cameroon: Gay man flees after enduring an exorcism for his homosexuality, 1 November 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Atlantic Chronicles, About us, [url](#)

⁶⁶ Atlantic chronicles, UB Student Beaten for Alleged Gay Activities, 2 April 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁷ HRW, Cameroon: Rising Violence Against LGBTI People, 11 May 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸ HRW, Cameroon: Rising Violence Against LGBTI People, 11 May 2022, [url](#)



In August 2021, a Cameroonian living abroad returned to his home village to marry his Franco-Swiss husband, sparking public criticism.⁶⁹ The Bled Parle, a local newspaper, reported that a member of the Cameroonian Democratic Front urged the government to expel the couple and initiate a judicial investigation in response to the controversial event, expressing their [informal translation] ‘deep concern and indignation’.⁷⁰

Treatment of transgender and intersex persons

Information on the treatment of transgender and intersex persons was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

Incidents targeting transgender and intersex persons, as reported by sources consulted within the timeframe of this response, include the following:

Sources consulted by Swiss SEM indicated that transgender individuals are more vulnerable than other sexual minorities. The Director of an association in Cameroon said: [informal translation] ‘Society might tolerate a gay person who doesn’t attract attention when walking alone on the street, but a trans* person draws attention and insults, especially if they exhibit masculine or feminine traits and haven’t successfully undergone physical transformation’.⁷¹

A Cameroonian transgender activist, condemned to a five-year prison sentence for opposing anti-LGBT laws in 2021, fled Cameroon and in January 2023 was granted asylum in Belgium.⁷² The activist spent over a year in exile in Nigeria after [informal translation] ‘fleeing homophobic violence in Cameroon’.⁷³

In November 2021, a group of people sexually assaulted, beat, and threatened an intersex person in Yaoundé. The incident was filmed, and the video was published on different social media.⁷⁴

4. Availability of state protection

Information on the availability of state protection for LGBTIQ people was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

⁶⁹ Le Bled Parle, Dénis Emilien Atangana demande à Paul Biya d’expulser le couple homosexuel Bengono Raoul et Henry Paulin du territoire camerounais, 4 August 2021, [url](#); Actu Cameroun, Homosexualité au Cameroun : un milliardaire franco-suisse dote un camerounais dans son village, 4 August 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁰ Le Bled Parle, Dénis Emilien Atangana demande à Paul Biya d’expulser le couple homosexuel Bengono Raoul et Henry Paulin du territoire camerounais, 4 August 2021, [url](#)

⁷¹ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 10

⁷² Info Migrants, Cameroonian transgender activist arrives in Belgium after receiving asylum, 27 January 2023, [url](#)

⁷³ RTBF, En danger de mort à cause de sa transidentité au Cameroun, Shakiro trouve refuge en Belgique, 25 February 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁴ HRW, Intersex Person Victim of Horrific Attack in Cameroon, 20 November 2021, [url](#); TV5 Monde, Cameroun : une personne intersexe victime d'un viol et d'un lynchage public, 17 November 2021, [url](#)



The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) noted in the 2020 State-sponsored homophobia report that there was no protection available in Cameroon.⁷⁵ The Advocates for Human Rights and Alternatives Cameroon in 2023 denounced that Cameroon failed to respond accurately to violence by officials and private individuals against LGBT people.⁷⁶ The same source claimed that authorities did not proceed with prompt or impartial enquiries into ‘allegations on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics, including acts of torture, ill-treatment, and “corrective rape”’.⁷⁷

In February 2022, a court in Cameroon sentenced one of the assailants involved in the above-mentioned violent attack on an intersex person in November 2021 in Yaoundé. The judgment included a 6-month prison term and a fine of 650 000 CFA [about EUR 991].⁷⁸

5. Access to support services

According to the submission by the Advocates for Human Rights and Alternatives Cameroon accessing healthcare treatments for ‘LGBTIQ+’ people in Cameroon was challenging.⁷⁹ The CEDOCA informed in its COI Focus report that there were organisations that have the capacity to temporarily shelter people who have been expelled from their houses and rejected by their families due to their sexual orientation.⁸⁰ The source mentioned the shelters managed by the organisations in Yaoundé, Cameroonian Foundation for Aids (CAMFAIDS) and Humanity First Cameroon, in Bertoua the organisation Health and Human Rights Cameroon (2HRC),⁸¹ in Doula Alcondoms and the organisation Colibri in Bafoussam.⁸² The Swiss SEM collected the views of a local organisation that stated that [informal translation] ‘a lesbian [...] cannot disclose to medical personnel that she has sexual relations with another woman’.⁸³ The fear of being exposed had an impact on individuals’ disposition to access HIV and AIDS health services.⁸⁴

Minority Africa, a news agency focusing on African minority groups,⁸⁵ reported on the challenges faced by transgender women in accessing Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) in Cameroon.⁸⁶ According to the source, the lack of legal recognition for HRT in Cameroon, combined with a ‘growing clampdown on the rights of LGBTQ+ people’, has led trans

⁷⁵ ILGA, State-sponsored homophobia, December 2020, [url](#) p. 325

⁷⁶ The Advocates for Human Rights and Alternatives Cameroon, Cameroon Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, 5 April 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁷ The Advocates for Human Rights and Alternatives Cameroon, Cameroon Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, 5 April 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁸ HRW, Cameroon Court Punishes Anti-LGBTI Violence, 3 March 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹ The Advocates for Human Rights and Alternatives Cameroon, Cameroon Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, 5 April 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁸⁰ Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroun: L’homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), p. 23

⁸¹ DEF12, Présentation des organisation, 2HRC, n.d., [url](#)

⁸² Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus – Cameroun: L’homosexualité, 28 July 2023, [url](#), p. 23

⁸³ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 11

⁸⁴ USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022 - Cameroon, 20 March 2023, [url](#), pp. 46-47

⁸⁵ Minority Africa, About, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁶ Minority Africa, “No legal prescription”: How trans women in Cameroon are accessing hormones, 11 July 2022, [url](#)



individuals to seek hormones through secret channels, often without proper medical prescriptions.⁸⁷

In its 2021 report on sexual minorities, the Swiss SEM reported that some healthcare facilities refused to provide transgender patients with care, experiencing ‘deliberate neglect in waiting rooms’.⁸⁸ The executive director of a Cameroonian civil society organization, interviewed by the same source, described the experience of a transgender person in hospitals as follows: [Informal translation] ‘[they face] disapproving looks, gestures, and hateful stares. [...] Some doctors may begin to preach religion and morally condemn trans-identity.’⁸⁹

Regarding services to support LGBTQI people involved in legal proceedings, sources mentioned the Not Alone Project, which provides food deliveries and payment of fines and legal costs to LGBTI Cameroonians facing imprisonment under anti-homosexuality laws.⁹⁰

In July 2022, eleven Cameroonian lawyers have established the Commission of Lawyers for the Assistance of Key and Vulnerable Populations to provide free legal assistance and enhance access to justice for vulnerable groups, including the LGBTQI community.⁹¹ Their advocacy includes efforts to reduce administrative delays, improve access to justice, and address issues like arbitrary arrests and prolonged pre-trial detentions.⁹² Further information on the Commission of Lawyers for the Assistance of Key and Vulnerable Populations could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

⁸⁷ Minority Africa, “No legal prescription”: How trans women in Cameroon are accessing hormones, 11 July 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 10 – 11

⁸⁹ Switzerland, SEM, Focus Cameroun - Minorités sexuelles, 15 October 2021, [url](#), p. 10 – 11

⁹⁰ Rights Africa, Imprisoned for being a lesbian, aided by donors, Octavia has been set free, 6 February 2023, [url](#)
76 Crimes en Français, Alan and Otto, 2 victims of homophobia, are free – provided your donations allow it, 13 June 2023, [url](#)

⁹¹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Cameroon lawyers plan free legal aid for LGBTQI and HIV+ clients, 12 August 2022, [url](#)

⁹² Erasing 76 Crimes, Cameroon lawyers plan free legal aid for LGBTQI and HIV+ clients, 12 August 2022, [url](#)

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