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Abstract

This study examines the intersection of gender and sexuality in Burundi, exploring how cultural, social, and political dynamics shape understandings of gender roles, identity, and sexual expression. In Burundi, traditional values and patriarchal structures significantly influence social expectations around masculinity, femininity, and family roles. However, with the impact of globalization, education, and social activism, these norms are increasingly subject to scrutiny and redefinition. This paper delves into the unique challenges faced by women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and youth in navigating identity within a society in transition, where both traditional and progressive values coexist and sometimes clash. Through an analysis of social, legal, and historical contexts, we highlight the resilience of marginalized communities and the role of local and international organizations in advancing gender and sexual rights. This study contributes to a broader understanding of the complexities of gender and sexuality in post-colonial African societies and invites further research into the evolving identities in Burundi.

Keywords: LGBTQ