

## Gender and Sexuality; A Case study of Cameroon

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### Abstract

Cameroon presents a complex landscape concerning gender and sexuality. Societal norms and religious conservatism intersect to create a challenging environment for those who deviate from heteronormative expectations. Laws criminalizing same-sex sexual activity, combined with widespread discrimination and stigma, contribute to the marginalization of LGBTQ+ individuals and limit the agency of women within patriarchal structures. Examining this interplay between gender and sexuality is crucial to understanding the realities faced by diverse communities in Cameroon. To analyze the legal and social context surrounding gender and sexuality in Cameroon and explore the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals regarding violence.

Legal documents were reviewed to understand the formal framework. Qualitative data was gathered through semi-structured interviews with LGBTQ+ individuals and women's rights activists.

Discriminatory laws lead to violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. Discrimination is rampant in employment, housing, healthcare, and education, forcing many LGBTQ+ individuals to live in secrecy and fear. Gender and sexuality in Cameroon are deeply intertwined with issues of power, culture, and human rights. Discriminatory laws and societal stigma create a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ individuals and limit the agency of women. A multi-faceted approach is needed to address these challenges and promote greater equality and inclusion. The findings have significant implications for policymaking and advocacy. Addressing the legal framework, promoting public awareness and empowering civil society organizations are crucial steps towards creating a just and equitable society. Annual national GBV reports.<sup>[1]</sup> Cameroon Penal Code.

**Keywords:** LGBT, GBV, Societal norms