



ilga

LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS IN THE WORLD

ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

MAY 2009

PERSECUTION

Death penalty
5 countries and parts of Nigeria and Somalia
Imprisonment
72 countries and 3 entities*

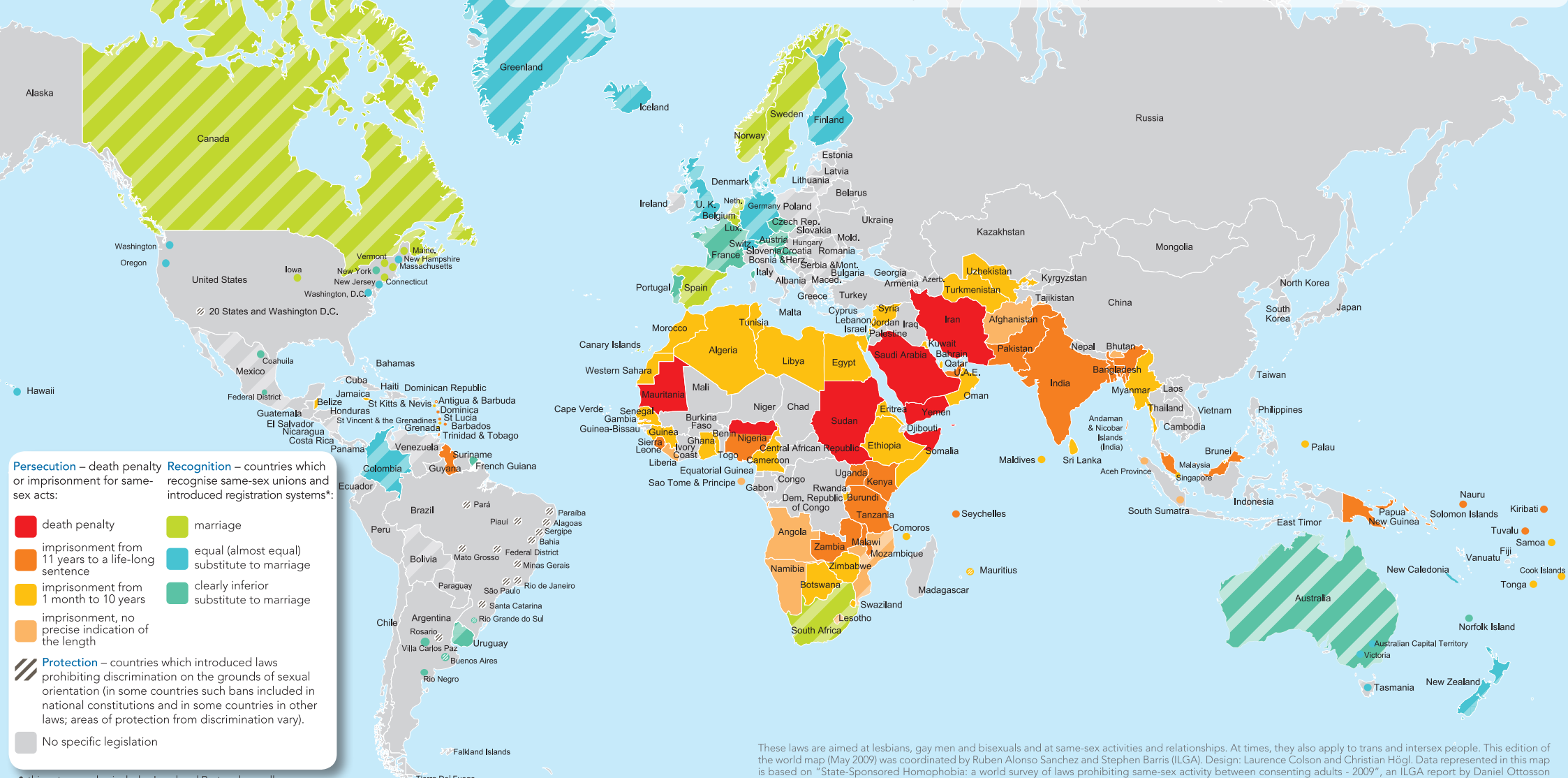
PROTECTION

Anti-discrimination laws
52 countries and 38 entities*

RECOGNITION

Recognition of same-sex unions
23 countries and 26 entities*

* include part of a federation, state, province, federal district, any other administrative and/or territorial unit



Persecution – death penalty (Red)

Persecution – imprisonment (Orange)

Persecution – imprisonment, no precise indication of the length (Light Orange)

Protection (Diagonal lines)

No specific legislation (Grey)

Recognition – marriage (Light Green)

Recognition – equal (almost equal) substitute to marriage (Blue)

Recognition – clearly inferior substitute to marriage (Dark Green)

Recognition – countries which recognise same-sex unions and introduced registration systems*:

* this category also includes Israel and Portugal as well as some Australian entities which have no registration systems

These laws are aimed at lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and at same-sex activities and relationships. At times, they also apply to trans and intersex people. This edition of the world map (May 2009) was coordinated by Ruben Alonso Sanchez and Stephen Barris (ILGA). Design: Laurence Colson and Christian Högl. Data represented in this map is based on "State-Sponsored Homophobia: a world survey of laws prohibiting same-sex activity between consenting adults - 2009", an ILGA report by Daniel Ottosson (available on www.ilga.org in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French). ILGA thanks groups which contributed to the annual update.

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“There remain too many countries which continue to criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex in defiance of established human rights law”.

“There are those who argue that because sexual orientation or gender identity are not explicitly mentioned in any of the conventions and covenants, there would be no protection. My response is that such a position is untenable in legal terms, which is confirmed by the evolving jurisprudence. The principle of universality admits no exception. Human rights truly are the birthright of all human beings”.

Ms. Navanethem Pillay,
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
New York, 18 December 2008

International Lesbian Gay Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

ILGA is a world-wide network of national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people everywhere.

Founded in 1978, it now has more than 700 member organizations.

Every continent and approximately 110 countries are represented.

ILGA is to this day the only international non-governmental community-based association focused on fighting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity as a global issue.