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LGBTQIA+ people in Liberia experience a wide range of human rights violations

New data released today show the extent of human rights violations of LGBTQIA+ people in Liberia.

The Human Rights Measurement Initiative's 2023 data show that the human rights of LGBTQIA+ people in Liberia are not being adequately protected by the Liberian government. They are identified as especially likely to experience rights violations in 9 of the 13 rights we measure.

Overall, Liberia is achieving far less than what it could achieve at its level of income to protect the quality of life rights for all people, including **education, food, health, housing, and work**. Marginalised communities, like LGBTQIA+ people, are especially likely to have these rights violated.

Human rights experts identified LGBTQIA+ people are at risk of violations of their economic and social rights, including education, food, health, housing, and work.

LEGAL Liberia Spokesperson Jennifer Kusama Henshaw said "The issue of employment is a challenge for LGBTQIA+ persons in Liberia. They are not accepted in workspaces, and because they are not employed, they are not able to earn a living to find food. When it comes to health, in the past it was challenging for health institutions to understand LGBTQIA+ rights issues as human rights concerns, but based on our work, they are now beginning to understand."

Liberia scores 5.4 out of 10 on **empowerment** rights, suggesting that **many people are not enjoying their civil liberties and political freedoms**. LGBTQIA+ people were identified as being at risk of violations of the rights to assembly and association, opinion and expression, and government participation.

Henshaw states: "We at LEGAL association of Liberia want to commend the government of Liberia who have made a fronted effort in protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons in the country. Despite the homophobic society that we are in, the government was able to stand firm to make the communication that we, as a government, we are here to protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons under the human rights principle."

HRMI spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said "All people in Liberia deserve to have all their human rights protected and upheld by their government. HRMI's scores, based on both local reporting and international databases, show that the government is currently not keeping the promises it has made under international law."

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About the Rights Tracker: The Rights Tracker is a global project to track the human rights performance of countries systematically. Our 2023 dataset launched today includes annual data on eight civil and political rights for up to 44 countries from the years 2017 to 2022, with Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Maldives added this year. Our data also include inaugural scores on the right to freedom of religion and belief in a pilot set of nine countries. Annual data on five economic and social rights for 196 countries from 2007 to 2020, based on the award-winning SERF Index methodology, is also available. Please visit rightstracker.org for the freely available dataset.

About HRMI: The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is an independent non-profit organisation part of a global movement building a world where all people can flourish. We track the human rights progress of countries, producing robust data that anyone can use to push for improvements in how governments treat people. What gets measured gets improved: if something isn't being systematically measured, it can be more easily overlooked and undervalued. HRMI data make it easier for decision-makers to monitor their progress, and prioritise human rights. Advocacy based on sound information is one of the key drivers of change. www.humanrightsmeasurement.org

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