



Antigua and Barbuda

Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status,**

Jason Jones People's Foundation,

Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality,

and

ILGA-North America and the Caribbean

for the 53rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States, including LGBTIQ+ individuals who have experienced discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. The Advocates also partners with a global network of LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders on reporting to the United Nations.

The Advocates had the expert support of **Khaleem Ali** in writing this report. Khaleem is a Trinidadian Attorney-at-Law and human rights defender based in Saint Lucia with more than a decade of experience in activism at the local, regional and international levels. He attended the 137th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and the 52nd meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee (ICCPR) as an expert on human rights issues in the Caribbean Region, namely, the death penalty and LGBTQIA+ rights. He has subsequently been appointed Chair the Working Group on Women and Gender at the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Khaleem currently serves on the board of the Greater Caribbean for Life, a regional entity focused on the abolition of the Death Penalty and as the regional lead (Latin America and the Caribbean) for UNODC's GenJust Network.

Jason Jones People’s Foundation (JJPF) is a membership led, international human rights organization based in the Caribbean, working for the representation and enforcement of fundamental human rights as laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The JJPF is committed to supporting vulnerable communities through human rights advocacy, scholarship and social programs. The foundation works steadfastly towards ensuring that Caribbean nations ensure human rights standards and are guided by international frameworks enshrined in human rights instruments that secure equitable and dignified representation to all citizens. Additionally, the organization intensively advocates for the constitutional reforms required to harmonize with UN charters of human rights. The JJPF is managed by Caribbean advocates and is sustained through membership subscriptions and grant funding. In addition to the foundation’s global outreach missions, the JJPF hosts a media platform for Caribbean scholarship. The organization supports research, training and social programs which facilitate and strengthen the continued work of team leaders in their respective areas of expertise in human rights advocacy.

Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE) is an independent umbrella of human rights organisations operating in the small islands in the eastern Caribbean from the Virgin Islands to Grenada. The Alliance’s core membership comprises organisations representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) community in the sub-region. Associate membership comprises organisations working intersectionally. ECADE currently serves twenty-six organisations in nine countries. Over the last decade, ECADE has supported varying UN, OAS, and Commonwealth high-level advocacy efforts, with the CSW and the UPR mechanisms being the most frequently utilized reporting and engagement opportunities.

ILGA–North America and the Caribbean (ILGA-NAC) is a regional network of civil society organizations committed to advancing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) people across the United States, Canada, and the English-speaking Caribbean. As part of the global ILGA World federation, ILGA-NAC works to strengthen regional collaboration, support advocacy efforts, and promote inclusive, rights-based policy and legal frameworks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Antigua and Barbuda has made significant progress toward equality and non-discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other sexual and gender minorities (LGBTIQ+) in 2022 by decriminalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity.¹ The lived realities for LGBTIQ+ individuals in Antigua and Barbuda, however, continue to be shaped by persistent discrimination and gaps in legal protection.
2. Discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals persists for several reasons. Antigua and Barbuda lacks comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in key areas such as employment, housing, healthcare, and access to public services. The absence of legal recognition for same-sex relationships further contributes to unequal treatment. In addition, the country has not implemented comprehensive sexuality education, particularly regarding HIV/AIDS, which perpetuates stigma and deters those affected from seeking care. Finally, Antigua and Barbuda has no explicit policies or laws to protect LGBTIQ+ people from violence or harassment, nor does it have the legal infrastructure to ensure that such incidents are adequately resolved.
3. Antigua and Barbuda does not have legal gender recognition, nor does it recognize non-binary identities, meaning that individuals are only recognized as their sex assigned at birth. There are also no laws that restrict or prohibit non-medically necessary interventions on intersex minors with the aim to conform their sex characteristics to binary endosex sex characteristics without their informed consent.
4. In this report, we use the acronym LGBTIQ+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other sexual and gender minorities. These terms necessarily do not include everyone who may experience violations of their human rights on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics (“SOGIESC”), which is why we also include a “+” with the acronym. Any use of a modified acronym is intentional in that we are speaking only about certain members of the LGBTIQ+ population.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Equality and non-discrimination; Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Partially Implemented

5. In its Third-Cycle UPR, Antigua and Barbuda received 16 recommendations related to State treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex individuals,² including recommendations to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity³ and to enact legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.⁴ Antigua and Barbuda noted each of these recommendations.⁵
6. On 5 July 2022, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court’s High Court of Justice (“High Court”) decriminalized consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.⁶ This Court has jurisdiction over nine States, including Antigua and Barbuda.⁷ The judgment represents a critical advancement in dismantling legal discrimination based on sexual orientation,

however, significant gaps and shortcomings remain, undermining the effective realization of equality and the right to non-discrimination in Antigua and Barbuda.

7. In its landmark decision, the High Court struck down Sections 12 and 15 of Antigua and Barbuda's Sexual Offences Act (1995), effectively nullifying the legal provisions that criminalized "buggery" and "serious indecency."⁸ Section 12 defined "buggery" as anal sex between two males or a male and a female, punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment if committed by adults.⁹ Section 15 punished acts of "serious indecency," or an "act, other than sexual intercourse...involving use of the genital organ for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire," but made exceptions for different-sex married couples and consenting different-sex adults.¹⁰ The 2022 ruling stated that the Sexual Offences Act "offends the right to liberty, protection of the law, freedom of expression, protection of personal privacy and protection from discrimination on the basis of sex,"¹¹ and that its effect is to stigmatize same-sex couples and criminalize a part of their "human experience."¹²
8. While the July 2022 decriminalization of same-sex sexual activity is a step in the right direction toward equality and non-discrimination, "more action is needed beyond legal change...Even after laws are reformed, the everyday lives of countless LGBTQI+ [sic] people will remain marred by marginalisation and social exclusion."¹³ Antigua and Barbuda does not protect against discrimination based on SOGIESC by State or non-State actors, recognize same-sex marriages, allow joint adoption by same-sex couples, or ban so-called "conversion therapies."¹⁴ Further, Antigua and Barbuda does not have legal gender recognition, recognize non-binary identities, or restrict or prohibit non-medically necessary interventions on intersex minors with the aim to conform their sex characteristics to binary endosex sex characteristics without their informed consent.¹⁵ Consequently, LGBTQI+ people "are often excluded from social protection laws and policies."¹⁶ Although repealing and reforming discriminatory laws is necessary to achieve equal rights, further action is needed, including the enactment of legislation to prevent discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals.
9. Since its Third-Cycle UPR, Antigua and Barbuda has not enacted comprehensive legislation aimed at preventing discrimination based on SOGIESC. Specifically, Antigua and Barbuda has not enacted or expanded any legislation to protect against discrimination in housing, employment, access to loans in the financial sector, or access to governmental assistance and programs. Such laws are essential, structural tools to enhance public health, economic stability, and physical safety. After the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity, courts interpret references of "sex" in anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity, yet there remain no legislative protections in the Labour Code, or in family or housing regulations.¹⁷
10. While social media and travel websites indicate that Antigua and Barbuda are welcoming of LGBTQ+ tourists,¹⁸ regional human rights defenders note that social stigma persists against LGBTQ+ Antiguan and Barbudans and that Antiguan and Barbudans can experience discrimination on the basis of their real or perceived SOGIE.¹⁹
11. In addition to a lack of general anti-discrimination legislation, "[t]here is no law in Antigua and Barbuda or court process under the Civil Procedure Rules for an individual to have their gender marker (indication of male or female on identification documents) changed."²⁰

There is no law expressly prohibiting an individual from changing their gender marker,²¹ and an individual may legally change their name. Nevertheless, the current legal framework does not provide a process by which an individual can achieve legal gender recognition. This means that individuals can only be recognized as their sex assigned at birth regardless of their gender expression.

12. Further, Antigua and Barbuda lacks legislation expressly allowing or recognizing same-sex marriage.²² In a statement following the decriminalization decision in 2022, Minister of Information Nicholas stated that the Government will not take active steps to codify LGBT protections into law.²³
13. A lack of legislation on same-sex marriage has many consequences for such partnerships. One such hurdle is the inability to adopt children as same-sex partners. Currently, Antigua and Barbuda follow the Children (Care and Adoption) Act of 2015 for adoption processing. According to this law, a couple or a single person can adopt children according to the best interests of the child.²⁴ Specifically, under the law, a “couple” is explicitly defined as a union, either by marriage or cohabitating relationship, between a man and a woman.²⁵
14. The law does not outright ban LGBTQ+ individuals from adopting children, but the narrow definition of “couple” prevents same-sex couples from jointly adopting children as two legal parents. Instead, they are required to either adopt as single people, or not at all.

National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

15. During its Third-Cycle UPR, Antigua and Barbuda received and noted 11 recommendations to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.²⁶
16. Although Antigua and Barbuda does not have a NHRI that is in compliance with the Paris Principles, it does have an Office of the Ombudsman, which the Government has described as “an independent officer of the Parliament...[with] limited participation in the regional National Human Rights Institution network, the Network of National Institutions in the Americas. Like most ombudsman offices it is primarily concerned with addressing maladministration in public bodies, rather than human rights violations.”²⁷ It does not appear that the Government has taken any steps to convert the Office of the Ombudsman into an NHRI or bring the Office into compliance with the Paris Principles. As an Ombudsman can also only make recommendations and does not have the power to sanction, punish, or compensate, this is not a legitimate avenue for redress.
17. People are therefore confined to the court system which is quite costly and can be a hinderance to rights enforcement and investigation of breaches.²⁸

Right to health

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Partially Implemented

18. In its Third-Cycle UPR, Antigua and Barbuda received two recommendations to adopt comprehensive sexuality education.²⁹ Antigua and Barbuda noted both recommendations.³⁰
19. Antigua and Barbuda generally recognize the right to health, and the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity could lead to a decrease in the rate of infection for HIV/AIDS.³¹ According to UNAIDS, “[g]ay men and other men who have sex with men who live in countries that criminalize same-sex relations are more than twice as likely to be living with HIV as those living in countries without such penalties.”³²
20. Consequently, while the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity marks a positive step in the fight against HIV/AIDS, a significant educational gap persists. There is no indication that Antigua and Barbuda has adopted comprehensive sexuality education in line with international standards that covers, among other things, important sexuality education for LGBTIQ+ people, which may have contributed to sustained transmission rates of HIV.³³ Moreover, institutional stigma within Antigua and Barbuda’s public healthcare system continues to deter HIV/AIDS patients from seeking essential care.³⁴ Thus, it is imperative for the State to implement comprehensive education plans that inform citizens about the risks of HIV/AIDS and help destigmatize sexually transmitted diseases.
21. Antigua and Barbuda has no law protecting access to gender affirming care. The UN asserts that, in recognizing gender identities, States should provide transgender individuals with access to adequate health care.³⁵ This includes gender affirming procedures and treatment.³⁶ While gender affirming care is not expressly prohibited by law, it is not formally provided for or supported by the public healthcare system.³⁷ Private options may be available, but there are no known specialized clinics within the country.
22. Finally, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda does not have a ban on so-called “conversion therapies,” a “practice that aims to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, and that the UN expert on sexual orientation and gender identity considers akin to torture.”³⁸ Certain churches and Christian communities continue to encourage LGBTQ+ individuals to undergo these so-called “therapies.”³⁹

Sexual & gender-based violence

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

23. In its Third-Cycle UPR, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recommended that Antigua and Barbuda “[d]evelop, adopt and implement, in a consultative manner, a national gender policy with measures for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence against all women, girls, men and boys, regardless of legal or migratory status, nationality, gender identity or sexual orientation.”⁴⁰ Antigua and Barbuda noted this recommendation and responded, stating that a “national gender development policy is under development.”⁴¹

24. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has rationalized not adopting any legislation protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ people (see paragraph 12 above) “because it doesn’t want to ‘move too far away from the population.’”⁴² There is no indication, however, that the Government has provided any public education or sensitization campaigns to reduce stigma against LGBTIQ+ people. Further, Antigua and Barbuda does not clearly prohibit incitement to hatred or violence based on sexual orientation.⁴³ Additionally, the Government has not introduced any new policy to safeguard members of the LGBTIQ+ community from violence perpetrated by both State and non-State actors.
25. Importantly, the absence of comprehensive legal protections and anti-discrimination measures sends a message to the public that prejudice against LGBTIQ+ individuals is tolerated. This lack of legal recognition and protection perpetuates stigma and can fuel violence, harassment, and discrimination against the LGBTIQ+ community.⁴⁴
26. In a study by the organization DECIDES Antigua & Barbuda, LGBTQ+-identifying individuals reported both physical assaults and attacks on property due to their actual or perceived identity.⁴⁵ One participant described, “I’m inside my home and . . . , I would hear a stone on my roof and then would look up and see young men running. And several times, you know, my vehicle has been damaged when I park certain places.”⁴⁶
27. In the same study, another participant, who identifies as a well-known gay man within the community, recounts an incident in which a young man unexpectedly approached and physically assaulted him by striking him in the eye.⁴⁷ He further explains that, when he reported the attack to the police, he experienced discrimination due to his sexual orientation from law enforcement.⁴⁸ The participant stated that the officer exhibited “negative energy towards” him and neglected to notify him of his court date causing the case to be thrown out, ultimately preventing him from receiving justice for the assault.⁴⁹
28. In May 2025, Jeconiah Carbon, a 19-year-old Emergency Medical Technician, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for attempting to murder a gay man in January 2020.⁵⁰ According to court evidence, the victim had loaned Carbon \$100, which he was unable to repay; Carbon then agreed to have sex with the victim to settle the debt, arranging to meet on 6 January 2020.⁵¹ Carbon armed himself with a knife and assaulted the victim after they began to engage in intimate contact, slashing his throat and inflicting multiple stab wounds.⁵²
29. In a July 2022 interview, Orden David, a plaintiff in the landmark case that resulted in the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity, described being targeted in two separate unprovoked physical assaults.⁵³ He also detailed ongoing harassment and a lack of support from law enforcement when he sought protection. On one occasion, after attempting to report a robbery, Orden recalled that a police officer dismissed his complaint and instead asked, “[w]hy are you gay?”⁵⁴

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The co-authors of this joint stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda:
 - In consultation with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual

orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics in all aspects of public life, and that includes positive actions to address substantive inequalities, provide the procedural safeguards necessary for the effective functioning of the rights protected therein, and provide redress to victims of discrimination.

- In consultation with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and enact legislation that provides legal gender recognition and recognition of non-binary identities.
- In consultation with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and enact legislation that prohibits non-medically necessary interventions on intersex minors with the aim to conform their sex characteristics to binary endosex sex characteristics without their informed consent.
- Provide legal recognition to same-sex couples, ensuring that benefits traditionally accorded to different-sex married partners – including those related to marriage, adoption, immigration, pension, taxation, and inheritance – are accorded on a non-discriminatory basis.
- Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.
- Implement comprehensive sexuality education in line with international standards that include unbiased and scientific information on LGBTIQ+ sexualities and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS, in order to help destigmatize them.
- Provide transgender individuals with access to adequate health care, including gender affirming procedures and treatment.
- Enact legislation that bans so-called “conversion therapies.”
- Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits incitement to hatred or violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.
- Conduct prompt, thorough investigations of incidents of hate-motivated violence against LGBTIQ+ persons, hold perpetrators to account, and provide redress to victims.
- Develop and fund mandatory police training and procedures for responding to claims of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals in a manner consistent with international human rights standards.

¹ Library of Congress, “Antigua and Barbuda: Buggery Laws Struck Down as Unconstitutional,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-08-15/antigua-and-barbuda-buggery-laws-struck-down-as-unconstitutional>.

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15, ¶ 88.52 – 88.62, 88.64 – 88.67, 88.131, 88.137.

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15, ¶ 88.52 Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and decriminalize consensual same-sex relationships (Mexico); ¶ 88.54 Repeal sections 12 and 15 of the Sexual Offences Act of 1995, which criminalize sexual relations between consenting individuals of the same sex, and which are contradictory to the commitment of non-discrimination (Netherlands); ¶ 88.55 Reform the Sexual Offences Act of 1995 to decriminalize private, same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults (United States of America); ¶ 88.56

Decriminalize consensual adult same-sex relations and combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy); ¶ 88.57 Strengthen its commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, both in law and in practice, including through the immediate decriminalization of same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults (Uruguay); ¶ 88.58 Decriminalize consensual sexual activity between persons of the same sex (Ireland); ¶ 88.59 Enact legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and repeal sections 12 and 15 of the Sexual Offences Act (1995), which criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Australia); ¶ 88.60 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (France); ¶ 88.61 Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by repealing all laws criminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults (Canada); ¶ 88.62 Adopt a national policy to promote tolerance towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and abolish all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships (Estonia); ¶ 88.64 Change the indecency statutes with the aim of decriminalizing male consensual same-sex conduct (Germany).

⁴ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15, ¶ 88.53 Introduce legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual identity or sexual orientation (South Africa); ¶88.59 Enact legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and repeal sections 12 and 15 of the Sexual Offences Act (1995), which criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Australia); ¶8.65 Take all necessary steps to end the discrimination and stigmatization of LGBTI+ people, including the adoption of legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Ireland); ¶88.66 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and effectively investigate all acts of violence against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland).

⁵ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda: Addendum*, (Dec. 16, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15/Add.1, ¶ 88.52 – 88.62, 88.64 – 88.67, 88.131, 88.137.

⁶ Library of Congress, “Antigua and Barbuda: Buggery Laws Struck Down as Unconstitutional,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-08-15/antigua-and-barbuda-buggery-laws-struck-down-as-unconstitutional>

⁷ WorldLII, “Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court,” accessed Jan. 21, 2025, <http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/55933.html>

⁸ Library of Congress, “Antigua and Barbuda: Buggery Laws Struck Down as Unconstitutional,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-08-15/antigua-and-barbuda-buggery-laws-struck-down-as-unconstitutional>

⁹ Library of Congress, “Antigua and Barbuda: Buggery Laws Struck Down as Unconstitutional,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-08-15/antigua-and-barbuda-buggery-laws-struck-down-as-unconstitutional>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Luis Andres Henao, *Meet the LGBTQ Activist Who Challenged His Caribbean Country’s Anti-Sodomy Law and Won*, AP News, June 11, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/lgbtq-caribbean-religion-antigay-law-christians-f44674fbc7442eb4c7d752c8f4e992de>

¹² Library of Congress, “Antigua and Barbuda: Buggery Laws Struck Down as Unconstitutional,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-08-15/antigua-and-barbuda-buggery-laws-struck-down-as-unconstitutional>

¹³ Civicus Lens, “Antigua and Barbuda: A Step Forward for LGBTQI+ Rights,” accessed Feb. 3, 2026, <https://lens.civicus.org/antigua-and-barbuda-a-step-forward-for-lgbtqi-rights>

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ ILGA Database, “Antigua and Barbuda,” accessed Feb. 25, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/antigua-and-barbuda-lgbti>

¹⁶ Outright International, “Antigua and Barbuda: At a Glance,” accessed Jan. 21, 2026,

https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/antigua-and-barbuda?gad_source=1&gclid=EALalQobChMIyvrYqM2OigMV5kX_AR07gQG5EAAYASAAEgJvffD_BwE.

¹⁷ Written communication from a Caribbean human rights defender to The Advocates for Human Rights (Mar. 22, 2026) (one file with authors).

¹⁸ Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Group, *Does anyone know if Antigua is LGBTQ friendly?*, Facebook (Dec. 9, 2023), <https://www.facebook.com/groups/468504176977335/posts/1666212900539784/>; TripAdvisor, “LGBTQ Friendly

and Places to Meet People,” [2024], accessed [Apr. 2, 2026], https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g147242-i225-k14910737-LGBTQ_Friendly_and_places_to_meet_people-Antigua_Antigua_and_Barbuda.html.

¹⁹ Written communication with Caribbean human rights defender to The Advocates for Human Rights (Apr. 10, 2026) (on file with authors).

²⁰ Women Against Rape (WAR) and the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), *Report on Antigua and Barbuda 39th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*, accessed Jan. 20, 2026, <https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=9088&file=EnglishTranslation>.

²¹ Women Against Rape (WAR) and the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), *Report on Antigua and Barbuda 39th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*, accessed Jan. 20, 2026, <https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=9088&file=EnglishTranslation>.

²² EQUALDEX, “LGBT Rights in Antigua and Barbuda,” accessed Jan. 20, 2026, <https://www.equaldex.com/region/antigua-and-barbuda>.

²³ Jennelsa Johnson and Kadeem Joseph, *Government Will Not 'Actively' Implement LGBT-Focused Legislation*, Antigua Observer, July 7, 2022, accessed Feb. 8, 2026, <https://antiguaobserver.com/govt-will-not-actively-implement-lgbt-focused-legislation>.

²⁴ Children (Care and Adoption) Act, 2015, (Antigua and Barbuda), accessed [Apr. 2, 2026], <https://laws.gov.ag/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/a2015-24.pdf>.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15, ¶¶ 88.40 Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Estonia); ¶ 88.41 Consider establishing a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (India); ¶ 88.42 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq); ¶ 88.43 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Malawi); ¶ 88.45 Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Montenegro); ¶ 88.46 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and create a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, using the universal periodic review practical guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Portugal); ¶ 88.47 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Senegal); ¶ 88.48 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Togo); ¶ 88.49 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia); ¶ 88.50 Consider the establishment of a human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile); ¶ 88.13 Ratify the American Convention on Human Rights, accept the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and create an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Mexico); Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda: Addendum*, (Dec. 16, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15/Add.1.

²⁷ Government of Antigua and Barbuda, *National Report: Antigua and Barbuda*, (St. John's: Government of Antigua and Barbuda, June 2024), 56, accessed [Apr. 2, 2026], https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/antigua_and_barbuda_-_national_report_5.pdf.

²⁸ Written communication from a Caribbean human rights defender to The Advocates for Human Rights (Mar. 22, 2026) (one file with authors).

²⁹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15, ¶¶ 88.114 Ensure comprehensive sexuality education, with a view to preventing teenage pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, in particular HIV (Panama); ¶ 88.115 Ensure comprehensive sexuality education, with a view to preventing teenage pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, in particular HIV (Australia).

³⁰ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Antigua and Barbuda: Addendum*, (Dec. 16, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/15/Add.1, ¶ 114-115.

³¹ Press Release, UNAIDS, “UNAIDS Welcomes the Repeal of Laws that Criminalise and Discriminate Against LGBT People in Antigua and Barbuda,” July 7, 2022, accessed Feb. 6, 2026,

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2022/july/20220707_PS_repeal_1aw_LGBTI_antigua_barbuda.

³² *Ibid.*

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- ³³ Jennelsa Johnson, *A & B Records Two Dozen New HIV Cases for 2025 to Date*, Antigua and Barbuda Observer, Sept. 4, 2025, accessed Feb. 3, 2026, <https://antiguaobserver.com/a-b-records-two-dozen-new-hiv-cases-for-2025-to-date>.
- ³⁴ Antigua News, *Silent Crisis: Hundreds Living with HIV Refuse Life-Saving Treatment*, Antigua News, Nov. 25, 2025, accessed Feb. 3, 2026, <https://antigua.news/2025/11/25/silent-crisis-hundreds-living-with-hiv-refuse-life-saving-treatment-2>.
- ³⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Transgender People,” accessed Feb. 2, 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity/transgender-people>.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*
- ³⁷ EQUALDEX, “LGBT Rights in Antigua and Barbuda,” accessed Jan. 20, 2026, <https://www.equaldex.com/region/antigua-and-barbuda>.
- ³⁸ Civicus Lens, “Antigua and Barbuda: A Step Forward for LGBTQI+ Rights,” accessed Feb. 3, 2026, <https://lens.civicus.org/antigua-and-barbuda-a-step-forward-for-lgbtqi-rights>.
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