

**Do Now**

# Equality focus: How far have we come with LGBT Rights?



Anna and Samantha both live in Leeds. They have hardly experienced any negativity towards their relationship, have accepting friends and family, and are always open about their sexuality. They are planning a round-the-world trip together. As part of their trip they will visit, Uganda, Iran, America, Scotland and Jamaica.

**Discuss: What advice would you offer the couple?**

Would your advice be any different if the couple were both males? Why / why not?

*My advice would / would not be any different if the couple were both male, because...*



**Homophobia**— a hate or fear of homosexual people

**Transphobia** — a hate or fear of trans people

**Criminalisation** — when something is made illegal (against the law)

**Decriminalisation** — when something is made legal.

**Equality Act 2010** — this legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.



## Learning outcomes:

Correctly identify countries where far more needs to be done to improve LGBT rights.

Explain the legal rights and protections which the LGBT+ community have in the UK.

## Year 10 Autumn 2 RSE – Knowledge Check

Confidence Scale:

1 = Not confident at all | 5 = Very confident

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can explain what coercion is and how it can appear in relationships?
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can identify signs of emotional abuse, including gaslighting?
3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can understand what constitutes a forced marriage and how it differs from an arranged marriage?
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can describe what support is available for people in or at risk of forced marriage?
5. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can explain how divorce, separation, and bereavement can affect individuals and families?
6. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can list strategies for coping with the emotional impact of family changes such as divorce?
7. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can assess whether someone is emotionally and physically ready to engage in sexual activity?
8. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can recognise the importance of mutual respect, consent, and communication in sexual relationships?
9. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can describe the legal rights of LGBT+ individuals in the UK and areas where discrimination still exists?
10. On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident do you feel that you can identify challenges faced by LGBT+ individuals globally and suggest ways to promote equality?



### Yr10 RSE Autumn 2 Knowledge Check



**You have already fed back to the class that Anna and Samantha may need to be extra careful in some countries about being public with their relationship. It's a sad fact – but sound advice.**

**Watch the clip carefully and answer the questions.**

**We'll go through the answers afterwards.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fN1Zvvo4>**



- 1. What is the most challenging place in the world for LGBT+ travel?**
- 2. Why is this?**
- 3. What kind of penalties are there in Yemen?**
- 4. What progress is being made in St Lucia?**
- 5. What is the name of the strict Islamic law code which prohibits homosexual acts?**

**We'll go through the answers together now, so be prepared to fill in the answers to any you missed.**



**What is the most challenging place in the world for LGBT+ travel?**

- **Nigeria**

**Why is this?**

- **97% of people don't accept homosexuality, there is the death penalty and no rights at all.**

**What kind of penalties are there in Yemen?**

- **Lashings and death penalty**

**What progress is being made in St Lucia?**

- **The government has recognized they need to change and the first pride was held.**

**What is the name of the strict Islamic law code which prohibits homosexual acts?**

- **Sharia**



# Equality focus: How far have we come with LGBT Rights?



We'll now discover, in far more detail, the rights of the LGBT+ community in the countries Anna and Samantha are planning on visiting.

## Info hunt!

In your booklets there are 5 posters. Complete the questions in your table.

**We will go through the answers together afterwards**

Country:	Potential dangers	Positive aspects	Travel advice (what would you advise?)
Iran			
Uganda			
Scotland			
Jamaica			
America			



# The Rights of the LGBT+ Community in Iran

Iran has strict laws and a challenging social environment for LGBT+ people.

- 1. Homosexuality is Criminalised:**  
Same-sex relationships are illegal. People found guilty can face severe punishment, including imprisonment and, in extreme cases, the death penalty.
- 2. Transgender Rights:**  
Iran allows gender reassignment surgery and sometimes provides financial support for it. However, transgender people still face stigma and discrimination. Some gay people feel pressured to transition to avoid the harsh laws against same-sex relationships.
- 3. No Legal Protections:**  
There are no anti-discrimination laws for LGBT+ people. They can be refused jobs, housing, or services without legal recourse.
- 4. Social Stigma:**  
LGBT+ individuals often face rejection by their families and communities. Being open about their identity can lead to isolation and serious personal risk.
- 5. Underground Activism:**  
Despite the dangers, some groups and individuals secretly work to support LGBT+ rights. However, activism can lead to arrest or persecution.
- 6. Travelling to Iran as an LGBT+ person requires caution.** Visitors should be aware of the laws, avoid public displays of same-sex relationships, and check current travel advice before going.



# The Rights of the LGBT+ Community in Uganda

Uganda has a long history of restrictive and controversial laws towards LGBT+ people, and the social environment remains very challenging.

- 1. Anti-Homosexuality Act (2014):**  
This law introduced harsh penalties for same-sex relationships, including life imprisonment for “aggravated homosexuality,” and banned the “promotion of homosexuality.” It was heavily criticised worldwide and overturned by Uganda’s Constitutional Court later in 2014 for procedural reasons.
- 2. Ongoing Criminalisation:**  
Even after the Act was overturned, same-sex relationships remain illegal under older laws. Consensual same-sex acts can still lead to arrest and prosecution.
- 3. Discrimination:**  
There are no laws protecting LGBT+ people from discrimination. They often face unfair treatment in employment, housing, healthcare, and education, and are vulnerable to harassment and violence.
- 4. Public Attitudes and Stigma:**  
Homosexuality is widely stigmatised in Ugandan society. LGBT+ individuals often face rejection, harassment, and sometimes violence, with negative attitudes often reinforced by some political and religious leaders.
- 5. Activism and Advocacy:**  
Despite the risks, some organisations and individuals in Uganda continue to support LGBT+ rights. However, they often face threats and restrictions from authorities and society.
- 6. International Response:**  
Uganda’s treatment of LGBT+ people has drawn global criticism. Some countries and international organisations have reduced or withheld aid in protest against these policies.
- 7. Travelling to Uganda as an LGBT+ person carries serious risks.** Visitors should be fully aware of the laws, avoid any public discussion or display of same-sex relationships, and check the latest official travel advice.



# The Rights of the LGBT+ Community in the USA

The United States has made significant progress in LGBT+ rights over the last few decades, but the situation has become more mixed since 2025. While some protections remain in place, others have been reduced or are under challenge.

- 1. Marriage Equality:**  
Same-sex marriage remains legal nationwide due to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. This right has not been overturned.
- 2. Workplace Protections:**  
The 2020 *Bostock v. Clayton County* decision still protects LGBT+ employees under federal law. However, recent political moves and court cases have raised questions about how strongly these protections will be enforced.
- 3. Varying State Laws:**  
Anti-discrimination laws still differ widely between states. Some states protect LGBT+ people in work, housing, education, and healthcare, while others do not. Some states have passed laws limiting access to gender-affirming healthcare for minors and restricting discussion of LGBT+ issues in schools.
- 4. Transgender Rights:**  
There have been setbacks in transgender rights. A new federal executive order has restricted access to gender-affirming care for young people, and the military has reintroduced limits on transgender individuals serving openly. Policies on changing gender markers on official documents continue to vary by state.
- 5. Healthcare and Education:**  
Federal protections against discrimination in healthcare still exist under the Affordable Care Act, but enforcement is weaker than before. Recent court rulings allow parents to remove children from lessons covering LGBT+ issues, affecting how inclusive education can be.
- 6. Religious Freedom and Public Debate:**  
Conflicts between LGBT+ rights and religious freedom continue. Some states have laws allowing businesses to



# The Rights of the LGBT+ Community in Scotland

Scotland has strong protections for LGBT+ people, but some recent changes have created challenges, especially for transgender rights.

- 1. Marriage Equality:**  
Same-sex marriage has been legal since 2014, giving the same rights to all couples.
- 2. Hate Crime Protections:**  
The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021, in force since April 2024, protects people from hate crimes and hate speech based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 3. Gender Recognition Reform (Blocked):**  
In 2022, the Scottish Parliament voted to make it easier for transgender people to change their legal gender. The UK Government blocked this law, and in 2025 the Supreme Court ruled that “sex” in the Equality Act means biological sex, which limits some transgender rights.
- 4. Equality and Services:**  
LGBT+ people are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. However, the new ruling means access to some single-sex spaces and services is now based on biological sex.
- 5. Education and Inclusion:**  
Scotland promotes LGBT-inclusive education to tackle prejudice and bullying.
- 6. Adoption and Healthcare:**  
LGBT+ people can adopt and foster children, and healthcare aims to be inclusive, though debates continue around trans healthcare.

Scotland is still one of the most supportive parts of the UK for LGBT+ rights, but recent court decisions have slowed progress on trans rights and created new debates about equality in law and services.



# The Rights of the LGBT+ Community in Jamaica

Jamaica remains a challenging place for LGBT+ people, with both legal restrictions and widespread social stigma.

- 1. Criminalisation of Same-Sex Relationships:**  
Jamaica still has colonial-era “sodomy laws” that make consensual same-sex sexual activity illegal. People found guilty can face prison sentences.
- 2. Discrimination:**  
There are no nationwide anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBT+ people in areas such as jobs, housing, or healthcare. Prejudice often leads to exclusion and hardship.
- 3. Violence and Persecution:**  
Violence and harassment against LGBT+ individuals have been widely reported. Some hate crimes go unpunished, and there have been cases of mob attacks.
- 4. Homophobia and Stigma:**  
Negative attitudes towards LGBT+ people remain common. Public figures, including some religious leaders, have at times made openly anti-LGBT statements.
- 5. Activism and Advocacy:**  
Despite the risks, there are activists and organisations in Jamaica campaigning for legal reform, protection, and awareness of LGBT+ rights.
- 6. Asylum Seekers:**  
Some LGBT+ Jamaicans have sought asylum in other countries, citing persecution and threats to their safety.

The legal and social environment for LGBT+ people in Jamaica remains restrictive and often dangerous, although activists continue to push for change.

# Equality focus: How far have we come with LGBT Rights?



<b>Country:</b>	<b>Potential dangers</b>	<b>Positive aspects</b>	<b>Travel advice (what would you advise?)</b>
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Uganda			
Scotland			
Jamaica			
America			

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## Useful helplines and charities:

**Young Minds**. Child and adolescent mental health charity for teens struggling with any subject. Call: 0808 802 5544

**Teen Line | Teens Support hotline - Connect, talk, get help!** Teen Line's highly trained teen listeners provide support, resources and hope to any teen who is struggling.

**NEW Young Persons Advice Guide - Let's Talk about It (letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk)** New young persons RSE advice guide from the NHS

**Worried about your gender identity? Advice for teenagers - NHS (www.nhs.uk)**

New young persons advice guide from the NHS specifically for gender issues

**<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-foreign-travel-advice>**

Travel advice from the UK gov for LGBT+ travellers



## Reporting a Concern at Thornden School

- It is important to us that all of you feel safe, happy and belong at Thornden.
- We also know that sometimes it is not as easy as simply telling a member of staff
- It could be:
  - A friend you are worried about
  - Someone being unkind to you
  - Something you have heard and think we should know

### How can you report anything you are worried about?

- Speak to a member of staff or parent / carer
- Visit the Well Being Den or Head of Year area
- On Satchel each week you will be sent a link to a form to share any worries you have
- On our school website homepage there is a 'Report a Concern' link.
- In the Student Bulletin there is a 'Report a Concern' link
- On all school desktops there is a 'Report a Concern' logo to click and report anything

# Need Support? You're Not Alone



If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.

## **Mental Health & Low Mood**

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>

Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

## **Apps That Can Help**

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.

Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.

Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).

MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

## **Talk to Someone**

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.

Wellbeing Team and School Nurse

Report a Concern on Satchel

Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

## **Eating Concerns**

Beat Eating Disorders –

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>

NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/>

## **Healthy Lifestyle**

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>