



F
(41%)

GBGR 2022

F
(12%)

GBTR 2022

D
(62%)

GBPI 2022

“I feel very bad and afflicted because people, my family and my parents don't want to accept me as I am, [sic] that I feel bad and people talk about me and discriminate against me.”

- Gay, city, 25 years old

“There is a lot of discrimination and double standards in my country, I had to quit my job for reasons of discrimination.”

- Gay, omitted city/rural, 36-55 years old

Asylum Profile: Nicaragua

Based on 2022 data from the F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR), the F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR), and the F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI), Nicaragua fails to protect its LGBTQI+ population.

Current legislation offers few and inconsistent protections of *de jure*, *de facto*, and socio-economic rights for sexual orientation and gender identity minorities. Legislatively, homosexuality is not criminalized, and hate crime, employment, and healthcare protections are in place for sexual orientation minorities. However, the nation lacks hate speech legislation, same-sex civil unions/marriage, joint adoption, and healthcare anti-discrimination protections. While gender identity and expression is not criminalized in Nicaragua, gender identity minorities have no other *de jure*, *de facto*, or socio-economic protections in place.

LGBTQI+ individuals face discrimination and persecution by an unaccepting public majority and government. Corruption is widespread in the Nicaraguan government, influencing the country's tolerance of and active engagement in human rights abuses against the LGBTQI+ population. In 2022, the state participated in online smear campaigns, physical attacks, and arbitrary arrests of LGBTQI+ citizens during civil protests. Reports of anti-LGBTQI+ violence are also ignored by the police. From January to June 2022, 43 attacks were made against LGBTQI+ people, with half of the attacks against transgender women [1].

Despite the existence of LGBTQI+ organizations and Pride events, LGBTQI+ organizations face several bureaucratic limitations when registering and operating due to laws such as the “Law for Regulation of Foreign Agents,” which classifies their advocacy as anti-government. Such organizations are subject to closer surveillance and potential closures due to this law [2].

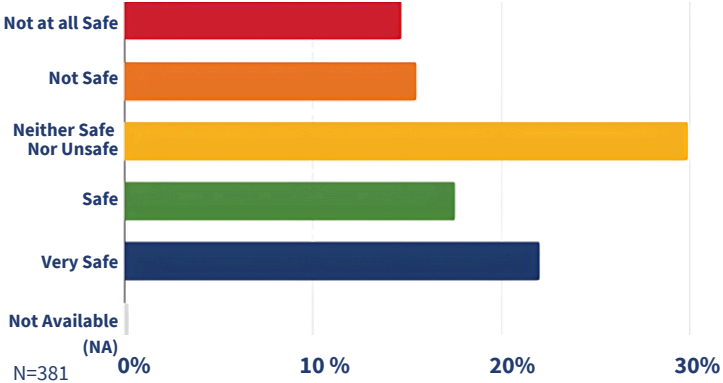
“In this rainbow life in society they see us as something bad, they discriminate for that [sic] same reason there are many bisexual gays like me [sic] we have not gone out to public for fear of being discriminated against.

Therefore, we choose the life of hetero to not be discriminated against by society.”

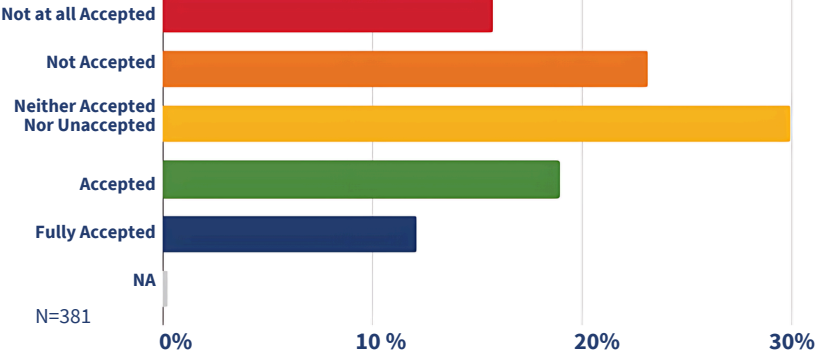
- Bisexual, city, age omitted

Nicaragua GBPI (2022) Question Breakdown

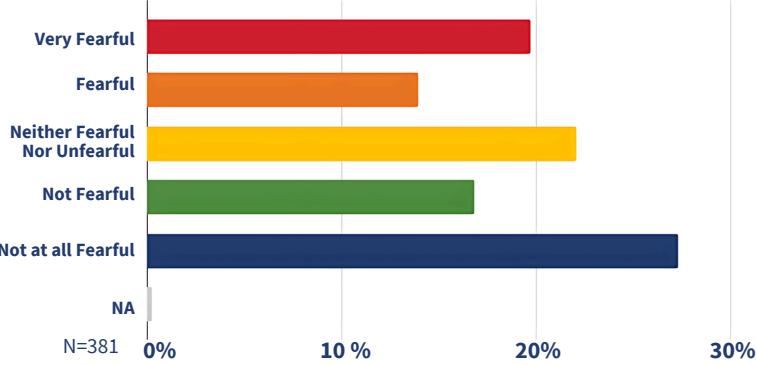
Q1: “...how safe do you feel living as a L, G, B, T, or I person in your country?”



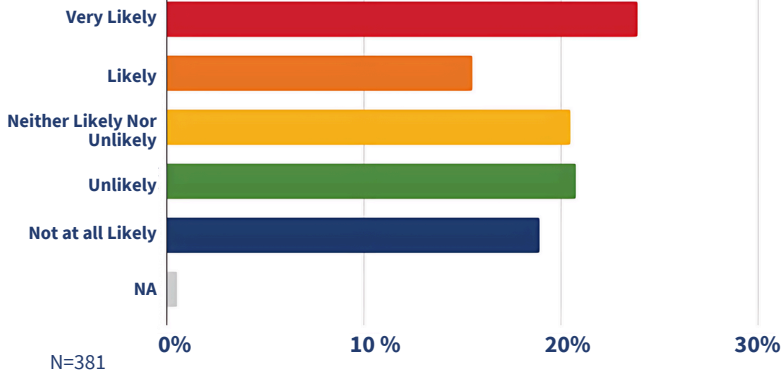
Q2: “...how accepted do you feel living as an LGBTI person by your society?”



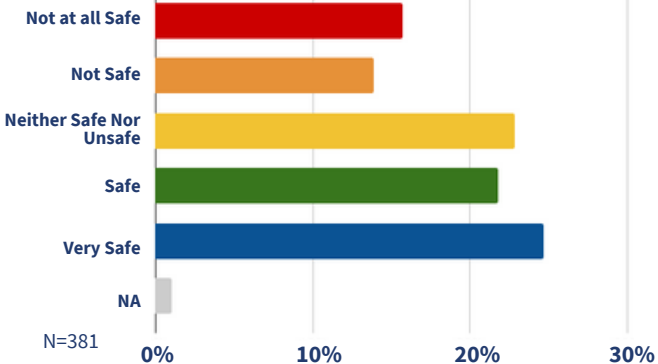
Q3: “...how fearful are you of being arrested, harassed or blackmailed by security forces/police because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?”



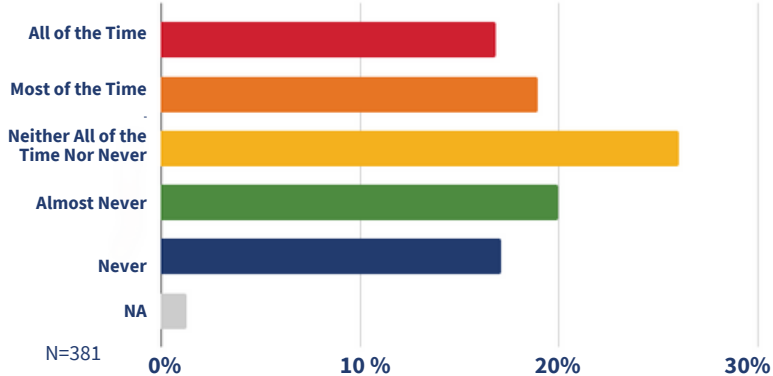
Q4: “...how likely are you to be a victim of violence due to your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?”



Q5: “...how safe do you feel gathering with other LGBTI people in public?”



Q6: “...how frequently do you experience discrimination in your day-to-day life due to your LGBTI status?”



The GBPI results echo the findings of the barometers. The 381 respondents from Nicaragua confirmed the country is an unsafe place for LGBTQI+ people. Many respondents cited religiosity, machismo culture, and government corruption as motivations for the targeted violence, the lack of rights, and the lack of acceptance LGBTQI+ people face in Nicaragua. Others wrote about workplace discrimination and feeling forced to hide their LGBTQI+ identities at all levels of society to avoid persecution. Several individuals wrote that police ignore complaints, act violently, and commit arbitrary arrests. On Q2: Acceptance, the majority of respondents indicated they were “Not at all Accepted”(16%) and “Not Accepted” (23%) by Nicaraguan society. Respondents selected “Very Likely” (24%) and “Likely” (16%) most frequently on Q4: Violence. Although Q1, Q3, Q5, and Q6 show mixed results, approximately a third of respondents affirmed that they experienced discrimination, were fearful of police or security forces, and felt unsafe both gathering and living as an LGBTI person.

GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Nicaragua)

1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1. No death penalty for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2. No life sentence for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3. No prison for sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4. No criminalization of sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5. Hate speech legislation includes sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
6. Hate crimes legislation includes sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7. Sexual minorities are not restricted or banned from serving in the military	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8. Civil unions for sexual minorities are allowed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
9. Same-sex marriage is allowed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

2 DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES

◀ Year ▶

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10. Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
11. Head of state supports legalization of homosexuality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
12. Head of state supports same-sex civil unions / same-sex marriage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13. Majority of citizens are accepting of homosexuality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14. Sexual minorities have the right to privacy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
15. Sexual orientation does not prejudice the right to a fair trial	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



“...despite decriminalizing ‘sodomy’, they treat or identify us as ‘people with different sexual options’...we have a comptroller of sexual diversity that is useless, it is only a screen and they treat us as infected people since the government to raise funds makes it appear that the LGBTIQ+ collective is synonymous with HIV and it is clearly an offense to everyone. We do not see that situation changing soon for our collective and even less if a conservative group takes power ...” - Gay, city, under 25 years old

GBGR Scorecard Breakdown (Nicaragua)

3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16. LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register (by the state)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
17. National LGBT rights organizations exist	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
18. LGBT rights organizations are able to peacefully and safely assemble	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
19. LGBT Pride events are allowed by the state	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
20. Security forces provide protection to LGBT Pride participants	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

4 SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21. Workplace anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
22. Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
23. Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include sexual orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
24. Same-sex couples are allowed to jointly adopt	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

5 SOCIETAL PERSECUTION

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25. No known acts of murder against sexual minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
26. No known acts of violence against sexual minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
27. Crimes based on sexual orientation are reported to police	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



“...both the government and the judicial and police system are violated, that is why the country lives under a police regime and terror where LGBT people who claim their rights are kidnapped and tortured by the police, so many choose to go into exile in neighboring countries...”
 - Gay, city, 36-55 years old

GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (Nicaragua)

1 DE JURE PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1. No criminalization of gender identity or expression	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2. Gender identity minorities are not restricted or banned from serving in the military	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3. Country has legal recognition of gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4. No physiological alteration requirement for legal gender recognition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5. No psychiatric diagnosis requirement for gender identity recognition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

2 DE FACTO (CIVIL & POLITICAL) PROTECTION OF GENDER IDENTITY MINORITIES

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
6. Freedom from arbitrary arrest based on gender identity or expression	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

3 LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7. LGBT organizations are allowed to legally register (by the state)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8. National LGBT rights organizations exist	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
9. LGBT rights organizations are able to peacefully and safely assemble	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
10. LGBT Pride events are allowed by the state	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
11. Security forces provide protection to LGBT Pride participants	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Yes

No

“The community always has felt harassed... the people view and talk about you [sic] badly, discriminate you for your sexual orientation, and the harassment never ends, the rights we have as humans are violated daily because the people in charge of protecting the [sic] rights are interested in taking and having money for themselves and don't think about the people that are in the streets like the sex workers...”

- Transgender woman, city, 25-35 years old

GBTR Scorecard Breakdown (Nicaragua)

4 SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
12. Workplace anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13. Fair housing anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14. Healthcare anti-discrimination laws include gender identity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

5 SOCIETAL PERSECUTION

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
15. No known acts of murder against gender identity minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
16. No known acts of violence against gender identity minorities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
17. Crimes based on gender identity are reported to police	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Yes

No

“It is difficult to be gay, when one hides it from many people [sic] wherever in the work place, the family, the society, and in moments you want to confess it, but you’ve said many lies so they don’t know your orientation. In other words, it leads to stress and depression and doesn’t lead to a life of being yourself. At that point, it costs to liberate yourself...” - Gay, city, 25-35 years old

“In my country the issue of [sic] sexual genders is not very welcome since they see us with disgust.” - Bisexual, city, under 25 years old

GBGR/GBTR Methodology:

The F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights (GBGR) and the F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR) measure the state- and societal-level protection and persecution of LGBT+ people worldwide.

Based on 27 items for the GBGR and 17 items for the GBTR, both barometers assess five dimensions: *de jure* and *de facto* protections, the sanction or suppression of LGBT+ advocacy, socio-economic rights, and societal persecution of LGBT+ persons. Using a double-blind coding system, each item is scored on a binary scale (0/1). The country's overall score is then calculated with a percentage (0-100%) and assigned a letter grade (A-F) where 100% (A) is the most protective and 0% (F) is the least protective.

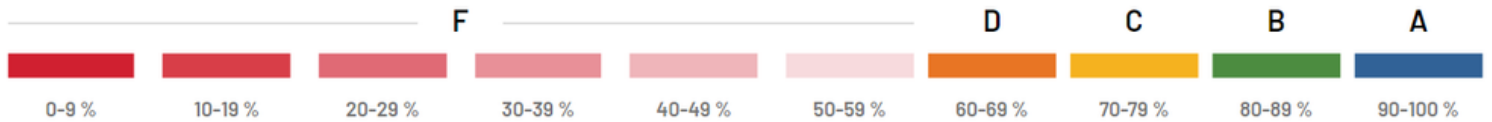
GBPI Methodology:

The F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI) is a joint project between the F&M Global Barometers and the Council for Global Equality. Launched between June 28 and September 29, 2022, the survey garnered over 160,000 responses from 204 countries.

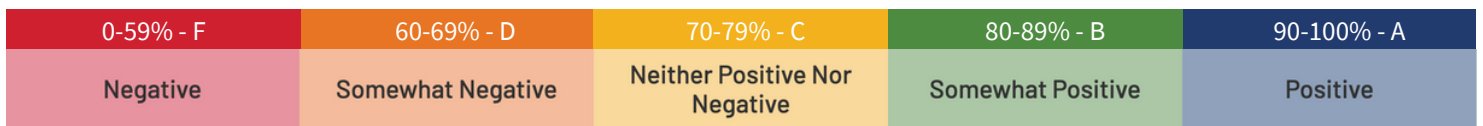
The GBPI gauges the lived human rights reality of LGBTQI+ people worldwide. Available in four languages (Arabic, English, French, and Spanish), it asks six basic questions to which the respondents answer from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). The overall score for each country is then assigned a percentage (0-100%) and a letter grade (A-F) where 100% (A) is the most positive and 0% (F) is the least positive.



GBGR/GBTR Grading Scale



GBPI Grading Scale



[1] "United States Department of State, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nicaragua," United States Department of State, Country Reports, March 2023, accessed August 2024, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nicaragua>.

[2] "The Global State of LGBTIQ Organizing: The Right to Register and the Freedom to Operate," Outright International, Report, September 2023, 60-63, accessed August 2024, <https://outrightinternational.org/right-to-register2023>.

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