

# Media Representation of LGBTQ People in Latin America and the Caribbean



Arcus commissioned this report in the context of strategic planning of its Social Justice Program. The report was commissioned as part of an effort to learn about LGBTQ communities in Arcus' focus geographic regions and countries, where the foundation aims to increase safety, legal protections, and acceptance and inclusion. The following information reflects the opinions of its authors and not necessarily those of Arcus. Arcus uses some but not all of the findings to guide grantmaking decisions.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Arcus Foundation’s Social Justice Program envisions a world in which all LGBTQ people live with dignity, safety, and opportunity in inclusive communities and societies, and pursues the following three goals:

1. Increased safety for LGBTQ people
2. Increased LGBTQ-affirming protections
3. Increased inclusion and acceptance of LGBTQ people.

The **anticipated outcome** of the third goal envisages: *“positive public perceptions, narratives, and discourses that appreciate the full diversity and experiences of LGBTQ people, produced in conjunction with or by LGBTQ people themselves, especially those pushed to the margins.”*

Consequently, in January 2019, the Arcus Foundation commissioned a media scan in six Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries (Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago) to enable tracking and measurement of progress in relation to media representations of the human rights of LGBTQ people—a process that will serve as a baseline for future interventions. The media scan was carried out in February and March 2019.

## 1.2 Objective of the LAC media scan

The objective of the LAC media scan was to establish a baseline by which to monitor and measure the Social Justice Program’s goal of increased acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQI people in society in coming years, with a particular focus on two indicators:

- 1) Increased positive or neutral media coverage of LGBTQI issues and communities, especially regarding marginalized communities (trans, indigenous, and low-income), and including reduced instances of misgendering of transgender people
- 2) Growth in public statements and actions by political leaders and influencers (faith leaders or public figures such as entertainers) that show recognition of the power and leadership of the LGBTQ base.

## 1.3 Scope and expected outcome

The LAC media scan entailed classification and analysis of 160 media clips from selected media outlets’ coverage of LGBTQ issues in six LAC countries between January 1, 2017, and January 31, 2019, with emphasis on media representations of marginalized groups within the LGBTQ community and on the stance (political, ideological, or moral) of key public figures and influencers.

Given significant variations in population sizes, public debate on LGBTQ issues, and the number of media outlets in each country, the 160 clips were distributed as follows: Mexico (45), Guatemala (25), Honduras (25), El Salvador (25), Guyana (20), and Trinidad and Tobago (20).

The LAC media scan yielded a database for the 160 fully coded news media clips (online and print news and feature stories, with accompanying photos; op-eds; and radio and TV stories where available) from in-county media outlets.

*The letters of the acronym LGBTQI—referring to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex persons—appear in various forms and combinations on the following pages depending on their use by the individuals or the organizations referenced.*

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Assessing coverage tone and source statements tone

The methodology used to carry out the media scan was modeled on one used in a similar study carried out for the Arcus Foundation by Brian Pellot of Taboom Media in five African countries in 2018. It was designed to classify the “tone” of media clips, focusing on two major factors: **overall coverage tone** and **source statements’ tone**.

Coverage was understood to be the focus and content of the clip. The source was understood to be a person(s) interviewed as part of the media clip and/or the citation

of a person’s views, opinions, or knowledge from other references and, in some cases, quotations from academic studies, articles, and so on.

The following indicator matrices were used determine a clip’s overall coverage tone and source statements tone.<sup>1</sup> If a clip contained indicators from more than one column, discretion was used to assign the most appropriate tone, considering the story’s overall effect, author’s presumed intent, balance of source statements, and so on. If an indicator category was irrelevant to or absent from a story, it was ignored. The absence of visuals or photos was registered accordingly.

Coverage Tone Matrix

Positive/Neutral Coverage	Incomplete Coverage	Negative Coverage
Includes sufficient LGBTQI+A voices	Includes insufficient LGBTQI+A voices	Includes zero LGBTQI+A voices
Challenges negative myths/stereotypes	Repeats myths/stereotypes without adequate interrogation	Perpetuates negative myths/stereotypes
Has a fair, balanced, and objective approach	Has an objective approach but unjust weighting of sources or information	Displays clear bias, moralizing, fearmongering, sensationalizing, prejudice, ridicule, and so on
Uses accessible language	Uses inaccurate or inadequate explanation of terms/jargon	Uses stereotypical, biased, dog-whistle language
Uses accurate and inclusive terminology	Misuses terms but with no apparent malice	Uses discriminatory or dehumanizing terms
Includes accurate factual research, history, and context	Relies on insufficient or questionable research, history, and context	Uses false or only negative research, history, and context
Takes source safety seriously (anonymity, etc.)	Inadequately addresses or acknowledges source safety.	Shows dangerous or deliberate disregard for source safety
Uses relevant affirming visuals/photos	Uses generic (rainbow flag-type) visuals/photos	Uses demonizing visuals/photos

Source Statements Tone Matrix		
Positive Statements	Neutral Statements	Negative Statements
Includes sufficient LGBTQI+A voices	Includes insufficient LGBTQI+A voices	Includes zero LGBTQI+A voices
Challenges negative myths/stereotypes	Repeats myths/stereotypes without interrogation	Perpetuates negative myths/stereotypes
Uses accessible/affirming language	Provides clear/generic statements of situational facts	Uses stereotypical, biased, dog-whistle language
Properly uses accurate, inclusive, terms	Misuses terms but with no apparent malice	Uses discriminatory or dehumanizing terms
Cites accurate factual research, history, and context	Cites insufficient or questionable research, history, and context	Cites false or only negative research, history, and context

## 2.2 Taboom Media—Media Monitoring and Response Coalition rating

The LAC media scan utilizes Taboom Media’s [Media Monitoring and Response Coalition](#) (MMRC) rating system that adopts the following 5-point scale:

Use of Language	
<b>1</b>	<b>Excellent</b> Excellent stories that should be championed and highlighted
<b>2</b>	<b>Mostly Good</b> Generally positive stories that have minor problematic issues that could be improved in future reporting
<b>3</b>	<b>Fair or Mixed</b> Incomplete; stories contain errors, feature improperly weighted negative voices, and so on. They are in the middle.
<b>4</b>	<b>Poor/Problematic</b> Stories that do more harm than good. They contain significant flaws.
<b>5</b>	<b>Terrible/Dangerous</b> Dangerous or egregious stories.

Taboom Media recommends that “media clips rated 1 **trigger** a low-priority two-month response deadline before which local media monitors should thank journalists for producing fair and accurate coverage and suggest additional story angles and sources for subsequent coverage. A rating of ‘5’ indicates news media content that is imminently dangerous in its irresponsible, biased or incendiary treatment of SSOGIE issues, triggering rapid coordinated responses from local affirming stakeholders and continent-wide coalition partners if deemed prudent.”

A mixed story might receive a rating of 3 when its coverage and source statement tones significantly and evenly diverge (one positive, the other negative), resulting in a middle rating, and/or when visuals portray negative, stereotypical, or discriminatory images of LGBTQI people, even when the overall coverage and source statement tones are positive or neutral or incomplete.

## 2.3 Adaptations to the methodology

On reviewing relevant documents related to the Africa media scan and based on learnings from the application of the methodology, the authors made some adaptations to the template for use in the LAC context and to the Excel spreadsheets used for registering information, as detailed on next page.

**INTEGRATION OF OVERALL COVERAGE TONE AND OVERALL SOURCE TONE MATRIX INDICATORS INTO THE DATABASE**

Additional indicators derived from the *overall coverage tone* and *overall source tone* matrices were added to the database to produce a more nuanced understanding of the findings.

**INTEGRATION OF SOGIE INDICATORS INTO THE DATABASE**

Similarly, a further set of indicators was introduced to identify and make visible the various categories used, related to sexual orientations, gender identities, and vulnerable populations.

Sexual Orientations	Gender Identities	Vulnerable Populations
LGBTQI	Transgender/sexual	Sex workers
Sexually diverse	Transwomen	Migrants
Homosexual	Transmen	Low-income
Lesbian	Queer	PLHIV or AIDS
Gay	GNC	Deprived of freedom/ incarcerated
Bisexual	Intersex	
Bisexual women	Gender diverse	
Bisexual men		
Bi-curious		
Asexual		
Heterosexual		

An additional indicator, “misgendering,” was added to track the number of media clips that erroneously describe gender identities.

**INTEGRATION OF TYPES OF INFLUENCERS INTO THE DATABASE**

To make visible the kinds of influencers most commonly cited as sources, advocates, and so on in the media clips, the following categories were included in the database:

Type of Sources Cited (Influencers)	
1	Medical professionals
2	Writers or journalists
3	Faith/religious leaders
4	Lawyers and legal experts
5	Government officials
6	Politicians
7	Entertainers
8	NGO staff
9	Academics social scientists
10	Private sector

**USE OF LANGUAGE AND VISUAL IMAGES**

The database includes the following categories of language.

Use of Language	
1	Human-rights informed
2	Respectful
3	Discriminatory
4	Stereotyping
5	Sensationalist
6	Moralizing
7	Marginalizing
8	Hate speech

The following categories of visual images were included.

	Use of Visual Images	Visual Images of LGBTQ People
1	LGBTQI people included	Positive
2	LGBTQI people not included	Neutral
3	No images included	Negative

## 2.4 Data collection

The authors used the following methods to identify and select the media clips to be included in the LAC media scan:

1. Keyword searches using Google News search and Google web search. International news stories were excluded from the scan as well as stories produced by LGBTQI community publications, except when republished in mainstream news outlets. Some media clips produced by progressive publications were included.
2. Identification of key in-country media outlets and site-specific searches within these outlets. This was done by accessing media profiles compiled by the BBC<sup>2</sup> of the six countries under study and, in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, through direct communication with LGBTQI organizations that took part in the Arcus

Foundation study, *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Human Rights in Central America*, in 2018. In Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, key LGBTQI organizations that were identified in the initial media-clip search were contacted, and some supplied further information on key media outlets. In Mexico, Fondo Semillas, a women’s-rights organization, provided information on key media outlets.

3. Contact with LGBTQI organizations (particularly those that already monitor media) to identify links to media clips in each of the six countries to identify relevant clips, determine which media outlets to prioritize, and seek general impressions of existing LGBTQ media coverage in each country. The following people and organizations participated via email:

Country	People/Organizations
Guatemala	Tristán S. López Aguilar and Alex Castillo, Colectivo Trans-Formación
Honduras	Rihanna Ferrera Sanchez, directora ejecutiva, Asociación de Derechos Humanos Cozumel Trans Indyra Mendoza, director, and Saydi Irias, monitoring officer, Las Catrachas Alex Sorto, director, SOMOS CDC Honduras
El Salvador	Verónica López, Diké+
Guyana	Anil Persaud, homophobia(s) education coordinator, SASOD Guyana—Guyana Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination
Trinidad and Tobago	Zeleca Julien, I Am One Kennedy Everett Maraj, chief administrative officer, The Silver Lining Foundation
Mexico	Jorge Dávila, auxiliar de dirección ejecutiva, and Laura García Coudurier, directora ejecutiva, Fondo Semillas



## 2.5 Navigating the database

The **LAC media scan database MASTERSHEET** can be found [here](#).

The following tables summarize the information gathered on each of the media clips from each country.

<b>1. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE CLIP</b>	<b>1.1 Clip Number</b>	
	<b>1.2 Story Title</b>	
	<b>1.3 Story Author(s)</b>	
	<b>1.4 News Outlet Name</b>	
	<b>1.5 Geographical Coverage</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National</li> <li>2. Capital City</li> <li>3. Another city/town</li> <li>4. Rural</li> </ol>
	<b>1.6 Publication/Broadcast Date</b>	
	<b>1.7 Publication Type</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Print newspaper story</li> <li>2. Print magazine story</li> <li>3. Online story</li> <li>4. Print commentary</li> <li>5. Online commentary</li> <li>6. TV</li> <li>7. Online video</li> <li>8. Radio</li> <li>9. Online audio</li> <li>10. Print photo essay</li> <li>11. Online photo slideshow</li> </ol>
<b>2. COVERAGE TONE</b>	<b>2.1 Positive/Neutral (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sufficient LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>■ Challenges negative myths/stereotypes</li> <li>■ Fair, balanced, and objective approach</li> <li>■ Uses accessible language</li> <li>■ Uses accurate/inclusive terminology</li> <li>■ Includes accurate factual research, history, and context</li> <li>■ Takes source safety seriously (anonymity, etc.)</li> <li>■ Relevant affirming visuals/photos</li> </ul>
	<b>2.2 Incomplete (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Insufficient LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>■ Repeats myths/stereotypes without adequate interrogation</li> <li>■ Objective approach but unjust weighting of sources/info</li> <li>■ Inaccurate or inadequate explanation of terms/jargon</li> <li>■ Misuses terms but with no apparent malice</li> <li>■ Insufficient or questionable research/history context</li> <li>■ Inadequately addresses or acknowledges source safety</li> <li>■ Generic rainbow flag, and so on visuals/photos</li> </ul>

	<b>2.3 Negative (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zero LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>▪ Perpetuates negative myths/stereotypes</li> <li>▪ Clear bias, moralizing, fearmongering, sensationalizing, prejudice, ridicule, etc.</li> <li>▪ Stereotyping, biased, dog-whistle language</li> <li>▪ Uses discriminatory or dehumanizing terms</li> <li>▪ False or only negative research/history context</li> <li>▪ Dangerous or deliberate disregard for source safety</li> <li>▪ Demonizing visuals/photos</li> </ul>
	<b>2.4 Overall Coverage Tone</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Positive/Neutral</li> <li>2. Incomplete</li> <li>3. Negative</li> </ol>

<b>3. SOURCE TONE</b>	<b>3.1 Positive Statements (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sufficient LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>▪ Challenges negative myths/stereotypes</li> <li>▪ Uses accessible/affirming language</li> <li>▪ Properly uses accurate, inclusive, terms</li> <li>▪ Cites accurate factual research/history/context</li> </ul>
	<b>3.2 Neutral Statements (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Insufficient LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>▪ Repeats myths/stereotypes without interrogation</li> <li>▪ Clear/generic statements of situational facts</li> <li>▪ Misuses terms but with no apparent malice</li> <li>▪ Insufficient or questionable research/history/context</li> </ul>
	<b>3.3 Negative Statements (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zero LGBTQI+A voices</li> <li>▪ Perpetuates negative myths/stereotypes</li> <li>▪ Stereotyping, biased, dog-whistle language</li> <li>▪ Uses discriminatory or dehumanizing terms</li> <li>▪ False or only negative research/history/context</li> </ul>
	<b>3.4 Overall Source Tone</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Positive</li> <li>2. Neutral</li> <li>3. Negative</li> </ol>

<b>4. KEY COMMUNITIES/ POPULATIONS ADDRESSED</b>	<b>4.1 Main Population featured</b>	Choose one of the categories below.
	<b>4.2 Sexual Orientations Addressed (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LGBTQI</li> <li>▪ Sexually Diverse</li> <li>▪ Homosexual</li> <li>▪ Lesbian</li> <li>▪ Gay</li> <li>▪ Bisexual</li> <li>▪ Bisexual women</li> <li>▪ Bisexual men</li> <li>▪ Bi-curious</li> <li>▪ Asexual</li> <li>▪ Heterosexual</li> </ul>

	<b>4.3 Gender Identities Addressed (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transgender/sexual</li> <li>▪ Transwomen</li> <li>▪ Transmen</li> <li>▪ Queer</li> <li>▪ Gender non-conforming</li> <li>▪ Intersex</li> <li>▪ Gender diverse</li> </ul>
	<b>4.4 Vulnerable Populations Addressed (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sex workers</li> <li>▪ Migrants</li> <li>▪ Low-income</li> <li>▪ PLHIV or AIDS</li> <li>▪ Deprived of liberty (incarcerated)</li> </ul>
	<b>4.5 Others (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MSM</li> <li>▪ WSW</li> </ul>
	<b>4.6 Misgendering</b>	Y/N

<b>5. SOURCES</b>	<b>5.1 SSOGIE Source Included?</b>	Y/N
	<b>5.2 Type of Sources Cited (Influencers) Y/N</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medical professionals</li> <li>▪ Writers or journalists</li> <li>▪ Faith/religious leaders</li> <li>▪ Lawyers or legal experts</li> <li>▪ Government officials</li> <li>▪ Politicians</li> <li>▪ Entertainers</li> <li>▪ NGO/U.N. staff</li> <li>▪ Academics/social scientists</li> <li>▪ Private sector</li> </ul>

<b>6. LANGUAGE</b>	<b>6.1 Use of Language (Y/N)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Human-rights informed</li> <li>▪ Respectful</li> <li>▪ Discriminatory</li> <li>▪ Stereotyping</li> <li>▪ Sensationalist</li> <li>▪ Moralizing</li> <li>▪ Marginalizing</li> <li>▪ Hate speech</li> </ul>
	<b>6.2 Examples of Positive Language (Include text from article)</b>	
	<b>6.3 Examples of Negative Language (Include text from article)</b>	

<b>7. USE OF IMAGES</b>	<b>7.1 Description of image</b>	
	<b>7.2 LGBTQI people included</b>	Y/N
	<b>7.3 Images of LGBTQI people</b>	1. Positive 2. Neutral 3. Negative

<b>8. OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST</b>	<b>Placement on page, unique voice or perspective, clarifying acronyms, and so on; complete this column only if notes are particularly worth flagging or extraordinary.</b>
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<b>9. MMRC</b>	<b>9.1 MMRC Rating</b>	1 = Excellent 2 = Mostly Good 3 = Fair or mixed 4 = Poor/Problematic 5 = Terrible/Dangerous
	<b>9.2 Comments/MMRC Notes</b>	

<b>10. ORIGINAL WEB LINK</b>	<b>If available</b>
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The **LAC media scan clips folders** contain six country-specific folders that include copies of the media clips accessed and analyzed during the study.

The same coding system for registering information used in the Africa study was adopted in this study. Each clip is named using the following format:

COUNTRY\_CLIP#\_COVERAGE-TONE\_SOURCE  
STATEMENTS-TONE\_DATE.

For example: “Guate\_14\_C-POS\_T-NO\_24JUN2018” indicates that the 14th media clip accessed from Guatemala, dated June 14, 2018, had a positive overall coverage tone but that no sources were cited.

COUNTRY		CLIP #	COVERAGE TONE		SOURCE STATEMENTS' TONE		DATE
Guatemala	Guate	1-25	Positive	POS	Positive	POS	DDMMYYYY
Honduras	Hond	1-25	Incomplete	INC	Neutral	NEU	
El Salvador	EISal	1-25	Negative	NEG	Negative	NEG	
Guyana	Guy	1-20			No source	NO	
Trinidad and Tobago	TT	1-20					
Mexico	Mex	1-45					

# 3. Analysis of LAC media scan database

## 3.1 Geographical coverage

The majority of the news clips accessed in this media scan (92.5%) were published by media outlets with national coverage. Eight of the clips (5%, all in Mexico) were from

capital city outlets, and four (one in Guatemala, one in El Salvador, and two in Mexico) were based in other cities or towns.

Geographical coverage	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1. National	148	92.50	24	96.00	25	100.00	24	96.00	20	100.00	20	100.00	35	77.78
2. Capital City	8	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	17.78
3. Another city/town	4	2.50	1	4.00	0	0.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	4.44
4. Rural	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## 3.2 Types of stories

Most of the clips that arose through the scan (89.38%) consisted of print (45.63%) or online (43.75%) news stories. Other types of clips included seven online videos (4.38%),

five print commentaries/opinions (3.13%), three print magazine stories (1.87%), one online commentary (0.63%), and one TV clip (0.63%).

Type of Story	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Print newspaper story	73	45.63	19	76.00	7	28.00	11	44.00	11	55.00	8	40.00	17	37.78
Online story	70	43.75	6	24.00	13	52.00	14	56.00	4	20.00	11	55.00	22	48.89
Online video	7	4.38	0	0.00	5	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	4.44
Print commentary	5	3.13	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Print magazine story	3	1.87	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	6.67

Online commentary	1	0.63	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	5.00	0	0.00
TV	1	0.63	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00	1	2.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### 3.3 Overall coverage tone

Almost four out of five of the clips accessed in the study (79.38%) had a **positive coverage tone**. This finding is indicative of the respect for LGBTQI people and commitment to ethical reporting that exists within many media outlets. But it should not be interpreted as a sign of low levels of

LGBTQIphobia in the individual societies. On the contrary, many of the positive clips centered on discrimination, violence, and human rights’ abuses that LGBTQI people face in their respective communities and countries.

Overall Coverage Tone (n=160)	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Positive	127	79.38	23	92.00	15	60.00	22	88.00	14	70.00	16	80.00	37	82.22
Incomplete	27	16.88	2	8.00	8	32.00	3	12.00	3	15.00	3	15.00	8	17.78
Negative	6	3.74	0	0.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	3	15.00	1	5.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Those clips categorized as having **incomplete coverage tone** (27, or 16.88%) might have fulfilled some of the requirements for a positive story but in general fell short, due to a combination of characteristics such as a lack of sufficient LGBTQI voices; insufficient or questionable research, history, or context; misuse of terms but with no apparent malice; and the use of generic visuals or photos.

The six clips (3.74%) that were classified as having a **negative coverage tone** in general did not include specific LGBTQI voices; perpetuated negative myths, stereotypes, or prejudices; adopted moralizing, fearmongering, and/or sensationalist language; and used discriminatory or dehumanizing terms. None of the negative coverage tone

clips, however, showed dangerous or deliberate disregard for source safety nor used demonizing visuals or photos.

Some of the clips marked “incomplete” received one or more negative coverage tone classifications, but those were outweighed by a generally more neutral tone.

#### INDICATORS OF A POSITIVE COVERAGE TONE

As can be seen from the table below, the four most common characteristics of positive coverage were the inclusion of sufficient LGBTQI voices (45% of all clips in the study<sup>3</sup>); the use of accessible language (43.13% of all clips); a fair, balanced, and objective approach (35.63% of all clips); and content that challenges negative myths and stereotypes (28.13% of all clips).

Positive/Neutral Clips (n=127)	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Includes sufficient LGBTQI+A voices	72	45.00	8	32.00	11	44.00	11	44.00	10	50.00	13	65.00	19	42.22
Uses accessible language	69	43.13	24	96.00	6	24.00	10	40.00	9	45.00	10	50.00	10	22.22
Has a fair, balanced, and objective approach	57	35.63	21	84.00	6	24.00	7	28.00	8	40.00	8	40.00	7	15.56
Challenges negative myths/stereotypes	45	28.13	18	72.00	5	20.00	4	16.00	7	35.00	7	35.00	4	8.89
Uses accurate/inclusive terminology	37	23.13	8	32.00	6	24.00	7	28.00	7	35.00	4	20.00	5	11.11
Includes relevant affirming visuals/photos	30	18.75	13	52.00	3	12.00	5	20.00	3	15.00	2	10.00	4	8.89
Includes accurate factual research, history, and context	27	16.88	9	36.00	5	20.00	3	12.00	4	20.00	3	15.00	3	6.67
Takes source safety seriously (anonymity, etc.)	4	2.50	2	8.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	0	0.00	1	2.22

### 3.4 Types of sources and overall source tone

#### Types of sources

Ninety-four of the 160 clips accessed (58.75%) included statements from SOGIE sources, allowing LGBTQI people to speak for themselves. The percentage of SOGIE source statements was highest in Trinidad and Tobago (75%) and lowest in Guatemala (48%).

Sources	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
SOGIE source included	94	58.75	12	48.00	14	56.00	16	64.00	12	60.00	15	75.00	25	55.56

The table below shows that the most prevalent sources of information, analysis, and comment (after LGBTQI people themselves) were staff of NGOs, in almost half of the 160 clips accessed. Many of the influencers from NGOs were from LGBTQI organizations.

These sources were followed by government officials (21.25%), lawyers and legal experts (14.38%), politicians (12.50%), academics/social scientists (8.75%), and religious leaders (8.13%).

Type of sources cited (influencers)	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
NGO staff	77	48.13	6	24.00	12	48.00	17	68.00	12	60.00	13	65.00	17	37.78
Government officials	34	21.25	9	36.00	5	20.00	7	28.00	4	20.00	1	5.00	8	17.78
Lawyers and legal experts	23	14.38	7	28.00	6	24.00	2	8.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	2	4.44
Politicians	20	12.50	1	4.00	7	28.00	3	12.00	1	5.00	2	10.00	6	13.33
Academics/social scientists	14	8.75	0	0.00	2	8.00	2	8.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	4	8.89
Faith/religious leaders	13	8.13	1	4.00	5	20.00	0	0.00	2	10.00	4	20.00	1	2.22
Medical professionals	9	5.63	3	12.00	2	8.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
Writers or journalists	9	5.63	3	12.00	1	4.00	1	4.00	1	5.00	0	0.00	3	6.67
Entertainers	5	3.13	1	4.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	2	4.44
Private sector	4	2.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	8.89

### Overall source tone

Just over three out of five of the clips accessed in the media scan (63.75%) were rated as having a **positive overall source tone**, meaning that those interviewed or consulted by the authors were respectful and supportive of LGBTQI people and their rights. Only five clips (3.13%) included sources classified as having a negative source tone, indicating

that media outlets had made a conscious effort to seek the opinions of individuals with knowledge of the issues and a commitment to the rights of LGBTQI people.

Four out of five clips (80%) accessed from Trinidad and Tobago registered a positive overall source tone, compared to just over one-half in El Salvador.



Overall Source Tone	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Positive	102	63.75	15	60.00	14	56.00	13	52.00	12	60.00	16	80.00	32	71.11
Incomplete	32	20.00	5	20.00	6	24.00	7	28.00	3	15.00	2	10.00	9	20.00
Negative	5	3.13	0	0.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
No sources sited	21	13.13	5	20.00	3	12.00	5	20.00	4	20.00	0	20.00	4	8.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Two-thirds of the clips accessed in the scan were characterized by the use of accessible/affirming language by the sources consulted. Similarly, in 87 clips (54.38%), statements made by sources challenged negative myths or stereotypes,

and in just under half (79), accurate, inclusive terms were used by sources. Fewer than half (45%) of the sources cited or consulted were from the LGBTQI community itself.

Positive Statements	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Uses accessible/affirming language	108	67.50	15	60.00	13	52.00	17	68.00	12	60.00	16	80.00	35	77.78
Challenges negative myths/stereotypes	87	54.38	16	64.00	13	52.00	8	32.00	10	50.00	14	70.00	26	57.78
Properly uses accurate, inclusive, terms	79	49.38	6	24.00	14	56.00	15	60.00	8	40.00	10	50.00	26	57.78
Includes sufficient LGBTQI+A voices	72	45.00	10	40.00	13	52.00	10	40.00	8	40.00	13	65.00	18	40.00
Cites accurate factual research, history, and context	53	33.13	5	20.00	12	48.00	8	32.00	5	25.00	6	30.00	17	37.78

### 3.5 SOGIE populations featured in the media clips

#### Main populations featured

Slightly more than four out of five media clips accessed in the study used the abbreviation LGBTQI (or one of several variations) as a generic, umbrella term to address issues

concerning these populations. Fewer than one in 10 of the clips featured transgender people as the main population addressed. Only six (3.75%) of the clips focused primarily on gay men, four (2.5%) on homosexuals, and two (1.25%) on lesbians. None of the media clips featured the following as the main population: sexual diversity, bisexual, bisexual women, bisexual men, bi-curious, asexual, or heterosexual.

Main population featured	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
LGBTQI	134	83.75	18	72.00	19	76.00	24	96.00	15	75.00	18	90.00	40	88.89
Trans	14	8.75	2	8.00	3	12.00	1	4.00	4	20.00	0	0.00	4	8.89
Gay	6	3.75	5	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.22
Homosexual	4	2.50	0	0.00	3	12.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lesbian	2	1.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
Sexually diverse	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual women	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual men	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bi-curious	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Asexual	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Heterosexual	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### Sexual orientations addressed

Not surprisingly, LGBTQI (or variations) was also the favored term used by reporters for addressing **sexual orientation** in four out of five media clips accessed. Almost two out of five clips (37.5%) specifically addressed gay men (21.25%) or homosexuals (16.25%), and one in 10 (17 clips) included information on and/or analysis of issues specific to lesbians.

A small number of articles addressed the following categories of sexual orientation: sexual diversity (8, or 5%), bisexual (3, or 1.88%), heterosexual (2, or 1.25%), and bisexual women (1, or 0.63%). None of the media clips accessed specifically addressed the following sexual orientations as part of their content: bisexual men, bi-curious, or asexual.

Sexual Orientations Addressed	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
LGBTQI	129	80.63	14	56.00	20	80.00	24	96.00	17	85.00	16	80.00	38	84.44
Gay	34	21.25	8	32.00	7	28.00	2	8.00	5	25.00	5	25.00	7	15.56
Homosexual	26	16.25	8	32.00	6	24.00	3	12.00	2	10.00	4	20.00	3	6.67
Lesbian	17	10.63	6	24.00	3	12.00	2	8.00	2	10.00	1	5.00	3	6.67
Sexually diverse	8	5.00	4	16.00	3	12.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual	3	1.88	2	8.00	0	0.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Heterosexual	2	1.25	2	8.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual women	1	0.63	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bisexual men	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bi-curious	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Asexual	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

### Gender identities addressed

Almost three out of 10 media clips (45, or 28.13%) accessed made direct reference to specific issues relevant to transgender and/or transsexual identities. Of these, 33 clips focused on transwomen (1 in 5 of all clips and 73% of clips that addressed transgender and/or transsexual identities) and

eight on transmen (5% of all clips and 18% of clips that addressed transgender and/or transsexual identities). Three clips (1.88% of the total) included content on queer identities, and only one (0.63%) focused on intersex people. No mentions were made of other forms of self-identification such as gender non-conforming or gender diverse people.

Gender Identities Addressed	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Transgender/sexual	45	28.13	6	24.00	7	28.00	11	44.00	8	40.00	1	5.00	12	26.67
Transwomen	33	20.63	3	12.00	6	24.00	9	36.00	6	30.00	1	5.00	8	17.78
Transmen	8	5.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	4	16.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	1	2.22
Queer	3	1.88	3	12.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Intersex	1	0.63	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

GNC	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Gender diverse	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Misgendered	5	3.13	0	0.00	2	8.00	1	4.00	1	5.00	1	5.00	0	0.00

Five (3.13%) media clips used language that directly misgendered transgender people. Two of these occurred in Honduras and one in each of El Salvador, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Misgendering	5	3.13	0	0.00	2	8.00	1	4.00	1	5.00	1	5.00	0	0.00

### Vulnerable populations addressed

As the table below shows, very few of the media clips accessed specifically addressed vulnerable populations within the wider LGBTQI community. The one that received most mentions was people living with HIV or AIDS (11.88%),

followed by LGBTQI people on low incomes (7.50%) and migrants (6.88%). LGBTQI sex workers and LGBTQI people deprived of freedom (prisoners) were addressed, respectively, in 5.63% and 3.75% of the media clips.

Vulnerable Populations Addressed	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
PLHIV or AIDS	19	11.88	4	16.00	3	12.00	7	28.00	5	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Low-income	12	7.50	2	8.00	1	4.00	3	12.00	1	5.00	0	0.00	5	11.11
Migrants	11	6.88	0	0.00	1	4.00	4	16.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	5	11.11
Sex workers	9	5.63	1	4.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	4	20.00	1	5.00	2	4.44
Deprived of freedom	6	3.75	3	12.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	10.00	0	0.00	1	2.22

### 3.6 Language and images used in the media clips

#### Analysis of language used

Almost 90% of the media clips accessed used language that was in the main respectful, and three-quarters were human-rights informed. Eleven percent or fewer resorted to the use

of stereotypes and language classified as sensationalist, moralizing, marginalizing, or discriminatory. Two of the media clips accessed, both from Honduras, used language that directly and purposely promoted hate toward the LGBTQI community, which was not challenged by the reporting journalist or news outlet.

Use of Language	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Respectful	138	86.25	24	96.00	16	64.00	23	92.00	14	70.00	18	90.00	43	95.56
Human Rights informed	121	75.63	20	80.00	16	64.00	18	72.00	14	70.00	18	90.00	30	66.67
Stereotyping	16	10.00	1	4.00	5	20.00	0	0.00	5	25.00	2	10.00	3	6.67
Sensationalist	16	10.00	2	8.00	6	24.00	1	4.00	5	25.00	0	0.00	2	4.44
Moralizing	11	6.88	1	4.00	4	16.00	0	0.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
Marginalizing	11	6.88	0	0.00	4	16.00	0	0.00	5	25.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
Discriminatory	9	5.63	0	0.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	1	2.22
Hate speech	2	1.25	0	0.00	2	8.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

#### Analysis of images used

Two-thirds of the photos and videos in the 160 media clips included images of LGBTQI people; one out of five did not include LGBTQI people, and one in 10 did not include any graphic images.

Use of Images	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
LGBTQI people included	107	66.88	18	72.00	18	72.00	18	72.00	10	50.00	10	50.00	33	73.33
LGBTQI people NOT included	36	22.50	7	28.00	5	20.00	6	24.00	4	20.00	4	20.00	10	22.22
No images included	17	10.63	0	0.00	2	8.00	1	4.00	6	30.00	6	30.00	2	4.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Of the 107 media clips that did include images of LGBTQI people, almost three-quarters of these were classified as positive, and one-quarter as neutral. Only one image was classified as negative.

Images of LGBTQI people (n=107)	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Positive	79	73.83	17	94.44	12	66.67	10	55.56	7	70.00	8	80.00	25	75.76
Neutral	27	25.23	1	5.56	6	33.33	7	38.89	3	30.00	2	20.00	8	24.24
Negative	1	0.93	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.56	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### 3.7 MMRC rating

Taboom Media's [Media Monitoring and Response Coalition](#) (MMRC) ratings system was used to rate the 160 media clips accessed in this study. The two main indicators employed were overall coverage tone and overall source tone, combined with an analysis of the use of language and images.

MMRC Rating	Total		Guatemala		Honduras		El Salvador		Guyana		T/T		Mexico	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1 = Excellent	18	11.25	3	12.00	2	8.00	1	4.00	2	10.00	3	15.00	6	13.33
2 = Mostly Good	93	58.13	18	72.00	13	52.00	16	64.00	11	55.00	12	60.00	24	53.33
3 = Fair or mixed	35	21.88	4	16.00	5	20.00	8	32.00	2	10.00	3	15.00	13	28.89
4 = Poor/ Problematic	14	8.75	0	0.00	5	20.00	0	0.00	5	25.00	2	10.00	2	4.44
5 = Terrible/ Dangerous	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above shows that 18 media clips were classified as excellent—stories that should be championed and highlighted, given their positive coverage, source tones, and use of language and images in respectful, sensitive ways.

Almost three out of five media clips were mostly good. Many of these had generally positive coverage and source tones but with minor problematic issues (language, images, or insufficient LGBTQ voices, for example).

A further 35 media clips (21.88%) were considered fair or mixed, denoting that these stories contain errors, or feature improperly weighted negative voices, and so on.

Fourteen media clips (8.75%) were rated as poor/problematic. In general, their moralizing and sensationalist content and focus, and in some cases misinformation, were harmful.

None of the 160 media clips were rated as terrible/dangerous.

Average MMRC Rating	Total
	#
Guatemala	2.00
Trinidad and Tobago	2.20
Mexico	2.24
El Salvador	2.28
Guyana	2.50
Honduras	2.52
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.28</b>

The table above shows that the average overall MMRC rating for the six countries studied was 2.28, indicating that, in general, reporting is mostly positive, endeavoring to be human-rights focused, respectful, and supportive of LGBTQ people.

Coverage in Guatemala rated slightly higher than other countries, scoring half a point better than Guyana and Honduras. Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, and El Salvador scored very similarly to the MMRC average rating.

# 4. Analysis of media coverage and tone by country

## 4.1 Guatemala

### Media outlets accessed

The 25 media clips from Guatemala were taken from the following nine media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
1. <a href="#">Publinews</a>	Free daily newspaper with growing circulation	6
2. <a href="#">Prensa Libre</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	5
3. <a href="#">elPeriodico</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	5
4. <a href="#">Nomada</a>	Independent, feminist, progressive online media collective	4
5. <a href="#">Republica</a>	Digital news media outlet	1
6. <a href="#">Diario de Centroamérica</a>	Electronic portal of official government paper	1
7. <a href="#">Canal Antigua TV</a>	Cable channel founded in 2006; part of the media conglomerate Group A	1
8. <a href="#">La Hora</a>	Private daily newspaper/tabloid with national coverage	1
9. <a href="#">CRN Noticias</a>	Digital news and broadcast outlet focused on Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, and Petén departments	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

### Guatemala MMRC rating

On the MMRC scale, Guatemala scored an overall rating of 2.00, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone was generally good.

MMRC Rating	Guatemala	
	#	%
1 Excellent	3	12.00
2 Mostly Good	18	72.00
3 Fair or mixed	4	16.00
4 Poor/Problematic	0	0.00
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>		<b>2.00</b>



### Media clips from news outlets in Guatemala classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips in the study, three (16.67%) came from media outlets in Guatemala, representing 12% of the 25 clips from Guatemala:

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
<a href="#">Así es la vida con dos mamás lesbianas y un papá heterosexual</a>	Javier Estrada Tobar	<i>Nomada</i>	National	Dec. 12, 2018	Report on a family with two lesbian mothers and a heterosexual father—challenges stereotypes and projects LGBTQI people in a positive light.
<a href="#">Discriminación afecta a personas LGBT</a>	Geldi Muñoz Palala	<i>Prensa Libre</i>	National	Feb. 22, 2017	Positive reporting on the discrimination experienced by transwomen in Guatemala, highlighting their vulnerability.
<a href="#">El "Igualometro", una cabina donde se reflexiona sobre las etiquetas a la comunidad LGBTI</a>	Edwin Bercián	<i>Publinews</i>	National	May 13, 2018	Short but rights-focused report on public “Equality Metre” campaign in Guatemala as part of U.N. “Free and Equal” campaign; includes positive embedded video interview with a U.N. official.

### Analysis of media clips from news outlets in Guatemala

- The majority (96%) of media clips accessed in Guatemala were found in capital-city based media outlets, albeit with national coverage. This may account for the relatively positive levels of overall coverage tone (92% positive) and source statements tone (60% of total and 75% of clips that included source statements).
- None of the media clips accessed reported directly on LGBTQI people from indigenous populations. Two articles, however, referring to public policy, mention both indigenous people and the LGBTQI community. One mentioned the Public Ministry’s Strategic Plan 2015–2019 that “establishes **specialized attention** to certain population groups (women, children, indigenous peoples, **LGBTI groups**) who have received no attention from policies that **promote their rights** according to their specific characteristics.” The other stated that “...the four sectors represented in this activity are **marginalized from any political decision** in terms of promoting political participation in political parties and civic committees of indigenous peoples, disabled people, women and sexual diversity (LGBTIQ).”

- Most of the clips accessed in Guatemalan media outlets were human-rights informed (84%) and respectful (96%) and focused on issues such as the visibility of LGBTQI people through pride marches, non-discrimination and social inclusion. It is interesting to note, however, that the only two articles that referred directly to contemporary hate crimes<sup>4</sup> were about incidents in other countries (in Scotland and India), in a country where hate crimes and murders of LGBTQI, especially transwomen, and their perpetrators’ impunity, are a serious problem.<sup>5</sup> This may be a reflection of the capital-centered clips accessed and of the cultural divisions that exist between Guatemala City and rural areas of the country; perhaps too, of subconscious censorship and/or of prejudices based on ethnicity.
- Similarly, little mention was made of specific “vulnerable populations,” with 16% of the clips from Guatemala referring to people living with HIV or AIDS, 8% to LGBTQI people with low incomes, and 4% to sex workers. No mention was made of the issue of migration and LGBTQI people.

## 4.2 Honduras

### Media outlets accessed

The 25 media clips from Honduras were taken from the following 15 media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
<a href="#">La Tribuna</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	6
<a href="#">Criterio.hn</a>	Independent digital news outlet	3
<a href="#">La Prensa</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	2
Adictos a la verdad: Honduras	Blog	2
<a href="#">Hable como hablo HCH News YouTube channel</a>	Digital news channel	2
<a href="#">Once Noticias</a>	Channel 11 TV news channel	1
<a href="#">El País Honduras</a>	Digital news outlet, part of La Tribuna Group	1
<a href="#">Digital portal of TN5</a>	Telecentro Channel 5, national TV channel (YouTube station)	1
<a href="#">El Pulso</a>	Digital investigative reporting outlet	1
<a href="#">Digital portal of Teletvcentro</a>	Digital news outlet of Telecentro that operates Tsi, Canal 5 El Lider, and Telecadena 7 and 4 networks	1
<a href="#">Abriendo Brecha</a>	National news programs of Telecentro transmitted on channels 7, 4, and 10	1
<a href="#">El Heraldo</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	1
<a href="#">Proceso Digital</a>	Private digital news outlet	1
<a href="#">Radio America</a>	Private national radio station	1
<a href="#">CANAL 10 National Educational TV</a>	Digital TV channel that transmits educational stories	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

### Honduras MMRC rating

On the MMRC scale, Honduras scored an overall rating of 2.52, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone was between mostly good and fair or mixed.

### Media clips from news outlets in Honduras classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips in the study, two (11.11%) came from media outlets in Honduras, representing 8% of the 25 clips from Honduras:

MMRC Rating	Honduras	
	#	%
1 Excellent	2	8.00
2 Mostly Good	13	52.00
3 Fair or mixed	5	20.00
4 Poor/Problematic	5	20.00
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>	<b>2.52</b>	

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
<a href="#">Honduras: las 280 muertes de la transexual Vicky Hernández</a>	Unspecified	<i>Adictos a la verdad: Honduras</i>	National	Mar. 1, 2018	Well researched, sourced, and written; journal article style; informative, analytical.
<a href="#">Comunidad LGBTI pide castigo ante las violaciones y torturas de sus miembros</a>	Unspecified	<i>La Tribuna</i>	National	Jan. 10, 2018	As well as providing well-researched statistics, the article calls for action from the state to prevent hate crimes and assassinations of LGBTQI people.

### Analysis of media clips from news outlets in Honduras

Analysis of the 25 media clips from Honduras reveals:

- An active LGBTQI movement in a hostile cultural and political context, where some fundamentalist religious leaders and politicians express hateful and discriminatory opinions that denigrate LGBTQI people and put them at risk, even when they stop short of directly inciting violence. The only two media clips in this study that clearly contained hate speech were from news outlets in Honduras and were spoken by evangelical pastors.<sup>6</sup>
- The emergence of empowered LGBTQ organizations and individual leaders actively participating in the political life of the country. This has occurred despite the many obstacles generated by the social and political context in which they operate, including the interference of religious leaders in electoral processes, which puts LGBTQI people

at a serious disadvantage.

- An ineffective criminal justice system that allows for acts of violence and murder of LGBTQI people to be treated with impunity and in which there is little confidence.
- The use of sensationalist language and sometimes morbid images in media clips that are demeaning and insensitive, as well as the misuse of terms such as “travesti” and “homosexual marriage.”
- A general lack of enough LGBTQI sources and voices, but when these are included, the quality of the media clips’ content is markedly improved.
- Several media clips that are generally positive but fail to enter into any real in-depth analysis of the context of the discrimination and violence that LGBTQI people face in society. Similarly, some informative, analytical reports tend to use overly academic or intellectual language.
- The rejection of marriage equality by religious and

political leaders (the president) based on traditional moral stances and a discourse that favors marriage between a man and a woman and the protection of Christian family values.

- The idea that the human rights of LGBT people should not be decided by a popular referendum.

### Previous analysis of media outlets' framing of the rights of LGBTQI people in Honduras

Many of the media clips accessed from Honduras were supplied by Las Cattrachas, an established and well-respected lesbian collective that monitors discrimination, violence, and hate crimes against LGBTQI people with an emphasis on violent deaths.<sup>7</sup> The group's work includes tracking local and national media outlets. In 2016, Las Cattrachas published a report titled [Language not protected by freedom of expression: The role of communications outlets in the promotion of hate and discrimination in Honduras](#), carried out in the context of recommendations made to Honduras through the 2015 Universal Periodic Review. The report analyzed numerous media clips from influential written, television, and digital media outlets between 2013 and 2015 and highlighted the following:

- Dissemination by several media outlets of religious fundamentalist messages and prejudices that violate the human rights of the LGBTQI community
- Articles or media clips whose content and focus violate the human rights of the LGBTQI community
- The deliberate use of degrading, sexualized images of LGBTQI people that reproduce stereotypes and prejudices
- Lack of knowledge by journalists of SOGIE issues
- Digital media outlets enabling the dissemination of expressions of hate against the LGBTQI population, limiting their freedom to defend their human rights
- Lack of censorship of online homophobic hate comments that incite discrimination, attacks, and extermination of the LGBTQI community.
- The use of phone or TV surveys to reinforce prejudices and discrimination and gain support for anti-LGBTQI platforms (especially fundamentalist religious ones), generating profits for TV and phone companies.

In a [two-year report compiled at the end of 2018](#), Las Cattrachas identified the following trends that have emerged from its ongoing monitoring of media outlets in Honduras:

- Thirty-five violent deaths of LGBTI people occurred in 2017 and 25 in 2018. This violence coincided with the 2017 general election period—a time in which the climate of hatred and discrimination generally increases, and violence gets worse.

- In 2017 and 2018, nine and three cases, respectively, of violent deaths were taken to court. While this may imply a slight improvement during the electoral period in 2017, the perceived increase was not sustained in 2018, and most violent deaths of LGBTQI people continue to end with perpetrators' impunity.
- Discriminatory discourse by some religious leaders and electoral candidates in one case was linked to the vicious torture and murder of LGBTQI people.
- In the main, TV coverage of the LGBTQI community was informative, but in some cases reporters distorted content when they mocked LGBTQI people, ridiculed or treated them with contempt, or justified the discrimination against or murder of LGBTQI people.
- The content of many written media reports was informative, but headlines were often scandalous or controversial, discrediting LGBTQI people and stirring infringement of their rights.
- Reports and articles disseminated by many written and television media outlets tended to treat the "LGBTQI issue" as a trend, with less emphasis on providing the public with useful information.
- Analysis of phone surveys (Telencuesta) and cartoons or caricatures used in written media and television channels and their digital platforms (social networks, portals, and video channels) indicated that the way they were written or presented fostered morbid, discriminatory and, in many cases violent comments by members of the public.

Las Cattrachas has identified that the reporting style of some television news channels can create divisiveness, controversy, and discrimination [these include Hable como habla (HCH), Qhubo TV, Abriendo brecha y TN5—the most viewed by the public]. Others produce reflective debates and cover allegations of human rights violations (UNE TV, Once News, Radio América) or are merely informative (TSI, Hondured, LTV, and others of lesser range).

Similarly, while both print and digital written media trends are started by the four daily newspapers with the widest coverage (*La Tribuna*, *El Herald*, *La Prensa* and *Diario el Tiempo*) digital outlets are in general more oriented to reporting human rights violations (*El Proceso*, *Criteriohn*, *Confidencial*, and *El Pulso.hn*).

The 2016 Cattrachas report mentioned above highlighted the role of the daily digital platforms of *La Tribuna* and *El Herald* in fostering a climate of hostility toward the LGBTQI community. In this study, six of the 25 media clips accessed in Honduran media outlets were published by *La Tribuna*;

one of these was classified as excellent (referencing studies by Las Cattrachas and citing Indyra Mendoza of the organization as a key source), two as mainly good, one as fair or mixed, and two as poor/problematic. Similarly, the only media clip included from *El Heraldo* (an opinion piece by an Amnesty International staff member) was classified as mainly good. In the same vein, the only clip included in this study by the news programme HCH (consisting of an interview with LGBTQI leader Erik Martínez) was classified as mainly good, while an interview on TN5 (with Evelio Reyes, an evangelical pastor who in 2015 was charged with inciting hate in Honduras) was categorized as poor/problematic, containing hate speech that just stopped short of directly calling for violent acts against LGBTQI people.

Las Cattrachas has used the information generated by its monitoring and analysis of media outlets in Honduras to write reports, carry out further research, and inform its own political advocacy and public awareness raising (as well as that of other human rights organizations). It has also recognized the need to create a digital database of the media monitoring it carries out, which complements its other

digital databases: the Tmis system/observatory of violent deaths and hate crimes against LGBTQI people and the SIARE database that follows up on the recommendations made through the Universal Periodic Review.

Links to YouTube videos produced by Las Cattrachas:

- Informative Video: [Discourse that infuses hatred or contempt by religious leaders in media against the LGBTQI community](#) (2017)
- [Documentary on levels of “Transphobia”](#) (2008)
- Informative Video: [“How the media treats LGBTTI people in Honduras”](#) (2018)

Las Cattrachas has a team member who is in charge of monitoring media in Honduras, part of the Violence Against LGBTQI People Observatory.

## 4.3 El Salvador

### Media outlets accessed

The 25 media clips from El Salvador were taken from the following 11 media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
<a href="#">La Prensa Gráfica</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	4
<a href="#">El Faro</a>	Private weekly news analysis	4
<a href="#">El Mundo</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage (evening)	3
<a href="#">El Diario Co Latino</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	3
<a href="#">El Salvador Times</a>	Daily digital news outlet	3
<a href="#">elsalvador.com</a>	Daily digital news outlet; part of <i>El Diario de Hoy</i>	2
<a href="#">Diario la Página</a>	Daily digital news outlet	2
<a href="#">Noticias UCA</a>	News bulletin of the UCA Jesuit University	1
<a href="#">El Urbano</a>	Daily digital news outlet	1
<a href="#">Univo News</a>	Daily digital news outlet of students at Eastern University	1
<a href="#">Séptimo Sentido</a>	Magazine of <i>La Prensa Gráfica</i>	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

### El Salvador MMRC Rating

On the MMRC scale, El Salvador scored an overall rating of 2.28, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone were closer to mostly good than fair or mixed.

### Media clips from news outlets in El Salvador classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips identified in this study, one came from a media outlet in El Salvador, representing 4% of the 25 clips from El Salvador:

MMRC Rating	El Salvador	
	#	%
1 Excellent	1	4.00
2 Mostly Good	16	64.00
3 Fair or mixed	8	32.00
4 Poor/Problematic	0	0.00
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>	<b>2.28</b>	

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
Maras extorsionan a activista de derechos LGTBI	Marvin Rodríguez	elsalvador.com	National	June 5, 2017	Report projects empowered transwoman, willing to take risks in defense of the rights of the LGBT community, even when faced with exploitation by gangs.

### Analysis of media clips from news outlets in El Salvador

While merely one media clip from El Salvador was classified as excellent, almost two-thirds were considered mostly good, and about one-third were fair or mixed.

Several recurrent issues arose in the media clips that highlighted the current situation for LGBTI people in El Salvador:

- Ongoing high levels of discrimination and violence against LGBTI people, including hate crimes and murders and exploitation by gangs.
- Pride marches in the capital city.
- Existence of an LGBTI platform (the Salvadoran LGBT federation) with a strategic plan, including advocacy for a gender-identity law and enhanced political participation of LGBTI people.
- Collaboration between LGBTI organizations and government ministries to promote the rights of LGBTI people in El Salvador and to guarantee protection and services from the state.
- Actions taken by some state or other governmental entities to promote and protect the rights of LGBTI people

(Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works).

- Conservative values held by many political leaders, including the newly elected (young and progressive) president, related, for example, to marriage equality and the emergence of pro-LGBTI voices among youth members of right-wing party (ARENA).
- Migration and forced displacement of LGBTI people.
- Visibility of transmen and lesbians as activists.

Examination of the eight media clips classified as fair or mixed shows that their positive, often rights-based content was often overshadowed by pitfalls. Those included the use of sensationalist and disrespectful language and images; the misuse of terms (such as “transvestite,” “people with sexual diversity,” “men who dress as women,” “gay/homosexual marriage,” and “inclination” that, while perhaps unintentional in some cases, reveal and reproduce stereotypes and prejudices); failure to analyze causes of discrimination, violence and hate crimes; and the insufficient inclusion of LGBTI voices.

## 4.4 Guyana

### Media outlets accessed

The 20 media clips from Guyana were taken from the following four media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
<a href="#">Guyana Chronicle</a>	Government-owned daily newspaper with national coverage	8
<a href="#">Stabroek News</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	6
<a href="#">News Room Guyana</a>	Online news site	4
<a href="#">Kaieteur News</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

### Guyana MMRC Rating

On the MMRC scale, Guyana scored an overall rating of 2.50, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone was between mostly good and fair or mixed.

MMRC Rating	Guyana	
	#	%
1 Excellent	2	10.00
2 Mostly Good	11	55.00
3 Fair or mixed	2	10.00
4 Poor/Problematic	5	25.00
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>	<b>2.50</b>	

### Media clips from news outlets in Guyana classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips identified in this study, two came from media outlets in Guyana, representing 10% of the 20 clips from Guyana. Both of these were published in the *Stabroek News*.

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
<a href="#">Spectrum Radio seeking to create space for LGBT voices</a>	Dhanash Ramroop	<i>Stabroek News</i>	National	Sept. 12, 2018	Report on the opening of a program on Spectrum Radio dedicated to the LGBTQI community. The article allows gay leader/radio broadcaster Joel Simpson of the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) to speak for himself.

<a href="#">Reflections on Guyana's first Pride Parade: the moment the LGBTQI community came out with colors and with love</a>	Nicholas Peters (writer, volunteer member of SASOD and human rights activist)	<i>Stabroek News</i>	National	June 11, 2018	Excellent account of first pride march and its cultural and historical significance; interweaves personal testimony and political demands in a homophobic context.
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### Analysis of media clips from news outlets in Guyana

Analysis of all 20 media clips accessed in Guyanese media illuminates the following conditions that affect day-to-day life for LGBTQI people:

- A conservative social context and antiquated government stance, out of line with international law and human rights; some religious leaders (an Anglican bishop) are supportive of LGBTQI people (with some ambiguities); others are vehemently against.
- A culture characterized by homophobia and fueled by religious fundamentalism and the resultant discriminatory and violent acts used against LGBTQI people committed with impunity.
- Visible and committed LGBTQI organizations (for example the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination, or SASOD<sup>8</sup>) that have made positive progress in recent years, marked by the first pride march held in 2018; the striking down of legislation that banned cross dressing; and alliance building with other civil society organizations, some religious and political leaders, trade unions, local radio stations, and those within the education system.

Two-thirds of the media clips accessed from Guyana were classified as mostly good or fair or mixed, and one-fifth as poor/problematic. Three of the latter were published in the government-owned *Guyana Chronicle*; one in *Stabroek News*; and one in *Kaieteur News*. In general, the poor/problematic media clips were marked by a moralistic, fundamentalist religious stance, often bordering on hate speech that considers LGBTQI people as sinful and in need of help to “exit such lifestyles” and to save them from themselves.

Many of the mostly good (55%) and fair or mixed (10%) articles could have been improved if they had avoided the misuse of terms (for example “minority rights” or “gay” in

place of LGBT students; “he” when referring to a transwoman), provided deeper analysis of the causes of discrimination and violence, offered guidelines and tips on how to challenge homo/transphobia (in schools for example) and where to seek support, and included LGBTQI people directly as sources of information and analysis.

### Previous analysis of media framing of the rights of LGBTQI people in Guyana

Key findings from a 2014 study by Guyanese researcher Alana N. Da Silva ([Online Media Framing of LGBT Issues in Guyana: January 2007–July 2014](#)) are detailed below.

#### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In defining the situations that can be classified as “media bias” against LGBT people, Da Silva offers the following examples:

- The use of sensational headlines and graphic images such as “Two gays killed by spurned lover” or “Gays stabbed to death; Juan Edghill’s utterance blamed,” etc., including photographs of the deceased LGBT people at the scene of the crime, bloodied and battered.
- The use of disparaging words or phrases to describe LGBT people, such as “anti-man” or “faggot,” or use of the words “gay” and “lesbian” in a negative context or for sensationalism.
- Lack of balance and objectivity in providing sources and overall subjective reporting, measured by insufficient or an absence of opposing views on an issue.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF FRAMES AND CONCEPTS

In analyzing 73 articles, Da Silva identified 19 frames or concepts, their major proponents, categories of tone (positive/negative/neutral), and definition, as detailed in the table on next page.



Frames	Sponsors	Category	Definition
1. A threat to marriage	Religious	Negative	Argues that homosexuality is a threat to traditional marriage.
2. Abomination/sin	Religious	Negative	Argues that homosexuality is a sin and disgrace to civil society.
3. Anti-man/homo	Religious	Negative	Derogatory and demeaning phrases directed at LGBT people; name calling.
4. Immorality	Religious/ News Organization	Negative	Argues that same-sex relationships often lead to a break-down in good/traditional morals and values.
5. Lawlessness	Religious/ News Organization	Negative	Asserts that same-sex marriage/relationships are illegal and those who support them are criminals; opponents of same-sex marriage are simply upholding the law.
6. One man, one woman	Religious	Negative	Argues that marriage is defined exclusively as a union between two people of the opposite sex.
7. Pedophilia/child abuse/incest	Religious	Negative	States that homosexuality leads to an increase in pedophilia, child abuse, incest, polygamy, and so on, or LGBT people are pedophiles.
8. Sensational headline	News Organization	Negative	Classifies a person as a lesbian, gay, or transgender instead of as a human being
9. Sex worker	Religious	Negative	Says that LGBT people engage mainly in sex work and deviant acts to earn a living.
10. Slippery slope	Religious	Negative	Defines same-sex marriage as the beginning and end of civilization...and the gateway to future moral atrocities.
11. Human interest	News Organization	Negative/ Positive/Neutral	Highlights the life, work, and achievements of famous LGBT Activists in Guyana and around the world.
12. Non-committal on law reform	Political Organisation	Neutral	Claims that society is not ready to embrace homosexuality, and the country should wait until people are more accepting to change the laws.
13. Political Gain	Political Organization	Neutral	Advocates that equal rights for LGBT people will assist a political party to win votes or gain political points.
14. Human Rights	In the Diaspora	Neutral/Posi- tive/ Negative	Contains personal stories, court cases, and non-fiction stories of LGBT Guyanese in Guyana and residing abroad.
15. Culture & Entertainment	Human Rights Organization	Positive	Acknowledges LGBT people, including Guyanese, who have contributed to the nation's culture and positive advancement.
16. Human Rights	Human Rights Organization	Positive	Argues that criminalizing adult same-sex relationships is a violation of basic human rights (e.g., under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNCRC, etc.)

17. Non-Discrimination	Religious / Political Organization/ Human Rights Organization	Positive	Asserts that LGBT people should not be discriminated against while in search of employment, place of worship, and so on.
18. Non-Discrimination	In the Diaspora	Positive	Advocates non-discrimination of LGBT people in Guyana and around the world.
19. Non-Discrimination	News Organization	Positive	Includes articles about famous LGBT people, their work, and life experiences as human interest pieces free from bias.

### FINDINGS

Based on data collected from 73 online news stories from several media outlets, major findings of the Da Silva study were:

1. Media reporting of LGBT issues in Guyana from January 2007 to July 2014 contained some bias and subjectivity against LGBT people. Nineteen frames were found, and stories were largely influenced by religious bodies (31%), news organizations (30%), and human rights organizations (30%). However, negative framing was largely influenced by religious bodies (92%).
2. *Kaieteur News* and *Guyana Times* published the highest negative framing at 61% and 53%, respectively. The least negative were the *Stabroek News* and *Guyana Chronicle*, at 40% each.
3. *Stabroek News* was also the least neutral entity at 1%, compared to the *Guyana Times* and *Kaieteur News*, at 24% each.
4. The most frequent positive frames were published by *Stabroek News* at 60%. However, this did not translate into “diversity” in the types of stories published.
5. LGBT stories were least influenced by political organizations and persons in the diaspora (0.4% each).
6. There was a lack of diverse perspectives, positive reporting, or success stories about LGBT people within the seven-year period.
7. The “non-discrimination” and “human rights” frames were used more often than any other frames in the media.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DA SILVA STUDY

Based on the findings presented in the Da Silva study, “some possible recommendations that may promote greater journalistic integrity in reporting LGBT issues in Guyana” were suggested:

1. The media should engage in continuous sensitization training and workshops on how to cover LGBT issues in Guyana and around the world.
2. The media should also employ a scientific mechanism or tool to measure their objectivity. As recommended in previous studies, “Cultural studies today should discuss how the media and culture can be transformed into instruments of social change.”
3. Media houses should diversify their coverage of LGBT people and issues to educate, inform, and inspire greater respect for human beings. This should be done independently and continually, while publishing perspectives from multiple and opposing sources.
4. The media in Guyana should report the news objectively and without elements of religious or other slanting—while embodying the principles of journalistic integrity.

### CONCLUSION OF THE DA SILVA STUDY

This study concludes that online news stories in Guyana are often biased in their coverage of LGBT issues—and that the sources of biased reporting are mainly religious bodies and news organizations themselves.

Though the latter part of the hypothesis—regarding society’s perception of LGBT people—has not been proven, this research raises pertinent questions about the roots of violence and discrimination against LGBT people and other marginalized groups in Guyana, complex issues that an understanding of which would require extensive qualitative research and analysis of the media, culture, and both of their effects on Guyanese society.

## 4.5 Trinidad and Tobago

### Media outlets accessed

The 20 media clips from Trinidad and Tobago were taken from the following four media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
<a href="#">Guardian</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	8
<a href="#">Newsday</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage	6
<a href="#">Loop</a>	Online news outlet	5
<a href="#">Daily Express</a>	Private daily newspaper with national coverage owned by Caribbean Communications Network (CCN)	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

### Trinidad and Tobago MMRC Rating

On the MMRC scale, Trinidad and Tobago scored an overall rating of 2.2, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone was between mostly good and fair or mixed.

MMRC Rating	Trinidad and Tobago	
	#	%
1 Excellent	3	15.00
2 Mostly Good	12	60.00
3 Fair or mixed	3	15.00
4 Poor/Problematic	2	10.00
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>	<b>2.20</b>	

### Media clips from news outlets in Trinidad and Tobago classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips in this study, three (16.67%) came from media outlets in Trinidad and Tobago, representing 15% of the 20 clips from Trinidad and Tobago. Two of these were published in *Newsday* and one in the *Guardian*.

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
<a href="#">Homosexuality not a moral issue</a>	Elvis Elahie/ Arthur Dash	<i>Newsday</i>	National	Aug. 21, 2018	Excellent analysis of misuse of biblical sources to back up prejudices and moral positions, in accessible language.
<a href="#">Does conversion therapy work?</a>	Features	<i>Newsday</i>	National	Aug. 27, 2018	Informative article that combines personal testimony with scientific evidence that denounces conversion therapy; highly respectful of man who claims he has been cured, even when skeptical.

<a href="#">Love your child unconditionally</a>	Joel Julien	Guardian	National	Jan. 27, 2018	Highlights Silver Lining Foundation's work with young LGBT people and their families (support, groups, campaign, etc.) and in society on wider issue of homophobia; positive tone; gives phone number and email for those who need support or more information; denounces the dangers of conversion therapy and religious groups that promote it; homophobia reinforced by religious doctrine and hypermasculinity; cites 2013 study by U.N. AIDS/CADRES on the attitudes toward homosexuals in Trinidad and Tobago that "showed that 56% of the population were either 'accepting' or 'tolerant' of homosexuals and 78% said that people should not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation."
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**Analysis of media clips from news outlets in Trinidad and Tobago**

In April 2018, the Trinidad and Tobago High Court declared the country's buggery law (Section 13 of the *Sexual Offences Act 1986*) unconstitutional, as it infringed on the rights of LGBT citizens and criminalized consensual sexual acts between adults. The law stipulated that those found guilty of buggery would be sentenced to 25 years in prison, while other sexual acts (such as oral sex) carried a five-year sentence. Consequently, the media clips accessed from news outlets in Trinidad and Tobago reflect coverage of opinions and events leading up to during and after the court's ruling.

Analysis of all 20 media clips accessed in news outlets in Trinidad and Tobago reveals the following emerging issues:

- A sociocultural context characterized by conservative values and within which some religious leaders and others disseminate a moralist, homophobic discourse that vilifies LGBTQI people and sees them as sinful.
- A vibrant, rights-based LGBTQI movement that has built alliances with other sectors in society (academia, trade unions, civil society organizations, some religious leaders); often prone to backlash, intimidation, and threats.
- The emergence of a progressive religious discourse that questions the conservative, fundamentalist interpretation

of homosexuality as anathema to Christianity and analyzes the misuse of biblical sources to back up established prejudices and moral positions.

- Gaps in scientific knowledge of LGBTQI issues among writers, reporters, and some LGBTQI sources and allies, and/or limitations in developing in-depth analysis.

Three out of five media clips accessed in Trinidad and Tobago news outlets were classified as mostly good and, in general, these were human-rights informed and respectful, projecting positive images of LGBTQI people and their collaborations with other sectors of society to claim their rights. Many of these stories could have been strengthened by a more direct, evidence-informed critique of religious leaders' homophobic stances, more in-depth analysis of the issues, and the provision of information on support or services available.

Five of the media clips (25% of the total) were categorized as either fair or mixed (3) or poor/problematic (2). The three fair or mixed clips tended not to develop analysis of the issues discussed or misused language (for example referring to a transman as a transwoman, using terms like "LGBT lifestyle" and "LGBT agenda"), and one used sensationalist language in its headline. The two poor/problematic clips both focused on the homophobic discourse of religious leaders without

challenging or condemning them, providing sufficient counter arguments and analysis, or enabling a platform for LGBTQI people to talk for themselves.

## 4.6 Mexico

### Media outlets accessed

The 45 media clips from Mexico were taken from the following 19 media outlets:

Name of outlet	Description of outlet	# of clips
<a href="#">Excelsior</a>	Established, privately owned national daily newspaper	7
<a href="#">Informador.mx</a>	Online news site	6
<a href="#">El Sol de Mexico</a>	Established, privately owned national daily newspaper	5
<a href="#">Cultura colectiva</a>	Digital news/analysis platform with “biggest audience in Mexico”	4
<a href="#">El Universal</a>	Established privately owned Mexico City daily newspaper	2
<a href="#">Publometro</a>	Free daily newspaper	2
<a href="#">Televisa</a>	Mexico’s TV giant, with four networks and many local affiliates	2
<a href="#">Animal Politico</a>	Privately owned digital political analysis/news portal	2
<a href="#">El Diario de Mexico</a>	Mexico City online daily informative news outlet	2
<a href="#">Sin embargo.mx</a>	Online news site	2
<a href="#">Proceso</a>	Privately owned weekly political news outlet	2
<a href="#">TV Azteca</a>	Private TV network, with two networks and local stations (main competitor of Televisa)	2
<a href="#">Uniradioinforma</a>	Digital news outlet based in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.	1
<a href="#">Hipertextual</a>	Independent digital publication specializing in science, technology, and digital culture	1
<a href="#">Expansion</a>	Business magazine online	1
<a href="#">Merca20</a>	Monthly online/marketing magazine	1
Huffington Post Mexico	Digital online news site	1
<a href="#">Forbes Mexico</a>	Media outlet focusing on business, investing, technology, entrepreneurship, leadership, and lifestyle	1
<a href="#">El Sol de Tijuana</a>	Privately owned Tijuana daily newspaper	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

Thirty-five (78%) of the media clips in Mexico were from media outlets providing national coverage; eight (18%) were based in México City, and two (4%) were based in other cities.

### Mexico MMRC Rating

On the MMRC scale, Mexico scored an overall rating of 2.24, indicating a selection of media clips in which the overall coverage tone and source statements tone was between mostly good and fair or mixed.

### Media clips from news outlets in Mexico classified as excellent

Of the 18 excellent media clips in this study, six (33.33%) came from the following media outlets in Mexico, representing 13.33% of the 45 clips from Mexico.

MMRC Rating	Mexico	
	#	%
1 Excellent	6	13.33
2 Mostly Good	24	53.33
3 Fair or mixed	13	28.89
4 Poor/Problematic	2	4.44
5 Terrible/Dangerous	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>MMRC Average</b>	<b>2.24</b>	

Story Title	Story Author(s)	News Outlet Name	Geographical Coverage	Publication Date	Comments
<a href="#">A 40 años de las marchas gay</a>	Carlos Villasana and Rodrigo Hidalgo	<i>El Universal</i>	1	June 22, 2018	Tells the history of pride marches in Mexico City; highlights historical tension between political/rights approach and party/fun/carnival one; emphasizes the importance of visibility and the diverse groups that take part in pride marches and their diverse interests.
<a href="#">Comunidad LGBT exige reconocimiento rumbo a la 4 Transformación</a>	Publimetro	<i>Publimetro</i>	1	Nov. 15, 2018	Short, succinct article—trans-women speaking for themselves, addressing the right to legal identity, protection, political participation, and respect of rights in new governmental period.
<a href="#">Discriminación en un clic: la homofobia a través de las redes sociales en México</a>	Mónica Redondo	<i>Hipertextual</i>	1	May 3, 2018	In-depth article about online discrimination and homophobia; gives some pointers on how to deal with online discrimination and highlights legal framework.
<a href="#">Llegan a Tijuana migrantes LGBT</a>	EFE	<i>Informador</i>	2	Nov. 12, 2018	Gay migrant from Honduras interviewed says the LGBT group moved ahead of the main migrants' caravan to avoid being dealt with last, as usually happens to LGBT people. Their initiative challenges LGBT people as victims; trans-woman in video doesn't speak, reproducing hierarchies within LGBT community. Rest of the report is not LGBT-focused.

<a href="#">Tras 13 días desaparecida, encuentran muerta a activista LGBT en Guanajuato</a>	Redacción Animal Político	<i>Animal Político</i>	1	Mar. 28, 2018	Example of lesbians using their own voices to denounce the murder of a lesbian, María Guadalupe Flores, as femicide; feminist stance; respectful, human portrayal of Flores as a rights- and community-minded activist.
A qué se enfrenta la agenda LGBT+ en el proceso electoral del 2018	Ricardo Baruch	<i>Huffpost</i>	1	Apr. 20, 2018	While acknowledging progress vis-à-vis the rights of LGBT people, the article warns of conservative, religious backlash and the need for greater participation of LGBT people as candidates in the elections and demands that candidates include the interests of the LGBTI community in their discourse and electoral promises.

### Analysis of media clips from news outlets in Mexico

In 2011, the Mexican Constitution was amended to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. At the federal level, anti-discrimination laws have granted protection to LGBTQI people since 2003. In 2013, Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled that two anti-gay words, “puñal” and “maricones,” are not protected as freedom of expression under the Constitution, allowing people offended by the terms to sue for moral damages. The federal governance system adopted in Mexico, however, means that some pro-LGBTQI legislation varies from state to state. Some provisions, such as marriage equality<sup>9</sup> and the right to change one’s legal gender,<sup>10</sup> are available only in some states.

Culturally, the human rights of LGBTQI people in Mexico are affected by “machismo,” the embeddedness and intensity of which in specific contexts leads to discrimination and violence, including hate crimes, against LGBTQI people. The 45 media clips accessed in Mexican news outlets reflect the ongoing struggle of the LGBTQI community for equal rights and freedoms in both the legal and cultural domains.

Analysis of all 45 media clips accessed in news outlets in Mexico reveals the following conditions:

- The existence, especially in Mexico City, of a historical LGBTQI movement with a political vision that has struggled for equal rights and opportunities for many decades, emphasizing political and social gains for the LGBTQ community, the importance of visibility, and the co-existence of diverse expressions within the LGBTQI

movement. Some reports portray LGBTQI people as politically active in the context of a conservative, religious backlash and the need for greater participation of LGBT people in politics; others portray LGBTQI people primarily as consumers and “party goers,” peddling on and reinforcing stereotypes.

- Mixed coverage of the transgender and transsexual community. On one hand, some articles contain positive portrayals of transgender women who, with their own voices, address their rights to a legal identity, protection, self-defense (martial arts), political participation, and the obligation of government to respect their rights. On the other hand, however, some reporters misuse terms (for example transsexual in place of transgender), resort to stereotypes and sensationalist reporting that reinforce prejudices (for example, reducing transwomen to “sexiservidoras” and, in a headline, including the word “plague” used by a boxer to refer to LGBTQI people), and fail to analyze the causes of discrimination and violence against the trans community. Some photos used tend to reinforce stereotypes of transwomen, detracting from the central human rights focus.
- The challenges, including homophobic abuse, discrimination, and violence, faced by LGBTQI people traveling through Mexico en route from their home countries in Central America to the United States—as well as the support they receive from Mexican human rights organizations. In one [key media clip](#), LGBT people speak for themselves (in the article and embedded videos), with knowledge of their rights, but the (often implicit) homophobia and classism expressed by local residents

(“we have children here and don’t want then to see these things, like two men kissing”) are not challenged sufficiently, and more time is given to them than to the LGBT spokespersons. [Another clip](#) focuses on the discrimination, marginalization, and abuse that transwomen migrating from Central America to the United States face from other migrants on the way, and on their strategies to protect themselves.

- The ongoing struggle to prevent and respond to discrimination and violence against LGBTQI people, including
    - a) the denunciation of discrimination and violence perpetrated by authorities and
    - b) the need to address abuse and discrimination when it happens online.
  - The existence of a clear feminist, lesbian voice and activism that condemns violence and hate crimes against lesbians and considers the murder of lesbians as a manifestation of femicide—the killing of women on account of their gender.
  - Advocacy for the rights of the LGBTQI community by celebrities, for example the message of respect and support by Yalitza Aparicio (of the film *Roma*) or of Fey (the Mexican singer), who advocates for the inclusion of LGBT issues in political parties’ electoral manifestos.
  - Advocacy for the rights of the LGBTQI community by politicians including governmental action to promote visibility and rights of LGBT people; initiatives to harmonize marriage equality legislation across the country, the criminalization of conversion therapy; and the promotion of equality through sport. Direct LGBTQI voices, however, were generally missing in reports related to the advocacy role of politicians and entertainers.
- Pressure by LGBTQI people on politicians to support the equal rights of the LGBTQI community (for example demanding that the state governor of Nuevo León retract homophobic statements against marriage equality; transwoman activist calling on presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador—now president—to include LGBT people and their rights in his program).
  - Marketing and branding initiatives taken by private-sector companies (Doritos, Sprite, Uber) using rainbow colors, some more than others linked to promoting equal rights, respect, and inclusion of the LGBTQI community and against discrimination. The promotion of specialized tourism in Cuba for LGBTQI people, however, is associated with “hotels for adults only,” reproducing stereotypes.
  - The positive portrayal of homoparental families, challenging stereotypes, homophobia, and discrimination, but with little or no analysis of the hurdles that homoparental families face.
  - Derogatory language and misuse of terms by the authors of several media stories (e.g., “transvestites dressed in high heels,” “young people in underwear and leather,” “sexual preference,” “gay-lesbo community”) that reinforce stereotypes and detract from positive rights-based, respectful reporting. TV panel debates that pitch LGBTQI people against fundamentalist adversaries use sensationalism to provoke antagonistic reactions that detract from and trivialize the issues being discussed.
  - While some media clips feature interviews and direct references from LGBTQI sources, many, even some that are generally, positive, fail to give LGBTQI people a voice of their own.



# 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

## 5.1 Conclusions

1. In general, in the six countries included in this media scan, news coverage of issues concerning the human rights of LGBTQI people and communities is good or mostly good. Almost four out of five of the clips accessed (79.38%) had a **positive coverage tone**, and just over three out of five of the clips (63.75%) had a **positive overall source tone**. The average MMRC rating was 2.28.
2. Good or mostly good media coverage, however, should not be taken as an indicator of low levels of LGBTQIphobia in each of the participating countries, but rather as a gauge that many journalists have some knowledge of LGBTQI issues and rights and a commitment to reporting on these in ethical and respectful ways, within a broad human rights framework.
3. The content of many of the media clips accessed bears witness to social contexts where, despite considerable cultural, social, and political gains over several decades, **1)** the human rights of LGBTQI people are under constant attack, **2)** hostile religious fundamentalisms fan the flames of prejudice and hate, and **3)** biased and ineffective criminal justice systems enable impunity for discrimination, violence, and hate crimes committed against LGBTQI people. The media clips also portray the existence of LGBTQI organizations and movements with a clear vision of their rights and a strong determination to make them a reality.
4. The acronym LGBTQI (or variations of it) is the umbrella term most commonly used by journalists in the majority of media clips accessed (83.75%). While this is a useful shorthand for journalists, its generic character has the disadvantage of ignoring the specific concerns and needs of individual groups represented by these initials (for example lesbians or transgender women) and of reinforcing their invisibility and particular struggles.
5. Articles that featured the “LGBTQI community” as its main population addressed gay men twice as many times as lesbians (34 and 17 times, respectively), and merely two clips were exclusively about lesbians. Similarly, transgender (and transsexual) identities were addressed only specifically in just over a quarter of the articles that featured “LGBTQI community” as its main subject.

Bisexual and intersexual people were not featured as the main population in any media clips and were addressed or mentioned in only three and one media clip, respectively. Very little direct coverage was given to vulnerable groups within the LGBTQI community, such as people living with HIV or AIDS, on low incomes, migrants, sex workers, or those deprived of freedom (prisoners).

6. Political and religious leaders and entertainers did not figure prominently as influencers in the 160 media clips accessed. Second to LGBTQI people themselves, staff from NGOs were the major sources of information, analysis, and comment, having been interviewed, consulted, or cited in almost half of the 160 clips accessed. Many of these were from LGBTQI organizations. These were followed by government officials (21.25%), politicians (12.50%), lawyers and legal experts (14.38%), academics/social scientists (8.75%), and religious leaders (8.13%). Only five media clips (3.13%) featured well-known entertainers.
7. In the 45 media clips that addressed the transgender population, misgendering occurred in five of them (3.13%). This was mostly related to confusion over whether a trans person should be referred to using his or her sex at birth or her or his chosen identity. In one case from El Salvador, two transwomen were referred to as “men dressed as women.”
8. The four most common characteristics of media clips with a positive/neutral coverage tone were **a)** sufficient LGBTQI+A voices, **b)** use of accessible language, **c)** a fair, balanced, and objective approach, and **d)** challenge of negative myths/stereotypes. Many of the media clips that were classified as mostly good or fair or mixed could have been improved by the reporter paying more attention to these aspects and including general information on LGBTQI issues and links to resources and support services for LGBTQI people.
9. Slightly more than one-eighth of media clips were not human-rights informed, and 30% used language that was disrespectful to LGBTQI people. Smaller percentages (about 10% or fewer) portrayed stereotypes and used sensationalist, moralizing, marginalizing, and/or discriminatory language. While merely two media clips specifically registered the use of hate language, it could be

argued that the very use of language that is sensationalist, discriminatory, or disrespectful and/or that fails to emphasize human rights reinforces the hate discourses that are disseminated by conservative and fundamentalist religious and political leaders, often through their own media platforms and other outlets (places of worship, for example).

## 5.2 Recommendations

Based on the information retrieved in this scan, the authors recommend strengthening alliances in the LAC region between LGBTQ organizations and news outlets, especially those with widespread coverage, in order to:

- a) Increase the numbers and quality of articles and broadcast stories that include the voices, opinions, experience, and knowledge of LGBTQ people; that are human-rights informed and respectful; and that not only inform but educate and raise awareness of LGBTQ issues.
- b) Provide sensitization training and workshops for journalists on how to cover gender equality and LGBTQ issues. Existing materials and guides (see [Annex 1](#)) can be adapted and used for this. The focus of this training should be on transforming attitudes and behaviour toward gender, making links between entrenched views of patriarchal masculinities and discrimination based on SOGIE, and on the ethical aspects of reporting—not just on providing knowledge and technical tools. Consider collaborations with universities to offer accredited courses or diplomas.

The following are some key technical themes that can be included in sensitisation training and workshops for journalists:<sup>11</sup>

- LGBTQ terminology, terms to avoid, defamatory language
- Use of positive images of LGBTQ people
- Reporting on the transgender community
- Human rights, international and national legislation, and the LGBTQ community
- Discrimination (general, education, work, health)
- Violence and hate crimes
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, AIDS, and the LGBTQ community
- Marriage equality and parenting
- Religion, faith, and SOGIE
- “Conversion therapy”
- LGBTQ people in sports and entertainment
- The political participation of LGBTQ people in society
- Resources and support services for LGBTQ people.

- c) Create and/or strengthen collaborations with sympathetic journalists to widen their knowledge and awareness of SOGIE issues and encourage them to cover the needs and interests of vulnerable groups within the LGBTQ community that generate understanding of their situation(s) and solidarity with them.
- d) Encourage journalists to write and publish stories that focus on successful LGBTQ people in all spheres of life (as role models for others) and on initiatives led by LGBTQ organizations and individuals that highlight their intelligence, creativity, entrepreneurship, and positive participation in the public and political spheres of life.
- e) Provide knowledge and tools for LGBTQ people and journalists to interact with fundamentalist religious discourse and cultural norms in positive ways that challenge and offer counter arguments that encourage readers, listeners, and viewers to examine their values, attitudes, and practices vis-à-vis LGBTQ people and their rights.
- f) Develop and/or strengthen mechanisms for LGBTQ organizations to monitor key media outlets and establish dialogue to offer feedback and support to improve the quality of coverage of LGBTQ issues.

LGBTQ organizations can achieve wider and deeper media reach by identifying key progressive religious and political leaders and influential entertainers or celebrities (singers, sports and TV personalities) that can become advocates (ambassadors or champions) for the rights of LGBTQ people via media interventions (press, TV, radio, social media, and so on). This may entail sensitization training and workshops for religious and political leaders on how to broach gender equality and LGBTQ issues via the media as well as specific media skills training.

LGBTQ organizations themselves would benefit from receiving training on how oppressive structures intersect (sexism, racism, discrimination based on SOGIE, classism, ageism, and so on) and how these affect power dynamics; rights; opportunities; and access to resources and media coverage within LGBTQ organizations, coalitions, and movements. Media skills training would also be beneficial for LGBTQ organizations with emphasis on understanding the logic of conservative and religious fundamentalisms and how to interact with them in positive ways and challenge them, using convincing, evidence-based arguments.

Review the [Taboom Media’s Media Monitoring and Response Coalition](#) rating system in conjunction with other monitoring

initiatives being used (or previously used) by LGBTQI organizations in LAC (for example Las Cattrachas in Honduras and the study from Guyana cited in this media scan, as well as the Regional Network of Information about Violence against LGBT People, supported by Diakonia<sup>12</sup>) and the guides for media coverage of the LGBTQI community included in [Annex 1](#) of this report (and others that may be available) to develop a tool with a simplified set of variables and indicators that can be used easily and efficiently by LGBTQI organizations in their own settings.

Develop clear guidelines related to how key concepts are understood, for example “hate speech,” “discriminatory language,” “sufficient LGBTQI voices,” and so on, and how to delineate between similar concepts, to facilitate the more accurate classification of media clips. Similarly, differentiate between media clips that are in themselves LGBTQiphobic and those that report on the LGBTQiphobia of third parties, and the degree to which discrimination and hate speech are challenged within the media clips involved.

## 6. Annexes

### Annex 1: Guides for media coverage of the LGBTQI community

1. [GLAAD Media Reference Guide Tenth Edition 2016](#)
2. [GLAAD Reporting on the Bisexual Community Media Resource Guide](#)
3. [GLAAD Network Responsibility Index 2015](#)
4. [GLAAD Where are we on TV report 2018-2019](#)
5. [GLAAD Guía Para los Medios – De la Alianza Gay y Lésbica Contra la Difamación \(Spanish language media guide\) 2010](#)
6. [GLAAD Todavía invisibles 2017 – The second annual report on LGBTQ inclusive representation in Spanish-language media](#)
7. [Claves para comunicar en un mundo diverso – Guía de comunicación para el abordaje de temas LGBTI con enfoque de derechos 2013, RDS Nicaragua](#)
8. [¿De qué manera los medios de comunicación pueden ser aliados de la comunidad intersexual?](#) Por Laura Inter y Eva Alcántara, Brújula Intersexual

<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Brian Pellot from the peer-reviewed Gender Links paper [“A snapshot of LGBT media coverage in East, West and Southern Africa.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> See for example <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-20073045>

<sup>3</sup> Percentages are calculated in relation to the total number of clips (160) as some of the clips that registered one or more of the indicators for positive overall coverage tone may have been classified as incomplete. For example, of the 57 clips that were categorized as having sufficient LGBTQI voices, some may have been classified as incomplete, taking into account other incomplete or negative characteristics of the clip.

<sup>4</sup> Article “Guate\_5\_C-POS\_T-POS\_18MAY2018” is a report on the persecution and criminalisation of LGBTQI people by the security forces in Guatemala between 1960 and 1990, that may have included hate crimes committed.

<sup>5</sup> See: [Diagnóstico de situación de la comunidad LGBTI en 4 países centroamericanos \(El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua\)](#), page 26, Mugen Gainetik, Basque Country; “In 2017, had the second highest number of transwomen murders relative to its population, at almost 3 for every million inhabitants.” See: [Human Rights Violations Against Transgender Women in Guatemala](#), page 8; report submitted for consideration at the 122nd Session of the Human Rights Committee Geneva, March-April 2018: “[In Guatemala], the State has not done a proper job prosecuting hate crimes against the LGBTI population. Between 2010 and 2015, the Prosecutors Office (Ministerio Público) has reported only 11 cases related to the LGBTI population concerning discrimination, threats, forced sex work, violence against women and injuries.”

<sup>6</sup> In 2013 in Honduras, Pastor Evelio Reyes was taken to court for using discriminatory language that denigrated LGBTQI people but was found not guilty. The case is well documented by Las Cattrachas in [Language not protected by freedom of expression: The role of communications outlets in the promotion of hate and discrimination in Honduras](#).

<sup>7</sup> Las Cattrachas has developed a data-recording system known as “Tmis” that generates statistical information of violent deaths of lesbians, gays, and transgender people that includes a dossier for each case that is updated over time. Tmis has been replicated in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Bajo Aguan, Honduras.

<sup>8</sup> As of this writing, SASOD in Guyana posts every local news story on LGBTQI issues on its [Facebook](#) page

<sup>9</sup> Marriage between people of the same sex are performed only in Mexico City, Baja California, Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Colima, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Puebla, Quintana Roo, and parts of Guerrero, Oaxaca, Querétaro, and Zacatecas, but are recognized throughout the country.

<sup>10</sup> Only in Mexico City, Coahuila, Michoacán, and Nayarit.

<sup>11</sup> Adapted from: GLAAD Media Reference Guide, United States, 2016

<sup>12</sup> Member organizations as of December 2018 are: Las Cattrachas Honduras, COMCAVIS El Salvador, REDNADS/LAMBDA Guatemala, Colombia Diversa; LETRA S Mexico, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana (Mexico), and the Red Paraguaya de la Diversidad Sexual or REPADIS (Paraguay).

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### PATRICK WELSH

Born in Northern Ireland and raised in Scotland, Patrick Welsh taught in Nigeria in the early 1980s before moving in 1986 to Nicaragua, where he spent five years working in rural areas affected by the Contra war, promoting popular education as a tool for human and creative/artistic development within the context of the Sandinista Revolution.

After a short spell working with CAFOD in London in the early 1990s, he returned to Nicaragua in 1993. For the next 10 years, as a development worker employed by the Catholic Institute for International Relations-CIIR (latterly known as PROGRESSIO), he supported the work of the Nicaraguan NGOs the Centre for Popular Communications and Education (CANTERA) and the Association of Men Against Violence (AMAV), of which he is a founding member, in the development of strategies and participatory methodologies for gender training and awareness raising with men. During that period, he also coordinated the AMAV LAC regional program, which entailed extending the work with men on gender and masculinities to Honduras, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Peru.

Since 2003, as a freelance consultant, Welsh has supported the initiatives of many local, national, and international organizations in the design and delivery of projects and programs to engage men and boys for gender equality, including LGBT rights and HIV prevention. These organizations include: Puntos de Encuentro and the Masculinities Network for Gender Equality-REDMAS in Nicaragua; Sonke Gender Justice Network in South Africa; the MenEngage Alliance globally and in Latin America; CARE International in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean; Voices for Change - V4C/Dfid in Nigeria; and UNDP, UNHCR, PAHO, and UNFPA.

Welsh is the author of *Men are Not from Mars: Unlearning Machismo in Nicaragua*, which documents CANTERA's work on masculinities in Nicaragua from 1993 to 2000. He has also written numerous articles for national and international publications on issues of masculinities, GBV, sexuality, sexual abuse, SOGIE, and homophobia. He has had chapters published in peer-reviewed journals *The Community Development Journal* (Oxford Journals) and *IDS Bulletin* ("Undressing Patriarchy: Men and Structural Violence"), and in books *Men and Development: Politicizing Masculinities* and *A Man's World?*

Welsh is a committed activist in the promotion and defense of women's rights and LGBTI rights.

## ABOUT ARCUS FOUNDATION

Founded in 2000, the Arcus Foundation is dedicated to the idea that people can live in harmony with one another and the natural world. Arcus' work is based on the belief that respect for diversity among peoples and in nature is essential to a positive future for our planet and all of its inhabitants. Arcus is among the most consistent funders of social justice work pushing for the safety, acceptance, and inclusion of LGBTQ people around the world, and of conservation work to ensure the world's great apes and gibbons can thrive in their natural habitats. The Foundation works globally and has offices in New York City and Cambridge, United Kingdom. Learn more at [www.arcusfoundation.org](http://www.arcusfoundation.org).

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