



1. Please provide information relating to the treatment of lesbians in Ethiopia.

Same-sex sexual activity is illegal in Ethiopia and there is evidence that homosexuality is viewed adversely and with considerable hostility by the broader community. Discrimination against homosexuals appears to be widespread and is not seen by the government to be a human rights issue. While there is little detailed information specifically regarding the treatment of lesbians, the threat of arrest for homosexual conduct and societal discrimination are sources of potential harm.

Legal standing and treatment by the authorities

In Ethiopia, same-sex sexual activity is illegal and punishable by imprisonment under provisions of the *Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2004* at Articles 629 to 631 which read as follows:

Article 629.- Homosexual and other Indecent Acts.

Whoever performs with another person of the same sex a homosexual act, or any other indecent act, is punishable with simple imprisonment.

Article 630.- General Aggravation to the Crime.

(1) The punishment shall be simple imprisonment for not less than one year, or, in grave cases, rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years, where the criminal:

- a) takes unfair advantage of the material or mental distress of another or of the authority he exercises over another by virtue of his position, office or capacity as guardian, tutor, protector, teacher, master or employer, or by virtue of any other like relationship, to cause such other person to perform or to submit to such an act; or
- b) makes a profession of such activities within the meaning of the law (Art. 92).

(2) The punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from three years to fifteen years, where:

- a) the criminal uses violence, intimidation or coercion, trickery or fraud, or takes unfair advantage of the victim's inability to offer resistance or to defend himself or of his feeble-mindedness or unconsciousness; or
- b) the criminal subjects his victim to acts of cruelty or sadism, or transmits to him a venereal disease with which he knows himself to be infected; or
- c) the victim is driven to suicide by distress, shame or despair.

Article 631.- Homosexual and Other Indecent Acts Performed on Minors.

- (1) Whoever performs a homosexual act on a minor, is punishable:
 - a) with rigorous imprisonment from three years to fifteen years, where the victim is between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years; or
 - b) with rigorous imprisonment from fifteen years to twentyfive years, where the victim is below thirteen years of age.
- (2) A woman who performs a homosexual act on a female minor, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years.
- (3) Whoever performs any other indecent act on a minor of the same sex, is punishable with simple imprisonment.
- (4) Where the victim is the pupil, apprentice, domestic servant or ward of the criminal, or a child entrusted to his custody or care, or in any other way directly dependant upon or subordinate to him:
 - a) in the case of sub-article (1) the punishment to , be imposed upon such criminal shall be more severe than when the crime is committed by another person;
 - b) b) in the case of sub-article (2) the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from three years to ten years;
 - c) in the case of sub-article (3) the punishment shall be simple imprisonment for not less than six months.
- (5) Where the sexual outrage has caused death or grave physical or mental injury upon the victim, or where the victim is driven to suicide by distress, shame or despair, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment for life.¹

The United Nations Human Rights Committee responsible for reviewing the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Ethiopia has observed that that the criminalisation of same-sex sexual activity raised serious issues under several articles of the ICCPR. In response, the Ethiopian delegation stated that homosexuality was a criminal act in Ethiopia, but that it did not know of anyone who had been prosecuted under this law. The Committee members commented that this did not mean homosexuals were not discriminated against and asked whether Ethiopia was able to protect individuals who had experienced discrimination. According to the report, the Ethiopian delegation said that there was “no possibility of changing the law on this subject at present”.²

According to a writer for Ezega.com, “making homosexuality illegal is only natural for lawmakers” in Ethiopia, given community attitudes and the influence of religious dogma, whereby homosexuality is seen as “something that is sin in the eyes of the almighty god and contrary to human nature”. The writer noted that mutual consent does not change the criminality of homosexual conduct, and argued that the legal reasoning appears to be that “even if there is no individual victim because of the act committed, the law assumes the society in general is wounded since its moral values are violated by the act”.³

¹ *The Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2004*, Proclamation No. 414 of 2004, Title IV – Crimes Against Morals and the Family, Chapter 1 – Crimes Against Moral, Section II – Sexual Deviations, (effective 9 May 2005), UNHCR Refworld <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/49216b572.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012

² United Nations Office at Geneva 2011, *Human Rights Committee Considers Report of Ethiopia*, 12 July <[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocument)> Accessed 27 March

³ Teweldebirhan, S 2011, *Dialogue on Consensual Homosexuality in Ethiopia*, Ezega.com, 7 December <<http://www.ezega.com/news/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=3145>> Accessed 23 March 2012

In its report on Ethiopia for 2010, the US Department of State noted that there had been “some reports of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals”, but made no specific reference to treatment by the authorities.⁴

A post by “GLBT Ethiopians” on the Ethiopian forum of the Topix.com website in May 2008 stated that “[a]ny act of showing this behavior will end in three years imprisonment with sever [sic] corporal punishment & torture” and that “gays & lesbians of Ethiopia are suffering a lot from the government’s hostility, stigma, discrimination, hatred, disrespect, intimidation, abuse, harassment, negative attitude & social injustice”.⁵ Addis Ababa based writer Meron Tekleberahn has observed, however, that in this post there is “no evidence cited... to prove that the Ethiopian government has employed systematic persecution of the gay community. The maximum penalty for homosexuals is three to four years of imprisonment but this sentence has rarely been put into effect”. Meron appears to offer justification for Ethiopia’s legal position on homosexuality on the basis of it being protective of national character, observing also that:

Although the Ethiopian constitution accepts international human rights it acknowledges that these can be limited by national peace and security, public health, education and societal mores and traditions. This clear recognition of social moral identity means that the Ethiopian government is constitutionally obligated to protect and serve the cultural, religious and traditional character of the nation.⁶

In Addis Ababa in December 2008, religious figures including heads of Ethiopia’s Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, adopted a resolution against homosexuality and urged parliamentarians to endorse a ban on homosexual activity in the constitution.⁷ The US Department of State reported, at the end of 2010, that no action had been taken on this resolution,⁸ and no sources have been found to indicate that it is under active consideration by the government.

Another source refers to police intervening to limit a perceived attempt to “promote” homosexuality in Ethiopia. Daniel Iddo Balcha reported that, having travelled to Ethiopia to undertake research towards his 2009 thesis on homosexuality in Ethiopia, he had had to leave the country earlier than intended because “according to the police, I was found ‘promoting Western culture’ in the country”. Balcha noted also that the criminalisation of homosexuality “exposes homosexual persons for discrimination and other forms of abuse simply because they lack protection before the law”.⁹

A May 2009 article indicates that tight government restrictions and social stigma had driven homosexuals into virtual hiding. According to the article, “[f]or fear of arrest and humiliation, members usually switch from place to place and avoid revealing their identity at all costs... Yet, rather paradoxically, the community has rarely experienced violence”. Attempts in 2006

⁴ US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Ethiopia*, 8 April, Section 6 <www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154346.htm> Accessed 11 April 2011

⁵ GLBT Ethiopians 2008, *Ethiopian Forum post – Ethiopian government is torturing & executing gays* [sic], (initial post, only), Topix.com, 7 May <<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/ethiopia/TCQ8O2LEVEMOSNN7U>> Accessed 27 March 2012

⁶ Tekleberhan, M 2011, *Revelation of Homosexual Life in Ethiopia – Part 2*, Ezega.com, 20 March <<http://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=2814>> Accessed 23 March 2012

⁷ ‘Ethiopian clerics seek constitutional ban on homosexuality’ 2008, *Agence France Presse*, 23 December, FACTIVE – Accessed 21 March 2012

⁸ US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Ethiopia*, 8 April, Section 6 <www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154346.htm> Accessed 11 April 2011

⁹ Balcha, DI 2009, *Homosexuality in Ethiopia*, Master’s Thesis, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, Genderlinks website, pp.4-6 <www.genderlinks.org.za/attachment.php?aa_id=12830> Accessed 13 March 2012

to establish an association seeking the decriminalisation of homosexuality were turned down by the government and that the person involved subsequently had to leave the country due to harassment.¹⁰ An undated posting on the EthioLGBT website states that homosexuals in Ethiopia face violence from the police and a lack of state protection, failing to receive “the dignity of justice because of our gayness”.¹¹

Societal views and treatment of homosexuals

The US Department of State’s 2010 report noted that, while there were some reports of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, reporting was limited due to fears of retribution, discrimination, or stigmatisation. The US Department of State observed also that:

The AIDS Resource Center in Addis Ababa reported that the majority of self-identified gay and lesbian callers, 75 percent of whom were male, requested assistance in changing their behavior to avoid discrimination. Many gay men reported anxiety, confusion, identity crises, depression, self-ostracizing, religious conflict, and suicide attempts.¹²

As previously mentioned, religious figures including heads of Ethiopia’s Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches adopted a resolution against homosexuality in December 2008. They referred to homosexuality as “the pinnacle of immorality” and proposed a constitutional ban on homosexual activity and the establishment of more “rehabilitation centres”. Discrimination against homosexuals was not seen as a human rights issue.¹³ Addis Ababa based writer Meron Tekleberhan has observed that Ethiopia is a nation defined by religion, and that the stance taken by the clerics represents the attitudes of most Ethiopians. Homosexuality is seen as a completely foreign phenomenon, alien to Ethiopian culture and identity, and even discussion of homosexuality is met with “acute suspicion and even aggressive behavior”.¹⁴ Daniel Iddo Balcha similarly found that “the word itself is a taboo, and no institution or individual is ready to listen or discuss the subject”. While religion was a driving force behind such stigmatisation, homosexuality was also rejected on cultural grounds; according to Balcha, “[i]f any Ethiopian ‘becomes’ gay, it is viewed as an acquired behaviour or disease due to an association with white men and their culture”.¹⁵

The previously mentioned post by “GLBT Ethiopians” on the Ethiopian Forum on the Topix.com website in May 2008 claimed that gays and lesbians of Ethiopia “prefer to live hidden behind the curtains”:

In Ethiopia, if some one is discovered or even suspected to be gay, no one will shake his hand; they want you to be burned in the ever-lasting flame. Many gays & lesbians of Ethiopia have

¹⁰ Maasho, A 2009, ‘Clandestine lives for gays in conservative Ethiopia’, *Agence France Presse*, 18 May, FACTIVA – Accessed 21 March 2012

¹¹ EthioLGBT n.d. *Notes from an Unapologetic Gay Ethiopian* <http://www.ethiolgbt.com/Real_life_stories.html> Accessed 23 March 2012

¹² US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Ethiopia*, 8 April, Section 6 <www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154346.htm> Accessed 11 April 2011

¹³ ‘Ethiopian clerics seek constitutional ban on homosexuality’ 2008, *Agence France Presse*, 23 December, FACTIVA – Accessed 21 March 2012

¹⁴ Tekleberhan, M 2011, *Revelation of Homosexual Life in Ethiopia – Part 2*, Ezega.com, 20 March <<http://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=2814>> Accessed 23 March 2012

¹⁵ Balcha, DI 2009, *Homosexuality in Ethiopia*, Master’s Thesis, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, Genderlinks website, p.6-10 <www.genderlinks.org.za/attachment.php?aa_id=12830> Accessed 13 March 2012

committed suicide & fled out of their country in response to this & they still fear for their lives back in Ethiopia.¹⁶

Meron Tekleberhan noted that “there is almost unanimous disdain for ‘habesha’ homosexuals” in comments on the internet, and cites as a prime example the reaction to the abovementioned post on the Ethiopian Forum of Topix.com. Meron observes:

A great majority of the upwards of 200 comments on this post reflected the great sensitivity to this issue for most Ethiopians. Many resorted to outright insults and threats while others expressed their disgust and shame at the idea of such goings on in the Ethiopian community with various degrees of anger.¹⁷

An Ethiopian man based in Britain has observed that in Ethiopia:

It is unthinkable for an LGBT person to come out as the consequences would be catastrophic. Suspicions or less have lead beatings or killings even by close family members.

In my early teens, I recall my trembling fear when I heard about the incidents of individuals being violently punished after discovered to be gay in prisons and detention centres. Seeking help or protection of any kind from the state is inconceivable as both male and female homosexuality is illegal and punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.

There is not even a single LGBTI organization that has managed to come up and to bring about the much needed change in the attitude and provide support of any kind to LGBT individuals.¹⁸

In November 2011, anti-gay sentiment flared in Ethiopia as Addis Ababa prepared for an international AIDS conference. Ethiopia’s religious leaders called a news conference to denounce a meeting of gay rights activists planned by the organisation African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHER) on the fringes of the international conference. A statement distributed to reporters at the planned news conference quoted a survey showing 97 percent of Ethiopians consider gay behavior immoral, and asserted that scheduling a conference on homosexuality in Addis Ababa shows a disregard for Ethiopia’s laws and morals. The news conference was, however, cancelled when Ethiopia’s Health Minister spoke to the religious leaders in private, after which the leaders left without comment.¹⁹ The previously mentioned undated posting on the EthioLGBT website claimed that “hatred and opposition for gay Ethiopians” had been expressed in the response to the AMSHER meeting in Addis Ababa, and further noted that:

their hatred and fear – regardless of its root cause – affects my life on a daily basis... Yes, a consensual relationship with someone of the same sex can be the cause of imprisonment for a minimum of three years. The Ethiopian government has taken the hate of the people and the religious leaders and turned it into law... This curtails our freedom to be freely ourselves in our own country. As a result some of us gay Ethiopians have to live abroad, some of us are forced to marry someone of the opposite sex in a sham marriage to avoid being found out, some of us daily face violence from the police and a government that chooses not to protect us, some of us are physically abused by siblings and parents who are convinced they can beat our gayness out

¹⁶ GLBT Ethiopians 2008, *Ethiopian Forum post – Ethiopian government is torturing & excuting gays* [sic], (initial post, only), Topix.com, 7 May <<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/ethiopia/TCQ8O2LEVEMOSNN7U>> Accessed 27 March 2012

¹⁷ Tekleberhan, M 2011, *Revelation of Homosexual Life in Ethiopia – Part 2*, Ezega.com, 20 March <<http://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=2814>> Accessed 23 March 2012

¹⁸ Wainaina, M 2011, *Invisible activism and optimism, the story of the Ethiopian LGBT movement*, Behind the Mask, 6 September <<http://www.mask.org.za/invisible-activism-and-optimism-the-story-of-the-ethiopian-lgbt-movement/>> Accessed 23 March 2012

¹⁹ ‘Anti-Gay Sentiment Flares in Ethiopia as Addis Ababa Preps for AIDS Conference’ 2011, *Voice of America*, 29 November <<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Anti-Gay-Sentiment-Flares-in-Ethiopia-as-Addis-Ababa-Preps-for-AIDS-Conference-134684378.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012

of us, some of us are sentenced to churches that can supposedly “cure” us of our gayness, some of us are subjected to “corrective” rape which we are too scared to report, some of us commit suicide, some of us end up dead and don’t receive the dignity of justice because of our gayness and some of us, when we do get sick, do not seek treatment because we know the health authorities will not protect our right to confidentiality.

Most of us suffer in silence. Our safety net is our circle of gays and a small number of heterosexual Ethiopians who understand the existence of the discrimination and admonition [sic] it. Living our life in dignity and honesty requires a huge amount of bravery – survival under these Ethiopian skies becomes an act of miracle.²⁰

On 6 March 2012, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) reported that an Ethiopian man who has entered the Mr Gay World contest “will have ensured a hostile reception when he returns to Ethiopia” and “may have difficulties returning home after the contest as a result of receiving death threats”.²¹

2. Deleted.

3. Please provide information in relation to any prominent gay rights activists or organisations, as well as any known gay bars (or other such venues) in Ethiopia.

Gay rights organisations and activists

A 2009 article on the Behind the Mask website mentions ETHIOGLBTI as “a group that aims to increase public awareness and understanding of LGBTI issues in Ethiopia”; it mentions also a representative of the group, a woman named Sonic Casuist. Casuist reportedly observed that homosexuality is still perceived as nonexistent and that “nothing is out in the open, it’s a hidden community”.²²

Amongst English language sources, perhaps the most prominent activist is a man who uses the pseudonym of “Selam” and identifies himself as a homosexual male Ethiopian residing in Scotland. He created the EthioLGBT.com website in 2010, for Ethiopian gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual communities in Ethiopia and elsewhere.²³

In an interview with Behind the Mask in September 2011, Selam stated that the only non-government organisation in Ethiopia that had an interest in the LGBTI movement was United for Life, one of the forces behind the gathering in 2008 of religious leaders calling for a constitutional ban on homosexuality. He stated that any group supporting the LGBTI movement would be denied permits to operate as an organisation and such limitations made it impossible to establish a coherent movement. According to Selam, the only visible activism was internet based, allowing opinions to be shared anonymously. Internet access, however, was still quite limited in Ethiopia and was strictly censored and monitored. LGBTI chat rooms and forums died out before any real community was established. The messenger

²⁰ EthioLGBT n.d. *Notes from an Unapologetic Gay Ethiopian* <http://www.ethiolgbt.com/Real_life_stories.html> Accessed 23 March 2012

²¹ ILGA 2012, *Ethiopian Mr Gay World contestant may have difficulty returning home after show*, 6 March <<http://ilga.org/ilga/en/article/nqS90YF1TI>> Accessed 23 March 2012

²² Behind the Mask 2009, *Ethiopian gays threatened as clerics seek homosexuality ban*, Africa Files, source: Behind the Mask, 27 January <<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=19999>> Accessed 28 March 2012

²³ Selam n.d., *About*, EthioLGBT <<http://www.ethiolgbt.com/About.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012

groups ‘Gayethiopians’ and ‘Ethiopian_lesbians’, had hundreds of members, but almost all members lived outside of Ethiopia.²⁴

Attempts in 2006 to establish an organisation seeking the decriminalisation of homosexuality reportedly resulted in the government disallowing it.²⁵

A previously mentioned post by “GLBT Ethiopians” on the Ethiopian forum of the topix.com website in May 2008 referred to the “Ethiopian gay & lesbians association (ELGA)” having “started some grass root activities for the acknowledgement, understanding, & legalization of sexual freedom of gay & lesbians in Ethiopia”. It stated that:

The Ethiopian gays, lesbians, bisexual & Trans gender committee are established in 2007 on the aim of demanding & safeguarding sexual freedom in Ethiopia .it has 604 members now. We are working day & night for the license & acknowledgment from the Ethiopian government but their response was discouraging & they told us to emigrate only for our difference in sexual orientation.²⁶

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) website lists in its directory the Rainbow-Ethiopia MSM sexual health education and promotion initiative as an Addis Ababa based group whose stated mission is “to oversee and support member organizations to achieve their objectives aimed at LGBTI liberation”. The website address provided no longer exists.²⁷ Rainbow Ethiopia was also referred to in a December 2011 report which cited an unnamed activist and member of the group, described as an NGO that deals with the sexual health of men who have sex with men.²⁸

Venues

In a DVD produced by the anti-gay rights organisation United for Life, an interviewee cited findings that “homosexuals in Addis Ababa congregate in gay owned bars and cafes as well as designated streets”,²⁹ however no other sources were found to mention gay bars, cafes or other venues in Addis Ababa or elsewhere in Ethiopia.

Sonic Casuist, speaking as a representative of ETHIOGLBTI, said in an interview with Behind the Mask that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community in Ethiopia congregated only at secluded places. Casuist reportedly said, “For those of us who live here we make and build our communities. We get together and we have places to go in the evenings however nothing is out in the open, it’s a hidden community”.³⁰

²⁴ Wainaina, M 2011, *Invisible activism and optimism, the story of the Ethiopian LGBT movement*, Behind the Mask, 6 September <<http://www.mask.org.za/invisible-activism-and-optimism-the-story-of-the-ethiopian-lgbt-movement/>> Accessed 23 March 2012

²⁵ Maasho, A 2009, ‘Clandestine lives for gays in conservative Ethiopia’, *Agence France Presse*, 18 May, FACTIVE – Accessed 21 March 2012

²⁶ GLBT Ethiopians 2008, *Ethiopian Forum post – Ethiopian government is torturing & excuting gays [sic]*, (initial post, only), Topix.com, 7 May <<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/ethiopia/TCQ8O2LEVEMOSNN7U>> Accessed 27 March 2012

²⁷ MSMGF 2011, *MSMGF Global Directory Listing – Rainbow-Ethiopia MSM sexual health education and promotion initiative* <http://www.msmgf.org/index.cfm/id/230/contactaction/detail/memberOrg_id/108> Accessed 23 March 2012

²⁸ IRIN 2011, *Ethiopia – HIV/AIDS – MSM meeting stirs controversy at HIV conference*, 5 December <<http://reliefweb.int/node/463154>> Accessed 27 March 2012

²⁹ Tekleberhan, M 2011, *Revelation of Homosexual Life in Ethiopia – Part 2*, Ezega.com, 20 March <<http://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=2814>> Accessed 23 March 2012

³⁰ Behind the Mask 2009, *Ethiopian gays threatened as clerics seek homosexuality ban*, Africa Files, source: Behind the Mask, 27 January <<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=19999>> Accessed 28 March 2012

The previously mentioned article from May 2009 reporting on the “clandestine” nature of life for homosexuals in Ethiopia makes no specific mention of the lesbian community, but notes that “rare and safe rendezvous spots for homosexuals” exist in Piazza, one of Addis Ababa’s oldest sections. The article notes that because of “fear of arrest and humiliation, members usually switch from place to place and avoid revealing their identity at all costs”; tight government restrictions and social stigma had driven homosexuals into virtual hiding.³¹

³¹ Maasho, A 2009, ‘Clandestine lives for gays in conservative Ethiopia’, *Agence France Presse*, 18 May, FACTIVE – Accessed 21 March 2012

References

'Anti-Gay Sentiment Flares in Ethiopia as Addis Ababa Preps for AIDS Conference' 2011, *Voice of America*, 29 November <<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Anti-Gay-Sentiment-Flares-in-Ethiopia-as-Addis-Ababa-Preps-for-AIDS-Conference-134684378.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

'Ethiopian clerics seek constitutional ban on homosexuality' 2008, *Agence France Presse*, 23 December, FACTIVEA – Accessed 21 March 2012. (FACTIVA)

Balcha, DI 2009, *Homosexuality in Ethiopia*, Master's Thesis, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, Genderlinks website <www.genderlinks.org.za/attachment.php?aa_id=12830> Accessed 13 March 2012.

Behind the Mask 2009, *Ethiopian gays threatened as clerics seek homosexuality ban*, Africa Files, source: Behind the Mask, 27 January <<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=19999>> Accessed 28 March 2012.

EthioLGBT n.d. *Notes from an Unapologetic Gay Ethiopian* <http://www.ethiolgbt.com/Real_life_stories.html> Accessed 23 March 2012.

GLBT Ethiopians 2008, *Ethiopian Forum post – Ethiopian government is torturing & excuting gays [sic]*, (initial post, only), Topix.com, 7 May <<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/ethiopia/TCQ8O2LEVEMOSNN7U>> Accessed 27 March 2012.

ILGA 2012, *Ethiopian Mr Gay World contestant may have difficulty returning home after show*, 6 March <<http://ilga.org/ilga/en/article/nqS90YF1TI>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

IRIN 2011, *Ethiopia – HIV/AIDS – MSM meeting stirs controversy at HIV conference*, 5 December <<http://reliefweb.int/node/463154>> Accessed 27 March 2012.

Maasho, A 2009, 'Clandestine lives for gays in conservative Ethiopia', *Agence France Presse*, 18 May, FACTIVEA – Accessed 21 March 2012. (FACTIVA)

MSMGF 2011, *MSMGF Global Directory Listing – Rainbow-Ethiopia MSM sexual health education and promotion initiative* <http://www.msmgf.org/index.cfm/id/230/contactaction/detail/memberOrg_id/108> Accessed 23 March 2012.

Selam n.d., *About*, EthioLGBT <<http://www.ethiolgbt.com/About.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

Tekleberhan, M 2011, *Revelation of Homosexual Life in Ethiopia – Part 2*, Ezega.com, 20 March <<http://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=2814>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

Teweldebirhan, S 2011, *Dialogue on Consensual Homosexuality in Ethiopia*, Ezega.com, 7 December <<http://www.ezega.com/news/NewsDetails.aspx?Page=news&NewsID=3145>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

The Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2004, Proclamation No. 414 of 2004, Title IV – Crimes Against Morals and the Family, Chapter 1 – Crimes Against Moral,

Section II – Sexual Deviations, (effective 9 May 2005), UNHCR Refworld
<<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/49216b572.html>> Accessed 23 March 2012.

United Nations Office at Geneva 2011, *Human Rights Committee Considers Report of Ethiopia*, 12 July
<[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocumenthttp://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocumenthttp://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/0B4C60B35AFD372BC12578CB004E52A9?OpenDocument)> Accessed 27 March.

US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Ethiopia*, 8 April <www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154346.htm> Accessed 11 April 2011.

Wainaina, M 2011, *Invisible activism and optimism, the story of the Ethiopian LGBT movement*, Behind the Mask, 6 September <<http://www.mask.org.za/invisible-activism-and-optimism-the-story-of-the-ethiopian-lgbt-movement/>> Accessed 23 March 2012.