



<a href="#">Français</a>	<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	<a href="#">Help</a>	<a href="#">Search</a>	<a href="#">canada.gc.ca</a>
--------------------------	----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

[Home](#) > [Research](#) > [Responses to Information Requests](#)

## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

<b>The Board</b>		20 February 2009
About the Board	<b>RWA103060.E</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Rwanda: Situation of gay men in 2007; whether the Kigali police arrested gay men and prostitutes prior to the AIDS conference held in Kigali in June 2007 and, if so, the date the arrests began	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	The Horizon Community Association (HOCA), an organization in Kigali that advocates for the human rights of sexual minorities in Rwanda (HOCA n.d.), provides the following information on the situation of gay men in Rwanda. The Rwandan 1997 penal code prohibits same-sex sexual activity between men if one participant is under 18 years of age and the other is above 18 years; sexual activity between consenting adults is not criminalized (ibid. 20 Nov. 2007). The non-governmental organization (NGO) Behind the Mask, which promotes awareness of sexual minorities in Africa, also states that sex between men is legal in Rwanda and that the age of consent is 18 years (Behind the Mask n.d.). The 2003 Constitution states that recognized civil marriages are confined to those involving a man and a woman (HOCA 20 Nov. 2007).	
<b>Tribunal</b>		
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
<b>Research</b>		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages	According to HOCA, individuals are frequently "harassed, threatened, imprisoned or abused" because of their sexual orientation (ibid. n.d.). Many gay men and lesbians conceal their sexual orientation in order to avoid "discrimination" and "physical violence" (ibid.). A radio broadcaster reportedly identified three gay activists publicly and advised his listeners to track down and "burn" gay activists (HOCA 20 Nov. 2007). Gay men have been "arbitrarily detained" by the police and deprived of their rights by the government due to their sexual orientation; a member of HOCA, for example, had his identity card seized and destroyed by the police and was unable to procure another one (ibid.).	
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	Gay men and other sexual minorities in Rwanda are able to establish alliances of solidarity and advocate for their rights although this advocacy is largely restricted to small, underground groups (ibid. 20 Nov. 2007).	
Recent Research		
<b>Media Centre</b>		
News	The information from HOCA on the situation of gay men in Rwanda could not be corroborated among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations	Information on whether the police arrested gay men and prostitutes in Kigali before the AIDS conference that was held there in June 2007 could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, during the conference, street children were "transported directly to their home districts, to government-run or government-affiliated shelters, or for processing into vocational and educational programs" (US 11 Mar. 2008, Sec. 1d).	
<b>Proactive Disclosure</b>		

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

#### References

Behind the Mask [Johannesburg]. N.d. "Rwanda."  
<<http://www.mask.org.za/index.php?page=rwanda>> [Accessed 29 Jan. 2009]

Horizon Community Association (HOCA) [Kigali]. 20 November 2007. "Situation Update - The Treatment of LGBT Individuals in Rwandan Law and Society." (IGLHRC) <<http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?id=5&detail=804>> [Accessed 14 Jan. 2009]

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. "Introduction." <<http://www.hoca4rwanda.9f.com>> [Accessed 22 Jan. 2009]

United States (US). 11 March 2008. Department of State. "Rwanda." *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007*.  
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100499.htm>> [Accessed 29 Jan. 2009]

#### Additional sources consulted

**Oral sources:** The Horizon Community Association (HOCA) Rwanda and La ligue rwandaise pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme (LIPRODHOR) did not respond to requests for information within the time constraints of this Response.

**Internet sources, including:** African News, AIDS Education Global Information System (AEGIS), AllAfrica, Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), GlobalGayz, Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), Ligue des droits de la personne dans la région des Grands Lacs (LDGL), Médecins sans frontières, Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), *The New Times*, PeaceWomen, Pink News, Planet Out, Queer Resources Directory, Radio France internationale (RFI), Reporters Without Borders, Stop Violence Against Women, United Nations (UN) Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), WomenWatch.

**The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.**