

International Human Rights Defense Act of 2015

Section-by-Section

Section 1. Short Title

“International Human Rights Defense Act of 2015”

Section 2. Definitions

- Defines “Sexual Orientation” as homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.
- Defines “Gender Identity” to include transgendered persons and those whose perceived gender may not be the same as their assigned gender at birth.
- Defines “LGBT” as individuals who are homosexual, bisexual, or transgender

Section 3. Findings

This section reviews recent international developments relating to discrimination against LGBT people, including recent legislation and changes in US policy.

Section 4. Statement of Policy

This section states that it is the policy of the United States to

- Take effective action to prevent and respond to discrimination and violence against LGBT people internationally;
- Integrate and coordinate these efforts across bureaus and international programs at all federal agencies;
- Build and support local capacity to promote LGBT human rights around the world;
- Consult with a wide variety of partners, including faith-based and LGBT-led organizations around the world; and
- Enhance training for US military and international police forces to include specific needs to address discrimination and violence against LGBT people internationally.

Section 5. Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples

This section creates the position of Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in the Department of State. The Special Envoy shall:

- Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of State on international LGBT human rights. She/he is also authorized to represent the United States in diplomatic situations relevant to LGBT people;
- Design and direct policies, programs, and funding related to the human rights of LGBT people internationally across all Bureaus and lead interagency coordination with the international programs of all Federal agencies;
- Consult and coordinate with civil society organizations in relevant countries; and
- Ensure that all programs are subjected to rigorous monitoring and evaluation standards.

Section 6. Briefings and Assessments

This section requires that the Special Envoy shall brief the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and both Committees on Appropriations on the status of LGBT human rights internationally within 180 days of the enactment of this Act.

Section 7. United States Policy to Prevent and Respond to Discrimination and Violence Against LGBT People Globally

This section requires the development of a United States global strategy to prevent and respond to discrimination and violence against the LGBT community internationally. It

- Codifies the existing Department of State policy to include LGBT human rights as a prominent section of its annual Human Rights Report; and
- Requires that the strategy be developed in close consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, as well as representatives of civil society, multilateral, and private sector organizations.

Section 8. Implementation of the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to LGBT Discrimination and Violence Against the LGBT Community Globally

This section authorizes the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide financial assistance to international efforts to prevent and respond to discrimination against the LGBT community internationally and to combat HIV/AIDS in the LGBT community. It also specifies that the strategy shall focus on the development and implementation of programs that work to change social norms and attitudes so that discrimination and violence against LGBT people are neither condoned nor tolerated.

Section 9. Monitoring the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Discrimination and Violence Against the LGBT Community Globally

This section requires the Special Envoy, as part of the United States global strategy to prevent and respond to discrimination and violence against the LGBT community, to submit an analysis of best practices for addressing the Act's stated goals. It also amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require that the State Department's Annual Human Rights Report include analyses of discrimination and persecution against the LGBT community around the world.