

# The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society

Ministry ▪ Advocacy ▪ Education



JAMAICA COALITION  
FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY

www.jchs.org.jm

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## Frequently Asked Questions on the Buggery Law

### **Are people born homosexual?**

To date, there has been no scientific proof that homosexuality is innate or that someone is born a homosexual. The UK Royal College of Psychiatrists has recently confirmed (April 2014) that there is no evidence that homosexuality is immutable.

Based on numerous case studies over the years, many psychologists, therapists and clinical researchers have advanced that *same sex attraction* arises out of a combination of familial, environmental, and social influences, during the formative years of childhood and adolescence. These include emotional issues with one or both parents, a dysfunctional home life, molestation by an adult homosexual, sexual abuse, exposure to homosexual pornography, peer rejection, gender confusion, low self-esteem or experimentation.

Other influences include economic reasons, direct Satanic influence, media and entertainment enticement, and experiences during incarceration.

While same-sex attraction may not be conscious, *acting* on the attraction, that of engaging in homosexual behaviour, is by choice. The Bible clearly states that sex outside of covenant heterosexual marriage is sin.

### **Since the buggery law is difficult to police shouldn't it be removed from the books?**

Laws have multiple roles. (i) instruction on right behaviour that benefit individuals and society (ii) deterrence against wrong behaviour (iii) punishment for wrong behaviour.

The law of the land bears witness to that which the state approves. This is important because this determines, for example, what can and can't be taught to children in schools. Laws against murder, littering and traffic violations have not prevented these activities but that is no reason for these laws to be removed. Because a law cannot be policed does not mean it should be removed.

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## **Should a minority interest group be allowed to determine the laws in a democracy?**

Even a minority can make laws if those laws are judged to be in the best interests of the society. The outcomes of laws should determine what is good for all individuals in the society, and not just for the greatest number of persons.

It is for the good of all individuals to have a healthy society where money and resources can be directed at real issues rather than ones that are created due to lifestyle choices. Further, it has been shown that protecting and fostering the family is important for raising children who are healthy, well adjusted, productive members of society, thus increasing the common good

On the contrary, homosexual behaviour is linked, not only to increasing incidents of various physical diseases (see below) but also to more socially disruptive and risky behaviour and psychological disorders, thus decreasing the common and greatest good of society.

## **Does keeping the buggery law take away the human rights of homosexuals?**

All persons in Jamaica including Jamaica LGBTI, currently enjoy the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of Jamaica. However, LGBTI are demanding additional privileges for themselves and are wrongly labelling these as “human rights”. No international treaty provides for a right to buggery, neither is Jamaica is party to any binding international treaty that makes buggery a human right.

Human rights imply and impose an obligation on the State and other persons to give effect to that right. Sexual activity is not a human right for anyone because no one has an obligation to provide it.

If determining human rights is separated from morality and based on individual freedom without any restraints, all perversions will in due time become “rights”. However, this is not sustainable in society because an individual’s free choice may have public consequences. This is why in all countries the freedom to engage in sexual activity is restricted in some circumstances: for example, where children are involved, where there is no consent (rape) and where the other party is a close relative (incest).

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## **Is homosexuality illegal in Jamaica? Does the buggery law discriminate against homosexuals?**

No and no. The law says that it is illegal to practice anal penetration. It is therefore equally illegal for a heterosexual couple as it is for a homosexual couple. There is no law making homosexuality illegal in Jamaica and there is no law that discriminates against homosexuals.

Discrimination is not, in and of itself, a bad thing and is condoned by the State in many scenarios. For example, even though someone may be born blind, the law properly discriminates by refusing to grant blind persons a license to drive because this is for the common good. What is wrong is arbitrary discrimination or treating the same as different.

## **Is Jamaica a homophobic society?**

A phobia is defined as an irrational fear. When homosexuals say that others are homophobic they are suggesting that they have a psychiatric illness. Most Jamaicans do not have an irrational fear of homosexuals. Calling homosexuality wrong or sinful is not the same thing as having an irrational fear of homosexuals.

The violence encouraged by some Jamaican songs, though rarely shown towards homosexuals in Jamaica is wrong, disturbing and ought to be punished under existing laws by the State so that it is clear that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated. It is this violence that is an affront to the human rights of homosexuals, not the buggery law.

## **What are the medical risks associated with a homosexual lifestyle?**

MSMs are at increased risk of a variety of diseases including, but not limited to: HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, anal warts and cancer, gonorrhoea, syphilis, lymphogranuloma venereum and various head and neck cancers.

In addition to these physical complications both male and female homosexuals have more social and psychological problems such as drug and alcohol abuse and suicidal tendencies.

## **What is the connection between buggery and HIV/AIDS?**

The virus that causes HIV/AIDS is spread via body fluids. Anal penetration has been found to be the most efficient means of transmitting the virus.

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## **Does removing the buggery law decrease the incidence of HIV/AIDS?**

Removing the buggery law is neither necessary nor sufficient for causing a decrease in HIV/AIDS. In Singapore there is a law against buggery and the rate is lower than in France where there is no law against buggery. The disease is linked to behaviour.

## **Are there countries where HIV/AIDS is decreasing? If so why?**

WHO reports that between 2001 and 2009, HIV decreased in 33 countries including 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The cause of the decrease included less casual sex and more condom use. It is important to note that although HIV is decreasing within most countries in all groups, it is increasing in MSMs even in rich countries with effective treatment and adequate health care.

## **Why is it so important to certain countries, such as the UK, that Jamaica removes the buggery law?**

Homosexuals in those countries have gained political power and so are able to use the machinery of the state to achieve their ends. It is interesting to note that the aim in these countries is not just that the buggery law is repealed, but that all types of sexual behaviour, including pedophilia and bestiality, should be eventually legalized as alternative sexual orientations.

Further, the removal of the buggery law often results in attacks on freedom of speech and religion so that those who speak out against homosexuality are discriminated against and victimized. They want all types of sexual behavior to be legal.

## **What are the reasons for keeping the law against buggery?**

The State has a responsibility to let its citizens know what is right and wrong based on what is in the best interests of its people. One of the first interests of any society is replicating itself.

Homosexual behaviour is not in the best interests of a society because it does not create life, does not support the development of stable and productive members of society, increases health issues, which in turn diverts money and resources from other competing interests and reduces protection for freedom of speech and religion, important foundations for living in a plural society.

**Keep the Buggery Law !** Barrier against making deviant, unnatural practices a part of the fabric of society. **Undergirds** marriage. **Guards** freedom of speech and religion. **Guides** public officials – e.g. schools.