# Global backlash against LGBTQ rights intensifies under far-right influence



As the political climate intensifies under the shadow of far-right ideologies, the Trump administration’s impact on the LGBTQ community has reverberated beyond American borders, fuelling similar sentiments globally. The urgency of LGBTQ rights is underscored by numerous activists in the United States who, facing increasing transphobia and homophobia, contemplate leaving the nation for more accepting environments. Unfortunately, few places are currently free from this alarming trend of right-wing backlash against LGBTQ individuals.

Previously viewed as a progressive leader, the UK has witnessed a significant regression in LGBTQ rights following the recent ruling by the Supreme Court, which defined a woman strictly by "biological sex" determined at birth. This has drawn significant criticism, particularly from trans activists and allies who see it as a setback that echoes the sentiments of right-wing populism. Keir Starmer’s support for this ruling has led to disillusionment among those who hoped for a more inclusive approach from the Labour Party.

Beyond Britain's shores, Hungary has taken even more drastic steps against LGBTQ rights. The parliament recently passed a constitutional amendment that effectively bans public LGBTQ events, a measure justified by the ruling party's claims that such events threaten children’s rights. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government, which aligns closely with nationalist ideologies, frames these restrictions within the broader context of "Christian illiberal democracy," thus prioritising a selective moral framework over human rights.

Similarly, the situation in Uganda is particularly dire, where the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 has introduced the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.” This draconian legislation has elicited widespread condemnation from global human rights advocates and institutions. However, the Ugandan regime, bolstered by the rhetoric of anti-colonialism, continues to position these repressive measures as an assertion of sovereignty against what it views as Western moral imposition, despite being underwritten by evangelical funding from abroad.

The proliferation of anti-LGBTQ policies is not merely a local or national issue; it is a global phenomenon. Countries traditionally associated with upholding "liberal values," such as Canada and New Zealand, are not immune to far-right pressures shaping public discourse around LGBTQ rights. The backlash against these rights is often framed in economic terms. For instance, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have been implicated in promoting austerity measures that disproportionately impact LGBTQ individuals in Africa, thereby exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Such attacks appear to stem from a broader crisis within capitalism, marked by escalating nationalism and mounting imperialist tensions since the 2008 financial crisis. Exploiting sentiments of disillusionment and discontent, far-right entities are employing LGBTQ scapegoating as a tool to regain control and rally national unity. For example, Javier Milei’s recent actions in Argentina—shutting down key ministries addressing gender and diversity—demonstrate how the rhetoric of a "war on wokeness" serves as a cover for wider assaults on social programmes.

Amid this backdrop, the role of systemic capitalist politics cannot be ignored. Ideological divides among political parties often leave LGBTQ issues sidelined or manipulated for electoral gain. In Hungary, potential opposition leader Péter Magyar has narrowly focused his campaign on broadly appealing issues while notably avoiding strong advocacy for LGBTQ rights, underscoring a pattern of politicians prioritising tactical considerations over genuine efforts to support marginalized communities. This mirrors situations faced in the US, where the Democratic Party has at times exploited LGBTQ voting blocs only to retreat from commitments once in power.

Resistance, however, is not merely a passive reaction. Across the globe, there are emerging movements staunchly opposing anti-LGBTQ legislation. In Hungary, protests against the recent constitutional amendments have spilled into public highways and streets, galvanising a resolve among activists. Similarly, protests in Serbia and Germany indicate that the far-right's grip on power is not uncontested; there is a growing collective movement among working classes.

Ultimately, the fight for LGBTQ rights must be integrated with broader struggles against capitalism and its systems of oppression. The history of victories for LGBTQ people reflects a deeper connection to the struggles of all exploited groups. The legislative changes and social movements entwined with issues of discrimination hold significance that transcends individual identities, revealing a shared fight against systemic injustices. The intersection of LGBTQ liberation with labour movements highlights the need for solidarity among all working people.

Opposition to the incremental rollbacks of rights across the globe necessitates a unified and sustained effort. The legacy left by movements in Sudan, where harsh penalties for homosexuality were repealed in the wake of revolutionary change, serves as an inspiration. Building alliances across diverse movements aiming to dismantle the oppressive capitalist framework and advocating for socialist alternatives may offer a way forward, fostering a world that embraces true equity and freedom for all, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/society-equity/trump-agenda-sparks-fears-lgbt-rights-africa-2025-03-28/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Homosexuality_Act,_2023)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_anti-LGBTQ_law), [[5]](https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/global-assault-lgbtq-rights-undermines-democracy)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-global-resistance-to-lgbtiq-rights/), [[7]](https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/18/europe/orban-anti-lgbtq-bill-passed-budapest-pride-intl-latam/index.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[5]](https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/global-assault-lgbtq-rights-undermines-democracy)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[5]](https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/global-assault-lgbtq-rights-undermines-democracy)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[6]](https://journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-global-resistance-to-lgbtiq-rights/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[7]](https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/18/europe/orban-anti-lgbtq-bill-passed-budapest-pride-intl-latam/index.html)
* Paragraph 9 – [[1]](https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month), [[5]](https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/global-assault-lgbtq-rights-undermines-democracy)
* Paragraph 10 – [[6]](https://journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-global-resistance-to-lgbtiq-rights/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/society-equity/trump-agenda-sparks-fears-lgbt-rights-africa-2025-03-28/> - This article discusses concerns among African LGBTQ activists regarding President Donald Trump's return to office and his rollback of diversity, equity, and inclusion policies. Activists fear that his rhetoric may embolden anti-LGBT sentiment across Africa, where only South Africa permits same-sex marriage, and 31 countries criminalize same-sex activity. The piece also highlights Uganda's 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act, which introduced the death penalty for 'aggravated homosexuality', leading to economic backlash and condemnation from global institutions like the World Bank. The article critiques Trump's policies for influencing a global shift away from inclusive practices, potentially jeopardizing fragile advances in African LGBTQ rights.
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Homosexuality_Act,_2023> - The Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, is a Ugandan law that restricts freedom of speech on LGBTQ topics and introduces harsher penalties for certain homosexual acts. Passed by the Ugandan Parliament and signed into law by President Yoweri Museveni, the act prescribes life imprisonment for same-sex sexual relations and the death penalty for 'aggravated homosexuality'. The law has been widely condemned by international organizations and governments, including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and the European Union, as well as several local and international NGOs.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_anti-LGBTQ_law> - In June 2021, the Hungarian Parliament adopted a law titled 'Act LXXIX of 2021 on taking more severe action against paedophile offenders and amending certain Acts for the protection of children'. Referred to in English as Hungary's anti-LGBTQ law, the act consists of legislative amendments to multiple laws, which prohibit the sharing of LGBTQ-related information with minors in advertising, media, schools, bookshops, and in family interactions. It was criticised for equating LGBTQ people with paedophiles. The act is often labelled by critics as the 'Russian-style propaganda law', in reference to the 2013 Russian anti-LGBTQ law, from which the Hungarian law is very similar.
5. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/global-assault-lgbtq-rights-undermines-democracy> - This article examines the global trend of increasing attacks on LGBTQ rights and its implications for democracy. It highlights recent legislative actions, such as Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023, which extends penalties for same-sex acts and introduces the death penalty for 'aggravated homosexuality'. The piece argues that these developments signal a rise in authoritarianism and a regression in inclusive democracy worldwide, with sexual and gender minorities increasingly under threat despite previous progress in many countries.
6. <https://journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-global-resistance-to-lgbtiq-rights/> - This essay explores the global pattern of illiberal governments weaponizing the issue of LGBTIQ rights. It argues that the fluidity of sexual orientation and gender identity makes LGBTIQ people susceptible targets for antidemocratic forces, allowing autocratic and illiberal regimes to contrast these identities with the perceived stability of tradition, national sovereignty, and conventional notions of 'nature'. The essay charts the global movement opposing LGBTIQ rights and explains how it undermines liberal democracy and threatens human-rights egalitarianism.
7. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/18/europe/orban-anti-lgbtq-bill-passed-budapest-pride-intl-latam/index.html> - This article reports on Hungary's new anti-LGBTQ+ law that bans Pride events and allows authorities to use facial recognition software to identify attendees. The law, passed by Hungarian lawmakers, has led to large demonstrations in Budapest, with protesters chanting anti-government slogans and blocking traffic. The measure is part of a crackdown on the country's LGBTQ+ community by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's nationalist-populist party, drawing comparisons to similar restrictions in Russia.