# Mali criminalises homosexuality putting gay community at risk



The National Transition Council (CNT) of Mali has enacted a law that criminalises homosexuality, in a move that significantly alters the legal landscape of the West African nation. The new legislation was overwhelmingly supported by the members of the CNT, passing with 132 votes in favour and just one against. This legislative body has been under the leadership of the military since a coup in 2020, which established a transition government following instability in the region.

Justice Minister Mamadou Kassogue announced the decision, stating unequivocally that “Any person engaging in this practice, promoting it or advocating for it, will be prosecuted.” This move has sparked various discussions about human rights internationally, given that prior to this law, Mali did not impose criminal penalties on homosexuality, despite being a predominantly Muslim country where traditional views are deeply rooted.

The introduction of this law appears to be aligned with a broader sentiment within Mali to preserve cultural and religious values. Minister Kassogue further emphasised Mali's stance by asserting, “We will not accept that our customs and values are violated by people from elsewhere.” It reflects a wider narrative of resisting perceived external cultural influences that conflict with local traditions.

While the decision has received significant support within the country's governing body, it raises questions abroad regarding its impacts on the rights of individuals within the LGBTQ+ community in Mali. International human rights organisations have expressed concerns over such legislation, fearing that it may lead to increased discrimination and persecution of sexual minorities.

The CNT's vote underscores the influence that local customs and religious beliefs hold over legislative processes in Mali. This development may have far-reaching implications for Mali's relationship with international bodies and neighbouring countries, especially if it influences regional policies on human rights and LGBTQ+ issues.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Corroborates the enactment of the anti-gay law by the National Transition Council in Mali, the vote tally, and the statements by Justice Minister Mamadou Kassogue.
* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Provides context on the previous legal status of homosexuality in Mali and the country's predominantly Muslim culture.
* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Explains the alignment of the new law with preserving cultural and religious values in Mali and Minister Kassogue's statement on resisting external cultural influences.
* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Details the international concerns and potential impacts on the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Mali.
* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Highlights the influence of local customs and religious beliefs on legislative processes in Mali.
* <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/lgbt-the-law/a-history-of-criminalisation/> - Provides historical context on the criminalization of LGBT people globally, including the influence of colonial and religious laws.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory> - Offers a broader perspective on global laws regarding same-sex intercourse and the varying penalties imposed in different countries.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory> - Lists countries where same-sex acts are criminalized, including those in Africa, and the specific penalties such as imprisonment or death.
* <https://www.barrons.com/news/mali-transition-council-passes-anti-gay-law-1cb35801> - Mentions the military coup in 2020 and the establishment of a transition government, which is relevant to the current legislative body's actions.