

Islam and LGBTQ issues:

1. Why does Islam have rules/decrees/opinions regarding homosexuality?

In current times where the idea that we can choose whoever we want to 'love' and it is considered a deeply personal choice a question can arise that why Islam is worried about people having same sex partners? Answer: Islamic teachings / principles provide a holistic way of life for us to achieve our ultimate purpose of life, i.e. is recognizing our Creator. In that regard teachings of Islam are meant for the individual, family unit and extends to larger society as well. ***If this is an aspect that the committee is worth expanding on we can add more references and details here***

2. What does the Quran say about homosexuality?

Islam considers same-sex marriages to be invalid, thus all homosexual activity is extra-marital. Islam forbids all sexual activity outside of marriage, therefore, homosexual acts are considered sins. Furthermore Allah states in the Quran:

And We sent Lot—when he said to his people, ‘Do you commit an abomination such as no one in the world ever did before you? ‘You approach men with lust instead of women. Nay, you are a people who exceed all bounds.’ And the answer of his people was no other than that they said, ‘Turn them out of your town, for they are men who would keep pure.’ And We saved him and his family, except his wife: she was of those who stayed behind. And We rained upon them a rain. Now see, what was the end of the sinners!

(Surah al-A'raf, 7:81–85)

The people of the prophet Lot began practicing homosexuality as a cultural norm because of which they incurred the wrath of Allah. From this verse we can clearly see that homosexuality is a trait that incurs the wrath of Allah.

Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGB42RRwMJE> (10:00 – 28:00)

<https://www.alislam.org/book/pathway-to-paradise/islamic-viewpoint-on-contemporary-issues/>

3. Is homosexuality a punishable sin?

The Holy Quran assigns no punishment for homosexuality. Rather, it assigns a punishment for publicly displaying acts of homosexuality. Individually, we do not judge someone's faith as it is a matter between a person and their Creator. The Holy Quran says:

*And those of your women who are guilty of lewdness—**call to witness four of you** against them; and if they bear witness, then confine them to the houses until death overtake them or Allah open for them a way. And if two men from among you are guilty of it, punish them both. And if they repent and amend, then leave them alone; surely, Allah is Oft-Returning with compassion and is Merciful.*

(Surah an-Nisa', 4:16–17)

These verses speak of homosexuality, which is separate from fornication/adultery mentioned elsewhere in the Holy Quran. The verses assign temporary house arrest for women only if 4 witnesses are present. The 4-witness stipulation makes it obvious that punishment is only for public acts of lewdness that can impact the larger society. For men the punishment is to be determined by

society and the 4-witness requirement is not listed because generally men are more visible in society. However, it is important to note that the word used '*faazoohuma*' can refer to a social boycott a public admonition but not physical harm. Both of these punishments are assigned while leaving open the possibility of forgiveness from the punishment. Any narration attributed to the Holy Prophet(saw) that adds or subtracts from this punishment cannot be accepted because it raises objection to the perfection of Allah Almighty's own teachings.

These punishments are not foreign to western society, rather, public displays of heterosexual or homosexual sex are punishable by law. Western society itself imposes these laws on the basis of morality. If a person is seen in a public place in the nude or engaged in sexual intercourse, s/he will be arrested by the police. Now, if such a defendant were to object in court to these laws that western society imposes on them as being oppressive, what response could critics of Islam give that does not end up supporting the teachings of Islam? In principle, both western society and Islam enforce a basic standard of modesty. There is only a difference in degree, in that Islam promotes a higher degree of modesty.

Sources:

<https://askamurabbi.com/knowledge-base/why-is-homosexuality-forbidden-in-islam/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCw3fNJUotM> (1:45 – 13:45)

4. What is the rationale for categorizing homosexuality as a sin?

Incorrect usage of human faculties; increase risk of diseases, increased correlation with negative traits including cannabis use, negative thoughts, increased incidence of childhood trauma, sexual assault and adverse events ***to be edited***

Hazrat Khalifa tul Masih V during his visit to Canada expressed the opinion that there is only a tiny minority that are inclined to such tendencies (homosexual behavior), but when these actions are given legal protection then this behavior proliferates. More and more younger people get entangled into such activities when it becomes an acceptable part of the school curriculum. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V aba raised this point with Mr. Stephen Harper, the current Prime Minister of Canada. His Holiness warned that by letting homosexual behaviors flourish nations are heading towards self-destruction. If 50% of a nation develop such tendencies then that nation is unlikely to survive. Adoption of children is not an answer to that.

Sources:

<https://www.reviewofreligions.org/9584/the-islamic-message-of-peace-unity-faith-and-loyalty-khalifah-of-the-promised-messiah-a-s-visits-canada/>

Will add additional sources here

5. My friend is gay/lesbian what should I do?

Hazrat Khalifat ul Masih V mentioned, "Similarly, I was also asked what our reaction would be if an Ahmadi said he was gay and in response, I said that we would not stop them coming to the Mosque. However, because homosexuality is against Islamic teaching, we would try, due to our concern and love for that person, to explain why Islam considered it to be wrong."

Additional sources / clarifications need to be added here

6. What is the cause of homosexual behavior?

There is no consensus on how sexual orientation develops however studies have shown that there is a small impact our genetics have on sexual orientation; our genetics cannot be used as a predictor for homosexual behavior. A recent study showed that the cause of homosexuality cannot be mapped to one or even a few number of genes. Family based studies in twins have also corroborated this view showing that sexual orientation has a large environmental impact and only a small / moderate genetic component.

Sources:

DOI: 10.1007/s10508-008-9386-1

DOI: 10.1126/science.aat7693

7. Hasn't homosexuality been observed in other species?

Incest is also observed in animals. Alpha male Lions frequently impregnate their daughter lionesses in the pride. Just because a behavior is seen in animals doesn't make it appropriate for humans. The Quran has mentioned humans as Ashraf-ul-Makhlooqat, The noblest of creation. Humans have been given the unique faculties of intellect and free will, allowing them to discern right from wrong and make moral choices. This capability makes them accountable for their actions and grants them superiority over other creations:

"Indeed, We have created man in the best of stature."

(Surah At-Tin, 95:5)