



# General Assembly

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Human Rights Council  
Twenty-fourth session  
Agenda item 6  
Universal Periodic Review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

### Cameroon

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\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

## **I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process**

### **A. Presentation by the State under review**

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### **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

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42. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Cameroon to speak out against threats against human rights defenders and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and provide security; and decriminalize same-sex acts between consenting adults. It expressed concern over violence against women; poor access to information and limitations on the press; and bans imposed on journalists. It made recommendations.

43. The United States of America looked forward to further efforts to strengthen the rule of law and end impunity regarding human rights violations committed by security forces and public officials. It was concerned about prison conditions and overcrowding; freedom of assembly, association and expression; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons. It made recommendations.

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57. Replying to questions concerning homosexuality, the delegation of Cameroon noted that Cameroonian society did not yet accept homosexuality as normal behaviour and that attitudes would change over time. The delegation stressed that homosexuals were not persecuted and that the few incidents that had been brought to the attention of the international community had occurred in public places. The phenomenon, which was quantitatively negligible, should therefore be put into perspective. Furthermore, article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided that a State could limit a freedom for the purpose of “meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society”.

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## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\***

131. **The following recommendations will be examined by Cameroon which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 24th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2013:**

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131.32 Reform the Penal Code to eliminate homosexuality as a criminal offence (Spain);

131.33 Adopt measures to decriminalise consensual sexual acts among adults of the same sex so as to adapt its legislation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

131.34 Establish a moratorium on the implementation of Article 347bis of the Penal Code that “shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years and a fine a person who has sexual relations with a person of the same sex” and encourage non-violence towards all, regardless of sexual orientation, as well as the protection of defenders of these rights, including their lawyers (Canada);

131.35 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (France);

131.36 Decriminalize same-sex relationships, protect LGBTI from violence from other members of the society and fight against prejudices against LGBTI persons by awareness raising campaigns (Germany);

131.37 Reiterate its recommendation made during the UPR in 2009 calling for decriminalization of homosexuality in Cameroon (Netherlands);

131.38 Decriminalise consensual sexual acts among adults of the same sex and adopt measures to eliminate social prejudices and stigmatization of homosexuality (Mexico);

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131.84 Undertake public actions aimed at eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation (Spain);

131.85 Adopt appropriate measures to tackle social prejudices, stigmatization, harassment, discrimination and violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation (Uruguay);

131.86 Adopt necessary measures to avoid discrimination, and to protect and integrate the LGBT population (Argentina);

131.87 Take all necessary measures, including legislative and administrative, to prohibit and eliminate all discriminatory treatment based on sexual orientation (Belgium);

131.88 Adopt further legislative, administrative and other measures to eliminate discriminatory treatment on the basis of gender identity (Czech Republic);

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**131.107 Respect article 12 of the Constitution, which protects privacy, and eliminate abuses of this article that lead to arbitrary arrests and prosecutions on charges related to consensual same sex relations (United States of America);**

**131.108 Urgently repeal legislation criminalising consensual homosexual activity and release from detention individuals convicted of those offences (Australia);**

**131.109 Investigate police violence that took place on persons because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation (Belgium);**

**131.110 Ensure adequate protection of defenders of human rights that help LGBT persons (Belgium);**

