

# The overview and challenges of LGBTQ activism in Malaysia

Gavin Chow  
(@gavinchow24)



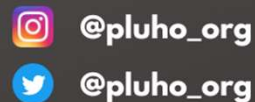
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# Dual legal system

- S377, sodomy law
  - Civil law or Criminal Law that target all LGBTQI persons in Malaysia.
  - Actively in use - Anwar Ibrahim (Opposition Leader)
- State syariah laws - applies to muslim (65% population)
  - Passed by states individually, some borrowed wordings from sodomy law
  - Specifically targeting same sex relation and trans persons.
- [Queer Lapis - Legal Guide](#)



Nur Sajat





Anwar found guilty of sodomy on 7 March 2014.

Image via says.com

Anwar  
Ibrahim

Terengganu  
Women



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# Judicial Review/Strategic Litigation

2021 - Selangor Syariah Court charged 12 men for attempted anal sex. 1 man brought the case to our highest court for judicial review and eventually won.

Technicality - state legislative do not have the power to enact state syariah law on “unnatural sex”. The gay sex law in Selangor has now removed but other states remain.

**The Federal Court decision on Selangor’s Section 28 upholds constitutional protection for all**



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# Community struggles remained or worsened

NEWS

## Malaysian Transgender Woman Brutally Murdered, Media Calls Her 'Mak Nyah' And 'Pondan'

Published 5 years ago · February 24, 2017  
By Michelle



## Hate Crimes

### FIVE CHARGED WITH VIOLENT MURDER OF MALAYSIAN TRANS WOMAN

The 16-21 year olds face the death penalty over accusations they beat a transgender woman to death, cracking her skull and causing internal haemorrhaging in the brain.

### SECOND TRANS WOMAN KILLED IN THE SAME MALAYSIAN TOWN IN LESS THAN A MONTH

Police have again denied the killing was a hate crime, citing the alleged theft of a mobile phone as evidence.



# Community struggles remained or worsened

Malaysia cannot accept LGBT and same-sex marriage, says Dr M

By Azura Abas, Manirajan Ramasamy Mohd - September 21, 2018 @ 1:56pm



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Media  
sensationalisation  
& Social exclusion

Gays? No such thing in our country, says Malaysian Tourism Minister



Malaysia's Tourism Minister Datuk Mohamad Ketapi also sidestepped a question of whether Malaysia is a safe destination for homosexuals and Jews. PHOTO: TWITTER/PHOTO







# Mental Health & SOGIE change efforts

local survey 2022:

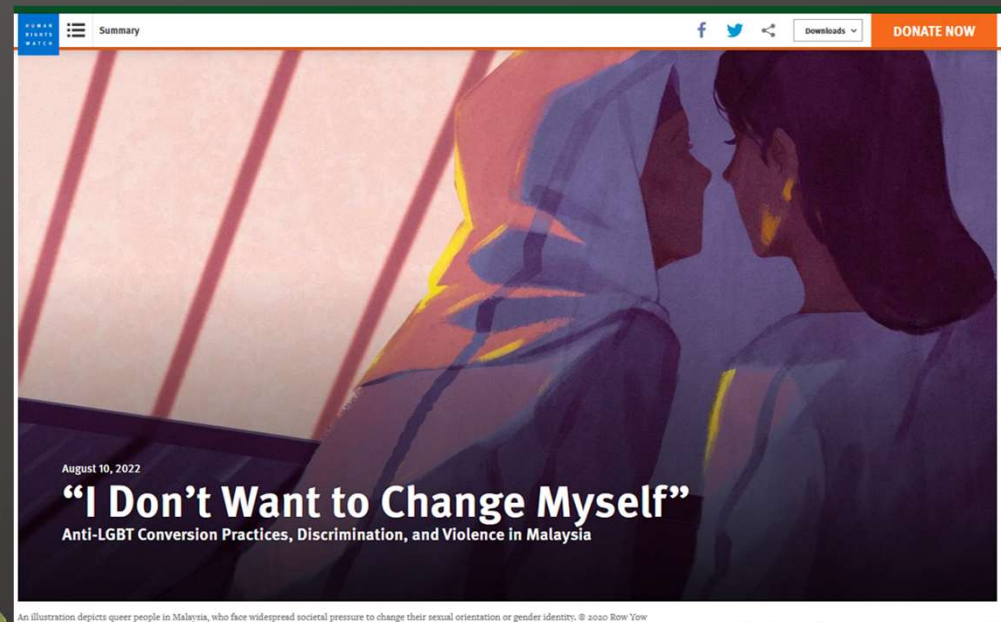
65 % of the survey respondents have experienced pressure to change their SOGIESC identities in their lifetime.

27 % are still experiencing these pressures.



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HRW & Justice For Sisters Report 2022



# Burnt out activists, scarce resources

1. Lack infrastructures for community organising;
  - a. Hard to get non-profit status, unfriendly environment
  - b. Restrictive grant and funding models for sustainability
2. Urgent and emergency responses took away resources and energy from activists from implementing structural changes and improvements.



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# Thank you!

**Gavin Chow**  
gavin@pluho.org -  
@gavinchow24 -

