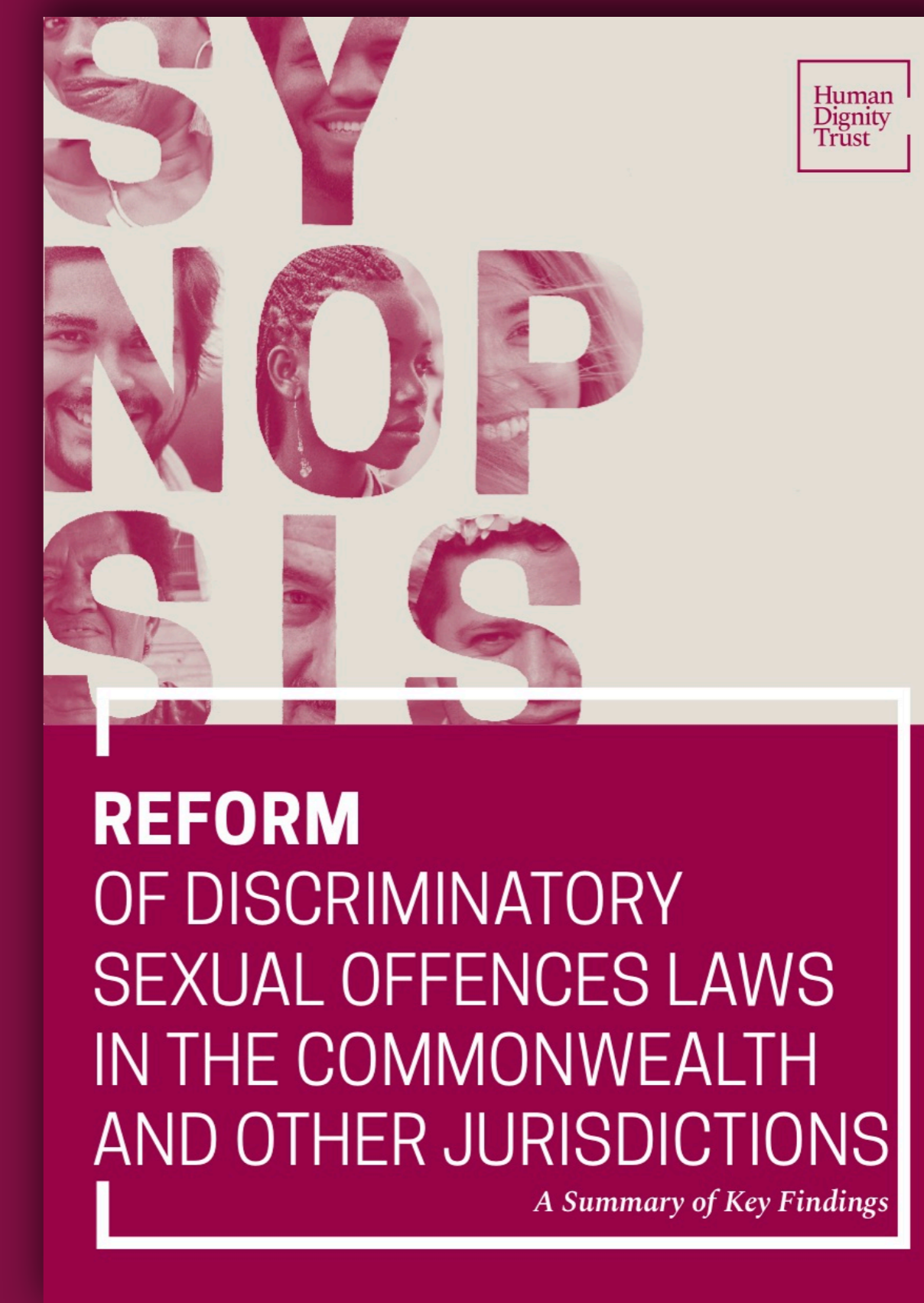
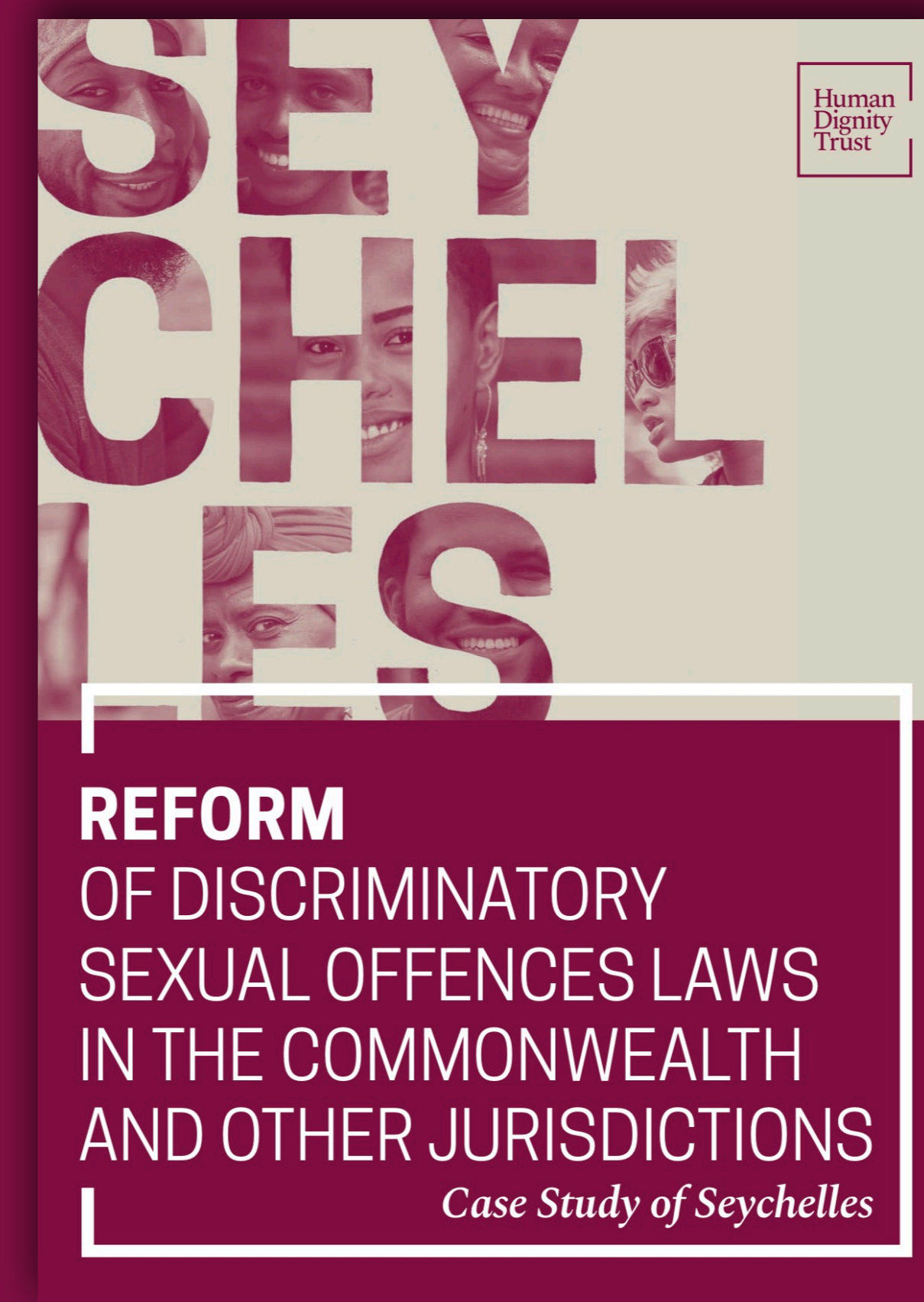
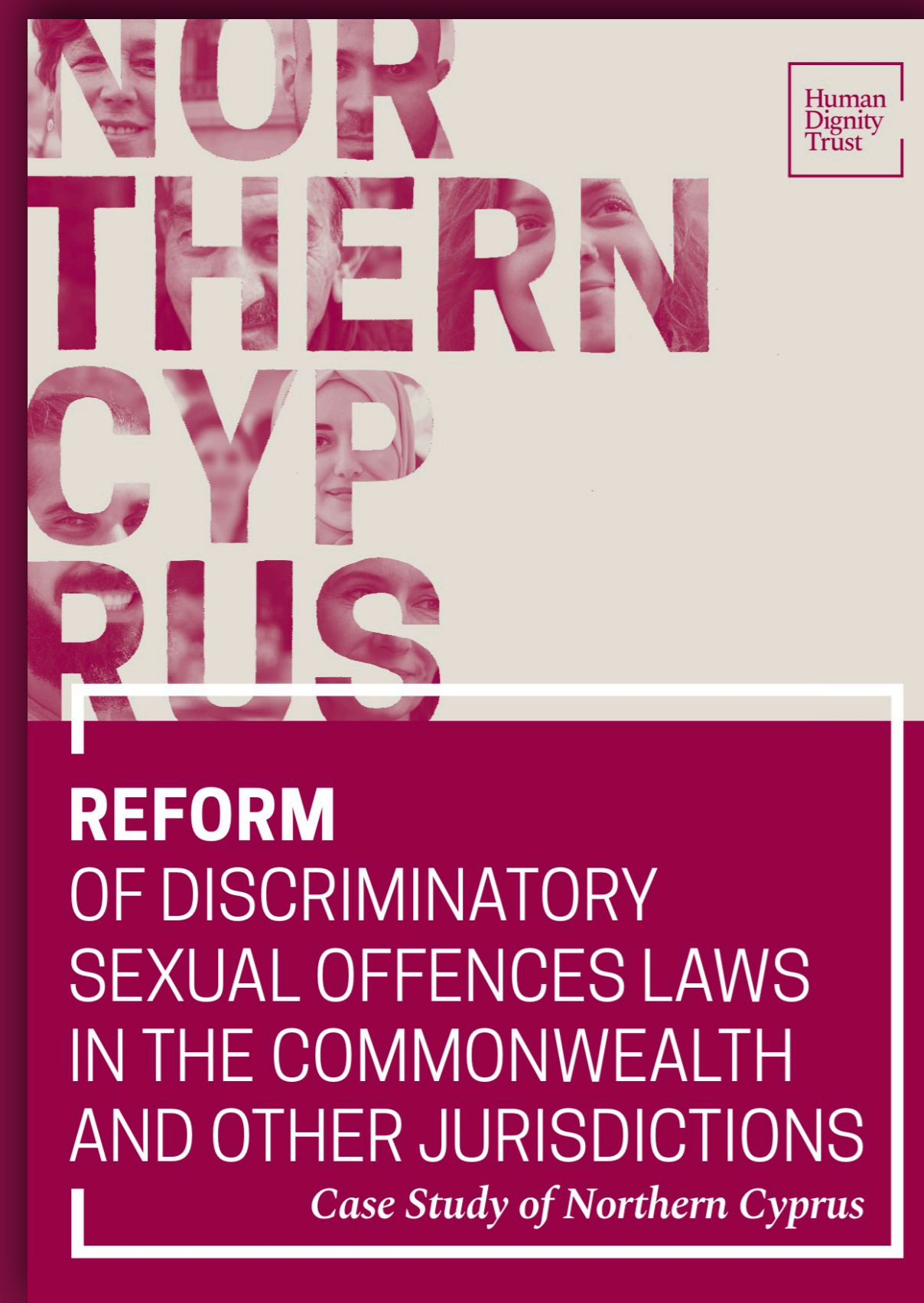
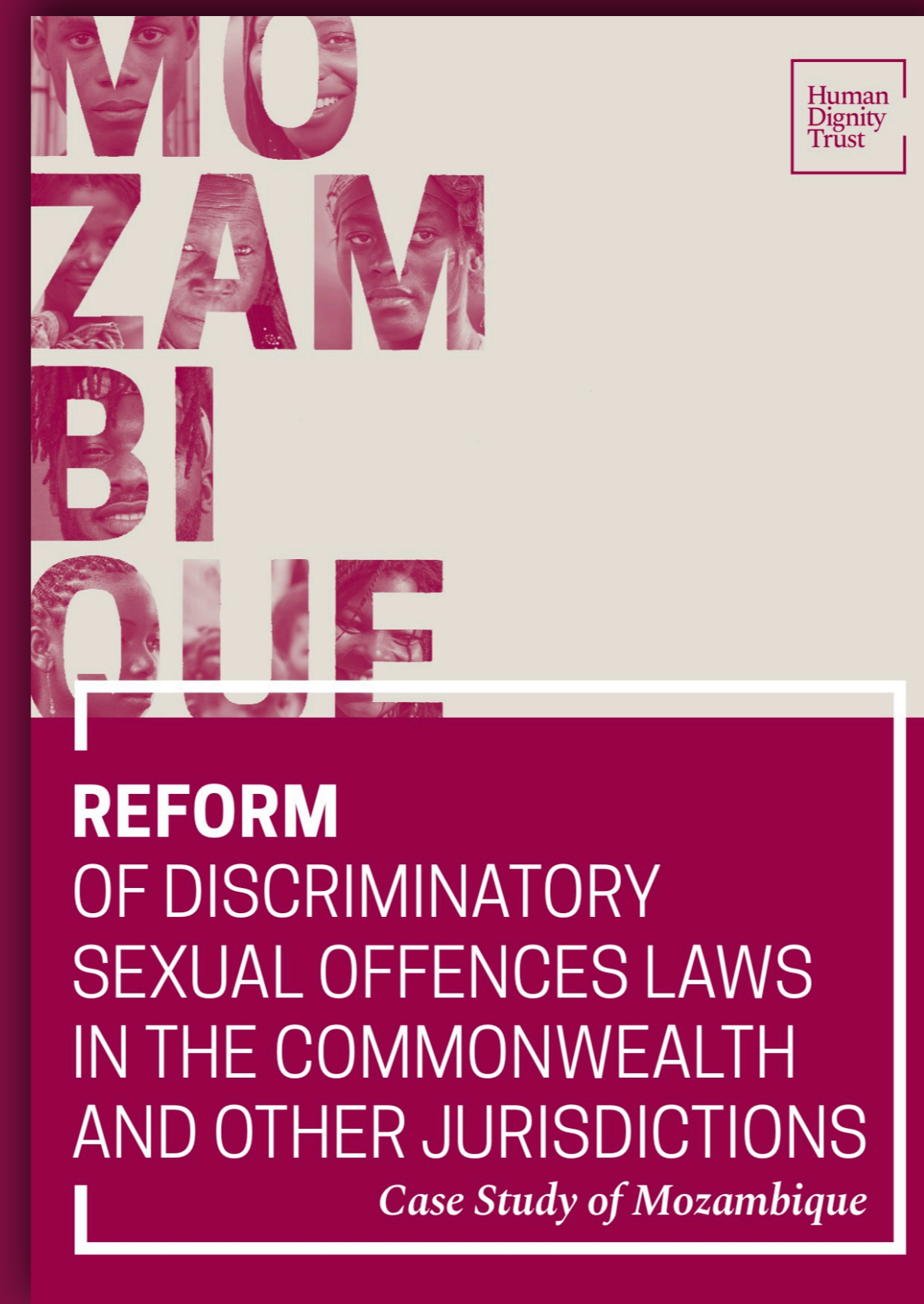


How to change the law

REFORMING SEXUAL
OFFENCES LEGISLATION

Human
Dignity
Trust



Decriminalisation 2010-2020

Legislative reform	Litigation	Both
Lesotho (2012)	Belize (2016)	Northern Cyprus (2014)
São Tomé and Príncipe (2012)	Trinidad and Tobago (2018)	
Mozambique (2014)	India (2018)	
Palau (2014)	Botswana (2019)	
Nauru (2016)		
Seychelles (2016)		
Angola (2019)		
Gabon (2020)		

Case study countries

Palau	2012: modernised its sexual offences laws 2014: wholesale updating of its penal code
Belize	2014: modernised its sexual offences laws 2016: achieved decriminalisation of same-sex conduct through the courts
Northern Cyprus	2012: case challenging criminalisation filed at the European Court of Human Rights, prompting: 2014: repeal of the law that criminalised same-sex conduct, alongside other reforms
Mozambique	2015: wholesale updating of its penal code
Seychelles	2016: repeal of the law criminalising same-sex conduct, on a standalone basis
Nauru	2016: wholesale updating of its criminal code

Models of change

Wholesale Reform of Penal / Criminal Codes	Broad Sexual Offences Reform	Targeted Sexual Offences Reform
Mozambique	Belize	Seychelles
Nauru	Northern Cyprus	
Palau*	Palau*	

*Palau is listed twice as its reform came in two parts, the reform of sexual offences in 2012 and then the wholesale reform of the Penal Code in 2014

Drivers of reform

	Seychelles	Belize	Northern Cyprus	Mozambique	Palau	Nauru
Political Will	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Civil Society	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
International / Regional Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National state agencies		✓				✓
Litigation		✓	✓			
Lack of opposition from faith groups	✓		✓	✓		

International / Regional Support

	Seychelles	Belize	Northern Cyprus	Mozambique	Palau	Nauru
Thematic Studies / Reports		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Resources / Expertise		✓	✓		✓	✓
Regional Institutional Engagement			✓		✓	✓
Multilateral Participation (e.g. UN, UPR)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Human Dignity Trust

Get in Touch
With Us

4th Floor West - Quality House
5-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1HP
United Kingdom

www.humandignitytrust.org
[@humandignityt](https://twitter.com/humandignityt)

