

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of a protest or rally. Several people's arms are visible, with their fists raised in the air, symbolizing solidarity and activism. The background is out of focus, emphasizing the text and the logo.

DEFENDING DIGNITY: A DECADE CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE

Human
Dignity
Trust

WE USE THE LAW TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE GLOBALLY

The Human Dignity Trust is the only organisation working globally to challenge and eradicate laws that criminalise LGBT people and related repressive governmental actions that are justified on the basis of the criminal law. We work with activists, lawyers and governments around the world to defend the human rights of LGBT people.

This report celebrates key achievements in the 10 years since the Trust was founded in 2011.

**WE'VE MOBILISED MORE THAN £18 MILLION WORTH
OF PRO BONO LEGAL EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF OUR
DECRIMINALISATION AND RELATED LEGAL WORK**

FROM OUR FOUNDER



Tim Otty QC,
Founder and Deputy Chair

I first had the idea to found the Human Dignity Trust in 2009 while drafting an advice for the Commonwealth Lawyers Association on Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill. In its first iteration that Bill included the death penalty for 'serial offenders' (defined to include consenting adults engaged in homosexual conduct in private), seven-year terms of imprisonment for parents who failed to report their children to the authorities if they suspected them of being homosexual and other similarly oppressive provisions.

A version of the Bill, albeit without the death penalty, did eventually become law, though it was later struck down by the Courts on a technicality. Nonetheless, like 35 other Commonwealth jurisdictions today, Uganda has criminalised LGBT people since the British Empire imported these and other draconian criminal laws more than 150 years ago.

From a fundamental rights perspective, criminalising someone for what was in essence an intimate aspect of their identity – their sexual orientation – was quite obviously entirely unjustifiable both in constitutional law and international law terms. It was an issue on which, to me, there could be no rational counter-argument. And yet legislation of this kind was prevalent in constitutional democracies purporting to protect basic rights to dignity, privacy and equality across the world. Against this background it seemed to me that the international legal community had a uniquely valuable contribution

to make, and should do more, in helping to tackle one of the defining human rights issues of our time.

For these reasons, the Trust found its first natural home in supporting challenges to these laws in the courts. Over the first few years of the Trust's existence, I assembled an exceptional core team beginning with our inaugural director Jonathan Cooper OBE, an inspirational human rights lawyer and activist who helped drive the Trust forward, taking it from an idea to a reality, and who tragically died in September 2021. Jonathan was soon joined by other international human rights experts, Philip Dayle and Téa Braun, and legal researcher Kapil Gupta. We then brought on board a panel of leading international law firms and barristers to work *pro bono* with us to research the global legal landscape, establish local partnerships and begin the work of supporting local activists and lawyers in their work.

We cut our teeth supporting the leading Caribbean activist Caleb Orozco in his constitutional case in Belize. The Trust was joined to the proceedings as an Interested Party in his case, and I will always be grateful to him for putting his trust in us. He and his legal team deserve immense credit for the successful decriminalisation case there, which provided a strong template for how the Human Dignity Trust's litigation work would later unfold. Ten years ago, Caleb, an openly gay man, risked criminal prosecution. Today he has changed the face of his country and has become a leading advocate for change and the power of the rule of law in protecting fundamental rights across the world. The judgment of the Chief Justice in his case would be cited by the Supreme Court of India when it too would strike down criminalisation, decriminalising tens of millions of LGBT people across India at a stroke.

Since that first case we have supported successful litigation across the Caribbean, in Asia, Africa and Europe both in domestic and international courts. In our endeavour to advance this process we have employed and engaged talented and extraordinarily dedicated people throughout the life of the Trust. I am extremely thankful for the huge energy they have devoted.

Great thanks must also go to all our funders, some of whom have believed in us from day one, most notably Tim Throsby whose initial donation enabled us to start work. All those who have supported us are recognised on the final page of this report.

On a human level, I am immensely proud of the good that the Trust has contributed to, and its impact on the lives of ordinary people. Listening to the radio in a country where we had supported a winning case, I heard two women saying that 'a burden had been lifted' and they now felt they could live freely and come out as gay. It was the first time that they had felt both respected and protected.

With that very personal recollection in mind, it is my sincere hope that in another 10 years we may no longer need to exist, or at the least that criminalisation will be far less prevalent than it is today.

But if anti-LGBT laws continue to blight the lives of those living under them, then we shall be ready to support those who wish to challenge them.



“Our work with the Human Dignity Trust has helped us to push the boundaries of legal argument and allowed us to expand our expectations beyond belief.”

Caleb Orozco, Executive Director, UNIBAM, Belize

WE'VE SUPPORTED LITIGATION AND LAW REFORM IN
25 COUNTRIES WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF
25 MILLION LGBT PEOPLE



FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Téa Braun, Chief Executive

It has been an amazing journey over the nine years I have been with the Human Dignity Trust, helping it evolve from a nascent group with a clear vision but no fixed address to the well-established, global and dynamic organisation it is today.

Now 10 years old, our core objective has remained firm – to materially support the decriminalisation of LGBT people globally. Whether with direct decriminalisation challenges, or through related litigation that advances the recognition of LGBT human rights, our belief in the justice system and the rule of law is steadfast.

Everyone who has touched or supported our work can be immensely proud of what we have accomplished together. As well as the decriminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual intimacy and the recognition that LGBT people are protected, like anyone else, by fundamental human rights, we have helped advance freedom of expression, freedom of association and protection against degrading treatment. We have supported our partners to access justice domestically and to expand the boundaries of international human rights law.

Our people and partners are what make us. The legal and human rights expertise of our staff team combined with the outstanding assistance of our *pro bono* legal teams has made for a formidable force.

Our incredible local and regional civil society partners around the world - with their vision, determination and collaborative spirit – are not only the people who inspire and guide our work, they have become cherished friends.

During this first decade, we have grown not only in legal victories but in our offerings. The most significant evolution in our work has been our now-substantial legislative reform programme, through which we support governments on request to review and reform discriminatory sexual offence legislation and enact protective laws. In under three years, we have helped four governments draft five new bills that hold the promise of stronger legal protection for LGBT people as well as other marginalised groups including women, children and people with disabilities.


We have also developed a sophisticated communications function. We now provide everything from training and capacity building to full-scale public education campaigns in support of legal change. Alongside this, we have built up a ground-breaking and authoritative suite of research publications and digital tools on the topics of decriminalisation, human rights compliant sexual offence legislation and hate crime laws.

All of these building blocks and successes will enable us to offer a deeper range of bespoke and holistic technical support to our colleagues worldwide in the years to come.

Much work remains to be done. LGBT people are still criminalised and stigmatised, ostracised and abused, in too many countries. Nonetheless, we can take heart from the overall narrative arc of the past decade: it bends decisively towards justice.

“The Human Dignity Trust is the leading international organisation providing technical legal assistance and strategic communications support to activists challenging laws that criminalise LGBT people. The Trust’s wealth of experience is a critical resource for securing progressive legal change in courts and parliaments across the globe.”

Kapil Gupta, The Sigrid Rausing Trust

A close-up photograph of a person's face, showing their mouth and chin. They are wearing a garment with a vibrant, multi-colored pattern of stripes and floral shapes in shades of red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is blurred.

LGBT PEOPLE CONTINUE TO FACE CRIMINALISATION IN 71 COUNTRIES

INTRODUCTION

As the Trust marks our 10th anniversary, 71 jurisdictions continue to criminalise private, consensual same-sex sexual activity. Half of these do so based on laws inherited from the British Empire. Criminalising jurisdictions all target male same-sex conduct, and 43 (60 per cent) also criminalise same-sex activity between women. Even where women are not specifically captured by the criminal law, their lives are adversely impacted, often disproportionately, by the pernicious combination of repressive laws and misogyny. Trans people, in addition to being captured by sexual offence laws, are directly criminalised for expressing their gender identity in at least 15 countries and experience police harassment, unjust arrest and prosecution, often under vague criminal provisions, in virtually every country where evidence is collected.

Laws that criminalise LGBT people fuel stigma, legitimise prejudice and encourage violence, including rape, torture and murder. Criminalisation leaves LGBT people beyond the protection of the law and vulnerable to blackmail, extortion and death threats. It underpins their exclusion from vital services such as health, education, housing and employment. Even where laws are not actively enforced, their existence encourages a climate of fear and oppression. Opponents of LGBT human rights are numerous, well-funded and able to vastly outspend LGBT human rights defenders.

And yet, vast strides have been made in removing the laws that criminalise LGBT people, and history is unequivocally moving in the right direction. Since *Dudgeon v the United Kingdom* in 1981, the first case to lead to the decriminalisation of same-sex activity, 58 countries, with a total current population of over 100 million LGBT people, have scrapped their criminalising laws. That is a lot of individual stories of change.

The Human Dignity Trust has played a pivotal role in the ongoing and rapidly accelerating movement towards decriminalisation over the last decade. We have supported local partners with world-class technical legal expertise in 25 countries, achieving impactful and far-reaching wins in courts and assisting governments with law reform efforts. We've mobilised more than £18 million worth of *pro bono* legal expertise to assist us and our partners. Our research is at the forefront in examining the global legal landscape and demonstrating good practice in reforming discriminatory sexual offence laws and enacting protective legislation. Furthermore, our strategic communications work has contributed to the growing global awareness of the scourge of criminalisation and has measurably changed hearts and minds in favour of protecting the rights of LGBT people.





WE'VE SECURED 8 SUCCESSFUL JUDGMENTS
IMPACTING THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF LGBT PEOPLE
IN 5 JURISDICTIONS

STRATEGIC HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION

The Trust was founded with the intention to use the courts to achieve the decriminalisation of LGBT people, and strategic litigation remains at the core of what we do. Since our inception, we have provided technical legal expertise to LGBT people pursuing the protection of their human rights through the courts in 22 jurisdictions across five continents.

Working in close partnership with local lawyers and civil society, our in-house experts in international human rights law and comparative constitutional law together with our vast *pro bono* panel of barristers and solicitors help ensure that cases are robust, draw from a wide range of supportive legal literature, and strategically contribute to the growing global jurisprudence in favour of decriminalisation and the recognition of LGBT human rights. Our collaborative model, bringing together the best of national, regional and international expertise, allows us to build highly-skilled and effective transnational teams.

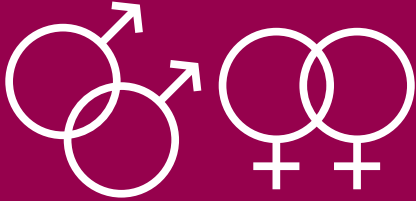
It has been a recipe for success. Cases supported by the Human Dignity Trust have upheld the rights of millions of LGBT people and have had immediate and real-world impacts on their lives. Our cases have achieved the decriminalisation of same-sex activity, removing at

a stroke the threat of arrest and prosecution of LGBT people purely for who they are and who they love. We've successfully upheld the right to freedom of association for LGBT people, allowing activists and organisations to better serve and defend their communities. Our cases have successfully declared unlawful the degrading treatment of LGBT people, such as the use of forced anal examinations to gather so-called 'evidence' of same-sex intimacy. We've supported cases that have advanced LGBT-related asylum protection, making it easier for LGBT refugees to find safety.

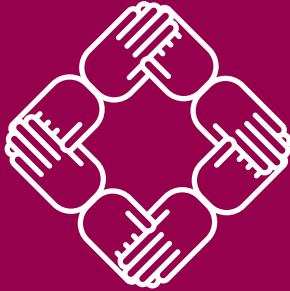
We have worked with our partners to pursue justice through multiple domestic courts, with cases typically rising up through two or three levels of first instance and appellate courts over several years. We have also advanced key cases at the regional level, including at the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as with international human rights mechanisms, such as the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The cases we have supported have established important and ground-breaking legal principles. This has included, for the first time ever in some countries, judicial recognition that all 'persons' as referenced in a Bill of Rights includes LGBT people. Similarly, our cases have advanced the principle that there is a constitutional right to non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, even where it is not expressly included in a list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. We've broken new ground globally in establishing the key principle in domestic law that constitutional prohibitions against discrimination on grounds of 'sex' include 'sexual orientation' discrimination. Cases we have supported have also established the ground-breaking legal point that the right to freedom of expression includes same-sex sexual expression. Other pioneering advances in our cases include the first-

Winning cases we have supported have:



Decriminalised consensual same-sex intimacy



Upheld the right to freedom of association for LGBT people



Banned the use of forced anal examinations



Advanced LGBT-related asylum protection

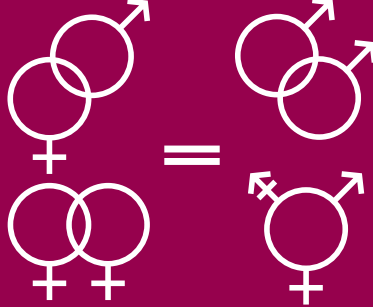


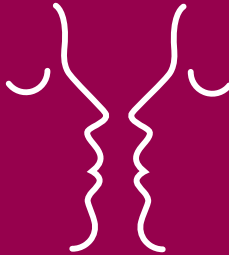


ever legal recognition that the rights of lesbian and bisexual women are also violated by a criminal law that technically only captures sexual activity between men, because of the hostile anti-LGBT environment such laws create. We have also firmly established that anti-LGBT criminal laws violate the American Convention on Human Rights, in a powerful, first-of-its-kind decision in the Inter-American human rights system.

Each win in court contributes to an expansion of jurisprudence that has a meaningful impact on the outcome of comparable cases that follow. Successful cases we have supported have been cited in other positive judgments in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

In our litigation work, the safety and security of our partners has been of paramount importance, especially where litigation may attract vocal and sometimes violent opposition. Working with leading security experts, we have provided security training, assessments and risk mitigation plans to litigants, LGBT organisations and the wider community in seven countries.

While we are proud of the court victories we and our partners have achieved, we believe that meaningful change is not only measured by favourable rulings. Our partners often express that for those living under aggressively homophobic attitudes and discriminatory legislation, merely having the space to engage in a rational argument - and the resulting recognition of LGBT people’s humanity - provides a validation that makes going to court deeply satisfying and worthwhile.

Cases we have supported have established important legal principles:

 <p>All ‘persons’ as referenced in a Bill of Rights includes LGBT people</p>	 <p>There is a constitutional right to non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation</p>	 <p>Constitutional prohibitions against discrimination on grounds of ‘sex’ include ‘sexual orientation’</p>
 <p>Freedom of expression includes same-sex sexual expression</p>	 <p>Laws that criminalise sexual activity between men also violate the rights of LB women</p>	 <p>Anti-LGBT criminal laws violate the American Convention on Human Rights</p>




CASE STUDY: HENRY & EDWARDS V. JAMAICA

In 2011 the Human Dignity Trust filed a case at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Gareth Henry, a leading Jamaican activist for LGBT human rights, and Simone Edwards, a private Jamaican citizen. Both had been subjected to serious anti-LGBT violence in their home country, causing them to flee and seek refuge abroad. Among other incidents of abuse, Gareth was beaten by police while a hostile crowd looked on. Simone, an openly lesbian woman, was shot and left for dead by men from her neighbourhood.

Neither petitioner was fully protected under domestic law which, in criminalising same-sex intimacy, instead fostered a climate of abuse, harassment and violence against all members of the LGBT community.

We argued that Jamaica, by criminalising private, consensual sexual activity between men, was in violation of its obligations under the American Convention on Human Rights.

The Commission's ground-breaking 2019 ruling, which was made public in 2021, found that Jamaica's laws criminalising same-sex sexual activity violate the Convention and the rights of LGBT people. This was the first time such a ruling had been made by the Commission.



“All my life people have told me that who I am and who I love is wrong. Now, for the first time ever, I finally feel I am right.”

Gareth Henry, Jamaican LGBT Activist and one of the petitioners in the case

Significantly, the decision also recognises the effects that criminalisation has on lesbian and bisexual women, even though they are not explicitly captured under the law. In a first of its kind globally, the Commission's finding recognises that laws that technically only capture male same-sex activity also violate the fundamental human rights of lesbian and bisexual women due to the environment of stigma, discrimination and violence that the laws foster against the entire LGBT community.

In addition to recommending the repeal of the criminalising provisions and reparations for the petitioners, the Commission recommended that anti-discrimination legislation should be adopted in Jamaica, hate crimes against LGBT people should be monitored, and LGBT sensitisation training and education should be provided for public officials and in schools.

Beyond Jamaica, the case will have a material impact on other criminalising jurisdictions, particularly those in the region that also retain anti-LGBT criminal laws, most of which are involved in domestic legal challenges. Such an unequivocal validation of LGBT human rights from an authoritative regional justice mechanism holds credibility and influence throughout the Caribbean and across the world.

Simone Edwards,
one of the petitioners in the case.



A photograph of a courtroom or legislative chamber. In the foreground, a wooden bench with a blue and white striped cushion is visible. A microphone is mounted on the bench. In the background, more benches and microphones are visible, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm and focused on the benches.

**WE HAVE DRAFTED FIVE NEW BILLS PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE AND MANY OTHERS IN
FOUR COUNTRIES**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORM

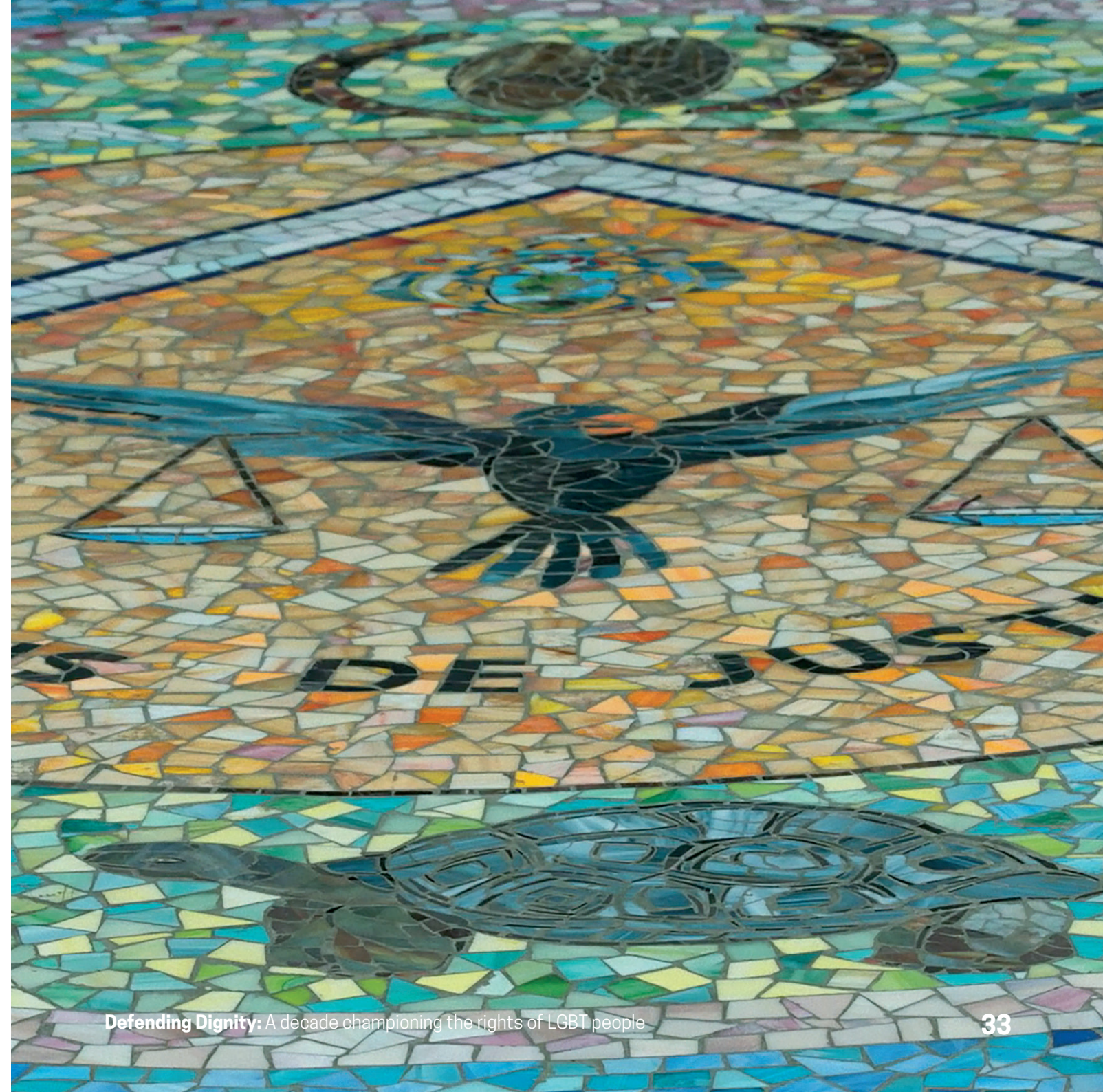
Over the period 2016 to 2021, the Human Dignity Trust successfully expanded our work beyond litigation to provide the same highly-skilled technical legal and communications assistance to governments committed to changing the laws that criminalise or fail to protect LGBT people. While political will may exist to address these laws, access to adequate technical expertise and resources often remains a barrier to reform. Our legislative reform programme exists to fill that gap, providing governments and other stakeholders with the world-class technical legal expertise needed to pursue successful reform.

We have focused on reforming the laws LGBT people tell us have the most impact on their lives: updating sexual offence laws so LGBT people are no longer criminalised, enacting hate crime laws that protect them from violence, and supporting anti-discrimination laws that enable their equal participation in all aspects of life. In many cases, the very same penal codes that criminalise LGBT people also discriminate against or fail to adequately protect other marginalised groups from sexual offences, including women, children and people with disabilities. Protective legislation similarly needs to act for a wide range of marginalised groups. Our work in this area has been intersectional and cross-cutting, ensuring that legislation reflects international good practice and ensures that the human rights of all marginalised groups are respected and protected.

We have developed sophisticated systems and structures to assist our partners with the full range of activities necessary to undertake successful legislative reform. This includes everything from the production of legislative gap analyses, option and policy papers, briefing and explanatory papers, and support for stakeholder and public consultations, through to the drafting, validation and finalisation of legislation itself. Since 2018, we have supported four governments from Africa and the Caribbean to draft five bills that will improve the lives of LGBT people and other marginalised groups. This includes new human rights compliant sexual offence laws, hate crimes amendments and anti-discrimination legislation.

Belize has been a partner country for the entire 10 years of our existence and demonstrates just how much change is possible. Belize moved from being a criminalising jurisdiction up until 2016, to decriminalising through the courts in August of that year and having that judgment upheld on appeal in 2019, to embarking with us in partnership to develop equal opportunities and hate crime bills to proactively protect LGBT people and swathes of other marginalised or vulnerable groups.

Our technical legal assistance has been underpinned by thorough research and our investment in technical excellence. Since 2016 we have established a formidable knowledge base and made it readily available to our partners. We are also supported in our work by a Commonwealth Group of Experts that we established and host; an international network of leading lawyers, legislative drafters, politicians, academics and researchers whose know-how spans topics such as legislative drafting, criminal law, sexual offences, anti-discrimination, hate crime and human rights.




Recognising that civil society plays a vital role in ensuring that legislative reform is effective, the Trust has provided technical legal assistance to LGBT activists working on reform in 10 countries, strengthening their capacity to meaningfully engage in the legislative reform process. We have worked with LGBT organisations to engage with their law reform commissions, resulting in recommendations to decriminalise being taken up in the highest echelons of government. We've worked with activists to analyse the gaps in their legislation and helped develop strategies to fill those gaps.

While our objective is always to eradicate the laws that criminalise and discriminate against LGBT people, our legislative reform programme continues to achieve other successes. Our partners have reported how the programme has improved the technical knowledge of officials and policy makers in areas of reform they were unfamiliar with, and has raised awareness among government officials, communities and other stakeholders of the discrimination LGBT people face due to existing and inadequate legislation.

“The draft Sexual Offences Bill prepared by the Human Dignity Trust and its Experts is a fantastic piece of work.”

Human Dignity Trust Government Partner



“The Human Dignity Trust’s stellar support for the creation of Bills to enable equal opportunities for vulnerable groups is legendary. Thank you for all that you do to improve the lives of ordinary people.”

Laura Tucker-Longsworth, former Speaker of the National Assembly of Belize



**IN BELIZE WE'VE SUPPORTED PUBLIC EDUCATION
CAMPAIGNS IN FAVOUR OF LEGAL REFORM THAT HAVE
REACHED OVER 70% OF THE POPULATION**

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Conscious that legal change can have a better chance of success where public attitudes to LGBT people are more tolerant, and that local drivers of change need to be in control of the messaging around any legal work, we have placed continuously increasing emphasis on our communications work over the course of our first decade. To create enabling environments for legal change, our core legal work is now accompanied in almost all jurisdictions by support for sophisticated media, communications and public education campaigns.

Our highly-skilled in-house communications specialists have decades of experience under their belts, including research-led and values-based message development focused on increasing awareness and shifting public attitudes.

Our understanding of the unique communications needs associated with decriminalisation and recognition of the rights of LGBT people, whether via strategic litigation or legislative reform, allows us to tell human stories, subtly dispel myths, and foster understanding and empathy towards LGBT people and other vulnerable groups, thus minimising public backlash against changes in the law.

Since our inception, we have carried out bespoke media and communications training in more than a dozen jurisdictions with our


local partners. Over 450 people from across the world have received our training to date, allowing them to confidently manage the narratives around legal interventions and fine tune reporting in the public sphere on progressive legal change in favour of LGBT people.

We have also collaborated with our partners directly to design communications plans and strategies to complement their work in support of LGBT human rights, including developing compelling and persuasive messaging, and folding this into press releases and opinion pieces. Together, we have scored thousands of media mentions in influential domestic, regional and international outlets, fundamentally impacting local advocacy efforts and reaching key and strategic target audiences such as law and policy makers.

More recently, we have expanded our work to help partners craft effective ways to reach hearts and minds, sensitise large swathes of their population and measurably shift attitudes in relation to LGBT people and other vulnerable groups.

In the context of our work in support of legislative reform in Belize, this took the form of a large-scale, nationwide public education campaign in support of equal opportunities for all. Using research generated through focus groups with everyday citizens to devise values-based messaging, we created nine public service announcements (PSAs) addressing discrimination against women and girls, people with disability and LGBT people. By rolling out the PSAs across all major TV and radio stations, as well as on social media, we reached 70 per cent of the country's population. Furthermore, through regular national polling, we have collected quantitative evidence to show a majority of Belizeans support anti-discrimination legislation and a growing acceptance of LGBT people and other vulnerable groups.

Recognising the power of film to reach new and engaged audiences, the Trust is increasingly investing in documentary film, driving home the urgent need for legal change in favour of LGBT people and other marginalised groups. In 2020, we released two short documentaries – our first ever – on the importance of sexual offence law reform and the need for hate crime legislation in Commonwealth countries. Both films won Impact DOCS awards for excellence and use of film for social change in 2021. Since their release, the films and a suite of associated video assets have been viewed more than 10,000 times. With Commonwealth lawmakers as their primary target audience, their impact has already been direct and measurable. Following broadcast on a national television station in an African jurisdiction, one of the films was instrumental in encouraging the government to embark on legal reform with our technical assistance.



“A must watch. Beautifully put together, with content from people who are not only sharing: they are teaching.”

Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, on the Trust's short films



OUR PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN
ACCESSED MORE THAN **1.3 MILLION** TIMES IN THE
LAST DECADE

RESEARCH, TOOLS AND PUBLICATIONS

Over our 10-year history, the Human Dignity Trust has published more than 500,000 words of original research, defending the human rights of LGBT people. Early on we understood the value of credible research, developing and maintaining a unique library of key court rulings and related external resources. Where there were gaps in existing resources, we drafted our own, including case digests and analyses of key milestones in strategic litigation.

Our research has evolved into a growing body of authoritative and ground-breaking evidence and analysis, spanning briefing notes, in-depth case studies, pioneering legal analyses and innovative digital products. Taken together, these make up a formidable intellectual arsenal, which both makes the case for the need for legal change and provides the practical tools to successfully undertake it.

We carry out research with the clear aim of significantly advancing legal change for LGBT people, including groups traditionally overlooked in the literature. Our trailblazing report, *Breaking the Silence*, is the foundational global analysis of the criminalisation of lesbian and bisexual women, illustrating for the first time the impact of the law on these historically under-researched groups. It now underpins an ongoing challenge to the criminalisation of women before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women. As a follow up in the series, *Injustice Exposed* made an important contribution by examining how trans and gender diverse people are explicitly criminalised and where they are disproportionately targeted under other, often vaguely worded, laws.

As our technical assistance has broadened to include legislative reform, so too has our research output. Recognising that criminalisation of LGBT people is just one part of a wider set of interconnected, discriminatory and out-dated sexual offence laws in many countries, we produced a suite of research interrogating sexual offences legislation across the Commonwealth, comprising of more than a dozen in-depth reports and a wealth of supporting materials. Our series of six country case studies highlights the factors needed for the successful reform of sexual offence laws. Our *Good Practice Guide* lays out in detail the necessary components of human rights compliant sexual offences legislation. Our *Next Steps* series assessed the sexual offence laws of the then 53 Commonwealth countries, clearly identifying national and regional gaps in the legislation. This package of resources has inspired governments to undertake reform and has directly informed the drafting of new sexual offence laws in three countries in Africa and the Caribbean. As one stakeholder put it, our research is “addressing critical gaps in the existing literature”, while another senior figure in government made it mandatory reading for officials working on a specific piece of legislative reform.


We have built a similar portfolio of research on hate crimes against LGBT people, which both examines LGBT people’s experiences of, and identifies legislative solutions to, bias-motivated violence. This set of resources has been accessed by almost 20,000 people, and has been used in advocating for, and directly influencing the drafting of, hate crime legislation in five countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

“I have looked at Kiribati’s status in your report and it’s really awesome to be able to know where we are, to compare ourselves with our regional brothers and sisters, to see the existing gaps and be able to draw information and knowledge from case studies within the Pacific.”

Tebeio Tamton, Boutokaan, Inaomataia ao Mauriia
Binabinaine Association (BIMBA), Kiribati

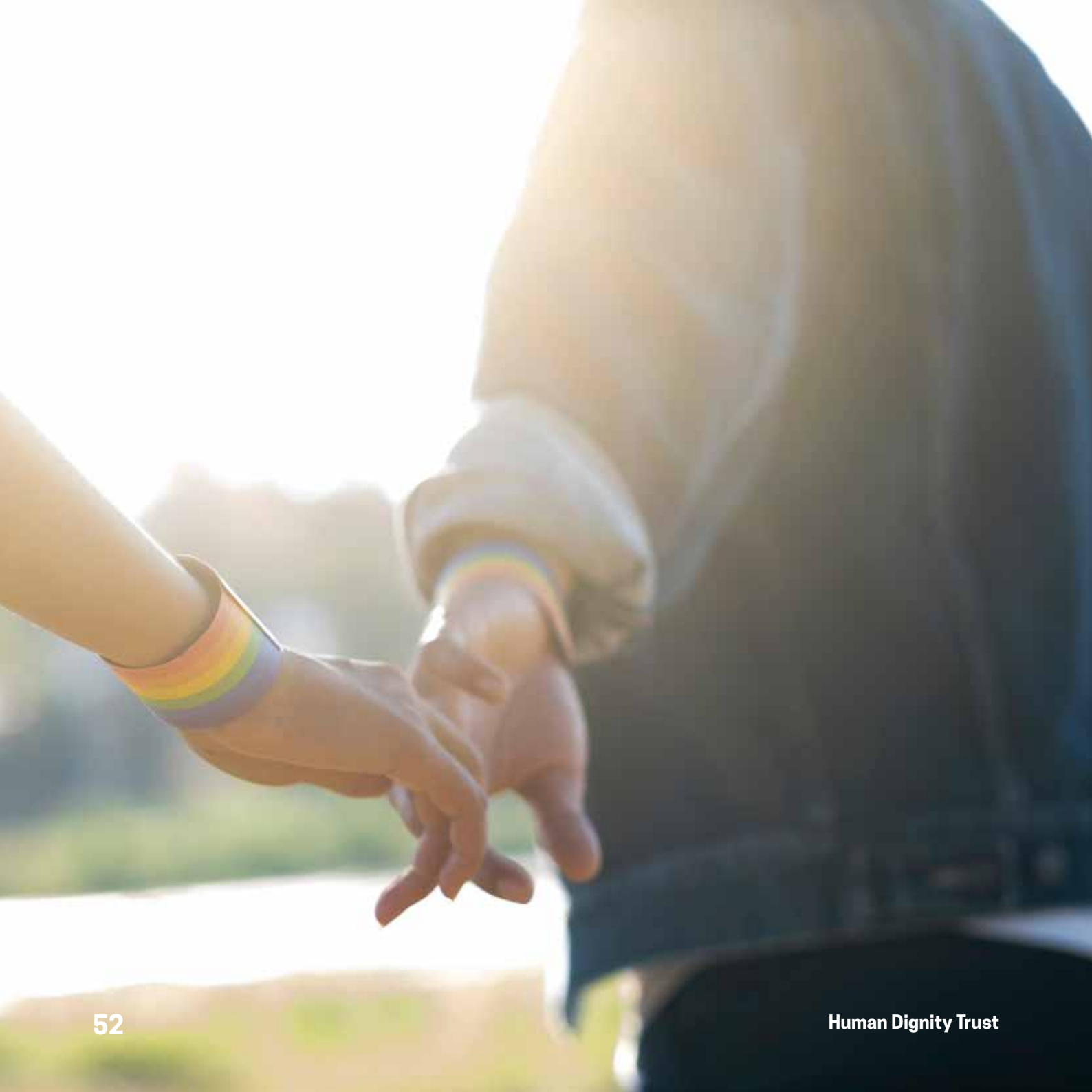
The Human Dignity Trust has also significantly expanded the reach of our research by developing innovative digital products, ensuring it can be used by the widest range of people. This includes our online map of criminalisation, which identifies and profiles every country where there are laws that criminalise LGBT people. Since our inception, more than 1.2 million people have accessed this digital tool, informing conversations around the world on the rights of LGBT people. It has been cited in the *New York Times*, *NBC News*, *Huffington Post*, *Vogue*, *Buzzfeed* and *The Conversation*. More recently we have developed a ground-breaking interactive digital tool that enables anyone to review and compare a wide range of sexual offence laws and how they stack up against our indicators of human rights compliance, across the entire Commonwealth (see right). Launched in early 2021 to wide acclaim, the tool has been used over 10,000 times.





**“They work tirelessly. I consider them to be part
of my family.”**

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, Executive Director, EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka
speaking about the Human Dignity Trust



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Trust is incredibly grateful to the many individuals, trusts, foundations, corporates and governments who have generously supported our work over our first 10 years. We are making change together.

We would like especially to acknowledge the following individuals and institutions for their extraordinarily generous support over the last decade:

The Arcus Foundation
The Baring Foundation
Bates Wells Braithwaite
Bertha Foundation
Block 9
The City Charity Trust
The Elton John AIDS Foundation
Equality Without Borders/TIDES Foundation
Freshfields Foundation
Global Affairs Canada
Gowling WLG
The Kobler Trust

Luminate
The Monument Trust
The Oak Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Revolution Beauty
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Viiv Healthcare
Tim Throsby
The Woodward Trust
UK Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

GET INVOLVED



Donate

More than 70 countries still criminalise LGBT people.

Help us bring that number down.

www.humandignitytrust.org/donate



Research

Use our map to learn more about the criminalisation of LGBT people.

www.humandignitytrust.org/lgbt-the-law/map-of-criminalisation



Find out more

about the human rights compliance of sexual offence laws in the Commonwealth.

www.humandignitytrust.org/reform



Learn more

about how the law can be used to defend the rights of LGBT people.

www.humandignitytrust.org/hdt-resources



Stay in touch

Sign up to our newsletter for updates on key legal challenges to anti-LGBT laws around the world, news on the reform of discriminatory laws, and comment from our Director on landmark judgments.

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