

Awareness, Attitude & Perception Survey About Issues Related to Same Sex Relationships

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J-FLAG Same
Sex Research

MANAGEMENT REPORT ON

AN AWARENESS, ATTITUDE & PERCEPTION SURVEY ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS

Prepared for:

**J-FLAG
3 Stanton Terrace
Kingston 6.**

By:

**Market Research Services Ltd.
16 Cargill Avenue
Kingston 5.**

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1. Executive Summary

J-FLAG commissioned Market Research Services Ltd. (MRSL) to carry out a follow up to a series of surveys it has conducted since 2011 to measure the attitudes towards homosexual relationships in Jamaica. This study involved the conduct of 1003 interviews with members of the public including the general populace (n=942), employers (n=27) and politicians (n=33) across all the thirteen parishes of the island. The margin of error associated with the results from these surveys is + or – 3.3% points at the 95% level of confidence.

In this section of the report, MRSL summarises the key highlights from the survey:

- Levels of awareness of specific LGBT terms are nearly universal across all study populations ranging between 93% and 100%. Awareness is lowest for transgender among the general public with an awareness incidence of 79%.
- The traditional media is the most dominant source of information about LGBT issues across all study populations.
- The average age of first exposure to homosexuality is 14 years among adult Jamaicans.
- There is accurate knowledge of what the different LGBT terms such as homosexuality, transgender and bisexual means.
- Respondents are of the view that between 10% and 30% of Jamaicans are homosexuals.
- They also believe that homosexuality is spread right across the socio-economic spectrum with no single social class being more dominant than the other.
- Members of the general public more than employers and politicians have very strong negative attitudes towards homosexuality and homosexuals. All groups of respondents report strong negative attitudes. Respondents are particularly opposed to marriage among homosexuals.
- The general consensus among all study populations is that homosexuals may be converted to heterosexuals. While the majority of the employers (61%) and politicians

(58%) share the view that homosexuals experience the same emotions as heterosexuals, the majority of the general public (55%) disagree with this notion.

- Feelings about conversion are driven by considerations about the Bible and views that homosexuals are not born but made.
- Tolerance levels are relatively low, 12% across all study populations. Tolerance is lowest among the general public (10%) when compared to employers (43%) and politicians (39%).
- There is general misinformation about the applicability of the Buggery law. The majority are of the view that it applies to both males and females.
- The majority do not support a change to the Buggery law as well as the Charter of Rights.
- Employers (39%) and politicians (42%) are more open to the idea of widening or expanding the meaning of sexual intercourse than are members of the general public (27%).
- There is very limited knowledge of the Savings Law Clause. Awareness is least weak among politicians – 21% report awareness of the law compared to 4% of employers and 1% of the general public.
- Views are divided across the different study populations about how much support the Government is giving to the LGBT community. That is, while the majority of politicians are of the view that the Government is doing enough (55%), 50% of employers admitted that they did not know what was being done by the Government to make a judgment while 33% of the general public are of the view that enough is not being done. But an almost equal incidence, 31%, of the general public also opined that enough is being done.
- The Government can expect little to no support from the general public in efforts to protect the LGBT community from violence and discrimination. Strongest support for such efforts will come from politicians.
- There is strong disagreement among all the study populations for teaching tolerance in schools especially among the general public (64%).

- The majority are aware of J-FLAG (73% of the general public).
- Members of the general public widely agree that J-FLAG is of little to no value to Jamaica (69%) while politicians (36%) and employers (28%) significantly agree that they do have value. Opportunities to change these perceptions more positively do exist however especially if J-FLAG is overtly seen as offering counselling to homosexuals and actively seeking to take them off the streets.
- There is very little knowledge of the work that J-FLAG is doing about providing for gays among the general public. The majority reported being unaware of what is being done by J-FLAG in these areas.
- Willingness to report violence or discrimination against LGBTs is strongest among employers (68%) and politicians (88%) compared to the general public (34%).
- Employers are positively disposed towards workplace policies geared towards avoiding discrimination against LGBTs in the workplace. In fact, 64% of those sampled reported currently having such policies in place.

2. Background & Methodology

Study Purpose & Objective

The J-FLAG¹ has tracked since 2011 Jamaicans' attitudes towards homosexuality. It has done so through using survey methodology and has been able to establish key indicators to measure attitudes and views towards homosexuality. This survey represents the third of a series of such studies. The purpose of the study is to update the indicators obtained from previous surveys and ultimately seek to assess the extent to which key members of the Jamaican population including the general public, employers and politicians assess their own feelings and views of homosexuality. It is anticipated that these results will be used as a guide to direct policy and even amendments to the law related to the Buggery Law for example.

Market Research Services Ltd. (MRSL) is the entity that was responsible for carrying out the 2015 study.

Methodology

The methodology for this national survey included:

- A sample size of 1,003 households and individuals 18+ years of age. This includes 942 residents and 28 employers and 33 politicians.
- A multi-stage random sampling procedure. This involved first dividing the island into thirteen (13) primary strata represented by all the parishes (Kingston & St. Andrew being included as one). Sampling proportionate to population size was used to determine the sample size in each parish. In addition to this, demographic strata (include age, gender and social class) were also used in order to ensure that the final sample was representative of the 18+ population.
- The survey was spread across 100 EDs from across all thirteen parishes of the island.
- The data was collected during the period of June and July of 2015.
- A structured questionnaire was utilized for the study (Appendix I).

¹ Jamaica Form For Lesbian, All Sexuals, Gays

- MRSL’s standard quality procedures were enforced for this study including:
 - Training of the field team in all aspects related to data collection prior to the start
 - In field supervision by Field Team Leaders
 - Post field validation by MRSL’s in house validation unit
 - Editing of questionnaires prior to coding and data entry
- All completed and validated questionnaires were entered using EPI Info and data analysis was carried out using SPSS for Windows.
- A computer print out of the results from the survey was generated and represents the source from which this management report was prepared.

Table #1: Demographic & Geographic Profile of Respondents (Residents Sample)

Sample Group	National (%) ²	Sample (%)	Sample Size (n)
Gender:			
Males	49%	45.5%	429
Females	51%	54.5%	513
Age Group:			
18-24	15%	20%	190
25-34	22%	21%	212
35-44	21%	22%	204
45-54	13%	18%	171
55-64	19%	12%	117
65+	10%	5%	48
Social Class³:			
Upper Income	14%	4%	40
Middle Income	28%	34%	322
Low Income	58%	62%	580
Household Income Group:			
Less than \$50,000	NA	33%	307
\$50,000-\$150,000	NA	33%	311
\$151,000-\$250,000	NA	11%	105
\$251,000-\$350,000	NA	3%	23
\$351,000-\$500,000	NA	2%	15
\$500,000+	NA	1%	6
Education:			
Primary	NA	14%	39
Secondary	NA	40%	114
Vocational	NA	16%	21
Undergraduate/Graduate	NA	26%	54

² Source: Demographic Statistics, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2013 publication.

³ Source: Market Research Services Ltd.

Sample Group	National (%) ²	Sample (%)	Sample Size (n)
Professional Certification	NA	1%	3
Post Graduate	NA	3%	9
None/refused	NA	<1%	25
Parish:			
Kingston & St. Andrew	25%	27%	254
St. Catherine	19%	19%	179
St. Thomas	4%	4%	38
Portland	3%	3%	30
St. Mary	4%	5%	44
St. James	7%	5%	51
Hanover	3%	3%	27
St. Ann	7%	7%	62
Westmoreland	5%	5%	46
St. Elizabeth	6%	5%	51
Manchester	7%	8%	71
Trelawny	3%	<1%	3
Clarendon	9%	9%	86

Table #2: Profile of Employers & Politician Samples

Sample Group	Sample (%)	Sample Size (n)
Political Party:		
PNP	58%	19
JLP	42%	14
Gender of respondents:		
Males	85%	28
Females	15%	5
Respondent Group:		
Employers	46%	28
Politicians	54%	33
Politician Group:		
MP/Caretaker	39%	13
Councillor/Caretaker	27%	9
Senator	27%	9
Mayor/Deputy Mayor	6%	2
Size of Company (Employers)		
Small (less than 50 employees)	25%	7
Medium (50-150 employees)	39%	11
Large (150+ employees)	36%	10

3. FINDINGS

2.1 Awareness & Knowledge About Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Issues

Q1. Which of the following terms have you heard before now?

There is near universal levels of awareness of the LGBT terms among all population groups including the general public, employers and politicians. Awareness is lowest for Transgender among the general public. Persons forty five (45) years and older, those in the low income socio-economic group and persons living outside of the capital city but specifically residents of Clarendon, Hanover, St. Ann, St. Mary and Portland in particular, were primarily among those least aware of the term Transgender.

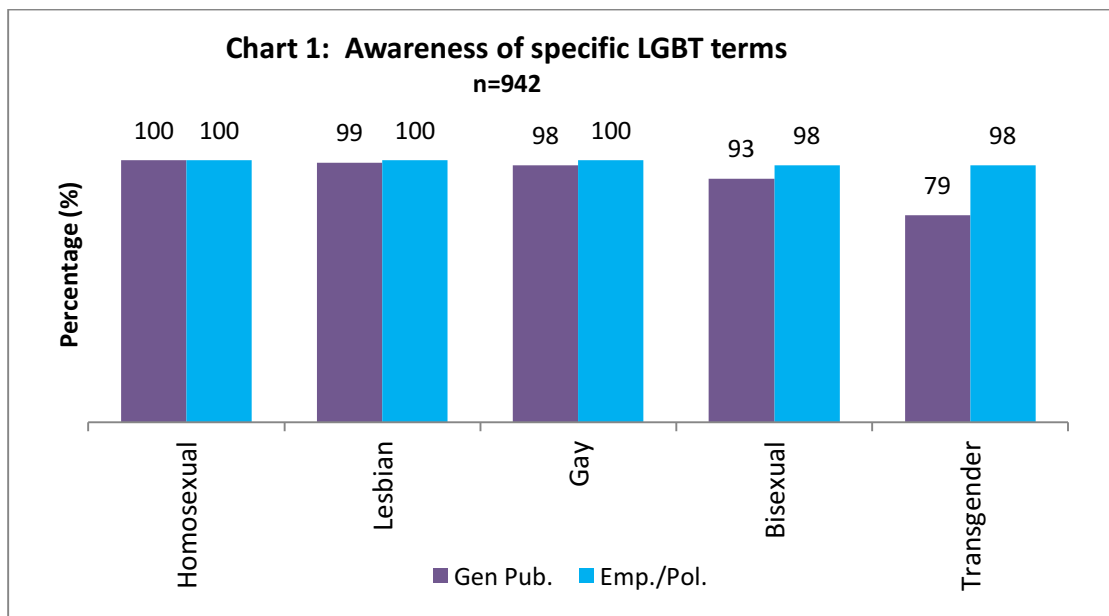


Table #3: Awareness of specific LBT terms by demography & geography (general public)

	Homosexual	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Transgender
Gender:					
Males	100%	99%	98%	92%	80%
Females	99%	98%	98%	94%	79%
Age Group:					
18-24	100%	99%	99%	94%	82%
25-34	99%	99%	99%	94%	82%
35-44	100%	98%	98%	95%	83%
45-54	100%	98%	97%	90%	74%
55-64	100%	99%	99%	91%	74%
65+	100%	100%	98%	90%	69%
Parish:					
KSA	99%	99%	99%	96%	89%
Urban ⁴	99%	98%	98%	91%	77%
Rural ⁵	100%	100%	99%	90%	73%
Social Class:					
Upper Income	100%	98%	98%	98%	95%
Middle Income	99%	99%	98%	95%	90%
Low Income	100%	98%	98%	91%	72%

Q2. How did you first become aware of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues?

Traditional media, is the main method by which awareness of these issues was first obtained. This is consistent for all population groups. Family/friends and school are also significant sources of information.

Table #4: Medium of Awareness of LGBT Issues

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Traditional media	45%	74%	46%
Family/friends	21%	11%	30%
School	10%	4%	12%
Social Media	9%	4%	-
People in the community	4%	-	-
Other	4%	3%	3%
Can't Recall/Refused	7%	4%	9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

⁴ **Urban parishes include:** St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon, Westmoreland, St. James, St. Ann

⁵ **Rural parishes include:** St. Elizabeth, Hanover, Trelawny, St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas

Q3. How old were you when you first became aware of homosexuality?

The average age of first exposure to the term homosexuality among the general public is fourteen (14) years. The minimum reported age of first exposure is three (3) years while the oldest age is 55.

Employers and Politicians report slightly different age ranges with the average age of first exposure being approximately fifteen (15) years for employers and twelve (12) years for politicians.

Table #5: Age of First Exposure to Homosexuality Issues

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Average (median) age	14 yrs.	14.5 yrs	12 yrs.
Minimum Age	3 yrs.	6 yrs.	5 yrs.
Maximum Age	55 yrs.	30 yrs.	20 yrs.

Q4a-Q4c. In your own words please explain what it means to be homosexual? Transgender? Bi-sexual?

The study populations are generally aware of the meanings of the different terms homosexual, transgender and bi-sexual:

Table #6: Understanding of Specific LGBT Terms

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Homosexuality:			
• Two persons of the same sex together in a relationship	39%	-	-
• Sexual intercourse with the same gender	45%	43%	70%
• Attraction to the same sex			
• Battyman, Fish etc.	7%	61%	24%
• Unhealthy practices	4%	-	-
• Other	1%	-	-
• An ungodly act	1%	-	-
• A path to extinction	-	-	9%
• Not sure	-	-	3%
• Refused	2%	-	-
	1%	-	-

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Transgender:			
• Changing of sex born with	72%	74%	55%
• Acting like the opposite sex	12%	-	-
• When someone does not accept their gender			
• Confused, don't know gender	4%	4%	21%
• Sick people	1%	-	-
• A person with both sex organs	1%	-	-
• Cross dressing	1%	-	6%
• Sex outside your gender	-	11%	6%
• Interchange gender	-	4%	-
• Ungodly	-	4%	3%
• Don't know/not sure	-	-	3%
• Refused	10%	4%	6%
	2%	-	-
Bisexual:			
• Having sex with both sexes	66%	78%	61%
• Having relationship with both sexes	16%	-	-
• Attraction to both sexes	7%	19%	33%
• Having sex with same gender	1%	-	-
• Biblically wrong	-	-	3%
• Other	1%	-	-
• Don't know/not sure	6%	-	-
• Refused	3%	4%	6%

Q5. In your opinion what percentage of persons living in Jamaica would you say is homosexual/gay/lesbian?

Views about the proportion of persons living in Jamaica who are of homosexual orientation ranged from 15% among employers and politicians combined and 30% among the general public. Interesting to note however, is that politicians share the view that a smaller proportion of residents are homosexuals compared to employers. More specifically, they report that an average of 10% of residents are homosexuals compared to 21% of employers.

Table #7: Views on what proportion of Jamaican residents are homosexuals.

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Average (median)	30%	21%	10%

15%

Q6a-Q6d. Among which of the following social class would you say homosexuality including gays and lesbians is most common? Do you personally know anyone who is a homosexual man or woman? About how many homosexual men or women do you personally know? And how close would you say you are to these persons?

The majority share the view that homosexuality is not more common among one social class than another. Fifty seven percent (57%), 71% and 70% of the general public, employers and politicians respectively, share the view that homosexuality is equal across all classes. However, a significant proportion of respondents are of the view that this is more common among one social class than the other. It is to be noted too that members of the general public are more convinced about this (43%) than employers (29%) and politicians (30%).

The majority also report knowing someone who is homosexual. Seventy percent (70%) of politicians indicated so compared to 51% of the general public and 57% of employers.

In terms of the number of homosexual personally known by them, politicians reported the highest number with an average (median) of 12 such persons compared to 6 for employers and 5 for members of the general public.

The extent of the closeness to homosexuals known by them was also explored. On a scale of one (1) to five (5) where one (1) means not at all close and five (5) means very close, on average, respondents do not report sharing a close relationship with the homosexuals that they know. Average ratings of between 2.27 and 2.88 were reported across all the populations studied with employers reporting experience the least distant relationship with the homosexuals that they know.

Table #8: Views on the socio-economic profile of homosexuals and extent of knowledge and relationships with homosexuals.

	General Public n=942	Employers n=27	Politicians n=33
Q6a. Upper Class	33%	14%	15%
Middle Class	5%	14%	9%
Lower Class	4%	-	6%
All Classes Equally	57%	71%	70%
Don't Know	1%	-	-
Q6b. Yes, know homosexuals	51%	57%	70%
No, don't know homosexuals	49%	43%	30%
Q6c. Average (median) number of homosexuals personally known	5 persons	6 persons	12 persons
Q6d. Closeness rating scale: Not at all close (1).....Very Close (5)			
Average (mean) closeness rating	2.27	2.88	2.45

2.2 Attitude Towards Homosexuals

Q7-Q40. I am now going to read a few statements about relationships and would like you to give me your thoughts, opinions and feelings towards each of these. Please give me your answer using this scale of strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree and strongly disagree.

The survey reports a general negative attitude towards homosexuals.

Among the general public, strong negative attitudes outweigh the positive attitudes. Employers reported a more positive attitude towards homosexuals with strong positive attitudes outweighing the negative ones. Politicians like the general public were more negatively disposed towards homosexuals with strong negative attitudes outweighing strong positive attitudes.

Chart 2: Attitudes & Opinions Towards Homosexuals (General Public)
n=942

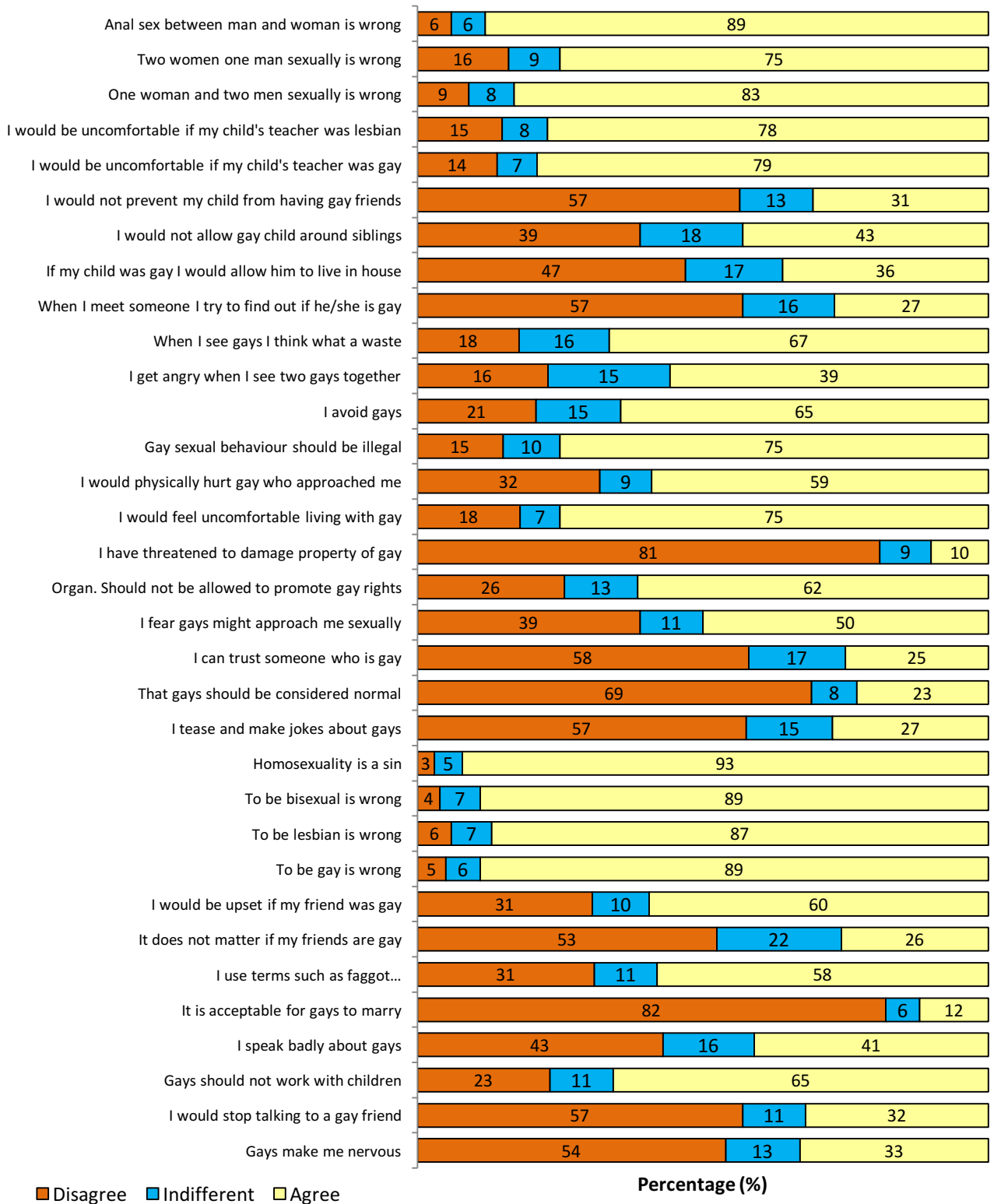


Chart 3: Attitudes & Opinions Towards Homosexuals (Employers)

n=27

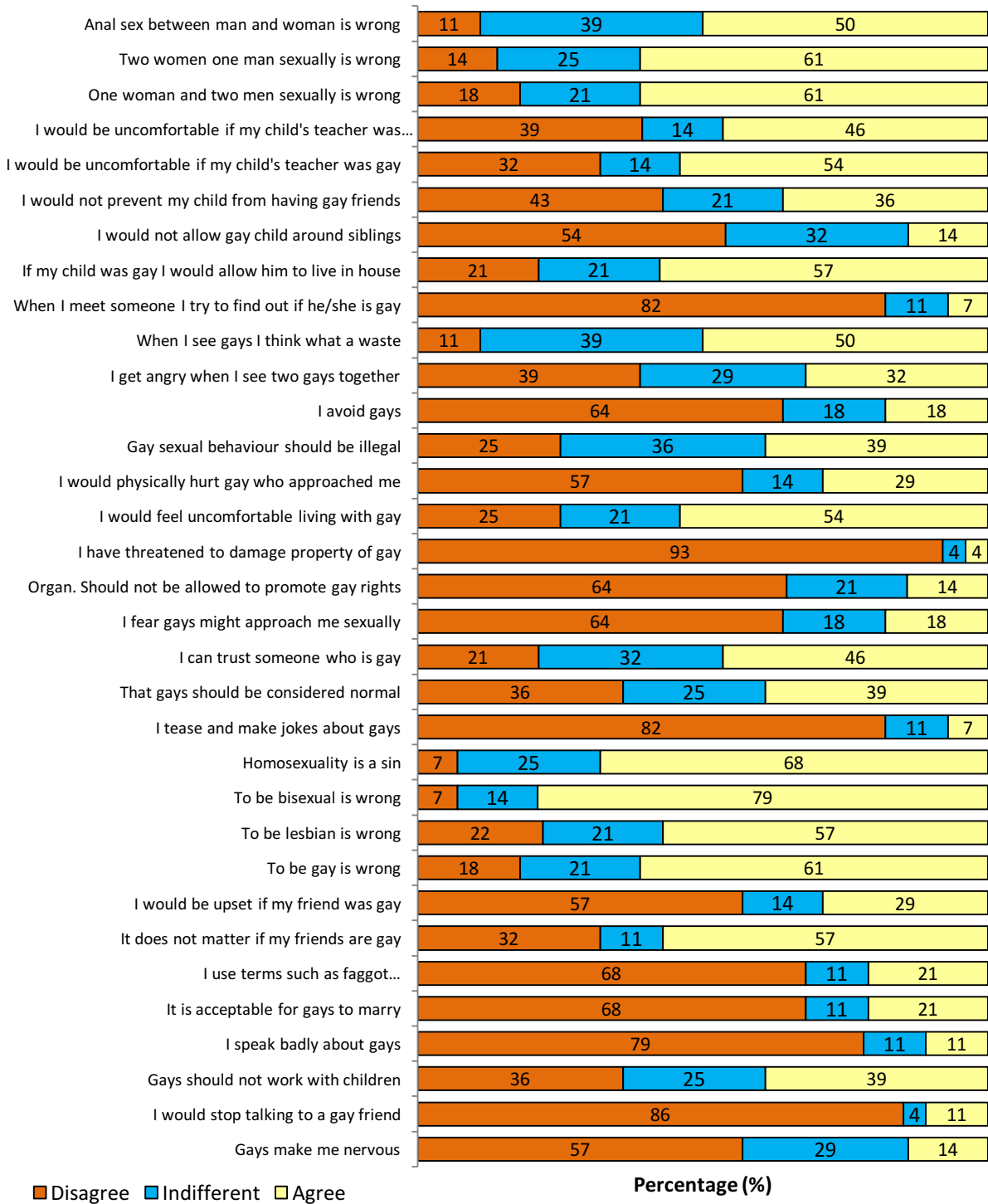
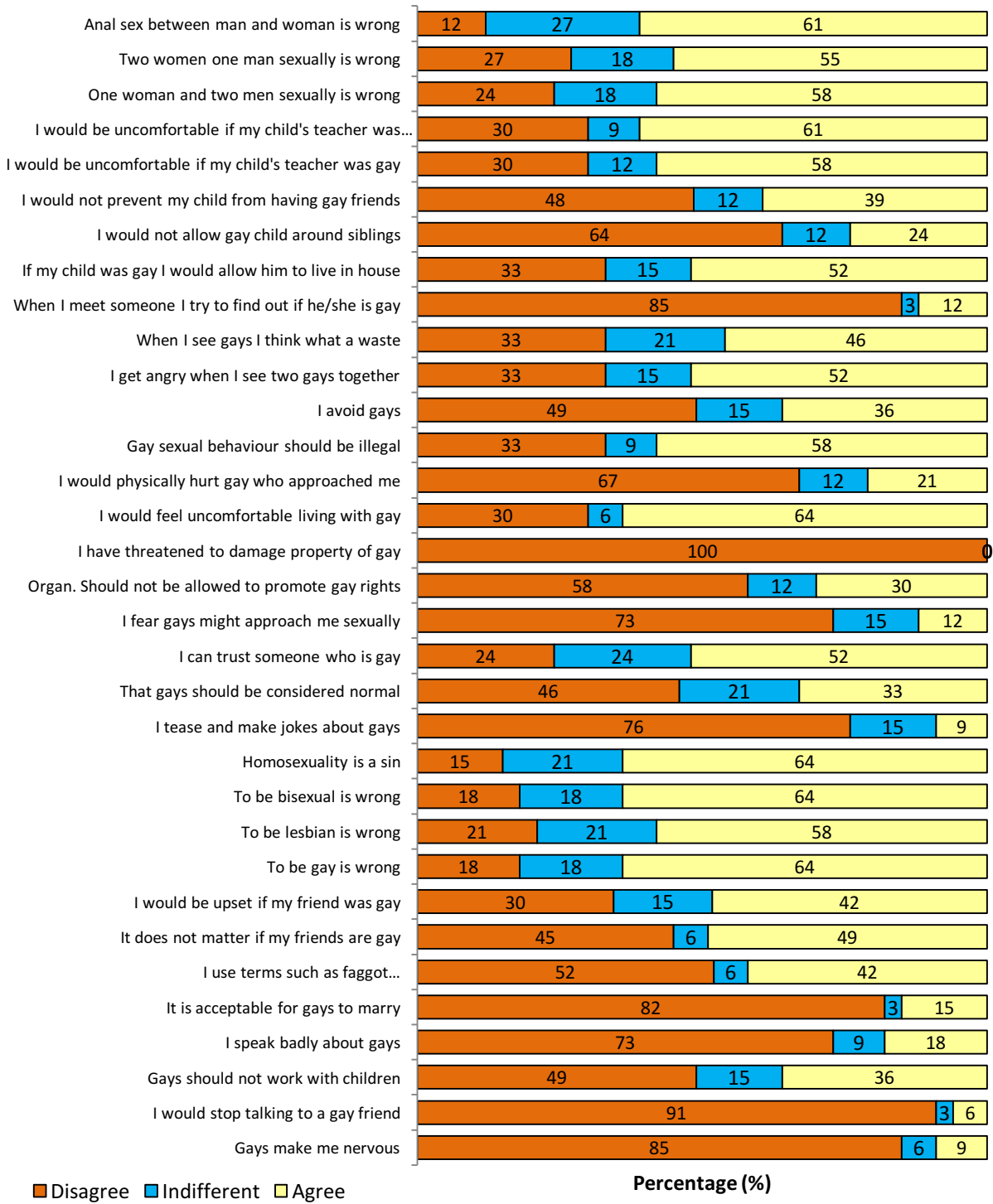


Chart 4: Attitudes & Opinions Towards Homosexuals (Politicians)

n=33



2.3 Thoughts about conversion and the feelings/emotions experienced by homosexuals

Q41-Q43. In your opinion, is it possible for gays and lesbians to be changed or converted to heterosexuals? Why do you say so? Do you believe that LGBT people who are in a relationship experience the same feelings and emotions of love and affection as heterosexuals in a relationship?

The majority share the view that gays and lesbians may be converted to heterosexuals. Politicians were especially more likely to express this view, 64% said so compared to 54% of employers and 59% of the general public. Politicians and employers explained that they feel this way due to Biblical reasons as well as the fact that it is their view that homosexual desires are born out of social factors which may be adjusted. Members of the general public on the other hand typically had no special reason for saying so but were convinced that they could change. A significant 23% of them also expressed the view that change is possible because of Biblical reasons.

With regards to views on the feeling and emotions experienced by homosexuals, most employers and politicians agree that homosexuals experience the same feelings and emotions as heterosexuals while just less than 50% of the general public shared this view.

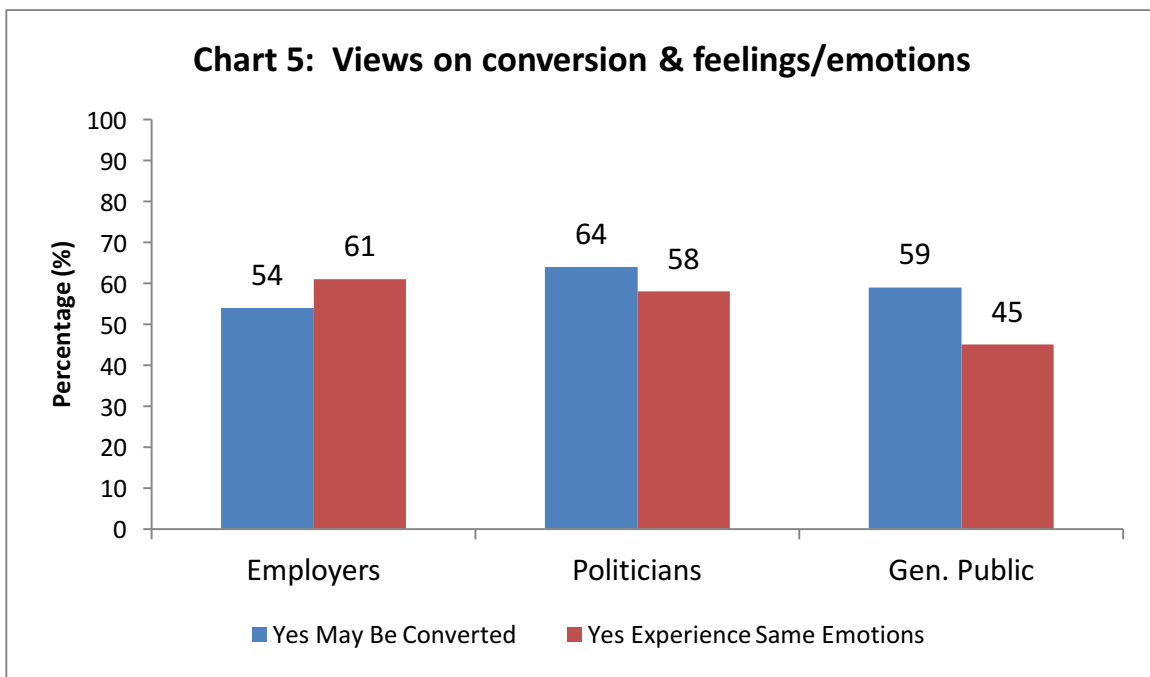


Table #10: Drivers of opinions about conversion – “YES THEY CAN BE CONVERTED”

	General Public n=560	Employers/Politicians* n=36
They were not born that way	13%	20%
Biblical reasons/God can	23%	22%
They can be helped professionally/ medically	17%	3%
It’s a state of mind/based on socialisation	11%	57%
No special reason, they can just change	43%	-
It has happened before	-	6%

*Note: The number of respondents in each sub group is too small to allow trending/analysis by sub-group.

2.4 Extent of tolerance and experience with damage to property

Q44a-Q44c. Which of the following words best describes how you feel about gay or lesbian relationships? Why do you feel this way? Has a gay/lesbian ever damaged property belonging to you?

The Riddle Homophobia scale as was used in the previous studies was also used to determine the level of tolerance for homosexuals in this survey. This scale is best described as a directional attitudinal scale which goes from strong negative (hatred) to strong positive (encouragement).

Tolerance for gay and lesbian relationships is 10% among general public, 43% among employers and 39% among politicians. This results in an overall average of 12% across all study populations representing no change since the 2012 survey, compared to a 3% fall off between the 2011 and 2012 survey. The growth in incidence who hate these relationships is however significant.

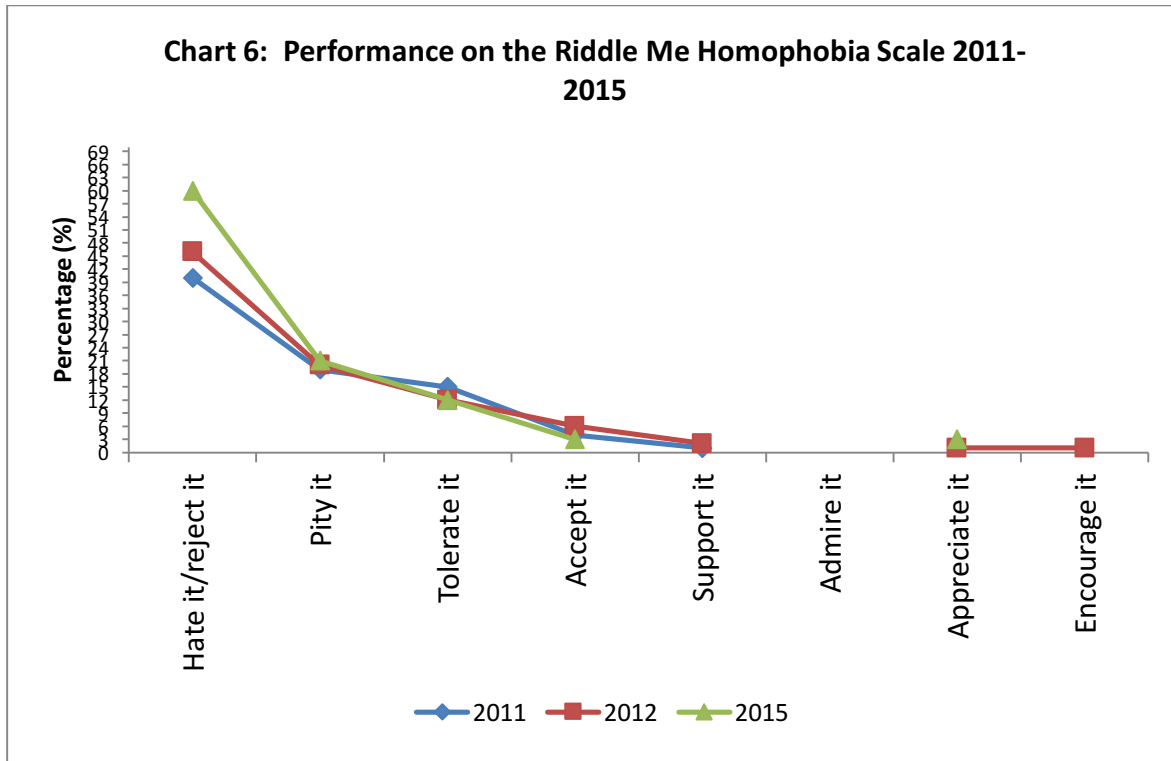
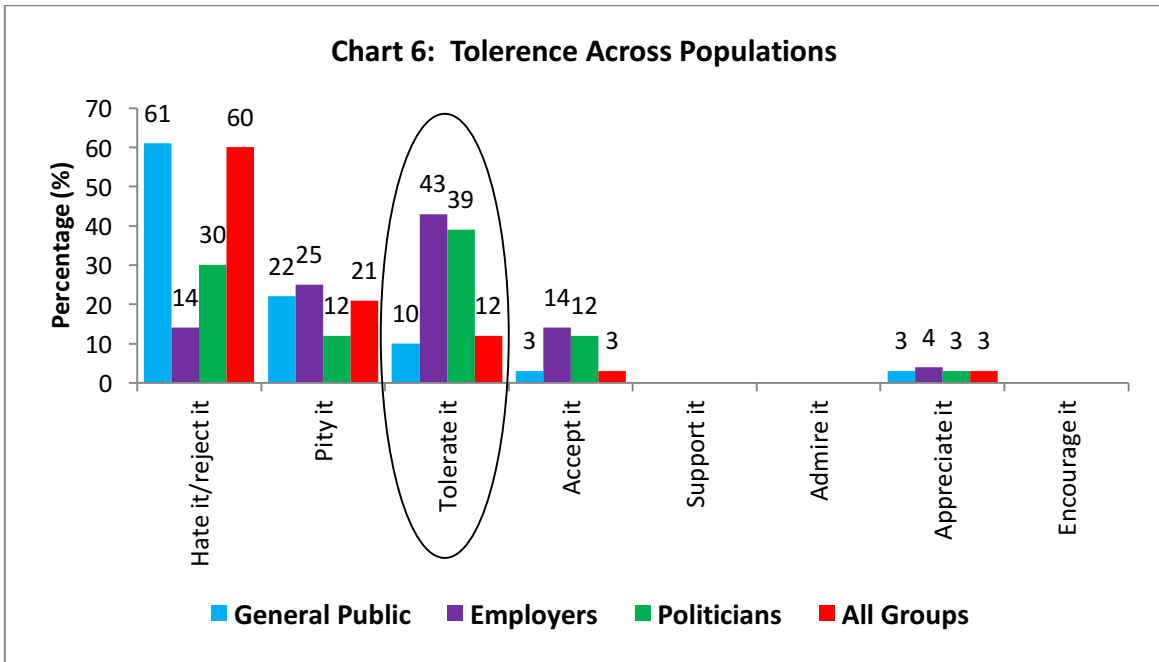


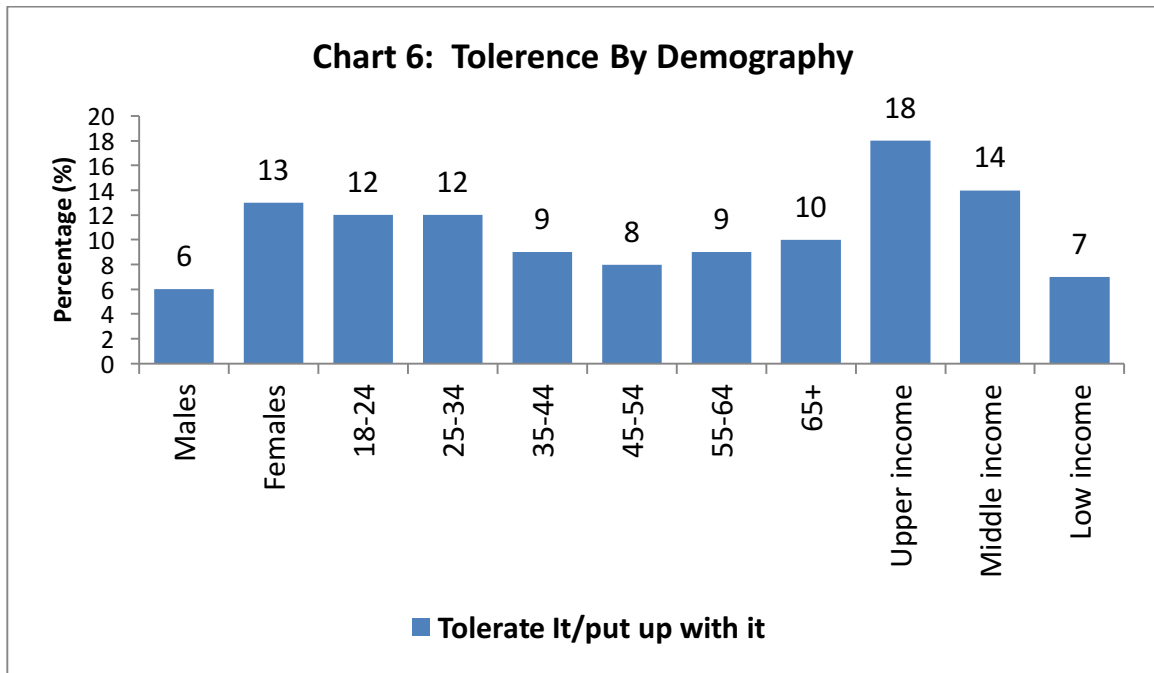
Table #11: Attitudes towards Homosexual Relationships – 2011 to 2015 – The Riddle Homophobia Scale

	2015 n=1003	2012 n=1000	2011 n=1007
Hate it/reject it	60%	46%	40%
Pity it	21%	20%	19%
Tolerate it	12%	12%	15%
Accept it	3%	6%	4%
Support it	<1%	2%	1%
Admire it	<1%	<1%	<1%
Appreciate it	3%	1%	<1%
Encourage it	-	1%	<1%

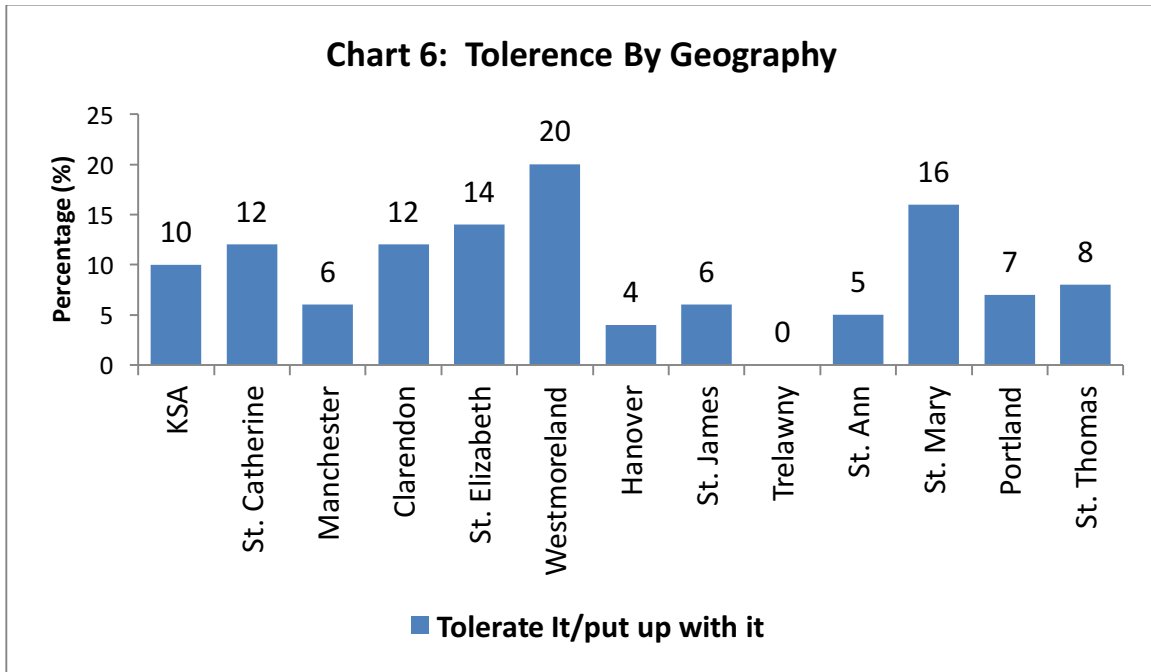
The majority of the general public report that they hate and reject such relationships 61%, compared to 14% of employers and 30% of politicians who indicated so. There is some amount of sympathy towards homosexual relationships as well, especially among employers where 25% of them say they pity such relationships and 22% of the general public. Politicians are the least sympathetic, 12%.



Females are more likely than males to tolerate homosexual relationships while persons under age 35 years and those belonging to the upper echelon of the society report a higher level of tolerance to these relationships.

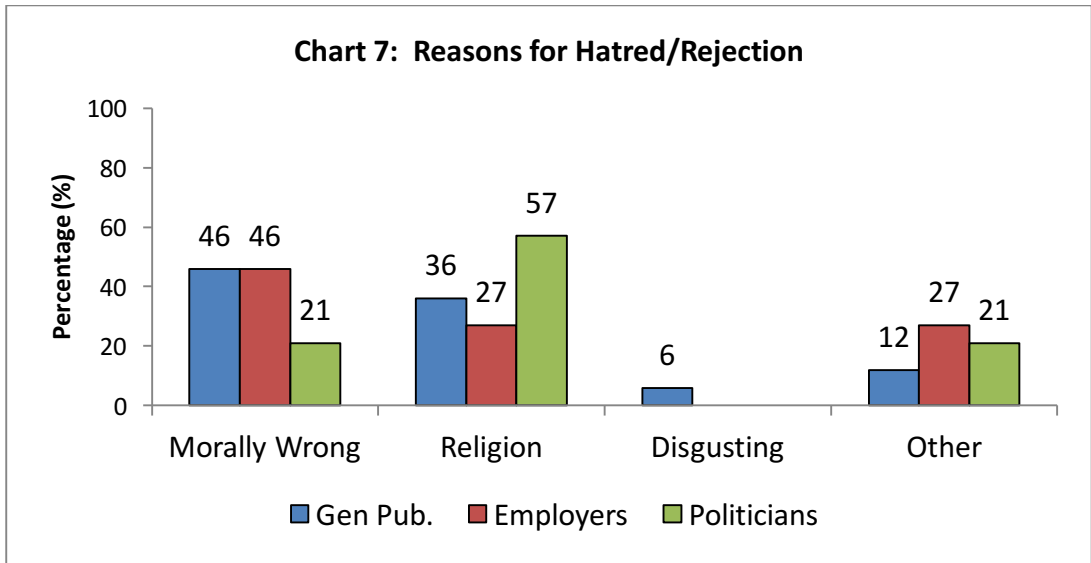


Residence in Westmoreland reported the greatest level of tolerance with 20% indicating so compared to Trelawny where none of the persons interviewed in that parish reported a tolerance for homosexuality.

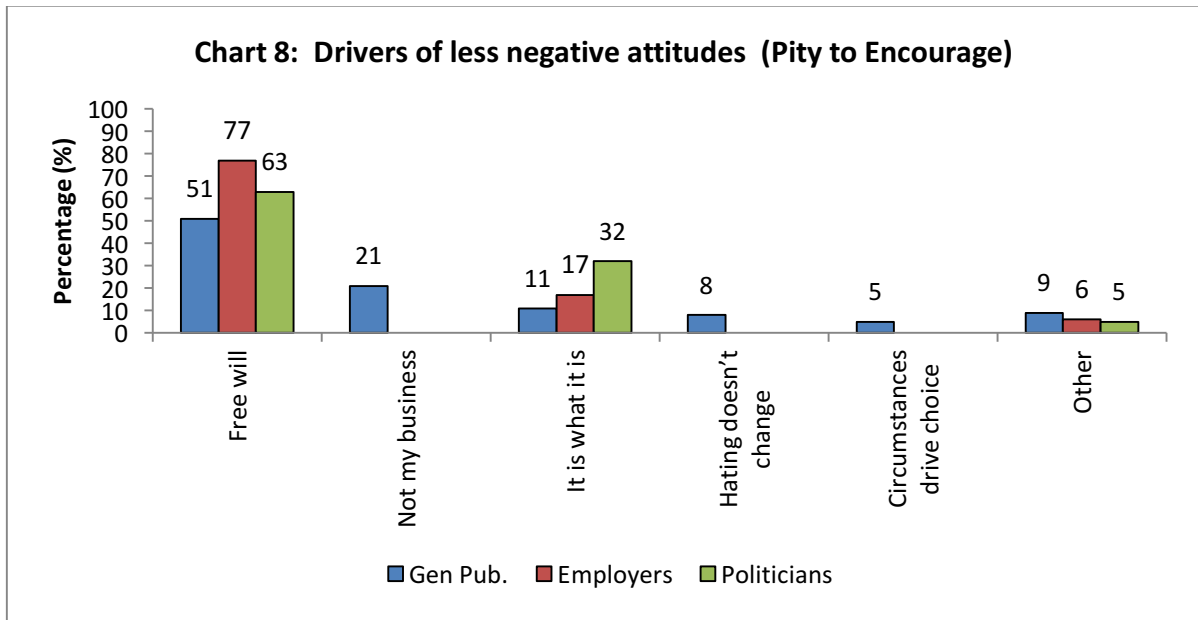


Cross analyses of the data does not reveal that age of first exposure and medium of awareness of LGBT issues influence tolerance level of homosexual relationships. However, knowledge of someone who is homosexual appears to influence tolerance of these relationships. That is, 13% of persons who are aware of someone who is homosexual report tolerance of these relationships compared to 6% who do not know anyone.

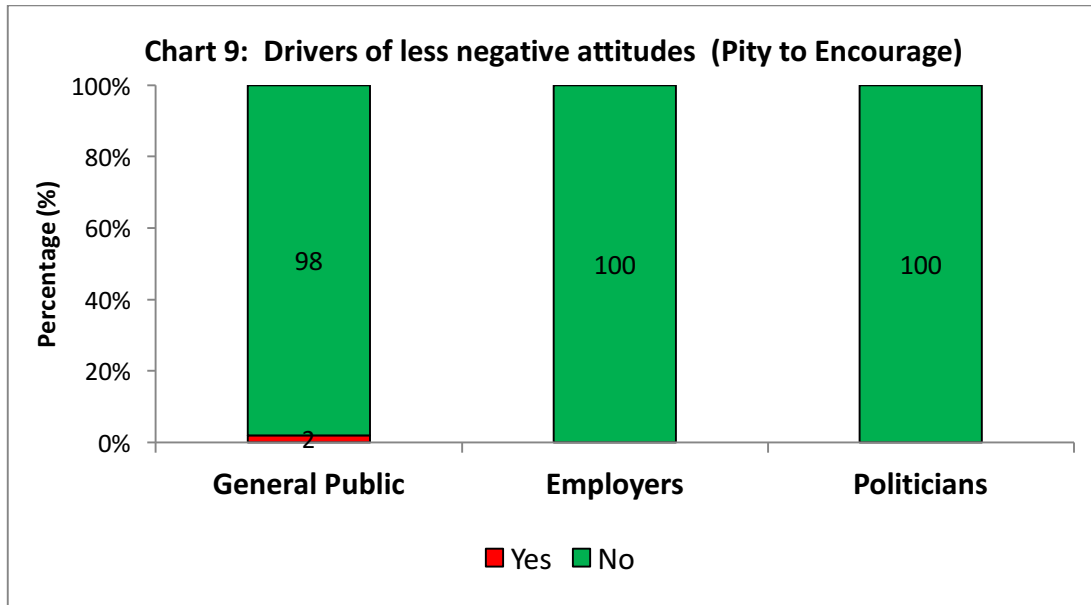
Religion and moral concerns drive hatred for homosexual relationships. This is so among all study populations.



Less negative attitudes are driven by thoughts about freedom of choice, respect for people’s privacy and an acceptance that “it is what it is, nothing can be done about it”



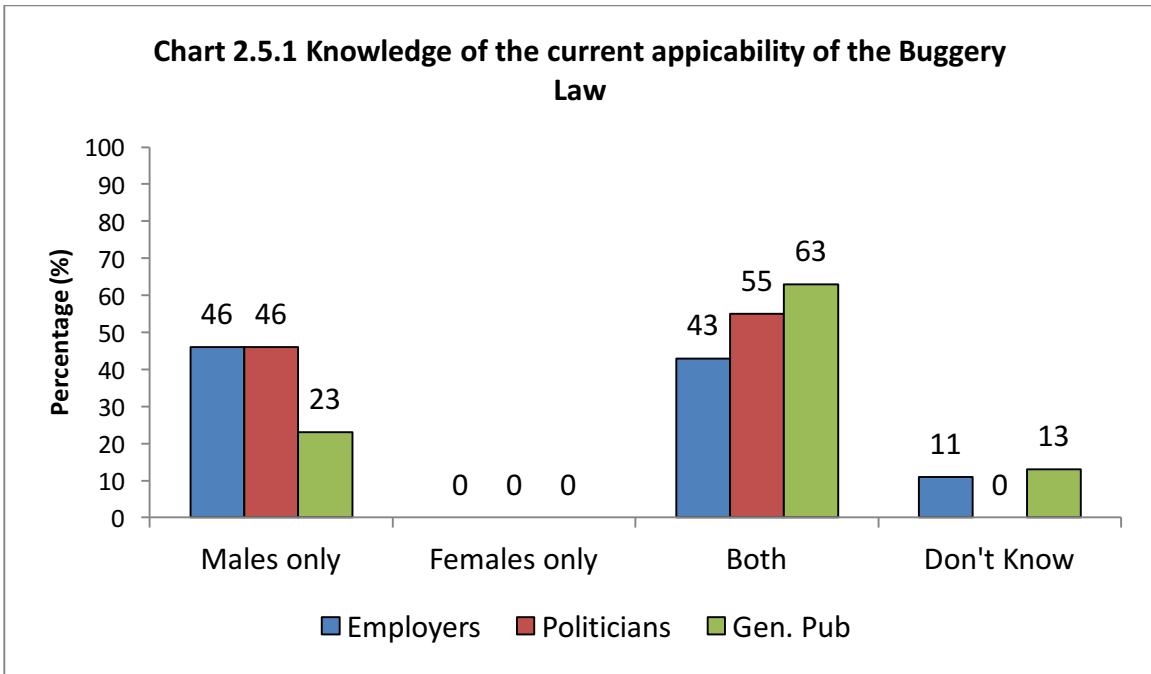
Hatred for homosexual relationships does not appear to be driven by any experiences with damage to personal property by such persons. Only 2% of the entire sample reported experiencing damage to property by a homosexual (gay or lesbian).



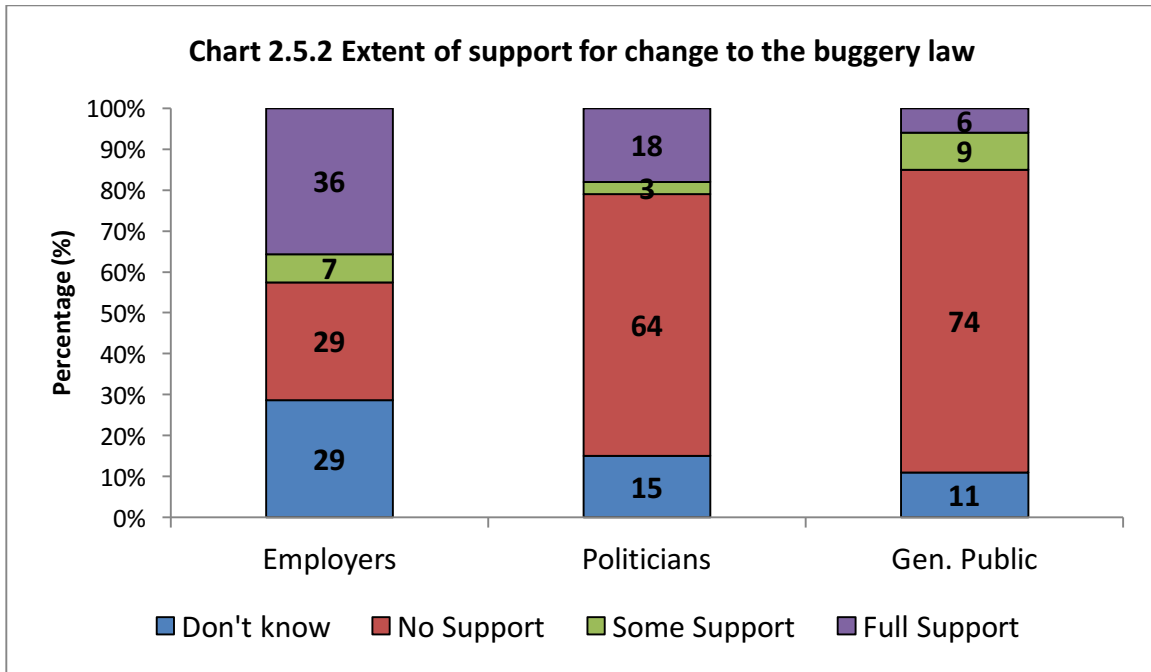
2.5 Knowledge & Views of Law and Regulations Regarding Homosexuality

Q52/Q59/Q54/Q61. To the best of your knowledge, does the 'buggery law' apply to males only, females only or both males and females? In your opinion who should the Buggery Law apply to? How much do you support or not, a change to the beggary law that will allow for consensual sex between adults in private regardless of whether they are males or females? What is your biggest concern if any for amending the Buggery Law?

The majority of the general public believe that they understand the applicability of the Buggery Law but there still appears to be uncertainty about the law. Sixty three percent (63%) are of the view that the law applies to both males and females. Employers and politicians are less of this understanding but also significantly share this view, 43% and 55% respectively. The vast majority of the Jamaican public are of the view that the Buggery Law should apply to both males and females (87%). Employers and politicians share a similar sentiment (85% combined, 100% employers and 73% politicians).



The vast majority of the general public, 74%, say they would not support at all a change to the Buggery Law that will allow for consensual sex between adults in private regardless of whether they are males or females. A smaller incidence of employers shared this view 29% while 64% of politicians would do the same. This returns an overall of 72% (across all study populations) who would not at all support such a change.



Twenty nine percent (29%) of the general public respondents could not identify any real concern or fear that influences their resistance to a change in the Buggery Law. Twenty one percent (21%) of employer expressed a similar view. Politicians on the other hand indicated that they had no problems with the law in its current format and so they did not see a need for the change (27%). These were the most frequent answers to the question among the respective respondent groups however a number of other concerns were also raised and included:

Table 2.5.1: Concerns about changing the Buggery Law – General Public

	General Public n=942
None/not sure/it should just remain	39%
It will allow too much freedom for homosexuals	10%
It will lead to an increase in violence among homosexuals and the general public	10%
Homosexuals will influence young people	8%
Will lead to an increase in homosexuality	7%
Country will become corrupt	6%
It will legitimise homosexuality	5%
Increase in child molestation	5%
Increase in sexual diseases	3%
Other	7%

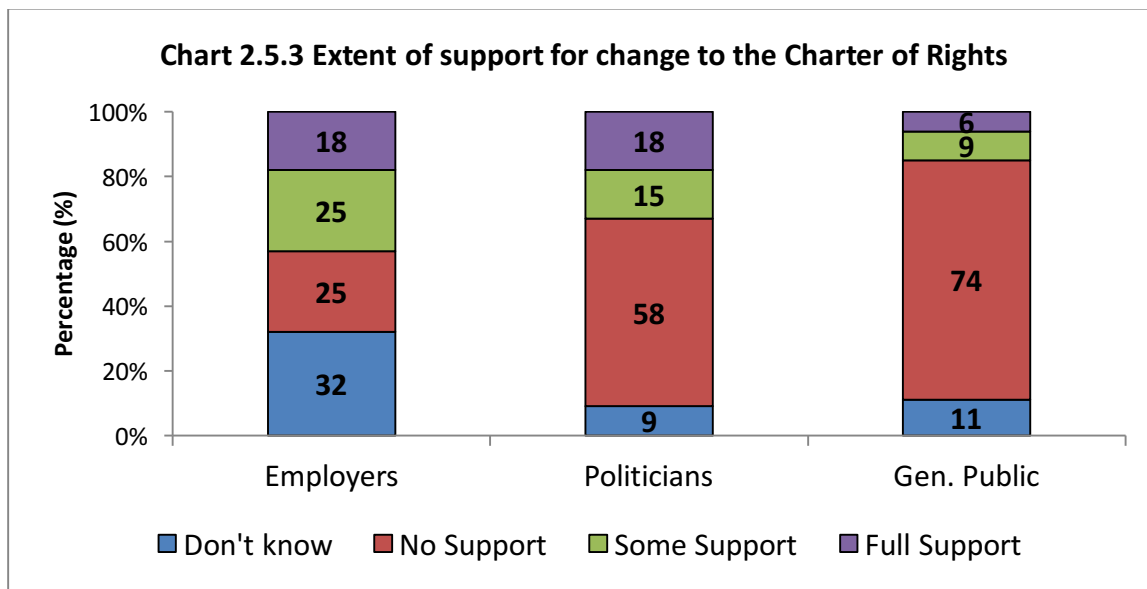
The concerns among employers and politicians were somewhat different:

Table 2.5.2: Concerns about changing the Buggery Law – Employers & Politicians

	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
None/not sure/it should just remain	60%	60%
Increase exposure to homosexuality	18%	18%
Women and children will be targeted	14%	9%
Other	8%	13%

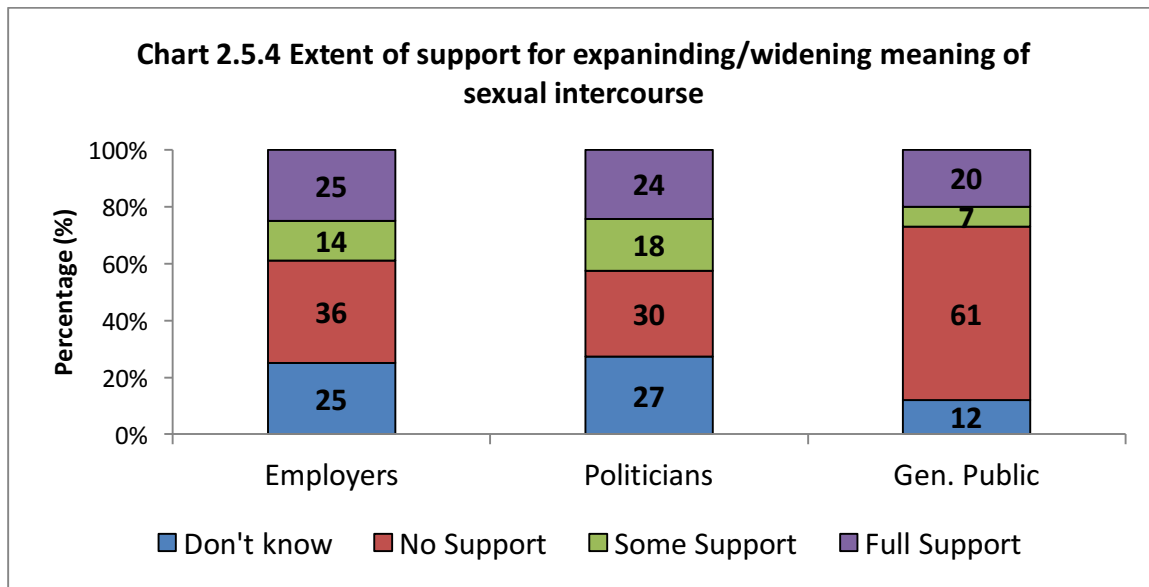
Q53. How much do you support or not a change to the Charter of Rights that will ensure equal rights to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender?

Greatest support for a change to the Charter of Rights that will encourage equal rights to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender, came from employers and politicians. The vast majority of the general populace, 74% are totally against any change while just under six (6) out of every ten (10) politicians shared a similar sentiment.



Q55. How much do you support or not the widening of the meaning of sexual intercourse to include other forms of sex such as oral sex and anal sex in the Sexual Offences Act?

Respondents are more open to the idea of widening the meaning of sexual intercourse than they are to making amendments to the Buggery Law and Charter of Rights. Twenty percent (20%) of the general populace, 24% of politicians and 25% of employers resulting in an overall of 20% across all respondent groups who fully support the idea of expanding the Sexual Offences Act.



Q56-Q58. Have you ever heard of the Savings Law Clause? What do you know about the Savings Law Clause? Should the Savings Law Clause be discontinued?

Nearly all respondents, with the exception of politicians, have never heard of the Savings Law Clause. Four percent (4%) of employers, 21% of politicians and approximately 1% of the general public reported awareness of the Savings Law Clause. Persons who reported an awareness of the Clause do not appear to know much if anything about it. Politicians and employers referred to the age of the Clause pointing out that it was passed years ago and prior to 1962.

2.6 Role of Government & Views about protection of homosexuals

Q62. In your view is the Government doing enough to protect gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons from discrimination and violence?

Opinions about how much the Government is doing to protect LGBTs are divided across the different respondent groups. Employers do not know how much is being done, most politicians say enough is being done while the general populace is even in their views:

Table 2.6.1: Views on how much the Government is doing to protect LGBTs

	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
Yes doing enough	31%	18%	55%
No not doing enough	33%	32%	27%
Don't know	31%	50%	15%
Refused	5%	-	3%

Q64. Do you think the Government is doing enough to provide for LGBT persons?

Respondents' views were also mixed in terms of how much the Government is doing to provide for LGBTs. A significant proportion of respondents across all the sample groups did not know enough about what the Government is doing to make a judgement. However among those who could, they were more likely to share the view that not enough is being done in this area. In fact the majority of employers who participated in the study shared this view. But a significant percentage are also of the view that enough is being done.

Table 2.6.2: Views on how much the Government is doing to provide for LGBTs

	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
Yes doing enough	23%	14%	21%
No not doing enough	35%	57%	30%
Don't know	38%	25%	49%
Refused	5%	4%	-

Q65. How likely would you be to support a government that ensured that lesbian, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons are protected from violence and discrimination?

While employers and politicians would be more inclined to support the government in protecting homosexuals against violence and discrimination, the general public would not be so inclined.

Table 2.6.3: Support of the government in protecting homosexuals

	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
Definitely not support	46%	7%	6%
Would not really support	13%	4%	9%
Neither nor	15%	39%	9%
Moderately support	12%	29%	3%
Strongly support	14%	21%	73%

Q66. How much do you agree or disagree with the view that the Ministry of Education should ensure children in school are taught to respect and tolerate lesbian, gays, bi-sexuals and transgender persons?

The majority of the general public sample is in disagreement with teaching tolerance of homosexuals in schools. Employers and politicians are more in support of this with 43% and 51% respectively agreeing to support the Ministry of Education in such a venture.

Table 2.6.4: Support of Ministry of Education teaching tolerance of homosexuals

	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
Strongly Agree	10%	14%	21%
Moderately Agree	12%	29%	30%
Neither nor	9%	25%	6%
Moderately Disagree	6%	11%	6%
Strongly Disagree	64%	21%	36%

2.7 Awareness of and perceived value of Jamaican Association For Lesbian and Gays (J-FLAG)

Q63a. Have you ever heard of the Jamaican Association for Lesbian and Gays (J-FLAG)?

J-FLAG is widely known to all Jamaicans. Every employer and politician surveyed report an awareness of J-FLAG while 73% of the general populace indicated that they are aware of the Association. Those least aware were persons under the age of 35 years and especially those in the 18-24 age group, persons belonging to the low middle and low income group and residents of Hanover, St. Elizabeth and Portland.

Q63b. How valuable an organisation do you think J-FLAG is to Jamaica?

Employers and Politicians alike are indifferent in their views about the value of J-FLAG to Jamaica. Respondents from the general public sample are of the view that J-FLAG is of no to little value to Jamaica.

Table 2.6.3: Views on the perceived value of J-FLAG

	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33
Definitely not valuable	47%	7%	12%
Not really valuable	22%	21%	9%
Indifferent	19%	43%	42%
Valuable	8%	21%	21%
Very Valuable	3%	7%	15%

Q63c. What would J-FLAG need to do in order to be more valuable to Jamaica?

The majority of employers and politicians had no ideas about how J-FLAG could become more valuable to Jamaica (54%). Members of the general public suggested strongly that the best way to be of value is for the organisation to cease operations (41%). A significant 32% also had no ideas. Outside of these however some ideas presented include:

- Counsel homosexuals
- Take homosexuals off the streets
- Give Government money
- Protect homosexuals
- Educate people about homosexuals
- Be concerned for the general population not just themselves
- Seek God and divine intervention
- Given them visas to leave the country
- Encourage respect for the laws of the land
- Sex education for homosexuals
- Be more balanced and fair
- Encourage their family to support them

Q67. In your view, do you think J-FLAG is doing enough to provide for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons who are homeless or living on the streets?

The majority do not know enough about what J-FLAG is doing about providing for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons who are homeless. Asked to indicate whether they felt J-FLAG was doing enough the majority of respondents said “don’t know”. A significant percentage of employers and politicians combined (30%) said J-FLAG was not doing enough. Politicians (30%) were more likely to share this view than employers (21%). Thirty one percent (31%) of the general public sample are also convinced that J-FLAG is not doing enough.

Q68. If you knew of a case of violence, abuse or discrimination against lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals and transgender persons, would you report this case to the authorities?

Willingness to report violence or discrimination against LGBTs is very strong among employers and politicians – 68% and 88% respectively. Although significantly lower among the general

public, a significant 34% would also report such cases. However, nearly half said they would not report such cases, 48% and 18% said they are not sure if they would.

2.8 Attitude and Views of Employers Towards Homosexuals In The Workplace

Q45. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree that there should be a policy that prohibits discrimination against LGBT in the workplace? Q46. Is there an Equal Opportunity or related policy at your work place? Q47. Does it refer to lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals?

Half of the sample of employers strongly agree that there should be a policy that ensures equal opportunities and treatment of homosexuals for employment and promotion in the workplace. Another 29% moderately agree for a total of 79% who agree that such a policy should be enforced. Fourteen (14%) of employers do not agree with such a policy.

Such policies are now in force in 64% of the organisations that participated in the survey. But a significant 29% do not have any such policy in place. Organisations with policies enforced further advise that the policies include lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals.

2.9 Influence of Religion, Music Preference & Sexuality On Tolerance

Close to 50% of respondents from the general public sample are regular church goers, that is, they attend church several times per month, 42%. Twenty five percent (25%) are occasional church goers and 31% irregular church goers. Only 2% never attend church not even for special occasions such as weddings.

Gospel music represents the most widely consumed (30%) outside of the 33% of respondents who say they listen to all genre of music equally. Reggae music (14%) is the second most widely consumed by dancehall and rhythm and blues compete for third place with 7% mention respectively.

Ninety five percent (95%) of the respondents identify with being heterosexual, approximately 1% identify with being gay, less than 1% report being bisexual and the remaining 4% refused to say.

Further analyses of the data shows that there does not appear to be any significant relationship between attendance to church and tolerance levels of homosexuals. More specifically, the data shows very little difference in tolerance of homosexuals by regular attendees (10%), occasional attendees (12%) and irregular attendees (10%).

There appears to be a stronger relationship between genre of music listened and tolerance of homosexuality. The data shows that those who listen to Rhythm and Blues are likely to be more tolerant (20%), than those who listen to reggae and dancehall (10%) and even those who listen to hip hop/rap (15%).

4. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

The 2015 survey revealed that awareness and knowledge of LGBT issues specifically with regards to the terms used to describe different sexuality issues is wide. That is, Jamaicans report being very informed about such issues. It also revealed that the media and discussions among friends and family have been very instrumental in the knowledge gained in these areas. Adult Jamaicans typically became exposed to issues related to homosexuality at the average age of fourteen (14) years.

The survey also highlights clearly that there are still strong negative attitudes towards homosexuals even though most report personally knowing at least one homosexual. Negative attitudes are especially strong in the areas of marriage among homosexuals, the perceived sinful and immoral nature of homosexuality, and the teaching of children by homosexuals. The majority are of the view that homosexual desires are by choice suggesting that homosexuals may be converted to heterosexuals. Over half of the general populace do not believe that homosexuals experience the same emotions as heterosexuals further solidifying the view that homosexuals are indeed in control of their homosexual desires.

These feelings have therefore led to a relatively low level of tolerance for homosexuals. Approximately 12% of Jamaicans report tolerance for homosexuals. These persons report that they tolerate or put up with homosexuals even if they do not accept or support their sexual preferences. As a result of these attitudes, there is very little support for amendments to current regulations and laws especially among the general public. Concerns about changes to regulation and law are driven mainly by fears among the general public in particular that homosexuals will be more dominant than they are now and further that there will be a resultant increase in violence.

What implication does this have for J-FLAG and other organisations keen on converting these negative attitudes into less negative or more positive attitudes?

J-FLAG and other similar interest groups will undeniably have a major challenge seeking to convert these strong negative attitudes into less negative ones. This is so as they are working against a belief system that strongly rejects homosexuality on the ground of morality and spirituality. Moral beliefs are not easily changed especially in a society shaped by strong Christian values and principles.

It is MRSL's view that consideration should be given to the sources of information about homosexuality and issues relating to same as well as the factors that drive attitudes (negative and positive) towards homosexuals. It is also MRSL's view that greater emphasis should be placed on addressing attitudes towards homosexuals rather than adjusting attitudes towards homosexuality.

In light of this, J-FLAG and other interest groups should seek to partner with the traditional media (the main source of information about homosexuality) in promoting more positive messages about homosexuals if and where this is feasible. This might include the use of very creative and bold strategies that position homosexuals in positive ways for example contributing positively to society if and where this is feasible.

In addition to this, the survey shows a clear relationship between the genre of music listened and tolerance for homosexuals. It shows a strong relationship between dancehall music and negative attitudes. This is not particularly surprising as dancehall music was one of the earlier proponents of negative attitudes towards homosexuals and is still very strong in this way even today. It seems logical then that interest groups should seek to find ways to partner with these artistes in helping to discourage negative attitudes towards homosexuals even if it is not feasible to encourage positive attitudes at this point in time. This of course is likely to be quite challenging as these artistes themselves are part of the general populace who have strong negative feelings towards homosexuals and homosexuality. Such efforts should therefore be ongoing involving strategic discussions and activities that will be effective in encouraging less negative attitudes initially and more positive attitudes in the long term.

As a strategy going forward, J-FLAG and other similar interest groups might consider first engaging employers and politicians in discussions as they report more positive and open attitudes towards issues related to homosexuality than do members of the general public. As these entities are opinion leaders and influencers on the general public, positive attitudes among these groups may be leveraged to advantageously impact attitudes among the general public. J-FLAG should seek to improve its image and value perception as part of the whole strategy by overtly being more visible in ways that appear to be positively impacting the nation such as being overtly involved in the counsel and rehabilitation of homosexuals who are in need of such counsel and rehabilitation if and when the opportunity arises and if feasible.