

Awareness, Attitude & Perception Survey About Issues Related to LGBT People in Jamaica

July
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MANAGEMENT REPORT ON

**AN AWARENESS, ATTITUDE & PERCEPTION SURVEY
ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PEOPLE IN
JAMAICA**

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1. Executive Summary

JFLAG 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Jamaica. This study involved the conduct of 1043 interviews with members of the public as well as 33 interviews amongst employers in the workplace and 21 politicians. 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:

- The traditional media is the most dominant source of information about LGBT issues across all study populations but Social Media is beginning to play an important part in disseminating information on these issues.
- Respondents are of the view that between 7% and 30% of Jamaicans are LGBT and that the community is spread right across the socio-economic spectrum although among the general population, persons in the upper socio-economic groups are singled out.
- Members of the general public more than employers and politicians have very strong negative attitudes towards LGBT people. All groups of respondents report strong negative attitudes.
- The majority of the persons interviewed share the view that LGBT people experience the same emotions as heterosexuals.
- Employers and politicians are more open to the idea of widening or expanding the meaning of sexual intercourse than are members of the general public though they believe a man who has forced anal sex with a woman should be charged for rape.
- Views are divided across the different study populations about how much support the Government is giving to the LGBT community. That is, while a significant number of politicians and employers are of the view that the Government is playing its part, if not adequately, the general public are not convinced.

- Very little support can be expected from the general public for efforts by the government or members of parliament to protect the LGBT community from violence and discrimination. Strongest support for such efforts will come from politicians.
- There is some level of support amongst politicians and employers for teaching tolerance for persons of the LGBT community in schools. The general public however remain staunchly opposed to this.
- Willingness to report violence or discrimination against LGBTs is strongest among employers (68%) and politicians (88%) compared to the general public (34%).

2. Background & Methodology

Study Purpose & Objective

JFLAG has tracked since 2011 Jamaicans' attitudes towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons. It has done so through using survey methodology and has been able to establish key indicators to measure attitudes and views in this regard. This survey represents the fourth 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 LGBT people and issues. It is anticipated that these results will be used as a guide to direct policy and even amendments to the law and other interventions necessary to engender greater tolerance and respect.

Market Research Services Ltd. (MRSL) is the entity that was responsible for carrying out the 2018 study.

Methodology

The methodology for this national survey included:

- A sample size of 1,043 households and individuals 18+ years of age. In addition to this, interviews were conducted amongst 33 employers and 21 politicians. These are analysed separately.
- A multi-stage random sampling procedure was used. 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 Enumeration Districts (EDs) from across all thirteen parishes of the island.
- The data was collected during the period of November 12 and December 11 of 2018.

- A structured questionnaire was utilized for the study (Appendix I).
- 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 printout 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 (%) ¹	Sample (%)	Sample Size (n)
Gender:			
Males	50%	43%	447
Females	50%	57%	596
Age Group:			
18-24	19%	23%	238
25-34	17%	26%	268
35-44	13%	21%	216
45-54	12%	17%	173
55-64	9%	11%	118
65+	9%	3%	30
Social Class²:			
Upper Income	14%	4%	44
Middle Income	28%	34%	352
Low Income	58%	62%	647
Household Income Group:			
Less than \$50,000	NA	42%	436
\$51,000-\$100,000	NA	22%	234
\$101,000-\$160,000	NA	6%	62
\$161,000-\$200,000	NA	2%	23
Over @200,000	NA	2%	17
Refused	NA	26%	271
Education:			
Primary	NA	6%	65
Secondary	NA	59%	354
Vocational	NA	15%	154
Undergraduate/Graduate	NA	17%	181

¹ Source: Demographic Statistics, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2013 publication.

² Source: Market Research Services Ltd.

Professional Certification	NA	1%	4
Post Graduate	NA	2%	31
None/refused	NA	26%	8
Parish:			
Kingston & St. Andrew	25%	24%	255
St. Catherine	19%	19%	194
St. Thomas	3%	5%	54
Portland	3%	3%	35
St. Mary	4%	2%	22
St. James	7%	5%	53
Hanover	3%	3%	31
St. Ann	6%	6%	65
Westmoreland	5%	6%	58
St. Elizabeth	6%	5%	55
Manchester	7%	7%	75
Trelawny	3%	3%	34
Clarendon	9%	10%	112

Table #2: Profile of Employers & Politician Samples

Sample Group	Sample (%)	Sample Size (n)
Political Party:		
PNP	43%	9
JLP	57%	12
Gender of respondents:		
Males	-	-
Females	-	-
Respondent Group:		
Employers	61%	33
Politicians	39%	21
Politician Group:		
MP/Caretaker	29%	6
Councillor/Caretaker	52%	11
Senator	5%	1
Mayor/Deputy Mayor	14%	3
Size of Company (Employers)		
Small (less than 50 employees)	64%	21
Medium (50-150 employees)	30%	10
Large (150+ employees)	6%	2

3. FINDINGS

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

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

Jamaicans on the whole appear to be very aware of all the various terms that are generally associated with the LGBT community. Of the five terms evaluated on this question, awareness was virtually universal, with levels in excess of 93% being recorded for four of the five terms used to describe the community. Only one, “Transgender” did not achieve these levels of awareness, but even here in excess of 80% were aware of this term. This high level of awareness was constant across the three sectors, general public, employers and politicians, polled in the survey. The data is also consistent with the most recent survey that was conducted in 2015 with a slightly higher level of awareness in 2018 than there was in 2015. This is particularly true among the general public. Among politicians and employers, the level of awareness of all of the terms was marginally lower than in 2015.

It stands to reason that with reporting levels in excess of 95% for each of the terms, especially among the politicians and employers, that there would be no real variation of this data when it was analysed by demographics and by geography. Table # 3 indicates this fact.

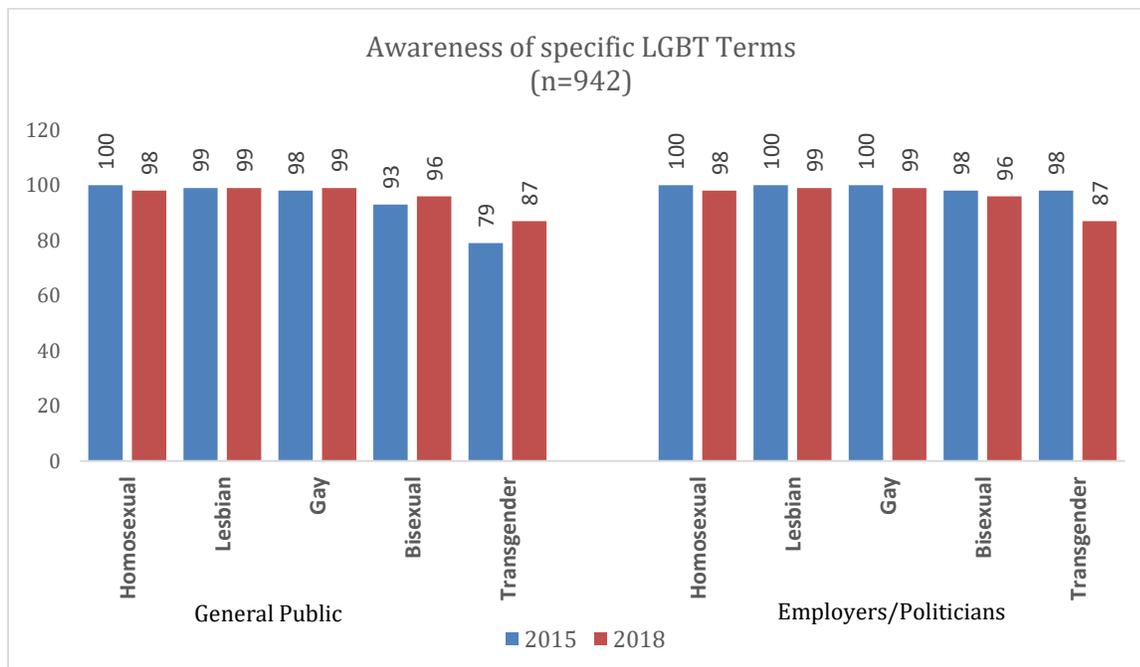


Table #3: Awareness of specific LGBT terms by demography & geography (general public)

	Homosexual	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Transgender
Gender:					
Males	96%	99%	99%	94%	84%
Females	99%	99%	100%	98%	88%
Age Group:					
18-24	98%	99%	99%	97%	89%
25-34	98%	99%	100%	97%	90%
35-44	99%	100%	100%	98%	87%
45-54	98%	99%	100%	99%	84%
55-64	97%	99%	98%	99%	75%
65+	97%	100%	100%	100%	83%
Parish:					
KSA	100%	100%	-	100%	93%
Urban ³	99%	99%	-	96%	89%
Rural ⁴	94%	98%	-	93% Employers/Politicians	73%
Social Class:					
Upper Income	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%
Middle Income	98%	100%	100%	98%	92%
Low Income	97%	99%	99%	95%	83%

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

The data shows that individuals first became aware of LGBT issues through a variety of media. Traditional media is the main vehicle through which persons generally first became aware of LGBT issues. This was particularly so among politicians, with 43% citing this source. This is consistent for all groups. Social Media is also one of the other highlighted sources through which they first obtained information on these issues. “Family/friends and school” also feature significantly in this regard.

³ **Urban parishes include:** St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon, Westmoreland, St. James, St. Ann

⁴ **Rural parishes include:** St. Elizabeth, Hanover, Trelawny, St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas

Table #4: Medium of Awareness of LGBT Issues

	General Public N=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians N=21
Traditional media	35%	33%	43%
Family/friends	23%	15%	10%
School	8%	-	10%
Social Media	20%	39%	29%
Other	7%	-	5%
Can't Recall/Refused	9%	12%	5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

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

The average age at which persons first became aware of the term homosexuality and homosexual issues among the general public is fifteen (15) years. The minimum reported age of first exposure is eight (8) years while the oldest age is 60.

Employers and Politicians report slightly different age ranges for initial awareness with the average age being eighteen (18) years for employers and fifteen (15) years for politicians.

Table #5: Age of First Exposure to Homosexuality Issues

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Average (median) age	15 yrs.	18 yrs	15 yrs.
Minimum Age	8 yrs.	12yrs.	5 yrs.
Maximum Age	60 yrs.	38 yrs.	30 yrs.

Q4a-Q4c. In your own words please explain what it means to be LGBT?

The study populations are generally aware of the meanings of the different terms used to refer to the LGBT community. For the general public and politicians, the majority interpreted this to mean “people who become intimate with people of the same gender”. Whilst this was the predominant understanding amongst these group, employers had a more varied interpretation, but mainly cited this to mean an acronym, as well as people being intimate with others of the same gender.

Table #6: Understanding of Specific LGBT Terms

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
LGBT:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gay, Lesbian, Transgender/an acronym ● People who become intimate with people of the same gender ● People who become intimate with each other irrespective of the which gender ● An organization that protect gay rights ● Not choosing actions considered normal or acceptable ● Sick/Nasty People ● Changing of your gender ● People who are involved in an organization called rainbow ● Paganism against God's law ● Homosexuality/difference in sexual orientation ● Something that is wrong ● An influential organization/community ● A normal thing a choice made ● Not sure/don't know ● A person who is unhappy in his/her skin 	<p>11%</p> <p>56%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>4%</p> <p>4%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>0.3%</p> <p>2%</p> <p>9%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>0.2%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>10%</p>	<p>24%</p> <p>24%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>15%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>3%</p> <p>-</p> <p>24%</p> <p>-</p> <p>3%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>	<p>5%</p> <p>52%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>14%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>5%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>-</p> <p>5%</p>
Transgender:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Surgically change your gender ● Somebody who feels they are trapped in another body ● Someone who pretends to be someone of the opposite sex ● A cross dresser ● To be both male and female ● A personal preference ● Definition speaks for itself ● Same sex relationship ● A sin ● Person who have sexual relationship with any gender ● Don't know 	<p>64%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>8%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>2%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>-</p> <p>1%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>1%</p> <p>10%</p>	<p>55%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>-</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>6%</p>	<p>71%</p> <p>-</p> <p>10%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>10%</p>

Q5. In your opinion what percentage of persons living in Jamaica would you say are LGBT?

Views about the proportion of persons living in Jamaica who are LGBT ranged from 7% among employers and politicians combined to 30% among the general public. Whilst this is the same average for the general public when compared to the 2015 report, the stated incidence amongst employers and politicians moved down from 15% to 7% in the current survey.

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

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Average (median)	30%	7%	7%

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

There is a consistent view that LGBT people are not specific to any class. This is evidenced by the fact that 86% of the politicians, 79% of the employers and 59% of the general public says this is common to all socio-economic groups. It should be noted, however, that among the general public the view is held that it is also common amongst the upper social strata, with a perceived incidence of 30%. This incidence is, however, lower than it was in the last survey in 2015.

Whilst all the politicians and all the employers claim to know someone who is LGBT, this is not the case amongst the general public. The incidence of knowledge among the general public was 38% significantly below that for the 2015 survey. The consistency is that the general public in the benchmark survey also recorded the lowest incidence of knowledge of LGBT persons.

In terms of the number of LGBT persons personally known by them, politicians reported the highest number with an average (median) of 10 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 across all three sectors do not report sharing a close relationship with the homosexuals that they know. Average ratings of between 1.78 and 2.92 were reported across all the populations studied, with employers reporting the highest incidence of personal closeness at 2.92 on the scale of 1-5. This was a turnaround from the 2015 data where this segment recorded the lowest incidence of “closeness” with someone who is homosexual.

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

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Q6a. Upper Class	30%	12	5%
Middle Class	7%	-	10%
Lower Class	4%	9%	-%
All Classes Equally	59%	79%	86%
Q6b. Yes, know homosexuals	38%	100%	100%
No, don't know homosexuals	62%	-	-
Q6c. Average (median) number of homosexuals personally known	5 persons	6 persons	10 persons
Q6d. Closeness rating scale: Not at all close (1).....Very Close (5) Average (mean) closeness rating	1.78	2.92	1.70

2.2 Attitude Towards LGBT People

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 LGBT people.

Among the general public, strong negative attitudes significantly outweigh the positive perspectives. This is consistent with the previous reading coming out of the 2015 survey.

Both Employers and politicians reported a more positive attitude towards homosexuals with strong positive attitudes outweighing the negative ones.

The data on the politicians' attitudes towards LGBT people reflects a more accepting view than was the case in the previous survey.

A total of 32 statements were presented to the respondents and they were asked to indicate whether or not they agreed with each. In the case of the general public, the large majority of the responses confirmed a generally negative view on LGBT issues. Compared to the other two groups polled in the survey, the general public were the ones reflecting mainly anti-gay sentiments and attitudes.

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

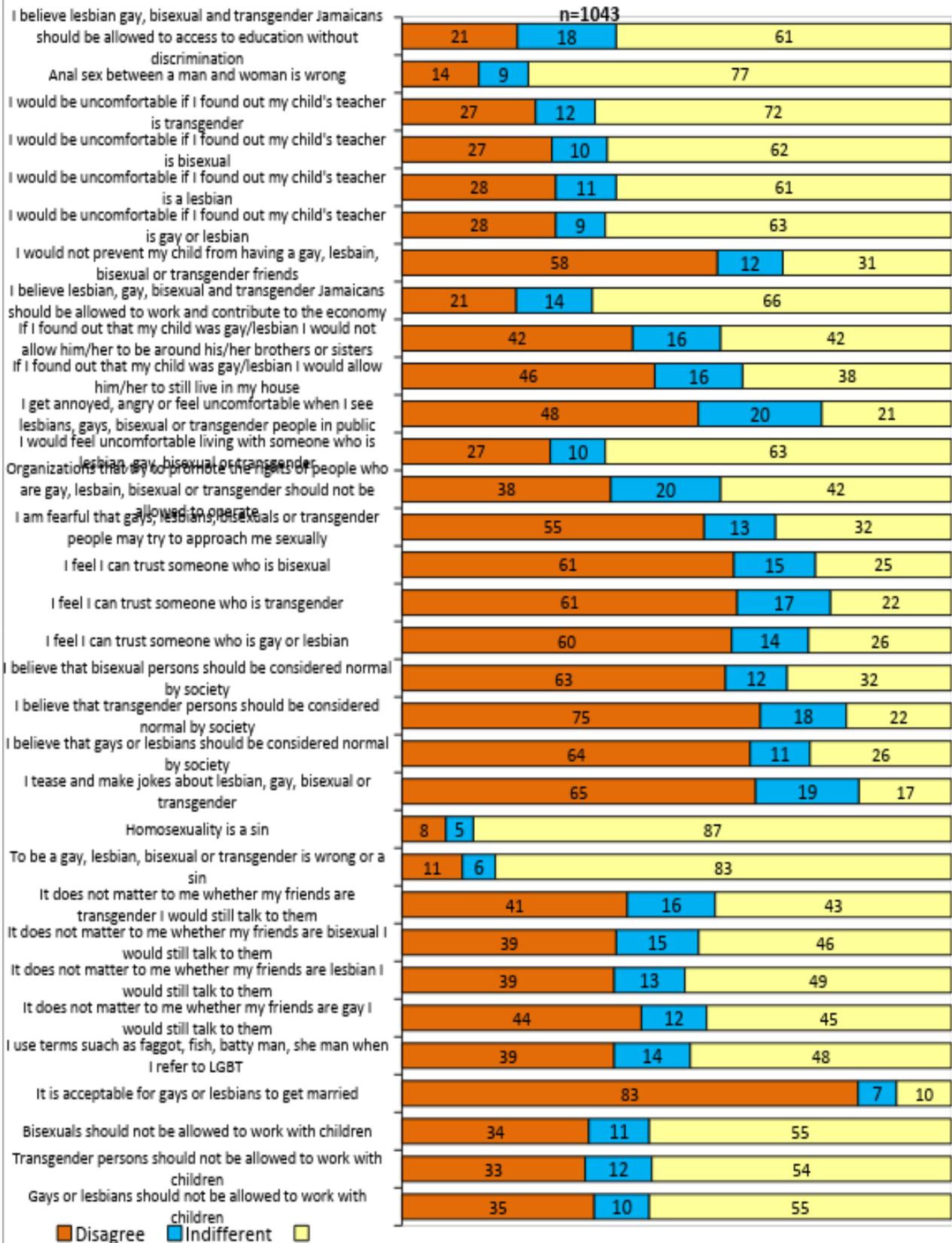


Chart 3: Attitudes & Opinions Towards Homosexuals (Employers)

n=33

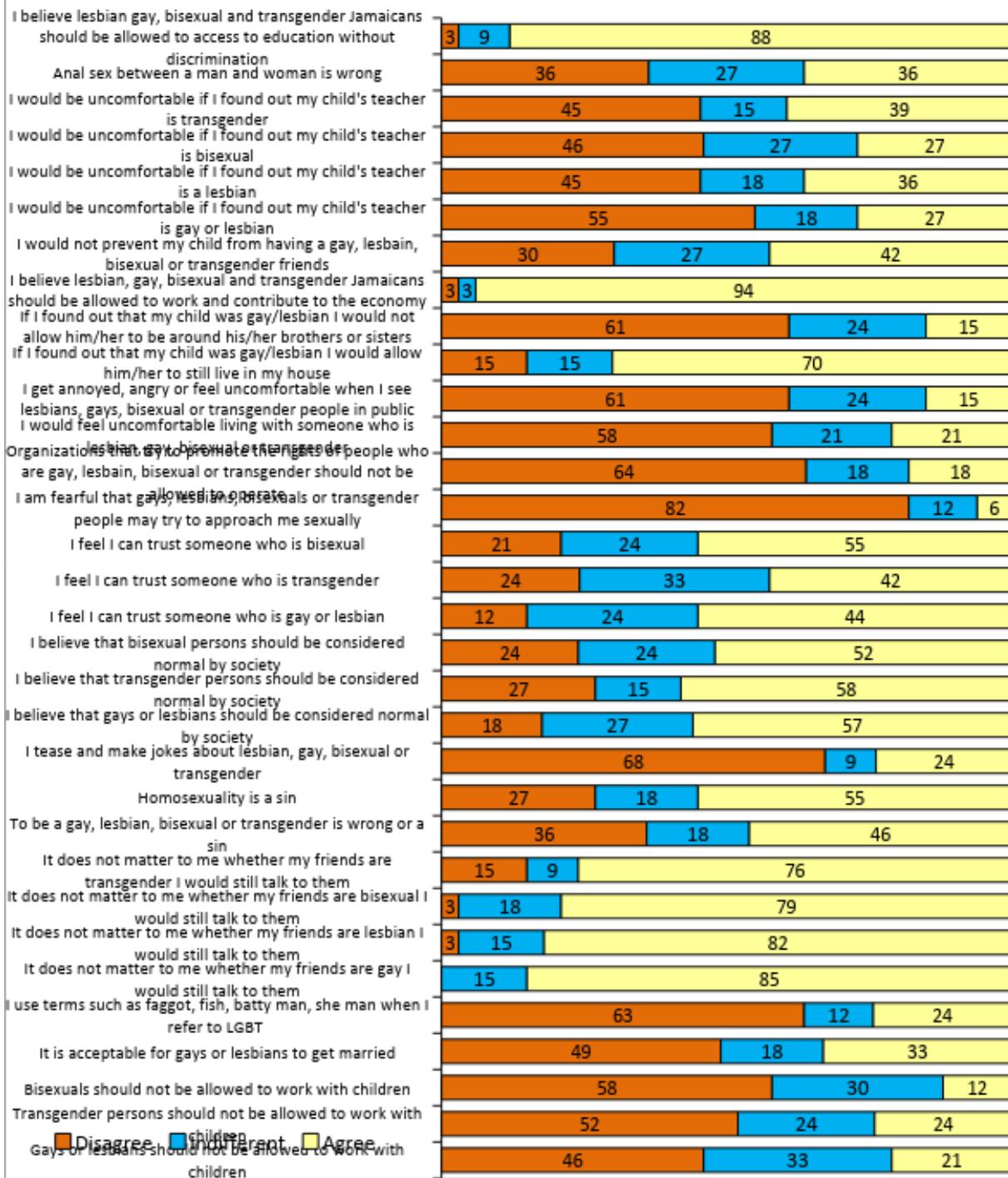
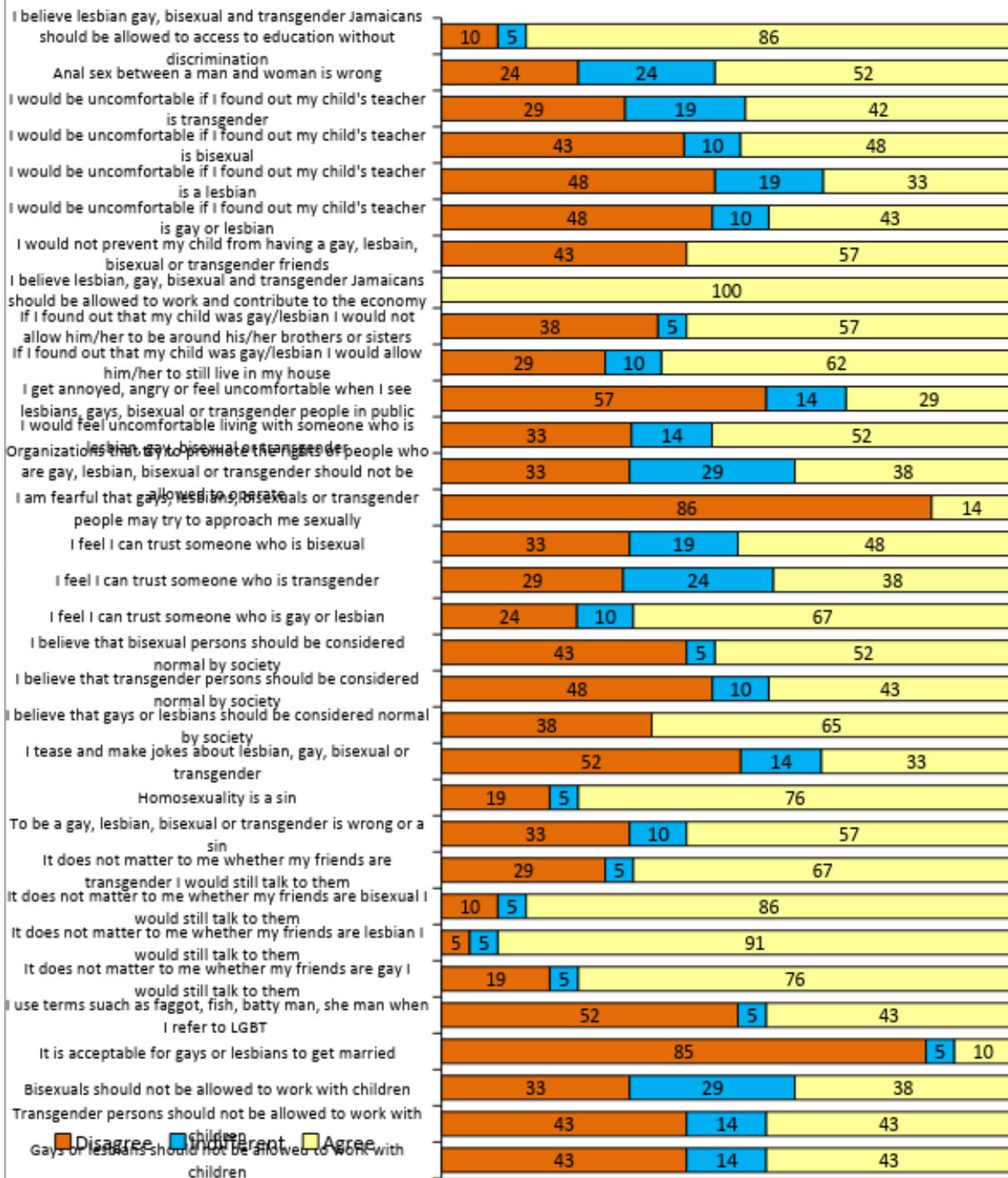


Chart 4: Attitudes & Opinions Towards Homosexuals (Politicians)

n=21



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?

There is a strong body of opinion across all the groups that gays and lesbians can be converted to be heterosexual. This is generally consistent with the indications from the 2015 survey. This view is particularly held by politicians where 71% feel strongly that such conversion is possible. 50% of the general public and 49% of the employers also shared this view on the possibility of conversion to heterosexuality.

The primary reason why persons were convinced this change could take place is a religious perspective. 27% say that this view stems from their belief in God and the conviction that God can alter any situation. This is consistent with the previous survey.

18% however feel that homosexuality is a learnt behaviour and as such can be “unlearnt”, depending on how much the individual wants to make this transition.

Other clear views as to why change was possible were presented by 16% who indicated that nothing is impossible and this includes the ability of persons to reflect and retreat from homosexuality.

12% are convinced that persons are not born as LGBT and hence this change can be effected.

At the same time, the sample was generally convinced that homosexuals experience the same kinds of emotions as heterosexuals.

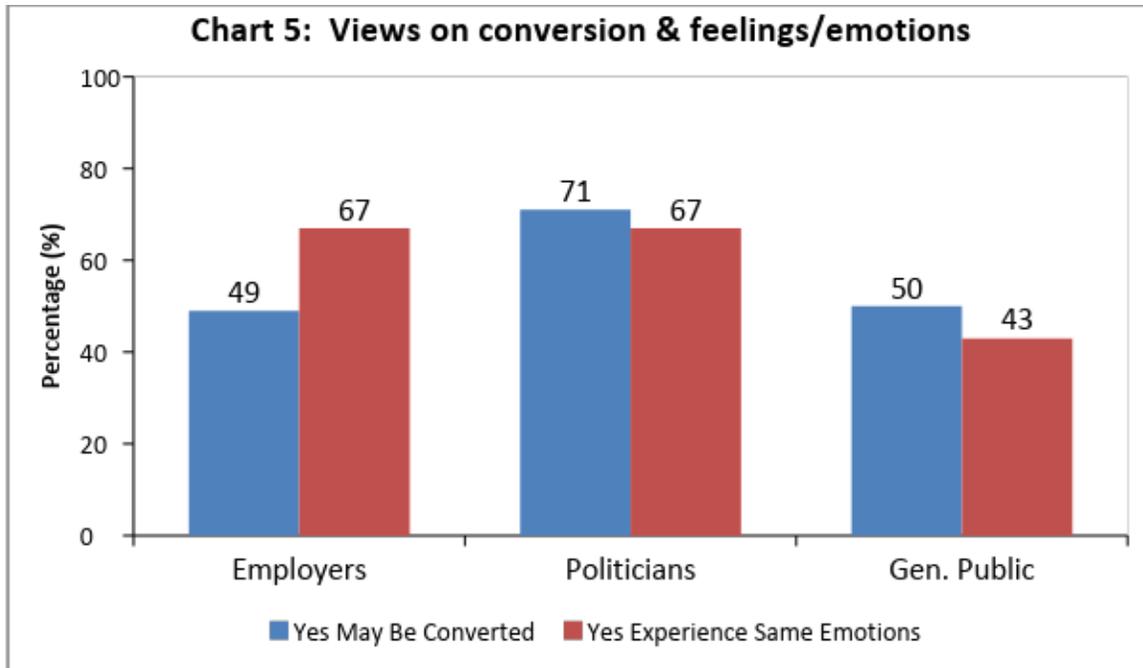


Table #10: Drivers of opinions about conversion – “YES THEY CAN BE CONVERTED”

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n =21
Once you get past the point of being curious	5%	6%	-
It's a psychological situation that needs medical attention	13%	6%	7%
If they truly want to they can	18%	13%	13%
I believe people can change	23%	6%	53%
Religion can play a great part in their lives	27%	6%	13%
If you are attracted/love someone you can change	2%	13%	7%
They are going through a phase	3%	19%	-
They have a mind of their own	2%	19%	-
They were never born that way	12%	13%	-

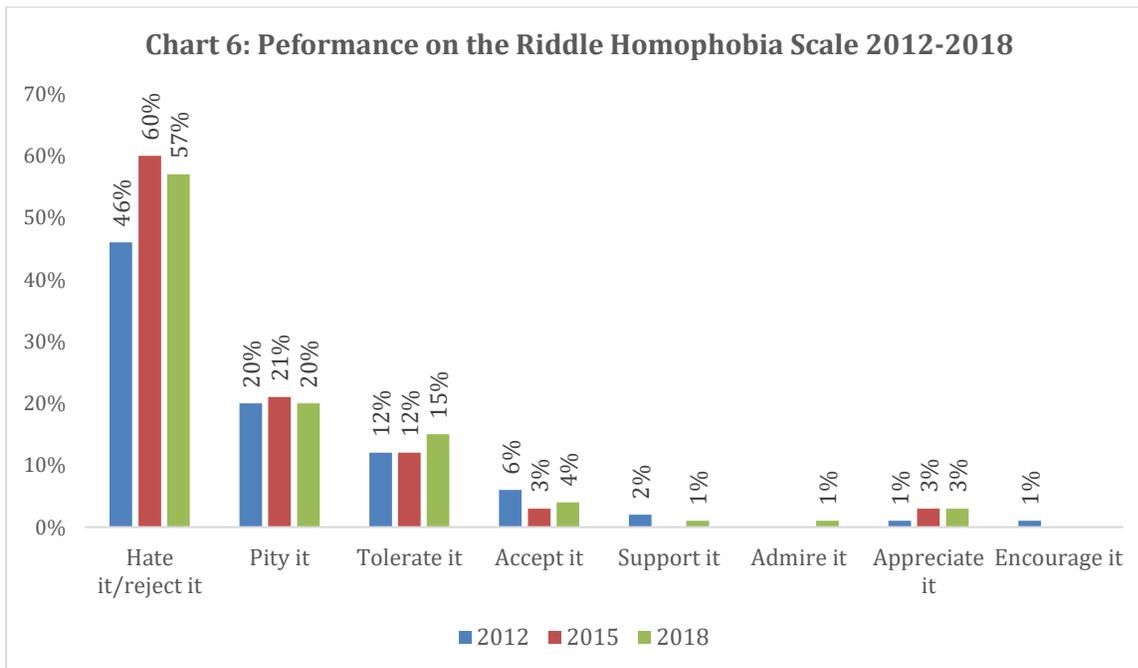
*Note: The number of respondents in each sub-group is too small to allow trending/analysis by sub-group.

2.4 Extent of tolerance and experience with damage to property

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

The Riddle Homophobia⁵ 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).

While negative attitudes continue to be high, positive attitudes towards LGBT people moved from 20% in 2015 to 25% in 2018 among people who express that they are tolerant and who appreciate, encourage, accept, support or admire LGBT people. Those who expressed tolerance represented 15% with 4% and 3% expressing acceptance and appreciation. Of note is the decline by 3% in the percentage of people who report they hate or reject LGBT people.

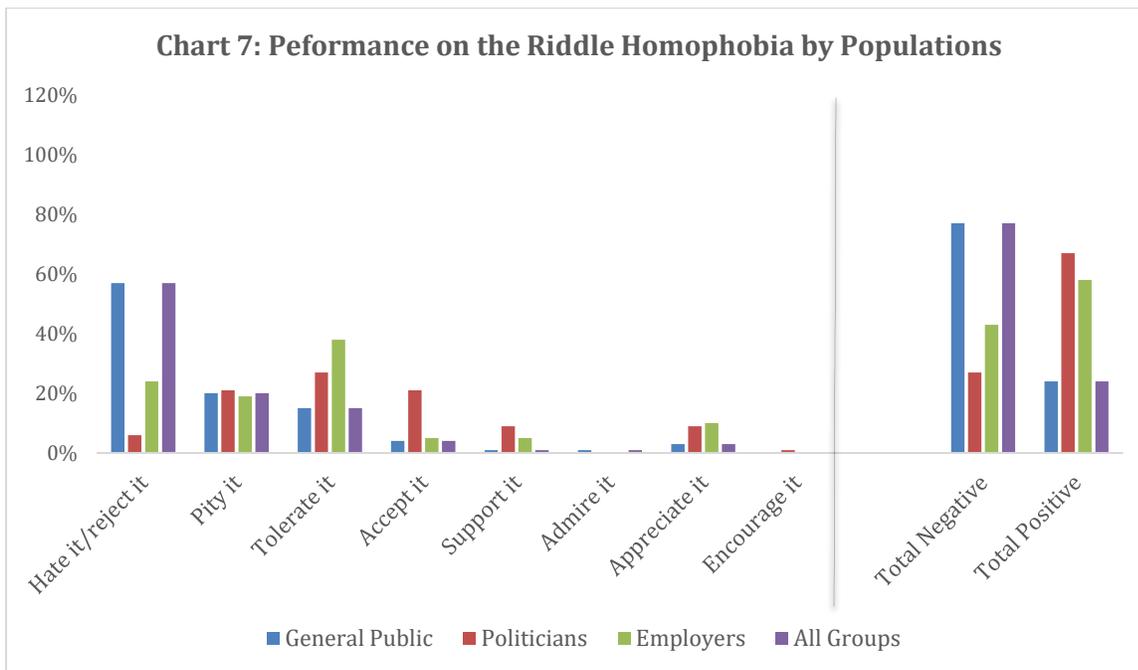


⁵ The Riddle Homophobic scale was developed by Dr. Dorothy Riddle for the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Gays and Lesbians. The scale is an eight-point scale divided into two sections: a) negative attitudes (homophobic) and b) positive attitudes.

Table #11: Attitudes towards Homosexual Relationships – 2012 to 2018 – The Riddle Homophobia Scale

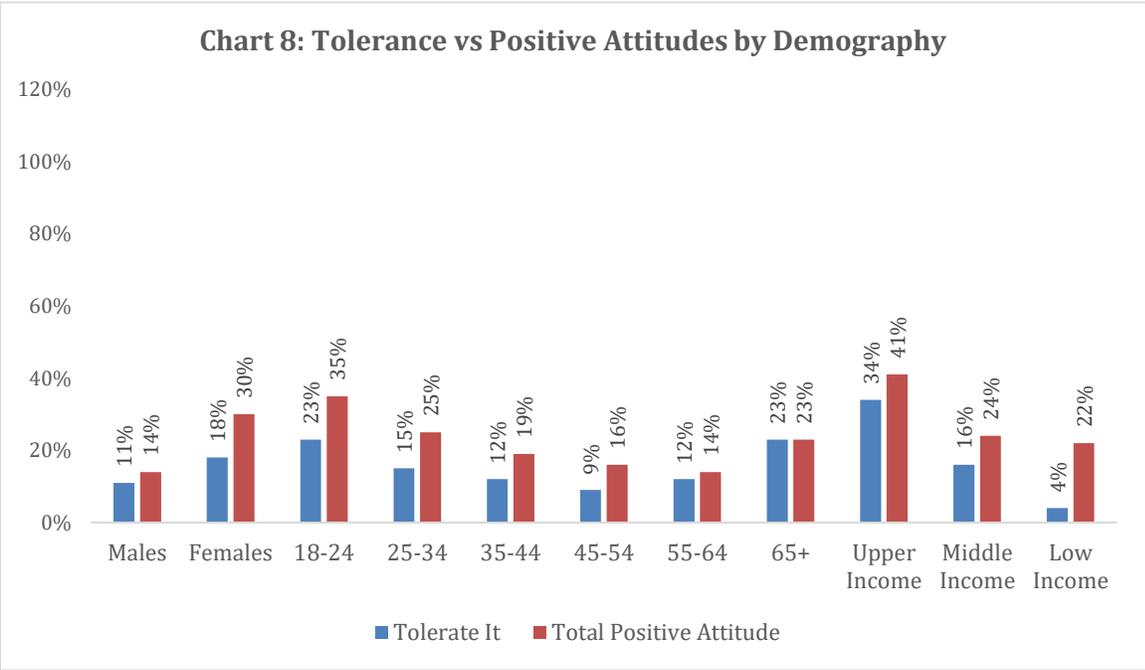
	2018 N=1043	2015 n=1003	2012 n=1000
Hate it/reject it	57%	60%	46%
Pity it	20%	21%	20%
Tolerate it	15%	12%	12%
Accept it	4%	3%	6%
Support it	1%	<1%	2%
Admire it	1%	<1%	<1%
Appreciate it	3%	3%	1%
Encourage it	<1%	-	1%

This overall pattern is consistent with the views reported on in the 2015 survey.



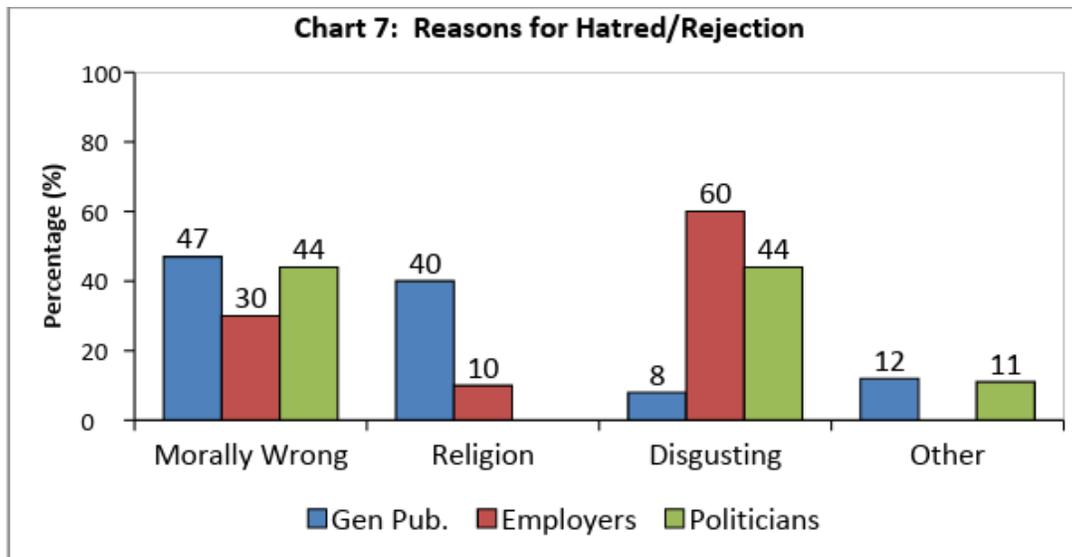
Of the population groups studied, politicians displayed the most positive attitudes towards homosexuality on the Riddle Homophobia scale.

Of note also, persons of Upper income status (34%), older persons 64 years and over (23%) and young persons 18-24 are the ones most likely to be tolerant and positive towards LGBT people. Females more than males continue to be more tolerant and positively disposed towards homosexuality.



A number of different reasons were cited by those persons who either hated or rejected LGBT people as the driving factors conditioning such positions.

Among employers in particular, this behaviour was seen to be abhorrent, disgusting, with 60% viewing it in this way. This view was shared by politicians, though not to the same extent. Among the general public, they saw this as morally wrong or objected on the basis of religious grounds, with over 40% reflecting this view.



The main drivers of sentiments that reflect pity or encouragement are born out of a number of factors. These include the belief that LGBT people generally do not know what they are doing (18%) as well as the view that these actions are morally wrong and indefensible (16%).

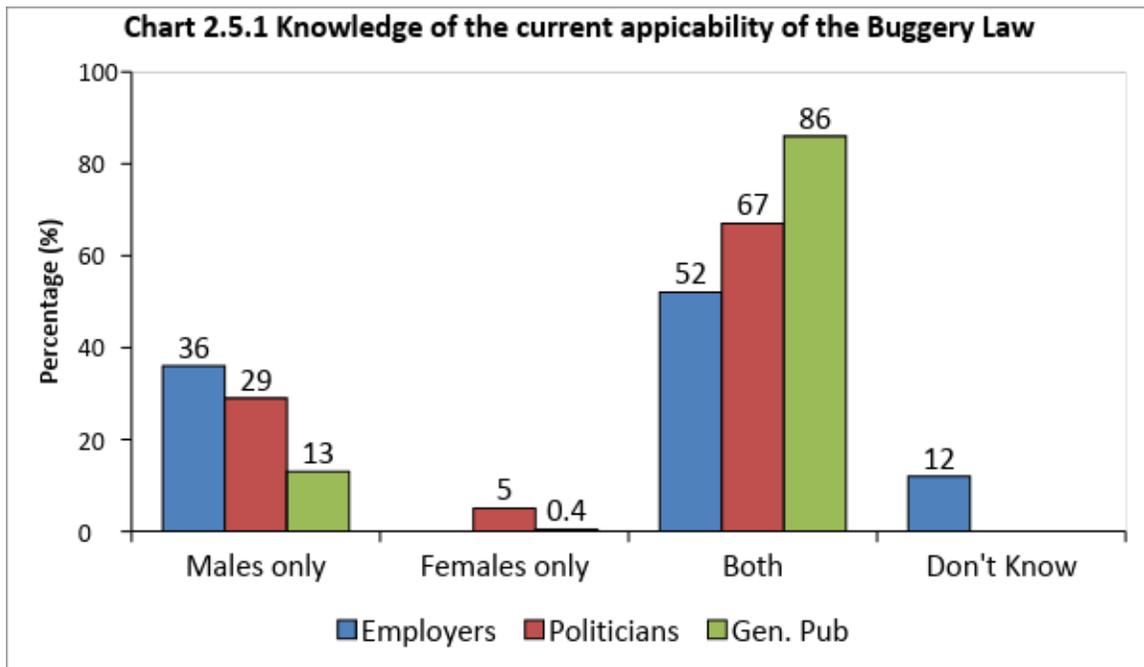
Hatred for LGBT people does not appear to be driven by any experiences with damage to personal property by such persons. Only 2% of the entire sample reported experiencing damage to property by a homosexual (gay or lesbian). Instead the main reasons for hatred/rejection are the views that homosexuality is morally wrong, religious reasons, views that it goes against the laws of humanity, views that they were not made/born that way and just a general lack of support for the lifestyle.

At the same time, just under 14% of all persons interviewed indicate that they have had a negative personal experience with someone who is LGBT, with the highest incidence being in St. Catherine and Kingston.

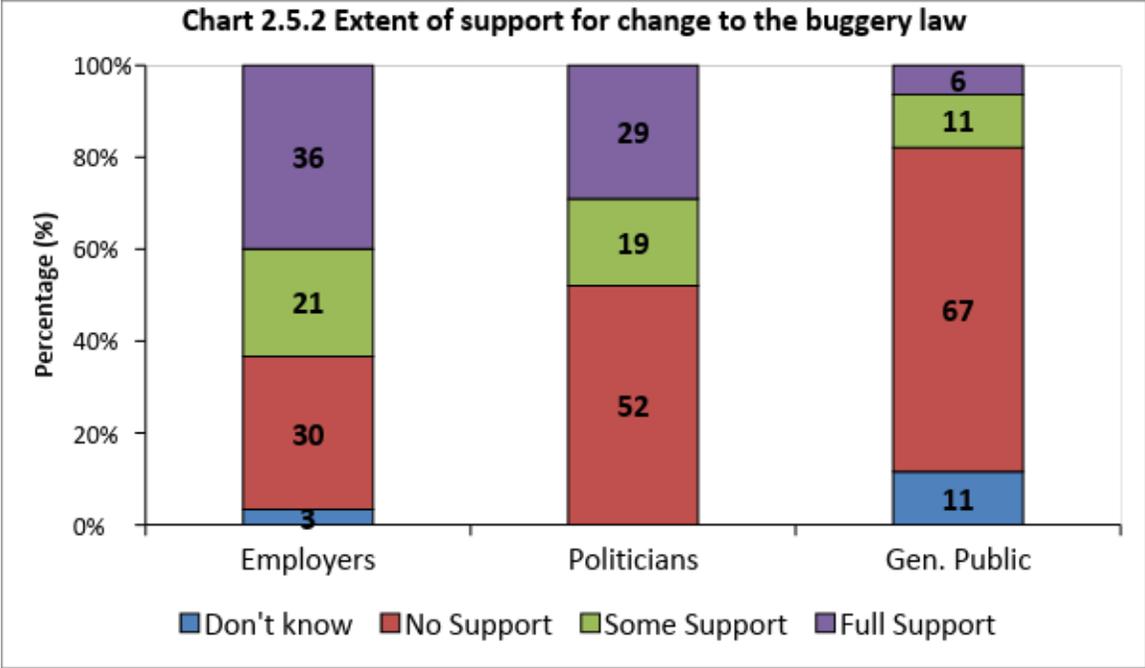
2.5 Knowledge & Views of Law and Regulations

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 buggery 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. This is significantly so among the general public where 86% say it applies to both males and females. Employers and politicians also share this view though not to the same extent. Nonetheless, all groups are of the opinion that the buggery law applies to both males and females. The vast majority of the Jamaican public are of the view that the Buggery Law should apply to both males and females (87%). This is a significant increase from the 63% of persons in the general public who indicated that the law applies to both males and females in 2015. Employers and politicians share a similar sentiment (85% combined, 100% employers and 73% politicians). In 2015, 43% and 55% of employers and politicians respectively shared that it applied to both.



There appears to be greater support for changing “the buggery law” to allow for consensual sex between adults in private though not significantly among the general public. The vast majority of the general public, (67%), 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. This is a 7% decline when compared to the previous survey in 2015. This was shared by politicians with 52% of them echoing this view. Employers were far less opposed to this possible change with 57% indicating that they would either fully or support to some extent a change in the law to allow sex between consenting sex between adults in private, regardless of the gender of the parties compared to 43% in 2015. It should be noted that this view was also shared by nearly half of politicians who would support such a change fully or to some extent compared to 21% in 2015.



Thirty three percent (33%) of the general public respondents could not identify any real concern or fear that influences their resistance to a change in the Buggery Law. This was by far the largest single response to a question which sought to establish what issues they might have with making this change.

Apart from that, a raft of reasons were presented which indicated that persons do have concerns about the change. None of these responses were, by themselves, statistically significant. For example, 6% simply felt that this should not be amended, whilst another 6% felt that to do might unleash more violence on the society.

5% also feel that the law would be too lenient, whilst an equal number were of the view that the LGBT group will try to influence the youth in the population.

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

	General Public n=1043
Have no concerns	33%
Think it should not be amended	6%
May cause society to become more violent	6%
That the law maybe too lenient, should attract stiffer penalties	5%
LGBT's would try to influence youths	5%
LGBT will believe they have more rights than heterosexual	4%
More LGBT would come out of the closet	2%
May legalize LGBT	3%
Jamaica would become the next Sodom and Gommorrah	1%
That it will have a negative impact on the health sector	2%
That they may think they have a right to flaunt their behaviour	4%
Would think what they are doing is right	2%
That the nation will not be educated and involved before the amendment	1%
The buggery law will not be considered as rape and would not be punishable	2%
Would be against our religious belief	2%
Confusion among children as to what is wrong and what is right	4%
That the act may not be considered as rape	1%
Society would deteriorate	3%
Don't support the buggery law	2%
That females are exempted	1%
Don't know anything about this law	3%

A significant number of the politicians (38%) and the employers (36%) have no specific concerns about changing the buggery law. At the same time, employers (21%) also claim not to have sufficient information to be able to make a reasoned assessment of the situation. Where negatives were expressed, 15% said that such a change would not make provision for persons under 18 years. 9% also felt this might lead to a spread of corruption, the same number that feel this might lead to a violation of the rights of persons.

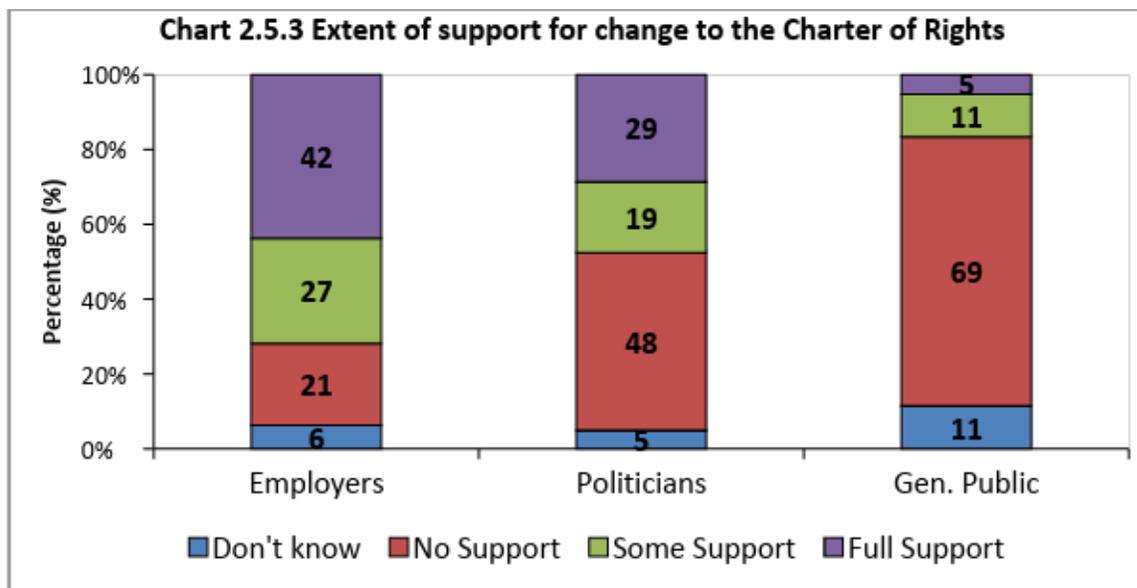
Politicians on the other hand express the view that to make such a change could give rights to persons on an issue that was wrong. Their main concern then was a moral one.

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

	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Don't have enough knowledge on this law	21%	-
It might give right to spreading corruption	9%	-
Might be harder to prove non-consensual sex	6%	-
That provision is not made for persons under 18 years old	15%	-
That it does not include females	3%	-
It's complicated and might be violation of people human right	9%	5%
That the law become relaxed/become too lenient	-	14%
That they give rights to something that is wrong	-	24%
Law should not be amended	-	10%
Cause a negative impact on public health	-	5%
The people masses is not being educated on the law	-	5%
None	36%	38%

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 person?

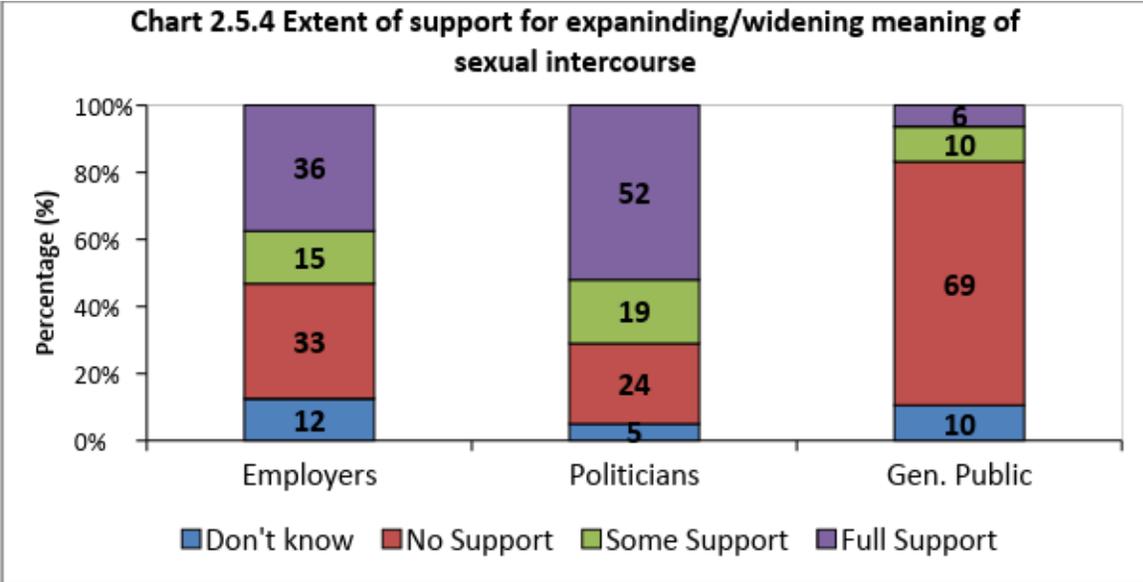
There would be strong resistance to changing the Charter of Rights to give equal protections to the LGBT community among the general public with 69% of them indicating so. Close to half of the politicians interviewed also would not be in favour of changing the Charter of Right to so give equal protections to persons who are LGBT while 69% of employers indicate some level of support to changing the law. Of is that 47% of politicians would support a change to the law to allow for equal protections for LGBT people. Despite resistance, the data however show there has been positive changes when compared with the previous survey. In 2015, 74% of the general public showed no support while 43% of employers and 33% of politicians supported this.



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?

Politicians and employers appear fairly open to widening the meaning of sexual intercourse to include other forms of sex such as oral sex and anal sex. The general public, however, remain largely opposed to this idea. 71% of politicians would support this change with 52% of them indicating full support while 51% of the employers indicate support as well. However, only16%

of the general public would support this expansion of the definition of sexual intercourse in the Sexual Offences Act. Compared to the previous survey, there has been a decrease of 11% of persons in the general public who support expanding the definition from 27% to 16% in 2018. Positive movement was, however, noted among politicians and employers who in the previous survey with support among only 42% and 39% respectively.



Should a man having anal sex with a woman without her consent be treated as rape?

	Gen. Public	Employers	Politicians
	%	%	%
Yes	87	91	95
No	3	6	5
Not sure/refused	10	3	-

Interestingly, while there isn't greater support for expanding the definition of sexual intercourse, Nearly all respondents, across the sectors interviewed share the view that a man who has anal sex with a woman without her consent should be charged with rape.

2.6 Role of Government & Views about protection of LGBT People

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

A significant number of persons did not feel competent enough to respond to this question. This is reflected in the fact that 41% of the general public, 42% of the employers and 33% of the politicians said they did not know or could not venture an opinion on this issue. However, the majority did respond one way or another. % of the politicians and 46% of employers felt that the government was not doing enough to protect the LGBT community, compared to 29% of the general public who felt this way. The percentage of politicians and employers who believe the government is not doing enough has increased from 27% and 32% respectively in 2015 while the percentage of the general public that shares this view decreased from 33% in 2015 to 29% in 2018. This level does suggest some degree of empathy for the movement.

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

	2015			2018		
	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Yes doing enough	31%	18%	55%	25%	9%	29%
No not doing enough	33%	32%	27%	29%	46%	48%
Don't know	31%	50%	15%	41%	42%	33%
Refused	5%	-	3%	5%	3%	2%

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

he majority of employers (67%) and politicians (52%) who shared that the government is not doing enough to provide for LGBT people. However, a significant percentage are also of the view that enough is being done. This is so for members of the general public (20%) and politicians (29%) who feel the government is doing enough to provide for members of the LGBT community who are either homeless or living on the streets.

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

	2015			2018		
	General Public n=942	Employers n=28	Politicians n=33	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Yes doing enough	23%	14%	21%	20%	3%	29%
No not doing enough	35%	57%	30%	31%	67%	52%
Don't know	38%	25%	49%	43%	24%	19%
Refused	5%	4%	0%	5%	6%	0%

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 45% of employers and 52% of politicians would be more inclined to support the government in protecting LGBT people against violence and discrimination, the general public would not be so inclined. In 2015, support was higher among politicians and employers at 76% and 50% respectively.

Just 21% would support a government that would seek to protect members of the LGBT community against violence compared to 26% in 2015. This clearly indicates how the general public feels about the LGBT persons on this issue. Such a move by government then would not make a significant difference to the level of support for that government.

Table 2.6.3: Support of the government in protecting LGBT people

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Definitely not support	46%	30%	24%
Would not really support	13%	9%	10%
Neither nor	19%	15%	14%
Moderately support	12%	15%	19%
Strongly support	9%	30%	33%

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

Table 2.6.3.1: Support of an MP in protecting LGBT people

	General Public n=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Definitely not support	49%	21%	19%
Would not really support	14%	9%	24%
Neither nor	17%	21%	9%
Moderately support	11%	24%	19%
Strongly support	9%	24%	29%

There would be little support among the general public for a Member of Parliament who sought to protect the rights of an LGBT person. 63% would not support the actions of such a person. There a greater level of support among employers where close to 50% say they would be favourably inclined to support such an individual. Politicians are divided on the issue, with a roughly equal number saying they would against those saying they would not.

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 for LGBT people in schools. This is represented by the 68% who indicate that they are between moderately to strongly in disagreement with this consideration. Employers and politicians are more in support of this with 45% and 43% respectively indicating that they would agree 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=1043	Employers n=33	Politicians n=21
Strongly Agree	8%	24%	19%
Moderately Agree	10%	21%	24%
Neither nor	16%	21%	-
Moderately Disagree	5%	6%	19%
Strongly Disagree	63%	27%	38%

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?

	General Public	Employers	Politicians
Yes	33%	81%	80%
No	45%	9%	11%
Not sure	17%	10%	9%
Refused	5%	-	-

A significant number of the general public (45%) indicate that they would not be inclined to report situations where they witnessed or knew of a case where there was discrimination or abuse of LGBT persons. It has to be taken into consideration that persons are not generally inclined to report any criminal activity, among other reasons, for fear of being victimised or targeted. Against this very low level of support for the justice system in this regard, the large majority of employers and politicians do clearly state that they would definitely report such abuses to the authorities. This data is consistent with the findings from the 2015 survey.

Those who would report such instances believe it is the right thing to do as in the first instance they are humans and secondly, this would be a contravention of the law.

Reluctance to report such abuses is based on a number of factors as indicated above. These include fear of recrimination, personal danger and the feeling that something like that is not really their business. These are the factors that would drive reservations about either intervening or reporting such instances.

69. Lifestyle and interests

Frequency of Going to Church

	General Public	Employers	Politicians
	%	%	%
Several times weekly	13	15	5
Once per week	15	27	10
Several times per month	13	9	24
Once per month	9	9	19
Several times per year	16	12	14
Once per year	4	6	-
Less frequently than once per year	4	3	-
Special occasions, weddings, funerals etc	24	15	29
Never	4	3	-

A significant number of politicians and members of the general public tend to go to church only on special occasions. Apart from these situations, attendance at church appears to be fairly consistent with roughly half of each segment indicating that they do so at least once per month.

Type of music listened to most often

	General Public
	%
Reggae	11
Dancehall	11
Hip Hop	3
Rhythm and Blues	4
Soca/Calypso	1
Rock/Alternative	1
Gospel	27
All equally	40
Others	3

How they describe their sexuality

	General Public
	%
Gay/Lesbian	-
Heterosexual	88
Bisexual	1
Refused	11

4. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

The 2018 survey confirms that awareness and knowledge of LGBT issues, specifically with regards to the terms used to describe different sexualities is wide. It also revealed that social media and discussions among friends and family have been very instrumental in the communication of knowledge gained in these areas.

on average, adult Jamaicans typically become aware of issues related to LGBT people at fourteen (14) years.

The survey also highlights clearly that despite some level of awareness of persons who are LGBT and who are known personally, there are still strong negative attitudes towards LGBT people. Notwithstanding, there are growing levels of positive attitudes among the general public, politicians and employers. Positive attitudes were higher among politicians and employers. .

The majority are of the view that homosexual desires are by choice, that is persons are not born to be so and hence they are prone to suggest that homosexuals may be converted to heterosexuals if they are so inclined. There is significant conviction that homosexuals experience the same emotions as heterosexuals. Efforts should be made by the JFLAG and other interest groups to seek to address misconceptions if and where these exist.

This is very important as there is a direct relationship between these attitudes and the very little support for amendments to current laws to make consensual anal sex among adults in private legal, expand the definition of sexual intercourse in the Sexual Offences Act or the Charter of Rights & Fundamental Freedoms to allow for equal protections. This was especially so among the general public. Concerns about changes to law are driven mainly by fears among the general public in particular that LGBT people will be more dominant than they are now and that there will be a resultant increase in violence.

What implication does this have for JFLAG and other organisations keen on engendering more positive attitudes?

JFLAG and other similar interest groups will undeniably have a major challenge seeking to changing these attitudes into positive ones. This is so as they are working against a belief system that strongly rejects LGBT people 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 LGBT people 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 LGBT people given the generally more positive responses to questions relating to the humanity of persons in the LGBT community compared to the conventional state-led interventions.

In light of this, JFLAG and other interest groups should seek to partner with the traditional media (the main source of information about LGBT people) in promoting more positive messages about the community, if and where this is feasible. This might include the use of very creative and bold strategies that position LGBT people in positive ways such as contributing positively to society if and where this is feasible.

It seems logical then that interest groups should seek to find ways to partner with persons and entities that are not strongly negative towards them in helping to discourage negative attitudes towards LGBT people. This of course is likely to be quite challenging given the level of negativity surrounding the acceptance of the LGBT community at this time. 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, JFLAG 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 LGBT people 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. JFLAG should seek to improve its image and value perception as part of the whole strategy.