

Appendix

Additional Information on Criminalisation of Homosexuality:

Article 102 of Iran's *Criminal procedure code (2013)* states that prosecutor is not allowed to prosecute or investigate crimes which are related to homosexuality, **unless** there is a petition from a victim of sexual offence or rape, the crime is committed in public, or in cases of organized crimes. In addition to the aforementioned prohibition from prosecution, article 106 of the *Criminal procedure code* states that if the prosecutor or any judge undertakes any investigation or prosecution, conflicting with article 102, will be sentenced to administrative punishment. **In practice** (de facto), any evidence captured through the above-mentioned illegal forms of investigation would be considered invalid and not usable against the accused, unless it is related to a sexual offence, rape, or an organized crime. Furthermore, all investigations of sexual offence crimes must be conducted by judges, and police officers are banned from pursuing any investigations. Furthermore, in accordance to article 102 (subsection 1), if any person confesses to a sexual offence crime (such as homosexuality), it is incumbent upon the prosecutors or judges to prevent him/her from confessing and failing to do so will sentence the official prosecutors or judges, as mentioned above, based on article 106.

Additional Information on the Research Setting:

The infectious diseases unit of Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex (IKHC) includes 13 physicians, who are faculty members at TUMS and members of the Iranian Academy of Sciences, serving as advisors for health programming and guideline development. Additionally, 17 residents specialising in infectious diseases and 32 nurses staff the infectious diseases unit. The VCT centre, which is mainly focused on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, includes a team of four physicians and two counsellors. The Positive Club is under the oversight of the VCT centre. IRCHA and its 8 full-time researchers and research assistants collaborate with the VCT and the positive club.