



# Comparative Legal Frameworks for Same-Sex Marriage in Postcolonial West Africa: A Focus on Mozambique

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## Abstract

Same-sex marriage has gained increasing attention in postcolonial West Africa, though its legal status varies across nations. The study employs a comparative legal framework approach, examining relevant legislation, court decisions, and policy documents from several West African nations. A thematic analysis will be used to highlight commonalities and differences among the examined countries. Mozambique is one of the few postcolonial West African nations that has established specific laws protecting same-sex couples, including provisions for marriage equality and adoption rights. While Mozambique's legal framework represents a significant step forward in recognising same-sex relationships, challenges remain regarding enforcement and societal acceptance. Policy makers should advocate for further legislative reforms to align with international human rights standards and promote social inclusion of marginalized groups.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, African geopolitics, Cross-cultural jurisprudence, Legal pluralism, Social constructionism, Comparative constitutional law, Postcolonial studies*

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