

## Definitive decriminalization of homosexuality



August 4, 1982

In 1982, discriminatory legislation concerning the age of consent was abolished, and the Quilliot Law on the rights and duties of landlords and tenants put an end to a homosexual "lifestyle" that could constitute grounds for termination of a residential lease.

Decriminalization occurred in two stages, as the French Revolution had already decriminalized homosexual relations in 1791. On July 27, 1982, the law ending discrimination regarding the age of sexual consent for homosexuals was adopted. More specifically, the second paragraph of Article 331 of the Penal Code was repealed. Promulgated by the Vichy government in 1942, this article stipulated that, while sexual relations between heterosexuals were legal from the age of 15, homosexuals had to wait until they reached the age of majority, which was 21 until 1974, and then 18 (after the adoption of the law lowering the voting age and the age of civil majority). Offenders risked "three years' imprisonment for an indecent or unnatural act committed with a minor of the same sex." Other advances were noted in France during the 1980s; indeed, the legislature also declassified homosexuality as a mental illness in 1981.

**For more information, click  
here!**



Sources : <https://www.actu-juridique.fr/administratif/apres-40-ans-de-depenalisation-de-lhomosexualite-quel-est-le-sort-reserve-a-la-communaute-homosexuelle/>