

## GLOBAL SECURITY ALERT

### CURRENT SITUATION

- On May 17, the US State Department issued a global security advisory urging all travelers to **exercise increased caution** (*Level 2 alert*) due to the potential for **terrorist attacks, demonstrations, and violence** targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, and LGBTQ+ related events. The alert comes ahead of Pride Month, mainly celebrated in June.
- The advisory aligns with a prior joint announcement on May 10 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Department of Homeland Security, which cautioned the public about heightened security threats against Pride events.



### GEOGRAPHIC THREAT LANDSCAPE

- While law enforcement agencies have not identified specific target locations, messages disseminated in English by Islamic State (IS) in February 2023 contained rhetoric against LGBTQ+ events and venues.
- During Pride 2023, a non-governmental LGBTQ+ media monitoring group recorded at least **145 incidents** of anti-LGBTQ+ harassment or violence within the **United States**. In **Europe** and **Central Asia**, between January and December 2022, ILGA Europe recorded a sharp rise in violence and severity of violence against LGBTQ+ individuals as political and extremist actors drive anti-LGBTQ+ hate speech.

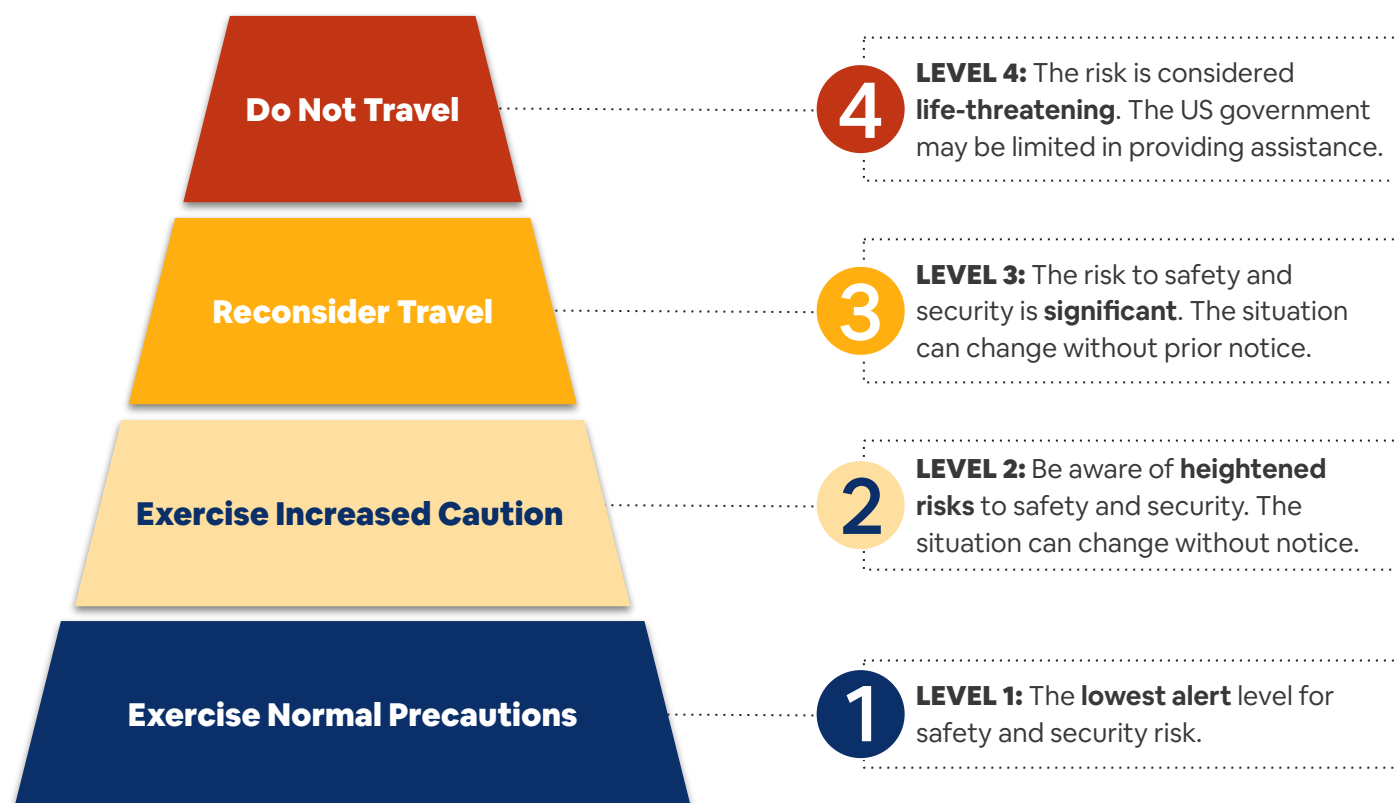
## WHAT THIS MEANS

### IMPACT ON EMPLOYEES AND TRAVELERS

- Due to the heightened risk of an anti-LGBTQ+ attack this year, Pride events are likely to have a heavy police and private security presence. Crowds attending Pride parades and related events could impact traffic and cause road closures and delays in affected areas.
- In January 2024, a Nottingham man was physically assaulted. The attacker used derogatory and homophobic terms.
- In May 2024, four gay bars in San Diego were reportedly targeted in a series of anti-LGBTQ+ incidents.
- Anti-LGBTQ+ campaigns are likely to spread on social media; however, some groups could rally at agreed-upon locations.
- In August 2023, a Pride event in Sydney, Australia, was shut down after a group of men damaged LGBTQ+ flags and shouted abuse.
- Right-wing groups could intensify online calls for boycotts against companies with strong public support for LGBTQ+ causes. Companies, including Target, Anheuser Busch, and Disney World, experienced increased online attacks and boycotts. In April 2023, an online promotion resulted in backlash from conservatives for Bud Light. A boycott of the brand resulted in several months of declined sales.
- In 2024, Target anceled Pride month promotions due to the backlash the company received the year before.

## TRAVEL ADVISORY LEVELS

Source: US State Department



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### EXERCISE INCREASED CAUTION

- Lone actors or terror organizations may seek to exploit large gatherings associated with Pride Month. The threat extends to all easily accessible public locations popular within the LGBTQ+ community.
  - June 12 also marks the eighth anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.
- Several events contribute to a higher risk environment this year, including the US elections, and ongoing international conflicts.
- Threats against LGBTQ+ people are common; however, the State Department's worldwide travel advisory is rare.