

The United Arab Emirates Has Threatened Amazon in Blocking LGBTQ+ Content

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Homosexuality is still a big issue in the United Arab Emirates despite previous attempts for acceptance. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) [has threatened Amazon](#) in removing LGBTQ+ content on their website. Some restrictions include homosexual books, pride flags, chest binders, rainbow themed kids toys and clothing and any other queer related items. The UAE government believes this is sending a positive message to the public even though homosexuality is illegal.

The Emirati government usually makes up their consequences followed by the [Sharia Law](#). It constitutes their official religion, Islam. Penalties against LGBTQ couples are expected according to [their State Department](#). Usual outcomes result with a fine and or imprisonment, the severity sometimes following the death penalty. The UAE has gone to the extent of using “entrapment campaigns”. It is a way to extort gay individuals while being monitored online. According to the [UAE’s penal code #358](#), transgenders and cross dressing are considered as a “public offense” as well. This offense can result in up to 1 year of imprisonment and between 1,000 AED (\$272.26) to 50,000 (\$13,612.85) AED.

Before Amazon, it was known as Souq, being the largest e-commerce company. It was then replaced by Amazon in 2019, starting off with [more than 10,000 sellers](#). Last year of 2021, Amazon generated about \$520 million from UAE consumers, being the [#1](#)

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[ranked store in the UAE](#). With this much traction, it's expected to follow where the money goes.

Does it come down to just business or what is ethically correct? Amazon spokesperson, [Nicole Pampe, had stated](#) "As a company, we remain committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we believe that the rights of L.G.B.T.Q.+ people must be protected. With Amazon stores around the world, we must also comply with the local laws and regulations of the countries in which we operate." Although Ms. Pampe's above statement addresses equity, Amazon has shown past history that says otherwise.

AmazonSmile, a similar platform as Amazon, the only difference is that consumers can choose which organizations to give a charitable percentage to. [Its terms and conditions](#) basically concluded all participants mustn't act on any sorts of discrimination. However, [dozens of anti-lgbtq+ groups](#) are still using and profiting off of AmazonSmile. Amazon has [not taken any action](#) in stopping donations to anti-lgbtq organizations.

Amazon [had donated over](#) about \$93,000 to politicians in 2021. They had voted in support of the ["Don't Say Gay" bill](#) which prohibits discussion of transgenderism and sexual orientation in schools. It is ironic how though they will vote against basic human rights, they still profit off of LGBTQ people.