

36 th session of the Human Rights Council
UPR Outcomes Tunisia
The Tunisian Coalition for LGBTIQ+ Rights

Dear mr. President

Thank you for letting us be part of the 36th Human Rights Council.

Tunisia has made considerable progress in respect to human rights, especially women's rights, and is still taking important steps to promote and protect freedoms. During the UPR Session on May 2nd, The Tunisian government accepted the recommendation of Ireland on anal examinations to be ceased, which we recognize. However, the Tunisian government has noted 19 recommendations in regards to SOGIESC issues.

Mr. President,

Today, LGBTIQ+ individuals are still victims of violence and discrimination. Even though Mr. Houssemeddine El Triki, representative of the Ministry of Justice, stated during the UPR session that LGBTIQ+ individuals have full access to all rights including justice and that “any aggression based on sexual orientation is criminalized”. Just one month ago a gay man was bitten and tortured by policemen while trying to report an aggression, he couldn't defend himself because he was accused of being homosexual. Hate crimes seem to increase considerably, even in these last two weeks, multiple individuals were brutally killed and tortured. Tunisian authorities still keep arresting individuals because of their SOGIESC and sentenced to prison.

These illegitimate events derive their legitimacy from unconstitutional legal frameworks that persecute the LGBTIQ+ community and any person who does not comply with social conventions. This includes the article 230 of the penal code that explicitly condemns male and female homosexuality with a sentence of up to 3 years of imprisonment.

Mr. President,

We urge the Tunisian government to immediately abolish the article 230 of the penal code, to cease the practices of anal examinations as accepted in the recommendation, and to ensure the protection of LGBTIQ+ against all form of violence and stigmatization.

We would like to remind the Tunisian authorities that the rights of LGBTIQ+ are human rights.

Thank you.

Signatories:

1. Mawjoudin (We Exist)
2. Damj for Justice and Equality
3. Chouf Minorities
4. COC Nederland
5. ILGA World
6. Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD)
7. Tunisian Association for Positive Prevention (ATP+)
8. Tawhida BenCheikh Group