

House of Guramayle Presentation Pre-Session 47 Ethiopia

Introduction - slide 2

- House of Guramayle is a collaborative intersectional platform created by socially and politically marginalized Ethiopian activists around the world.

We advocate for the Ethiopian LGBTIQ+ community and create a safe/softer space for them to share their stories and experiences of social, economic, health, and political issues.

Please scan the QR Code to learn more about HoG

Last update (UPR CYCLE 3 session 33) - slide 3

- In its Third-Cycle review, Ethiopia received and noted five recommendations pertaining to LGBTQ+ people, including recognizing LGBTQ+ people's rights to equality and non-discrimination, combating violence and stigmatization, and including LGBTQ+ people in key national health policies.
- The Government of Ethiopia has undertaken no voluntary commitments to implement these recommendations.

Upcoming 4th CYCLE review - slide 4

- In a joint submission for the upcoming 4th cycle, House of Guramayle and The Advocates for Human Rights examine Ethiopia's record with regard to the rights of LGBTQ+ persons over two key thematic areas: Equality and non-discrimination and Right to health care.
- Please scan the QR Code to find our submission

LGBTQ+ Human Rights Situation - slide 5

- **Criminalization and Legal Barriers:**
 - Consensual same-sex sexual activity remains criminalized in Ethiopia, leading to the arrest and detention of LGBTQ+ individuals, often under vague or unsubstantiated charges.
- **Discrimination and Violence:**
 - LGBTQ+ individuals face widespread discrimination and violence, including harassment, physical and sexual assault, and social exclusion. These issues are compounded by a lack of protection from law enforcement, and in some cases, state actors actively participate in or endorse anti-LGBTQ+ actions.
- **Social Stigmatization and Digital Harassment:**
 - Anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment is fuelled by social media campaigns, including the dissemination of videos that expose individuals' personal

identities (doxing), leading to threats, evictions, and physical violence. The government's response to such online harassment has been inadequate, further endangering the community.

➤ **Legalizing Anti-LGBTQ+ CSOs**

- Anti-LGBTQ+ organizations have received legal recognition and have engaged with government ministries. Aside from incitement of violence, such organizations also engage in the practice of conversion therapy as a means to “rehabilitate” LGBTQ+ individuals.

➤ **Healthcare Access**

- The LGBTQ+ community in Ethiopia faces significant barriers to accessing healthcare, including stigma from healthcare providers and a lack of resources for gender-confirming treatments. The ongoing criminalization of same-sex relations contributes to the reluctance of LGBTQ+ individuals to seek necessary medical care.

Our Recommendations - slide 6

- Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex under the 2004 Criminal Code.
- Take steps to raise awareness to mitigate social prejudices, stigmatization, harassment, discrimination, and violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation.
- Combat hate speech, online harassment, doxing, and surveillance related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and amend the hate speech and disinformation law to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected ground from hate speech.
- Include LGBTQ+ communities in the definitions of “key and most at risk populations” in the National Health Strategy, and put in place measures for including LGBTQ+ communities in other national health interventions and policies.

Thank You - slide 7