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**(Iranian Lesbian and
Transgender Network)**

Human Rights of LGBTI+ people in Iran



Situation in Iran: Issue I

Criminalisation of Same-Sex Conduct, Freedom of Speech and Right to Assembly

Iran's Islamic Penal Code criminalises same-sex conduct with punishments ranging from flogging to death.

Transgender and non-binary expressions including cross-dressing face similar restrictions under general provisions about immorality and indecency.

Individuals expressing their identity through appearance, clothing, or behaviours considered non-conforming may face imprisonment, fines, or lashes.

Lesbian and trans women encounter additional discrimination due to gender discriminatory laws and policies, relegating them to a second-class position.



Situation in Iran: Issue I

Persecution of LGBTI+ Human Rights Defenders

LGBTI+ human rights defenders in Iran face severe discrimination, including arrests, torture, and even death sentences.

LGBTI+ protestors, particularly during the 2022-2023 nationwide protests, faced aggravated violence, including torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as arbitrary detention.



We Recommend that the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Fully decriminalize same-sex conduct, abolish the death penalty and flogging for consensual same-sex relations among adults, and repeal all laws criminalizing non-conforming gender identities and expressions.

Release LGBTI+ activists and human rights defenders immediately, and cease the persecution and harassment of advocates for sexual orientation diversity and gender rights.

Prosecute and punish perpetrators of human rights violations and gender-based persecution against LGBTI+ individuals who participated in protests.



Situation in Iran: Issue II

Discrimination Against LGBTI+ Individuals Within Media, Healthcare, and Public Policy

- Medical professionals in Iran often label homosexuality as **mood disorders** or **obsessive-compulsive disorder** and treated with antipsychotics or behavioural therapy.
- Transgender individuals are often mischaracterized as **delusional** and forced to undergo treatment with **antipsychotic drugs**.
- Many gay and lesbian people are **coerced** into gender reassignment surgeries without free, informed consent.
- **Conversion therapy** methods, including **electric shocks** and **emetic drugs**, are widely used with the state's complicity, allowing perpetrators to act with impunity.



Situation in Iran: Issue II

Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ Individuals Within Media, Healthcare, and Public Police

State-sanctioned hate speech continues to fuel discrimination and violence against LGBTQI+ individuals.

High-ranking officials, including **the Supreme Leader** and the President, frequently **dehumanize LGBTQI+ persons**, labeling them as animals, immoral, corrupt, or allied with foreign enemies.

The increase in hate speech following the protests has further **silenced** LGBTQI+ individuals seeking justice.



We Recommend that the Islamic Republic:

Ban all forms of conversion therapy, including electroshock therapy, and any forced procedures aimed at changing sexual orientation, identity, or expression, or sex characteristics without free, prior, and informed consent.

End official hate speech targeting sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

Thank You!