

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

UPR Info Pre-sessions

# Situation in LESOTHO – Issue 1

- Since its first UPR in 2010, Lesotho has committed to establishing an NHRI in line with the Paris Principles. The 2016 Human Rights Commission Act provided a legal framework, yet the institution remains non-operational due to ongoing legislative and administrative challenges. Despite government assurances, concrete progress has been limited.

# Situation in LESOTHO – Issue 1



- Efforts to operationalize the NHRI have faced delays, notably due to legislative hurdles surrounding the Omnibus Bill. Calls from Amnesty International and UN representatives underscore the urgent need to establish a fully functional NHRI. Despite official commitments, as of 2025, the NHRI remains non-operational.

# Recommendations – Issue 1

- **Expedite** the establishment of an independent NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles.
- **Ensure** the NHRI is adequately resourced and operational by 2026.
- **Develop** a monitoring framework to assess its effectiveness, particularly in protecting marginalized communities, including LGBTIQ+ persons.

# Situation in LESOTHO – Issue 2

- Lesotho has received recurring UPR recommendations to strengthen legal protections for LGBTIQ+ persons. While some progress has been made, including the decriminalization of same-sex relations in 2012, the government has yet to enact explicit anti-discrimination laws or adopt comprehensive protections for gender and sexual minorities.

# Situation in LESOTHO – Issue 2

## **Key advancements include:**

- The 2024 Labour Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Increasing visibility through annual Pride events
- Despite these steps, social stigma and legal gaps persist, limiting access to fundamental rights and protections.

# Recommendations – Issue 2

- Amend existing civil registration laws to allow legal gender recognition based on self-determination.
- Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation by 2026, with specific protections against violence targeting LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Integrate questions on sexual orientation and gender identity into the National Census to ensure informed policy planning.

# Thank you



From all the members of our coalition:

- ❑ **Master of Healing Foundation**
- ❑ Rainbow Alliance Lesotho
- ❑ Advocates for Human Rights