



TUNISIA:

Show solidarity with the LGBTI community



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

TUNISIA: Show solidarity with the LGBTI* community

In Tunisia same-sex sexual relations between adults is against the law. As a result, LGBTI people are at risk of arrest and prosecution on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. They are also at risk of abuse from the state, family and wider community.

Because same-sex sexual relations are against the law many LGBTI people are afraid to report the violence and harassment they experience because they fear that they will be arrested and prosecuted instead. This creates a permissive environment for hate crimes against many LGBTI people and provides little protection from harassment and intimidation by family members and others in the community.

Because of the associated stigma, many LGBTI people prefer to hide their gender identity and sexual orientation from their families and communities. The possibility of exposure or of being arrested also puts LGBTI people at risk of abuse and exploitation at the hands of the police who take advantage of this fear to blackmail or even abuse LGBTI people.

Once a police officer took my number and then kept calling me, harassing me and threatening me. He would say, 'Be careful, I will tell your family'. – a gay man from Djerba

In some instances, gay men are forced to pay bribes to escape arrest, even though the police hardly ever have “proof” of them engaging in same-sex sexual relations. Arrests are usually based on gender stereotypes of appearance, behaviour and expression which are used to determine a person’s real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Seeking justice for LGBTI survivors of sexual and gender-based violence is especially difficult as they cannot always rely on their families for support. Families often reject them, subject them to violence or simply dismiss their suffering. Those who have openly campaigned against discriminatory laws and practices have faced a backlash from both the government and from society. LGBTI activists and organisations who call for LGBTI rights to be protected in law and practice are threatened with threats and harassment.

*Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transsexual and intersex.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

TAKE ACTION 1: Show solidarity with the LGBTI community in Tunisia.

Many of the LGBTI activists and people that spoke to Amnesty International were rejected by their families and communities and were turned away when they reached out for help. This solidarity action aims to show support from Amnesty International members worldwide towards LGBTI survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and LGBTI activists who are working to make Tunisia a safer place for LGBTI people.

1) To show your support, write your solidarity message on Amnesty International UK's "Love is a human right" balloon. Order your balloons by calling 01788 545553 quoting the code: LGBT010.

2) Take a photo of you with the balloon (please make sure we can read the message clearly) and email them to: anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk. If you prefer not to have your photo taken just send us photos of your messages instead. Photos we receive via email will be used to create posters and postcards which will be shared with LGBTI organisations and activists in Tunisia who will in turn share them with LGBTI survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Please make sure any people you photograph know the plans for the usage of the photographs.

TAKE ACTION 2: Write to the Tunisian authorities.

Write to the Tunisian authorities urging them to:

- Publicly condemn all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against LGBTI people, whether committed in the home, the community, public sphere or in detention.
- Immediately and unconditionally release anyone detained because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- Ensure that all complaints of sexual and gender-based violence against LGBT people are taken seriously by the authorities, and are promptly and independently investigated without discrimination.

Write to Prime Minister Habib Essid at:

Place du Gouvernement of Tunisia
La Kasbah 1008
Tunis
Tunisie

And send a copy to:

His Excellency The Ambassador
Embassy of Tunisia
29 Princes Gate
London, SW7 1QG

For further information on LGBTI rights please go to:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/LGBTI-rights>