



شش رنگ
6RANG

Iranian Lesbian &
Transgender Network

55th session of the Human Rights Council

6Rang has obtained information from 135 members of the LGBTI+ community who identify with at least one non-Persian ethnic group, including Kurds, Arabs, Turks, Lors, Gilaks, and Turkmans, the majority of whom reside in Iran. The research findings confirm that LGBTI+ individuals from ethnic minorities in Iran are subjected to multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and violence. These extend beyond their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics to include an additional layer of discrimination associated with belonging to an ethnic minority group.

The findings of the research, to be published in a report entitled 'The Republic of Pain,' indicate that, in several cases involving encounters with government institutions, judicial and law enforcement authorities, and even in healthcare settings, schools, and other educational institutions, both ethnicity and their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity have exacerbated the violation of their human rights. This includes, but is not limited to, ethnic minority LGBTI+ individuals who were detained or otherwise persecuted during the protests following the death of Jina Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

The LGBTQI+ community faces severe persecution under laws criminalizing gender nonconformity and same-sex relations, with penalties up to death. They endure widespread violence, discrimination in various spheres, and official hate speech. Iranian laws ban LGBT-related content and penalize advocacy for LGBTQI+ rights, often targeting activists with smear campaigns.

Ethnic minorities in Iran face discrimination, being marginalized from education, healthcare, and basic services. The Constitution discriminates against Sunni Muslims and non-Persian minorities, barring them from high leadership positions. Minority regions suffer from poverty, low literacy, and high unemployment. The government restricts their fundamental rights, including language use, and criminalizes activism for their causes.

The UN Fact Finding Mission on Iran: “sexual and gender-based violence was carried out on women, men and children who had been detained, including LGBTQI+ persons arrested in connection with the protests.”



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Recommendations:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not ratified most of human rights treaties and failed to fulfil its obligations under those it has. Consequently, 6Rang urges UN member states to back the extension of mandates for the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to ensure Iranian government accountability. 6Rang also calls on the global community to compel Iran to:

- Eliminate various forms of discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ ethnic minorities, extending to peaceful protests and other contexts.
- Fully decriminalize same-sex relations, removing the death penalty and flogging for consensual adult activities.
- Stop discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals, legally and practically.
- Safeguard gender non-conforming people from harassment, unjust arrest, detention, torture, or mistreatment by any actors.
- Halt the spread of hatred towards the LGBTIQ+ community.

“While in detention, one day the interrogator said, “I’ve heard that Kurds are men; they are givers, and [when they provide sexual services] they don’t accept money.”

I responded, “What does this have to do with being Kurdish?” He replied, “I’ve only heard this about the Kurds.” I perceived his comment as a threat of rape.”

Saeid, a Kurish gay man, arrested in protests in 2022

“In the hospital in Tehran, I presented my authorization for sex reassignment surgery. The male receptionist threw the paper back at me and exclaimed loudly, “Look at what we’ve come to, when a donkey Turk travels from Ardabil to Tehran to become a boy. What was so wrong with being a girl that you had to come all this way?” I felt as though being transgender and Turkish were simultaneously being hammered into my head.”

Masih, a Turk trans man

6Rang (Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network) is a UK registered not-for-profit organization which was established following the first Iranian lesbian and transgender gathering held in 2010. 6Rang’s mission is to raise awareness on sexual rights, and eradicate homophobia, transphobia, and violence against lesbian and transgender people in particular, as well as the LGBTI community in general.

6Rang has made submissions to UN bodies and published reports focused on documenting human rights abuses against lesbian, gay and transgender persons in Iran.

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