



Voices Suppressed, Identities Criminalized: The Systematic Weaponization of Hate Speech Against LGBTQI+ Individuals in Iran

Submission on Hate Speech Against LGBTQI+ Individuals in Iran, April 2023 to present, to the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFMI)

6Rang (Iranian Lesbian & Transgender Network)

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I. Introduction and Background

The Iranian government has systematically utilized hate speech to marginalize and suppress LGBTQI+ individuals, a practice thoroughly documented in 6Rang's 2017 report, "It's a Great Honour to Violate Homosexuals' Rights." This report highlighted the dehumanizing rhetoric employed by high-ranking officials, portraying LGBTQI+ identities as "immoral," "animalistic," "diseased," and a "Western-imposed threat." Such language not only fosters stigma and societal discrimination but also serves as a tool to justify institutionalized repression. Similarly, 6Rang's March 2023 report, "Silencing Protests: Official Hate Speech Against LGBT People as a Tool of Suppression," detailed an escalation of hate speech targeting LGBTQI+ individuals during the nationwide protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Jina Amini. This rhetoric, weaponized against the LGBTQI+ community, not only incites violence but also delegitimizes their activism by framing it as foreign intervention or an anti-Islamic agenda.

This updated submission builds upon the findings of 6rang's earlier reports and focuses on the critical period from April 2023 to the present, examining the continued and evolving use of hate speech as a means of repression. During this period, 6Rang continued to closely monitor news and reports published by state or semi-state media outlets. The monitoring shows that hate speech has not only persisted during this time but also continued to play a central role in legitimizing violence and repression against LGBTQI+ individuals in the aftermath of the 2022 protests. While public demonstrations have been largely subdued through violent suppression, the Iranian regime's rhetoric has continued to target LGBTQI+ individuals, fuelling societal discrimination and legitimizing state violence. The consequences of this hate speech are severe: many LGBTQI+ protestors who had been arrested or persecuted otherwise remain under significant pressure, facing deprivation of education and employment, ongoing intimidation, and harassment by security forces, and social ostracization.

Recognizing the importance of hate speech as evidence of discriminatory intent, this report emphasizes its critical role in establishing the crime against humanity of persecution. It underscores how this rhetoric directly contributes to systemic violence and societal harm, meeting the criteria for targeted discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. By strengthening prior analyses, this updated submission supports the FFMP's mandate to explicitly recognize persecution against LGBTQI+ individuals in the aftermath of the Woman, Life, Freedom protests. By documenting these patterns, the report not only advocates for the protection of LGBTQI+ individuals in Iran but also contributes to broader international efforts to address hate speech as a mechanism of oppression under international human rights law.

II. Patterns of Hate Speech by Iranian Officials

- **Criminalization and Its Implications**

The Islamic Republic of Iran's legal framework systematically criminalizes consensual same-sex relationships and non-conforming gender expressions, fostering a culture of discrimination and violence against LGBTQI+ individuals. The Islamic Penal Code (IPC), as revised in 2013, prescribes punishments ranging from flogging to the death penalty for same-sex conduct and gender non-conformity. These laws, actively enforced by state authorities, reflect an entrenched policy of marginalization, legitimizing both institutional repression and societal violence. The broader implications of these punitive measures extend beyond the legal realm, normalizing hate speech and discriminatory practices that permeate all facets of public and private life.

This criminalization creates an environment where societal prejudice, harassment, and violence are not only tolerated but implicitly endorsed. State rhetoric aligns with these punitive measures, dehumanizing LGBTQI+ individuals by framing them as threats to morality, religion, and national security. By linking LGBTQI+ identities to moral corruption and foreign interference, Iranian officials justify systemic repression under the guise of protecting Islamic and family values. This approach fosters societal hostility while shielding authorities from accountability.

Mohammad Sadeghi, a non-binary actor, and influencer was arrested in July 2023 after publicly criticizing Iran's compulsory veiling laws, with his social media posts supporting LGBTQI+ rights and challenging gender norms making him a target for security forces. During his detention, state-affiliated media outlets published personal photos from his social media accounts, accusing him of "promoting homosexuality" and portraying him as a drug addict, effectively criminalizing his identity to delegitimize his activism. Sadeghi later recounted in interviews how he was humiliated, threatened with execution, and placed with violent criminals, with his gender identity and appearance weaponized during interrogations to exert psychological pressure. After being released on bail, he was sentenced to five years in prison for "encouraging violence," a ruling upheld on appeal. Unable to safely report to prison, Sadeghi fled Iran in December 2023 and later spoke of the systemic abuse he endured, highlighting how the criminalization of LGBTQI+ identities in Iran are reinforced by public defamation, legal persecution, and inhumane treatment in detention. His case exemplifies the intersection of state repression, societal prejudice, and institutionalized violence used to silence dissent and suppress LGBTQI+ rights.

In another example the arrest of Reza Saghati, former director of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Department in Gilan Province, in July 2024 illustrates the enforcement of punitive laws against same-sex relationships and their broader societal consequences. After a video allegedly depicting him engaging in a consensual same-sex relationship went viral, Saghati and the other individual in the footage were arrested, and he was removed from his position. The case received significant public and media attention, with state-controlled outlets framing the incident as a moral failure. The aftermath of such laws demonstrates their far-reaching impact, extending beyond legal enforcement to foster public and online hate speech, institutional targeting, and societal condemnation.

The viral circulation of the video led to a surge in online homophobic speech, with hate-filled rhetoric spreading widely across social media. These public reactions, amplified by the state's punitive actions and rhetoric, create an even more hostile and violent environment for LGBTQI+ individuals. By fostering such an atmosphere, the state not only perpetuates systemic discrimination but also emboldens societal actors to harass and harm marginalized individuals, deepening their vulnerability and exclusion.

In September 2024, the National Organisation for Psychology and Counselling issued a statement condemning the increasing prevalence of training workshops addressing the topic of "Suicide in Homosexuals," asserting that these workshops seemingly aim to normalize same-sex relationships. The statement declared: "The LGBTQ issue is not accepted in most societies and, in the minds of many people, even those without religious beliefs, it is associated with concepts such as sin, deviation, and illness. The majority of educational and cultural teachings in most societies, emphasising the preservation and continuation of the natural family, regard these behaviours as outside the norm. Furthermore, in the religion of Islam, these behaviours are condemned, and specific rulings have been established for them."

Although the National Organisation for Psychology and Counselling is not a state organ, it operates within the framework of state laws and regulations. In this instance, the statement not only reinforces state narratives but also prescribes discriminatory attitudes in professional settings, further embedding systemic prejudice into societal institutions. This reflects the blurred distinction between private and public sectors in the Islamic Republic of Iran, where such entities often act as extensions of state ideology.

These incidents underscore how private expressions of affection and identity are criminalized under Iranian law, highlighting the interplay between legal frameworks and hate speech in fostering an environment of intolerance and systemic violence against LGBTQI+ individuals.

- **Types of Hate Speech and State-Produced Propaganda**

A consistent theme in official statements reflects a deliberate strategy to marginalize LGBTQI+ individuals. Religious justifications often frame LGBTQI+ identities as "waging war on God," portraying them as inherently incompatible with Islamic principles. Cultural arguments position LGBTQI+ rights as a direct attack on family values, which are upheld as central to Iran's social and political identity. Derogatory language from political, judicial, and religious figures amplifies these narratives, embedding prejudice into public consciousness. State-controlled media further normalizes such rhetoric, spreading hate speech and reinforcing societal norms that dehumanize LGBTQI+ individuals. This coordinated approach intertwines religious, cultural, and political narratives, institutionalizing exclusion and legitimizing violence.

High-ranking officials frequently employ such rhetoric to vilify LGBTQI+ individuals. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has described homosexuality as "immoral" and "a Western conspiracy" aimed at dismantling the Islamic family structure. Similarly, ex-president Ebrahim Raisi labelled LGBTQI+ advocacy as "the ugliest moral corruption." State media echoes these sentiments,

portraying LGBTQI+ individuals as "animalistic," "sick," and agents of foreign powers, thereby solidifying these narratives within the public domain (Refer to Annex).

During a speech on August 28, 2023, addressing women, Islamic Republic Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei questioned, "Why is homosexuality recognized as a progressive way of life, such that anyone who denies it is considered backward—whether it be a person, a thought, or a nation? Why is it promoted in both political and social environments? ex-Presidents and officials of countries promote it, and some even boast about being like this. Why? What logic does this have?" By framing LGBTQI+ rights as a Western imposition challenging Iranian and Islamic values, Khamenei underscored the regime's narrative of cultural and ideological resistance. His remarks portrayed LGBTQI+ individuals as agents of foreign influence, fostering societal hostility and creating an environment where institutional discrimination and violence are normalized. This rhetoric links anti-LGBTQI+ sentiment to the preservation of national and religious integrity, reinforcing exclusionary practices within Iran's governance model.

Similarly, at the UN General Assembly on September 20, 2023, former Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi stated, "Fabricated narratives of gender and marriage seek to eliminate sublime concepts like mother, father, and family. Such actions are **crimes against humanity** and disrupt human reproduction. Combating such approaches is our human duty." Raisi's remarks framed LGBTQI+ rights as existential threats to universal family values, extending the regime's ideological narrative to an international stage. By equating LGBTQI+ advocacy with crimes against humanity, this rhetoric provided moral justification for systemic restrictions and deepened the division between state-sanctioned norms and marginalized communities.

In an interview published on the the official website of Iran's Supreme Leader on December 27, 2023, Dr. Nafiseh Fayaz Bakhsh, a university professor and former member of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Parliament called homosexuality as "faggotry" and said:

"The logic behind these behaviors is that the further human society distances itself from monotheism, the more it descends into moral decay, and the depth of this decline is boundless. The further one falls into this pit, the more they sink with no end in sight. The Quran states: 'They are like cattle; rather, they are even more astray' (Furqan 44). Among animals, faggotry is never a concept, and when their hunger is satisfied, they do not attack other animals unnecessarily. But humans are not like that—they are insatiable. If they fall into savagery, barbarism, or unbridled lust, they become insatiable, and this makes humans dangerous. As the Quran says: 'They are like cattle; rather, they are even more astray. They are the heedless.' The logic behind these behaviors boils down to one point: distancing oneself from monotheism."

The regime's integration of propaganda with religious and cultural events further institutionalizes anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric and actions. On July 29, 2023, during the observance of Ashura, regime supporters burned a model of the Washington Monument draped in LGBTQI+ flags. This act, performed during a significant religious ceremony, reflects the regime's use of cultural traditions to align anti-LGBTQI+ sentiment with national identity. Such acts contribute to an environment where societal exclusion and institutionalized violence against LGBTQI+ individuals are framed as necessary measures for preserving Iran's moral and social order.

These examples illustrate a coordinated approach by the Iranian regime to utilize hate speech and propaganda as mechanisms of governance. Through rhetoric that associates LGBTQI+ identities with societal and cultural threats, the regime legitimizes both social exclusion and state-led violence. This narrative reinforces cis-heteronormative norms, sustains repression of dissent, and intertwines religious, cultural, and political narratives to institutionalize discrimination. These practices highlight how the Islamic Republic systematically fosters an environment of pervasive discrimination and insecurity, leaving LGBTQI+ individuals not only invisible but also unsafe, as state-led hate speech and systemic violence undermine their very existence. Most importantly, in this context, hate speech is used to justify violations against LGBTQI+ people, including those participating in the 2022 protests or affected by the crack-down on those protests otherwise, enabling systemic violence and repression under the guise of protecting national and religious values.

In April 2023, a segment aired on the 20:30 news program on State TV Channel 2 appearing to target LGBTQI+ individuals while seeking to discredit the Woman, Life, Freedom movement. The segment began with a "trigger warning" and a cautionary icon advising viewers that the content was unsuitable for children and youth, framing the discussion as potentially harmful. The report criticized what it referred to as the "Western sexual revolution" and associated LGBTQI+ presence in diaspora-led demonstrations with concepts of "sexual deviation" and "abnormal" objectives. The name and logo of 6Rang, along with Berlin-based LGBTQI+ activist, and Operational Manager of 6Rang, Melika Zar, were prominently featured throughout the broadcast. An excerpt of Zar's speech, originally advocating for the inclusion of all marginalized communities, including LGBTQI+ individuals, in democratic reforms, was selectively edited to emphasize only the LGBTQI+ community's involvement in the protests. This narrative framed LGBTQI+ activism as socially disruptive and inconsistent with the cultural and moral values promoted by the Islamic Republic.

- **Digital Sphere: An Extension of the Regime's Systemic Hostility**

The Iranian regime's systemic hostility toward LGBTQI+ individuals extends beyond physical and legal repression, infiltrating the digital sphere through coordinated campaigns of online hate speech. Social media platforms have become a key site for amplifying hate speech against LGBTQI+ activists, perpetuating societal hostility, and reinforcing institutional discrimination. Two prominent examples of these targeted attacks illustrate the entrenched nature of online hostility and its role in sustaining a broader culture of impunity for violations against LGBTQI+ individuals.

Similarly, in September 2024, LGBTQI+ activist Melika Zar faced intense online hate following her interview with Deutsche Welle Persian, where she courageously shared her journey of self-acceptance and her decision to reject coerced gender reassignment surgery. Social media users responded with a flood of hateful comments, accusing Zar of moral deviance and psychological instability. Some ridiculed her for expressing her identity, questioning the necessity of LGBTQI+ visibility while elevating heterosexuality as "normal." Others invoked xenophobic rhetoric, declaring, "you and people like you are not Iranians," in an attempt to sever Zar's connection to

her homeland. Such comments sought to delegitimize Zar's identity and invalidate her advocacy, framing LGBTQI+ individuals as unnatural, harmful, and unworthy of inclusion within Iranian society. This language, rooted in exclusion and denial, reinforces societal hostility and emboldened systemic discrimination.

In September 2024, when Hezbollah Pagets suddenly exploded in Lebanon during the Israel-Gaza War, Shadi Amin, a renowned LGBTQI+ activist, became the focus of a hate campaign that exploited political events to attack her identity and advocacy. Iranian social media users, particularly on Twitter, used the explosion of pagets belonging to Hezbollah members in Lebanon as a pretext to mock and degrade LGBTQI+ individuals. They made transphobic and homophobic remarks, referring to the injuries sustained by Hezbollah members as "collective gender reassignment" and labelling the incident as a "cheap method of gender reassignment surgery for men." These dehumanizing comments reduced LGBTQI+ identities to anatomical traits, conflating queer existence with physical degradation. By leveraging a politically charged incident to target Amin, these hate campaigns illustrated the intersection of political, cultural, and religious forces aimed at silencing LGBTQI+ voices and reinforcing rigid gender binaries. This targeted online hostility reflects the broader impact of governmental hate speech in fostering societal behaviours that perpetuate discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals.

These examples demonstrate how systematic governmental hate speech serves as a foundation for fostering online hostility and reinforcing societal exclusion. Misgendering, pseudoscientific claims, and demeaning rhetoric are tools used to invalidate queer existence while upholding patriarchal and heteronormative values. By perpetuating and normalizing discriminatory narratives, these campaigns bolster the culture of impunity for violations against LGBTQI+ individuals. The digital sphere becomes an extension of the regime's systemic hostility, embedding discrimination into everyday discourse and deepening the vulnerabilities faced by LGBTQI+ individuals. As such, online hate speech is not merely an expression of societal prejudice but a calculated outcome of state-led efforts to legitimize violence, suppress dissent, and institutionalize discrimination.

III. Annex: Documented Hate Speech Against LGBTQI+ Individuals

The annex of this report provides a detailed compilation of some of the documented instances of hate speech against LGBTQI+ individuals in Iran by state officials, state-controlled media, and other institutional actors, covering the period from April 2023 to the present and the name of perpetrators. Gathered by 6rang researchers, this compilation highlights the regime's deliberate use of discriminatory rhetoric. Each entry specifies the date, context, and source, offering a clear timeline of the state's ongoing efforts to normalize hostility and justify repression against LGBTQI+ individuals. By cataloguing these incidents, the annex emphasizes the pervasive nature of hate speech as an institutionalized tool for marginalization and violence, serving as critical evidence for understanding its role in perpetuating a culture of impunity.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

International legal instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Article 20(2) obligates states to prohibit hate speech that incites discrimination or violence. Similarly, the Yogyakarta Principles and rulings like *Toonen v. Australia* affirm the global consensus that LGBTQI+ rights are fundamental human rights. Despite these standards, Iranian authorities deny these rights, using hate speech and propaganda to deflect accountability and reinforce oppressive laws. The UN Human Rights Committee has emphasized that such criminalization fosters hate crimes, systemic violence, and pervasive discrimination, denying LGBTQI+ individuals the fundamental protections guaranteed under international law.

The systematic use of hate speech by the Islamic Republic of Iran against LGBTQI+ individuals is deeply entrenched within the state's governance, permeating legal, cultural, and digital spheres. As documented throughout this report, the state employs religious, cultural, and political narratives to dehumanize LGBTQI+ individuals, framing them as threats to morality, national security, and social cohesion. This rhetoric not only justifies institutionalized violence and discrimination but also fosters societal hostility, creating an environment where LGBTQI+ individuals are excluded, marginalized, and rendered unsafe.

The Iranian regime's targeted attacks, whether through state-sponsored propaganda or online hate campaigns, continue to amplify prejudice and embolden societal actors to perpetuate discrimination against LGBTQI+ activists including those participating in or supporting Women, Life, Freedom protests. By linking LGBTQI+ identities to Western interference, moral decay, and existential threats to family values, these narratives reinforce a culture of impunity for violations against LGBTQI+ individuals. The annex of this report further underscores this systemic hostility by documenting numerous incidents of hate speech, demonstrating its pervasive nature and role in legitimizing repression.

This report calls for urgent action to combat hate speech, dismantle discriminatory legal frameworks, and ensure the protection and inclusion of LGBTQI+ individuals in Iranian society. Addressing this institutionalized hate speech, which starkly contrasts with its obligations under international human rights law, is critical for safeguarding the fundamental human rights of LGBTQI+ individuals in Iran. It is also imperative that the FFMI and other UN human rights bodies recognise the role of hate speech in the context of Woman, Life, Freedom movements and its continuation in the aftermath of the protests on LGBTQI+ individuals who participated in or supported the protests. That paves the way hold the Iranian government accountable for gross human rights violations and crime against humanity of persecutions on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

6Rang calls on UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the European Union and other influential states, to address the concerns and recommendations outlined in this report with the Iranian authorities. These entities should urge Iran to fulfil its international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including the

prohibition of discrimination and hate speech. The monitoring and documentation of hate speech and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals in Iran are essential steps toward ensuring accountability. Furthermore, international stakeholders are encouraged to extend meaningful support to Iranian LGBTQI+ activists and civil society organizations advocating for equality and human rights. Providing platforms for LGBTQI+ individuals to share their experiences and challenges is also critical for raising global awareness and accountability.

Annex

URL	Date	Perpetrator	Description
https://farsi.khamenei.ir/speech-content?id=54745 , https://6rang.org/76052 , https://youtu.be/UYPWIFZ9Dto	August 28, 2023	Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran	Ayatollah Ali Khamenei questioned the recognition of homosexuality as progressive, portraying LGBTQ+ rights as a Western imposition undermining Iranian and Islamic values. "Why is homosexuality recognized as a progressive way of life, such that anyone who denies it is considered backward—whether it be a person, a thought, or a nation? Why is it promoted in both political and social environments? Presidents and officials of countries promote it, and some even boast about being like this. Why? What logic does this have?"
https://defapress.ir/fa/news/662244/	April 23, 2024	Ebrahim Raisi, former president of Islamic Republic of Iran (3 August 2021 – 19 May 2024)	President Raisi emphasized that Western promotion of same-sex relationships and homosexuality is a significant threat to family values, stating that laws must support family formation. "The family crisis is a significant threat. Westerners promote the worst forms of sexual relationships and homosexuality, which are condemned by our religion, ethics, and laws. Family formation takes precedence, and all laws and regulations must encourage family creation. The government is obligated to support the family."
https://www.mashregnews.ir/news/1528334-توجه-ساز-زش-های-الهی-تضمین-کننده-آینده-بیشتر-یت-است-بیروز-ده-آمریکایی-کردن	September 20, 2023	Ebrahim Raisi, former president of Islamic Republic of Iran (3 August 2021 – 19 May 2024)	President Raisi claimed that fabricated narratives of gender and marriage disrupt humanity, framing LGBTQ+ advocacy as a crime against humanity and a threat to reproduction. "Fabricated narratives of gender and marriage seek to eliminate sublime concepts like mother, father, and family. Such actions are crimes against humanity and disrupt human reproduction. Combating such approaches is our human duty."
https://6rang.org/75316/	October 9, 2023	Zohreh Elahian, Member of the state delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 139th session of the Human Rights Committee held from 9 October to 3 November 2023 in Geneva. Former Member of Parliament and member of Commission of National-Security and	During a visit to Uganda, President Raisi labeled homosexuality as a vile phenomenon and criticized Western nations for attacking family foundations. "Western countries undermine the foundation of the family, promoting the ugly phenomenon of homosexuality and extremism."

		Foreign-Policy of Parliament.	
https://www.mizanonline.ir/fa/news/4740360/	October 23, 2023	Mizan, official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Judiciary System	The Judiciary news agency, Mizan, critiqued queer representation in Hollywood, citing GLAAD's report that one-third of films in 2022 featured homosexual characters, framing it as a coordinated agenda. "GLAAD's report reveals that one-third of Hollywood films in 2022 featured homosexual characters. This indicates an intentional agenda."
https://iranwire.com/fa/blogs/118992 https://www.facebook.com/iranwire/videos	July 29, 2023	Plain clothes state agents	During Ashura, regime supporters burned a model of the Washington Monument draped in LGBTQ+ flags, symbolizing state-endorsed hostility.
https://www.isna.ir/news/1402090201408	November 23, 2023	Hasan Rahimpour Azghadi, member of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Cultural Revolution Council	Hasan Rahimpour Azghadi, member of the Cultural Revolution Council, linked sexual education and LGBTQ+ identities to cultural decay, criticizing individualistic ideologies. "Sexual education is an extension of capitalist and individualistic ideologies, undermining traditional morality and family structures."
https://www.mizanonline.ir/fa/news/4744911/ منطق مقاومت- /در سیر این تحمیل فر هنگ- بیگانگی- معتر ترین خوانش سیاسی- فر هنگی- در- جهان تبدیل شده- است	November 27, 2023	Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, Head of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization	Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, Head of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization, criticized LGBTQ+ rights as anti-family during an international forum in St. Petersburg, claiming they undermine cultural integrity.
https://snn.ir/004r2a	July 5, 2024	Mohsen Pakeaeen, Former Islamic Republic of Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan	Former Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mohsen Pakeaeen claimed that liberal democracy normalizes homosexuality, leading to societal and moral collapse. "Liberal democracy leads to the normalization of homosexuality, destroying humanity under the guise of freedom."
https://farsnews.ir/social/1700886298000716572	November 25, 2023	Fars News, IRGC-affiliated news agency	This report, published by Fars News, an IRGC-affiliated media outlet, is about addicted transgender individuals. It quotes various authorities on how they are considered more dangerous compared to other addicted individuals, particularly in terms of spreading AIDS and Hepatitis. Some of them advise separating them from others and designating special places for them.
https://www.isna.ir/news/1402121510836/ لزوم ایجاد فضای- مناسب- در حاکم- دانشجو- سزای- حضور- خانواد- ها	March 5, 2024	Alireza Nadali, the Spokesperson of Tehran City Council	Restrictions were announced by Alireza Nadali, the Spokesperson of Tehran City Council, for trans individuals in public spaces, emphasizing that their presence is unsuitable for families. "We cannot allow public spaces to become unsuitable for families due to the presence of trans individuals."

https://khabarban.com/a/38709301	September 19, 2023	The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Culture	The Ministry of Culture blocked a bookstore website distributing LGBTQ+ educational content, citing its inconsistency with Islamic values. The Ministry of Culture blocked a website distributing LGBTQ+ educational content for children.
https://www.aparat.com/v/s76mf2c https://www.mizanonline.ir/fa/news/4748659 https://www.iranintl.com/202312104548	December 10, 2023		Social media backlash occurred against an LGBTQ+ community, after a video the captured sexual conduct of Reza Saghati, former head of Ministry of Culture office in Gilan province and another man went viral, leading to arrests and accusations of promoting homosexuality.
https://pcoiran.ir/news/post/696/	September 30, 2024	The Islamic Republic of Iran's National Organization of Psychology and Counseling	The Organization of Psychology and Counseling dismissed LGBTQ+ workshops, questioning suicide prevention relevance and framing LGBTQ+ identities as a Western issue. "The LGBTQ issue is not accepted in most societies and, in the minds of many people, even those without religious beliefs, it is associated with concepts such as sin, deviation, and illness. The majority of educational and cultural teachings in most societies, emphasising the preservation and continuation of the natural family, regard these behaviours as outside the norm. Furthermore, in the religion of Islam, these behaviours are condemned, and specific rulings have been established for them."
https://iau.ir/News/65802/	July 1, 2024	Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani, President of state affiliated Islamic Azad University	Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani, President of Islamic Azad University, delivered a speech titled "Gender Pairing: The Basis of Dignified Living" at the Third International Nahj al-Balagha Congress in Isfahan. He criticized Western concepts of gender equality and accused the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of promoting "gender relativism" and "unnatural gender roles" that undermine Islamic and cultural values. Tehrani framed LGBTQI+ rights and gender equality as part of a broader Western agenda aimed at destabilizing traditional family structures and Islamic governance. Referencing religious texts, he argued that "gender pairing" is divinely ordained and essential to human and societal stability, contrasting this with Western approaches to gender and sexuality. His speech reinforced state narratives opposing LGBTQI+ rights and gender equality while aligning these positions with Islamic doctrine.
https://farsi.khamenei.ir/news-content?id=51647	December 26, 2023	Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran	In a meeting with hundreds of women active in cultural, social, and scientific fields, Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, elaborating on Islam's perspective on women and criticizing the detrimental impact of modern Western views on women, called homosexuality as "faggotry", a sin and a scandal: "Sex trafficking and slavery, the breakdown of all moral, cultural, and legal boundaries, and the legalization of issues such as faggotry, which is forbidden in all divine religions, along with

			other scandals, are the results of the Western perspective and culture regarding women. Therefore, strongly avoiding the Western approach to the issue of women is a practical obligation."
https://farsi.khamenei.ir/others-dialog?id=54846	December 27, 2023	Dr. Nafiseh Fayaz Bakhsh, a university professor and former member of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Parliament	Former MP Nafiseh Fayaz Bakhsh called homosexuality as "faggotry" and said this to the official website of Iran's Supreme Leader: "The logic behind these behaviors is that the further human society distances itself from monotheism, the more it descends into moral decay, and the depth of this decline is boundless. The further one falls into this pit, the more they sink with no end in sight. The Quran states: 'They are like cattle; rather, they are even more astray' (Furqan 44). Among animals, faggotry is never a concept, and when their hunger is satisfied, they do not attack other animals unnecessarily. But humans are not like that—they are insatiable. If they fall into savagery, barbarism, or unbridled lust, they become insatiable, and this makes humans dangerous. As the Quran says: 'They are like cattle; rather, they are even more astray. They are the heedless.' The logic behind these behaviors boils down to one point: distancing oneself from monotheism."
https://farsi.khamenei.ir/others-note?id=51765	January 17, 2023	Abdolhossein Khosrowpanah, an Islamic scholar, university professor, and lecturer in Islamic philosophy	Islamic scholar Abdolhossein Khosrowpanah wrote in a commentary for the official website of Iran's Supreme Leader said ideologies such as feminism lead the society to "faggotry": "When women hold a misandrist perspective and men hold a misogynist one, society moves toward faggotry, and the family system is disrupted. However, when the innate foundation of the family and social life is pairing, it leads to the emergence of affection and kindness."
https://farsnews.ir/Tannaz3827/1723967449081276008	30 July 2024	Signatories: Dr. Zeinab Khaksar (PhD in Educational Sciences) Dr. Maryam Al-Sadat Saghayyat (Psychologist and PhD in Women's Studies) Elaheh Sadat Shafiei (Researcher and Media Activist in Women's Affairs) Dr. Mansoureh Talebian (PhD in Counseling, University Lecturer) Zahra Abbaspour Omid Toutchi Fatidehi (Deputy Director of	IRGC-affiliated Fars News Agency published a letter by members of a group called "the Family Activists Association" criticizing the online TV program "Ba Zia," produced by Ali Zia, a veteran host of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). The association addressed a letter to Ayatollah Mohseni Eje'i, the Chief Justice of Iran, calling for action against programs promoting what they call "faggotry". The letter which is signed by 53 individuals including university professors, researchers, psychologists, policy makers, and cultural activists states: "In the name of God, Dear Ayatollah Mohseni Ejei, Respected Head of the Judiciary, With greetings and respect, Recently, in an online program called 'Ba Zia', a guest on the show has, in an unprecedented manner, expressed support

		<p>Hedayat Arbitration Organization)</p> <p>Touran Vali Morad (Sociology Graduate, Quran Researcher, and Director of Iran Women's Network)</p> <p>Dr. Fatemeh Vejdani (Associate Professor at Shahid Beheshti University, PhD in Educational Sciences)</p> <p>Mahdieh Jamouli</p> <p>Mona Asgarpour (Researcher)</p> <p>Zahra Karimi (Social Sciences Researcher, CEO of Sepidar Educational and Research Group)</p> <p>Hojjat al-Islam Dr. Mohammad Molaei (PhD in National Security, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies of Quranic Sciences and Knowledge)</p> <p>Dr. Narges Vahidiania (Psychologist)</p> <p>Soghra Ashouri</p> <p>Dr. Zahra Najafi Manesh (Parenting Specialist and Activist)</p> <p>Hajar Roudsarabi (Director of the Family Panel at Mabna Research Center)</p> <p>Dr. Leila Zafar Duaa'go (Midwife, PhD Student in Women's Studies)</p> <p>Hossein Ehsani (Documentary Filmmaker)</p> <p>Dr. Fatemeh Fayyaz (Faculty Member of the Psychology Department, Women's Research Institute, Al-Zahra University)</p> <p>Mohaddeseh Mehrabi-Zad (PhD Student in Women's Studies)</p>	<p>for the disgraceful act of faggotry. Shockingly, not only has such a program been produced, but it has also been widely broadcast and distributed.</p> <p>In this program, the unqualified guest claims that faggotry falls within the realm of personal choice and that neither the government nor the public has the right to intervene or oppose this choice.</p> <p>There is not enough space here to provide a detailed response to this baseless claim. However, briefly, we assert that same-sex attraction is not a natural phenomenon but rather the result of individual choices, as well as the upbringing and social environment surrounding the individual.</p> <p>Therefore, similar to many criminal behaviors that may have educational or social roots but are considered crimes due to the harm they inflict on human dignity and society, faggotry is no exception to this rule and is subject to the same considerations.</p> <p>Using this same reasoning, one could argue against the necessity of addressing other immoral acts such as incest, child sexual abuse, or even rape, claiming that the desire for incest, children, or sexual assault is a natural inclination in some individuals and should not be opposed. However, no rational mind would ever accept such justifications.</p> <p>We, the family activists, emphasize the harm caused by the promotion of such inhumane ideas and behaviors to the foundation of the family—an institution that nurtures humanity and builds society—and which, as evidenced by the experiences of some other countries, destroys it. Given that, according to Article 10 of the Constitution, preserving the integrity and sanctity of the family is a national covenant among Iranians, and as you, in your capacity as the Head of the Judiciary, are responsible for upholding the Constitution and fostering the preservation and enhancement of human values and Islamic ethics, we request action against those involved in the production and broadcasting of this program. We also urge the Judiciary to act more proactively and intelligently in identifying and addressing such movements.</p> <p>The promotion of false and unscientific sexual identities is part of a global project serving the exploitative Western capitalist system and targeting morality, family, and the well-being of the masses. This initiative, which has been ongoing for decades, is unacceptable within the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>Therefore, we kindly request that, with the involvement of committed specialists, measures be taken to monitor, identify, and, if necessary, legislate new laws, criminalize such acts, and implement other appropriate actions.</p> <p>The approach to dealing with these false identities and their promoters, such as transgender individuals, homosexuals, and</p>
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