

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) of OSCE

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On behalf of LGBT organization in Tajikistan

This statement is made on behalf of Equal Opportunities, supporting LGBT people in Tajikistan.

The overall position of LGBT people in Tajikistan is not good. They are not visible and can't live their lives openly and safely. Radical Islamic and other religious leaders and mass media create negative perceptions and stereotypes of the LGBT community in society. This results in restriction of the freedom of thought and expression. Strict religious and cultural traditions do not allow the public to accept the LGBT community. As an example, the public media covered a homosexual marriage between 2 young men. After a few days, they were beaten up. The police did not protect them or try to find the offenders.

Society is getting extremely radical, and hate against LGBT people is widespread. Although homosexuality is not criminalized, law enforcement officials are blackmailing and extorting young gay men. If the police expose their sexual orientation to their colleagues, family, and others, the gay men risk losing their job, being expelled from universities and isolated by their families.

The social-economic situation in Tajikistan, such as unemployment and labor migration, has led to more aggression. Thus, the situation has become more dangerous for LGBT people. They are the subject of public mockery and persecution, which forces them to hide their orientation and gender identity.

WE urge the Tajik government and OSCE to:

- Take measures in policy and law to combat stigmatization and discrimination against LGBT people to protect their freedom of thought;
- Train law enforcement to protect LGBT people equally;
- Inform the public about tolerance and equality via campaigns and dialogue;
- Involve LGBT organizations and other civil society in drafting laws and policies.

Thank you for your attention