

ALO Meets the UN Independent Expert on SOGI – HRC58

In June 2025, during the **58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**, the Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organization (ALO) met with the **UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)** to share updated findings on the situation of LGBTIQ+ Afghans. This meeting formed a key part of ALO's sustained effort to ensure that global human rights mechanisms receive accurate, community-informed evidence on the lived realities of queer and trans people under Taliban rule.

During the engagement, ALO provided detailed information on the **targeted persecution of LGBTIQ women and girls**, who continue to face extreme levels of violence, coercion, and state-sanctioned discrimination. The team described patterns of forced marriage, sexual violence, surveillance, arbitrary detention, and the enforcement of dress and mobility restrictions used as tools of control. ALO emphasized how these abuses reflect intersecting forms of **gender-based and SOGIESC-based persecution**, often overlooked within broader reporting on Afghanistan.

ALO also presented its findings on the urgent situation of **LGBTIQ+ refugees in neighboring countries**. Many Afghan LGBTIQ+ individuals seeking safety in Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey remain vulnerable to police harassment, extortion, discrimination within humanitarian systems, and barriers to fair asylum procedures. ALO urged the mandate to continue spotlighting the protection needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people and to advocate for safe pathways, inclusive services, and accountability for abuses in transit contexts.

The meeting reaffirmed ALO's role as a leading refugee-led organization providing specialized documentation and analysis on SOGIESC-based persecution in Afghanistan and the region. ALO will continue working with the UN Independent Expert and other UN mechanisms to ensure that the experiences of LGBTIQ women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ refugees are central to global human rights advocacy and policy responses.