

ALO at the UN Human Rights Council – HRC58

In **February 2025**, the Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organization (ALO) actively participated in the **58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)**, delivering key interventions that highlighted the worsening human rights situation for LGBTIQ+ Afghans and the protection gaps faced by Afghan refugees in the region. ALO's advocacy during this session underscored the urgent need for international action, accountability, and inclusive protection mechanisms.

ALO's Executive Director, **Artemis Akbary**, delivered two formal oral statements during critical agenda items. In the **Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan**, Artemis presented updated evidence on the persecution of LGBTIQ+ people under Taliban rule—including targeted violence, arbitrary arrest, torture, forced marriage, and public punishments. He emphasized the heightened vulnerability of LGBTIQ women and girls and urged the international community to recognize these abuses as gender-based and SOGIESC-based persecution requiring urgent intervention. In the **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture**, Artemis highlighted the widespread use of torture within Taliban detention facilities, including GDI centers and criminal prisons, where LGBTIQ+ individuals face severe ill-treatment and sexual violence.

In addition, ALO's Deputy Director, **Ali Arefi**, delivered a powerful statement during the **General Debate**, focusing on the situation of **LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers** in Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. Ali raised concerns about unlawful deportations, police harassment, lack of legal protections, and discriminatory asylum processes that continue to endanger Afghan LGBTIQ+ individuals seeking safety. His intervention called for Member States to strengthen protection pathways, uphold non-refoulement obligations, and ensure LGBTIQ+ refugees receive equal access to humanitarian services and fair asylum procedures.

ALO's participation at HRC58 reinforced the organization's role as a leading source of community-based evidence on SOGIESC-related persecution in Afghanistan and the region. Through these interventions, ALO continued advocating for accountability, protection, and the full recognition of LGBTIQ+ Afghans within international human rights mechanisms.