

Side event HRC 60th: Impact of funding cuts on human rights in Afghanistan.

At the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, ALO co-organized a side event titled “Impact of Funding Cuts on Human Rights in Afghanistan” in partnership with HAMRAH, the Gender Persecution Working Group (GPWG), and MADRE. The event examined the consequences of significant reductions in international funding on Afghan civil society, human rights defenders, and marginalized groups who rely on life-saving support and advocacy networks.

Speakers highlighted how funding cuts have constrained monitoring efforts, weakened protection mechanisms, and left at-risk communities with fewer avenues for assistance, documentation, and international engagement. The discussion warned that shrinking financial support threatens to erase progress made in visibility, accountability, and rights protection during one of the most repressive periods in Afghanistan’s recent history.

Representing ALO, Artemis Akbary spoke about the specific and disproportionate impact these funding cuts have on LGBTIQ+ Afghans, who already face extreme violence, discrimination, and near-total exclusion from humanitarian systems. Artemis emphasized that reductions in support endanger an already invisible population, disrupt critical protection pathways, and limit the ability of refugee-led and community-rooted organizations to document violations and advocate for justice. The event underscored the urgent need for sustained and flexible funding to ensure that human rights work in Afghanistan—especially for the most marginalized—can continue.