

Side event HRC59: Accountability For Gender Based crimes in Afghanistan

During the 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, ALO co-organized a high-level side event focused on Accountability for Gender-Based Crimes in Afghanistan, bringing together leading human rights experts, UN officials, and Afghan civil society. The event highlighted the escalating patterns of gender-based persecution under the Taliban, including targeted violence, severe restrictions on women and LGBTIQ+ people, and the systematic dismantling of rights. The discussion emphasized the need for international mechanisms to prioritize gender-based crimes and ensure that these violations are documented, investigated, and addressed.

The panel featured Fereshta Abbasi from Human Rights Watch, Benafsha Yaqoobi from the Rahyab Initiative, Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and Fatema Ahmadi from Rawadari. Each panelist brought critical insights into the legal, humanitarian, and structural aspects of the crisis, outlining the urgent gaps within global accountability frameworks and the consequences of continued inaction by the international community.

The event was moderated by Artemis Akbary, Executive Director of the Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organization (ALO). As a refugee-led organization working closely with marginalized communities, ALO underscored the importance of documenting gender-based and SOGIESC-based persecution, elevating survivor voices, and ensuring that accountability processes reflect the lived realities of those most at risk. This side event marked an important step toward strengthening international engagement on Afghanistan and reinforcing the call for justice for all survivors of gender-based crimes.