

Press release

Celebrating International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia May 17th, 2017

The Collective for Individual Liberties is celebrating for the second year in Tunisia, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on May 17th, 2017.

Celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia is of particular importance this year, as it is focusing on diversity and recognition of all sexualities and gender identities and gender expressions.

The Collective reminds that:

- The celebration of May 17th in Tunisia takes place in an atmosphere of homophobia and transphobia, evidenced by the numerous cases of arrests and condemnations of persons for "homosexuality" and arrests of individuals, accusing them of "Outrage to public morality. Articles 226, 226a, 227a, 230, 231 of the Penal Code continue to apply and convict Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and other sexualities and gender identities and expressions (LGBTQI ++) persons to custodial sentences correlated with cruel treatment and practices considered as torture (anal examination).
- Despite this repressive environment, the organizations member of the Collective for individual liberties reinforce their position and reaffirm the equality principle, and the rights of all - including LGBTQI ++ people - to integrity and dignity and to enjoy their rights as human beings and full-fledged citizens.

The Collective draws attention to the fact that the celebration of May 17th coincides this year with:

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights situation in Tunisia by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the first ever submission of an alternative report dedicated to the rights and the situation of LGBTQI ++ people.
- The dissemination of the press release issued by the Medical Board insisting on the fact that vaginal and anal examinations are unconstitutional.

The Collective welcomes the fact that:

The member organizations of the collective for individual liberties are continuing their advocacy and defense of LGBTQI ++ people before courts that apply homophobic, transphobic and freedom-threatening texts, and are contributing to offer legal, psychological and social support to "victims" of transphobia and homophobia.

On the occasion of this international day, we, members of the Collective for Individual Liberties:

- Remind the Tunisian authorities of the obligation to respect the various provisions of the 2014 Constitution and the commitments resulting from duly ratified International Conventions, which enshrine the rights to equality, dignity and physical integrity
- Demand immediate repeal of articles 226, 226a, 227a, 230, 231 of the Penal Code
- Demand to no longer arrest LGBTQI ++ people,
- Demand immediate cessation of practice of anal examinations and any other humiliating and degrading tests which affect physical integrity and dignity; and to comply with the decision of the Medical Board.

The signatory organisations :

1. Association Tunisienne de défense des libertés individuelles (ADLI)

2. La Ligue *tunisienne* des droits de l'homme
3. *L'Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates*
4. *L'Association Bayti*
5. ALSEJINE 52
6. L'initiative Mawjoudin pour l'égalité *We Exist*
7. La Ligue des Électrices Tunisiennes
8. Le Groupe Tawhida Ben Cheikh-*Pour la Recherche & Action en santé des femmes*
9. L'Association Shams
10. L'Association Tunisienne pour la Justice et Légalité DAMJ
11. L'Association CHOUF MINORITIES
12. *L'Association pour la Promotion du Droit à la Différence ADD*
13. La Ligue des Électrices Tunisiennes LET
14. L'Association *Tunisienne* de Lutte contre les MST et le SIDA ATL
15. L'Association Waai
16. Y-PEER Tunisia Network
17. L'Association CALAM
18. L'association Free Sight Association
19. L'Organisation Tunisienne de justice sociale et solidarité OTJUSS
20. L'Association Tunisienne de Prévention Positive+ ATP+
21. Le Réseau Doustouna
22. L'Association Horra
23. La Coalition pour Les Femmes de Tunisie
24. Réseau EUROMED DROITS
25. OXFAM
26. *Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)*
27. L'Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (*OMCT*)