

JOINT STATEMENT FROM MOSAIC MENA AND ILGA ASIA

19 May 2023

On this significant occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), we stand in solidarity with the LGBTIQ+ community in Lebanon, recognizing and celebrating the diverse identities, experiences, and contributions of individuals within the nation. Lebanon, as a melting pot of cultures and religions, is uniquely positioned to foster understanding, respect, and acceptance of people's differences, irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Despite the progress made in recent years, such as the decriminalization of homosexuality in some Lebanese courts, the LGBTIQ+ community in Lebanon still faces considerable challenges. Discrimination, violence, and social stigma continue to plague the lives of many. It is crucial for us to acknowledge these struggles and work collaboratively to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

In the spirit of IDAHOBIT, we call upon the Lebanese civil society organizations, and all citizens to join hands in the fight against homophobia, biphobia, Intersexphobia, and transphobia. We urge the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, the abolition of outdated legal provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex relations, and the provision of adequate support for LGBTIQ+ individuals in accessing essential services, such as healthcare and education.

We also appeal to the United Nations agencies and international organizations that have been publicly supporting the LGBTIQ+ community in Lebanon to continue their invaluable assistance. In these challenging times, when we face institutional as well as individual attacks, the unwavering support of these organizations is more crucial than ever. Their advocacy and resources are vital in safeguarding the rights and well-being of LGBTIQ+ individuals in the country.

Together, let us unite on this IDAHOBIT to advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights in Lebanon, and work towards a future where love, acceptance, and equality prevail over prejudice and discrimination.

Statement endorsed by:



EMBASSY
OF DENMARK
Beirut



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Embassy of Sweden
Beirut



Embassy of Finland
Beirut



Australian Government

