



The Alliance Of Queer Egyptian Organizations



Shadow report for the third Universal Periodic Review of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Alliance of Queer Egyptian Organizations Human rights violations based on SOGIESC in Egypt

Prepared by

Alliance of Queer Egyptian Organizations (AQEO), an alliance of three a non-governmental, non-profit organizations based in Cairo, Egypt, that work to achieve equality in social rights through advocacy for **SOGIESC**¹ issues in Egypt².

Contact Information: egypt.aqeo@gmail.com

With the support of the Arab Foundation for Freedom and Equality (AFE), a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Beirut, Lebanon, that work to encourage and support sexuality, gender and bodily rights' movements in the Middle East and North Africa through capacity building, knowledge production, exchange, and security and emergency response.

Contact information: info@afemena.org

¹ Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Sex Characteristics.

² **Alliance of Queer Egyptian Organizations** include organizations that are not recognize by Egyptian authority due to repressive laws of the Egyptian state in the field of human rights associations, especially those concerned with the SOGIESC rights

Summary and general framework

This report is submitted by the **Alliance of Queer Egyptian Organizations**, An alliance of three Egyptian queer organizations working on SOGIESC rights in Egypt and support of the **Arab Foundation for Freedom and Equality**.

This report discusses the deteriorating situation of individuals in the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt based on monitoring of recommendations related to gender and sexual orientation in UPR reports presented to the HRC in previous sessions. It also examines Egypt's failure to act on the recommendations received in the 2010 UPR cycle and the consequent violations by the state and society. The relevant recommendations were as follows³:

- a) Abolish prison terms for incitement to discrimination regarding sex, origin, language, religion or belief, and for acts damaging to an individual's honor.
- b) Apply national legislation to individuals without discrimination based on their belonging to a religious minority or on sexual orientation.
- c) Fully implement Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to recognize that sex also includes sexual orientation.
- d) Review national legal provisions, as e.g. those criminalizing habitual debauchery, which are open to abuse for persecution and intimidation of persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity or of persons with HIV-AIDS.

³ Recommendations of the UN HRC, first session, Egypt, sexual orientation and gender identity, https://www.upr-info.org/database/index.php?limit=0&f_SUR=52&f_SMR=All&order=&orderDir=ASC&orderP=true&f_Issue=All&searchReco=&resultMax=300&response=&action_type=&session=&SuRRgrp=&SuROrg=&SMRRgrp=&SMROrg=&pledges=RecoOnly.

Conditions in Egypt have worsened over the past four years, particularly with regard to SOGIESC rights. Although the state is responsible for protecting its citizens and applying the principle of citizenship inclusive of differences in sexual orientation and gender identity, it has nevertheless taken legal action against members of the LGBTIQ+ community while also failing to protect them from communal violence. This has left individuals vulnerable to media incitement and violent practices by both state institutions and society. As noted by the UN independent expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,⁴ members of the LGBTIQ+ community in Egypt face violations of their human rights due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of their sexual identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. Such violations include violent assaults, torture, arbitrary detention, and forced marriage, a denial of the rights of assembly and expression, and discrimination in accessing healthcare, education, employment, and housing. This report examines various aspects of state violence based on SOGIESC in Egypt, from legal and judicial action by state legislative and judicial institutions, violence from state executive institutions and finally the social violence and the impact of lack of protection by the state against systematic social violence.

⁴ Report 'Defending the UN Independent Expert on SOGI,' <https://sxpolitics.org/17710-2/17710>