The situation of the LGBTI community in Afghanistan

Since the Taliban took over in Afghanistan, ILGA Asia has been in direct contact with LGBTI Afghans living in fear and life-threatening situations to assist them in accessing emergency evacuation. ILGA Asia has been working with international partners to coordinate possible evacuation and exit routes for Afghan women and LGBTIQ activists in ensuring a safe passage out of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. However, many LGBTI people remain in the country, waiting for opportunities to find safety before they are hunted down and killed.

To respond to the human rights violations faced by LGBTI community during the Afghanistan crisis, ILGA Asia set up a special project based on the following objectives.

Our Objectives

- Provide the LGBTI community in Afghanistan with the necessary humanitarian aid, including emergency evacuation and resettlement.
- Inform governments and the international community of the updated situation of the LGBTI community for timely actions in resource mobilisation, policy decisions to achieve the safety of the LGBTI community and the provision of humanitarian aids.
- Enable governments, organisations and leaders to advocate for the protection of LGBTI communities in crises beyond the context of Afghanistan and to develop, approve, and adopt SOGIESC inclusive laws, policies and resolutions at the international, regional and national levels.

Key strategies

The four key strategic areas are defined to achieve objectives.

Enable accessibility of humanitarian aid

1. Build and strengthen contacts and connections with LGBTI individuals and organisations in Afghanistan to receive updated information and identify humanitarian needs.
2. Coordinate regularly with LGBTI individuals and organisations and allied organisations to formulate context-sensitive solutions.
3. Monitor and understand the current available humanitarian support, particularly aid, and state evacuation and resettlement action plans, and identify gaps and possible opportunities for collaboration and solutions.
4. Perform timely assessments on the potential risks within the changing environment that impact humanitarian aid delivery, including in-country and regional factors and international policies and practices.
5. Engage with embassy officials, politicians, local UN agencies and those who have the power to influence their governments to allocate resources towards evacuation and resettlement as soon as possible — particularly under the circumstance that some countries are already taking action to evacuate their citizens.

**Promote visibility and awareness-raising**

6. Launch social media campaigns highlighting the plight of the LGBTI community in Afghanistan and build support towards humanitarian action among the public and key decision-makers through targeted messaging.

7. Engage the media and publications to increase coverage of the issue and highlight the actions made by crucial decision-makers to enable accountability and encourage swift and appropriate action.

**Evidence-based Advocacy**

8. Monitor and document the human rights violations faced by the LGBTI community, best practices and lessons learned.

9. Advocate through regional platforms (ILGA World, ILGA Europe, ILGA LAC, and others) for necessary humanitarian assistance, including emergency visas to LGBTIQ+ Afghans, emergency evacuation, and resettlement.

10. Engage with UN mechanisms to advocate the inclusion of SOGIESC aspects in crisis responses.

**Partnership Building**

11. Coordinate with donors to develop a strategy on resource mobilisation and the usage of funding.

12. Coordinate with UN agencies, INGOs, LGBTI networks, and civil society organisations working on the Afghanistan crisis to share resources and develop synergistic actions to support the other key areas.

**ILGA Asia Programme Team:**

13. Provide support in third-country destinations through local organisations (primarily through ILGA Asia’s member organisations) for Afghan LGBTI refugees.

14. Engage ILGA networks with organisations in receiving countries to ensure an intersectional approach to resettlement programmes.