

The rights of LGBT people, freedom of association and HIV programming in Turkmenistan

Situation in Turkmenistan

Issue 1: Criminalization of same sex sexual conduct

Implementation of previous recommendation

- **Iceland:** Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex

New developments

- The recommendation was rejected as others related to decriminalization.

Recommendations

Issue 1: Criminalization of same sex sexual conduct

We recommend that Turkmenistan government to:

- Abolish laws criminalizing same-sex conduct, introduce anti-discrimination laws;
- Provide accessible, quick and transparent procedure of legal gender recognition;
- Strengthen laws against gender-based violence, promote gender equality in education and employment, and improve women's access to justice.

Situation in Turkmenistan

Issue 2: HIV and freedom of assembly

Implementation of previous recommendation

- **Brazil:** Review provisions regarding compulsory HIV testing contained in 2016 Act on controlling the spread of the disease caused by HIV while providing early diagnosis and treatment to HIV-infected mothers and their infants in light of the recommendations of the HRCCommittee and the relevant Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

New developments

- The recommendation was rejected as the government does not see discrimination in compulsory HIV testing.

Recommendations

Issue 2: HIV and freedom of assembly

We recommend that Turkmenistan government to:

- Ensure access to antiretroviral therapy, prevent new HIV infections, and guarantee healthcare, social services, and employment opportunities without discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Enhance transparency and accountability, specifically to implement transparent social welfare programs and support NGOs to address social issues;
- Promote an independent judiciary and legal aid services to ensure access to justice for all citizens;
- Lift restrictions on media outlets and internet freedom to foster an environment of open dialogue and free expression.



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