

UPR Pre-session on Israel

Geneva, April 3-6, 2023

Delivered by: Maavarim - Israeli Trans Community

Presentation of the Organisation

Ma'avarim - Israeli Trans Community is an independent, non-profit organization promoting the rights of trans and gender diverse people in Israel. Ma'avarim prepared a joint report on LGBTI rights submitted on behalf of 9 civil society organizations. Ma'avarim has participated in the UPR processes at the national level since 2017.

National consultations for the drafting of the national report

On December 1, 2022, LGBTI CSOs and government representatives took part in a roundtable on LGBTQ youth.



- Plan of the Statement:**
- (1) Discrimination against trans and gender diverse people
 - (2) Violence and hate speech
 - (3) Threats to civil society and LGBTI rights.

Follow up to the last review cycle:

Israel accepted two 3rd cycle recommendations on LGBTI rights (118.64 Chile and 118.65 Greece), yet discrimination remains pervasive:

- 1 in 3 Israelis is unwilling to work or study with a trans person
- Only 25% of trans people have full-time jobs
- 75% of trans students reported they could not use school bathrooms aligned with their gender identity.
- **Most legal provisions for trans rights are addressed in internal government regulations.**

New developments:

- 2020 task force on trans rights.
- Welfare Ministry issued the Social Work Order on Working with Transgender People.
- Planned reform on gender affirmative medical care was not implemented after anti-trans campaign.
- Self-ID gender recognition was not adopted.

Recommendations:

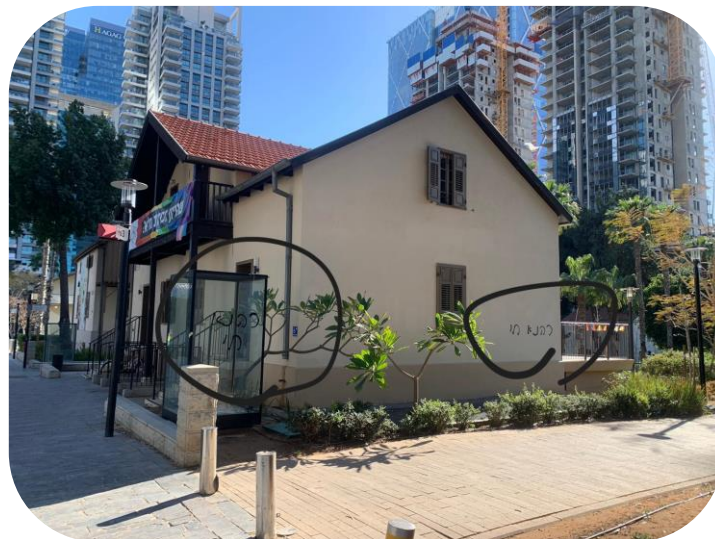
- **Amend anti-discrimination legislation to include gender identity among prohibited grounds and ensure anti-discrimination protections are effectively enforced;**
- **Adopt an administrative procedure for legal recognition of gender identity based on self-identification;**
- **Ensure free and timely access to quality gender affirmative care for all who need it.**

Follow up to the last review cycle:

Violence was mentioned in one recommendation on LGBTI rights.

New developments:

- A record of 3,309 anti-LGBTI hate incidents reported in 2022.
- 53% increase in transphobic incidents.
- Members of Knesset supported a 6-months long campaign against a 3rd grade trans student. MK Michal Woldiger participated in a protest outside his school saying **kids should not be exposed to such 'abnormal phenomena'**



Graffiti of the terrorist organization “Kahane Chai” found on the Tel Aviv LGBTQ Community Center, April 1, 2023 (Image source: Police)

Recommendations

- Take effective measures to combat hate speech and violence against LGBTI people, including legislation in relation to hate speech on the grounds of gender identity and awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate the stigma associated with gender diversity;
- Expand LGBTI educational programs in schools (the Tolerance Education Ordinance) and implement guidelines and a monitoring mechanism to ensure safe and inclusive school environments for LGBTI individuals.

Follow up to the last review cycle:

Israel supported 10 recommendations on human rights defenders, yet these were not implemented.

New developments:

- An increasingly hostile environment for LGBTIQ rights defenders.
- UN human rights chief: proposed legislative changes pose serious risks to the effectiveness of the judiciary to defend the rule of law, human rights and judicial independence.
- Anti-LGBT proposed bills would allow 'faith-based' discrimination, and severely restrict lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.
- Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich self-identified as a 'fascist homophobe' said human rights organizations are an 'existential threat'.

Question for review:

What mechanisms are being developed and implemented, under the new legislative framework, to protect and promote human rights especially for vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people, Arab citizens, asylum seekers and undocumented children?

Thank you for your attention.
Please see our factsheet and website maavarim.org/upr4 for additional information.

