

Hidden Atrocities

The Situation of Afghanistan's LGBTQ+ Community

Under Taliban Rule from 2022 to 2024



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In the past three years, the Taliban have perpetrated various forms of violence against the people of Afghanistan, particularly targeting women and individuals with diverse sexual and gender identities. Among these, transgender individuals have faced significant sexual and gender-based violence, though less frequently discussed and reported. The Taliban recognizes only two genders (male and female) and imposes a specific hierarchy for each. They neither acknowledge other gender groups nor respect their identities, denying them the right to live.

Over the past three years, the Taliban regime has been recognized as enforcing sexual and gender apartheid in Afghanistan. Human rights organizations and media outlets have repeatedly reported the violent orders and actions of this group against various segments of society. Considering the ideology of the Taliban, their implemented policies, the decrees they have issued, their violent approach, and the narratives and reports from Afghanistan's rainbow community, it can be stated that since the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, LGBTQ+ individuals have been living in dire conditions. They are not safe and are at risk of detention, sexual abuse, and execution by the Taliban.

Following the exodus of many LGBTQ+ community members from Afghanistan to Germany and other countries in May 2022, the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan was established in Bremen, Germany, with the slogan "We Will Not Go Back" and the hashtag #SaveAfghanLGBTIQ. This organization began its activities with three main objectives:

- 1. Raising Awareness and Combating Discrimination:** Increasing public understanding of LGBTQ+ issues and fighting against prejudices and discriminatory practices.
- 2. Research and Reporting on Human Rights Violations:** Investigating and documenting the human rights abuses faced by the LGBTQ+ community in Afghanistan.
- 3. Supporting LGBTQ+ Refugees and Migrants:** Providing assistance and resources to LGBTQ+ individuals who have fled Afghanistan, ensuring their protection and integration into new societies.

Over the past two and a half years, the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan has successfully relocated hundreds of members of Afghanistan's LGBTQ+ community to Germany and other safe countries in collaboration with other organizations. Additionally, the organization has provided assistance to dozens of these individuals in neighboring countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

This report, as part of the organization's activities, has endeavored to cover the situation of the LGBTQ+ community in different provinces, particularly in Kabul. The findings of the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan indicate that the Taliban have treated LGBTQ+ individuals like sexual slaves, violating legal principles and without due process. These

individuals have been imprisoned, humiliated, insulted, tortured, and sexually abused. The Taliban have been pursuing these individuals, and upon identification, they imprison them and exploit them for sexual gratification. Furthermore, the organization's findings reveal that transgender individuals in detention centers, prisons, and Taliban-controlled areas have been subjected to verbal harassment, group sexual assaults, beatings, electric shocks, and genital tortures. Some of these individuals have been threatened with death for refusing the Taliban's sexual demands, and others have gone missing after being detained by the Taliban.

Our findings are divided into three sections:

1. **Religious Sentences Punishing LGBTQ+ Individuals Accused of "Sodomy" by the Taliban:** The first section addresses the religious decrees issued by the Taliban that punish LGBTQ+ individuals on charges of "sodomy."
2. **Statistics Published in Taliban and Independent Media from 2022 to 2024:** The second section is dedicated to the statistics released by both Taliban-affiliated and independent media outlets during the years 2022 to 2024.
3. **Narratives from LGBTQ+ Community Members Regarding Taliban Behaviours During Arrests and Imprisonment:** The third section details the accounts from LGBTQ+ individuals about the Taliban's behaviour during their arrests and time in prison.

The names of individuals in the report are presented with pseudonyms to protect their identities.

Introduction: The Lives of Rainbow Community Members Under the Flag of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Before the Taliban's Presence

After 2001, with the establishment of the Islamic Republic government with the help of NATO and the creation of a constitution in Afghanistan, no legislation was passed to protect LGBTQ+ individuals. Given the prevailing atmosphere, the lack of public awareness regarding sexual and gender identities, and the spread of hatred towards these groups during the twenty years of the republic, LGBTQ+ individuals, especially transgender people whose gender identity is evident, faced repression and experienced compounded violence. These individuals were targeted by powerful figures, commanders, and government officials. "Child abuse" has been a prevalent phenomenon in Afghanistan, with transgender individuals being the primary victims of this harmful practice.

"Child abuse" is a colloquial term in Afghanistan referring to any form of sexual exploitation of children (for profit). It can include child pornography, sexual slavery, and child prostitution, where young children or adolescent boys are sold to influential or

wealthy men for entertainment. Some of these men keep multiple children to showcase their wealth, as concealing their identities is more difficult.

Findings from the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan indicate that transgender individuals during the Islamic Republic's rule were subjected to violence, beatings, threats, and abuse by powerful individuals and, in some cases, police officers. Out of 12 interviewed individuals, 9 reported experiences of abuse, beatings, and verbal harassment.

All interviewees have lost contact with their families. These individuals, who mostly became aware of their sexual and gender identities between the ages of 12 and 18, were sometimes rejected by their families after revealing their identities (either voluntarily or forcibly). Some were compelled to hide their identities to gain acceptance from their families. Several individuals who were imprisoned by the Taliban faced further rejection upon returning to their families. Most of the interviewees live away from their families with friends or partners in secrecy, out of sight of the Taliban.

In addition to lacking support from their families, LGBTQ+ individuals have been boycotted by society. Due to fear of the Taliban, ignorance, and other factors, people find it difficult to offer these individuals shelter and refuge. After the Taliban's takeover, many of these individuals have dispersed and hidden in various locations. During the republic era, despite the existence of legal frameworks, there was not only no law to protect this group but even discussing different sexual and gender identities was prohibited.

The Lives of Rainbow Community Members After the Taliban's Presence in Afghanistan

A: Religious Decrees Punishing LGBTQ+ Individuals on Charges of "Sodomy" by the Taliban

During their three years of rule in Afghanistan, the Taliban have subjected LGBTQ+ individuals to brutal and inhumane violence. Firstly, the Taliban regime dehumanizes this group, considering them as not deserving of the right to life. Just as during their first rule over Afghanistan, when they deemed extramarital sex and homosexuality criminal offenses punishable by death, they maintain the same viewpoint and actively implement these punishments.

Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, one of the founders of the Taliban and the head of the prison administration, stated in an interview: "No one can tell us what our laws should be. We follow Islam and will base our laws on the Quran."¹ He also emphasized that the laws enforced from 1996 to 2001 would be reinstated.

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/religion-afghanistan-kabul-taliban-22f5107f1dbd19c8605b5b5435a9de54>

The law on "Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" issued by the Taliban on August 31 of this year includes a section dedicated to the LGBTQ+ community in its second chapter, Article 22. In this decree, relations between two women are referred to as "sahq" and relations between two men as "lawat," (Sodomy) described as "specific immoralities."² This decree grants the Taliban the authority to implement punitive measures such as burying individuals alive, execution, stoning, wall crushing, and public punishment. The Taliban have consistently reiterated that actions contrary to Islamic law will be punished.

According to this regime, homosexual relations between men, termed "lawat" (Sodomy) in Islamic law (whether consensual or forced), are considered invalid and impermissible.³ Under this interpretation of Sharia, the Taliban execute homosexual individuals, stating, "For homosexuals, there are only two punishments: stoning, or they must stand behind a wall of two and a half to three meters high, which will then collapse on them."⁴ Therefore, in the eyes of the Taliban, various genders and sexual orientations are not only unacceptable but also deserving of punishment and retribution.

B: Statistics Published in Taliban and Independent Media from 2022 to 2024

Findings from the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan and statistics released regarding the punishment of LGBTQ+ individuals by the Taliban in the media indicate that the Taliban have identified and violently targeted LGBTQ+ individuals over the past three years. According to incomplete data collected during this period, at least 98 LGBTQ+ individuals have been subjected to public punishment in 14 provinces of the country for various charges, including sodomy, publicly, in the presence of Taliban members.

Additionally, on May 4, 2023, the Taliban's Supreme Court, in a video featuring Haqqani, the administrative deputy of the court, announced the application of Sharia law and the issuance of dozens of final sentences for "qisas and Islamic hudud." Haqqani stated, "Since the Islamic Emirate has completed the establishment of its court system, courts across the country have issued nearly 175 sentences for qisas, 95 sentences for diya, 37 sentences for stoning, 4 sentences for wall crushing, and 103 other sentences for implementing Sharia limits, along with 1,562 sentences for discretionary punishment, some of which have been carried out while others are in the process of being executed."⁵

The statistics released and reports received indicate that sentences for stoning, wall crushing, and Sharia penalties, including flogging (between 25 to 39 lashes) and

² [د افغانستان اسلامي امارت د عدلي وزارت، قانون امر بالمعروف ونهي عن المنكر، تاريخ نشر: ۱۰ اسد ۱۴۰۲](#)

³ [Kandahar Comes Out of the Closet \(glapn.org\)](#)

⁴ https://m.bild.de/politik/ausland/politik-ausland/nach-bundeswehr-einsatz-taliban-wollen-wieder-frauen-und-schwule-steinigen-77052966.bildMobile.html?t_ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bild.de%2Fpolitik%2Fausland%2Fpolitik-ausland%2Fnach-bundeswehr-einsatz-taliban-wollen-wieder-frauen-und-schwule-steinigen-77052966.bild.html

⁵ [فارسی، ۴ مه ۲۰۲۳ BBC News دادگاه عالی طالبان برای ده‌ها حکم اعدام، سنگسار و آوار کردن دیوار «منتظر تابیدر هیری است» -](#)

discretionary punishments such as imprisonment (ranging from six months to five years), have been issued against members of the LGBTQ+ community. Unfortunately, due to the lack of the ability to conduct coherent and independent investigations, owing to the unsafe conditions created by the Taliban for journalists and researchers, accurate data on the number of punished LGBTQ+ individuals is not available. However, based on the official statistics published by the Taliban government and the dire situation of Afghanistan's rainbow community, it can be inferred that the number of these punishments exceeds the figures reported by the Taliban or published in the media.

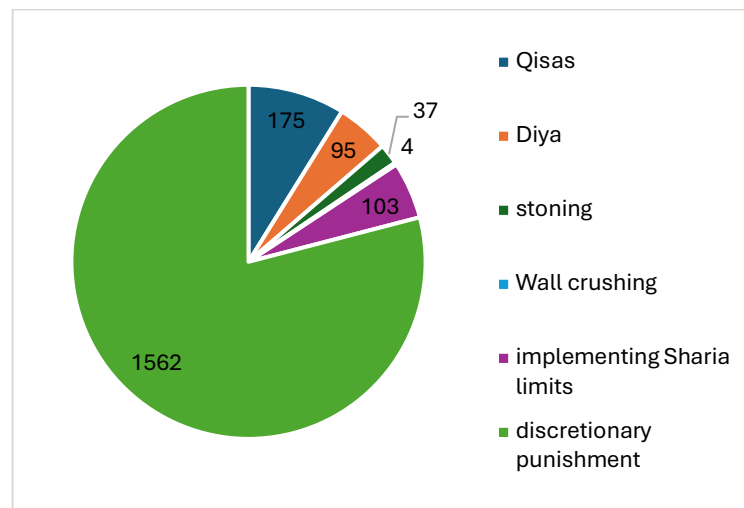


Figure 1 Number of Punished Individuals as Officially Announced by the Taliban, Categorized by Crime in 2023

Reports indicate that Kabul, Kandahar and Khost, each with 15 individuals, have witnessed the highest number of punishments compared to other cities. The other cities, in order from the highest to the lowest number of punishments, are as follows: Meidan Wardak (10 individuals), Faryab and Laghman (each with 8 individuals), Ghōr (6 individuals), Parwan (each with 5 individuals), Helmand, Nangarhar, and Kunduz (each with 4 individuals), Zabul (3 individuals), and Farah (1 individual).

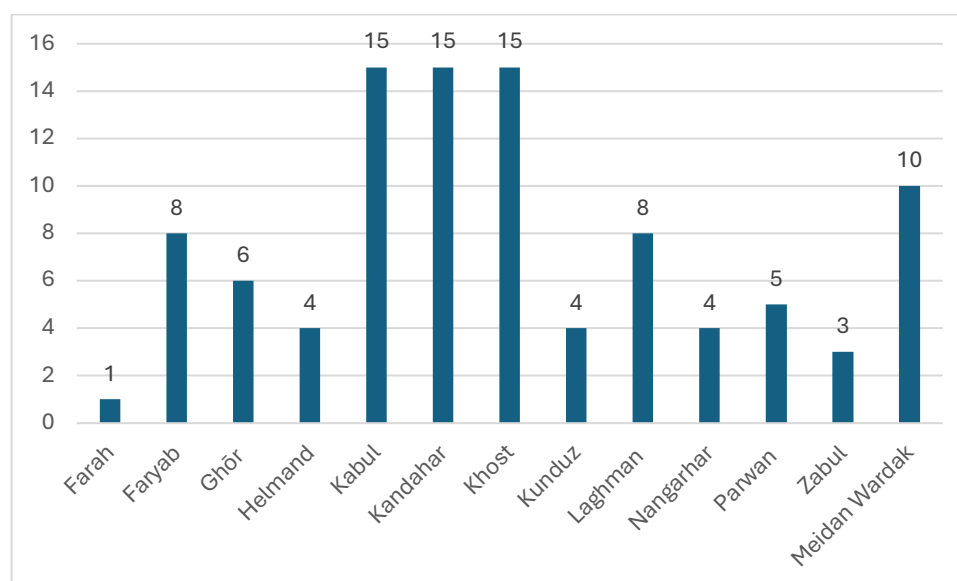


Figure 2 Number of Punished Individuals by Different Cities in Afghanistan for the Years 2022-2024

According to the statistics, out of 98 recorded punishments within the LGBTQ+ community, 4 individuals were transgender women or men, and 81 were transgender men or women. The gender of 13 individuals remains unspecified. Unfortunately, since the Taliban regime does not recognize the gender identities of transgender individuals, it is not possible to accurately determine the gender identities of those who have been convicted and punished. Therefore, in our statistics, "transgender women or men" and "transgender men or women" are grouped into one category, representing the genders "transgender female or male" and "transgender male or female," which, based on published news, cannot be distinguished.

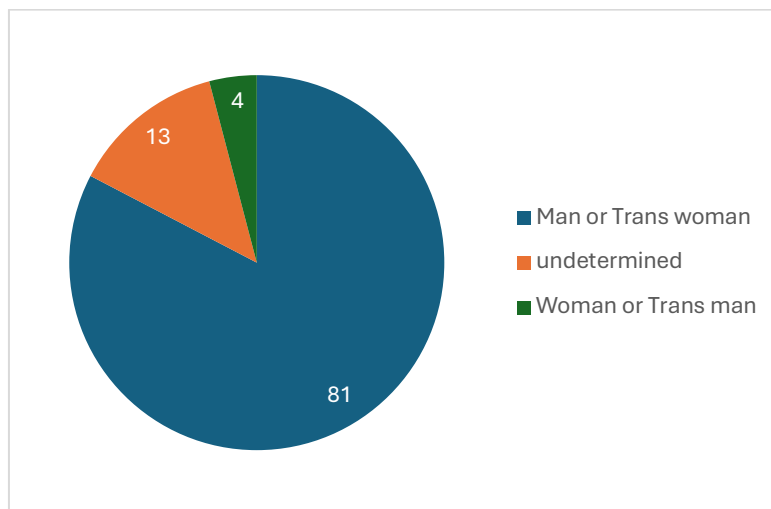


Figure 3 Number of Punished Individuals in Different Cities of Afghanistan by Gender for the Years 2022-2024

Additionally, due to numerous reports and news articles that categorize "sodomy" and "illicit relations" alongside crimes such as "theft," "drug trafficking," and "running away from home" without specifying the individual crimes, and only mentioning that punishments have been carried out, we understand that the number of punished individuals is higher than the number we have documented. Unfortunately, it is not possible to segregate and accurately count them.

However, based on our statistics, the most common sentences given to the LGBTQ+ community have been imprisonment and flogging (69 cases), while the least common is execution (4 cases).

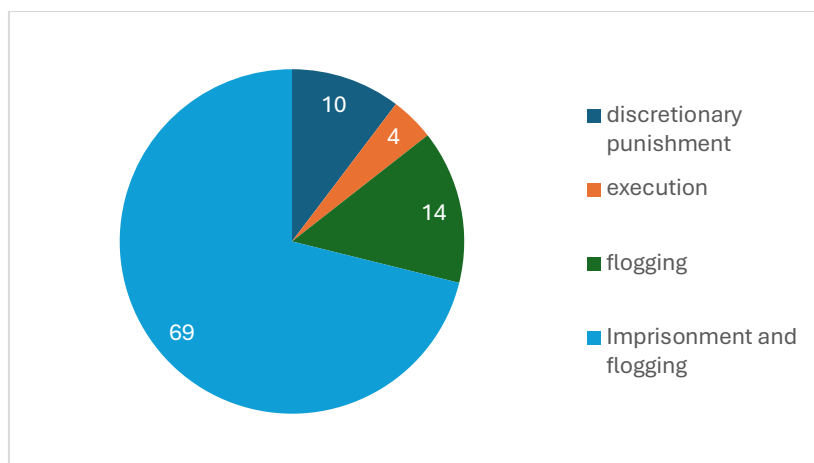


Figure 4 Number of Punishments Categorized by Type of Punishment in the Years 2022-2024

Based on the Same Statistics, Out of 98 Recorded Punishments, the Least Number of Charges Were for "Immorality" and "Adultery" (2 Cases Each), and the Highest Number of Charges Were for "Sodomy" (63 Cases). The Other Punishments Were for Charges Such as "Sodomy and Extramarital Relations" (8 Cases), "Sodomy or Adultery" (11 Cases), and "Sodomy and Child Abuse" (12 Cases).

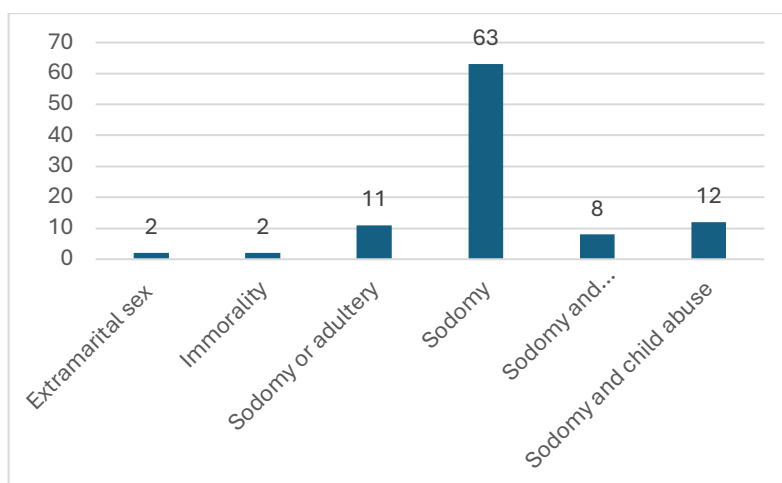


Figure 5 Number of Punishments Categorized by Type of Charge in the Years 2022-2024

During the Taliban regime's presence in Afghanistan, 7 of the recorded punishments against LGBTQ+ community members occurred in 2022, 13 in 2023, and 78 in 2024. The statistics indicate an upward trend in these punishments, with the number increasing sixfold in just the first eight months of 2024.

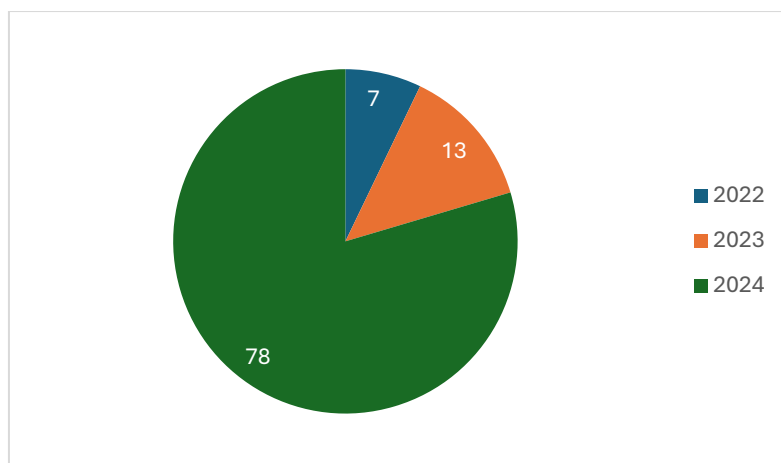


Figure 6 Number of Punishments Categorized by Type of Charge in the Years 2022-2024

C. Narratives from LGBTQ+ Community Members on Public Punishments, Electric Shocks, Genital Torture, and Verbal Harassment

The Taliban do not tolerate anything that falls outside their ideological framework. Consequently, they deem anything contrary to their ideology and commandments as invalid and punish those who implement it. LGBTQ+ individuals are unacceptable to the Taliban regime, and their presence in society is considered “corrupt.” Therefore, the Taliban are intent on identifying, suppressing, and eliminating these individuals. Over the past three years, the Taliban have arrested, detained, and imprisoned LGBTQ+ individuals through various means. Electric shocks, genital torture, and verbal harassment are among the most forms of violence the Taliban have inflicted on LGBTQ+ individuals.

The Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan, aiming to reflect the conditions of LGBTQ+ individuals under Taliban rule and document these circumstances, has interviewed 12 individuals who have all been tortured by the Taliban. These individuals have been subjected to torture methods such as beatings, electric shocks, and genital torture by the Taliban. Despite labelling LGBTQ+ individuals as “filthy,” “impure,” and “godless sinners,” the Taliban also perpetrate sexual assaults against them. Additionally, several individuals have experienced group sexual assaults and both verbal and sexual harassment by the Taliban.

1. Jannat Gul

City: Herat

She spent eight months in a Taliban prison, and after her release, her family also rejected her. She says:

“As soon as I came home, my father, mother, and family said, ‘Go away; we have no child by your name. You have tarnished our reputation. I cut off my ties with home, and all my

family members blocked me on social networks. They threw my belongings out of the house and said, “Go [derogatory term] and don’t ever come near us again.””

After this, Jannat Gul went to her transgender friends’ home, and they provided her with temporary shelter. She spoke about her living conditions after being rejected by her family:

“Trans individuals who were rejected by their families and had no place, shelter, or respectable job to make a living were forced to go to wedding parties and dance to earn income. But even in these gatherings, they had no security. Before the Taliban came, they would take us to their homes and private parties for dancing, but then, under the pretext of not paying us, they would severely beat us. The youths and thugs of Herat would get drunk and use drugs at the parties and then beat us with sticks and kicks. Once, during a ceremony, one of my transgender friends fainted, and they let us go after our pleas and cries. Some of my friends lost their lives at the end of such gatherings due to the torture inflicted on them.”

She describes the Taliban’s behaviour towards her:

“We were invited to a gathering in the Nowabad division of Herat, and there, with a trans friend, we were dancing and celebrating, but we didn’t know what hell awaited us. Suddenly, the Taliban came and arrested us. After severe beatings, they grabbed our hair and slammed us to the ground. The Taliban were shouting, ‘We must kill these [derogatory term]; there is no place for these things, sodomy, and [derogatory term for homosexuals] in pure Afghanistan, and they must be destroyed.’”

Jannat Gul continues:

“Some of our companions escaped, but I couldn’t run and got caught. After many beatings, pulling my hair, and repeatedly hitting my head against the ground and wall, the Taliban struck my jaw and face with the butt of a gun, breaking my jaw. I fell to the ground and lost consciousness from the severe pain.”

They took the half-dead Jannat Gul to the hospital. Moments after she regained consciousness, members of the Taliban’s Department of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice came to her. She says:

“In the hospital, while wounded and lying on the bed, members of the Promotion of Virtue and their interrogators questioned us. They accused me of sodomy and prostitution. I denied it. I said I am a dancer and went for money, but they said, ‘No, you went to these places for sex and debauchery.’ Throughout the time, two Taliban members watched over me and didn’t allow anyone, even my family, to see me.”

The Taliban accused Jannat Gul of engaging in sex work and transferred her back to the detention center. In the detention center, they pulled out her nails, stripped her naked, and tortured her genitals. She described the torture:

“They used electric shocks on my hands and lower back. With the help of guards, they held my hands and feet, stretched me so I wouldn’t move during whipping, electric shocks, and beatings, and then beat me severely with whips and hoses. They pulled out

two of my fingernails and toenails with pliers, causing a lot of bleeding. I had grown my nails long, feminine, and beautiful, and they used this as an excuse to torture and harass me. I have breasts and tattoos. They took off my clothes and stripped me completely naked. They asked, 'Why did you shave your body hair?' I said, 'I don't like hair on my body.' They said, 'Don't say such things.' I said, 'I was born this way.' They said, 'No, in Islam we do not accept hermaphrodites; you are [derogatory term] and corrupt. You make yourself look like this so that people enjoy you.'"

Jannat Gul says:

"The Taliban decided to make us an example for the youths of Herat. They blackened our faces, paraded us on top of a Ranger vehicle, and said, 'These are male and female, they are hermaphrodites. They are debauched and [derogatory term]; wherever you see them, inform us so we can punish them.' From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., they drove us around the city. They ruined our reputation in the city."

In her opinion, this act by the Taliban was to scare trans people so they would hide and no longer appear openly in the city.

After that, the Taliban took Jannat Gul to prison, and along the way, they humiliated her, saying, "You have disgraced the Pashtuns' name. How dare you do this under the umbrella of the Islamic government?"

During her handover to the prison, the humiliation continued:

"When handing me over to the prison, they said, 'Take this male and female who is from Farah and has disgraced our name. She is corrupt, a [derogatory term].'"

During the eight months that Jannat Gul spent in prison, They constantly threatened to take them to a cleric to issue them a stoning sentence. He says:

"Our interrogation room had a small window, and the solitary cell I was in had an iron door with an iron window above it. In the room, there was a blanket and no other facilities. The Taliban said that these are male and female, and they are cursed and damned by God. They didn't touch us or come near us because they considered us dirty and impure. They tortured us with whips and took us to the bathroom in turns. Every morning, they poured cold water over our heads in the winter cold and took us to pray. The first time they saw we didn't know how to pray, they beat us so much that my hands and feet swelled. My friend and I were imprisoned in one cell, and every day and night, we were forced to listen to the Taliban's insults and curses."

The nights were scarier than days because, late at night, the prison guards—the Taliban—would summon them. She says:

"They wanted us with them; they said they liked us, to be with them and have sex. In return for this, they promised us money and support in prison. But by rejecting this request, we were raped. They forcibly raped me. I remember that in one night, four people raped me at the same time. During the time I was in prison, I was regularly subjected to group rape once a week and several times a month. There was a corner in the prison where those same four people would rape me, or they would take me to their office."

2. Yama

City: Jalalabad

He has experienced violence and harassment since childhood at school and other places. Because Yama came from a religious family, he was unable to reveal his identity to them. He said:

“My family was completely religious; if I told them anything, they would destroy me.”

When Yama was arrested by the Taliban, they contacted his family and said that their son was homosexual and that they had caught him during a sexual assault. His family did not support him and instead said:

“Do whatever you want with him.”

Yama has experienced sexual assault by the Taliban twice. After the Taliban came to power, he travelled to Turkey out of fear but returned to the country when his visa expired. He was first arrested in early 2023. Describing the Taliban’s behaviour, he says:

“The Taliban arrested me and two other LGBT friends in Shahr-e Naw, Kabul. They threw us inside a Ranger vehicle and kept whispering in our ears to say that we are ‘Izak’ (a derogatory term for homosexuals). They transferred us to the Ninth District, where the Taliban commander separated me from my friends and said that I must have sexual relations with him. He made this request after a lot of beating. I resisted, but he raped me.”

Some time later, Yama was apprehended by the Taliban again. This time, his family did not support him either and told the Taliban to carry out any punishment they saw fit. Yama says:

“They tortured me. They beat me so much that I wished for death. After the beating, they raped me—gang rape.”

3. Reyhan

Cities: Jalalabad and Kabul

Reyhan is a transgender woman who said:

“I was forced to leave school. At home, violence was inflicted upon me; my father and brothers wouldn’t look at me, and eventually, I was forced to leave home.”

After running away, Reyhan sought refuge in Kabul but was arrested there by the Taliban. They hit her on the head with a rifle butt and transferred her to Pul-e-Charkhi prison without a court order. She spent two months under Taliban control in the prison and says about her situation:

“I was in solitary confinement. The Taliban personnel in the prison tortured me a lot; they even gave me electric shocks.”

Reyhan also experienced sexual assault (gang rape) in the Taliban prison. During the two months she was incarcerated, she was assaulted by the Taliban:

“Every night, the Taliban raped me. One day came when up to ten people gang-raped me.”

4. Hasrat

Cities: Baghlan and Kabul

His father was the mullah of a mosque, and he lived in fear at home. He says:

“When my family found out, my life turned into hell. My father wanted me dead. Every day, my father and other family members tortured me. Eventually, I was forced to run away from home. We had nowhere to complain. Neither our family accepted us nor did the government support us. I had no peace and spent every night with the nightmare of being assaulted by powerful people and the police. Government officials threatened me that if I didn’t have sexual relations with them, they would imprison me and ruin my reputation. During sex and assault, they would film me and keep the videos, and later, by threatening to release them, they would assault me again. During the republic era, many of my friends who were trans were killed by government officials who were pedophiles when they resisted, and they were buried in silence. My survival was a miracle.”

After the Taliban came to power, Hasrat was arrested and imprisoned for having a feminine appearance. The Taliban broke into his room at midnight, breaking the door, and beat him. Hasrat says:

“They beat me so much that I lost consciousness. Then they put me inside a Ranger vehicle and took me to the 11th district. The commander there, before asking any questions, first slapped me in the face. But all I kept saying was that I didn’t know what crime I had committed. They took me to another room to answer their questions, and there too, I said I was innocent. But they kept asking me, ‘Why do you have a feminine face?’”

The Taliban called Hasrat a “disbeliever” and tortured him. They beat him so much that he shouted, “Kill me so I can be relieved.” But the Taliban did not stop and wanted Hasrat to identify other trans individuals, whom the Taliban referred to as “sodomites.”

Due to excessive torture and sexual assault, Hasrat repeatedly banged his head against the wall to die and escape the pain. He says:

“I was in prison for eleven days, and during all this time, I was raped and beaten.”

5 & 6. Maralyn and Hamed

Cities: Balkh and Kabul

She told the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan:

“My father beat me so much that my whole body was bloody until he got tired and stopped. My father and older brother wanted to put me in a sack and drown me. Around one in the morning, my father beat me with an electric cable and then asked my older brother to dump me somewhere far away. I was not in good condition; I thought I wouldn’t survive. I was only saved when my sister and mother came and begged my father to stop killing me and let me go. Later, my sister gave me some money and told me to leave and never come back.”

She is currently sheltering in another city with her trans friends but speaks about her and her partner’s arrest by the Taliban:

“After a lot of torture and electric shocks, they raped us.”

7. Amir

Cities: Logar and Kabul

Currently homeless, he said: “Because I had a feminine face, no one would rent me a place. Everyone was afraid that the Taliban would arrest them for giving me shelter.” Amir was imprisoned by the Taliban. During the short time he was detained with other prisoners, the inmates, like the Taliban, demanded his execution and death due to his gender identity.

He continued: “No one was upset about our death. The government had no law we could cling to, and whatever laws existed were against us. That’s why powerful individuals would take us with them. They would torture us, sexually assault us, or even eliminate us. If we resisted their assault, our place would be Pul-e-Charkhi prison.”

8. Samir

Cities: Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul

He is a transgender individual who has been sexually assaulted multiple times by police officers. He said: “Even during the republic, I had no peace. Once, I was with my friends at Croaky Café when the police came. Their commander was with them. They arrested me and quickly took me to the Fourth District. They told me that I was an ‘izak’ (a derogatory term for homosexual) and a disgrace to society. First, they raped me; there were eight of them along with their commander. Then they took my phone and money and released me after 24 hours. Some time later, while I was going to Shahr-e Naw with a trans friend, those same police officers from the Fourth District saw me at a checkpoint. They forcibly took me with them, and this time, they gang-raped me.”

Regarding his experience during the Taliban era, Samir says he was arrested by the Taliban at midnight. The Taliban took him and several other trans friends to the Tenth District of Kabul city. In the interview, he said: “In the detention center, they threatened and tortured us, telling us to say that we are ‘izak.’ When I didn’t confess, they checked

my phone and then wrote in the case file that we were ‘izak’ and dancers, and they made numerous other accusations against us. With force and severe beatings, they took my fingerprint at the bottom of the file.”

9. Anayez

City: Kabul

At 23 years old, due to his feminine face and having breasts, he was interrogated and abused by the Taliban. He was identified and arrested at one of the Taliban’s checkpoints at Shahid Square in Kabul. Anayez says: “It was 8 p.m. We came across a Taliban checkpoint. The Taliban asked me, ‘Are you a girl or a boy?’ I got scared and said that I am a boy. They interrogated me and realized that I have breasts like girls. They said to me, ‘What kind of boy are you that you have breasts?’ I said that I am trans.”

After that, the Taliban took Anayez to the Third District of Kabul and interrogated him and his partner. He says: “They mocked us. They ridiculed me even more because of the tattoos on my hands. They cut my hair and threw a scarf over my head. They called me ‘Gul Makai’ (a female name). They imprisoned me and my partner in separate rooms and beat us severely. They took us to a place where they poured water from a pipe over us and hit our bodies with another pipe. According to them, they were giving us a ritual cleansing. When they saw my naked body and the numerical tattoos on it, they said to me, ‘You have become the devil.’”

The Taliban demanded from Anayez and his partner that if they wanted to be released, they had to introduce other individuals and their friends to them.

10. Artin

City: Kabul

He was first arrested in 2021 when he was going from Karte Naw to Pul-e-Mahmood by Taliban members. They accused him of sodomy, burned the tattoos on his body, and issued a death sentence against him. However, instead of carrying out the execution, they sexually assaulted him and released him after beating him. They took Artin’s contact number and told him, “Whenever we call you, you must come to us,” threatening that if he didn’t, they would find and kill him.

After some time, the Taliban contacted Artin, but he told them he was not in Kabul. The Taliban said, “We are tracking your phone.” Artin was forced to change his SIM card. He told us in an interview:

“After a few months, unfortunately, the Taliban identified my location. Every day, Taliban individuals would come to the door of my room in Shahr-e Naw and knock, and I was forced to stay silent inside until they left. But one day, Taliban members came again to my door. When I opened the door, a large group of 13 people stormed into my room and

started slapping me, even pulling out my hair. They began searching my room, and when they found women's clothing and my makeup items, they took me with them to the National Security Directorate. I don't know exactly where it was, but there was a banner that read 'National Security Directorate.' There, they tortured me severely. They even held a pistol to my head and said, 'Confess and tell us everything you know, or we'll shoot.' I begged them not to torture me and just to shoot me so I could be relieved."

After confessing to being trans, Artin was transferred to the 10th District. "After some time, they released me, and their goal was to find other LGBTQ+ individuals I was connected with through me."

11. Kosar

City: Kabul

She says:

"Due to ignorance about myself and my gender, I was in doubt, and it always bothered me. Every day as I got older, my behaviours and voice changed. My family noticed this. They realized I was different from my brothers, and conditions became more difficult for me every day."

With the arrival of the Taliban, life became more challenging for Kosar. She says:

"The Taliban arrested me several times on various pretexts, and each time they arrested me, they tortured and gang-raped me."

The first time, the Taliban arrested Kosar and her trans friend and took them to the 15th District. There, they were insulted for their voices and behaviours. She says:

"They threw me into the prison of that district and shaved my hair. It was night when they took my friend into a separate room and wanted to rape her, but my friend had mental health issues, and with her increased crying, they didn't touch her further. But those Taliban individuals in the district gang-raped me, and when morning came, my friend and I begged the Taliban to release us."

After contacting their families, Kosar and her friend were released. But this wasn't the last time. The Taliban arrested her again and transferred her to the 11th District. There, she was beaten and harassed, but because they couldn't find any evidence against her, they released her. The third time, the Taliban forcibly took Kosar and her friend to the Fourth District. This time, Kosar knew that the reason for their arrest was sexual assault.

Kosar says:

"They were asking us questions, and whatever answers we gave, they wrote the opposite on paper. We understood that they had brought us to sexually assault us... They kept us until 10 p.m. There, they took my friend Afsun to another room, stripped her body, and wanted to rape her. But my friend, who had injuries to her shoulder and back from

beatings, fainted. After that, they took me to a room, stripped my body, and raped me. They wanted to film me, and I fell at their feet, begging them not to film me.”

After her release, Kosar was ill for several days and experienced severe bleeding due to the rape by two Taliban members in the district.

Kosar was arrested by the Taliban once more. They threw her into a Ranger vehicle, but this time they didn’t take her to a district office. They took her to a place in Kote Sangi, and the first thing they did was shave her head:

“They said, ‘We’ll pull out your nails.’ I pleaded and begged them not to torture me. They beat me with whatever they had in their hands. Then the Taliban commander said, ‘No, we won’t pull out her nails,’ and told me, ‘Don’t raise your voice!’ After that, eight more people entered the room, and in pairs, they would come, rape me, and leave. My condition was so bad that at that moment, I wanted nothing from God except death. I didn’t even want to leave there alive.”

12. Bahram

City: Mazar-e-Sharif

As he grew older and exhibited “girlish” behaviours, Bahram was mocked by his classmates and even school teachers. This harassment led him to try to abandon his “girlish” habits, but as he said himself, “It was impossible; these habits were born with me.” Unable to change his behaviour, he left school. Afterwards, to earn a living, he turned to tailoring, during which he was threatened by extremist Islamists.

Bahram’s living conditions worsened with the Taliban’s takeover. He and his friend moved to Shahr-e Naw in Kabul to stay away from the Taliban who knew them, but even there, they were recognized by the Taliban. Bahram says:

“The Taliban attacked our residence, grabbed us by the collar, and said, ‘You have turned this place into a den of vice.’ With the commotion we caused, neighbours came, and since the Taliban didn’t have any evidence against us, they couldn’t arrest us.”

He and his friend spent several nights in stress and poor mental condition until they were finally arrested. He says:

“On October 11, 2022, I and a few friends had gone to Karte Seh in Kabul to buy our personal hygiene items. On the way, when we were about to get into a taxi, suddenly we saw a trans person whose hands and feet were chained to the back of a motorcycle by the Taliban. When he saw me, he came and said, ‘Don’t move from your place.’ He got into the taxi and told the driver to go to the Third District.”

Inside the district office, the Taliban beat Bahram and his friends. He says:

“Among themselves, they were speaking in Pashto, saying that we are infidels, corruptors of society, and must be killed.... When they saw the tattoos on my hands, they said, ‘We should burn these off.’ After that, they threw all of us into a room. There were

more than ten of them; they surrounded us and attacked us from all sides. We tried to appear strong so they wouldn't sexually assault us."

After that, the Taliban told Bahram and his friends that they had to perform ablution and pray. After extensive questioning, since they couldn't find any evidence against Bahram, they released him. However, they recorded all his personal information and contact number. The Taliban beat Bahram so severely that after his release, when he went to the hospital, they said, "Unless you tell us who did this to you, we won't treat you."

Expectations of the Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan from the Global Human Rights Institutions

Over the past three years, media outlets and human rights organizations have published numerous reports of human rights violations by the Taliban. Although most of these reports have focused on the Taliban's violations of women's rights, our aim with this report is to highlight the worsening situation and conditions of the LGBTQ+ community under the Taliban regime. The Rainbow Organization of Afghanistan's requests to relevant international organizations are as follows:

1. **Establishment of an International Truth Commission:** Requesting the United Nations to create an independent committee comprising legal experts and human rights activists to investigate and document human rights violations against the LGBTQ+ community in Afghanistan, especially in prisons and detention centers.
2. **Stronger Diplomatic Pressure:** Applying diplomatic pressure from influential countries to halt the Taliban's crimes, including threatening to sever diplomatic relations with countries supporting the Taliban if human rights are not respected, banning Taliban officials from traveling to free countries, and imposing international restrictions to prevent their presence at global events.
3. **International Prosecution of the Taliban:** Requesting the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate and legally prosecute Taliban leaders for crimes against humanity and the implementation of inhumane punishments such as stoning, execution, and burying individuals under walls.
4. **Global Monitoring and Reporting:** Assisting in launching a global platform to monitor the human rights situation of the LGBTQ+ community in Afghanistan and creating direct reporting channels for victims.
5. **Oversight of Humanitarian Aid:** Ensuring the equitable distribution of humanitarian aid in a manner that includes LGBTQ+ individuals in Afghanistan.
6. **Support for the Development of Educational Programs:** Supporting the creation of educational platforms about the rights of the LGBTQ+ community to change attitudes and reduce discrimination.
7. **Special Support for Activists:** Supporting the active presence of Afghan LGBTQ+ rights activists in international forums for transparent dialogues and determining

appropriate solutions to improve the situation of individuals in this community in Afghanistan.

8. **Recognition of Sexual and Gender Apartheid:** Recognizing sexual and gender apartheid, especially against the LGBTQ+ community in Afghanistan, as a serious reality.
9. **Support for LGBTQ+ Migrants and Refugees:** Facilitating the asylum process and providing legal support for LGBTQ+ migrants and refugees from Afghanistan.