

Report of Committee on Individual Freedoms and Equality: important step for promotion of freedoms

The report of the Committee on Individual Freedoms and Equality: an important step for the promotion of individual freedoms and equality.

Associations and organisations members of the Civil Collective for individual freedoms, mobilised for the achievement of universal human rights, interdependent and indivisible, welcome the publication of the Report of the Committee on Individual Freedoms and Equality, June 12, 2018.

The Collective pays tribute to the Commission for being attentive to the demands of Tunisian civil society, its fights worn by generations of Tunisians for rights, freedoms, equality and non-discrimination.

The Collective praised the committee's efforts to collect and analyze a large number of legal texts, noting the rigorous identification of the inconsistencies of these texts with regard to the Constitution of 27 January 2014, standards and "contemporary orientations" affirmed in the Committee's mandate in the field of freedoms and equality

The collective supports and shares in particular the Committee's proposals on:

- Perfect and effective equality between women and men, parental guardianship, granting of nationality to Tunisian spouses.
- Perfect and effective equality among all children including those born out of wedlock,
- The repeal of articles 226 and 226 bis (relating to crimes of a moral order: attacks on modesty, good morals ...),
- The consolidation of freedom of conscience.
- The criminalisation of all forms of discrimination.
- The clarifications provided in the concept of torture.

The Collective, while acknowledging the quality and importance of these orientations, the collective regrets that certain proposals put into question the indivisibility and absolute nature of human rights, by proposing alternative solutions in place of an outright appeal relating in particular to:

- The death penalty.
- Article 230 of the Criminal Code criminalizing the homosexual act.
- Article 231 of the same code relating to female prostitution.
- Article 236 criminalizing adultery and provisions contrary to the strict equality between men and women in inheritance.

As a result, the Collective calls:

- The President of the Republic, initiator of the Committee on Individual Freedoms and Equality, to grant the hopes created by the creation of this Commission by following up on its recommendations and by introducing draft laws in line with the indivisibility of human rights and their absolute character, advocating complete and effective equality.
- The elected representatives of the people, the political forces, the judiciary to mobilize in order to make the recommendations of the Commission effective and to take the step towards the civil, democratic and solidary State.
- The government, ministries, security agents, public services, to make efforts to achieve these directions.
- All the vital forces of the Nation, civil, political, trade unions, media, citizens to mobilize around these proposals to defend, support and deepen them.

The Collective undertakes to maintain its vigilance with determination, without any concession, for the consecration of all rights and freedoms, which is the only guarantee of the human dignity.

Among the signatory member associations and organisations are:

1. The Tunisian Association for the Defense of Individual Liberties (ADLI)
2. The Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD)
3. The Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH)
4. BEITY Association
5. Tunisia, Association of Tunisian Women for Research and Development (AFTURD)
6. League of Tunisian Women Voters (LET)
7. TAWHIDA BEN CHEIKH Association
8. WAII Association
9. Shams Association
10. DAMJ Association
11. CHOUF Association
12. ADD Association
13. The Tunisian Association of Fight against Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS
14. The Doustourna Network
15. The Tunisian Association of Positive Prevention (ATP+)
16. CALAM Movement
17. MAWJOUNDIN Initiative
18. HORA Association
19. Free Sight Association
20. Coalition for Tunisian Women
21. TAHADDI Association
22. The Tunisian Association of Social Justice and Solidarity
23. Y-Peer Network
24. Fanni Raghman Anni
25. Street Art Association

26. Kelmti Coalition
27. ALSEJINE 52 Initiative
28. Tunisian Association
29. Menamati Association
30. The EuroMed Rights Network
31. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)
32. OXFAM
33. Lawyers Without Borders (ASF)
34. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).