**Initiative Mawjoudin for Equality:**

MAWJOUDIN (Tunisian for We exist) is an officially registered not-for-profit NGO that is based in Tunisia and works towards achieving equality, human rights, bodily rights and sexual rights for the LGBTQI+ community and other marginalized groups and individuals through advocacy, documentation, capacity building, awareness-raising, safe spaces and lobbying.

Homelessness:

Overview:

According to the “LGBTIQ+ People in Tunisia”, a demographic study of the socio-economic situation of LGBTIQ+ people in Tunisia, 13.2% of people identifying as LGBTIQ+ have found themselves homeless at least for a period of time. 12.8% indicated that they had to move at least once in one year, and 2.4% at least 3 times in one year.

Causes:

1. Many are kicked out from their family homes after the family finds out their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
2. Landlords refuse to rent their houses to people with non-normative gender identities and/or expressions.
3. Roommates refuse to share and apartment/room with people with non-normative gender identities and/or expressions.
4. It is difficult for Queer people to find a stable, safe, and Queer friendly space to live in.
5. LGBTIQ+ people suffer from a high level of economic instability, loss of constant income, and lack of stable employment which all lead to the inability to afford safe housing.

Poverty:

Overview:

According to the same report mentioned above, 59.7% of people identifying as LGBTIQ+ rely on other sources of income that employment, such as family allowance. Only 10.8% have a stable monthly income of more than 1000TND (354$).

13.9% of people identifying as cis-gay men have a monthly income lower than 100TND (35.4$).

27.8% of people identifying as cis-lesbian women have a monthly income lower than 100TND (35.4$).

The highest rates of poverty are within the transgender communities. As all people identifying as transgender indicated a monthly income lower than 100TND (35.4$)

Consequences:

1. This affects all other aspects of stability: housing, support system, healthcare, education.
2. Many people identifying as LGBTIQ+, and especially Transgender individuals, tend to go into the informal sex work sector to find a source of income. Relying on survival sex work puts them in dangerous socio-economic situations and in great unsafety.
3. Numbers show that most people identifying as LGBTIQ+ are living in poverty. This brings about a number of risks that threaten their economic, social, mental, and physical stability.

Legislative background and context:

* According to the article 21 of the Tunisian Constitution of 2014: “All citizens, male and female, have equal rights and duties, and are equal before the law without any discrimination. The state guarantees freedoms and individual and collective rights to all citizens, and provides all citizens the conditions for a dignified life.”
* According to the article 42 of the Tunisian Constitution of 2014: “The right to property shall be guaranteed, and it shall not be interfered with except in accordance with circumstances and with protections established by the law. “
* There is no specific text in the constitution or other laws, legislations that guarantee Tunisian citizen their rights to a shelter outside the context of owning property.
* The article 230 of the Tunisian penal code decrees imprisonment of up to three years for private acts of sodomy between consenting adults.
* LGBTIQ+ people are legally persecuted and suffer from socio-economic discrimination as well as being criminalized under the penal code. Therefore there is no legal framework that allow them to claim their basic human right of accessing safe shelter.