

PaykanArtCar Expresses Its Anger Towards Iran's Supreme Leader's Comments On The LGBTQ+ Community

(Washington, D.C.) — PaykanArtCar, a non-profit organisation which collaborates with Iranian artists to advocate for human rights and dignity for all in Iran no matter their race, religion, gender or their sexual orientation, expresses its outrage and consternation at Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's latest diatribe against the LGBTQ+ community.

In a [televised address](#) to the Iranian people, Ali Khamenei - Iran's supreme leader since 1989 - described homosexuality as a widespread symbol of moral deprivation and the Western civilization's ignorance. Equating homosexuality with "moral vice", he accused Western civilisation of being "based on greed" and venality.

Iran's supreme leader has demonstrated deep contempt for and incited violence against the LGBTQ+ community. In [2016](#), Khamenei warned his council of clerics against the "flooding of ravaging moral decay" stemming from the legalization of homosexuality in Western countries. Khamenei railed against the "sexual lust" of the West and claimed there was "no worse form of moral degeneration than homosexuality". He further predicted that homosexuality would directly result in the future legalization of "incest and even worse".

Khamenei's violent, offensive, and outlandish aggressions are a symptom and a cause of the persecutions the Iranian LGBTQ+ community faces on a daily basis. From discrimination in the workplace to capital punishment for homosexual intercourse, the community lives in constant fear of arrest, torture and death. In [January 30, 2022](#), the Iranian regime executed two gay men who had spent six years on death row after being convicted on charges of sodomy. Asked about these blatant abuses of human rights, Iranian foreign minister Mohammed Javad Zarif simply [responded](#) that Iran had "moral principles and lived according to these principles."

In line with the country's leadership, LGBTQ community is also ostracised and brutalised by the wider Iranian population. Gay men and women have been the targets of so-called "honor killings" perpetrated by family relatives. These gruesome murders, ignored and even condoned by the regime, seek to punish a family member deemed to have damaged the family's reputation. Such acts are commonplace in Iran. Less than a year ago, Alireza Fazeli Monfared, a 20-year old gay Iranian man was [beheaded](#) in cold-blood by his brother and cousins after they discovered evidence of his sexuality.

Commenting on Ali Khamenei's chilling remarks on the LGBTQ community, Dr. Hiva Feizi, executive director of PaykanArtCar, said:

"I condemn with the strongest possible terms Ali Khamenei's homophobic, discriminatory and brutal comments. The LGBTQ community has been subject to the regime's bigoted policies and so-called moral principles for too long. The international community must not stay silent. It is time to act to end this gross violation of the rights of the Iranian people."