

Conference Programme

# **Criminalisation of homosexuality: a crime against humanity?**

Location :

**Paris (Nanterre University)**

200 avenue de la République, 92000

Nanterre, Simone Veil building, Auditorium B

**10 April 2025 – 5PM to 8PM**

Online Registration (free): [Click here](#)



Presented by :



Association pour la dépénalisation  
universelle de l'homosexualité

# Testimonies from victims

## **Criminalisation of homosexuality: testimony from Uganda**

Since 2023, in Uganda, consensual same-sex relations are punishable by life imprisonment or even the death penalty following the enactment of the “Kill the Gays” law. Ugandan survivors have agreed to testify about the violence they have endured.

10 min - eng

## **Criminalisation of homosexuality: testimony from Cameroon**

In Cameroon, homosexuality remains criminalised, with those accused facing potential prison sentences. Cameroonian survivors have agreed to testify about the violence they have endured.

10 min - fr

## **Criminalisation of homosexuality: testimony from Afghanistan**

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, anti-LGBTQ+ repression has intensified, growing increasingly violent. Artemis Akbary, an Afghan LGBTQ+ activist, agreed to testify about the situation in his country.

Speaker: **Artemis Akbary**,  
Founder and executive director of Afghanistan LGBTQ+  
10 min - eng

## **The repression of homosexuals in France in the 20th century**

Antoine Idier is a specialist of the history of homosexuality and LGBTQ+ movements. He will discuss the application of article 331 of the French Criminal Code from 1942 to 1982 on indecent or unnatural acts committed with a minor of the same sex.

Speaker: **Antoine Idier**,  
Lecturer at Sciences Po, researcher at CESDIP  
10 min -fr

# Who is to be prosecuted? On what grounds?

## **On what grounds should state agents be prosecuted?**

The Rome Statute defines various crimes against humanity, materialised by acts such as imprisonment and persecution. How can we legally grasp the criminalisation of homosexuality in the light of these crimes, their attempt and their complicity?

Speaker: **Olivier de Frouville**,  
Professor of law at University Paris II Assas  
15 min - eng

## **Which state agents can be prosecuted?**

In a state that criminalises homosexuality, who would be criminally responsible for crimes against humanity against homosexuals? Can we hold those who voted for and signed the law criminally liable or only those who apply it?

Speaker: **Nick Leddy**,  
Head of Litigation at Legal action worldwide  
15 min - eng

## **Is sexual orientation a recognised ground for persecution?**

If the crime of persecution is most appropriate, is sexual orientation a ground for persecution recognised by the Rome Statute? Is persecution based on sexual orientation assimilated to gender-based persecution? Or should we refer to the notion of "criteria universally recognised as inadmissible under international law"?

Speaker: **Valérie Suhr**,  
Doctor in law at Hamburg University  
15 min - eng

# How should the perpetrators be prosecuted? In front of which court?

## **Can the International Criminal Court be seized?**

Does the ICC have jurisdiction *rationae personae*, *rationae loci* and *rationae temporis*? How does the principle of complementarity apply to situations where LGBTQ+ people are victims of atrocity crimes?

Speaker: **Camille Schaltenbrand**,  
International lawyer at Stop Homophobie  
7 min – eng

## **Which national courts can be seized?**

Which courts can victims turn to in order to have crimes against humanity recognised outside the ICC? Interested parties may consider universal/extraterritorial jurisdiction, referral to national prosecutors as victims or extradition of a defendant.

Speaker: **Pepe Onziema**,  
LGBTQ+ and human rights activist, director of programs at SMUG  
15 min – eng

## **Could the French State be held liable for crime against humanity?**

Between 1942 and 1984, more than 30,000 people were imprisoned in France due to their sexual orientation. How can the French State be held liable for these facts?

Speaker: **Benjamin Moron-Puech**,  
Professor of law at Lyon II University  
15 min – fr