

# Joint Statement

The undersigned entities share a commitment to a minimum standard of values that guide our collective work within the Egyptian Queer Movement. This commitment is independent of our various strategies and recognizes that not all entities are obligated to follow our shared values. Yet, we believe that in order to partner or continue partnerships with other groups we require a minimum of those values, and a rejection of abuse culture and its practices in all its shapes and forms: including practices that strip survivors/victims of their agency, reduce their independence or impinge on their bodily integrity. The undersigned will no longer form future partnerships as well as disband any alliances and collaborations with Rainbow Egypt Organization (REO). Additionally, the members of REO are no longer welcome in our physical and digital spaces for the following reasons:

Firstly, participating in abuse culture by spreading the culture of undermining the process of filing abuse complaints, while collectively endeavors have been actively working to address the rampant abuse culture, and create and implement mechanisms to ensure accountability. Meanwhile, members from REO's have systematically published content on their personal social media accounts that have mocked and belittled the process of filing abuse complaints, discouraging people from filing abuse complaints with their organization. These practices normalize abuse culture and undermine processes that attempt to dismantle it.

Secondly, a series of different claims were being circulated digitally, where REO's members were parties in these allegations whether as victims/survivors or perpetrators. These claims included sexual harassment, non-consensual disclosure of gender identities to family members, and psychological abuse. Thus, the undersigned entities, requested the review of REO's accountability mechanisms because it was both worrying and unclear how the organization was handling such incidents, if at all.

Thirdly, a person accused of belittling and shaming other people based on various discriminatory categories is currently employed by REO, despite not completing an accountability investigation with their previous employer.

Our concerns were communicated with REO privately through a letter addressed to its board and director on which we confirmed its privacy (where our intentions from the beginning were amicable). These were the points included in our initial communication: (1) A description of the situations mentioned above that enabled abuse culture, (2) Demanding an immediate cessation of said practices, (3) A request to review REO's policy on abuse culture and accountability processes, (4) Their cooperation in opening an investigation regarding their employee who is accused of belittling and shaming other people based on various discriminatory categories, (5) An invitation for a mediated conversation to address these

incidents and hold accountable the actors responsible to reach a peaceful and healthy environment free from violence through having conversations during a sit-in, (6) Openly share the investigation and accountability processes of each signing entity, and (7) Attempting to critically view and developing these processes.

Following our initial communication with REO's management and board, members of the organization using their personal social media accounts and started announcing points of our original letter and targeting individuals who were part of the undersigned groups. Using different digital platforms, a coordinated and intensive smear campaign was launched, specifically targeting individuals associated with the undersigned groups and those who would address or criticize the organization's policies or asked for accountability. Moreover, our initial letter was portrayed as an attempt by the undersigned to be complicit in the silencing and erasure of a sexual harassment incident. We, the undersigned, have repeatedly confirmed that there is no connection between the notification and the silencing of the harassment case, and we unequivocally support victims/survivors of using victim/survivor centered mechanisms for accountability.

In the spirit of dialogue, we continued to invite REO to engage with us in dialogue despite both the smear campaign and the convenient misconstruction of our intentions regarding the sexual harassment incident. We, the undersigned, are firmly committed to holding our members accountable for any abuse practices. Furthermore, our commitment extends to holding accountable individuals who are active within the Egyptian Queer Movement, those who have made the decision to engage and work as part of the queer movement. Our commitment and practices take into consideration the challenges of our context, our experiences and mistakes. Our last communication with REO was over three months ago and we have yet to receive a response to our requests and REO's members continue their targeted smear campaign and as well as misconstruing the content of our initial correspondence.

We believe in the collective necessity to form and reform accountability processes, apply, learn and develop them. On such note, we welcome any individuals who would like to ask for clarification to communicate with any of the undersigned groups.

### The undersigned groups:

Queer  
Feminist  
Space

AQEO

مساهات  
Mesahat

م مُسْلِم

صالون

حكاوي

بداية  
BEDAYAA

أطياف

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