CHOUF: FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AT GREAT RISK

Created in 2013 in Tunis, Tunisia, Chouf is a Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual (LBT) group that works with LBT women who face discrimination and violence in Tunisian society. Led by young LBT women under 30 years old, the group mobilizes the community and provides important resources on sexual health and legal security, developing their own illustrated guides and audiovisual media like music CDs, books of testimonies, posters, and digital information. Due to the criminalization of homosexuality in Tunisia under Article 230 of the Criminal Code, Chouf is not registered and faces regular online and in person threats to its members’ security. Since the security of its members is one of its biggest concerns, Chouf tries to cope with these difficulties by organizing physical and online security trainings, by protecting the anonymity of its members and by forging relationships with different women’s organizations and networks like the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women. In March 2015, two members of the groups were attacked in the same week.