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| **Lebanese Psychiatric society****Order of Physicians**Beirut – Lebanon | C:\MIND\LPS\LPS logo.jpg | **الجمعية اللبنانية لطب النفس****نقابة اطباء لبنان في بيروت****بيروت – لبنان** |

**Public Statement**

Beirut, 29/06/2022

Over the past weeks we have witnessed statements and counter-statements in the public domain and on social media on the topic of homosexuality in Lebanon. Some of these statements addressed the topic in words that relate to the medical and mental health field. Many of these wrongly claim to be based in science and evidence.

As psychiatrists, we would like to clarify that homosexuality cannot be considered a disease that requires treatment. This is in line with the international consensus within the medical and healthcare community for many decades. It is also consistent with the Lebanese Psychiatric Society position statement issued in 2013.

In terms of social acceptability of any behavior, sexual or otherwise, we recognize that cultural and religious differences in perspective will continue to exist in the foreseeable future. While we encourage a respectful debate on this matter we emphasize the importance of avoiding offensive and threatening language that can put the wellfare and safety of individuals at stake. We also insist on the responsibility of government officials to abide by the Lebanese constitution in protecting human rights from any form of abuse.

As a scientific society representing psychiatrists in Lebanon we are always ready to contribute to any debate within the remit of our expertise as medical professionals and always in the interest of our patients and our society.

**The Executive Committee**

**Lebanese Psychiatric Society**