



The Equal Rights Trust is an independent international organisation whose purpose is to combat discrimination and promote equality as a fundamental human right and a basic principle of social justice.

The Sudanese Organisation for Research and Development is a Sudanese non-governmental organisation, which aims to promote gender equality, justice and democracy and to raise awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities.

Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, sits at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. Sudan itself, recipient of the rich and diverse influences from both northern and sub-Saharan Africa, sits at the confluence of different races, religions and cultures. However, unlike the Nile, whose two branches meet and together form one of the world's mightiest rivers, Sudan remains racked by division and divergence.

This report reveals just how significant the policies of the al-Bashir government are in the metamorphoses of entrenched patterns of discrimination. The regime has sought to diminish the country's immense diversity, in favour of a narrow vision of Sudan as a singularly Arab and Islamic state. This report argues that inequality is the integral root cause of all of Sudan's continuing conflicts. Discrimination on the basis of religion and political opinion is routine and systematic, made worse for non-Arabs, especially from the conflict-ridden periphery: the South, Darfur, and the Eastern states. Women's inequality is sanctioned by discriminatory laws. Lesbian, gay and bisexual persons are condemned to a life underground.

Yet in the midst of this bleak picture, this report finds a source for hope in Sudan's people, many of whom continue to pursue a broader, more diverse and cohesive vision for Sudan.



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