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LGBTQ

# Transgender woman running to become Venezuela president

By **BoredBat Author** July 1, 2023



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Tamara Adrián less than two weeks ago registered as a presidential candidate in the Venezuelan primary,

transgender person in the world to make such a move.

The 69-year-old lawyer, university professor and LGBTQ and intersex rights defender is running to represent political movement and will have to compete with at least 10 other candidates in the country's Oct. 22 primary.

"I am the first transgender in history to officially run in a presidential election," Adrián told the Washington Post.

Whoever wins the primary will have to compete against President Nicolás Maduro in 2024.

Adrián wants to be the person to confront Chavismo in her country.

"We have united all the parties and political forces in Venezuela, from the left to the right, with a common goal of ousting Nicolás Maduro," she explained to the Blade.

For her, it is very important to oust Maduro and help Venezuela get out of the humanitarian and economic crisis that has affected people in the South American country.

Many Venezuelans do not have any food in their homes. A lack of work, low salaries and poor access to services have forced them to migrate to other countries in search of a better life.

Discrimination and violence against LGBTQ and intersex Venezuelans remains commonplace, so Adrián's campaign is a message of hope.

"I am proud to be who I am," she said. "I want any LGBTQ person living in this hostile country to know that they can become a presidential candidate."

"I say the things that no one says," added Adrián, who noted this attribute sets her apart from her conservative political opponents.

One of her main campaign promises will be to work for the inclusion of "people with disabilities, women, LGBTQ+ people, people of African descent, indigenous people, any group that, for whatever reason, has been excluded."

Venezuela's last presidential election took place in 2018, and Venezuelans and the international community's determination provoked the rise of interim President Juan Guaidó who the U.S. and dozens of other countries recognize as president.

Opposition leaders were imprisoned, exiled or disqualified from participating in the election and international observers criticized the process. The National Electoral Council said 46 percent of eligible voters participated in the election, which is far below the electorate did not vote.

"Effectively there are less and less voters in the elections and this has to do with the fact that people are not participating," said Adrián. "There is a feeling that the results will be manipulated and not respected."

She nevertheless stressed Venezuelans must keep trying and demanding transparency in their country's political process. She said united opposition can win elections democratically and focus on building a better future for the country.

"We know that the scenario is difficult but we are not going to lower our arms because we have to put our feet on the ground."

are going with everyone and for everyone.”

