

### CONFLICTS

Going from being a single-party state to a multiparty system post-2011 gave space to political pluralism but also deepened polarisation, especially between Islamic conservatism and secular openness. Perceived increases in levels of socio-economic inequality across regions and classes fuel contention, while youth unemployment and precarious livelihoods sustain recurring protest cycles. Three main conflict lines exist: first, distinct forms of social mobilisation – whether regional or national, spontaneous or coordinated, sectoral or egalitarian – in the face of perceived injustice; second, political divisions over the transition itself and the legitimacy of its institutions; and, third, core identity, namely over to which cultural sphere Tunisia should primarily belong: Arab, Islamic, or Mediterranean.



### THE THREE PILLARS OF PEACE



#### PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

Tunisia is the country with the lowest recorded levels of physical violence featured in the PEACEptions project. Most contentious politics takes the form of non-violent protest- and social movements. Nonetheless, a few highly publicised jihadist attacks and violent crimes have shaken public opinion; the North African country has also experienced limited but stark episodes of political violence in recent decades, including the assassination of left-wing leaders and the lynching of regional figures. In interviews, young people in particular emphasised feelings of marginalisation, the pressures and risks of irregular emigration, and persistent unemployment.



#### HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights struggles are at the heart of Tunisia's conflict landscape. The 2011 uprising was driven by demands for political allowances. Survey data show these concerns remain of central importance. Tunisians rank voting, education, and freedom of expression highest, reflecting hopes that schooling and participation can still offer chances in life. A second cluster of priorities are access to healthcare, peaceful assembly, and secure property ownership, with frustration about deteriorating public-health services strong. Housing, physical security, and jobs also matter, while sexual orientation is largely neglected as a right, signalling strong social taboos. Many say rights are not respected in their community and place more trust in courts, the presidency, army and police than in parliament.



#### CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

National institutions have kept conflict in check without large-scale violence but not without scepticism. The post-2011 transition and Constitution showed that negotiations between parties and civil society can indeed defuse crises. Yet, survey data suggest that almost three-quarters of people think the law is not respected in practice and doubt that equality before it is genuine. Trust clusters around the army, president, police, and courts; parliament, municipal councils, and governors are seen as much weaker guarantors of rights. Civil society and international organisations are viewed as valuable allies in the ongoing struggle to advance human rights discourse. Tunisia's challenge is to turn these aspirations into formal institutions able to protect rights more freely and fairly in practice.

### NOTIONS OF PEACE

For our Survey Results in Tunisia scan:



Fieldwork done between 2019-2022