

Vol. 1  
Fall 2019

# Kaos GL Newsletter

## METU Pride Trial Has Been Postponed: Pride cannot be banned!

*“The ones whose rights were violated now face with trial, but there is no trial for the ones who violated the rights.”*

The first trial of the case opened against 18 students and one academic of Middle East Technical University (METU) on the grounds that they attended METU LGBTI+ Pride March on 10th of May has been held in Ankara 39th Criminal Court of First Instance.

MPs Sezgin Tanrikulu and Sera Kadigil from CHP, representatives from EU Turkey Delegation, Denmark Embassy, Swedish Embassy and Canada Embassy; Amnesty International and Kaos GL Association monitored the case.



For more info, please follow the link: <https://www.kaosgl.org/en/single-news/metu-pride-trial-has-been-postponed-pride-cannot-be-banned>

## Süleyman Soylu Continues Targeting LGBTI+s

27 Nov. 2019

Internal Affairs Minister Süleyman Soylu continues his systematic targeting towards LGBTI+s. During the Assessment Meeting on Terror, Intelligence, Safety and Security, Soylu stated in his speech that “50 LGBTI women, who wants to differentiate the morality and the future of this country, attacked police during 25<sup>th</sup> of November demonstrations in Taksim” and continued “police did not make any intervention”.



For more info, please follow the link: <https://www.kaosgl.org/en/single-news/minister-of-interior-continues-to-point-lgbti-s-as-targets-50-lgbt-women-attacked-police>

## Ombudsperson Şeref Malkoç targeted Istanbul Convention

21.11.2019

Ombudsperson of Turkey, Şeref Malkoç targeted Istanbul Convention (The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) with sexist and homophobic statements. In his interview given to Türkiye Newspaper, he used such statements: “Although it does not express it by name, Istanbul Convention protects formations like LGBT that is contrary to Islam and that deteriorates our family structure”, “the Convention effects family, children, I mean the millions”. Expressing that ‘it is eventually a Convention’, Malkoç stated that the Convention should be reconsidered by Turkey: “If we will receive 50- 100 applications against the Convention, we would organize the necessary meetings about that”.

In the interview, he also stated that applications to Ombudsperson is very easy and they consider everyone who has a complaint. However, Ombudsperson did not assess the application of Pink Life Queer Fest regarding the ban on Queer Shorts movie screening in 2018.

## 20th of November, Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives

were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. In many different cities of Turkey, remembrance events were organized on 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

- Tunceli Municipality Women's Council prepared a poster for 20<sup>th</sup> November and it was hung to the streets: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/dersim-belediyesi-nden-20-kasim-icin-billboardlara-poster>
- METU LGBTI+ Solidarity organized a remembrance by lighting candles to draw attention on transphobic murders in university's stadium: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/odtu-de-20-kasim-icin-mumlu-anma>
- Kocaeli LGBTI+ Initiative gathered for TDOR and made a press statement: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/kocaeli-de-20-kasim-sokaktayiz-her-yerdeyiz-ve-hicbir-yere-gitmeyecegiz>
- Antalya Human Rights Foundation (İHD) and Antalya BİZ LGBTI+ Association organized a gathering and made a press release for TDOR: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/antalya-da-20-kasim-susma-haykir-translar-vardir>
- Denizli LGBTI+Family Group organized a street gathering for TDOR and made a press release: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/denizli-de-20-kasim-bir-kisi-daha-eksilmeyecegiz>
- Pink Life LBGT Association organized a two-day event for TDOR in Istanbul on 23-24 November. In the event, transfeminism, criticism of trans exclusive radical feminism (TERF), intersex rights, trans visibility and Misdemeanor Law were discussed: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/pembe-hayat-in-20-kasim-etkinlikleri-basliyor>
- İzmir Bar Association made a call for TDOR together with LGBTI+ organization in the city and they organized a march after their press release. Police tried to intervene in the event, but lawyers negotiated with the police and march could take place: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/fail-egemenin-korukledigi-yaratilmayacalisilan-transfobidir>
- İzmir Metropolitan Municipality also organized a special program for TDOR including a movie screening and a panel discussion with LİSTAG: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/izmir-buyuksehir-belediyesi-20-kasim-etkinlik-programini-duyurdu>
- İstanbul Şişli Municipality prepared posters and published a special video for TDOR: <https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/sisli-belediyesi-nden-20-kasim-videosu>



## LGBTI+ Agenda of Turkey in Fall 2019

### Ban on 3rd Queer Olympix was brought to trial

31 Oct. 2019

Queer Olympix is an LGBTI+ sports initiative aiming to bring LGBTI+s together to play sports without discrimination. Olympix planned to be organized for third time this year has been banned by Kadıköy District Governorate on the grounds as protecting public morality, security and social order. After the ban, SPoD (Social Policies, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Association) has stated that this is the violation of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and decided to bring the case to trial.

### Decision of sentence from the trial of İstanbul Pride March of 2018

17 Oct. 2019

2 people were sentenced at the end of the trial of 6 people that were detained in the 2018 Pride March, which the police attacked. The committee announced it would appeal the decision through lawyers.

For more info, please follow the link: <https://www.kaosgl.org/en/single-news/decision-of-sentence-from-the-trial-of-istanbul-pride-march-of-2018>

### Hacettepe University Rectorate banned Queer Deer booth

2 Oct. 2019

During the opening season of Hacettepe University, Rectorate did not allow Queer Deer, an official students club, to open their advertising booth by showing Ankara Governorate's ban on LGBTI+ events as a ground. Like any other student's club in the campus, Queer Deer wanted to open a booth to give information about their club and distribute informative brochures. However, private guards of the university did not allow the booth to be opened and they seized the brochures.

### Kaos GL's International Memory and History Conference was held in Izmir

30 Sept. 2019

Kaos GL Association's International Memory and History Conference was held in Izmir on September 27-29.

The International Memory and History Conference that set off with the call of "Maybe the story that is being told is your story too. Maybe we are tracing something together, maybe we sang songs told stories to leave a trace. With respects to the ones that we walked together, to our separating paths, and to lives that gushes from letters..."

For more info, please follow the link: <https://www.kaosgl.org/en/single-news/what-was-discussed-at-the-international-memory-and-history-conference>

### Diyarbakır Bar Association LGBTI+ Rights Commission established!

26 Sept. 2019

The Diyarbakır Bar Association established the LGBTI+ Rights Commission to combat hate speech and hate crimes against LGBTI+.

For more info, please follow the link: <https://www.kaosgl.org/en/single-news/diyarbakir-bar-association-lgbti-rights-commission-established>

## CONTACT INFO

If you would like to make comments, suggestions or complaints, you may reach Kaos GL Association via email: [bilgi@kaosgldernegi.org](mailto:bilgi@kaosgldernegi.org)

You may find our social media accounts as follows:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KaosGL>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KaosGL94/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kaosgl/>

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## **Kaos GL Association**

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

Tunus PTT PK:12

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