

TİHEK's unlawful decision was annulled

13.12.2019

In the last August, two trans women were not allowed to stay in Ankara Cinnah Hotel and openly discriminated by the hotel personnel due to their gender identity. Pink Life Association, then, brought the case to Turkish Human Rights and Equality Institution (TİHEK) on the grounds of discrimination. However, TİHEK as a state institution that is supposed to guarantee the equality among citizens rejected Pink Life's application by saying that "gender identity cannot be regarded as a discrimination ground".

Pink Life Association applied to Administrative Court against TİHEK's decision. In the application, Pink Life explained their concerns that the decision was not approved by the commission; the signature under the decision belongs to vice chairperson instead of the Chair; and, the most importantly, it was said in the decision that the incident is out of their authority, because gender identity cannot be regarded as a discrimination ground.

Administrational Court annulled TİHEK's decision on the grounds that "the decision is unlawful, and discrimination based on gender identity must be considered as a discrimination ground".

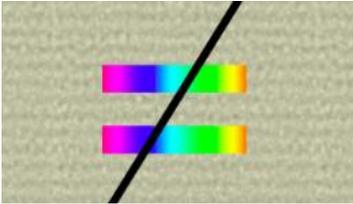
<https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/tihék-in-hukuksuz-kararına-iptal>

HDP MP brought hate crimes against LGBTI+s to Parliament

25.12.2019

People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Züleyha Gülüm brought hate crimes against LGBTI+s to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Gülüm's speech is as follows:

"Government provides the ground for direct or indirect hate speech and they protect those who committed this crime. They make Turkish people enemy with any other ethnical and religious minorities, and, similarly, they make society enemy to LGBTI+s. LGBTI+s are the ones who are exposed to hate crimes with such narratives "pervert and immoral". In 2016, trans woman Hande Kader was burnt to death. Another trans woman Defne living in Afyon was murdered by her boyfriend. Didem Akay, a transwoman, committed suicide because of the oppressions she has faced. Transwoman Gökçe Saygı living in Antalya was killed at her home with seven stabs in her back. In Ankara Eryaman, transgender



people were exposed to systematic violence and looting. Turkey is 9th in Europe regarding transgender murders.”

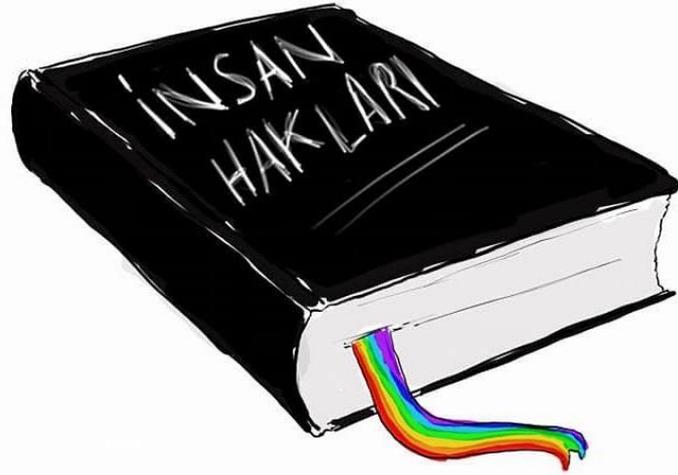
10th December Human Rights Day

Kadıköy City Council LGBTI+ Commission published a message for Human Rights Day:

“Today is the 71th anniversary of the acceptance of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, due to the lack of regulations protecting LGBTI+s Turkish judicial system and lack of public policies in this field, LGBTI+ rights violations continue.

“Struggle against the discrimination towards LGBTI+s is the responsibility of local governments as much as the central government. LGBTI+s should be involved in the governance mechanisms through city councils, and we have to make social policies through equality units of the municipalities.

“LGBTI+ rights are human rights. Happy Human Rights Day!”



Drawing: Aslı Alpar / “Human Rights”

LGBTI+ Families: Everyone has right to live freely!

Ankara Rainbow Families Association, LİSTAG LGBTI+ Families and Relatives Association, Akdeniz Antalya Families Group, İzmir LGBTI+ Families Group and Denizli LGBTI+ Families Group made a press releas for 10th of December Human Rights Day:

“... Almost every day in Turkey, we face with discriminative and hateful speeches towards LGBTI+s. Even the highest-level bureaucrats who are supposed to protect fundamental rights and freedoms stigmatize LGBTI+s as unnatural and perverts, and they openly target the community.

“There is a huge smear campaign against Istanbul Convention which is the only treaty that Turkey is a party and that openly protecting LGBTI+s. They target our children again and again by saying that they are threat to family structure.

“We, as the mothers, fathers, siblings and relatives of LGBTI+s, sincerely believe that every human being are born free regarding their rights and dignity.

“Everyone has right to live freely under the rainbow!”

1st December HIV/ AIDS Awareness Day

CSOs working in HIV/ AIDS field visited Çankaya Municipality for 1st of December

04.12.2019

In the scope of 1st of December World AIDS Day, CSOs working in the fields of HIV/AIDS, LGBTI+, women and youth visited Çankaya Municipality on 4th of December. Representatives from Kaos GL, Red Umbrella, Pink Life, Pozitif-İz, Pozitif Yaşam, Y-Peer and Flying Broom met with Çankaya Municipality Voluntary HIV Consultancy and Testing Center staff in their center.



Press release from Y-PEER Turkey and Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence for 1st of December

Y-PEER Turkey and Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence (CŞMD) made a joint statement after the HIV-phobic social media lynch carried out towards CŞMD's HIV awareness campaign "I do not have to disclose my HIV status":

"Assumptions like 'HIV people spread the virus while they are hiding their HIV status' or such comments we face after our HIV awareness campaign are the examples of the stigmatization, criminalization and targeting of HIV+ people. We hope that such prejudices and discrimination towards HIV+ people would be reconsidered.

Reminding the differences between HIV and AIDS and the importance of protection while sexual intercourse, the associations highlighted that disclosing someone's HIV status without their content is the violation of right to privacy and disclosing the status completely people's own decision. Emphasizing the importance of taking test regularly, they also highlighted that state institutions have to provide anonymous and free test centers.

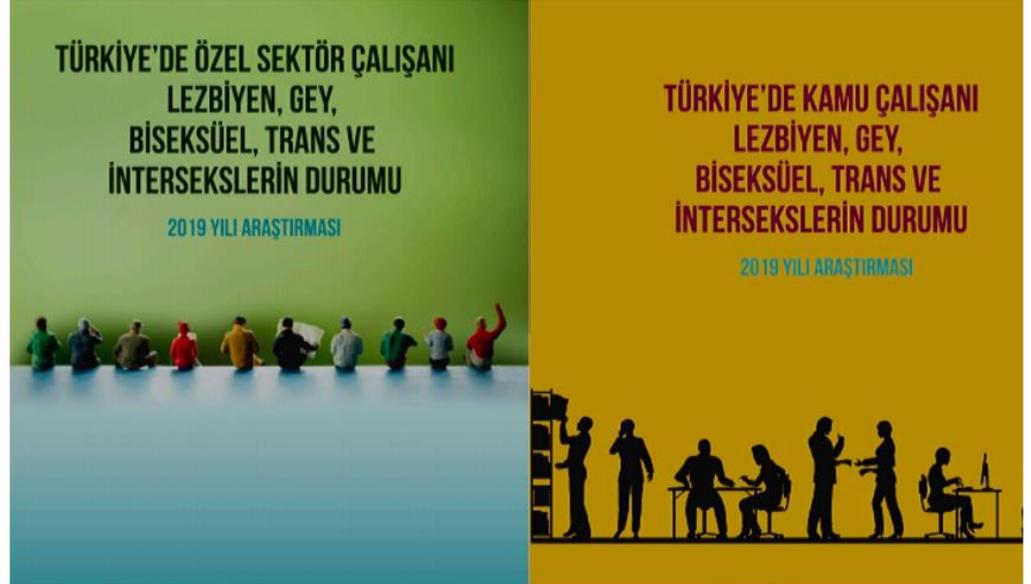




LGBTI+ Agenda of Kaos GL in December 2019

Two Reports on the Situation of LGBTI+s in Public and Private Sector in Turkey have been published by Kaos GL and Kadir Has University

10.12.2019



Kaos GL Association and Kadir Has University Gender and Women's Studies Center have published and presented annual LGBTI+ employment reports.

The research reports, "Situation of LGBTI+s Working in Public Sector" and "Situation of LGBTI+s Working in Private Sector", were prepared by Prof. Dr. Melek Göregenli, Prof. Dr. Mary Lou O'Neil, Dr. Reyda Ergün, Dr. Selma Değirmenci and Doğançan Erkengel and edited by Murat Köylü from Kaos GL Association.

Turkish Association of Social Workers established LGBTI+ Rights Commission

05.12.2019

On 21th of November, Turkish Association of Social Workers (SHUDER) established LGBTI+ Rights Commission which aims to raise awareness on sexual orientation and gender identity, to become a tool for LGBTI+ clients to reach rights and services equally, to stand in solidarity with all social workers and learn together, and to build a non-heteronormative social work field.

In the long-term, the Commission aims to organize meetings, workshops, trainings, case-study exchanges on LGBTI+ terms and rights together with LGBTI+ based CSOs and the institutions that have LGBTI+ related units and commissions.

Turkey's First Bisexual Digital Activism Platform: Bitopya

23.12.2019

Bitopya, the first digital bi+ policy platform in Turkey, imagines a world without LGBTI+ phobia, sexism, heteronormativity, misogyny, nationalism/racism, speciesism. In the website, there are informative contents related to bisexual history and health, and they update the content with translations and individual essays.

You may reach the website [here](#).

“Turkey’s Challenge with LGBTI+ Refugees” Report has been published by Kaos GL Association

04.12.2019



Kaos GL Association’s Refugee Program has published its latest report named *Turkey’s Challenge with LGBTI+ Refugees* in two languages in December 2019. The report was dedicated to Syrian gay refugee Muhammed Wisam Sankari who was murdered due to a hate crime.

The report published in the scope of “Advancing Human Rights of LGBTI+ Refugees in Turkey” project carried out with UNCHR aims to draw attention on the problems of LGBTI+ refugees living in Turkey while they access the fundamental rights and services as well as multi-discriminations they faced based on their SOGI.

For more information, you can reach the report [here](#).

Iranian LGBTI+ Refugees drew cartoons against heterosexism

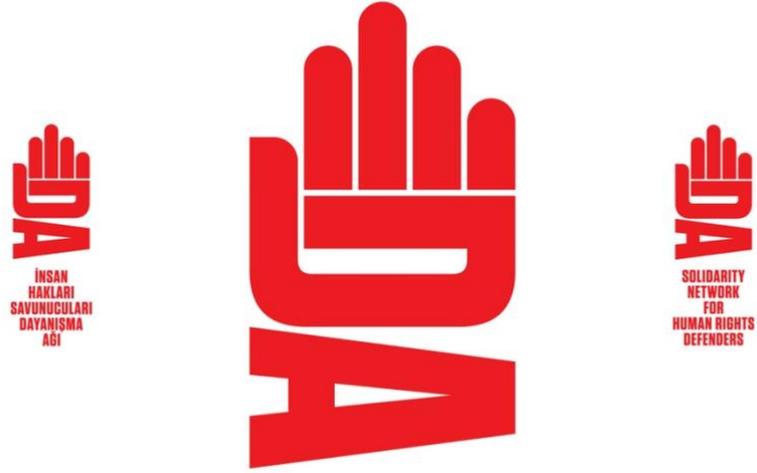
02.12.2019

In the scope of Kaos GL Refugee Program, Aslı Alpar from Kaos GL Media Team and Emre Yılmaz from Karikatür Atölyesi organized a queer cartoon workshop for LGBTI+ refugees living in Denizli and Yalova. During the workshop, they discussed that in the hegemony of heterosexism and binary gender order any cartoon can be funny, and this cannot be ‘humor’. After the discussions, they taught the basic cartoon techniques to refugees and workshop continued with drawing. During drawing session, refugees reflected discriminations they have faced in a queer way in their cartoons.



Solidarity Network for Human Rights Defenders has just been established!

17.12.2019



The Solidarity Network for Human Rights Defenders came together to struggle against the direct/ indirect oppressions towards human rights defenders and human rights organizations in Turkey will work together with the rights-based human rights organizations.

Organizations in the network are as follows: Kaos GL, Amnesty Turkey, Civil Rights Defenders, Monitoring for Equal Rights (Eşit Haklar için İzleme Derneği), Human Rights Association (IHD), Hakikat Adalet Hafıza Merkezi, Hak İnisyatifi Derneği, Human Rights Agenda Association, The Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA), Sivil Alan Araştırmaları Derneği, Turkish Human Rights Foundation (TİHV), Yaşam Bellek Özgürlük Derneği, and Citizens Assembly.

<https://www.kaosgl.org/haber/insan-haklari-savunucularina-yonelik-tum-tacizlere-derhal-son-verilmesini-talep-ediyoruz>

LGBTI+ rights were on the agenda of Çankaya Municipality's 25th November events

Ankara - Çankaya Municipality Equality Unit and Women Directorate organized a panel on "Violence and Struggling Mechanisms" on 27th of November for 25th November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

In the event, Ankara Rainbow Families Group had a panel session on LGBTI+ children and the notion of family. The panel session was moderated by Seçin Tuncel from Kaos GL.

CONTACT INFO

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

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Kaos GL Association

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

Tunus PTT PK:12

Çankaya, ANKARA