

Vol. 3  
January 2020

# Kaos GL Newsletter

## Despite the ongoing oppressions, Turkey denied the LGBTI+ rights violations at Universal Periodic Review

29.01.2020

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey replied the recommendations and criticisms of 16 countries at United Nations Universal Periodic Review. During the UPR process, Turkey denied the systematic bans on LGBTI+ events and demonstration.



Although there has been a ban on LGBTI+ events in Ankara for more than two years; consecutive bans on Istanbul Pride March since 2015; bans declared last year on Mersin, Izmir and Antalya Pride Marches and ban on Queer Olympix sports event, Deputy Minister Faruk Kaymakçı claimed that LGBTI+s have freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration rights in Turkey.

Kaos GL's lawyer Kerem Dikmen commented on Turkey's replies on KaosGL.org: "Such manipulative attitudes aim at pretending as if they replied rather than directly replying the questions. This is a common strategy used by the countries whose human rights reports were full of violations. They create their own realities to hide the current situation".

For detailed info, you may check the detailed news from the links: [1](#) and [2](#)

## According to Public Prosecutors, saying “honourless faggots” is freedom of expression

15.01.2020

On September, a well-known pro-government newspaper Yeni Akit targeted Izmir Youth LGBTI+ Association’s event by using such expression “honourless faggots”, “descendants of the People of Lut”, “homosexual perverts”.

Later on, Kerem Dikmen, lawyer of Izmir Youth LGBTI+, brought the hate speech to the court on the grounds that a certain segment of the society is degraded relying on the differences of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and so on. In the court case, Yeni Akit defended themselves by saying that “these events are supported by Western societies and international organizations”, “normalization of homosexuality would cause serious problems in the society”, and “disapproval of such events is the most natural rights”.

Public prosecutors of the case considered the hate speech as just a “criticism” and decided that there is no need for prosecution.

## Court case of Mersin Pride ban was rejected

14.01.2020

Last year, Mersin Governorate banned any LGBTI+ events for 20 days including the Mersin Pride Week on the grounds of “protection of public morality, public health, public order and as such”. Then, Muamma LGBTI+ Association took the decision to the court by declaring that since 2015 Mersin Pride took place without any problem and this is the violation of freedom of expression and assembly.

Mersin 1<sup>st</sup> Administrational Court rejected the court case application of Muamma LGBTI+ by repeating the same grounds with the Governorate’s ban. Another reason of the decision was indicated that “IS terrorist organization may react to the event” and “it may cause provocations by some radical segments of the society”.

Muamma LGBTI+ Association will request for appeal regarding the unlawful decision.

## Closure decision of Hande Şeker’s case was removed

13.01.2020

Hande Buse Şeker, a transwoman sex worker living in Izmir, was killed at her home in January 2019. After the murder, the murderer police officer Volkan Hicret extorted her, raped her death body and he also wounded Hande’s flat mate while running away. Later on, a case was opened against the murderer Volkan Hicret in Izmir 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Penal Court. The court had decided the case to be tried closed.

Before the trial on 13<sup>th</sup> January, Hande Şeker’s lawyers made a statement that they request to remove the closure decision and hold the hearings open. In order to draw attention on the issue, lawyers and LGBTI+ human rights defenders started a social media campaign on Twitter with the hashtag #HandeŞekerİçinAdalet (#JusticeForHandeŞeker). Finally, the social media campaign and the request of the lawyers worked, and in the trial on 13<sup>th</sup> January, the court removed this decision.

One of Hande Şeker's lawyers and the lawyer of Kaos GL, Kerem Dikmen stated that "Open trial is the requirement of right to a fair trial. People who were exposed to hate crimes need to follow the case closely. Therefore, it is an important decision for public to be able to monitor the case."



"Transgender murders are political"

## A gay employee was fired from Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

08.01.2020

Erkan Altay started his job in White Table at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) in December 2019. After signing the contract, İBB's doctor asked him about his reason of exemption from the military service. After saying that the reason was that he is gay, he also told this to his director and a problematic process started for him.

One week later, while he was in a training session with other new employees, his director wanted to talk to him. The Director and two HR staff told him that they believe that he would be unhappy here and this job is not compatible with his qualities.

After he told the discrimination to KaosGL.org, many people reacted to İBB's right violations. Later on, İBB directors contacted him and said that he will be contacted by them again in one week and he will be re-employed. However, as Altay said nobody contacted him as well as he was removed from the communication channels of the municipality staff.

You may reached the detailed news from the [link](#).



## LGBTIQ+ Agenda of Kaos GL in December 2019

### “Rainbow Knows No Borders” is recently published

Kaos GL Magazine has published a special issue with the theme "Rainbow Knows No Borders" with the contributions of LGBTIQ+ refugees living in Turkey.

The magazine, which is published under the editorship of the Refugee Rights Program of the association that aims to easing the access to basic rights, official bodies and social networks in cities where LGBTIQ+ refugees living in Turkey resides, consists of refugee writers' and illustrators' contributions.

The special issue of the magazine "Rainbow No Borders" has been published in [Arabic](#), [Persian](#) and [English](#).



### Rainbow Knows No Borders



### “Trans prisoners are being held in cells despite ‘not eligible for solitary’ reports”

22.01.2020

January 22nd is the International Day of Solidarity with Trans Prisoners. This day covers events organized to draw attention to the rights violations faced by trans prisoners since 2016 and to raise awareness about the rights of trans prisoners.

Trans prisoners in Turkey are blocked from sex reassignment surgeries, their healthcare rights are being violated. The discriminatory attitude of prison workers and administration aggravates the prison conditions for transgenders.

Prisons organized according to the binary gender system mean systematic and endless isolation for trans prisoners...

On January 22, we talked with Hilal Başak Demirbas, The Monitoring Evaluation Coordinator of the Civil Society in Penal System Association, about the status of trans prisoners within the scope of the Day Of Solidarity With Trans Prisoners.

One way to prevent rights violations experienced by trans prisoners in prisons is through the collaboration of decision-making mechanisms with LGBTI+ prisoners and non-governmental organizations working in the field, Demirbaş says.

### **METU LGBTI+ Solidarity is now in EuroPride!**

12.01.2020

EuroPride (EPOA) [announced on Twitter](#) that they included METU LGBTI+ Solidarity as the organizer of METU Pride March in their Pride network. In their tweet, they also indicated that they will continue supporting METU LGBTI+'s legal processes:

“We're proud and humbled to welcome METU LGBTI+ Solidarity, the organisers of METU Pride in Ankara, Turkey, as a member of EPOA. We continue to support them in the ongoing legal proceedings they face for 'illegally' organising a Pride. #DefendMETUPride”

EPOA is an association established in order to support local and national pride marches in Europe, and to provide opportunities for its member for planning, promoting and networking fields. For now, METU LGBTI+ Solidarity is the only member organization of EPOA from Turkey.



### **The first time in Turkey: A transwoman was employed as an official driver in Avclar Municipality**

03.01.2020

Transgender activist Niler Albayrak was employed as a driver in Istanbul Avclar Municipality. She talked to KaosGL.org about the situation:

“I am so happy with this development. I used to work as a sex worker, but I do not want to do it anymore... I would like to say to trans people ‘do not give up on struggling’. We should keep in my that without a struggle, nothing is going further.”

Albayrak used to work as the director of CHP (Republican People's Party) Avcılar Province organization. In 2015 elections, she applied for being presumptive nominee for being an MP from CHP in Istanbul 3<sup>rd</sup> region.

### **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:



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## **Kaos GL Association**

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

Tunus PTT PK:12

Çankaya, ANKARA