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February 2020

# Kaos GL Newsletter

*“Open-ended and indiscriminate bans, such as the ban on LGBTI-related activities in Ankara, which clearly contradict the right to freedom of assembly and association enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, are unacceptable and must be immediately discontinued.”*

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## Commissioner for Human Rights: LGBTI bans are unacceptable and must be immediately discontinued

20.02.2020

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, underlined the need to end LGBTI+ bans in Turkey in her country visit report.

In the report published on 19th February, Mijatović calls on the Turkish authorities to restore judicial independence and stop the practice of targeting human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists and silencing them by using administrative and judicial actions.

For the detailed news, click [here](#).



## Susma Platform started a campaign towards the government of Turkey: #AcceptUNRecommendations

Susma Platform that is an independent platform aiming to gather different fields of civil society against censorship started a social media campaign in order Turkey to accept country recommendations given during Universal Periodic Review.

Urging the government of Turkey that “Turkey should accept the recommendations that would provide the development of human rights, media freedom and cultural and artistic freedom of expression”, the Platform started

the social media campaign with the hashtag #BMTavsiteleriKabulEdilsin (#AcceptUNRecommendations).



The entire SOGIESC related recommendations, made by 16 states during Turkey's third cycle, were compiled by ILGA World and can be found in the [link](#). Kaos GL translated the recommendations and advanced questions into [Turkish](#).

## **Vegan transwoman prisoner's hunger strike was ended after her requests were fulfilled**

21.02.2020

According to the [report](#) of Pink Life Association, İda Koçak, a vegan trans woman prisoner imprisoned in Ankara Sincan Type L prison, began to hunger strike due to being persistently served non-vegan meals in the mid-February.

The Pink Life Association, which began to work on the subject, contacted the psychosocial service of the prison in Sincan, Ankara and requested comprehensive information on the subject. With the announcement of the harassment that the trans prisoner has exposed to through social media accounts, anti-hate groups began to react. People who share with the hashtag #İdayaSesVer were calling for this unlawfulness to end as soon as possible.

Besides many human rights organization and civil society, HDP Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu also supported the social media campaign on his [official twitter account](#).

Thanks to huge reactions from LGBTI+ community, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of her hunger strike, prison administration accepted her requests and she has ended the hunger strike.

## Transwoman Esra Ateş's murderer was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment

31.01.2020

Transwoman Esra Ateş was [brutally murdered](#) in front of her house in 25 August 2018. The murderer Olcay Saka stabbed her and cut her throat. After the incident, he was caught by the police.

For two years, LGBTI+ organizations have been following the trials closely. The murderer Saka attempted to use unjust provocation and self-defense to reduce his sentence. However, in the fourth and final trial taken place in Istanbul 5<sup>th</sup> Criminal Court in January 2020, the murderer Saka was sentenced to the lifelong imprisonment at first. Considering the potential negative impacts of the sentence on the life of the murderer, the court reduced sentence to 25 years. Additionally, after the murder, Saka stole Esra Ateş's phone; therefore, he was sentenced to an additional 4 years and 2 months imprisonment.

## Hate Crime against LGBTI+s from New Welfare Party

17.02.2020

New Welfare Party (Yeniden Refah Partisi), a highly conservative political party established in 2018, committed a hate crime by targeting LGBTI+s during their demonstration in Kadıköy, Istanbul. They organized the demonstration against Istanbul Convention and gender equality, and used such expressions: "We gathered here to curse Istanbul Convention and its defenders".

During the demonstration, the gathered crowd used two mannequins dressed up as bride and groom. In their statement, they used homophobic and transphobic hate speech against LGBTI+s like: "God curse the man looking like women", "Islam forbids homosexuality, it is not natural", "the ones who changed their gender cannot reproduce", etc.



"He was my military service body, now he is my wife" written in the banner



## LGBTIQ+ Agenda of Kaos GL in December 2019

### 17 May Association was established!

27.02.2020

Ankara has now a new LGBTIQ+ association: 17<sup>th</sup> of May Association aims to strengthen LGBTIQ+ community and activism under increasing oppressions against the community. Association's name comes from 17 May the Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the list of "international disease categories" in 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1990.



Founders of the association consist of the LGBTIQ+ activists and professionals working on this field. Working fields of the association will be providing support to LGBTIQ+ organizations and activists, young LGBTIQ+s, elder LGBTIQ+s, sexual health, etc.

The association can be reach through the mail [17mayisdernegi@gmail.com](mailto:17mayisdernegi@gmail.com) and from the following social media accounts:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/17mayis>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/17mayisdernegi>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/17mayisdernegi/>

### Mahmut Şefik Nil Meeting Hall is now open!

17 May Association dedicated the name of its meeting hall to Mahmut Şefik Nil who was one of the founders of Kaos GL Association. The meeting hall will be used together with Ankara Rainbow Families Association and Aramızda Association. The meeting hall is aimed to be a center for gender studies and events.



## Free and anonymous HIV test center project from Pozitif-İz

19.02.2020

In the scope of “Facilitating HIV Testing and Diagnosis Process for LGBTI+ Persons” project, Pozitif-İz Association established an HIV test center in Fatih, Istanbul where people can be tested free and anonymously.

The ones who want to get the test can reach Pozitif-İz Association from the number 0543 241 41 03 or via email [info@pozitifiz.org](mailto:info@pozitifiz.org) and get an appointment.

## Kimlik bilgilerinizi vermeden, ücretsiz ve hızlı HIV testi!

Türkiye’de on binlerce insan HIV ile yaşamaktadır ama test yaptırmadığı için HIV pozitif olduğunu bilmemektedir.

**Erkeklerle cinsel ilişkiye giren erkeklere özel;**

Kimlik bilgilerinizi vermeden,  
ücretsiz ve hızlı  
HIV testi,

Test öncesinde ve  
sonrasında  
danışmanlık,

30 dakikada  
sonuç,

Her cumartesi  
10:00-17:00  
arasında.

Detaylı bilgi ve randevu için: 0543 241 41 03 / [info@pozitifiz.org](mailto:info@pozitifiz.org)



Pozitif-iz Derneği

## Uni Kuir Association has just been established!

14.02.2020

On 14<sup>th</sup> of February, Uni Kuir Association (University, Queer Studies and LGBTI+ Solidarity Association) was established in order to combat the problems of LGBTI+s in universities. The association summarizes their field of work as follows:

“In any field where young queer and LGBTI+ people, in the universities in particular, we march against the oppression created by SOGI based discrimination, gender inequality, transphobia, homophobia, biphobia, discrimination against sex workers, hate speech and binary gender system, and we extend our struggle.



“We announce that we have established our association and work in order to struggle against psychological, physical, economic and sexual violence that LGBTI+s were exposed to, to take necessary measures against the

stigmatization and social isolation of the community as well as to support a society based on equality and human rights.”

### **ZeugMadi LGBTI Organization calls for volunteers for Pride events in Gaziantep**

Yusuf Gülsevgi from ZeugMadi LGBTI which has been active in Gaziantep since 2013 talked to KaosGL.org regarding their plans for Pride this year. Gülsevgi told that last year their press release that they were planning to read during Pride celebration was banned by Gaziantep Governorate just one day before the events. Gülsevgi also stated that they were targeted by conservative groups, so they cancelled the events.

Gülsevgi said: “In spite of all those oppressions, we want to celebrate Pride week in Gaziantep. We want to organize a meeting for local organizations as well as trips, interviews, panels and parties. For this, we call for volunteers.”

In order to reach ZeugMadi, you may visit their social media account [here](#).

### **Pozitif Yaşam Association’s anonymous and free HIV test center is now open in Ankara!**

10.02.2020

Since 2005, Pozitif Yaşam Association has been working for HIV+ people and their relatives in order them to reach correct and actual information, safe and secure health care services and to inform them about their rights. The association is now in Ankara.

In the Ankara Support Center, they will provide free peer consultancy, psychosocial support and legal consultancy. The center will be open everyday at 10.00 – 18.00 and they can be reached through the number 0 (312) 468 17 04.

**POZİTİF YAŞAM DERNEĞİ**  
**ANKARA DESTEK MERKEZİ**  
**AÇILDI!**  
**0312 468 17 04**

Ankara Destek Merkezimizde vaka takibi, akran danışmanlığı, psiko-sosyal destek, hukuki danışmanlık hizmetleri verilecektir.

## **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](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)

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## **Kaos GL Association**

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

Tunus PTT PK:12

Çankaya, ANKARA