

Vol. 5  
March 2020

# Kaos GL Newsletter

## The Second blanket ban on LGBTI+ events in Ankara has also been lifted!

24.03.2020

2nd Administrative Court of Ankara ruled in the case of the Kaos GL Association on the "second indefinite ban on LGBTI+ activity" in the capital of Turkey. The court ruled that the second ban on LGBTI+ activities in Ankara, which was declared by the letter conveyed to the Police Department by the Governor's Office of Ankara on October 3, 2018, was against the law and canceled the ban.

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*"The provision that was based on the same reasons as the proceedings in the emergency period which was found against the law by the verdict of the court, but inured after the emergency period as a difference, is against the law".*

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2nd Administrative Court has requested that the Governorate to submit reports, investigations, information on the prohibition that they have issued in accordance with this article. The Governor's Office of Ankara was unable to provide any concrete documents to the court, arguing that the illegal decision of them was in accordance with "the judgment of the administrative chiefs on the incidents or the assessments on the related intel info"



For details of the court decision and the chronology of the ban, please follow the [link](#).

## Human Rights violations from police forces during Ankara 8 of March Night March

On 8th of March, feminists organized a march in Sakarya Square like they do every year. However, this time police forces tried to unlawfully prevent any banner or flag including RAINBOW!

In the entrance points, they stopped people carrying rainbow flags, and they did not let them in the square by saying “the flag is illegal”. There was also a case that two police officers stole an activists rainbow flag while they were walking in the march. Police also arbitrarily tried to stopped transgender/ non-binary people to enter the square.

Kaos GL’s Lawyer Kerem Dikmen says: “There have to be a court decision or a law, if they want to ban a flag in such cases. However, there is any law, regulation or court decision for rainbow flag in Turkey; therefore, this arbitrary action of the police forces was completely unlawful.”

“While they were not letting people to carry rainbow flags, they violated the freedom of expression. This violation also includes the hate motivation. Lastly, I can say that the last flag to be banned is the rainbow flag. You can ban it during an event, but you cannot stop rainbow after the rain.”



## Refugee LGBTI+’s at the border: “Everyone forgot about us”

The refugee LGBTI+ stuck on the Turkish-Greek border told their experiences to KaosGL.org: *"We always had difficulty living in Turkey. They forced us to the border this time. We don't want to live here anymore."*



Refugees have been trying to survive in difficult conditions since February 28th. The Greek side of the border is closed, and Greek police are occasionally attacking those waiting in the area between the border gates with gas bombs. Meanwhile, Turkish police do not allow refugees who want to return. Refugees waiting in Turkey are dealing with hunger, thirst, cold, police and military police...

Among those waiting at the border, there are refugee LGBTI+'s too. The refugee LGBTI+'s who we interviewed before said, "[They forced us to the border, we want to leave now](#)" and explained the difficulties they experienced.

The refugee LGBTI+s we interviewed again said that the wait is getting harder and harder. For the second interviews, you may check out [the links](#).

### **Collective bargaining agreement in Tunceli Municipality: Sanctions to Homophobia and transphobia**

Genel-İş Trade Union and Tunceli Municipality made a collective agreement. In the agreement signed on 16th of March, there are sanctions to homophobia and transphobia. If a worker have homophobic/ transphobic attitudes, they have to plant 150 trees and take care of them. They also have to get gender equality trainings.

Based on the declaration of women in all forms of violence against women, 50 percent of the salary of the violator will be paid to the woman. If women staff participated in 25 November and 8 March events, they will be considered as paid leave after the event.

## Children's Books were destroyed due to “encouraging homosexuality”

17.03.2020

Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services requested the books, *Declaration of The Rights of Girls* and *Declaration of The Rights of Boys*, to be reviewed by the Board for the Protection of Minors from Obscene Publications. The report, prepared as part of the review carried out by a 5-person delegation, included [homophobic statements](#); "includes expressions and visuals that encourage homosexuality and change stereotypes on child development".

While the prohibition on printing, distribution and sales of books was imposed, the books printed were confiscated and destroyed. The book's translator was also indicted on the grounds of 'Mediating the Spread of Obscene Publications'. The translator, who is being sued for up to 3 years in prison, will appear before a judge in the Criminal Court of the First Instance in the coming days.

After the incident, The Board of Directors of the Professional Association of Translators (Çevbir) [issued a statement](#).

The Turkish Publishers' Association, The PEN and the Writers' Union of Turkey [issued a joint statement](#).

## The homophobic doctor was sued for "abuse of duty"

02.03.2020

In July 2018, Dr. N.K.Ö. working at Urology Polyclinic at Istanbul Maltepe State Hospital discriminated his patient due to their sexual orientation during medical examination. After that doctor used homophobic expressions about his patient in his social media account like “no limit with queerness”, “I think he advertise his ass”, and he also share the patient’s personal information in the post.

After the incident, Chamber of Medical Doctors started an investigation about the doctor. Then the doctor was fined with 945 TL due to sharing patient’s individual information and his homophobic expressions.

Finally, two years after the incident, the doctor was sued. In the accusation prepared by Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, it is indicated that the doctor responded negatively to the demands of his patient, "he made speeches incompatible with the profession of medicine, and disclosed the information acquired by the suspect in the social media."

## US Report: Turkey violates LGBTI+ human rights

16.03.2020

U.S. Department of State, published the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Turkey section includes several human rights violations of LGBTI individuals and organizations.

The “Freedom of Peaceful Assembly” section of the report consists the bans on LGBTI+ events, specifically Pride activities.

The report also consists a specific section on “Acts of violence, discrimination and other abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity”

In order to reach the full texts of the relevant sections, please follow the [link](#).

## Second hearing of METU Pride March case was held on March 12

12.03.2020

The second hearing of the case, which was opened to 18 students and an academic from Middle East Technical University (METU) on the grounds that they participated in the LGBTI+ Pride March on campus on May 10, 2019, was on March 12, 2020, at Ankara’s 39th Criminal Court of General Jurisdiction.



The hearing was monitored by the Embassies of the United States, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Canada, and New Zealand, as well as Amnesty International and the Kaos GL Association.

The lawyers requested an immediate acquittal. Otherwise, they have requested the renewal of the wrongly prepared expert report, re-request of the raw footage from the police, which was previously requested but was not handed, related police officers to be heard and trials to be heard in a bigger courtroom.

To read the statements and details of the case, please follow [the link](#).



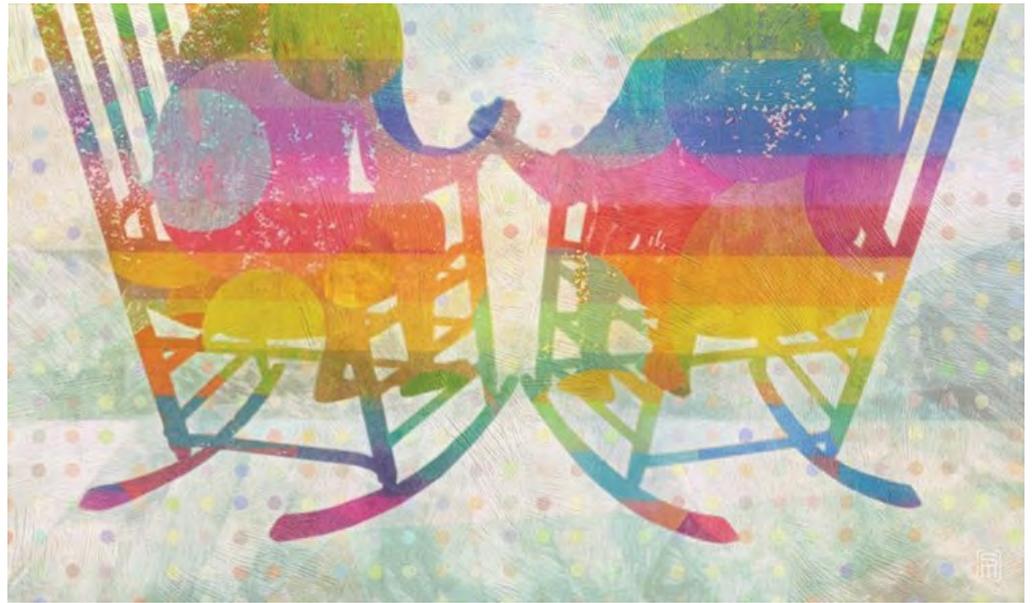
## LGBTI+ Agenda of Kaos GL / March 2019

### Older LGBTI+ Initiative *Lubunya 40+* set its course

17.03.2020

The Lubunya\* 40+ Initiative, which came together under the May 17 Association to study LGBTI+ and elderliness, has set its course.

The initiative, which held its first meeting in Bolu on December 14-15, 2019, discussed good examples regarding the elderly LGBTI+'s for two days and sought answers to the question "How to grow old together".



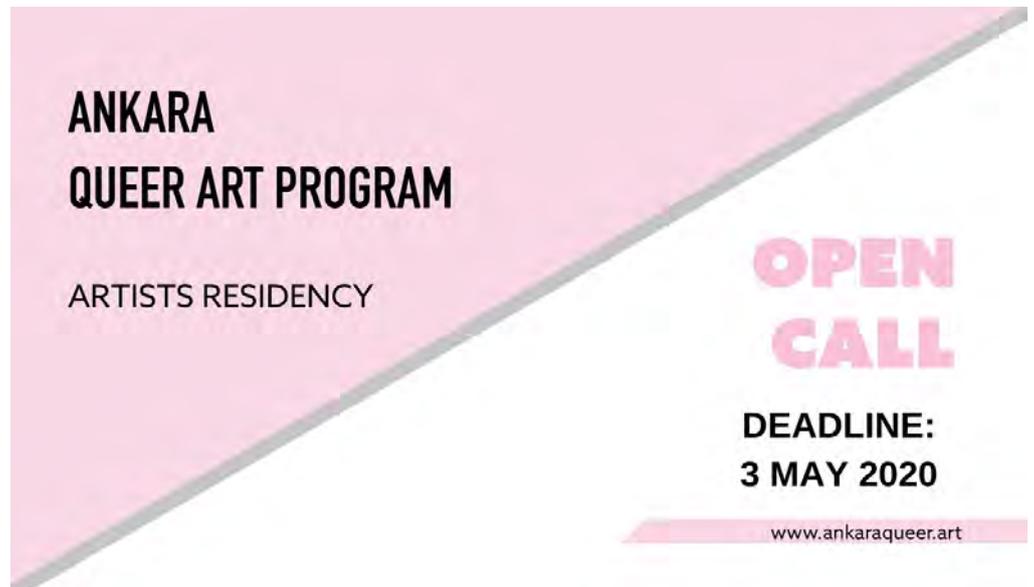
After two days of workshop, the initiative issued a road map for itself. Lubunya 40+, stated that elderliness studies focus on the ages of 60-65+, but with the definition of 40+ they decided "to be side-by-side to dream about our old age process together, to discuss the issue of elderliness, to learn and to grow old together."

To reach their detailed road map, follow [the link](#).

\* *Lubunya* is a word from Turkish queer slang language can roughly be translated as *queer*.

### Applications to Ankara Queer Artist Residency Program is open!

Ankara Queer Art Program - Artist Residency, which plans to host 5 visual artists from Turkey and abroad in Ankara every year, focuses on the possibilities of artistic expression of queer politics and new possibilities.



The program provides artists with 2 months of both living and working space while supporting and promoting production and research processes.

During this time, artists have the opportunity to work with artists, activists, academicians, and curators from Turkey and hold meet-and-greet meetings for possible collaborations with different art fields.

For details of the application process and the program, please follow the [link](#).

### **Fundraising campaign to support queer nightlife workers**

“Istanbul's nightlife has become a place where many LGBTI+ can exist, socialize and dance together, especially in recent years, which has turned into working space for many queers too.”

This is the first sentence of a solidarity campaign organized by Istanbul based queer nightlife collective, Queerwaves.

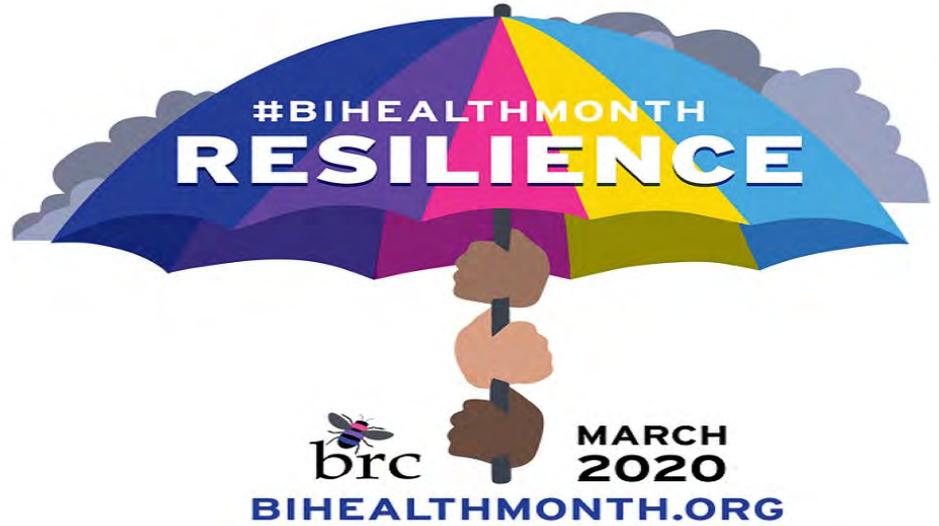
Queerwaves started a fundraising campaign to support queer nightlife workers who lost their daily income sources as all bars and clubs shot down due Covid-19 outbreak quarantine.

Due to, queer nightlife workers do not have any employment protections and have current maintenance needs, they need our support as they face months of uncertainty and they are not covered by any advance payment by an employer.

[Click here for the fundraising campaign.](#)

### **Bisexual Awareness Month**

The 2020 theme of the social media campaign Bisexual Health Awareness Month, launched by the Bisexual Resource Center in March 2014, has been identified as "flexibility".



Bisexual Health Awareness Month, organized by the Bisexual Resource Center (BRC) with a new theme every year, aims to raise awareness about social, economic and health inequalities for bisexuals in the community.

Bisexual Awareness Month events inspire new actions to improve bi+ people's well-being.

It is very easy to participate in the campaign, which has been under the tag #BiHealthMonth for 7 years. You can publish the content you will prepare using this tag online and organize events.

You can reach the [Bisexual Resource Center](https://www.bisexualresourcecenter.org/) here.

### **“Gynecology Talks” is published as a book!**

06.03.2020

In 2017, Asli Alpar from Kaos GL Association started an articles series “*Gynecology Talks*” including the gynecology experiences of 41 lesbian/ bisexual/ queer women. Those experiences mostly include rights violations and discrimination against those women.



Now, Gynecology Talks series was printed as a book by Kaos GL. Additional to the experiences of women, the book includes the interviews with and comments of the experts/ doctors working in gynecology and sexual health fields.

### **LGBTI+s learnt how to DJ-ing**

13.03.2020

Kaos GL held a DJ Workshop in Istanbul on March 11-12. In the workshop, which was held with the support of the Canadian Embassy, Chippy Nonstop and Şevval Kılıç gave the participants information about basic production such as music production, Vinyl-CDJS-Traktor-Serato, and Synth and live set installation.

On the first day of the workshop, hosted by Anahit Sahne, the importance of high-resolution audio files and programs for facilitating song transitions by recognizing BPMs and manages to divide them into groups were discussed.

The participants brought their songs on the second day of the workshop and became aware of the DJ set with their own song transitions and mixes with the contribution of the players.

## **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