

Vol. 7
May 2020

Kaos GL Newsletter

Kaos GL: We were, we are and we will be here!

"We have not asked anyone's permission to exist, and we will not... We were, we are and we will be here!"

Kaos GL [made a statement](#) regarding IDAHOBIT2020:

"On May 17, 1990, the World Health Organization declassified homosexuality from the list of mental disorders. Since 2004, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia has been celebrated to attract the attention of the public, authorities, media, and politicians to the hate, discrimination and rights violations that LGBTI+'s are subjected to. As Kaos GL, we have been celebrating May 17th with various events since 2006."

(...)

"We have not asked anyone's permission to exist, and we will not... We were, we are and we will be here!"

The smear campaign against LGBTI+'s on the state TV channel TRT 1

LGBTI+'s were targeted in the "What's the Truth" program, which airs every day at 19.40 on public television TRT 1.

[At May 25 the program](#) was about what happened after the Religious Affairs Administration of Turkey's hate khutbah, while LGBTI+'s were targeted with the following words: "All kinds of illegitimate sexual intercourse".

The program also legitimized the discriminatory remarks of the Supreme Council of Religious Affairs and The Chairperson of the Turkish Bar Association Metin Feyzioğlu, and those who reacted to discrimination were accused with "highly unfair and irresponsible attitude" and making "outrageous statements".

International Reactions against Hate Campaigns against LGBTI+'s in Turkey

* 37 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) wrote a letter to President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Head of the Directorate of Religious Affairs, Ali Erbaş regarding hateful khutbah. MEPs underlined the

fact that religion cannot be used to violate LGBTI rights. Full text of the letter can be reached via [the link](#).

* Prominent international human rights organizations issued a joint statement regarding increased targeted attacks and hate speech against LGBTI people in Turkey. The full statement can be reached through [the link](#).

* Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden tweeted about the increased discrimination targeting LGBTI+ community in Turkey after the recent smear campaigns in the country. Related news can be found [here](#).

* Ahead of the 17 May International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) Amnesty International calls on the [government of Turkey](#) to take urgent action to counter the increasing number of discriminatory statements and policies by state officials against LGBTI people: "The authorities must instead promote equality both in their statements and actions."

İmamoğlu, Mayor of İstanbul responded to the "gay marriage" question

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu participated in the program "40 with Jülide Ateş" and [answered the questions](#) posed to him.



When asked about the headlines of "Ekrem İmamoğlu designs a project to legalize gay marriages" of discriminative newspapers and the hate khutbah of the Religious Administration of Turkey, that came after last year's discussions about the establishment of a gender equality commission in İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, İmamoğlu said "we have a responsibility to protect the freedoms of homosexuals, but our society is not ready to allow gay marriage yet".

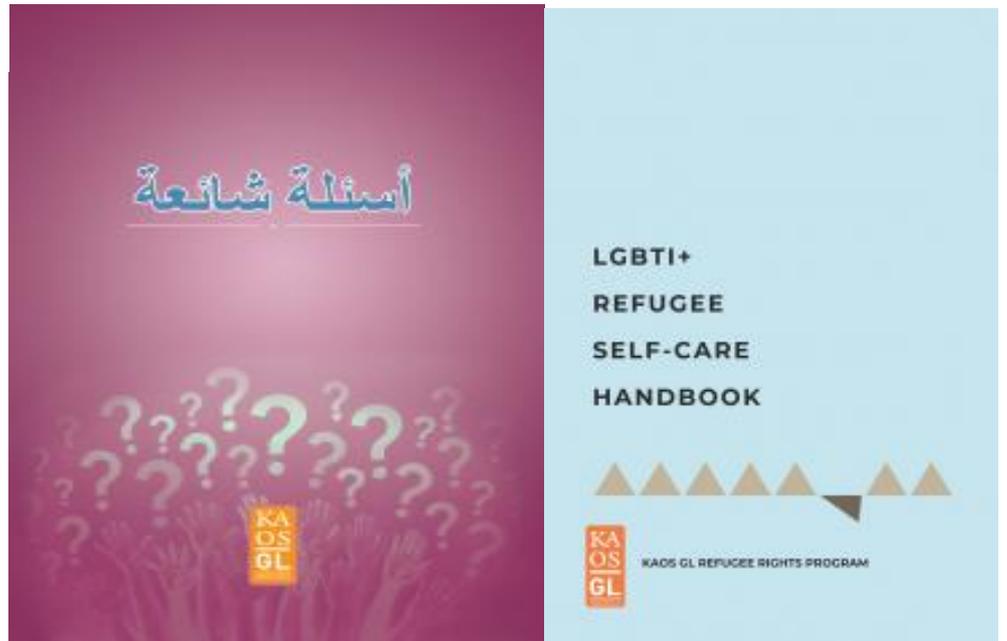


LGBTI+ Agenda of Kaos GL_May 2020

"LGBTI+ Refugee Self-Care Handbook" was released in four languages

Kaos GL Refugee Rights Program prepared a handbook for self-care of LGBTI+ refugees. The handbook underlined that covid-19 may add on the multiple problems that LGBTI+ refugees may face in their daily life and it includes trustful information prepared by expert psychologist and psychiatrists. The handbook also includes the methods to cope with traumatic stress.

The handbook can be found in [Turkish](#), [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Farsi](#).



Kaos GL's Frequently Asked Questions Brochure is now in Arabic

Kaos GL Association's FAQ brochure including the questions asked to LGBTI+s and answers given by experts and subjects of the issues has recently translated in Arabic. The brochure can be reached from [here](#).

Kaos GL Magazine's special issue: "Quarantine I" is out!

The 172nd issue of Kaos GL Magazine, which is being published since 1994, is available online. The second issue of the quarantine special series will meet with its readers soon.

Kaos GL Magazine's "Quarantine I" issue was published online on May 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia.

The printed version of the magazine, which was published online due to the coronavirus, will also be available as a printed version in the future.



Kaos GL Magazine’s special issue: “Quarantine II” is out as well!

The 173rd issue of Kaos GL Magazine is also available online. The second issue of the quarantine special series will meet with its readers soon.

The printed version of the magazine, which was published online due to the coronavirus, will also be available as a printed version in the future.

CONTACT INFO

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

You may find our social media accounts as follows:



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)

Kaos GL Association

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

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