

PRIDE CELEBRATIONS ALL OVER TURKEY

In 2020, there were many pride events organized across Turkey. Due to covid-19 pandemic, all events (including panel sessions, workshops, performances, award ceremonies) were taken place in online platforms.

28th Istanbul Pride Week, taken place in 22-28 June, determined its motto this year as "Ben Nerdeyim?/ Where am I?". During the week, there were many online meetings, panels and workshops on different issues like situation of LGBTI+s in pandemic, trans, non binary, bisexual, elderly LGBTI+s, etc. One of the closing events of Istanbul Pride was "Hormonal Tomato Awards" where the LGBTI+phobic candidates including media organs, politicians, universities, civil society organizations, etc. are chosen by a community survey and the awards are given with 'boo's to the winners. While the award ceremony was broadcasting on Youtube, the video was removed two times by Youtube during livestream.

On 28th June, the first online pride march was organized via neredesinlubunya.com where people could mark their location in anywhere in Turkey and raise banners/ rainbow flags.



8th Izmir Pride Week was organized in 15-21 June by Izmir Pride committee. [Many online events](#) including forums, panel sessions, workshops and concerts were held during the week.

3rd Denizli Pride was organized in 20-21 June by Denizli LGBTI+ Families Group. [Events](#) taken place in online platforms involve many different panel

sessions on freedom of speech and assembly, social work, history of LGBTI+ movement in Turkey, LGBTI+ families.

Aydın Pride was organized for the first time on 1-4 July by Aydın LGBTI+ Solidarity started to get organized in March this year. Informative online panel sessions and entertaining [activities](#) were organized during the week.

6th Mersin Pride was organized in 6-12 July. [The events](#) in the scope of Mersin Pride was organized in online platform in many different issues like panel sessions on law and the situation of bar associations, mental health, inclusive language, critical masculinity as well as parties, exhibitions, games.

Organizers of Mersin Pride also hang some banners on billboards for LGBTI+ visibility during the week (saying “LGBTI+ rights human rights). However, the next day after the banners were hung, they were [destroyed by unknown people](#).



Hatred Against LGBTI+s during Pride Week

Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride Week ended with online events and an online pride march on June 28th. For a week, LGBTI+'s virtually gathered and experienced the pride week's glow at workshops, panels, interviews, and parties. On the other hand, statements of public officials (including President R.T.E.) against the LGBTI+s, hate speech and discrimination in the media and on social media also gained momentum in the Pride Week.

KaosGL.org compiled the hate campaigns, phobic statements (ofKADEM) and hate speeches of high-level bureaucrats of Turkey (i.e. Red Crescent Chairperson Kerem Kınık, Chairperson of Directorate of Communications Fahrettin Altun, the President and AKP Leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan) [HERE](#).

Opposition Party MPs' Parliamentary speeches on LGBTI+ rights

On Pride Month, LGBTI+s are exposed to hate speeches and discrimination more than ever in recent years. In this intense agenda, KaosGL.org compiled the news regarding the parliamentary speeches of Republican People's Party (CHP) and People's Democratic Party (HDP) MPs' on LGBTI+s.

CHP Vice President Gökçe Gökçen made [a written statement](#) about the increasing hate speech and violence against LGBTI + people.

Regarding the [Religious Affairs' official homophobic statement and further attacks on bar associations](#), HDP MPs Hüda Kaya and Filiz Kerestecioğlu brought the issue in the parliamentary agenda:

HDP Istanbul Deputy Hüda Kaya opposed the investigation starting upon the official complaint of the Religious Affairs against Ankara Bar Association defending LGBTI+ rights. Kaya said [in her speech](#) that "if the Religious Affairs Administration can voice its opinion, the bar associations have the same right too" and pointed to the ruling party's hate speech towards LGBTI+'s.

HDP Ankara Deputy Filiz Kerestecioğlu reminded in her parliamentary speech that the Religious Affairs Administration, which scapegoats LGBTI+'s and those who are living with HIV, is a public institution. Her full speech can be found [here](#).

Regarding the newly amended law on city guards that give arbitrary implementation authority to city guards/ night watches, CHP MPs stated their concerns in their speeches:

CHP İzmir MP Mahir Polat [shared his concerns](#) on night guards misdemeanors and warned against these powers granted to the guards, which could extend to the intervention to private life and moral policing.

HDP Istanbul Deputy Züleyha Gülüm said [in her parliamentary speech](#) that the new misdemeanor law is a "law of interfering with the lives of women and LGBTI+'s."

Decathlon Turkey against the hatred: We believe in the unifying power of sports!

Decathlon Turkey responded to the smear campaign against their Pride Month celebration, "We are proud of our stance" they said.

Decathlon Turkey has celebrated the Pride Month in recent days by saying, "There is room for every color in Decathlon! Regardless of sexual identity and orientation, we support diversity and inclusiveness in an equal working environment for everyone".



The company's message of celebration, posted from their Instagram and LinkedIn accounts has been targeted on social media. The message of celebration received numerous discriminatory and hateful comments.

In order to reach the full message and their response after the negative reactions, [please click here.](#)



Celebrities celebrated Pride Month

In spite of increasing hate campaigns against LGBTI+s, many celebrities including singer Mabel Matiz, Göksel, Ceylan Ertem, Hatice and actresses Berrak Tüzünataç, Meriç Aral and Özge Özpınırçı celebrated Pride month in their official social media accounts.



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:



Kaos GL Association

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

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Çankaya, ANKARA