

Vol. 10
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Kaos GL Newsletter

Turkish Government responded UN's LGBTI+ rights question without even saying LGBTI+!

In the joint letter sent in July by independent experts and United Nations Special Rapporteurs on LGBTI+ rights, UN agencies reminded the Directorate of Religious Affairs' khutbah against LGBTI+s, hate campaigns on social media, statements by public officials against LGBTI+s, investigations against institutions advocating for LGBTI+ rights and statements by President Erdogan and emphasized the statements of public officials and religious leaders would provoke hatred.



The Government responded to this letter on September 21st. Leaving the allegations and questions unanswered, the Government argued that the "etc." statement in the Constitution's equality clause covers bases of discrimination other than the ones explicitly described in the law. The government's response to the letter, in which UN officials explicitly asked about discrimination against the LGBTI+s, did not include the expressions of "sexual orientation", "gender identity", "LGBT", "LGBTI" or "LGBTI+".

For the details of the letter and the response of the government, please [follow the link](#).

Regional Administrative Court approved the annulment of the LGBTI+ ban in Ankara

The Regional Administrative Court also approved the verdict of Ankara's 2nd Administrative Court to annul the "[second indefinite ban on LGBTI+ activity](#)" in the case filed by the Kaos GL Association.

Kaos GL Legal Coordinator Att. Kerem Dikmen commented on the verdict of the Regional Administrative Court to KaosGL.org:

“As Kaos GL, we filed a lawsuit against the general ban decision of the Governorate of Ankara, which is known as 'the second LGBTI + activity ban', and won. But upon this, the Governorate appealed to the Regional Administrative Court, which is a higher court. They demanded the reversal of the first verdict and the prohibition decision to continue. Today, with this decision of the Regional Administrative Court, the objection of the Governorate of Ankara was rejected. This decision means that the decision to annul the ban issued by the administrative court is in accordance with the law, and also that the general prohibition decisions of the Governorate of Ankara were against the law, legislation, and international conventions. With this decision, the unlawful act of the Governorate of Ankara was once again underlined. It has shown that the Governorate of Ankara cannot issue such ruling during both ordinary and extraordinary periods. From now on, another decree of a general ban by the Governorate of Ankara may constitute a crime.”

17 members of HDP including Cihan Erdal, are under arrest

17 of the 20 former central executive committee members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), who were detained by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office within the scope of the "investigation of Kobane demonstrations" which took place in 2014, were arrested.

LGBTI+ activist Cihan Erdal is also among those who have been arrested. Erdal, a Ph.D. student at The University of Carleton in Canada, was detained while in Istanbul as part of their thesis research.

LGBTI+ Elders report: The state and private sector causes rights violations

The May 17 Association published its report "LGBTI+ Elders: Situation in Turkey and Around the World" in Turkish and English.



The report prepared by Att. Yasemin Öz, discusses the place of elderly LGBTI+'s rights in national and international legislation, good examples of practice in Turkey and around the world and solution proposals. The report also involves academic studies and recommendations. The report aims to shed light on the protection of LGBTI+'s against human rights issues that could be brought by old age, among other forms of discrimination.

[Click here](#) to read the full report in English.

Organized Hate attack by Aspava staff in Ankara!

Staff working in Gülçimen Aspava, a well-known kebab restaurant on the Esat Street of Ankara, organized a homophobic and transphobic attack on October 14th at around 2:00 a.m.

U. stated that they will press charges against the assailants. To read the statement of the victims, [follow the link](#).

LGBTI+ initiatives from Diyarbakır, Denizli, Kocaeli and Adana gathered

Muamma LGBTI+ Association organized a "Grassroots Organizations" meeting. Muamma LGBTI+ Association, which has brought together LGBTI+ associations from Mersin, Antalya and Izmir with the "Boutique Organizations" meeting before, brought together Diyarbakır Keskesor LGBTI+, Denizli LGBTI+ Families, Kocaeli LGBTI+ and Queer Adana with a grassroots organization meeting.

The online meeting moderated by Yıldız Tar from Kaos GL was held on 24 and 25 October. At the meeting, the experiences of LGBTI+ formations since 2015, the sustainability problems of the organizations, solutions to these problems and

the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTI + organizations in different cities were discussed.

Intersex Awareness and Solidarity Campaign started!

Intersex Turkey and Kaos GL started a social media campaign covering 26 October Intersex Awareness Day and 8 November Intersex Solidarity Day. Awareness raising visuals and messages will be published during the campaign in Kaos GL's website and [Intersex Turkey's Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.





LGBTI+ Agenda of Kaos GL by October 2020

Pink Life Psychological Counseling Department has been established!

The Pink Life Psychological Counseling Department was founded to provide mental healthcare support to trans and LGBTI+'s both in their dealing with everyday difficulties and discrimination, as well as in development and adaptation processes.

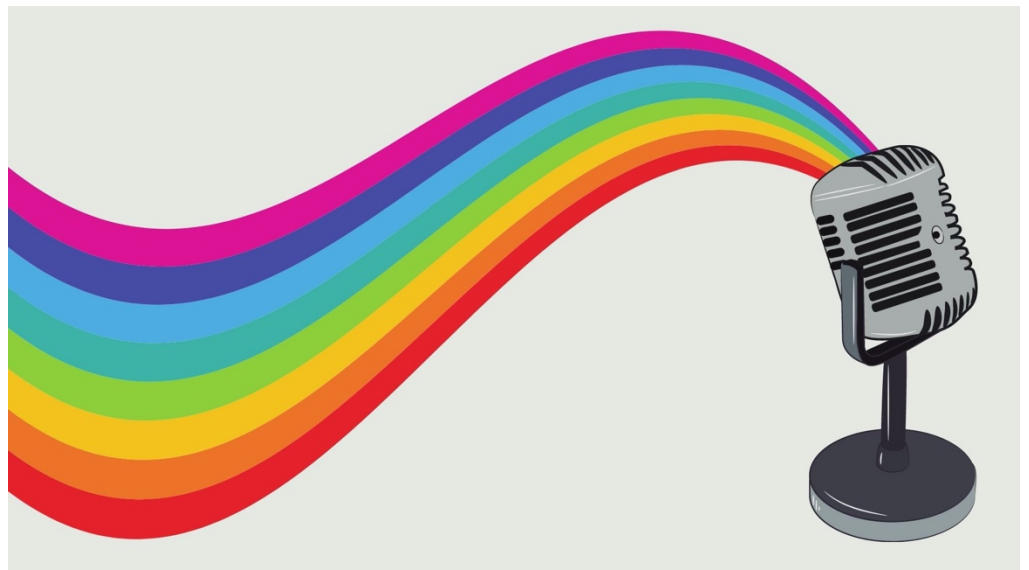
To learn more about the department, please [follow the link](#).



Kaos GL Podcast is on air!

Kaos GL now has a podcast channel.

The first take of the channel is the “Intersexes talking: Pandemic, visibility, struggle” program, which is recorded for the October 26th, Intersex Awareness Day.



Be ready for surprises on the Kaos GL Podcast, which you can listen to on Spotify and [Soundcloud](#)!

[Click here](#) for the channel.

"LGBTI+ Rights are Union Rights" brochure has been updated!

The revised and updated fourth edition of the "LGBTI+ Rights Are Union Rights" brochure, one of the main publications of the Kaos GL Association, has been published.

The brochure, which was published to create a source for trade-unionists on LGBTI+ rights, to increase positive examples and to strengthen unionism against heterosexism, consists of 11 chapters.

"Rights Violations towards and Legal Solutions for people living with HIV Report of 2018-2019" was published by Pozitif-Iz Association

The report, which was prepared by Att. Hatice Demir includes the legal analysis of rights violations through applications regarding HIV made to the association in 2018 and 2019.

According to the report, which aims to show the projection of rights violations based on HIV in Turkey, discrimination and stigma are so systematic, rights violations are so inured in every step from individual to state that legal basis is hardly questioned in the transactions that cause these violations.

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

Lambdaistanbul calls for "Tea & Talk" event on Jitsi

Lambdaistanbul LGBTI+ Association's "Tea & Talk" event has gone online because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The event for English speakers will be in Jitsi on mid-October. This week's topic is queer culture.



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

Tunus PTT PK:12

Çankaya, ANKARA