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# Kaos GL Newsletter

## Chief Civil Inspector asks the City Councils, “Do you have an LGBTI+ assembly?”

According to the information obtained by KaosGL.org, a letter was sent to Şişli and Beşiktaş City Councils of İstanbul. Reportedly, other city councils are also received the same letter. The Chief Civil Inspector asked city councils if they had "created an assembly or organizations of similar nature to operate under the name of LGBTI+ or similar names". The letter also asked what works, if any, were carried out, and whether in-kind and cash expenditures were spent for these activities. For which investigation the Civil Inspector asked this question remains unknown.

[Please click here](#) to see more about the functions of the city councils in Turkey.



## Turkey wants to deport Iranian refugees for attending Istanbul Convention protests

On March 20th, four Iranian refugees who participated in the press conference on the İstanbul Convention were detained in Denizli. "Attending press conferences" and "holding banners" were cited as the reasons for their detention. Refugees were also prevented from meeting with lawyers for a long time. Their Att. Yağmur Yalçın said the refugees were immediately [sentenced to six months of administrative supervision and deportation](#). Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İstanbul MP [Züleyha Gülüm asked about the detention and deportation](#) of four Iranian refugee women in Denizli for participating in the İstanbul Convention protest.

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## CHP Leader's reply to the "Does LGBTI corrupts family structure?"

Main opposition party Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu participated in the live broadcast on a TV channel and [answered Buket Aydın's questions](#). After Buket Aydın intervened and asked, "What do you think of the comments that this contract corrupts the Turkish family structure?", Kılıçdaroğlu continued: "Which family structure does it damage? Every family is to be respected. We say let there be no violence in the family, we say women need to be protected."

After Kılıçdaroğlu's statement, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Leader Devlet Bahçeli said the following in [his discriminatory and sexist speech](#): "A person who says 'Not related, why would it corrupt the family structure?' when asked 'Does LGBTI corrupts family structure?' has no right to speak of nationalism, spiritual values, or to call himself a 'man'. Our advice to him is not to overshadow our nation, to get a hold of his sinister tongue, to wrap himself in rainbow colors and mind his own business."

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## After shutting down the BÜLGBTİ+, Melih Bulu ceased the functionality of the anti-sexual harassment commission

Melih Bulu, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, has forced the office coordinator of the Boğaziçi University Commission to Prevent Sexual Harassment (CİTÖK) to unpaid leave. Cemre Baytok, the office coordinator of CİTÖK, was the only employee of the office. Following Bulu's decision, the Commission [announced](#) that the work of the CİTÖK office had been effectively ceased.

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## HDP asked about homophobic attacks against Fabien Azoulay in the prison

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Muş MP Gülüstan Kılıç Koçyiğit asked Justice Minister Abdülhamit Gül about the Turkish prison experiences of [Fabien Azoulay, a gay Jewish prisoner from France](#). Stating that Fabien Azoulay is a gay prisoner of French descent who is now a prisoner in Giresun Prison of Turkey, Koçyiğit reminded that his lawyers and family have been fighting for his return to France since 2017.



"In his letter to his family from Giresun Prison, where he is located, he repeatedly mentioned that he had been subjected to mistreatment, violence and threats. (...) A campaign has been launched for the transfer of Fabien Azoulay, a French citizen, to France to continue the execution of his conviction that was ruled by the criminal court in Turkey."



## LGBTI+ Agenda of Turkey in April 2021

### Winners of the Women to Women Story Contest was announced!

Women to Women Story Contest organized since 16 years by Kaos GL called for lesbian/ bisexual women stories with the theme of "Home" this year. The winners of the contest were announced on 26th April, the Lesbian Visibility Day.

### UniKuir conducts a research on the issues of transgender students

UniKuir Association is conducting research within the scope of Turkey's Beijing +25 Participation project to monitor transphobia and discrimination exposed to transgender students and to offer solutions to make campuses inclusive for trans + students. The results of the research will be finalized and reported to UN Generation Equality Forum in July 2021.

### **GALADER organized "Other Families Do Exist"**

GALADER, the Rainbow Families Association (Ankara), organized "Other Families Do Exist" workshop in the support of TED University Gender Studies Center on April, 3-4. Bringing together highly prominent academics and NGOs working on non-normative understandings of families in intersections with law, social policies, and social work, the main goal of this workshop is to move beyond the stereotypical yet dominant depictions of and discourses about the 'ideal' family in Turkey.

### **CONTACT INFO**

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

You may find our social media accounts as follows:



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## **Kaos GL Association**

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

Tunus PTT PK:12

Çankaya, ANKARA