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# Kaos GL Newsletter



## **Joint May 17 statement from LGBTI+ organizations: Get used to it! We are here and we are not going anywhere!**

Many LGBTI+ organizations across Turkey including Kaos GL, May 17, UniKuir and Pembe Hayat made a joint statement on May 17th, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia and Interphobia (IDAHOBIT): "From Stonewall to Ülker Street; From Eryaman to Meis Site; From Mis to Bayram Street, from METU to Boğaziçi; we existed, existing and will continue to exist in all areas of life." To read the full statement, [please follow the link](#).

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## Cihan Erdal elected to the Party Assembly of the Green Left Party with the highest number of votes

Cihan Erdal, a former Central Executive Board member of HDP, an academic and LGBTI+ activist who has been imprisoned for 8 months for the trial of HDP politicians, was elected to the Green Left Party's Party Assembly with the highest number of votes.

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## LoL Turkey censors LGBTIQA+ content: Which local laws (!)

League of Legends (LoL), a video game developed and released by Riot Games, announced this year's icon pack, which started on May 17 (IDAHOBIT) and will last until the end of Pride Month. The Riot Games' official Turkey website announced the Pride season as "It is the time to celebrate the Color Festival! Throughout May and June, we will celebrate the different colors of spring that surround the northern hemisphere with free personalization content that we will bring to all Riot games", without mentioning LGBTQA+ players and not explaining why the season is celebrated during May and June.



While a user was refraining from mentioning why the LGBTIQA+ was removed and what it had to do with localization, a report on Dot Esports revealed that the Riot Games responded to questions about the issue as, "in order to comply with local laws." However, it is not known exactly which "local laws" was the LGBTIQA+ censorship based on.

[We asked Kerem Dikmen](#), Legal Coordinator of Kaos GL, about LoL Turkey's LGBTI+ censorship: *"There is no such law in Turkey that forces companies to take these kinds of steps. This problem is not just the concern of LGBTI+s in Turkey, but a global problem concerning LGBTI+s in all countries where this game is played."*

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## May 16 LGBTI+ Elders Day: What is to be done?

As it's the May 16 Day of Honoring LGBTI+ Elders Day, let's take a look at the first report in Turkey on this field. The May 17 Association published its report "LGBTI+ Elders: The Situation in Turkey and Around the World" in [Turkish](#) and [English](#) last year. The report prepared by Att. Yasemin Öz discusses the state of LGBTI+ Elders' rights in national and international legislation, good examples, and solutions employed in Turkey and around the world. The report also includes academic studies and recommendations in the field. The report aims to shed light on the protection of LGBTI+s who may face discrimination in all aspects of life and towards the human rights problems that will come with old age, among other forms of discrimination. For the spotlights of the report, please [follow the link](#).



## LGBTIQ+ Agenda of Turkey in April 2021

### Kaos GL Magazine's last issue, "Gender" is out!

The 178th issue of Kaos GL Magazine, which is being published since 1994, is on the shelves with the "Gender" cover. The May-June 2021 issue discussed the historical debates regarding the concept of gender, gender-culture relationship, the role of gender in the services of local governments, feminist foreign policies, the historical background of trans exclusionary views, anti-gender movements with negative effects on all areas of life and the effects of gender in the design sector.

### 5th LGBTIQ+ Youth Festival: #RainbowKnowsNoBorders

LGBTIQ+ Youth Festival to be organized 5th time this year by Young LGBTIQ+ Association will be held with #GökkuşakSınırTanımaz (#RainbowKnowsNoBorders) theme on 31 May - 6th June. The festival will be taken place on online platforms.



### 8th Boğaziçi Pride Week has just started!

8th Boğaziçi Pride Week organized by Boğaziçi LGBTIQ+ Club (BÜLLGBTIQ+) and independent student initiatives has started on 31st May and will last till 11th June.

## **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:



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)

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## **Kaos GL Association**

Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association

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