



From the University Queer Research and LGBTI+ Solidarity Association

**Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee
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Türkiye



Introduction

Founded on February 14, 2020, in Ankara, Türkiye, University Students' Queer Research and LGBTI+ Solidarity Association (from now on ÜniKuir) is a rights-based civil society organization working at the intersection of LGBTI+ rights and youth rights. Together with its volunteers, employees, and authorized boards, ÜniKuir aims to strengthen self-organizations on campuses and in cities for university students and young LGBTI+s, to create safe and inclusive spaces, to develop practices that will make the rights and scope of LGBTI+s to access education visible, to fight against discrimination, violence, and hatred on campuses and to make the struggle visible, to contribute to anti-discrimination policy-making, to defend LGBTI+ rights at the national and international level, and to ensure the media visibility of the university LGBTI+ movement. The association frequently uses advocacy methods such as monitoring, reporting, campaigning, media scans, and capacity-building activities for these purposes.

Background

The 2010s in Türkiye were the years when the visibility and organization of the LGBTI+ movement increased. Especially in 2013, the Gezi Resistance strengthened the movement's ties with other social movements and led to the organization of more young people. During this period, participation in pride marches increased significantly. However, following this period, Türkiye entered a troubled period again in terms of fundamental rights and freedoms. Since 2015, pride marches, the most well-known activity of the LGBTI+ movement in Türkiye, have been banned. Although the courts have annulled the banning decisions many times, bans continue to be imposed. Dozens of rights defenders are detained every year during pride marches. With the 2016 coup attempt and the state of emergency declared afterward, repressive policies against LGBTI+s increased, as well as other social groups. During this period, LGBTI+s and LGBTI+ organizations were targeted by the media, politicians, and public power. On March 20, 2021, Türkiye withdrew from the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Presidential Decree. One of the reasons for this decision was the absence of the concepts of "sexual orientation and gender identity" in Article 4 of the convention. The Council of State Administrative Appeals Board rejected the annulment lawsuit filed against the withdrawal decision¹. Before the 2023 general elections, the election process was a new turning point for LGBTI+s. In this process, many politicians, especially President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, made discriminatory, derogatory, or antagonizing statements against LGBTI+s. Political parties of the People's Alliance made promises to prevent LGBTI+ rights advocacy.

¹ <https://bianet.org/haber/council-of-state-board-upholds-decision-on-witdrawal-from-istanbul-convention-272303>



The 2023 general elections were won by President Erdoğan and the People's Alliance. In the Twelfth Development Plan, which was prepared by the government after the election and covers the years 2024-2028, LGBTI+s were targeted as "harmful trends that negatively affect the family structure, uniformization, and desexualization trends", and in the section of the plan titled Qualified Human, Strong Family, Healthy Society, it was stated that "Efforts will be made to maintain healthy generations and to reduce the effects of bad habits, addictions, and 'harmful trends' that negatively affect the family structure, taking into account our national and spiritual values"². The government prepared the Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family, which deals with different aspects of its anti-LGBTI+ policy, during this period. President Erdoğan issued a circular instructing all institutions and organizations to comply with this circular³. In the action plan, LGBTI+s are targeted with expressions such as "global risk, deviant ideology, harmful movements, a threat to the institution of family, desexualization policies"⁴. With this action plan, anti-LGBTI+ activities in public institutions will increase, and resources allocated to this issue will be increased.

A. Non-discrimination

Discrimination against LGBTI+s in universities, which is the focus of ÜniKuir, is one of the most critical issues. Unfortunately, the legislation does not have a protective feature for LGBTI+ university members. Article 53 of the Higher Education Law No. 2547 stipulates disciplinary sanctions for discriminatory acts of faculty members during their duties. However, the reasons for discrimination are listed in a limited manner, and sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are not included among these reasons. Article 54, which regulates the disciplinary provisions for students, also does not stipulate any sanction for discriminatory words and behaviours of students. However, applications to ÜniKuir show that LGBTI+s are subjected to discriminatory behaviour in many areas of universities, such as classrooms, campuses, and dormitories.

According to ÜniKuir's report examining public universities in Ankara and Istanbul in the context of LGBTI+ rights, prepared with the support of SPoD⁵, and ÜniKuir's report examining foundation universities in Ankara and Istanbul in the context of LGBTI+ rights⁶, the vast majority of LGBTI+ university members keep their sexual orientation and gender identity secret to avoid discrimination. LGBTI+s do not feel safe in the campus environment because of their identity. LGBTI+ university students mostly complain about psychological violence. Sexual harassment and violence prevention units established at universities can be effective in combating violence. However, these units are not LGBTI+ inclusive in all universities, and even if they exist in a significant number of universities,

² <https://kaosgl.org/en/single-news/according-to-the-development-plan-lgbti-s-are-harmful>

³ <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2024/05/20240515-18.pdf>

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<https://kaosgl.org/en/single-news/a-strategy-document-targeting-lgbti-community-will-be-prepared-as-part-of-the-action-plan-for-the-protection-and-strengthening-of-the-family>

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ThsmHwHms1ZOBcedePzauEHFbcdqpARK/view?usp=sharing>

⁶ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J_Ao7YCEM3Bu_8QI3DhOM2jvF7fZ3vju/view?usp=drive_link



students are not aware of them. In addition, LGBTI+ students who participated in the research at the time of reporting see the free realization of LGBTI+ activities in universities, the ability of LGBTI+s to organize, the organization of pride marches, and the knowledge of university administration and staff about LGBTI+ rights as problematic areas. According to the report, the existence of an LGBTI+ student club at the university is an essential step towards equality.

According to ÜniKuir's Rights Violations and Discrimination in Universities Report published in 2022⁷ and 2023⁸, 186 rights violations and discrimination were reported in 2022, and 203 rights violations and discrimination were reported in 2023. According to ÜniKuir's data, 90 rights violations and discrimination were reported in the first five months of 2024. These reports show that LGBTI+ students are subjected to many rights violations at universities, such as prevention of academic activities, discriminatory discourse, disclosure of sexual identity, prevention of freedom of expression and organization, right to housing, harassment, bullying, and violence. According to the report, these violations are committed by academics, students, staff, and university administrators. Most of the people who have been subjected to violations have not reported them to any mechanism. The reasons for this include the lack of authority to which they can submit their complaints, the belief that they cannot prove the violation or that they will be blamed, and the belief that they will not receive results or support.

In recent years, the Hippocratic Oath recited by new graduates at the graduation ceremonies of medical faculties of many universities⁹ has been changed by the deanships of medical faculties. Contrary to the original text, the phrase "sexual orientation" is removed from the new texts¹⁰.

B. Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

Today, it has become almost impossible to display rainbow and other LGBTI+ flags in public spaces. Even images and areas with rainbow colours are sometimes targeted by public power and sometimes by citizens. This situation is similar on campuses. Private security intervened physically against students who unfurled flags symbolizing their LGBTI+ identities during graduation ceremonies or on

⁷ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tHoQnxtLZ67gesC7wLfoP2CYKk6WsQg/view?usp=sharing>

⁸ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mISH0yq_WB_YwJyW68CVUJQ_4zobzvmc/view?usp=sharing

⁹ <https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkeys-prestigious-medical-schools-dean-removes-sexual-identity-from-hippocratic-oath-news-62602> ;

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/dean-of-turkish-medical-school-removes-sexual-orientation-from-hippocratic-oath-news-64559> ;

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/med-school-admin-removes-sexual-orientation-ethnicity-pride-from-hippocratic-oath-news-64522>

¹⁰ The Turkish Medical Association, on the other hand, sent a letter to the deans of medical faculties of universities stating that amending the oath of allegiance is an ethical violation and a disciplinary offence. https://www.ttb.org.tr/haber_goster.php?Guid=4eb29f80-1e70-11ef-8028-d6698b7cce93



campus or who wore medical masks with the inscription "Istanbul Convention Keeps Alive"¹¹. These students were also subjected to disciplinary proceedings and penalized¹². In a statement made on the social media account of Uşak University, the term "LGBT rag" was used for the rainbow flag¹³.

With its decision published in the Official Gazette on 19/04/2024, the Constitutional Court¹⁴ annulled some of the disciplinary provisions of the Higher Education Law No. 2547 as a result of the annulment lawsuit filed by the main opposition party. These are vague articles that violate fundamental rights and freedoms in practice, such as disturbing work order and peace, distributing leaflets or hanging posters without permission, and organizing unauthorized meetings. The Constitutional Court gave the legislature nine months to make a new legal arrangement regarding the annulled articles. No new legal arrangement has yet been made.

There are also other legal regulations that need to be amended with reference to the Constitutional Court's judgement. Some provisions in the legislation applicable to university students lead to practices that directly violate freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. Article 24 of the Regulation on Dormitory Services of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which regulates the penalty of expulsion from the dormitory, is a good example. This article stipulates that individuals will be dismissed from the dormitory in cases such as staging sit-ins, hanging banners, organizing political demonstrations or meetings, hanging banners, and in cases where a public case is opened against them for certain types of crimes in the Turkish Penal Code, such as offenses against the security of the state, insulting the President, and insulting state organs. In addition, the expression of general morality in the act of "engaging in behaviours and actions that do not comply with the rules of general morality, provoking the person or society, hanging pictures and posters," regulated in subparagraph h of Article 23 is put forward as one of the legitimate grounds for discrimination against LGBTI+s.

One of the most intensely violated rights of LGBTI+s in Türkiye is the freedom of peaceful assembly. For a long time, many meetings and demonstrations, especially pride marches, in which LGBTI+ s are the subjects, have been banned by local authorities on the grounds of "public security, public order, public morality, prevention of crime." In this regard, the government's claim that the demonstration was prevented because Istanbul Taksim Square is a touristic and busy place is not valid. For example, an application was made to the Istanbul Governorate for Bakırköy Square, which is officially a rally

¹¹

<https://kaosgl.org/en/single-news/disciplinary-investigation-against-the-student-with-rainbow-flag-at-bogazici-university>

¹²

<https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/istanbul-sozlesmesi-maskesi-takan-ve-bi-bayragi-acan-ogrenciye-universiteden-ceza-21-01-2022> (Only in Turkish)

¹³

<https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/usak-universitesi-lgbt-pacavراسi-acan-ogrenci-hakkinda-islem-baslatildi-19-07-2023> (Only in Turkish)

¹⁴ Constitutional Court Decision dated 22/2/2024 and numbered 2023/78 - 2024/55.



area in Istanbul, but permission was not granted¹⁵. In 2022 alone, 10 separate banning orders were issued for pride marches, and at least 582 people were detained¹⁶. In 2023, at least 11 Pride Month events were banned, and at least 237 people were detained¹⁷. So much so that the Kadıköy District Governorate banned even a simple event consisting of gathering for tea on the grounds that it "violated public morality and would provoke social outrage"¹⁸.

Istanbul Governorate used the term "illegal groups" for LGBTI+ rights defenders and organizations organizing Pride Week in 2024¹⁹. However, as it is known, according to Turkish law, being LGBTI+ or advocating for LGBTI+ rights is not illegal. Similarly, the Governor of Gaziantep used the expression "perverted activities" in his statement, which was shared on social media, referring to Pride Week events. When the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye examined the matter, it rejected the application because "discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity" was not included in the law of the institution²⁰.

The situation is similar for campuses. At least 10 pride marches or Pride Month events organized at 7 universities between 2022 and 2024 were prevented by the Rectorate and security officers. During these events, some rights defenders were detained and subjected to violence by the police. Even events without intervention can be organized under pressure and with deep anxiety. Court decisions on this issue are also not effective. For example, in all of the lawsuits filed against the decisions of the Rectorate of Middle East Technical University (METU) banning pride marches in 2019, 2022, and 2023, the courts ruled that the banning decisions were unlawful. However, despite this, the Rectorate continues to ban pride marches every year.

Suppose the people detained during the pride marches are students. In that case, disciplinary investigations are initiated at the university where they study, and the scholarships and student loans they receive from the Ministry of Youth and Sports are cut off in violation of the relevant legislation. Moreover, this is often done even though the pride marches where students are detained do not even take place on the university campus²¹. However, Article 18 of the Scholarship Regulation of the The Ministry of Youth and Sports regulates the limited circumstances that may lead to the suspension of the scholarship. In the same vein, Article 17 of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Loan Regulation

¹⁵ <https://yesilgazete.org/istanbul-onur-yuruyusune-bakirkoy-icin-de-izin-cikmadi/> (Only in Turkish)

¹⁶ <https://kaosgl.org/haber/onur-yuruyusleri-bilancosu-artiyor-582-qozalti-sokakta-iskence-bitmeyen-isyan> (Only in Turkish)

¹⁷ <https://tihv.org.tr/ozel-raporlar-ve-degerlendirmeler/bilgi-notu-2023-onur-ayi-ihlaller/> (Only in Turkish)

¹⁸ <http://www.kadikoy.gov.tr/basin-aciklamasi-15062023> (Only in Turkish)

¹⁹ https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-govt-locks-down-istanbul-for-second-time-in-week-due-to-lgbti-pride-march-news-64586#google_vignette

²⁰ <https://kaosgl.org/en/single-news/the-court-acquitted-tihk-and-the-governor-of-discrimination>

²¹ <https://www.birgun.net/haber/kyk-onur-yuruyusu-ne-katilan-lgbti-ogrencinin-kredisini-kesti-355017> ; <https://www.ilerihaber.org/icerik/onur-yuruyusunda-saldiri-yetmedi-katilan-ogrenciler-yurttan-atildi-burslari-kesildi-130712> (Only in Turkish)



regulates limited situations that may lead to the termination of student loans. Among these situations, detention of the student, an investigation, or a lawsuit against the student are not regulated as a reason for stopping the scholarship. Nevertheless, students whose scholarships or student loans are cut off in violation of the legislation are deprived of economic support until they win the administrative lawsuit they file. In this way, the presumption of innocence is violated and pressure is put on citizens in a way that discourages the exercise of the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration. In some cases, this sanction is imposed on the basis of the article in the legislation stipulating that the scholarship and student loan of the student who is sentenced to expulsion from the dormitory will be cut off. Legal regulations that stipulate expulsion from dormitories and threaten fundamental rights and freedoms are evaluated under the heading "right to education".

The families of young people who are detained for participating in pride marches are called by the police (most of the time by the Anti-Terror Branch Directorate). During these calls, the police tell the families that their children have participated in an illegal action, that this action is a pride march, that it will negatively affect their future, and that they advise the people around them to be careful. The police resort to this practice by calling the families of people over the age of 18, even though they are not legally authorized to do so²². Complaints to the prosecutor's office have resulted in non-prosecution decisions. While this situation violates the right to respect for private life, it means that the identities of some LGBTI+s are revealed to their families. There is a strong possibility that LGBTI+s may be subjected to bullying and violence at home due to their disclosure by the police. This can sometimes even lead to attacks on the right to life. Furthermore, this practice has a chilling effect on the LGBTI+ community and its allies to exercise their right to freedom of assembly.

C. Freedom of Association

There are 208 universities in Türkiye. Only 12 of these universities have LGBTI+ student clubs officially recognized by the university administration. Only two of the twelve universities are state universities. Official recognition is crucial as it allows student clubs to benefit from the university's financial, logistical, and visibility opportunities. Official recognition depends on the approval of university administrations. University administrations do not recognize LGBTI+ student clubs despite meeting the requirements of the legislation.

At Ege University and Middle East Technical University, student clubs applied to become official clubs. At Ege University, this request was rejected by the university administration. A lawsuit was filed at the Izmir Administrative Court for the annulment of this decision, but the case was dismissed on the grounds that "the administration has discretionary power". The case is currently under appeal.

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<https://kaosgl.org/haber/iktidar-in-kadin-ve-lgbti-dusmani-politikalar-la-varligini-korumaya-calistigi-surecte-kadin-ve-lgbti-lar-siddetin-hedefi-oluyor> (Only in Turkish)



At METU, the right to petition, which is regulated in Article 74 of the Constitution, was left unanswered in violation of the right to petition and the freedom to seek rights, which is regulated in Article 36 of the Constitution.

At Boğaziçi University²³ and Hacettepe University²⁴, existing LGBTI+ student clubs were closed down without any legitimate justification. The lawsuit filed for the annulment of the administrative action of Boğaziçi University was rejected by the administrative judicial authorities, and the decision became final. The first instance court also dismissed the lawsuit filed for the annulment of Hacettepe University's administrative action, and the appeal examination is ongoing. These examples also serve as a deterrent for other LGBTI+ student communities to organize.

It is observed that LGBTI+s and rights defender associations continue to be referred to as "*a threatening group linked to external forces*" by the pro-government media. In this media, LGBTI+ visibility is mentioned as *a danger that needs attention*²⁵, a phenomenon that is equated with *operations, propaganda*²⁶, and peer bullying²⁷.

LGBTI+ organizations in Türkiye mostly survive with the funding resources provided by international organizations. LGBTI+ organizations cannot access national funds anyway. However, civil society organizations are targeted because of these funds received from international organizations in accordance with the law. Organizations are targeted with stigmatizing expressions such as "agent"²⁸, "funder", and "global impositionist"²⁹ just for this reason.

D. Freedom of Religion and Conscience

The Presidency of Religious Affairs systematically discriminates against LGBTI+ citizens and positions them against religion. President Erdoğan, who wrote the presentation section of the 4-year strategy plan of the Presidency, states that the Presidency of Religious Affairs will provide guidance "against all kinds of deviant movements and thoughts aimed at disrupting our family structure." The Presidency, on the other hand, claimed that "perverted gender-based ideologies that threaten the family are being normalized" and stated that it plans to fight against them by spending 2 million TL³⁰.

²³ <https://kaosgl.org/en/single-news/melih-bulu-shut-off-the-bogazici-lgbti-studies-club>

²⁴ <https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/hacettepe-universitesi-lgbti-ogrenci-toplulugunu-kapatti-21-09-2023> (Only in Turkish)

²⁵ <https://www.ahaber.com.tr/gundem/2024/01/17/veliler-dikkat-lgbt-tehlikesi-cocuklarin-elinde?paging=2> (Only in Turkish)

²⁶ <https://www.memurlar.net/haber/1089912/cocuklarinizi-lgbt-propagandasinda-koruyun.html> (Only in Turkish)

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/odatv/status/1747480868082643002> (Only in Turkish)

²⁸ <https://kaosgl.org/haber/ yeni-safak-tan-lgbti-derneklerine-ajan-karalamasi> (Only in Turkish)

²⁹ <https://www.ailegazetesi.net/analiz/ lgbt-dayatmasi-nedir/> (Only in Turkish)

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<https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/diyanet-lgbti-karsiti-nefreti-orgutlemek-icin-2-milyon-tl-harcamayi-planliyor-22-04-2024> (Only in Turkish)



In 2020, when the whole world went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ali Erbaş, the head of Türkiye's administrative body responsible for organizing religious affairs, delivered a speech during a Friday sermon in which he said, "Islam considers adultery one of the biggest harams. It condemns lust and homosexuality. What is the wisdom of this? The wisdom of this is that it brings diseases and rots the generation. Hundreds of thousands of people a year are exposed to the HIV virus caused by this great haram, which is called fornication in the Islamic literature of illegitimate and unmarried life. Let's fight together to protect people from such evils." targeting LGBTI+'s and citizens living with HIV³¹.

This statement of the President of Religious Affairs was criticized by LGBTI civil society organizations, human rights defenders, bar associations, and some politicians, and criminal complaints were filed. However, these applications were rejected by the prosecutor's office on the grounds of "no grounds for investigation." On the other hand, the executives of the Izmir, Ankara, Istanbul, and Diyarbakır Bar Associations, who made a press statement to criticize this statement, were charged with "insulting religious values"³².

E. Hate Speech against LGBTI+s and Family Protection Policies

Discourses that systematically stigmatize, marginalize, antagonize, or criminalize LGBTI+s, LGBTI+ rights defenders, and supporters are produced. Politics and the media are the primary places where these discourses are produced. There is no compelling policy on hate speech against LGBTI+s. Instead of taking action to reduce prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI+s in society, politicians and public officials engage in discourses and actions to the contrary.

In recent years, the right to protect the family and the debates around it have been used as a tool for anti-LGBTI+ opposition. In Türkiye, the protection of the family is handled in a non-pluralistic and heteronormative manner with religious references. These policies stigmatize and marginalize LGBTI+s. Family policies are becoming increasingly conservative in education, media, and general politics.

Recently, the visibility and activities of the anti-LGBTI+ movement in Türkiye have increased. The Big Family Meeting, organized in Istanbul by the Big Family Platform, which consists of approximately 200 NGOs, organized a rally to demand "a law banning LGBT imposition." In these rallies, prevention of LGBTI+ rights advocacy, closure of associations, censorship of visibility in areas

³¹ <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-52447722> (Only in Turkish)

³² <https://www.birgun.net/haber/izmir-barosu-diyamet-isleri-baskanini-elistirdigi-icin-hakim-karsisina-cikacak-430059> ; <https://bianet.org/haber/diyamet-isleri-baskani-ni-elistiren-ankara-barosu-na-dava-250946> (Only in Turkish)



such as culture, art, sports, and similar demands are brought to the agenda³³. Moreover, the call video for this rally was approved by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), a public institution, to be broadcast as a public spot on radio and television³⁴. Thus, the call video of the anti-LGBTI+ rally was broadcast on television without any fee. The Ankara Administrative Court rejected the lawsuit filed for the cancellation of this decision³⁵.

One of the most critical developments in this period was the constitutional amendment proposal submitted to the parliament by MPs belonging to the ruling party in the last term of the parliament³⁶. In this proposal, it was proposed to ban the already unrecognized right of LGBTI+ s to marriage equality at the constitutional level. However, the background and possible consequences of this proposal are much deeper than this. In the justification of the proposal, it is stated that "It is aimed to protect the institution of family and marriage against all kinds of dangers, threats and attacks and against the impositions of deviant movements". Thus, this language that criminalizes, marginalizes and fuels discrimination against LGBTI+s is intended to be included in the Constitutional text for the first time.

While this constitutional amendment proposal, which is directly related to LGBTI+s, was discussed in the Constitutional Commission, LGBTI+ organizations were not invited to the commission. In fact, no person or organization taking a stance in favor of LGBTI+ rights was invited and listened to. However, anti-LGBTI+ public officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and experts were invited to the commission and were allowed to make statements targeting LGBTI+ rights advocacy³⁷.

ÜniKuir monitored the 2023 general elections and has been monitoring the work of the Turkish Grand National Assembly on LGBTI+ rights for two years. A report was published as a result of both monitoring studies. Looking at these reports, it is clear that the President of the Republic and the country's leading politicians intensively target LGBTI+s and LGBTI+ rights.

- According to the Report on the Monitoring of the Presidential and 28th Term Parliamentary General Elections in the Context of LGBTI+ Rights, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made 57 speeches containing hate, discrimination, and hostility against LGBTI+s in 139 different events (rallies, opening ceremonies, public meetings, press conferences, and TV programs). Fatih Erbakan, the leader of the ruling partner New Welfare Party (Yeniden Refah Partisi), which is known for its anti-LGBTI+ stance—although this partnership has recently ended, it

³³ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/turkey-ap-people-istanbul-netflix-b2169911.html> (Only in Turkish)

³⁴ <https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkeys-media-watchdog-to-support-anti-lgbti-rally-news-62966>

³⁵ <https://www.memurlar.net/haber/1069897/rtuk-u-dava-eden-lgbt-lilere-mahkemeden-emsal-olacak-karar.html> (Only in Turkish)

³⁶ Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Anayasasında Değişiklik Yapılmasına Dair Kanun Teklifi (2/4779 Esas). 27/6. Link: <https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/Yasama/KanunTeklifi/f72877c2-29e9-037b-e050-007f01005610> (Only in Turkish)

³⁷ <https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/anayasa-komisyonu-nda-yok-artik-dedirten-lgbti-karsitliklari-27-01-2023> ; <https://www.unikuir.org/haberler/anayasa-komisyonu-nda-yasananlar-yok-artik-dedirtmeye-devam-ediyor-31-01-2023> (Only in Turkish)



continues its anti-LGBTI+ politics— made 57 discriminatory speeches in 65 events. Representatives of opposition parties were mostly silent. The political parties of the People's Alliance promised in their election manifestos that they would shut down LGBTI+ organizations and prevent pride marches and other events³⁸.

- A similar process took place in the local elections held in 2024. Leading politicians and mayoral candidates of the Yeniden Refah Party, Nationalist Movement Party, Saadet Party, and Zafer Party made anti-LGBTI+ promises. In addition, mayors who carried out LGBTI+ inclusive activities were intensively targeted in the media³⁹.
- According to the Monitoring Report on LGBTI+ Rights in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye 27th Term 5th Legislative Year (2022-2023), 42 activities against LGBTI+ rights were reported by a total of 26 MPs from the Justice and Development Party, Nationalist Movement Party, Grand Union Party, Democracy and Progress Party and Republican People's Party. It is also noteworthy that in the same period, not even half of the LGBTI+ rights violations were put on the parliamentary agenda⁴⁰.

Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association has reported the news content of online news sites in Türkiye in 2022 and 2023 on LGBTI+ and transgender people. According to the Association's Media Monitoring Report, there has been a 77 percent increase in the use of discriminatory, stigmatizing and otherizing expressions in the news. These expressions included pervert, pervert, marginal, terrorist, disease, sin, sinful, immoral, criminal, propaganda, lobby, and imposition⁴¹.

Sometimes LGBTI+ organizations are also the direct targets of hate speech and targeting. For example, institutions such as Aydınlik Newspaper, Ulusal Kanal, Turkish Youth Union, and Üsküdar University have made targeting publications, including allegations such as "attacking the institution of family and moral values of society, making LGBT propaganda, collaborating with terrorist organizations, and being a tool of imperialism" due to the university monitoring and reporting work of ÜniKuir⁴². In addition, in these publications, Özgür Gür, the general coordinator of our association, was targeted and accused of being "an officer and mercenary of global imperialism" because he received the "Fearlessness Award" from the Roosevelt Foundation⁴³.

³⁸ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gSs_qfxoH-Hnz9M0NsElv7QOc6pfgq2s/view?usp=drive_link (Only in Turkish)

³⁹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IEtf-0jued8CnH4b3w0D9mYhcDXUiusq0FePnU5CIDw/edit?usp=sharing>

⁴⁰ https://drive.google.com/file/d/14zdOWvrAiGudoJ-HrK_CHaZ5pVTuidO9/view?usp=drive_link (Only in Turkish)

⁴¹ https://www.pembahaya.org/uploads/pembe_hayat_medya_izleme_raporu.pdf (Only in Turkish)

⁴² <https://www.aydinlik.com.tr/haber/universitelerde-ab-fonlariyla-lgbti-projesi-324861> ;

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/8128/devlet-universitelerine-lgbt-dayatmasi> ;

<https://tgb.gen.tr/turkiye/devlet-universitelerine-lgbt-dayatmasi-32065> ;

⁴³ <https://www.ulusal.com.tr/video/11316945/oncu-genclik-universitelerde-lgbt-projesine-gecit-yok#> (Only in Turkish)