

LEGAL COUNSELING AND TRIAL MONITORING REPORT

Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association





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INTRODUCTION

This is a report on the legal counseling, detention, and trial monitoring provided by Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association between September 5, 2022, and July 2023.

Who Are We? What Do We Do?

Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association was established on June 30, 2006, in Ankara. The association got its name from the movie 'My Life in Pink' (Ma vie en rose, 1997) directed by Alain Berliner, which tells the story of a girl born in a male body.

Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association produces projects and provides direct support services on issues such as discrimination, hate crimes, violence, and social exclusion. The association continues its advocacy activities in the national and international arena.

Pink Life provides free consultancy services on law, education, health, and transition processes A clothing bank has been established in the name of Dilek İnce, who was killed by these gangs during her fight against them in Eryaman. Dilek İnce Clothing Bank supports LGBTI+ people in need every 3 months by sending clothes, especially to prisons.

Pink Life also organizes Pink Life QueerFest, Turkey's first LGBTI+ films festival. While drawing attention to discrimination and violence against LGBTI+s, the festival also creates an opportunity for discussion of queer theory and art in Turkey.

The Pink Art Team, comprised of artists brought together by the Pink Life LGBTI+ Solidarity Association, is dedicated to establishing artistic platforms that empower the ongoing struggle for LGBTI+ rights.

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BACKGROUND

This report has been compiled based on the results of legal counseling and monitored trials provided by Pink Life LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association (referred to as the association) from September 2022 to August 2023.

The association started providing legal counseling in September 2022. Counseling services were provided through phone and email, and the consultations given were shared on the social media accounts at the end of each month. The association, based in Ankara, provided legal support to LGBTİ+ individuals throughout Turkey via phone and email.

In the span of 11 months, the association offered legal support to 1280 times, reaching out to 369 different people. This report will provide details about the subjects and cases of the assistance provided.

Following the earthquake that struck Maraş on February 6, 2023, the association extended its efforts to provide legal support to LGBTİ+ individuals who were affected by the disaster, as it does in its other activities. By collaborating and coordinating with lawyer organizations and civil society institutions that traveled to the region, the association offered legal counseling services.

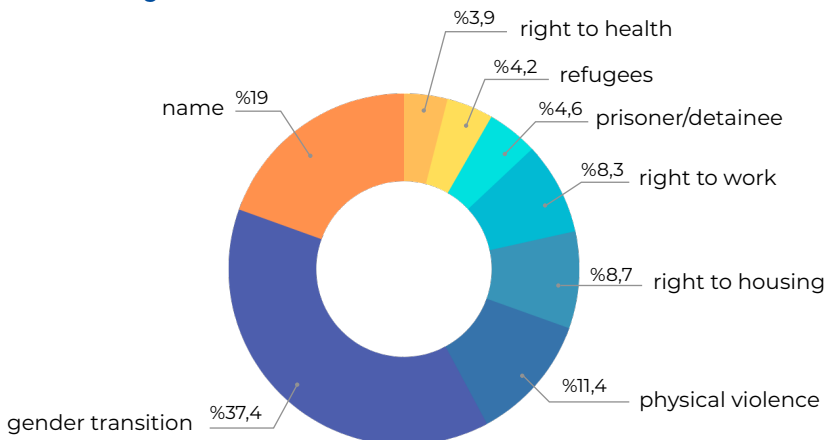
For the lawyers in the disaster area, in collaboration with the Association for Combating Sexual Violence and Bodrum Women's Solidarity Association, a legal counseling guide has been prepared for survivors of sexual violence and shared with the lawyers involved in relief efforts in the disaster area.

In addition to providing legal consultancy, we collaborated with other non-governmental organizations to offer peer support to LGBTI+ individuals who relocated to Ankara from the earthquake zone. When LGBTI+ individuals arrived in Ankara after the earthquake, they reported being denied entry into vehicles in the earthquake area, facing discrimination through the people they knew, being unable to access essential aid, and ultimately forced to leave the region with very few belongings, wearing thin clothes and slippers, while also enduring numerous hate crimes and hate speech. Despite many queer homes in Ankara opening their doors to the surviving queers after the earthquake, urgent needs persist, especially in terms of long-term shelter, food, economic hardship, and winter clothing. May 17, the Pink Life, Red Umbrella, and KAOS-GL associations demonstrated solidarity with the queer community both in the affected region and in other provinces. They made every effort to provide the best support possible, offering psychosocial counseling and assistance to those in need.

CONSULTANCY DATA AND CONTENTS

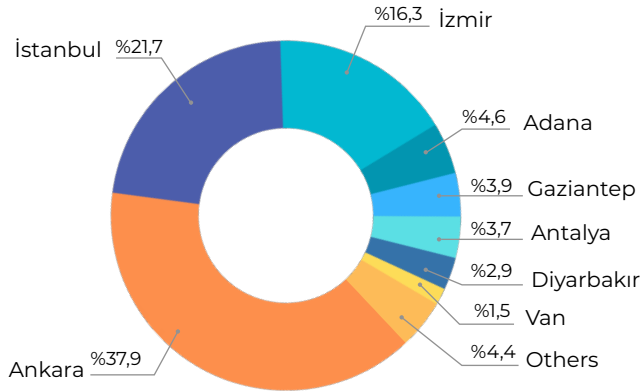
In the span of 11 months, the association received the most frequent inquiries nationwide concerning gender transition processes and related legal counseling. Considering the ongoing discussion of the constitutional amendment proposal in the constitutional committee, it is important to note that our clients who intend to start their gender transition process have expressed experiencing fear due to the situation. The contents have been presented in the following tables according to their respective ratios.

Distribution Based on the Subject of the Provided Consultancy:



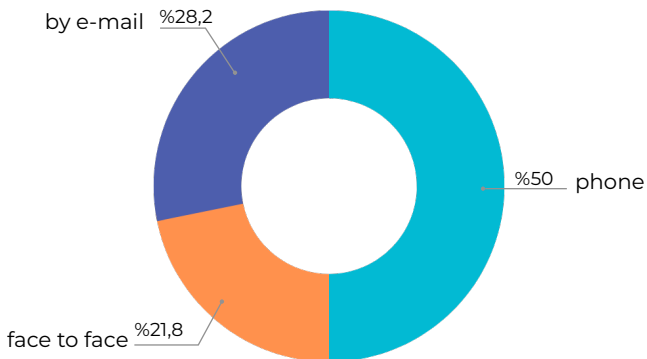
Distribution Based on Cities of the Provided Consultancy:

Over the course of 11 months, the highest demand for legal consultancy was received, respectively, from Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir.



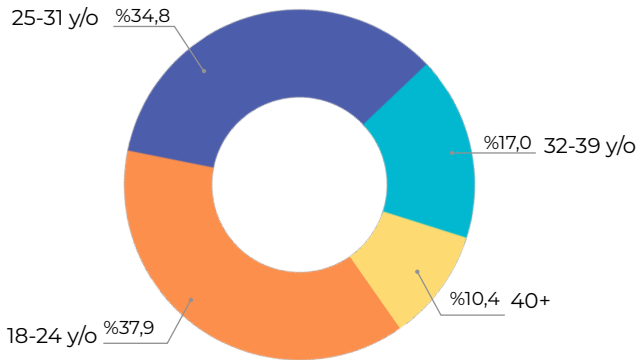
Based on the Method of Providing Consultancy:

Throughout the 11-month period, the association's clients predominantly utilized telephone consultations to seek assistance.



Distribution Based on the Age Groups of the Clients:

The majority of clients fall within the 18-24 age group, as shown in the chart.

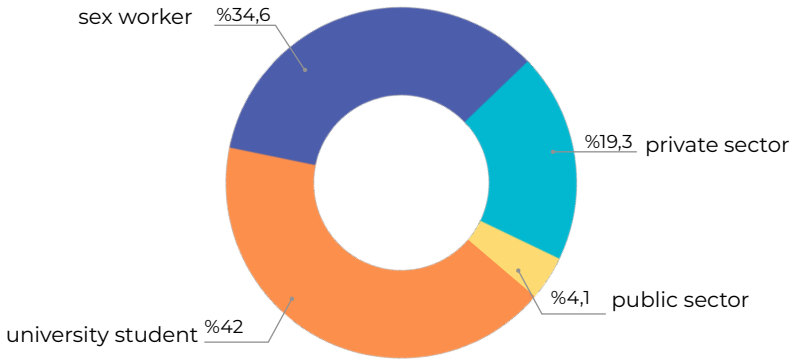


Employment Status of Clients:

Over the course of 11 months, while 295 clients shared information about their occupations, 294 preferred not to share this information.

70% of clients who disclosed engaging in sex work reported having no other options, facing difficulty finding alternative employment, experiencing discrimination and harassment leading to leaving previous jobs, and a significant portion also mentioned not actively seeking jobs due to a belief that they would not find suitable opportunities.

While 80% of the clients engaged in sex work were trans women, 20% were gay men. 65% of the clients working in the public sector are gay men, while the remaining part consists of trans men. We did not have any transgender women working in the public sector.



Regarding Gender Transition Process;

In this report, no mention will be made of the regulation regarding the “gender reassignment” in Article 40 of the Turkish Civil Code No. 4271. For information on Article 40 of the Turkish Civil Code, you can refer to the information note prepared by the association titled Information Note on Article 40 of the Civil Code.¹

Indeed, Article 40 of the Turkish Civil Code poses various obstacles for transgender individuals seeking to change the gender marker on their identification documents. Forcing transgender individuals to undergo surgery for the recognition of their gender identity creates discrimination among individuals based on their gender identity. The notion of controlling people’s biological integrity is not in line with a democratic regime. Moreover, what kind of change in surgery is required is not clear, specific, or predictable. The rights of individuals concerning the protection of bodily integrity and autonomy are in a vulnerable state. The conditions required by the Turkish Civil Code, being eighteen years of age and becoming infertile, constitute limitations that touch upon the essence of the right of individuals to determine their own destiny. Despite gender identity being shaped

¹ <https://pembeyahay.org/yayinlar/yayinlar-ve-raporlar-2/medeni-kanun-madde-40-bilgi-notu-1643>

before puberty, forcing individuals to live in a gender that does not align with their true identity until the age of eighteen constitutes a violation of their right to self-determination. It is also of this nature to decide on the gender identity of intersex individuals as infants through the decisions of parents and physicians, and not allowing them to continue living as intersex.

Article 40 contains regulations regarding gender identity of trans individuals, but there is no provision that allows for the recognition of the gender identity of intersex individuals. In practice, the name and gender field of intersex individuals are changed not according to Article 40 of the Turkish Civil Code but according to the provisions of the Civil Registry Services Act.²

People's reproductive rights cannot be determined based on the biological characteristics they were born with. Requiring trans individuals to undergo gender confirmation surgery in order to obtain legal recognition of their gender identity, which results in them becoming infertile, is incompatible with human dignity. The expectation for transgender individuals to be sterilized is based on the false belief that they cannot become transgender parents, either as a transgender mother or a transgender father.

In the application made by Y.Y. to the European Court of Human Rights, the Court found that linking the recognition of an individual's gender identity to the condition of being deprived of reproductive capability is contrary to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The claim of unconstitutionality raised in the local court based on the same reasons was deemed serious, and the matter has been brought before the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court, referring to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights, has declared the condition of being deprived of reproductive capability as contrary to

2 Y. 18. HD E. 2012/80 K.2012/4125 T. 19.04.2012

the individual's right to develop their material and spiritual existence, as well as their right to respect for private life. The condition was repealed by a majority vote.

The appeal to the Constitutional Court against the provision of Article 40 of the Turkish Civil Code, which requires compulsory gender-affirming surgery for the recognition of gender identity, has been rejected by a majority vote on the grounds of being in accordance with the Constitution. It appears that the court's decision lacks the ability to distinguish between decisions related to gender identity and decisions concerning the body, as stated in the opinion of the court. Gender-affirming surgeries are risky and burdensome, and the decision to accept or reject these risks should be a person's free choice. However, making it a mandatory condition for the official recognition of gender identity is rooted in the effort to maintain societal norms based on gender. Only relying on concepts such as family and societal structure, public order, etc., demonstrates the absence of a rational justification.

In the decision with reference number 2015/79 Esas 2017/164, the following lines in the justification of Prof. Dr. Engin Yıldırım are noteworthy;

“Forcing a transgender individual to undergo surgery to have their self-identified gender recognized by the legal system imposes a physical and psychological burden on them. Being born with a gender that does not align with one’s body already imposes a burden that may last throughout their entire life. From this perspective, the sacrifices demanded from transgender individuals to protect society are not at all reasonable. The humanity, citizenship, and universality of those who do not conform to societal expectations concerning their gender, meaning those whose biological sex does not match their socio-psychological gender, should not be questioned”

Regarding Name Change;

In 11 months, the second most frequent type of application the Association received was related to name change cases. According to Article 27 of Law No. 4271 on the Civil Code, "The change of name can only be requested from the judge based on justifiable reasons. The change of name is recorded and announced in the civil registry. The change of name does not alter the personal status." When examining the wording of the law, what constitutes justifiable reasons has not been specified in the law; it is left to the discretion of the judge. We can make inferences about justifiable reasons from the decisions of the Supreme Court.

These are the following;

- The person's name is funny, ridiculous
- Belonging to a publicly known criminal or being associated with a bad incident
- Being one of the names that do not comply with the general moral rules of the society
- Being recognized by everyone with a name other than the one written on the ID.
- Difficulty in pronunciation.

In many of the applications we receive, decisions regarding name changes can be made based on justifiable reasons, such as listening to witnesses. Additionally, in many cases, the decision is made that after changing the gender field on the identification, the name change is also necessary. Not only in different regions of Turkey but also within the same city, it is observed that different decisions are issued by civil courts concerning the same matters.

Ankara Civil Court with File Number X approves the name change of a transgender individual that is recognized by everyone; however, Ankara Civil Court with File Number XY may decide that the plaintiff transgender individual needs to change their gender first.

Nevertheless, the name change is a right inseparable from an individual's life and identity, a fundamental part of their private life. It is evident from the examination of the article that the request for a name change is not related to the 'sex change' conditions regulated in Article 40 of the Civil Code. When it comes to important rights or legal interests related to an individual's existence or identity, the discretion is narrower, and the presence of particularly serious reasons is required for interventions in these areas.¹

When it comes to important rights or legal interests related to an individual's existence or identity, the discretion is narrower, and the presence of particularly serious reasons is required for interventions in these areas. Discretionary authority varies for each individual case. The scope of this authority narrows or expands depending on factors such as the nature of the protected right or legal interest and its significance for the individual. (Serap Tortuk, B. No: 2013/9660, 21/1/2015, §§ 50, 51; M.K., B. No: 2015/13077, 12/6/2018, §§ 59, 60; Turgay Karaca, § 33).

¹ M.K., B. No: 2015/13077, 12/6/2018, §§ 59, 60

TRIAL MONITORING

In addition to providing consultancy, the association engaged in legal work that included trial and detention monitoring, conducting lawyer meetings, meeting with bar associations, and supporting local transgender groups for a period of 11 months.

Esat- Eryaman Case:

In April 2006, the “gentrification” efforts of a construction company initiated the first attacks against transgender sex workers residing in Eryaman. 30 transgender sex workers were displaced through acts of stoning, beating with sticks, shootings, and home raids. The attackers not only targeted the street where the trans individuals worked but also continued their violence by going to their homes.¹ 24 transgender women filed a complaint at the Şehit Osman Avcı Police Station located in the Eryaman region of Ankara.

Known names, license plates, and Ş.T were reported in the complaint. No results were obtained from the complaints. Additionally, because some of the transgender women were displaced and had to relocate to Mersin, the process became untraceable.²

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EQnUrUkTRQ>

2 <https://www.pembekhayat.org/haberler/detay/2638/karartilan-caddeler-gelemeyen-adalet-esat-eryaman-davasi>

After the attacks in Eryaman, transgender women organized a march in Ankara in June 2006 to protest the incidents. In order to protest against the systematic attacks targeting transgender individuals residing in Eryaman, 30 members from the Lambdaistanbul LGBTT Solidarity Association traveled from Istanbul to Ankara.

In the trial conducted by the Ankara 11th High Criminal Court under case number 2007/250 E., the defendants were acquitted of charges related to aggravated robbery and attempted aggravated robbery, but were found guilty of forming a criminal organization with the intent to commit crimes, as well as simple and armed assault, leading to their convictions on October 17, 2008. According to the communiqué of the Office of Public Prosecutions for the Supreme Court of Appeal numbered 2009/6098, the charge of forming a criminal organization was confirmed, while the conviction for robbery was overturned and replaced with intentional injury; furthermore, the prosecution requested a separate verdict for A.G. on charges of robbery and attempted robbery.

The Penal Department No.6 of the Supreme Court returned the file on 12 November 2013 with the request of completing the deficiencies in terms of power of attorney and notification, and as a result of the correction of the deficiency, the file came before the Supreme Court on 11 December 2018.

The Penal Department No.6 of the Supreme Court has decided to quash the lower court's conviction verdict on charges related to a criminal organization and the acquittal verdict on charges of robbery and attempted robbery due to insufficient investigation. According to the principle of liberty after decision of adhesion in criminal procedure law, they continue to complete the deficiencies through appropriate measures.

Before annulling the decision, although it is apparent that the legal assessment of the evidence regarding the existence of the criminal organization is sufficient at this stage in the Court of First Instance, the primary issue to be determined in the reasoned decision is that, considering the statements of the interveners taken in the police station, the attacking group consisted of 8 to 10 individuals. Upon considering these statements, it becomes apparent that besides the defendants, there were other “assailants” present at the crime scene. As a result, there exists a possibility that individuals other than the accused could be the perpetrators of the alleged robbery, characterized as a bag snatching incident. Following this observation, the assessment under Article 220/1 of the Turkish Penal Code is as follows: “The defendants engaged in continuous and severe attacks against the interveners, who identify themselves as ‘transgender individuals’ and live in the same community, driven by their own and their community’s ‘prejudices,’ compelling them to leave their living spaces.”

In the concrete case, it has been established that the defendants premeditatedly gathered, reached a consensus on removing the interveners from their living spaces, acted collectively according to this decision, and engaged in similar actions on the same day and afterwards. They demonstrated a determination to carry out new actions until their objectives were achieved. Additionally, there was a hierarchical connection, even if loosely defined, among them. The continuity of their decision to commit the mentioned crimes is evident, and it is clear that they had the necessary means and tools to execute the intended crimes. Consequently, it is concluded that the defendants are guilty of the crime of establishing an organization with the purpose of committing offenses under Article 220/1 of the Turkish Penal Code, and they should be sentenced accordingly. Upon reviewing the witness testimonies presented in court, it is evident that

there are substantial pieces of evidence in the case that support the existence of the criminal organization.

In addition to economic interests, it is essential to consider political motivations as well. Namely;

The chain of events presented in the indictment is sufficient to establish that the actions of the perpetrators constitute crimes against humanity under Article 77 and 78 of the Turkish Penal Code. The Article 77/1 of the Turkish Penal Code, which regulates crimes against humanity, states that “if acts of injury are committed systematically in accordance with a plan against a certain segment of society based on political, philosophical, racial, or religious motives, it shall constitute a crime against humanity.”

The crimes of attempted murder with firearms, intentional qualified injury, qualified robbery, property damage, invasion of residence, extortion, and threats have been committed in various regions of Ankara since 2006 as part of the activities of an organization established with the aim of gaining unjust economic benefits, involving the same individuals and using the same vehicles, including many who have not been apprehended.³

At this point, for the past 17 years, efforts have been made to collect the same pieces of evidence. In Turkey, under the guise of urban transformation, the gentrification and forced displacement of those who do not fit the definition of “reasonable citizens” continue to be a current and pressing issue today. The neighborhoods that have been the living spaces of Roman, Dom, and Godi communities for years, as well as the areas where Kurds settled after migrating to big cities, Sulukule, and the ghettos inhabited by transgender individuals, are intended to be erased from the urban culture and memory due to

3 <https://morbulten.kadinininsanhaklari.org/gormezden-gelinen-adalet-mi-translar-mi-esat-eryaman-olaylari-ve-dava-hakkinda/>

urban gentrification policies. Property owners are also being made unable to find shelter in the newly constructed buildings due to the implementation of these policies.

Police and Guard Violence in Izmir/Alsancak:

In İzmir Alsancak, an area where transgender individuals reside and work, on Saturday, July 16, 2023, at around 01:30 AM, three transgender women were subjected to insults by security guards. Subsequently, they were arrested by the police using excessive force and rear-handcuffing. In the past, transgender women in the same area had also been subjected to multiple arbitrary administrative fines and taken into custody by rear-handcuffing.

To combat the hate policies generated by law enforcement forces and protect the dignity of transgender individuals, the case is being actively followed in cooperation with the Izmir Bar Association LGBTI+ Rights Commission.

Trial Monitoring of Hande Buse Şeker Case, who was murdered in Izmir:

An appeal was made against the life imprisonment sentence of the police officer who committed murder with a firearm, killing Hande Buse Şeker, and severely injuring another transgender woman on January 9, 2019, and a trial was held at the Izmir 4th Heavy Penal Court regarding the verdict given for the defendant as a result of the appeal.¹

¹ <https://kaosgl.org/haber/hande-seker-i-olduren-volkan-hicret-e-muebbet-hapis-cezasi>

Closure Case Against Tarlabaşı Community Center:

As a result of frequent targeting in the media, Tarlabaşı Community Center in Istanbul, where children and women come together to build a safe space, faced two separate lawsuits.

Istanbul Governorate filed a lawsuit in Istanbul 8th Civil Court of Peace, requesting the court to determine that the association ceased to exist spontaneously due to the impossibility of achieving its purpose.

With the indictment issued by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Istanbul 18. A lawsuit for the dissolution of the association was also filed in the Civil Court of First Instance on the grounds of "illegality and immorality". The "restraint of activity" precautionary measure against the association was lifted on April 6th.

Interferences with the freedom of association do not solely concern that particular civil society organization. Such cases are a result of attacks on civil space and human rights defenders. The association's legal department is monitoring the case.

Küçük Bayram Sokak, Trans Women, and House Sealings:

The houses located in three separate buildings where transgender individuals live on Küçük Bayram Sokak, located in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul, were sealed. Transgender women were deprived of the right to housing by the state. Public services defined for everyone are not applied when it comes to transgender individuals. While laws hinder the social inclusion of transgender individuals, law enforcement selectively applying the same laws prevents transgender individuals from acquiring properties and renting homes. Trans women whose homes are sealed in this street have nowhere to go and no precautions are taken regarding this. Violence against trans women living on Bayram Sokak continues.

Transgender woman Deniz froze to death on the streets in the heart of Istanbul's Cihangir on Saturday, February 11th. According to accounts from those who knew her, discrimination even occurred at the funeral of the transgender woman who only wanted to exist.¹

¹ <https://m.bianet.org/bianet/toplumsal-cinsiyet/274272-trans-kadin-deniz-sokakta-oldu-yasamak-icin-direndi>

2022 Ankara Pride Parade:

On July 5, 2022, in Ankara's Tunali district, 42 people were physically assaulted and detained while exercising their constitutionally protected rights to assemble and participate in a demonstration and march. In the case, whose first hearing was held on May 11, 2023, people who want to exercise their rights continue to be tried in the defendant's chairs.

1.5 hours before the march, the police started surrounding Kuğulu Park, attempting to remove the press from the area, and even the first detentions took place before the march began. Dozens of people, including lawyers, were brutally assaulted, and pepper spray was directly sprayed at close range during the incident.

Before the Pride March started, an Islamist group gathered in Kuğulu Park, using offensive language and religious chants, spreading hate speech against LGBTI+ individuals who wanted to exercise their right to assemble and participate in the demonstration. It was also mentioned in the defendant's statements during the trial that the police did not intervene in this situation.

Statements of several defendants at the hearing on 18.05.2023¹:

B.G. "I faced police violence while being followed by jihadist gangs. They threw me to the ground without giving any warning and proceeded to kick me while I was on the ground. I also witnessed them punching someone in the head."

ASE: "I do not accept the accusation leveled against me; I simply exercised my democratic right. We were subjected to intense police attack. I was detained even before the protest started. They sprayed pepper spray into my eyes. While Islamist and fascist gangs were

¹ <https://kaosgl.org/haber/ankara-onur-yuruyusu-davasi-polis-tekme-tokat-bizi-dovdu-simdi-biz-yargilaniyoruz>

trying to attack us with sticks, the police did nothing.”

B.D.: “One of our friends was lying on the ground because the police had hit him on the head. The police, who were busy beating us, did nothing to the jihadist gangs. In the days of seeking our rights against years of enduring hatred, we take to the streets, we occupy the squares. Your violence has not intimidated us. It will not intimidate. I do not accept any of these accusations. Long live our anti-fascist queer feminist struggle.”

Article 34 of the Constitution: Everyone has the right to hold unarmed and peaceful meetings and demonstration marches without prior permission In the *Alekseyev v. Russia* case, the European Court of Human Rights reiterated that the legitimacy or legal regulation of the prohibition on the right to hold meetings and demonstrations is considered irrelevant from the perspective of democratic society requirements. The Court also reaffirmed that Article 11 includes protection against attacks from those who may be disturbed by the subject and purpose of the demonstration or who may disagree with the demonstrators. The Court emphasized that the mere existence of a risk is not sufficient to ban the demonstration, and authorities must take necessary measures regarding potential attacks.²

Additionally, in the *Identoba and Others v. Georgia* case, the European Court of Human Rights also considered homophobic statements made during the attack and evaluated the violence, fear, and humiliation experienced by LGBTI+ individuals during the demonstration as a violation of Article 3, in connection with the prohibition of discrimination under Article 14. The Court noted that the authorities’ inability to safeguard the applicants’ freedom of assembly and demonstration from prejudiced violence constitutes a violation of

² [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/tur#\[%22fulltext%22:\[%22%\%22CASE%20OF%20ALEKSEYEV%20v.%20RUSSIA%20-%20\[Russian%20translation\]%20summary%20by%20Development%20of%20Legal%20Systems%20Publ.%20Co%\%22%22\],%22documentcollectionid%22:\[%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CHAMBER%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/tur#[%22fulltext%22:[%22%\%22CASE%20OF%20ALEKSEYEV%20v.%20RUSSIA%20-%20[Russian%20translation]%20summary%20by%20Development%20of%20Legal%20Systems%20Publ.%20Co%\%22%22],%22documentcollectionid%22:[%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CHAMBER%22]})

Article 11, in conjunction with Articles 3 and 14. The Court noted that the authorities were informed about the demonstrations nine days in advance, and this period could have been used to take necessary precautions, emphasizing that ensuring the peaceful continuation of the demonstration is the state's obligation, and it also highlighted that prior to the march, public announcements could have been made to emphasize tolerance and warn about potential legal consequences of any attacks on such a demonstration.³

³ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/tur#%22fulltext%22:%22identoba%22,%22documentcollectionid%22:%22GRANDCHAMBER%22,%22CHAMBER%22,%22itemid%22:%22001-154400%22>

Yerel Örgütlenme Destekleme Atölyesi:

Online workshops on Association Law, Personal Data Protection Law, Monitoring, and Reporting were conducted for activists of the Izmir-based 18th June LGBTI+ Civil Society Initiative, aiming to continue its activities.

In Izmir's Alsancak district, transgender sex workers are being pushed to live amid discrimination and violence, with the alarming rise in police brutality culminating in the murder of Hande Buse Şeker.¹ Besides conducting international advocacy on this issue, making sure that this advocacy is data-driven will make it more tangible and impactful. In this regard, how monitoring will be conducted and the international criteria to be used during monitoring have been explained. Moreover, the information provided on association law and practical examples related to the process of forming an organization have empowered activists. While collecting data, the significance of respecting the privacy of personal information cannot be denied, and data breaches, which are subject to sanctions under the Personal Data Protection Law, can potentially undermine the right to organization. Therefore, it

¹ <https://www.pembeyat.org/haberler/hande-buse-seker-davasi-19-eylul-rsquo-e-ertelendi-2619>

is highly important to include discussions about Personal Data Law in such workshops. .

Capacity Building Workshop for Strengthening Trans Organizations / On November 20:

Capacity Building workshops were provided to 12 transgender activists from various cities in Turkey. Workshops were conducted on November 19-20, with the participation of transgender activists from Istanbul, Izmir, Mersin, Siirt, Antalya, Diyarbakır, Bursa, Eskişehir, Samsun, and Ankara. During the workshops, sessions were provided on Reporting and Monitoring Human Rights Violations against Transgender Individuals, Fund Raising, Advocacy and Lobbying, Transgender Organizing, Organizing through Culture and Art, Association Legislation and Counterterrorism Financing Law, and Financial Reporting - Monitoring and Audit.

In the half-day workshop program aimed at empowering transgender activists, the importance of reporting and monitoring human rights violations as a key tool in data-driven advocacy was highlighted, alongside detailed explanations of association law legislation to support legal advocacy in the context of shrinking civil spaces for local organizations.

Lawyer Network Building Efforts:

To create a lawyer network and increase the legal support we provide nationwide, we organized a Lawyer Camp on April 29th - May 1st.

On the first day of the camp, which started on April 29th, the program included sessions by Tuğba Özsoy and Yasemin Korkmaz from the Hrant Dink Foundation on Discriminatory Discourse and Hate Speech, and Dr. Jasmin Duraner shared her knowledge and experiences on Heteronormativity and Language. After Kerem Dikmen provided information on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and the Regime of Interference with Rights,

the program concluded with a question-and-answer session.

On the second day, April 30th, workshops were conducted by Kardelen Yılmaz from the May 17 Association on Hate Crimes and Monitoring, Duygu Çildoğan from ÜniKuir Association on LGBTI+ individuals and the Right to Education, and Ekin Baltaş from Women's Time Association (Kadın Zamanı Derneği) on Law No. 6284 and LGBTI+ individuals.

On the last day, May 1st, the outcomes of the camp were discussed, expectations regarding the establishment of the lawyer network were shared, and collaborations were discussed. According to the outcomes of the camp, the efforts to establish the lawyer network have begun.

Meeting with Adana Bar Association LGBTI+ Commission:

On April 10, 2023, the LGBTI+ Rights Commission was established within the Adana Bar Association. With the establishment of this commission, we held meetings to foster collaborative efforts and discussed our organization's activities. We reached an agreement to explore potential consultancy collaboration with them. We considered the option of sharing our publications with their members and planning to organize workshops together in the future.

Meeting with İzmir Bar Association LGBTI+ Rights Commission:

The hate and police violence against transgender individuals in İzmir are increasing day by day. We requested a meeting with the bar association regarding this issue and established contact with supportive lawyers who will assist us. During the meeting, we discussed our organization's activities and agreed on potential client referrals for consultation.

Client Referrals with Aksaray Bar Association Lawyers:

any legitimate reason, under the pretext of carrying and transmitting sexually transmitted infections to partners. They contacted our organization through their friends, informing us that they have not

heard from the individual for hours, and we are working together with Aksaray Bar Association lawyers to proceed with the process.

It is evident that hate and discrimination are applied to LGBTI+ individuals regarding sexually transmitted infections, and they are also criminalized, with politicians' statements reflected in the media further exacerbating the situation.

The information regarding sexually transmitted infections is continuously being updated, and judicial processes are also progressing based on the updated information. Each stage of criminal proceedings has its unique characteristics; therefore, discussing crimes in the criminal law without taking into account the vulnerabilities of marginalized groups can lead to further discrimination. As Sexual Transmission of Infections is not regulated as a crime in the Penal Code, stigmatizing vulnerable groups in this manner can lead to offenses such as disclosing a person's sensitive personal data to third parties, violating the privacy of private life, and spreading personal information.

Pınar Selek Trial Monitoring:

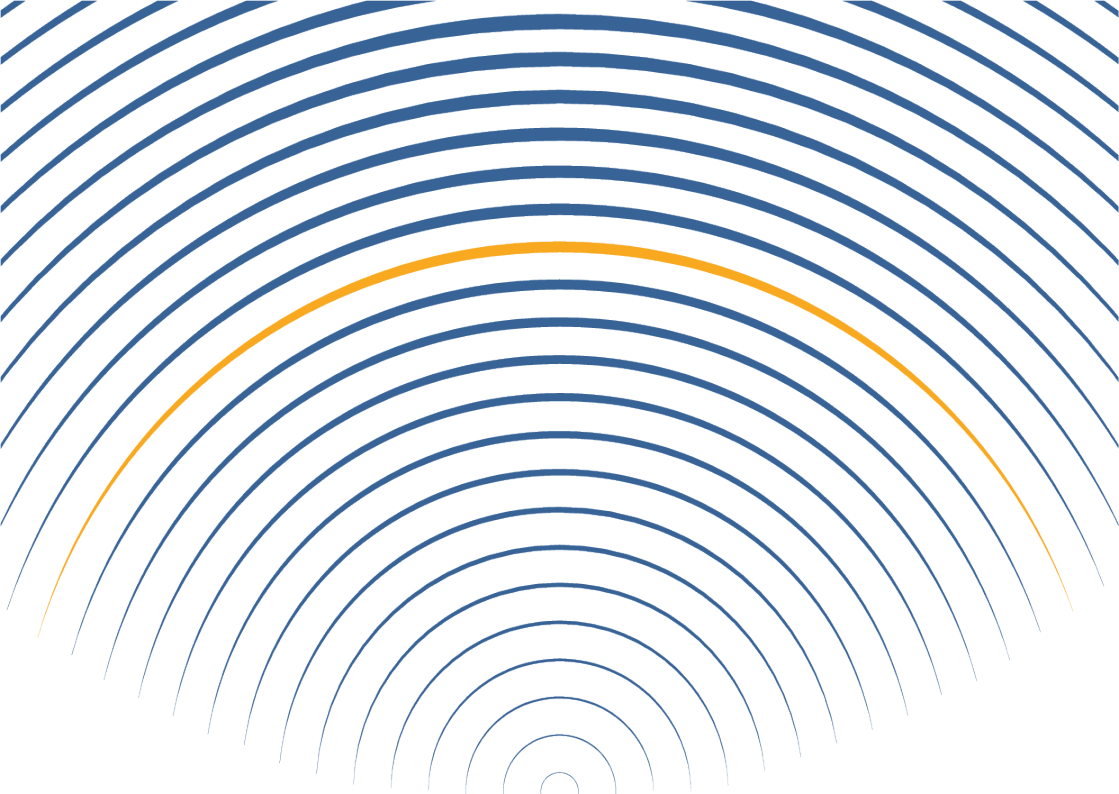
After the Supreme Court overturned the fourth acquittal decision regarding sociologist Pınar Selek, the case restarted at the 25th Istanbul High Criminal Court. The trial was attended by numerous representatives, including Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, representatives from the bar association and municipality, as well as delegates from human rights and women's rights organizations, social researchers, university representatives, and parliamentarians. We, as the Pink Life Association, participated in the trial and are actively monitoring the case.¹

¹ <https://www.pembehayat.org/haberler/surgun-edilen-hayatlardan-surgun-edilen-baska-bir-hayata-2837>



IN LIEU OF CONCLUSION

Although LGBTI+ individuals encounter discrimination, criminalization, and hatred in all aspects of life, they continue to serve as an inspiration and lead the way for transformation within the human rights movement of Turkey, in conjunction with the women's movement, despite the challenges and bans they face.



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Ankara

