

QUEER CYPRUS ASSOCIATION:

Queer Cyprus is a civil society movement that originally started as "The Initiative Against Homophobia" in 2008, which set out to change discriminatory local legal legislations in the northern part of Cyprus and create public opinion on the rights and freedom of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex individuals. Queer Cyprus embraces diversity and stands up to any form of oppression with a feminist, anti-militarist, ecologist, and veganist stance.

PROJECTS:

DIVERSITY OF COLOURS PROJECT:

The Diversity of Colours Project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by Queer Cyprus Association, works effortlessly towards a Cyprus where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and other persons (LGBTI+) can coexist like all the colours of the rainbow. The project, having successfully completed its first two years, will come to an end in December 2021.

THE LIFE PROJECT:

Funded by the European Union and implemented by Queer Cyprus in cooperation with KAOS GL, the "LGBTI+ In Freedom from Exploitation (LiFE)" Project started in May 2019 and will continue for 2.5 years. The LiFE project aims to contribute to the efforts of LGBTI+ victims who have been victims of human trafficking in the northern part of Cyprus.

STRONGER TOGETHER PROJECT:

Funded by ILGA-EU and implemented by Queer Cyprus Association, the "Stronger Together" project aims to strengthen the socio-economically vulnerable LGBTI+ community in the northern part of Cyprus.

THE QUEER DIVERSITY CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ON 28 OCTOBER 2020

Within the framework of the Diversity of Colours Project, the Queer Diversity Conference webinar took place on October 28, Saturday. With speakers and participants joining the webinar from all around the world; sessions were held on "Queer Cyprus Publications", "Health", "Law", and "Education". The conference came to a successful close with an attendance of over 200 participants who praised the conference for its logistic success and content.

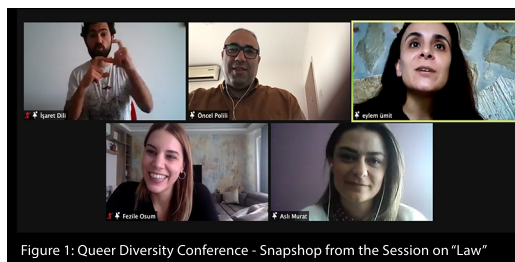


Figure 1: Queer Diversity Conference - Snapshot from the Session on "Law"

ANNUAL MEDIA MONITORING REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO JOURNALISTS

The annual media monitoring report prepared by the project team and Queer Cyprus volunteers within the scope of the Diversity of Colors Project will be presented to the newspapers which will be monitored throughout February. Since June 2019, a total of 5 newspapers (three online and two in print) have been regularly monitored and evaluated in the context of rights-based journalism. The results obtained from these evaluations will be presented to the newspapers in question.

CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING ON SEX WORK TOOK PLACE:

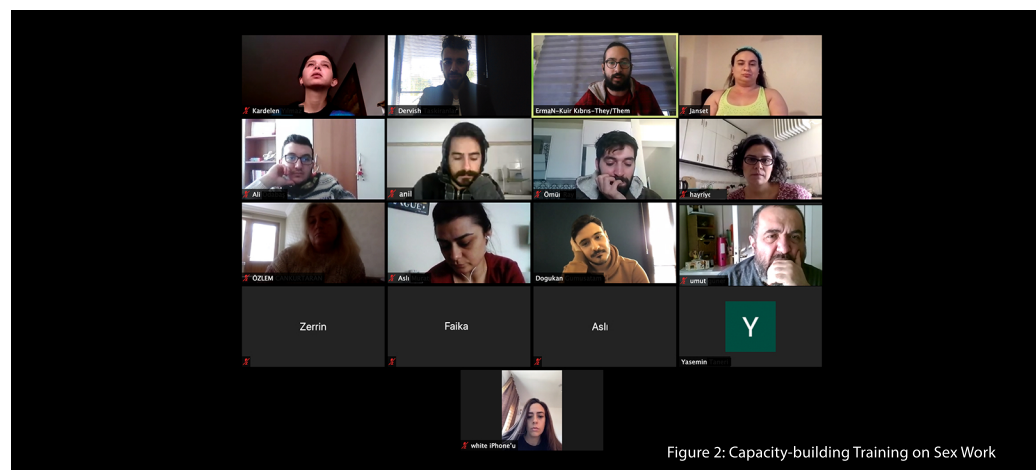


Figure 2: Capacity-building Training on Sex Work

Within the scope of the "LGBTI+ In Freedom from Exploitation (LiFE)" project, a capacity-building training on sex work took place on October 19th, Saturday for Queer Cyprus members. During the training, which was covered in three sessions, Queer activists were informed about the report on the status mapping of sex workers within the framework of the "LGBTI+ In Freedom from Exploitation (LiFE)" project, a general overview of the legal regulations on sex work in Turkey as a neighbouring country as well as comparisons of various legal regulations. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about sex work in Turkey through the eyes of a rights advocate working in the field of sex work in Turkey along with their experiences as a lawyer. As a result of this training, which was described as seminal and stimulating by participants, activists of the association also had the opportunity to exchange their views on the subject matter.



"MAPPING OF LGBTI+'S ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES" HAS BEGUN

The second mapping activity within the scope of the "LGBTI+ In Freedom from Exploitation (LifE)" project has begun. The "Mapping of LGBTI+'s Access to Social Services" project will include the access of LGBTI+ individuals' access to social services within the northern part of Cyprus, the surveillance of areas in which social services are offered, analysis of the attitudes of social services experts towards LGBTI+ individuals, and the analysis of the social services' legal code and other local legal statutes. This research will facilitate and support advocacy endeavours in creating a structure within social services that is inclusive of LGBTI+ individuals.

"MAPPING OF LGBTI+'S EXPERIENCES IN EMPLOYMENT" HAS BEGUN

The "Research on LGBTI+'s Experience of Discriminatory Attitudes/Difficulties in the Workplace and Coping Strategies" has begun. The research aims to identify discriminatory attitudes, obstacles, and difficulties faced by LGBTI+ individuals living in the northern part of Cyprus when looking for work, during employment, and promotion procedures due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. The research is a solid step towards eradicating the obstacles preventing LGBTI+ individuals from being more actively involved in the workplace and developing preventative measures to compensate for the lack of local legal texts.

ALLIANCE VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE

As part of the "Stronger Together" project, meetings focusing on the employment, building, and strengthening the capacity of socio-economically vulnerable LGBTI+ individuals with various civil society organisations and projects took place. The projects and organisations which took part in these meetings during October, December, and January are; the "Go Social" project, Human Resource Management Association, SOS Children's Village - Kyrenia Development and Youth Centre, and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Shopkeepers and Artisans.

SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH PROJECTS:

Within the scope of the projects, 3 types of services are offered; **Psychological, Legal, and Social Services**. To benefit from these services, you may call our Solidarity Hotline at **0542 858 58 47**.

QUEER CYPRUS ASSOCIATION & CHARITY CAMPAIGNS! KEEP QUEER ALIVE!

Our Plaque Supporters donate part of their earnings each month to cover the Queer Cyprus office expenses, to increase its public visibility, to make its voice heard, in short, to KEEP QUEER ALIVE! Below, you can find the list of businesses supporting us: **42 Bar, Amcacak Tic. LTD., Bahar Nurluöz Pharmacy, Café 5, Cafe No.3, Canteen Sandwich Bar, Copy Point, Dive Hub, Ghetto Café, Hoi Polloi, Imagine Bar, Kemal Tunali Veterinary Clinic, Kaldi Cafe & Patisserie, Koraki Meyhane, Lorenza Cafe, Mayıs Consulting, Maksil Cafe & Bar, Çobi's Leather Workshop, Okkiran Flower Shop, Piedra Cafe, Red Zeppelin Bar, Rüstem Bookstore, Sabor Restaurant, Şenay Yönlüer Beauty & Makeup.**

SOLIDARITY BOX!

The Solidarity Hotline began operating in 2017 with the aim to answer questions about our association as well as providing accurate information to those wanting to learn more about sexual orientation and gender identity. Our Solidarity Hotline is free-of-charge and is operated by trained volunteers who abide by a strict principle of confidentiality. As interest in the Solidarity Hotline along with demands increase each day, so has its cost. This is why we have come together (in solidarity, if you will) to support the Solidarity hotline. By donating your loose change, coins that have been hiding in the darkness of your car's glove compartment, the tiny 'jackpot' you just discovered in your coat pocket, or by making a caring donation of currency, you will have helped us help others in need when we receive an urgent phone call from an LGBTI+ individual or their loved ones in dire need of financial or moral support. Who knows, you might even help save a life. We are stronger together. Here are the businesses where you can find a solidarity box to support us: **All For Paws Veterinary Clinic, Atölye Sanat Sepet, Be Well Healthy Life Centre, Copy Point, Ghetto Café, Hilkat Park, Kemal Tunali Veterinary Clinic, Koraki Meyhane, Lorenza Café, Maksil Café and Bar, Mint Muse Boutique, Nurluöz Pharmacy, Patience Tattoo Studio, Piedra Café & Restaurant, Okkiran Flower Shop, Öznel Psychotherapy, Rüstem Bookstore, Şenay Yönlüer Beauty & Makeup, Yol Üstü Coffee & Brunch ve Atelier Kabuk.**

If you want to have a solidarity box at your business or place of work, or if your business wants to KEEP QUEER ALIVE by joining our plaque campaign, send an email to queercyprus@gmail.com or contact us via our **social media** pages.

You may support us via our Regular Support Channels!

You may contribute to Queer Cyprus Association by sending an SMS via your post-paid mobile line.

KKTCELL users can send an **SMS** to support the Association on a monthly basis by texting **4271** with the text **ABONE KUIR10** for **10 TL**, **ABONE KUIR30** for **30 TL** or **ABONE KUIR50** for **50 TL** and **VODAFONE** users can send an **SMS** to **4271** with the text **ABONE KUIR 10** for **10 TL**, **ABONE KUIR 30** for **30 TL** or **ABONE KUIR 50** for **50 TL**.



The Diversity of Colours Project is funded by the European Union under the Cypriot Civil Society in Action VI Grant Scheme and implemented by Queer Cyprus Association. This Newsletter's contents are the sole responsibility of the Queer Cyprus Association and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

