

Nicosia, 20 June 2018

Seminar on Advancing LGBTI Rights

The European Commission will highlight the topic of “Advancing LGBTI Rights” at a seminar organised by the EU Infopoint in cooperation with Queer Cyprus on Tuesday 26 June 2018 from 18:00 to 19:30 at the Journalists’ Association, Nicosia. The seminar will host keynote speaker, Mr. Kerem Dikmen, practicing lawyer on LGBTI cases.

The event aims to bring together journalists, NGO representatives, decision makers and practitioners in the field to explore the topic of advancing LGBTI rights. Mr. Kerem Dikmen will share his experiences and insights and provide recommendations.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, the European Commission funded the “Unspoken” project which aimed to achieve social change by combating discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation and improving levels of media coverage and public debate. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/unspoken.konusulmayan/>. Discrimination against LGBTI people goes against the fundamental values of the EU and as long as it is a problem, the EU won’t stop working to end it.

Background:

At EU level, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation at work has been illegal since 2000, under the Employment Equality Directive. This ensures that you are legally protected if, for example, you think you are being treated unfairly on the basis of your sexual orientation when applying for a job or promotion. The Directive also protects you against bullying or harassment in the workplace.

Under EU law, Member States have established national equality bodies, and in a number of countries these also cover discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. These organisations, as well as NGOs and trade unions, will be able to help you when you feel you have been discriminated at work or when applying for a job.

The European Commission also made a proposal to extend this protection to social security, healthcare, and access to goods and services such as housing. This proposal still has to be adopted by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. Some Member States have already adopted such legislation at national level.

Mr. Kerem Dikmen

Mr Dikmen, who graduated from the Faculty of Law at Istanbul University, is a practicing lawyer on LGBTI cases since 2005. In addition to his professional experience as a legal consultant at KAOS GL, he has also been doing voluntary consultancy work for civil society organisations working in the field of LGBTI rights. He has been involved in drafting several publications on LGBTI issues and rights.

Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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