

# EQUALITY



# MANIFESTO



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*You are not alone; we are not alone.*

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# **EQUALITY MANIFESTO**

*In Respect To All Transgender We Lost In The Struggle For Equality*

## **We Announce: June 18, The Day of Equality with Transgenders. Happy June 18, The Day of Equality with Transgenders!**

June 18 is the day of the regulation issued by the World Health Organization in 2018 to exclude trans existences from the disease category. Our existence, which had been called “mental disorder” for years and had been medicalized was freed from the disease category by the health authorities on June 18 thanks to the proposal brought about as a result of the transgenders’ struggles.

We think it is important to adopt this day, which arrives for transgenders 28 years after 17 May 1990, the iconic day of the sexual orientation struggle, in terms of embracing the history of trans existences, and that this “equalization” practice, which has been delayed for years, mirrors this long path that must be taken in the gender identity struggle. For this reason, we announce that we will commemorate June 18 as “The Day of Equality with Transgenders” every year and we will re-express trans peoples’ demands for equality!

We remind that we already have the newly-recognized equality since the day each of us is born, and that no authority can exclude an LGBTI+ person whether inside or outside the binary; and, as we mentioned in the “Trans Manifesto” that we published collectively in 2012, we accept the struggle each trans individual goes through from the day they are born as part of the history of our movement, and take those individual struggles as achievements of our movement that has existed since the dawn of time. We declare our existence, which is constantly on the agenda with the concepts of “solidarity,” “commemoration,” and “struggle,” by raising our demand for equality: no one is equal, no other person’s life is valuable until trans equality is achieved.

**For this reason, we announce that we will commemorate June 18 as “Trans Day of Equality” every year and we will re-express trans peoples’ demands for equality!**

## **You Have to Recognize Trans Existences!**

“Everyone is equal before the law without distinction as to language, race, color, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such grounds. (Paragraph added on May 7, 2004; Act No. 5170) Men and women have equal rights. The State has the obligation to ensure that this equality exists in practice.”

Article 10 of the Constitution includes every person and every institution living in the borders of the Turkey but why over the years everyone struggles for equality in the territory of Republic of Turkey? Every single person comes to our mind when the word “everyone-herkes” is used in Turkish, unfortunately, the concept of “everyone” created by the judicial authorities, bureaucratic authorities and the institutions of the state does not include each person. Obviously, transgenders are not part of “everyone”. Otherwise, “State organs and administrative authorities have to act in accordance with the principle of equality before the law in all their transactions.” how can we explain the transgenders who have been sentenced to arbitrary punishments, transgenders who have been thrown out of hospitals, who have not been involved in the justice mechanism discriminated in police stations and courthouses? How will we explain the ignorance of hate based on sexual orientation and gender identity while the hate crime law that has been struggled by LGBTI+ activists for years has been passed? For such reasons, our struggle for constitutional equality continues. Ignoring organized by the state and violence practices can change with changing mentality and it should be radical change. One of the important steps for this is to secure sexual orientation and gender identity with the constitution which is binding by everyone. If it is talked about equalizing before the law, you have to give up the assumption that everyone is natrans and recognize trans existences. The Constitutional Court mentions equality before the law in a decision as follows.

“(…) Equality before the law does not mean that all citizens are adhered to the same provisions in all respects. If it is justified for some citizens to adhere to other provisions, in such a case, it cannot be mentioned that the principle of equality is violated against the law. It is an obvious fact that there are many differences between people in terms of creation or working power or health or qualitatively equal reasons. (...)”

**We are not equal.  
YOU ARE GOING TO BE EQUAL TO TRANS PEOPLE.**

## **You Owe Each Of Us A Life!**

If trans existence was removed from the same category on the same date when being homosexual was removed from the category of illness, we have one word to say when we think about where we would be in the trans rights struggle today, " We are owed! "

The practices that were built in a not so distant past, where medicine and the health system were kneaded with social norms, are still valid today and the sex that is assigned to people at the moment they are born, creates a major obstacle for people to express their gender identity. It is imperative, not a necessity, to know that medicine is a science and the fact that science differentiates rather than discriminates! Medicine, which is a field of science, does not have the authority to draw the path of how a human being, a social entity, can express itself and become a part of the society by trying to be embellished with social and political ideologies and to be created through the dual gender system! For years, the fact that medicine regarded being a transgender as an illness has led to nothing other than losing cases in the struggle of transgenders trying to survive no matter where they are in the world, and that the societies already see transgenders as 'sick and perverted'. Until today; The stories of all our friends who have been subjected to violence, humiliated, marginalized, made feel inherently wrong, suicide and killed are with us. Authorities in the medical world; Those who give the society the power to do and say with this authority, yes, you owe each of us a life! Do not forget that every life that we cannot live and was taken away are owned a life from you!

Remember that you, the authorities, who have been accepted by the societies as they say, "the words they say are true because they are doctors," have been the founding arm of the mechanism of violence since you showed us the boldness of saying "sick"!

Our family threw us away because we were sick! We couldn't go to school because we were "sick"! They did not work with us because we were "sick"! Since we are "sick", we were not be equal to those who are not sick before justice! We were arrested for being "sick"! Our life was spent in prisons because we were "sick"! We have been subjected to violence because we are "sick"! We were forced to commit suicide because we were "sick"! We were killed because we were "sick"! Being trans does not only mean rejecting the assigned sex and starting gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) process by giving opposite gender declaration. A trans may or may not want to undergo surgery. Transgender identities cannot be trapped within a single norm of existence.

Today, transgenders who want to start the process and undergo a surgical operation face many difficulties. The most important of these is the lack of state assurance that covers

and controls every stage of the process. Persons who started the process today; They are forced to pay from laser epilation they want to make from to hormone they need to use, the hair they wants to implant, and many other surgical operations that the state does not secure. The so-called state-assured operations, on the other hand, confine people to a cycle without options due to the limited number of medical doctors who carry out these procedures and leave the surgical operations that people want to undergo to the hands of doctors and exorbitant figures they want. While the system allows people with money to realize themselves, it rises as a major obstacle to the efforts of people without money to survive. The reorganization of the process in a way that everyone can benefit and in a way that it offers equal opportunities for everyone is an undeniable need!

Some transgenders in many parts of the world must be victims of a system of law and medicine, in order to be officially recognized, accepted by the society and to survive. Gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) process as required by law in Turkey as in many countries “assured” but lack the human and the guaranteed applications need to be changed; but it continues to exist as a corrupt system that resists this change. Transgender people may have to give up their body integrity unintentionally in order to exist as themselves. Law and medicine continue to resist, as if they are unaware of the diversity of existence, constantly and non-stop, to fit people into the dual-sex system, to imprison a norm and not to pull their hands that smell cruel.

In order for trans people to change their gender in their identities, which are elements of oppression, and to stand out from the discrimination and otherization they face; they can be deprived of their reproductive abilities forever, use drugs for years under the name of hormone therapy, and may be forced into unwanted surgical operations. The mentality that builds the dual sex system on the the penis and the cunt imposes the processes that trans people think are easy in thought, without knowing how difficult and what it can cost. They are trying to make us all “fit” to a cunt or penis.

Transgenders are human and trans rights are human rights. Trans people do not have to live for anyone’s perception of suitability! With the trans-existence removed from the category of mental illness, the laws governing the process of gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) should be reorganized in dignity of humanity.

As part of the gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) process, the condition of psychiatry required for the permission of the surgical operations that people want to spend with their own consent should be removed immediately, and the mandatory sterilization practice hidden under the discourse of operations appropriate for medical purposes and methods should end immediately. Everything that people need in the process of gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) should be made free within the scope of health insurance.

While trans people are struggling with the negative implementations by the healthcare system and the medicine, they also see that judiciary system are not with them during this struggles. Within the scope of gender adjustment (gender transition / body building) operations, irreparable destructions and possible deaths that may occur in the body of individuals cannot be considered as a case in the way of seeking rights by evaluating under the name of “complication”. People are not even able to account for the consequences of medical negligence and wrongfulness. Distrust of justice does not prevent people from struggling for violations of rights they suffer only during the process of gender adjustment (gender transition / body building). People can choose to stay in their homes instead of going to a health institution even when they have flu, and they can try to diagnose and improve themselves. Because of the ill-treatment and discrimination, they receive in the healthcare system they want to benefit from, they can choose to die.

All those who work in healthcare system abusing, discriminating and using violence are directly responsible from these deaths and all judiciary system which are only reflection of justice and not giving the deterrent punishments to them is also the supporter of these actions. The mistrust to justice is not only a deepening hole in healthcare system detaining trans people from speaking out against the injustices they are experiencing, but also a cliff that trans people faced and struggling in any sphere of life when their rights are violated. This cliff is the system itself. We repeat with the awareness that the condition of existence and living as a human being is independent of sexual organs and appearance, pull your hands off us! We arrived, we exist, we will exist!

Immediately, all the departments of the universities that are included in the health system should have a gender lesson, and education should be prevented by any negative situation that people who would start working in this system could cause, and deterrent and equitable legal sanctions should be applied to anyone who does unequal practices in working life. Health insurance is a right that we demand for our trans friends who have been deprived of this right and who passed away. We want the health system, which is said to be for everyone, to be easily accessible, safe, inclusive and free for us!

## **We Don't Owe Anything to Anyone. They Owe Us!**

Everyone wants to live in a place, a house. If we are going to look at the house, we decide what kind of house it should be, and we hold the house with our criteria and budget. Bathroom and the kitchen should be spacious, and we should watch the flight of seagulls from living room.

Life is so ciscentric (centered on non-transgenders) they can live without any problem while transgenders can experience the greatest fears and burning agendas. If you are a trans, the process of accessing the right to housing is not by setting criteria for the budget and home. First of all, you need to find a real estate agent whose door will not hit your face, then find a district where you can live and minimize violence, then you have to find a landlord that can give you his/her home, the residents of the apartment must accept you and you have to pay twice as much as the rent.

If you have skipped all these steps, now you can make criteria with the options you have. You can ask someone else to hold the house on your behalf. This time, you become addicted to that person, doomed. The story doesn't finish when you hold the house. The state can come and seal your home at any time, it is unlawful. Unfortunately, the situation is worse for older transgenders and refugee transgenders. The services and facilities defined by the government as "for EVERYONE" are not implemented when transgenders are concerned. Doors of shelters and nursing homes do not open to transgenders. They are trying to destroy people who exist. Until this time, tens of elderly, refugee and insecure transgender have been hosted Turkey's first and only trans guesthouses Eylül Cansın Transevi is closed. THEY CLOSED. It was left without a budget, emptied, they didn't give a new place, and old people without conscience; migrants, refugees and disadvantaged people were left on the street despite all efforts. But when it comes to the obligations of the transgenders, these are force us to do everything. Taxes are collected, trans people are expected to abide by the rules of society, they are advised not to disrupt the order, and of course they are added to this society without forgetting that they owe it. We say it once again. We don't owe anyone. We have things to take from this life. This system will break. We will not pay allegiance to those imposed as "the rule of society". These rules will be redefined with us.

**We are not equal.  
YOU ARE GOING TO BE EQUAL TO TRANS PEOPLE.**

## **Trans People Are Still Not Employed Today!**

You owe us equality. As a result of systematic discrimination and violence that you remain silent, ignore, overlook, and perpetrate, you owe equality to every trans that you push out of the flow of life. While we re-establish ourselves by loving, fighting, and resisting in every area you occupy, you owe us to stand quietly in a corner, to make ways for us, to create positive environments where trans people can express themselves by using the power of your positions you are very proud of, to put your hands under the stone to build safe areas so that they are not exposed to discrimination and harassment.

Trans people are still not employed today. Even if they are employed, they are forced to deal with working conditions that are far from the understanding of equality. Their efforts are ignored, they are forced to put up more workforce / labor than any cis-gender employee, even in order to get promoted or just keep their current job, and they are often forced to work in jobs that they do not want.

For each trans person who is forever removed from a job they desire by traumatizing during the recruitment process, who is subjected to mobbing because of their identity and take a dislike to their loved job, who is exposed to heteronormative and cis-sexist harassment throughout the day in their office, we will reclaim the areas you have occupied and we will shout out our voices for every trans victim of cis-sexist violence.

We arrived, we exist, and we will exist!

## **Neither The World Stops Nor The Trans Existences Disappear!**

“Think good, everything will turn out good, there is no such thing as impossible, you can achieve everything if you work hard enough, so you have to try harder, look where they have come from and what they have accomplished.” motivational and comforting phrases that we use every day, inhabited in the deep corners of our minds and we don’t even need to think before saying ... BIG ILLUSION. Now imagine a trans-migrant or trans refugee who has to flee from their native land just because they are trans. Look them in the eye and tell your motivational, comforting phrases to them. “It was bad because you thought bad, you couldn’t continue your education because you didn’t work enough. If you worked hard, you could have been in a safe place right now, it is what it is because you didn’t work enough”. How positive were these sentences, but how savage they sound in this situation? Now let’s fix this mistake. All this time cis-genders(non-trans people) sat on the desks you were supposed to sit too, because you have been subjected to bullying by your peers since the first day you were eager to study, you have been subjected to domestic violence, everyone from the teacher to security staff, everything from toilet to locker cabin were designed

for your cis-gender peers and not you. You could not get the education you wanted because you were kept away from all scholarship opportunities with a lie of equality. You had to work but you were not employed. You wanted to isolate yourself in your room and study for your exams, do your homework, but neither you could live in dormitories nor the real estate agents met your needs. In the times when only stating there are trans children was a cause of indignation, what else do we need to hear and see to accept there are children that couldn't get a proper education just because they are trans?

are trying to exist in this society, everyday worrying about harmful situations that they might face on the streets does not have the same opportunities. Cis-genders who are easily passing security controls and trans people who are always humiliated by conversations about whom is going to do their controls.

## **We are not equal. YOU ARE GOING TO BE EQUAL TO TRANS PEOPLE.**

### **It's Time To Star!**

The false misrepresentations of your media are obsessed. Your representations are the manifestation of your hatred and transphobia.

Your newspaper pages have reproduced discrimination for years, with a word and phrase that targeted and legitimized the perpetrator. Your "I thought she was a woman, she was a transvestite" news ignored her transgender status, normalized hate killings and justified the perpetrator. The perpetrators remained unpunished with these sentences or took advantage of the penalty reduction. You presented our self-defense as "transvestite horror". You have brought the transphobic and moralist policies of government to your third pages.

You did not give space to trans people in front of or behind the camera. In your TV series and films, non-trans actors played trans characters, and they received praise and rewards for "how much trans". You have occupied our space, while trans actors could portray these roles. On the pretext of being "realistic" (whose reality!), you displayed your transphobia on the screens. In your stories, trans people have fallen victim to assault and murder, have committed suicide, or have been featured as unfortunate endings or as objects of laughter. You squeezed trans sex workers into compulsory sex work patterns and made them victimized.

The new media, namely social media, which claim to be democratized, mediated digitalization and continuing of the language of violence, hate speech and threats against trans people who face with these in their daily lives in another medium. You have not taken the necessary and sufficient measures to prevent them.

With our core and genuine media, we disclose, resolve and distort your discourse that is marginalizing, criminalizing and victimizing. We will further expand our media network and solidarity. We set up safe spaces where we can produce and display our own truth and strong stories, and we want our occupied areas back. There are transvestites, trans people, trans actors, trans directors! It is time for trans people and their stories to take the lead in every media, according to the principle of equality and with correct discourses!

### **Another Feminism Is Possible!**

The history of feminist struggle has been etched into memories as the history of freedom against the power, the dominant and the patriarchy. This struggle shows day by day that another world is possible by considering the freedom of all women who are the target of the patriarchy.

Despite this practice, the existence of an understanding that does not want to give up its privilege of being cis-gender and that carries the trans-exclusive, transphobic fiction of cis-heteropatrians into feminism contradicts with the history and methods of the feminist struggle.

This understanding, which manifests itself as cis-feminism, is getting power by building an attitude with cis-gender supremacy. When it comes to trans people, it turns into its opposite.

This understanding, which tries to spread into the feminist struggle, nullifies the struggle. Cis-feminism falls on the same side as cis-heteropatriarchy, which is the source of hate, violence, discrimination and phobia.

This approach that pushes trans people out of the feminist struggle and aims to open the gap between the trans movement and the feminist movement aims to weaken both the feminist movement and the trans movement in the fight against cis-heteropatriarchy.

Despite all the trans-exclusive fiction, a feminism that does not question the subject of the trans is possible. Another way of feminism is possible.

Feminism without the language of cis-heteropatriarchy is possible.

It is possible for a feminism, in which all feminisms are enriched by their differences, they learn from each other and gradually deepen feminism and increase the feminist possibilities.

It is possible to set up a new and feminist world by defeating all the fictions that Cis-heteropatriarchy exists.

A future in which the feminist method will be developed and there is no violence, discrimination, cis-supremacy or transphobia can only be established if we come together, touch each-other and develop self-criticism practices.

Trans people believe and do their best to make the “A transphobic cannot be feminist” approach one of the main principles of feminism and will continue to do so.

### **Violence Against Transgenders Is Not Lightning Flashing In The Clear Sky!**

From the moment they were born to their death; The entire time that a person who has personality as a biological species and a social entity has consciously covered in the linear time of the universe can be considered as “life”. The lifetime and all the actions experienced by the person during this period can also be defined as “living”.

The right to life, which has brought many controversies in philosophical, religious and legal fields since the early ages of humanity, is considered universally and manifests itself as the most fundamental right of human.

Enforcement of other rights and freedoms can be mentioned with the existence of the right to life. However, when looking at the history of humanity, it can be observed that many obstacles prevent the uniqueness of the right to life and these obstacles eliminate the right to life, which is the most fundamental right of the person.

The ability of the person who thinks that it can be determining about the limits of life and putting it into practice makes the right of life critical for the one who is not able to.

The ability to accumulate social sovereignty and gather at the center in the current age, reflects itself according to the quality of the social layer it has established. Today, when the ability to dominate people with trans experience is defined, it is faced with a comprehensive definition of the ability.

When other social identities that are able to transcend transgender identity are added, they will be able to become more crystallized. When other non-human creatures and nature are in focus, all humans can become able.

To be able to people with trans experience; It manifests itself as a man, living in harmony with their inborn sex, having heterosexual orientation. Each person and institution brought by these three features here thinks that they can have as much power over transgenders as they have and organizes the practice of daily life.

The ability to qualify as cis-heteropatriarchy, or to be able to expand its scope as a trans-superior / non-trans-transplant, takes away the right to live, which is known to be the most basic and unique right.

Here the person who is able to establish hegemony over transgenders and suppress them in the practice of everyday life in a wide variety of forms. The tools of cis-heteronormative oppression against transgenders and LGBTI+ can be observed in all areas of life. The transphobia of the legislative power shows itself in the law rules that regulate life. The phobic and discriminatory attitudes of law enforcement officers (police, guard, etc.) towards transgenders constitute the difficult aspect of cis-heteronormative oppression. The construction of judicial practices with the same setup exists as a major obstacle to trans people's access to justice. Education, health, labor market, the routine of everyday life and the transphobic atmosphere of the streets; reveals the ability to be shaped from bottom to ceiling and the transphobic setup of this form.

Life or living; it is not just about breathing on its own and allowing the body to perform all of its life activities. The safety of life and the maintenance of life in a humane way are the subject here.

It is an indisputable fact that the rights to live are not guaranteed, from the practice of trans people's daily lives to their social positioning.

One of the most important problems faced by transgenders is that the cis-heteropatriarchy thinks that trans people can have a say on the right to live when it comes to trans people and that the social dynamics that it constructs on this premise prevent human life.

Here, it is not enough to wait for the cis-heteropatriarchy and non-dominant focus of sovereignty to be resolved and dispersed by criminalizing the existence and life of transgenders. Progressive consciousness, which is the carrier of the social values of humanity, needs to act in order for this power focus to be resolved and dissolved. There is no doubt

that there will be transgenders and all the masses within the LGBTI+ spectrum that bear this consciousness and will transform society at this point of consciousness.

The perpetrator of hate speech towards the transgenders, phobic attacks, lynchings; It is today's most urgent need for all the masses.

Who have been suffering from the persecution to establish a world without trans suicide and trans murders, to come together in a trans- encompassing way and perform their historical role. It should be known that violence against transgenders, trans suicides and trans murders are not lightning flashes in the clear sky. These appear as the most political actions that trigger social traumas.

It is nothing more than the manipulative violence of cis masculinity and cis- heteropatriarchy to transcendence as a terrorist subject by criminalizing transgenders who have become the target of supremacist focus.

Being the subject of violence, discrimination, hatred and phobia applied to transgenders, who apply this terror to transgenders; it is incriminating victim accusation in order to hide its own agency and intends to make life unsustainable for transgenders with an ugly propaganda against transgenders.

Transgenders see this intention in the practice of daily life, try to survive as consciously aware subjects and try to protect themselves against this ugly propaganda. The freedom restriction of living in this way is obvious.

Transgenders whose freedoms are restricted, who try to be made invisible in the practice of daily life and who are seized by rights; today it does not fit into the social layer that the ability draws on it and tries to imprison it.

With all the colors of life, the first days of an era in which transgenders exist as conscious subjects and take root in all areas that are under the occupation of civilization are experienced. And the coming age is a trans age.

The biggest obstacle in front of trans subjects, who will use their right to live and to live to the full extent, is the superiority of transgender power and its negotiator who cannot give up these privileges and make them dominant.

Here, transgenders do not need to change. Those who create privileged areas for themselves by seizing the rights of transgenders needs to change. It is the focus here.

**They must accept that they have the right to live equally with transgenders.**

## **Addenda**

### **Life and Right to Live**

The day of equality with trans or the day of trans equality

It was such a day, they say.

My ass...

Who are we going to be equal with? How equal are we among us first of all? Will we be equal with cis-gender people? How? And why would I choose to be equal to a cis-gender? I've had so many things. How can I delete those experiences from my body from my memory?

They born cis-gender, live cis-gender. Where I came from and where I go... Every day is different and new. I know the woman, I know the man, the shit on both ends.

What fires I saw, just leave me, you are afraid of fire, run, save yourself. What wounds I got, they didn't kill. This part has been wrong.

They killed.

Dying, being killed, not having access to health system, not having access to any system due to identity. These are our scenarios.

There are a few things you can become when you are trans. Either a victim of hate crime, or object to hormone, transformation surgery and discriminations. These are okay. But are these all of our life?

To live! Like a tree; solo and free,  
And like a forest as mighty fellows,  
Like a pride going up in waves resembling the sea,  
This struggle, this yearning is ours!

Life is strong enough to repair all wounds. Or like so. We try to think so. We get up and continue whatever happens to us. This makes us strong. Immediately!

We open our hearts to the things that lived and will be lived. We welcome them. "Let's live" or "It has been lived". These words did not exist coincidentally in our jargon. We are living. If cis-gender people have privileges, we also have experience. Since we will be equals, they must give up their privileges. But we won't expect their pleasure to do so, of course!

Living, often surviving, is a fine art.

Life doesn't always go on as we want. We cannot freely disclose our identity anywhere, anytime, we cannot always be ourselves. Sometimes this feels like a lie to us, but often survival prevents us from realizing ourselves.

For example, there are those who do not have surgery to survive, even if they want it. There are also those who have surgery to survive, although they never wanted.

Just as there is no such thing as a LGBTI individual, there are thousands of things called trans. As many as each of us...

We cannot always say our chosen name everywhere.

The details that seem so simple for cis-gender people who do not have this experience, or even think about, are our agendas. Maybe it is not equality when we don't care about our secret lives in the details, but our longing for justice remains.

Living is not a joke; you will live with great seriousness

Like a bird, for example.

So, we have finished the transition among genders, we want to transform among species.

Is this in the mental illness catalog? Otherwise, let's save it.

Who are you to judge me? WHO ARE YOU?

We are the mirror of society: with our life, with our death...

Defaming or hating us are the coping ways of the dominants with their desires, hypocrisy, fantasy that they cannot face.

We know which government is protecting it.

Life is sometimes as heavy as a coal-filled truck.

It is not easy to be open to ourselves, neither to the family nor to the environment.

This is not a must. How many times does a trans become open in life? How many IDs will they be open about? What is the sum of the internal angles of a trans?

Most of our life goes through questions that cannot be answered even with quantum.

It is a very long way for a person to find themselves. Especially if we want to use hormones and have surgery, sometimes a lifetime passes at the court doors. So, when will we live?

Sometimes we transform the life into a yo-yo and play with it. This is true.

This angst is against not only cis-tem (cis-centered system), but also cis-gender homosexuals.

They dare to assume that they are the authority that will confirm that something is happening to us, as if there was a shit to happen.

We give a life to survive. A lifetime equals to a lifetime.

What nonsense...

Exactly how ridiculous, but true.

As dear Ali said, friendships and social ties are important. Solidarity saves lives.

We can only get out of this crap with solidarity.

But solidarity with whom?

To state it bluntly, a trans who wants to get into the military should not be discriminated against because they are trans, but we advocate against military service at all. Let nationalist trans people not be killed, but end nationalism at all.

The last word comes to cis-genders again. Are you strong?

You, the big boss, billionaire, well-heeled, owner of factories, are you powerful?

No.

I'm powerful, master slut.

You are nothing compared to me.

You don't even worth a penny in my eyes.

Talking about being equal.

My ass.

## **Rüzgâr Buşki & Ulaş Dutlu**

### **My Story, Our Story**

I want to tell you something that has happened to trans woman as if it were tales. I think I will express myself better to you with this story.

In year 1999, someone young who doesn't know LGBTI+ or that it even exist was forced to become a sexworker. But this young person was a woman, a trans woman.

It was a period when there was no laser epilation, and the young woman would shave her beard and do make-up by applying powder.

This trans woman has experienced many violations in the street as the months pass. She saw, heard and learned ...

In year 1999, the young woman who stayed in the home of a non-trans woman sex workers were a person who did not leave the house during the daytime, who went out at night to prevent the residents of the apartment from seeing her.

One day, while leaving the apartment to buy bread, she met others living in the apartment. After that moment, the difficult story of woman's this trans woman's being able to live and live somewhere started.

In a week, the residents had a meeting and saying, "There is a transvestite in our apartment" and asked to evict the trans woman from the apartment.

While doing this, they did not neglect to pressure the housemate that the trans woman lived with, and eventually they threw the trans woman out of the building.

When the trans woman did not know what to do, she found herself abandoned to the street and thought to stay with those who were like her. The trans woman who barely managed to settle next to those like her.

The conditions of the house were not good at all. Seven people stay in a house, what a difficult thing. A woman who stayed with her friends who were like her for about a year. During her stay, she became a girlfriend and, after she managed to save some money, started to look for a house where she could stay with her boyfriend.

The boyfriend searched for a house for months, but whenever a trans woman came out of his mouth, the real estate agents and landlords answered, “We can’t give you a house.” As the days pass like this, the trans woman has hardly managed to hold a rooftop house in Ballıbaba Street in Çankaya. At that time, when a house rent was an average of 80 Lira, our girl kept that loft for 200 Lira because she was a trans. The trans woman moved to her home and did not even some rumor for months so that the residents of the apartment did not bother, because she knew that she would be thrown out of the apartment in the slightest behavior that would disturb them.

The trans woman, who has learned how difficult it is to find a roof to fit her head to live and survive, has put something on her head in the past years. She started to accumulate money without forgetting what she had learned and now it is time to buy a house.

The woman met with many real estate agents and landlords. In every conversation, they said, “This is a family apartment.” She understood how difficult it was to buy a house even with the money she collected.

After a while, trans woman has found a house in the street where she lives. She called the realtor and went to see the house immediately and she really liked it. She had an indescribable desire to buy that house. The realtor asked for 140 billion for the house, but when other people living in the building put pressure on the landlord to not sell the house to the transvestite, the landlord gave up selling his house. The trans woman was very upset about this situation, but she decided to buy that house.

While thinking about what she could do, she suddenly thought of his boyfriend. She decided to buy the house on behalf of his boyfriend, instead of her. When this is the case, the so-called 140 billion house was suddenly 120 billion for the boyfriend. The man bought the house, they sold it immediately. What they did not know was that the person who bought the house was a trans woman’s lover. Thus, the trans woman realized her

After the trans woman bought the house, she started to prepare for moving to her new house and on the first day her belongings were taken to her new house, the apartment manager squeezed her boyfriend on the stairs. It turns out that the residents of the apartment saw the trans woman entering the house while the items were being transported. "We don't want you in this apartment," said the apartment manager to the boyfriend. When the trans woman saw these things, they walked over the manager and started shouting and arguing. The trans woman, who moved to her new home with this bad incident, has been walking at her fingertips and tried to live very carefully so that she will not have trouble for a few months despite her own home. She was worried if she was thrown out of the apartment by signing the signature again because.

Over the years, the apartment and its residents have adopted the trans woman. People who did not enter her home for two years, did not talk to her and did not want her in the apartment, greeted her over time, talked to her and invited them to their home. Things even came to such a point that they even wanted her to be an apartment manager. That trans woman still lives in the same apartment and is still a manager. That woman is me. I'm Selay.

I want to say that housing and finding homes for trans individuals is still a very difficult requirement. Even with the money you have, renting or buying a house is full of obstacles you cannot anticipate. The story I am telling is just a small section of my life.

The possibilities that may come to you do not end with counting. It simply boils around with real estate agents who are fraudulent and scammers. First, they help you to keep the house, get their commissions. Afterwards, they complain about the house they helped you keep and close. After causing your move, they rent the same house to another trans this time. Of course, it should not be forgotten that they receive commission from every rental. They rent houses that will not cost a thousand liras for two thousand liras, because they are aware. If we do not hold that house, we will stay on the street, and we will prefer to give those two thousand liras rather than sleeping on the street. This is inhumane.

This is a crime that real estate agents make, and unfortunately, transgenders are still being discriminated against and discriminated because these things are always left unpunished.

Everyone who I have experienced in the story I have told and caused what has been experienced is guilty. Real estate agents, landlords, residents of the apartment...

Anyone who leaves on the street is directly responsible for the victimization I have experienced. Their discrimination is a violation of rights and is a crime. All LGBTI+ who experience this victimization need to take legal action and follow the process. This wild order will never change unless we fight. Housing is a right and we transgenders will never stop fighting for this right until the end!

## **Selay Ulusoy**

### **TK**

“giiirrrlll, your husband is a flipflop?”

“Sister, yours is gay?”

“Ay i fucked him before”...

We have been discussing gender trouble for a long time. Those who reject the binary gender system or who say “I am the binary” are from us. \* I said a trans roof term, so “\* trans” may not mean anything when it has no context. But when you say the words above to a 19-year-old girl, it can mean a lot to her. You can both hurt her from the place where she expresses herself, and you will be discriminatory and abusive from where she is positioning her partner.

Confusing on “partner rights” requires looking at a crowd less than LGBTI+, which each of us is the subject of; our lovers, our love, our loved ones, our fuckbodies, our comrades, the ones we make love to ...

As we cannot discriminate against any LGBTI+, we cannot discriminate against an LGBTI+ partners on the person they are with, and when it comes to trans partners, the work becomes more complicated as always. Because when it comes to trans partners, as we have seen in the examples above, value judgments about gender, such as a van with blown-out breaks, come into play; partners are accused of “not being able to be enough men / women”. Those who are more “class-hated” also claim that only lower-class people choose transgenders as partner.

This is a reflection of phobic-based behavior, which, like many other social prejudices, aims at domination and social order. Fortunately, I have not witnessed that any “transvestite” and “transvestite husband” I have encountered have left shoes on these labels from society. Therefore, when we think of “transvestite husband”, we should not think of whether he is gay or flipflop; Another person who is in the target of discrimination that we have been fighting against since the day we were born should come.

While the years were overwhelmed with the fight against hate crimes; Maybe it was very luxurious to discuss the bullying within us, the separation, exclusionism and the like that we apply to each other....

I am one of those who criticize the state and the system at every opportunity, but now it's time to talk about the rights of trans partners, the community life within us and the bullies. Because unless these conversations are made, and the bullying of the above type continues, we witness another sad end of another friend like Eylül Cansın.

In order to prevent everyone else from living with equal rights and opportunities, we must stand up to all kinds of bullying and discrimination and smash our “no questions can be asked”.

## **Şevval Kılıç**

### **Explanations**

**May 17** International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The day when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the “International Classification of Diseases” in 1990. Today in Turkey and in the world as International Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Day is celebrated with various activities.

**Cis-gender** The term used for people whose gender identity is the same as the gender identity assigned by the doctor at birth. This term is used as the opposite of the term “transgender”. The most important aspect in using this term is the desire to prevent the alienation of trans people. The term refers to non-trans people without trans people being alienated. In daily speech, the term cis-gender can be shortened and used as cis. The term is often used as “natrans” in Turkish. For example; if a person whose gender is appointed as “man” by the doctor at birth identifies himself as a male, is happy in his male identity and continues his life as a man; this person is cis-gender and is defined as cis-male.

**Cis-centrism** “ Understanding of politics and everyday life, centering cis-genders. It makes trans people marginalized and invisible; A system of attitude, prejudice and discrimination in favor of cis-gender identities, which addresses the needs of trans people and their trans identity as less important than those of cis-gender people. For example; Toilets designed for cis-man and cis-woman.

**Cis-Feminism** Having the normative concept of the essentialist body of the binary

system; understanding that sees trans identities out of feminism. This understanding is a trans-exclusive understanding that sees cis-women as subjects of feminism and conducts the feminist struggle for them. This understanding does not see trans women and trans people as subjects of feminism in general. For example; It is a cis-feminist practice that trans women who identifies themselves as women are assigned man and not being allowed in 8th March activities.

**Cis-Heteronormativity** The definition of heteronormativity by Merriam - Webster is as “of, relating to, or based on the attitude that heterosexuality is the only normal and natural expression of sexuality”. Cis-Heteronormativity, on the other hand, imposes that the subjects pointed out by the concept must be cis-gender. It imposes heterosexuality as the norm, and being cis-gender as a requirement.

**Cis-Heteropatriarchy** Is the term used to describe the power and masculinity of cis-gender heterosexual men. This term is used to further embody patriarchy and to disclose the gender identity and sexual orientation of patriarchy.

**Cis-sexism** Cis-sexism is a form of sexism. It can also be used as cis-sexist superiority. Cis-sexism is prejudice and discrimination against non-cisgender people, the belief that non-cisgender individuals are inherently “below” and “worthless”, cisgender is “normal” and practices developed within the framework of this belief. Cis-sexism can develop in a conscious or unconscious way, towards the self-feeling and expression of the person. It is a way of thinking that only sexist people find normal and correct, it is hurtful for all trans individuals and for anyone else with anatomical features other than gender understanding limited to “male / female”. Cis-sexism is closely related to the terms “transphobia” and “transmisogyny”, but they differ from each other. It focuses on the “accuracy” of the cis-gender experience rather than the “inaccuracy” of the trans experience and is often used to refer to more subtle bias and discrimination against non-cisgender people. (source: <https://gaiadergi.com/bir-cinsiyetcilik-bicimi-olarak-cisseksizm/>)

**Eylül Cansın** Trans woman who committed suicide by jumping off the Bosphorus Bridge on the morning of January 5, 2015 and was 23 years old when she died. Eylül Cansın, which emerged after her death and symbolized with the video she shot before committing suicide, is the most concrete answer to why trans suicides are political and why these suicides are murders.

**Intersectionality / Intersectional Feminism** Intersectionality is not actually a new term. It was created in 1989 by lawyer Kimberlé Crenshaw. Crenshaw argued that, since individuals have various social identities, thinking hatred directed at different groups

does not reflect reality. With the term intersectionality, Crenshaw aimed to explain that the classifications that lead to negative discrimination are related, that is, “cross”. Intersectional feminism emphasized that feminist theory should take into account that not every woman may have the same privileges. It has planned to show that women may be subjected to oppression and injustice due to physical disability, social and / or economic status, ethnicity, physical appearance, age, religion, education level, gender identity, sexual orientation and many other reasons. Crenshaw did not defend that people had taken away from their possession or had committed a crime because they were born privileged. Crenshaw only aimed at women from all classes to find a place in feminism and to be represented in women’s solidarity. (source: <https://gaiadergi.com/kesisim-sel-feminizm-nedir/> )

**Criminalizing** The term used to make something illegal, to blame or to blame something. Criminalization of transgender identities is a common situation. It refers to the effort to create a negative perception by considering being transgender as a crime and by criminalizing trans existence. For example; Turkey frequently encountered in the media “travesty terror” news.

**Kür** Kür is a word in Lubunca, LGBTI+ jargon. It is used in the meanings of lies, false, unrealistic

**The dominant** The one who has power.

**Natrans** The term used by Ali Aligül Arıkan in LGBTI + literature and used to describe non-trans / cisgender people.

**Trans Manifesto** Trans Manifesto penned by Turkish trans people coming together against transphobia published in 2012.

(source: <http://www.pembehayat.org/hakkimizda/detay/4/trans-manifesto> )



