

Today Talks

at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul



LGBT; Why? When? Where?

How do we talk about LGBT and Do we talk about it?

A dialogue on the issues the LGBT community struggles with in the everyday life in Turkey and a look at which different forums it is "ok" do discuss this issues.

Legal without rights: Even though "Homosexual relations" has been legal in Turkey since 1858, there still are many legal challenges to face in the everyday life. People with other sexual orientation than the hetero-norm have no mentioned rights in the country's civil rights legislation. And even though there have been discussions about this matter on national political level, this hasn't reached the legislation.

Not everybody can be Zeki Müren: Having well-known gay-celebs in Turkey does not seem to work in favour for the LGBT community, or does it? Where/How are the LGBT community expected to "be"? How can a gay Turkish man/woman be a morally accepted gay citizen? Because if we look at some court decisions, gay families have lost their rights to their children on the matter of having an immoral lifestyle.

EU as the ga(y)te-keeper for LGBT in Turkey: One argument for a better future for the LGBT community in Turkey is the pressure from European Union. Should we let EU represent the voices of LGBT in Turkey? Or only let them be the financial support. Where should the LGBT community collect their strength and support?

Gays as the correct variable: Are we doing enough academic research on the LGBT community in Turkey? And who is responsible for this research? When trying to lobby rights and legislative support for a minority, it is always important to be backed up by academic argument. Do we have that in this case?

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