**Submitted by Kaos GL Association, Ankara, Turkey**

**Contribution to the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

**INPUT**

1. What are the current efforts by States to increase their knowledge of the LGBT population? Specifically, are questions about sexual orientation and gender identity included in government surveys (e.g. the census, national health surveys, income and living condition surveys, or other surveys funded or mandated by the State), administrative records (e.g. birth certificates/birth registries, identity Cards, school records, professional licenses, social security and public benefit records, and other government documents)?

There are no efforts made by the Turkish authorities. No examples mentioned are present.

1. What kinds of data can be collected by government to understand the nature and extent of violence (e.g. through statistics on LGBT-phobic hate crimes and hate speech), discrimination, and disparities in health, education, labour, civic participation, and other important areas?

Especially data on hate crimes and domestic-violence,

1. What safeguards are in place, and what safeguards are needed, to protect the human rights of individuals providing personal data as well as individuals collecting such data? This question includes the following:
   1. Safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals who provide data about their sexual orientation/gender identity, and the confidentiality of the data provided by these individuals.

There are no safeguards in place in Turkey with regard to LGBTI persons and their rights.

* 1. Broader statutory rules or administrative policies to insure transparency and accountability of government institutions such as statistical bodies.

There are no rules or administrative policies in place in Turkey with regard to LGBTI persons and their rights.

1. What are the risks associated with the collection and management of data on sexual orientation and gender identity and initiatives to overcome those?

Without a comprehensive and LGBTI-inclusive data protection system, such data may lead to victimisation.

1. Are there circumstances where data collection is ill-advised, such as in countries that criminalize same-sex behaviour or where particular government agencies have demonstrated a cause for concern regarding their treatment of issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity?

Gay men’s exemption from obligatory military service is processed to their “exemption document” and especially during job interviews that may lead to involuntary disclosure of sexual orientation, and discrimination. Transgender persons who do not have official IDs, documents in compliance with their gender identity may face maltreatment from public officials and health personnel. Also, those circumstances may lead to involuntary revelation of their gender identity. In some conditions, sex worker transgender or gay people are obliged to unlawful HIV test without their informed consent and without adequate data protection regarding their gender identity, sexual orientation or health status. Their HIV status may be shared with their families, relatives or other public agencies.

1. When States engage in data gathering activity, to what extent is civil society able to meaningfully participate in the design and implementation of these programs? This question includes the following:
   1. Do states have policies that guide the process of civil society participation national statistical programs and other State efforts to increase knowledge about LGBT populations?

It does not exist in Turkey.

* 1. Does civil society have the capacity, in terms of expertise and technical knowledge, to meaningfully participate in State efforts to gather data?

Limited expertise and technical knowledge.

* 1. What constitutes meaningful participation in this area?

Deciding on the content of the nationwide statistics including health, labour, hate crimes and discrimination together.

1. Does the lack of a global classification scheme carry risks that data will not be useful for international comparisons or will not accurately reflect the identities and lived realities of local populations?

No opinion.