

PRIDES 2023

ACTION PACK



RAINBOW NETWORK

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



INTRODUCTIONS



The Rainbow Network are staggered, grateful and deeply touched every single year by the passion and love that goes into Pride parades all over the country from other parts of Amnesty UK - local groups, student groups, youth groups, individual activists and staff.

Whether you attend Pride as a rights holder or as an ally, you contribute to a extraordinary kind of solidarity between communities, and to a powerful, active, intentional recognition that is not just valuable, but essential - not just to some communities, but to all. There can be no more fundamental right than the ability to say "I am who I am" - and to be heard.

Thank you.

Yren and Mariana

The importance of recognition of who we are is not lost on Yren and Mariana. In Paraguay, where they live, people cannot change their names or obtain identity documents that match their gender identity if it is different to the sex assigned to them at birth. Yren and Mariana have been bullied, physically attacked and prevented from speaking for attempting to talk about their experiences, and about the issues they face in their daily lives. In this pack, we ask you to take actions for Yren and Mariana to your local Pride.

Pride is Protest.

The history of Prides is one of protest. As protest rights are limited and denied increasingly broadly around the world, Prides are in peril, and the rights they demand are in peril too. This year, we want to celebrate, and highlight, that Pride is Protest, both in our action focus and in our messaging. For that reason, "Pride is Protest" resources will be available alongside "Love is a Human Right" and "I am who I say I am" resources you'll be familiar with.

Solidarity with Prides in Türkiye

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been in power in Türkiye for the last two decades, and the government and the state authorities view and treat any expression of collective dissent, however peaceful, as a direct threat to their rule. Police, including riot police, are routinely deployed to carry out crowd control and unlawfully disperse peaceful protests, kettle protesters and even order dispersal but then prevent participants from leaving in order to detain them.

These attacks are widespread, and LGBTQ+ activists and supporters are one of the most targeted groups. Since 2015, the government has executed an extensive campaign to break up LGBT rights public events, including Pride marches and, in Ankara, all LGBTQ+ events and public LGBTQ+-related discussions from 2017 to 2019.

Prides across Türkiye are under serious threat this year, and we ask you to take action and take action to your local Pride in solidarity with communities and individuals.

PRINTING FROM THIS PACK: Pages in this document you are likely to want to print are in colour and then repeated in black and white. This isn't a mistake - we just want it to be easy for you to produce, whatever your printing facilities.



YREN ROTELA AND MARIANA SEPÚLVEDA | PARAGUAY

Yren and Mariana want to live their lives freely and do things they love, like playing volleyball, dancing and going to the theatre. However, as trans women, Yren and Mariana are busy defending themselves against discrimination.

They've been bullied, physically attacked and prevented from speaking out about the issues they face in their daily lives. Trans people in Paraguay cannot legally change their names or obtain identity documents that match their gender identity, among other discriminatory practices. This means trans students cannot get school certificates in their chosen names, which makes finding a job difficult.

This inequality has motivated Yren and Mariana to become activists, to demand change.

But protesting isn't easy for trans people in Paraguay.

Paraguay is a very conservative country which treats trans people and the wider LGBTQ+ community unfairly. It tries to make them invisible. Because of this, protests by trans groups are often banned, and in some cases demonstrations have been attacked.

Yren and Mariana have been fighting for years to change their legal names.

If they could get documentation that matches who they are, it would mean the state had started to recognise their existence as trans women. As Yren says: "I came into the world to show who I am, not to be told who I am."

Tell Paraguay to legally recognise the identity of trans people so they can exercise their rights.

'Today, I am standing, firm as a warrior. I am a person who loves themselves and loves life deeply and who will fight until my last breath for a more human Paraguay.'
Yren Rotela



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ACTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMNESTY PRIDE ORGANISERS

- Print off the petition sheets overleaf (Colour or black and white front pages, according to your printing facilities - and a generic back sheet that has more spaces for signatures!)
- Collect signatures from attendees in the usual way
- Please return the petition sheets to "Rainbow Network, Amnesty International UK, 17 - 25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA" by recorded delivery.

Yren and Mariana were a 2022 Write for Rights case, and you may have taken action for them before. However, their case is ongoing, and Amnesty will continue to work with them to progress Human Rights change in Paraguay. If you would like to undertake solidarity actions, or be kept informed about their case, please contact IAR@amnesty.org.uk



To: President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay

Dear Mr President,

We the undersigned call upon you to legally recognise the identities of transgender people, so that they can fully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and protest.

NAME	SIGNATURE

Your information will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, and accessible to our staff and volunteers. We will pass the information provided in this petition to the target of the petition. We will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. Read more about how we use your information at [amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice)



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PROTECT PRIDE. PROTECT PROTEST.

PRIDES IN TÜRKIYE

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been in power in Türkiye for the last two decades, and the government and the state authorities view and treat any expression of collective dissent, however peaceful, as a direct threat to their rule. Police, including riot police, are routinely deployed to carry out crowd control and unlawfully disperse peaceful protests, kettle protesters and even order dispersal but then prevent participants from leaving in order to detain them.

As part of these attacks, the LGBTQ+ activists and supporters are one of the most targeted groups. Since 2015, the government has executed an extensive campaign to break up LGBT rights public events, including Pride marches and, in Ankara, all LGBT events and public LGBT-related discussions from 2017 to 2019.

PRIDE BANS INTENSIFY

Not only have Pride bans intensified (more Prides have been banned and unprecedented numbers of participants detained) but in numerous instances, the authorities have pursued legal action against activists and organisations for supporting LGBTQ+ rights and detained journalists reporting on Pride events. This is also coinciding with state endorsement of virulent anti-LGBTQ+ groups and their protests as seen during the 18 September march in Istanbul.

These anti-LGBTQ+ efforts have largely been undertaken in the name of protecting the public from immorality and “perversion”. In March 2021, after Türkiye’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, officials tried to justify the decision “as the Convention was hijacked by groups to normalise homosexuality”. Homophobic government statements like these have reverberating effects in the public sphere, where LGBT rights groups have documented a dramatic rise in anti-LGBT rhetoric in the news, which intensified in the lead up to the 14 May elections.

SOLIDARITY IS ESSENTIAL

International solidarity and support are vital to empower LGBTQ+ activists and their allies who face this intimidation and unlawful restrictions. International pressure ahead of key moments and events can help to ensure that activists feel heard, seen and supported.

Local Pride groups and organisers have asked for solidarity from Amnesty International sections and LGBTQ+ communities around the world.

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ACTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMNESTY PRIDE ORGANISERS

- Order some blank placards from the supporter care team - details are overleaf.
- Make sure you have some marker pens (not whiteboard pens) - just black is fine, or if you have some colours, that's even better.
- Invite people to make up their own placards with messages of solidarity for Prides in Türkiye. They can be as simple or as decorative as people have the time and inclination for.
- Take their photo holding the placard.
- Email the photos to rainbownetwork@amnesty.org.uk (We'll get them to the targets via the International Secretariat)
- Post the pictures on your groups socials with the hashtags: **#UnitewithTürkiyePride** and **#Protecttheprotest**.

(There's an instruction sheet for action takers overleaf)

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SOLIDARITY
ACTION

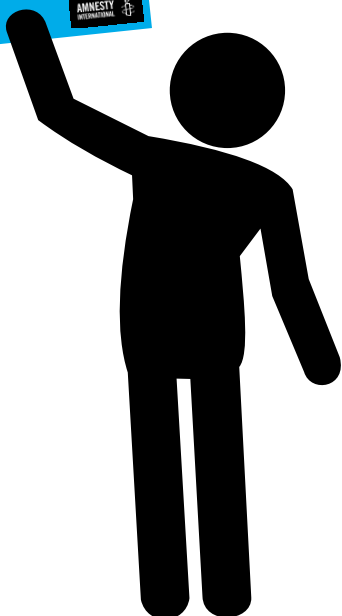
1

Think about the solidarity message you want to send to Pride organisers and attendees in Türkiye.

Take a blank Amnesty placard and some markers - write, draw, decorate your message however you like.

2

POSE FOR
YOUR
PICTURE



Amnesty's Pride volunteers will take your photo, with your solidarity message, and get it to Prides in Türkiye.

Post the photo on your socials with the hashtags: **#UnitewithTürkiyePride** and **#Protecttheprotest**.

3

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SOLIDARITY
ACTION

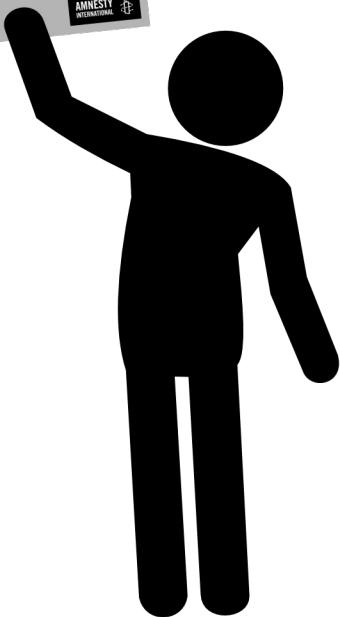
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RESOURCES



All resources below can be ordered by contacting the Supporter Communications Team at sct@amnesty.org.uk

PLACARDS

"Love is a Human Right" Placard - Code: LGBT007

"I am who I say I am" Placard - Code: LGBT014

"Pride is Protest" Placard - Code: LGBT023

"Protect Pride. Protect Protest" Placard - Code: LGBT024

Blank Placard (for Türkiye solidarity action) - Code: LGBT022

INFORMATION

"Good Gender Language" Leaflet - Code: LGBT017

HAND-OUTS

Pride Stickers (15 per sheet) - Code: LGBT008

"Protect Pride. Protect Protest" wristbands (eco-friendly) - Code: LGBT025

Pride Flag Window Stickers (10 Pack - while stock lasts, 1 per group) - Code: LGBT015A

DECORATION

Pride Bunting (10m length) - Code: LGBT021