

Ms Nurdan BAYRAKTAR GOLDER
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Türkiye
to the Council of Europe

Ref ► CINGO/Pres/Türkiye

Strasbourg, 17 December 2025

Dear Ambassador,

As you know, the Conference of INGOs through its Expert Council on NGO Law, follows the evolution and implementation of the legal framework related to Freedom of Association in Council of Europe member States.

Our international and national partners have drawn our attention to the court ruling that dissolved the Young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Youth Studies and Solidarity Association (Young LGBTI+ Association) in Izmir against its will and that of its members.

This association was established in 2016 with the aim of researching the issues and challenges that LGBTI+ youth are facing in daily life, including discrimination and oppression, and then bringing them to public attention, offering solutions and creating spaces for LGBTI+ persons to express themselves. Its main areas of activity include working to secure access to basic needs such as housing, education, and healthcare; youth rights; sexual rights; social activities; human rights advocacy; combating hate crimes; and peer support.

All these activities are entirely consistent with the values of the Council of Europe, coming, in particular, within the rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and the standards elaborated in Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisation in Europe.

We understand that the dissolution ruling was taken on grounds of obscenity and supposed promotion of encouragement to be LGBTI+, which does not at all reflect the nature of activities being undertaken by the association.

We also understand that the dissolution ruling is subject to appeal.

We hope, therefore, that in these further proceedings it will be possible to ensure that there is a proper appreciation of the legitimate nature of the association's activities so that the ruling is reversed and the commitments of Türkiye as a member of the Council of Europe are fully respected.

Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Ermischer
President of the Conference of INGOs

Handwritten signature of Gerhard Ermischer in black ink.

Jeremy McBride
President of the Expert Council on NGO
Law of the Council of Europe

Handwritten signature of Jeremy McBride in black ink.