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## **EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

Comments submitted by the 17 May Association  
concerning the Ad hoc report on the cost-of-living crisis  
submitted by  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF TÜRKIYE**

Comments registered by the Secretariat  
On 30 June 2024

**CYCLE 2024**



**AD HOC REPORT  
ON THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS  
WITH  
REGARD TO LGBTI+ PEOPLE IN  
TÜRKİYE**

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**About 17 May Association:** The May 17 Association is an LGBTI+ civil society organization, founded on 2 September 2019, in Ankara, Türkiye, by a group of experienced LGBTI+ human rights defenders and professionals working in the field. The association derives its name from the globally recognized Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. The main goals of the May 17 Association are ensuring the well-being of LGBTI+ rights holders and building their capacity to advocate for their rights, respond to the needs of the LGBTI+ community, and support LGBTI+ activism in Türkiye.

## **About the Report**

In 2023, the European Committee of Social Rights and the Governmental Committee decided to request a special report on the cost of living crisis from all States parties to the European Social Charter. Regarding the impact of high inflation in the post-Covid pandemic period on living conditions, ten questions were sent to States Parties, and the Republic of Türkiye, a member of the Council, submitted its ad hoc report on 09.01.2024.

Taking into account the questions posed to States Parties and the report submitted by the Republic of Türkiye, May 17 Association aims to present the real picture for LGBTI+'s in relation to the questions to the attention of the Committee.

The main conclusion of the report we are presenting can be summarized as that the current conditions reveal much more challenging conditions for LGBTI+'s compared to the general society. Furthermore, our strong question marks regarding the information submitted by the state party are based on the alternative information and data we present in the report.

**1) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER AND HOW THE STATUTORY MINIMUM WAGE IS REGULARLY ADJUSTED/INDEXED TO THE COST OF LIVING. PLEASE INDICATE WHEN THIS LAST HAPPENED, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT HAS BEEN ADJUSTED /INDEXED SINCE THE END OF 2021.**

**A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Replies**

Since 2021, the State Party has provided information with vague statements on the improvement of the net minimum wage in the country against poverty and the cost of living without showing the correlation between the actual purchasing power and the extreme depreciation of the Turkish lira for the last 3 years. According to official data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), annual inflation in 2022 was 78.62%<sup>1</sup>, while according to the Inflation Research Group (ENAG), a research organization comprising of independent economists and academics, it was 175.55%<sup>2</sup>. The Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ), which shares the results of its research on the starvation and poverty lines based on TURKSTAT data, calculated the hunger line for a family of 4 as 6,893.64TL/ 381.50 € and the poverty line as 22,278.98TL/€1233<sup>3</sup> in its July 2022 newsletter.

The net minimum wage for the period of July- December was set at 5,500.35TL/ 304.40 € in 2022. The annual inflation rate was announced as 64.77%<sup>4</sup> according to TURKSTAT and 127.21%<sup>5</sup> according to ENAG in 2023. According to the results of TÜRK-İŞ's monthly survey on the starvation and poverty line based on TURKSTAT data, the starvation line for a family of 4 was calculated as 11,658.05 TL/388.24 € and the poverty line as 37,974.11 TL/ 1264.62 € in the newsletter dated July 2023<sup>6</sup>.

The net minimum wage for the period of July - December in 2023 was set at 11,402 TL/ 379.71 €. Türkiye's 2023 GDP per capita annual income was calculated as 12849 \$/ 12061 €/ 418,972 TL, which was also announced by the IMF in April, 2024 <sup>7</sup>. Based on the value that will emerge after dividing this amount by 12 months, Türkiye's GDP per capita monthly income is 34,889 TL/1004 € according to IMF estimations for 2023.

Article 4§1 of the European Social Charter (although Türkiye has not ratified this provision) obliges the state parties to ensure that the minimum wage does not fall below 60% of the national average salary. <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup>Although Türkiye does not provide any calculation data on the national average

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Tuketici-Fiyat-Endeksi-Haziran-2022-45795>

<sup>2</sup> <https://enagrup.org/bulten/202206.pdf?v1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.turkis.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Temmuz-2022-Tu%CC%88rk-l%CC%87s%CC%A7-Ac%CC%A7lik-Yoksulluk-Siniri-l%CC%87CS.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-December-2023-49657>

<sup>5</sup> <https://enagrup.org/bulten/23ara.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.turkis.org.tr/turk-is-temmuz-2023-aclik-ve-yoksulluk-siniri/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2024/04/16/world-economic-outlook-april-2024>

<sup>8</sup> <https://tr.euronews.com/2021/11/15/turkiye-de-asgari-ucretle-cal-san-oran-son-20-y-lda-nas-l-degisti>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dogrulukpayi.com/bulten/turkiye-de-asgari-ucret>

salary, the improved minimum wage set by the Minimum Wage Determination Commission for the second half of 2023 was 32% on the basis of GDP per capita monthly income. It should also be noted that LGBTI+ persons are often forced to work in low-paying, dangerous, violent jobs and it is a fact that they are employed even below the minimum wage or unregistered.

In addition, the change in inflation in the Euro area over the mentioned time period should also be taken into account. Based on the data obtained in January, the annual inflation rate was 0.9 in 2020, 5.1 in 2021, 8.6 in 2022 and 2.8 in 2023, respectively. Therefore, given the depreciation of Euro, a comparison based on the Turkish Lira and Euro parity would not be adequate to explain the current situation. The systematic inequality in income distribution creates even more challenging conditions for LGBTI+ persons who are already disadvantaged.<sup>10</sup>

## **B. Status of LGBTI+'s Regarding the Question Asked**

63.5 % of the participants in the 2020 "LGBTI+'s Access to Social Services in the Pandemic"<sup>11</sup> research stated that they were not working in an income-generating job and half of them stated that they had no income at all. The average income of the participants was calculated as 3,780.62 TL/ 507 €. Only 18.75 % of the 509 people who participated in the survey conducted by the May 17 Association for the "Hey Lubunya! We are aging"<sup>12</sup> report published in April 2022 stated that they had a monthly income of 10,000 TL/ 628 € and above. Approximately half of the participants stated that they earned between 4,254 TL/ 267 € and 10,000 TL/628 € per month, while 19% stated that they had no income or earned between 0-2000 TL/125.66 €. Considering that 85 % of LGBTI+ participants work in different types of employment, it is clear that they cannot earn enough income despite being actively involved in the labor force. As a matter of fact, in the same survey, only 20 % responded positively to the question "Considering your employment and income status, do you think that you have the same level of welfare as people with a similar level of education?"<sup>13</sup>.

The results of the relevant research also show that the employment rates of LGBTI+s in Türkiye are far below the general population average, considering the structural and historical nature of the discrimination they experience. The vast majority of LGBTI+s can only work in low-paid and temporary jobs that are unsustainable, lack social security, and where they can earn daily wages. LGBTI+ people, whose conditions are made more difficult by discrimination and

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<sup>10</sup> <https://bianet.org/haber/oxfam-report-turkiye-has-third-most-unequal-distribution-of-wealth-among-161-countries-268362>

<sup>11</sup> SPoD, Research Report On LGBTI+ Persons' Access to Social Services During The Pandemic, 2021, İstanbul, <https://spod.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Research-Report-On-LGBTI-Persons-Access-to-Social-Services-During-The-Pandemic.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> May 17 Association, LGBTI+ Elders: Situation in Turkey and around the World <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/lgbti-elders-situation-in-turkey-and-around-the-world-15-10-2020.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination To Poverty: LGBTI+ People in Turkey, September 2022, Ankara, <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/from-discrimination-to-poverty-lgbti-people-in-turkey-27-09-2022.pdf>

marginalization all over the world, are the most exposed to the harmful effects of the cost of living and poverty. <sup>14</sup>

Articles 30 and 31 of the European Social Charter similarly call on the States to take measures in order to "to promote the effective access of persons and their families living in or at risk of social exclusion and poverty, in particular to employment, housing, education, training, cultural and social opportunities, and medical assistance" and "to promote the acquisition of housing of an adequate standard; to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination; to make house prices affordable for those without adequate resources"<sup>15</sup>. However, current practices and legal regulations, as can be clearly seen in the response of the state party, further deepen the problems of the society living under social exclusion and poverty and at risk, such as LGBTI+s.

The "Minimum Wage Research Report<sup>16</sup>" published in June, 2022 by DİSK-AR, the research unit of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK), Türkiye's third trade union in terms of the number of members, highlights the erosion of the minimum wage and other wages and salaries against inflation and the increase in food prices, and shows that those who do not have a regular income, have fixed income, earn daily wages, and receive salaries and pensions are the sufferers of the high inflation period <sup>17</sup>. In the context of this information, the actual situation is that rents in Turkey have increased by 1294%.<sup>18</sup> It is clear from the research that LGBTI+s are in this risk group.

## **2) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ANY SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES TAKEN TO PRESERVE THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE MINIMUM WAGE SINCE THE END OF 2021**

### **A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Replies**

We refer to our explanations supported by the information we provided in subparagraph A of question 1 regarding the incompleteness of the State party's replies related to the reporting period. According to TURKSTAT, in June 2022, the main expenditure groups with the highest price increase compared to the same period of the previous year were transportation with 123.37% and food and non-alcoholic beverages with 93.93%. In July 2023, the price increase in

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.iris-france.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LGBTreport\\_FINAL.compressed.pdf](https://www.iris-france.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LGBTreport_FINAL.compressed.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara, <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/from-discrimination-to-poverty-lgbti-people-in-turkey-27-09-2022.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> DİSK-AR, Minimum Wage Research Report, 2022, <http://arastirma.disk.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Asgari-Ucret-Arastirma-Raporu-Haziran-2022-SON.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara, <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/ayrimciliktan-yoksulluga-turkiye-de-lgbti-lar-27-09-2022.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://data.oecd.org/price/housing-prices.htm>

food and non-alcoholic beverages in the last 12 months was 53.92<sup>19</sup>. <sup>20</sup>As May 17 Association's Report on "Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye" underlines, the costs in this group are related to goods and services that everyone needs. The arrangements made to improve the minimum wage against poverty and the cost of living have not been realized in direct proportion to these increases. The State party has not provided any data on the change in the real purchasing power of the Turkish Lira.

According to data in the UN Food Program's Hunger Map, 14.8 million people in Türkiye lack adequate nutrition<sup>21</sup>. Furthermore, according to the results of a survey published by the Gezici Research Company in June 2022, 60.6 % of participants stated that they had household debt<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, the measure of increase in the net minimum wage, which the State party claims to have taken to maintain the purchasing power of the minimum wage, does not reflect a realistic measure.

## **B. The Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

The vast majority of LGBTI+s living with an open identity in Türkiye live alone without traditional family support mechanisms. The manifestation of domestic violence in the form of economic violence brings oppression, concealment of identity, and isolation for LGBTI+s. In Türkiye, marriage can only legally occur between a man and a woman if they meet the appropriate conditions. Therefore, there is no legal recognition for same-sex partners. The Ministry of Family and Social Services' definitions of households and families and related social assistance programs completely exclude families consisting of same-sex couples.

According to the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ), the largest trade union confederation in Türkiye in terms of number of members, the cost of living for an employee who lives alone in 2022 is 8,929.14 TL per month, which is more than one and a half times the minimum wage. In July 2023, this cost is estimated as 15,123 TL<sup>23</sup>, in October 2023 as 17,803 TL<sup>24</sup> and in December 2023 as 18,796 TL<sup>25</sup>. During the second 6 months of 2023, there was no change in the minimum wage.

At this point, it is understood that being a salaried employee is not enough to be protected from poverty. It is a fact that LGBTI+ persons have to survive on their own due to the reasons explained above. As can be seen in paragraph B of question 1, the measures taken by the state party against the cost of living are pointless to LGBTI+s who are subjected to social exclusion,

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<sup>19</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-June-2023-49658>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.duvarenglish.com/148-million-people-in-turkey-suffer-from-undernourishment-un-report-news-60908>

<sup>21</sup> <https://bianet.org/haber/nearly-one-in-five-people-in-turkey-undernourished-shows-un-data-262954>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/gezici-arastirmanin-son-anketi-her-3-kisiden-2sinin-borcu-var-galeri-1571086>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.turkis.org.tr/turk-is-temmuz-2023-aclik-ve-yoksulluk-siniri/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.turkis.org.tr/turk-is-ekim-2023-aclik-ve-yoksulluk-siniri/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.turkis.org.tr/turk-is-aralik-2023-aclik-ve-yoksulluk-siniri/>



and discrimination, and forced to get an irregular income. LGBTI+s are forced to continue to live below the poverty and starvation line.

Considering that 85 % of the lubunyas (queers) who responded to the survey in the "Hey Lubunya! We are aging" report published by the May 17 Association in April 2022 work in different types of employment, it is clear that they do not earn enough despite their active participation in the labor force. As a matter of fact, in the same survey, only 20 % responded positively to the question "Considering your employment and income status, do you think that you have the same level of welfare as people with a similar level of education?"<sup>26</sup>.

**3) FOR STATES PARTIES WITH NO STATUTORY MINIMUM WAGE, PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY MEASURES TAKEN TO PRESERVE THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE LOWEST WAGES SINCE THE END OF 2021. (N/A)**

**4) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION AS WHETHER THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS HAS LED TO THE EXTENSION OF IN-WORK BENEFITS.**

**A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Replies**

The information provided by the state party that the state party has established support mechanisms for the cost of living in the aftermath of the pandemic by establishing the "Türkiye Family Support Program" and the amount benefited by the applicant families, as well as the unsteadily increasing inflation rates, show the sharply changing poverty and hunger line every month. Thus, considering the estimations of Türk-İş and ENAG, it does not constitute a real response to the relevant question. The information we have provided in paragraphs A of questions 1 and 2 regarding the relevant calculations supports the inadequacy of the State party's actions concerning the cost of living.

As the official document "2024-2028 Vision Document and Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family"<sup>27</sup> published by the Ministry of Family and Social Services in 2024 reveals, the family is defined by traditional codes. Therefore, it is not possible to provide evidence-based information that LGBTI+s have access to the support the state party claims to have provided. Likewise, even if there are LGBTI+ survivors of domestic violence within the scope of Law No. 6284, there is no evidence-based data that they benefit from these aids.

No information has been provided on whether measures have been taken to facilitate access to these services for citizens whose mother tongue is not Turkish and who are coping with poverty, citizens who do not have access to digital tools, and citizens who are not digitally literate. The State party has not provided any information on what percentage of citizens living below the poverty line can benefit from these benefits, how many of the beneficiaries are women, children,

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<sup>26</sup> May 17 Association, Hey Lubunya! We are aging: Survey/Interviews and Working Report, 2022, <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/yaaslaniyoruz-lubunya-anket-gorusemeler-ve-calisma-raporu-16-05-2022.pdf>

<sup>27</sup><https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/165130/ailenin-korunmasi-ve-gu-c-lendirilmesi-vizyon-belgesi-ve-eylem-planlari.pdf>

elderly, and young single men, and the geographical distribution of beneficiaries. Moreover, no data has been provided on the total number of applicants and what percentage of these applicants were able to benefit from the relevant aids. The State party's responses did not specifically address the proportion of total beneficiaries who were able to benefit from the aid more than once, or how many of them were able to access employment or incentives for employment.

While ensuring access to the right to social security for all without discrimination, states should take special protection measures for the disadvantaged and marginalized groups (e.g., unemployed, informal workers, refugees, chronically ill people, prisoners, persons with disabilities, the elderly...)<sup>28</sup>.

## **B. The Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

In Türkiye, marriage is a right granted only to heterosexuals, and domestic partnership/civil unions are not recognized. The fact that LGBTI+ couples do not have equal rights with heterosexual couples results in the individual being deprived of social protection arising from the spouse. LGBTI+ couples are disadvantaged especially in accessing mechanisms such as health insurance, pension, inheritance and joint adoption. We can think of the same loss of rights not only in terms of couples, but also in the context of the chosen families of LGBTI+s<sup>29</sup>. The participants in the research conducted by the Social Policy Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association in 2020 stated that they received help from their friends in case of need, instead of applying for the assistance they deserved due to the concern that they might be subjected to discrimination owing to their sexual orientation or gender identity and that the relevant institutions or organizations might have negative attitudes and behaviors in accessing social assistance<sup>30</sup>.

Kaos GL's human rights reports reveal that "LGBTI+s, especially transgenders, cannot benefit from their social security rights at all or sufficiently because they cannot find a job due to their gender identity and sexual orientation, and thus are forced into unregistered and precarious sex work or are forced to work for low wages. Transgender sex workers who are not admitted to brothels are deprived of the right to social security as they are forced to irregular, insecure and uninsured working conditions<sup>31</sup>. Moreover, even if trans women have regular jobs, the inconsistency between retirement estimations and regulations regarding the gender-affirmation process keeps them in an unequal position. In Türkiye, criteria such as age, duration of

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<sup>28</sup> UN Committee on CESCR General Comment No. 19 and Sepulveda, M and Nyst, Carly, The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection, 2012, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/HumanRightsApproachToSocialProtection.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara, <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/from-discrimination-to-poverty-lgbti-people-in-turkey-27-09-2022.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> SPoD, Research Report on LGBTI+'s Access to Social Services during the Pandemic, 2021, İstanbul, [https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES\\_AB\\_365.pdf](https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES_AB_365.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Kaos GL, 2021 Report on LGBTI+s' Human Rights, 2022, <https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/lgbti-larin-i-nsan-haklari-raporu-2021-web.pdf>

employment, and number of premium days used to determine retirement vary according to gender. If a trans woman's gender affirmation process has not taken place in the civil registry and she is still registered as a man in her identity card, she cannot benefit from the facilities offered to women while determining her retirement<sup>32</sup>.

The state party does not have any social policy for LGBTI+s, who are one of the primary social groups most at risk of social exclusion and poverty, as underlined in the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment No. 19 and Articles 30 and 31 of the European Social Charter. Moreover, it can be interpreted that LGBTI+s and persons, institutions and organizations working for LGBTI+s are directly targeted and further impoverished.

## **5) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON CHANGES TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS SINCE THE END OF 2021. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION ON BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE LEVELS AND THE ALLOCATION OF BENEFITS.**

### **A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses**

The information provided by the state party does not include the extreme depreciation of the Turkish Lira during the reporting period, and thus, cannot reflect the real situation. In this context, if the inflation data announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) is taken as the basis for the increase in the aid provided, the result will be misleading. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, annual inflation in 2021 was 36.08 % in consumer prices and 79.89 % in domestic producer prices; inflation data for 2022 was 64.27 % in consumer prices and 97.72 % in domestic producer prices. The rate for 2023 was announced as 64.77. However, as we have mentioned in other articles, both academics and financial experts raise serious questions about whether these rates reflect reality. To give an example, the Inflation Research Group ENAG, formed by a group of academics, announced inflation rates as 82<sup>33</sup>, 137.55<sup>34</sup> and 127.21<sup>35</sup>, respectively, for the specified period. In terms of poverty, the inflation to be taken into account is food expenditures; in TurkStat's own data, the food and non-alcoholic beverages index is 43.80<sup>36</sup> for 2021, 77.87<sup>37</sup> for 2022 and 72.01 for 2023, respectively.<sup>38</sup>

In addition, in terms of food inflation, the ENAG data do not match the TURKSTAT data. According to the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions, one of Türkiye's largest trade unions, real inflation was twice as high as the announced inflation over the same period.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara

<sup>33</sup> <https://enagrup.org/bulten/202112.pdf?v1>

<sup>34</sup> <https://enagrup.org/bulten/202212b.pdf?v1>

<sup>35</sup> <https://enagrup.org/bulten/23ara.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Tuketici-Fiyat-Endeksi-Aralik-2021-45789>

<sup>37</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Tuketici-Fiyat-Endeksi-Ocak-2022-45790>

<sup>38</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-December-2023-49657>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.indyturk.com/node/703401>

The same discrepancy is reflected in the wage earners' subsistence index published by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce for Istanbul.<sup>40</sup>

In the responses of the state party, it is reported that the rent increase rates are limited to 25%. While this is the legal situation provided by the provision added to the Turkish Code of Obligations, it has also led to an increase in eviction cases and an increase in disputes regarding lease agreements. In 2021, the number of lawsuits on eviction of tenants filed in civil courts in Türkiye was 28,430<sup>41</sup> according to the 2021 judicial statistics publication published by the Ministry of Justice; while the number of lawsuits filed in 2023 was 61,752<sup>42</sup>. Furthermore, with Article 37 of the Law No. 7445 published in the Official Gazette on 05.04.2024, an article was added to the Law No. 6325 on Mediation in Civil Disputes and disputes arising from the lease relationship were subject to mandatory mediation procedure.<sup>43</sup> Assuming that a certain number of these disputes are not included in the number of 61,752, since some of the disputes regarding the lease agreement have been referred to mediation, it can be said that the number of disputes between tenants and landlords nearly tripled between 2021 and 2023. Therefore, it is clear from the statistics of the Ministry of Justice itself that the 25% limit is not functional. It is also known that many tenants do not apply the 25% upper limit in order to avoid the risk of eviction.

The State party's explanations regarding the social support provided are also very limited, especially when the ratio of the number of beneficiaries to the total population is considered.

## **B. The Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

There are structural obstacles to LGBTI+ access to the social assistance provided by the state. Discrimination against LGBTI+s in access to employment in both public and private sectors has been revealed in monitoring reports, some of which are the product of Kaos GL's joint work with Kadir Has University. Research has revealed the existence of an insurmountable obstacle to LGBTI+ persons' access to the social security system based on premium payment and thus to the opportunities provided by the system.<sup>44</sup>

The natural consequence of this situation, which is also revealed by human rights reports, is the insurmountable obstacle for LGBTI+s to access the social security system based on premium payment and thus the opportunities provided by the system. The disadvantageous situation of same-sex relationships compared to heterosexual relationships means that unlike

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<sup>40</sup> [https://ito.org.tr/documents/istatistik\\_genel\\_tablo\\_dokumanlari/basin\\_bulteni\\_aralik\\_2022.pdf](https://ito.org.tr/documents/istatistik_genel_tablo_dokumanlari/basin_bulteni_aralik_2022.pdf)

<sup>41</sup>

<https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/501202216013122420211449082020H%C4%B0ZME%C3%96ZELK%C4%B0TAP.pdf>, sf 150

<sup>42</sup> [https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/22042024115644ADalet\\_ist-2023CALISMALARI59.pdf](https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/22042024115644ADalet_ist-2023CALISMALARI59.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2023/04/20230405-3.htm>, sf 117

<sup>44</sup> <https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/kamueng.pdf>

<https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/ozelsektor21eng.pdf>

<https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/kamu-c-alis-anlari-2022.pdf>

<https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/o-zel-sekto-r2022.pdf>

<https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/public-2023.pdf>

<https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/private-sector-2023.pdf>

married couples, partners do not benefit from each other's social security. The same situation also prevents access to inheritance rights. It is impossible for LGBTI+s to benefit from aid items that focus on heteronormative family structure such as breastfeeding and motherhood due to the obstacles created by the legislation that is the basis of these aids.

As a matter of fact, in the report titled "Question & Answer & Fact Sheet on Social Services and Supports Accessible to Elderly or Aging LGBTI+s", which is the work of the Initiative of Lubunya After Forty and was published by the May 17 Association in 2023, the Republic of Türkiye does not address the personal needs of LGBTI+s arising from their identities as an obligation to be fulfilled in violation of its international obligations and its own Constitution, and the policy of ignoring LGBTI+s and excluding them from the public sphere, which has been going on for years, also manifests itself in the field of old age. Therefore, as a preliminary assessment, it is emphasized that the limited legislation on old age is by no means LGBTI+ inclusive.<sup>45</sup>

When the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are added to the economic crisis accompanying the human rights crisis Türkiye is experiencing, poverty has become widespread and spread to a wider population due to income inequality. As of 2021, the doubled cost of living for LGBTI+s, who have already been prevented from accessing social security and social assistance systems, means that the crisis will be experienced more acutely due to the lack of positive actions. Furthermore, LGBTI+s, who cannot benefit from the social security and social assistance systems in any way, bear the burden of the obligations by being held equally responsible for premium and tax debts with heterosexuals.

**6) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE ARE INDEXED TO THE COST OF LIVING, AS WELL AS INFORMATION IN PARTICULAR ON HOW INCOME-REPLACING BENEFITS SUCH AS PENSIONS ARE INDEXED. PLEASE INDICATE WHEN BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE WERE LAST ADJUSTED/INDEXED**

**A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses**

We refer to our explanations supported by information provided in paragraph A of question 5 to assess whether or not the rates given in the state's responses are real.

According to the most recent household consumption expenditure index published by the official statistical agency of the state party<sup>46</sup>, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for the largest share of household expenditures at 22.8%, and it is followed by housing and rent at 22.4% and transportation at 21.3%. Even if one ignores legitimate concerns about whether this data is real, this situation gives a different perspective that the average inflation rate is below the rate of increase in the cost of living. The Istanbul-specific index for housing expenditures, which ranks

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/yasli-lgbti-larin-erisebilecegi-sosyal-hizmetler-ve-desteklerle-ilgili-soru-cevap-10-05-2023.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Hanehalki-Tuketim-Harcamasi-2022-49690>

second, shows that the average rent for Istanbul increased from 22 TL per square meter in January 2021 to 106 TL in January 2023. However, while the minimum wage was 2,825.90 TL in January 2021, it was determined as 8,506.80 TL in January 2023. In other words, while rental costs increased 4.81 times, the minimum wage increased 3.01 times in the same period.

According to the research conducted by the Class Research Center of the United Metal Workers' Union affiliated to DISK<sup>47</sup>, the starvation limit was 2,584 TL and the poverty line was 8,939 TL in January 2021. These data were realized as 8,782 TL for the starvation limit and 30,379 TL for the poverty line in January 2023<sup>48</sup>. While the ratio of the minimum wage to the poverty line was 0.31 in 2021, this ratio decreased to 0.28 in 2023. Various studies reveal that this decline is higher.

We would like to draw attention again to the limited number of people benefiting from the social security and social welfare system.

## **B. Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

The COVID-19 period has brought along a period in which the poverty of LGBTI+s has turned into a crisis. This is also a period of increased violence, discrimination, and hate speech against LGBTI+s, and this is a trend not only in the state party but also at the global level<sup>49</sup>. According to a study conducted in Türkiye, in which 856 LGBTI+s were included, LGBTI+s frequently think that they may be subjected to discrimination in accessing social services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity<sup>50</sup>. LGBTI+s who participated in the study stated that they are threatened, and afraid; they may be subjected to violence again; impunity prevails; public institutions and organizations produce hate speech against them; they may be subjected to discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity regarding access to the aforementioned support mechanisms; and the relevant institutions or organizations may have negative attitudes and behaviors. For some LGBTI+s, the pandemic has meant a return to the assigned family home from which they fled. LGBTI+s working informally could not access the support under the name of a short-time working allowance and could not actually work in a job due to curfews.

For LGBTI+ seniors, access to the social security system and social assistance is already impossible due to the heteronormative structure of these systems. Moreover, wages have eroded compared to the cost of living for LGBTI+ s who can access these payments. One reason for this is that the inflation data taken as a basis does not reflect the real situation.

## **7) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER ANY SPECIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED SINCE LATE 2021 TO ENSURE PERSONS CAN MEET THEIR ENERGY**

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<sup>47</sup> <https://arastirma.disk.org.tr/?p=4964>

<sup>48</sup> <https://arastirma.disk.org.tr/?p=9754>

<sup>49</sup> [https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3883083/files/A\\_75\\_258-EN.pdf?ln=en](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3883083/files/A_75_258-EN.pdf?ln=en)

<sup>50</sup> [https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES\\_AB\\_365.pdf](https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES_AB_365.pdf)

## AND FOOD COSTS, SUCH AS PRICE SUBSIDIES FOR ENERGY, FUEL, AND BASIC FOOD ITEMS.

### A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses

We repeat our answers supported by the information we provided to Question 5 regarding the rate of increase in housing rents and refer to that item. According to the housing price index shared in the statistical database of the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye<sup>51</sup>, the housing price index was 157.7 in January 2021, 279.90 in January 2022, and 708.50 in January 2023. Considering the depreciation of wage earners' salaries against foreign currency, the increase in construction costs, whose raw materials are linked to foreign currency, eliminated the possibility of homeownership for wage earners, and thus, the high rents resulted in a much higher budget share of households allocated to rent. When inflation-driven raw material price increases in the euro area are taken into account, the possibility of home ownership is further eliminated. Within this picture, the state party's response to Question 7 regarding tax cuts, while factually justifiable, is not sufficient to explain the real situation. In this inflationary period of price instability, changes in VAT do not make a real difference in what consumers pay for their purchases and therefore cannot be said to reduce budget costs. As a matter of fact, studies conducted by the press also reveal that the actual reflection of the reduction in VAT rates on consumer expenditures is quite limited<sup>52</sup>. The main reason for this is the absence of a reduction in energy and fuel expenditures, which constitute the main item of input costs of producers. According to data from research companies the public also thinks that the VAT reduction is not reflected in prices.<sup>53</sup>

A close look at even the official data on food inflation shows that wage increases have not kept up with this inflation and that symbolic tax adjustments that are claimed to be subsidies do not have a positive impact on poverty.

There has indeed been an increase in social assistance both in terms of the number of beneficiaries and the amount of assistance. However, when the data are analyzed comparatively, it can be said that social assistance is shrinking, not growing. According to the 2023 activity report of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the share of social assistance in the gross domestic product is 1.20%<sup>54</sup>. "In 2023, a total of 4,989,456 households benefited from social assistance across the country. (p.139)

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<sup>51</sup> [https://evds2.tcmb.gov.tr/index.php?/evds/serieMarket/collapse\\_26/5949/DataGroup/turkish/bie\\_hkfe/](https://evds2.tcmb.gov.tr/index.php?/evds/serieMarket/collapse_26/5949/DataGroup/turkish/bie_hkfe/)

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.dw.com/tr/kdv-indirimleri-enflasyona-%C3%A7are-mi/a-61294979>

<sup>53</sup> <https://t24.com.tr/haber/metropoll-anketi-halkin-yuzde-82-sine-gore-gidadaki-kdv-indirimi-fiyatlara-yansimadi,1024326>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/160427/faaliyet-raporu-2023.pdf>, table 25

**Table 25: Social assistance in Türkiye in figures (2023)**

Type	2023
Total amount of social assistance expenditure	305,9 Billion
Social assistance expenditures by the General Directorate of Social Assistance (Social Assistance and Solidarity Incentive Fund + General Budget)	192,6 Billion
The share of social assistance in GDP	1,20 %
Total number of households benefiting from social assistance	4.989.456
The number of elderly and disabled pension beneficiaries,2022	1.520.902
Total resources allocated for old-age and disability pensions (TL)	35.970.361.409
The number of people whose general health insurance premium is paid by the state	9.021.162
General health insurance premium support paid to the Social Security Institution (TL)	61.107.144.700
The number of social assistance and solidarity foundations	1.003
The number of social assistance and solidarity foundation employees	8.866
The number of social assistance and review officers at social assistance and solidarity foundations	4.269
The cash benefit percentage of all benefits	98%
The ratio of resources allocated to regular benefits to all benefits	92%

Considering the data for 2021, which shows the ratio of social assistance to gross domestic product, this ratio is 1.74%<sup>55</sup>. In 2021, 5,903,515 households benefited from social assistance. Of these households, 2,476,457 households received regular assistance and 5,276,998 households received temporary assistance. 1,849,940 households benefited from both regular and temporary assistance. (p.132)

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/100242/2021-yili-faaliyet-raporu.pdf>, table 25



**Table 25: Social assistance in Türkiye in figures (2021)**

Type	2021
Total amount of social assistance expenditure	97,8 Billion
Social assistance expenditures by the General Directorate of Social Assistance (Social Assistance and Solidarity Incentive Fund + General Budget)	60,9 Billion
The share of social assistance in GDP	1,74 %
The number of households benefiting from social assistance	5.903.515
The number of households benefiting from regular benefits	2.476.457
The number of households benefiting from temporary benefits	5.276.998
The number of elderly and disabled pension beneficiaries,2022	1.538.810
Total resources allocated for old-age and disability pensions (TL), 2022	13.233.342.386
The number of people whose general health insurance premium is paid by the state	9.482.940
General health insurance premium support paid to the Social Security Institution (TL)	34.473.957.571
The number of social assistance and solidarity foundations	1.003
The number of social assistance and solidarity foundation employees	8.421
The number of social assistance and review officers at social assistance and solidarity foundations	3.921
The cash benefit percentage of all benefits	94%
The ratio of resources allocated to regular benefits to all benefits	83%

As a result of the comparison of the total number of people benefiting from aids, their number of people benefiting from aids increased in 2023. However, it cannot be said that this increase is sufficient to combat poverty.

#### **B. Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

We will repeat our explanations in Article 6 in terms of access of LGBTI+s to social assistance. Our aforementioned evaluations regarding the state party's responses to Question 7 are also valid for LGBTI+s.

**8) PLEASE PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY RATES FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE, AS WELL AS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT RISK OF POVERTY, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PERSONS. PLEASE SHOW THE TREND OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS, AS WELL AS FORECASTS FOR UPCOMING YEARS.**

#### **A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses**

The lack of the State Party's responses to this question is emphasized by the information detailed in paragraphs A of questions 4, 5, 6 and 7.

In 2001, the United Nations (UN) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights defined poverty as "a human condition characterized by persistent or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary to enjoy an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights". Although the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights does not explicitly mention the concept of poverty, the rights and standards in the Covenant guide efforts to combat poverty. The right to work (Art. 6 and Art. 7), the right to social security (Art. 9), the right to an adequate standard of living and housing (Art. 11), the right to food (Art. 11), the right to health (Art. 12) and the right to education (Art. 13 and Art. 14) are crucial for the eradication of poverty.<sup>56</sup>

Article 30 of the European Social Charter defines the right to protection against social exclusion and poverty. Türkiye's reporting to the 2023 cycle of the European Social Charter does not include post-pandemic data on the deepening poverty rate and the increasing rates of being more affected by poverty among risk groups among the poor, while partial statistical information for the period 2018 and 2020 is provided. LGBTI+s are not included in the groups at higher risk of being affected by poverty. Since disaggregated data is not produced, it does not contain information on how traditionally disadvantaged/vulnerable communities such as child workers, Roma, single mothers, LGBTI+s, and homeless people are affected by deepening poverty, and the state party's concrete steps to combat this poverty and close the social deficit.

## **B. Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

63.5 % of the participants in the study titled "LGBTI+'s Access to Social Services during the Pandemic" in 2020 stated that they did not work in an income-generating job, and half of them stated that they had no income at all. The average income of the participants was stated as 3780.62 TL <sup>57</sup>. According to the survey conducted by the May 17 Association for the " Hey Lubunya! We are aging " report published in April 2022, only 18.75 % of the 509 participants stated that they had a monthly income of 10,000 TL and above. About half of the respondents remarked that they earned between 4254 TL and 10,000 TL per month, while about 19 % stated that they had no income or earned between 0-2000 TL <sup>58</sup>.

According to the demographic findings of the survey published in 2024 by the transgender organizing initiative "Kapsama Alanı", in which a total of 419 trans men, masculine and nonbinary people from 32 cities in 7 regions of Türkiye participated, 73.2% of the participants were trying to

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<sup>56</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/from-discrimination-to-poverty-lgbti-people-in-turkey-27-09-2022.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> [https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES\\_AB\\_365.pdf](https://etkiniz.eu/english/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/02/DES_AB_365.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> May 17 Association, Hey Lubunya! We are aging: Survey/Interviews and Working Report, 2022

survive with an income below the minimum wage as of September 2023. 26.5% of the participants stated that they had no income at all <sup>59</sup>.

The state party does not produce disaggregated data and does not include LGBTI+s among the groups that need to be protected against discrimination and social exclusion at the legal level and in public policies. Therefore, the information on the groups at risk of poverty in the reports for the last 5 years does not include LGBTI+s.

**9) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO COMBAT POVERTY AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 30 OF THE CHARTER, AND TO DIMINISH RELIANCE ON LAST-RESORT RELIEF, SUCH AS FOOD BANKS AND SOUP KITCHENS.**

**A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses**

As stated in the list of questions addressed to the State Party and the annexed explanations, Article 30 of the Social Charter requires States Parties to adopt a systematic and coordinated approach to prevent and remove barriers to access to social rights such as employment, housing, education, training, culture, social and medical assistance, etc. The State Party should address the fight against poverty and social exclusion in relation to its policy areas and go beyond a sectoral or target group approach. It should build up effective coordination mechanisms. This also requires the provision or allocation of adequate resources for measures.

In this respect, the State party's responses reveal a lack of clarification regarding the requirements of Article 30 of the Charter. It should be noted that Article 30 of the Charter cannot be interpreted in a limited way through provision of social support and assistance in an integrated system.

Particular reference should be made to the Twelfth Development Plan, which the state party cites in its report.<sup>60</sup> In this plan, the following statement draws attention: "*Efforts will be made to maintain healthy generations and to reduce the effects of bad habits, addictions and harmful trends that negatively affect the family structure, taking into account our national and moral values.*" (720.2). Inspired by this development plan, the "Vision Document and Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family" was recently published on the official website of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, which is authorized to coordinate and distribute social assistance.<sup>61</sup> Writing the foreword to the Action Plan document, the President of the executive branch states: "*Many important factors affect the structure of the family, such as the weakening*

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<sup>59</sup> Kapsama Alanı Initiative, Research on Where are Trans Men / Masculine and Nonbinary People in Sexual Health and Gynecology Checkups?, 2024

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iEvkNhh9KwERhccDSGg-TK63EsfJtT-6/view>

<sup>60</sup> [https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/On-Ikinci-Kalkinma-Plani\\_2024-2028\\_11122023.pdf](https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/On-Ikinci-Kalkinma-Plani_2024-2028_11122023.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/165130/ailenin-korunmasi-ve-gu-c-lendirilmesi-vizyon-belgesi-ve-eylem-plani.pdf>

*of ties within the family, the increase in harmful trends that threaten all family members, especially children and young people, and deviant ideologies contrary to human nature, and the promotion of individualization that isolates people.*" (Pg 3) From this point of view, it is understood that the "harmful trend" expressed in Article 720.2 of the Twelfth Development Plan is the "deviant ideologies contrary to human nature" in the foreword of the President, in other words, LGBTI+s. In this vision document of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, LGBTI+s are referred to as "harmful trends targeting the institution of family and marriage, such as desexualization" (Pg. 9); combating these "harmful trends" is addressed as the Ministry's strategic goal number 2.

Referring to LGBTI+s, in Article 100 of the Twelfth Development Plan cited by the state party, it is remarked that *"Throughout the world, uniformization and desexualization movements pose a threat to the family institution and social values in an imposing manner under the name of individual freedoms by using media platforms and non-governmental organizations, and the need to protect family members, especially children and young people, is increasing."* It is further stated that *"Increasing global trends of desexualisation are trying to have an impact in Türkiye through various media channels and pose a threat to the institution of the family, especially children and young people, in an imposing manner."*

It would not be wrong to characterize the development plan, which is the basis of the state party's response to Question 9, as a plan to eliminate LGBTI+s from the public sphere. A social support and assistance system dominated by this spirit is a priori incapable of meeting the approach of Article 30 of the Charter.

## **B. Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked**

In part A, we refer to the evaluations regarding the Twelfth Development Plan<sup>62</sup>, which will shape the policies of the state party in the forthcoming period. Furthermore, it is important to take a look at the findings in the report entitled "the Impact of February 6 Earthquakes on LGBTI+s" published by Kaos GL Association after the February 2022 earthquake. It would not be wrong to assume that LGBTI+s who cannot access public support activities even in times of disaster and despair, such as earthquakes, will not be able to access these supports in ordinary periods. The following remark is significant: "Lack of adequate housing led to security problems and ill-treatment such as insults or physical violence against LGBTI+s." The evaluation also covers nutrition. Since LGBTI+s' access to soup kitchens or food banks is already systematically denied, changes in the state policy that are not LGBTI+ inclusive are also unlikely to affect LGBTI+s.

**10) PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON STEPS TAKEN TO CONSULT WITH, AND ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF, THE PERSONS MOST AFFECTED BY THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS AND/OR ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING THEIR INTERESTS IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING OF MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS.**

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<sup>62</sup> <https://kaosgldernegi.org/images/library/deprem-raporu-eng.pdf>

## A. Regarding the Republic of Türkiye's Responses

We refer to our comments on the state party's response to question 9, subparagraph A, on Article 30 of the European Social Charter and question 8, subparagraph A, on the risk of poverty.

The state party has not provided sufficient information on the nature, scope and implementation of the projects which have been already executed as per the relevant laws and regulations or have just started through recently-provided foreign funds. It does not provide any descriptions regarding the citizens most affected by the cost of living crisis. The state party's response to the question includes only undetailed information on persons with disabilities and the elderly. The state party does not provide any data on the participation of civil society in relevant decision-making mechanisms.

## B. Status of LGBTI+s Regarding the Question Asked

We refer to the comments we supported with the relevant research results in paragraph B of questions 4, 5, 6 regarding the structural problems experienced by LGBTI+s in the mechanisms we have seen in the responses provided by the state party regarding the participation of the citizens most affected by the cost of living and their organizations. We refer to the comment we made in paragraph B of question 8 regarding LGBTI+s being among the citizens most affected by the cost of living crisis in Türkiye.

In the focus group discussions with Derin Yoksulluk Ağı and Çorbada Tuzun Olsun associations, which work in the field of combating poverty, taking place in the "*LGBTI+'s in Türkiye from Discrimination to Poverty*" research published by May 17 Association, it was emphasized that the residence document is mandatory to access social assistance; therefore, LGBTI+'s who lack housing opportunities cannot access support mechanisms that can alleviate the impact of poverty. They stated that they have recently encountered poor LGBTI+s more frequently<sup>63</sup>.

In his Friday sermon at the beginning of the pandemic, the President of Religious Affairs said that LGBTI+s were the source of the pandemic and targeted people living with HIV<sup>64</sup>.

In question 9, subparagraph A., we refer to our interpretation of the state party's answers.

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<sup>63</sup> May 17 Association, From Discrimination to Poverty: LGBTI+s in Türkiye, September 2022, Ankara <https://www.17mayis.org/images/publish/pdf/from-discrimination-to-poverty-lgbti-people-in-turkey-27-09-2022.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> <https://kaosgl.org/haber/diyanet-in-cuma-hutbesinde-nefret-islam-escinselligi-lanetliyor>

## APPENDIX 1: EXPLANATION OF NOTES IN TURKISH

1. Turkish Statistical Institute's June 2022 consumer inflation bulletin
2. Announcement of the June 2022 consumer inflation research result of the Inflation Research Group ( ENAG ) formed by academics
3. Hunger and poverty line announced by the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions in July 2022
4. Turkish Statistical Institute's June 2023 consumer inflation bulletin
5. Announcement of the December 2023 consumer inflation research result of the Inflation Research Group formed by academics
6. Hunger and poverty line announced by the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions in July 2023
8. Euronews reports on the change in the proportion of minimum wage earners in Turkey over the last 20 years
9. Research by "Doğruluk Payı", a civic organization established for fact-checking purposes, confirms with data that the minimum wage in Turkey is declining
19. Turkish Statistical Institute's June 2023 consumer inflation bulletin
22. Internet news on the research of the company named "Gezici Research" revealing that 2 out of every 3 people have debts
23. Hunger and poverty line announced by the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions in July 2023
24. Hunger and poverty line announced by the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions in October 2023
25. Hunger and poverty line announced by the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions in December 2023
26. (Situations Faced by Aging and Elderly LGBTI+ Persons, Pension/Insurance Programs Available to Elderly LGBTI+ Persons in the United States and Europe in Comparison with the Scale of Turkey) research by May 17 Association
27. 2024-2028 vision document and action plan of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Türkiye
33. ENAG December 2021 inflation bulletin
34. December 2022 inflation bulletin
35. December 2023 inflation bulletin
36. Turkish Statistical Institute's December 2021 consumer inflation bulletin
37. Turkish Statistical Institute's January 2022 consumer inflation bulletin
38. Turkish Statistical Institute's December 2023 consumer inflation bulletin
39. DİSK-AR's study based on raw data from Turkish Statistical Institute's calculates average perceived inflation in 2023 to be 53 percentage points higher than average announced inflation, Independent Turkey news
40. Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Price Index for December 2022
41. Judicial statistics publication of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Türkiye for the year 2020
43. Official Gazette
45. Question & Answer & Information Note On Social Services And Supports Accessible to Aging or Older LGBTİ+'s
46. Household Consumption Expenditure, 2022 report published by the Turkish Statistical Institute

47. Hunger and Poverty Line Survey January 2021 bulletin prepared by the United Metalworkers Union Class Research Center
48. Hunger and Poverty Line Survey January 2023 bulletin prepared by the United Metalworkers Union Class Research Center
52. DW news dated March 2022 investigating the impact of the VAT reduction on prices in the market
53. T24 news website published the results of a survey conducted by the Metropoll company, which shows that 82 percent of the public think that the VAT reduction in food is not reflected in prices.
54. 2023 activity report of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye
55. 2021 activity report of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye
60. Twelfth Development Plan of the Republic of Türkiye
61. 2024-2028 vision document and action plan of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Türkiye
64. The news article titled "Diyanet targeted LGBTİ+s and people living with HIV in its central Friday sermon."