

Governor of Ankara, Mr. Ercan Topaca
T.C. Ankara Valiliği
Ulus/Ankara

May 10, 2018

Ban On LGBTI Events In Ankara Should Be Lifted

Dear Governor,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are urging you to immediately and unconditionally lift the blanket ban on all LGBTI events in Ankara, and to ensure that the **Middle East Technical University's Pride March** goes ahead without unlawful restrictions.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of a coordinated campaign to block citizens from peaceful participation in pride events, including but not limited to, the **Middle East Technical University's upcoming Pride March**.

We strongly believe that you and the Governorate of Ankara have a responsibility under domestic and international law to investigate these reports, including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 18* – the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to prevent the unlawful blocking of pride events and peaceful assembly, and hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union



Sierra Rae
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök, His Excellency Ambassador Selçuk Ünal, General Secretary
Mr. Türker Özkan