



# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8

Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu  
Devlet Mahallesi  
T.C. İçişleri Bakanlığı  
06580 Çankaya/Ankara  
Turkey

June 20<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Ensure Pride Marches Can Safely Take Place

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to hastily lift the ban on LGBTI+ Pride events such as parades and marches within your country and ensure they can safely take place. Historically, Istanbul Pride has been the largest LGBTI+ event held by activists and supporters in Turkey and was once held up by the Turkish authorities as an example of their respect for human rights.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International regarding the unlawful blanket bans being placed on Pride events throughout Turkey. These bans violate rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. This right is protected under Turkey law and international law and prohibited on vague grounds such as these.

We ask that you take all necessary steps to guarantee that Pride participants everywhere in Turkey can safely exercise their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression and celebrate Pride.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Sierra Rae  
President  
TRU Students' Union

Brandon Hayashi  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc. His Excellency Kerim Uras