

OBJECTIVE 02

To promote human rights and democracy, involving citizens in policy dialogue, design and monitoring

THE LGBTI+ SOLIDARITY LINE

QUEER CYPRUS ASSOCIATION

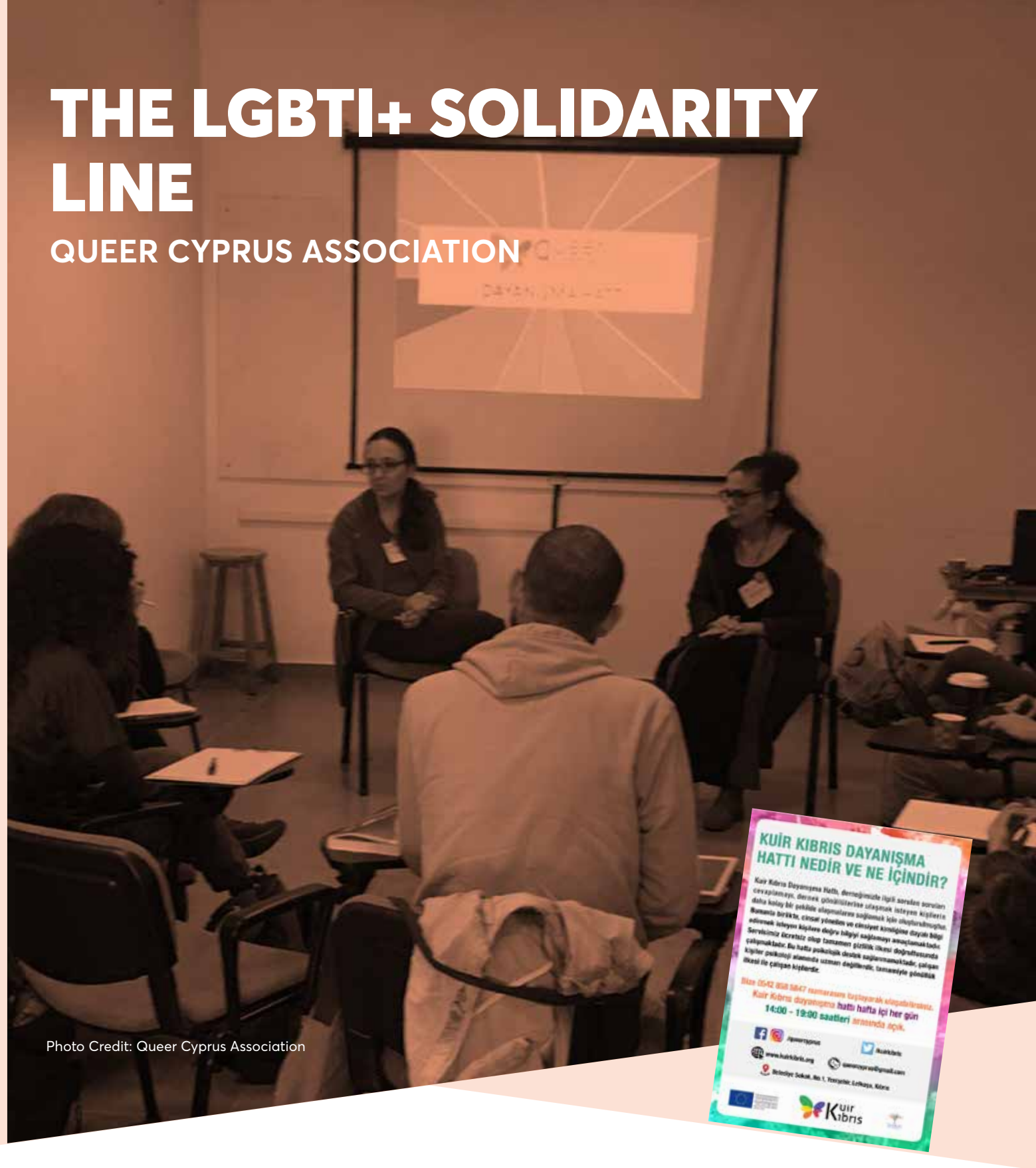


Photo Credit: Queer Cyprus Association



ABOUT THE QUEER CYPRUS ASSOCIATION

Queer Cyprus is a civil society movement that started as the "Initiative Against Homophobia" in 2008. The initiative became an association and was renamed Queer Cyprus Association in 2012. The aims of the association are to combat discriminations based on gender, gender expression, sexual orientation and/or gender identity, prevent homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, protect the universal human rights and freedom of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse (LGBTI+) individuals and organize events in order to raise awareness on LGBTI+ issues.

THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Two trainings for volunteers to be able to provide support and information to the callers of the Queer Cyprus Association's solidarity line in February 2017.

Creation of a visibility pack, including a frequently asked questions brochure, stickers, and informational leaflets about the available services to LGBTI+.

Three promotional videos for the solidarity line.

STORY OF THE ACTION

Queer Cyprus Association (QCA) aimed to create a volunteer-led hotline to provide social, legal and psychological assistance by QCA volunteers or through referrals to professionals. Anyone who is exposed to or targeted by homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate speech and crimes, or is subject to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression can contact the hotline. The hotline also provides assistance to preserve and protect the physical and mental health of the LGBTI+, and to ensure access to available health, safety and security services.

Under the Grow Civic action, the association organized two trainings for their volunteers to provide support and information through the solidarity line for LGBTI+, their families and friends and those who are questioning if they might be LGBTI+. One of the trainings was facilitated by a psychiatrist and a psychologist, and the other one by two social workers who are providing similar services in a well-established LGBTI+ organization in Turkey.

Additionally, in order to provide essential information about the solidarity line, Queer Cyprus Association used various social media and produced brochures and stickers to disseminate the association's activities to a wider audience.

After producing promotional videos for the solidarity line, the volunteers have begun to provide the service seven days a week through the Queer Solidarity Line, the Queer Solidarity Chat, and the Queer Solidarity Text.

Yanlış değiliz
Yalnız değiliz
sorularınızı birlikte yanıtlayabiliriz.

Kardeşinizi seçin
bifobiyi değil
sorularınızı birlikte yanıtlayabiliriz



Photo Credit: Queer Cyprus Association

"Through the solidarity line, Queer Cyprus Association assisted many individuals, refugees, and migrants who self-identify themselves as LGBTI+. These individuals are facing significant challenges fighting homelessness, discrimination, sexual violence, misconceptions and abuse by peers, family members, employers, or others in the northern part of Cyprus. To complement these efforts, a "frequently asked questions" section regarding LGBTI+ was also prepared in Turkish and English. This activity aimed to provide information to LGBTI+, friends, family, allies and the general public, to raise their awareness of key issues."

Faika Deniz Paşa

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Queer Cyprus Association, a rights-based and self-advocacy organization, is focused on advocating for the fundamental rights of LGBTI+. The action supports access to social, psychological and legal services, as well as the right to be free from discrimination and maintain the highest standard of mental and physical health.

"Through this activity, Queer Cyprus Association became more sustainable and informed. LGBTI+s, as individuals, are more empowered to claim their rights to live as equal citizens in public and private spheres. Furthermore, the frequently asked questions document influences self-advocacy, empowering LGBTI+s to better represent their interests, contributing to the policy level sustainability of the action."

Faika Deniz Paşa

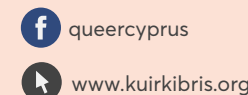
The service also enabled people with physical or visual disabilities and those with hearing impairments to access the services with little inconvenience. In the long term, the data gathered from the service will play a role in promoting awareness for the needs and experiences of LGBTI+ and in campaigning for equality as well as policy changes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Queer Cyprus Association started a project funded by the European Union named "Diversity of Colors" on 12 December 2018. This project contributes to develop the action and improve the lives of LGBTI+. While providing peer counseling through the solidarity line, the need for referrals to lawyers and psychologists for professional legal and psychological assistance have arisen. To this end, under the Diversity of Colors project, Queer Cyprus Association is providing legal and psychological consultancy services to 30 individuals identified through the solidarity line by the end of 2021.

Queer Cyprus Association started a new project funded by the European Union entitled "LGBTI+ in Freedom from Exploitation (Life) Project" which started on the 7 May 2019 and will last for two and a half years. This project aims to contribute to the struggle of LGBTI+s who are trafficked in the northern part of Cyprus. One of the activities of this project is to improve the capacity of the solidarity line. Moreover, the technical capacity of solidarity line volunteers has been strengthened so they can better identify cases who need social welfare service to provide efficient guidance.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION



queercyprus

www.kuirkibris.org



This Project is funded by the European Union.

