



International Association of Pride Organizers

## **Statement from InterPride regarding violence at Istanbul Pride**

This past Friday, Istanbul and Turkish authorities banned the Istanbul Trans Pride March (scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>) and the Istanbul LGBTI Pride March (scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>), citing security concerns. When about 50 demonstrators assembled for the Trans March on Sunday they were met with tear gas and rubber bullets from the police, and violence from anti-LGBTI protestors. Istanbul police subsequently detained several LGBTI activists. These events unfortunately echo last year's Istanbul LGBTI Pride March, which was banned at the last minute and attacked by police forces.

InterPride strongly condemns the decisions of the Istanbul and Turkish authorities to ban the Pride Marches in Istanbul as a scandalous affront to freedom of expression and to the human rights of LGBTI people in Turkey. InterPride calls on the local authorities to reverse their decision and to support their LGBTI community by allowing its members to assemble, to march, and to express themselves in safe and secure conditions.

Rather than squashing voices for human rights, attacking LGBTI marchers, and detaining activists who fight for equality, Turkish authorities ought to provide protection and safety to the LGBTI community of Istanbul and to support local Pride organizers in their peaceful efforts.

InterPride and our Member Pride Organizations across the globe stand in solidarity with our fellow Pride organizers in Istanbul and in Turkey.

For further comment, please email [copresidents@interpride.org](mailto:copresidents@interpride.org)