



**RESIST**

Fostering Queer Feminist Intersectional Resistances against Transnational Anti-Gender Politics

## **The RESIST Project: Press Release**

### **FINDINGS FROM THE 2<sup>nd</sup> STAGE OF THE PROJECT RELEASED**

**Headline:** RESIST project reveals the effects of and resistances to ‘anti-gender’ mobilisations across Europe

**Lead:** A new report documents and analyzes the consequences of “anti-gender” mobilizations across Europe, and the responses of affected individuals and targeted collectives. The team behind the RESIST European research project has published a second report analyzing the effects of “anti-gender” discourses, policies and mobilizations in Europe, based on nine case studies covering Belarus, people living in exile in Europe, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Spain and Switzerland. This report examines the consequences of “anti-gender” mobilizations, discourses and policies on targeted feminist and LGBTIQ+ individuals and collectives, while highlighting responses to address them. This report is based on qualitative data gathered from 254 people, including academics, journalists and activists, in 104 interviews and 36 focus groups conducted between January and May 2024.

Dr. Latife Akyüz and Bilge Cömert, a research assistant from European University Viadrina led the case study on the experiences of Kurdish-Turkish communities living in exile in Europe and their encounters with 'anti-gender' politics. Their study is based on findings from 4 focus groups with 20 participants, and 12 individual interviews. Participants include activists, academics, and intellectuals from Turkey and North Kurdistan who have fled to various European countries, such as Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and Spain, as migrants and refugees from environments of oppression and violence, in part due to anti feminist and 'anti-gender' politics that endanger their physical, social, political, and everyday lives and how these effects might be influenced or transformed by the experience of crossing borders into Europe.

Dr. Akyüz stated “Our study shows that 'anti-gender' experiences continue through complex migration processes, illegal pushbacks, and poor conditions in refugee camps, along with everyday and structural racism in host countries. These intersecting oppressions highlight that freedom for LGBTQIA+ people is intertwined with their status as racialized people and refugees. Exile, intended as a refuge from 'anti-gender' violence, often extends these experiences through difficult migration routes and bureaucratic hurdles”.

The report finds that the marginalization of LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly trans



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women, is compounded by their intersecting identities of race, gender, and refugee status. These individuals not only face discrimination in their home countries but also encounter bureaucratic violence within European asylum systems, further exacerbating feelings of non-belonging and isolation. Many exiled activists struggle with the lack of inclusion in mainstream LGBTQIA+ activism in Europe, which is often dominated by cisgender, white, middle-class perspectives. This exclusion has pushed them to create more inclusive, intersectional spaces that better reflect their lived experiences.

Despite these challenges, the report highlights that these activists continue to resist through transnational networks and social media platforms, which provide essential support and solidarity. These networks allow exiled activists to stay connected, share their struggles, and organize collective actions across borders.

The study underscores the importance of building and sustaining transnational networks of solidarity to support exiled activists navigate their experiences and continue their political resistance, even in exile.

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To join the online launch, on 23rd October at 10:00am (GMT+1), please register here:

[https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fSdPkzYaRE-947BpF65GwA](https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fSdPkzYaRE-947BpF65GwA)

The RESIST project is co-ordinated by University College Dublin in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, European University Viadrina, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Université de Lausanne, Université de Fribourg, Maynooth University, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and Feminist Autonomous Centre for research.

RESIST is a four-year study supported by the research councils and funding bodies of the European Union, UK and Switzerland. More information about the project on its website:

<https://theresistproject.eu>



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