



CIVIC SPACE STUDIES ASSOCIATION



is

5

years old!



Civic Space
Studies
Association



Hello,

The Civil Space Studies Association, founded by a group of young rights defenders, is celebrating its 5th anniversary. We set out to defend freedom of expression, assembly, and association while supporting rights defenders and contributing to creating mechanisms that make human rights violations visible.

Since the day we set out, we have been working on improving freedom of expression, assembly, and association on campuses and trying to develop tools that we can cooperate with university students in this field.

As we celebrate our 5th anniversary, we sincerely thank all our friends with whom we crossed paths, especially university students, who showed solidarity and increased our hope and excitement.



Many more years together,
side by side!

Why do we work on freedom of expression, assembly, and association on campus?

We hear about banned, cancelled, or restricted campus events or on-campus protests every day. However, a significant number of these violations cannot be reported or reach the public and, therefore, cannot become visible. The voices of some of us cannot reach all of us.

In this context, we have been conducting studies on violations of freedom of expression, assembly, and association on university campuses since our founding. We see campuses and student activism as a part of the civil space, and we aim to make the rights violations visible in this area and to show solidarity with students subjected to these violations.

Let's briefly review what we have done in these five years.

Following

The Student Agenda By following the student agenda, we aim to announce the struggles and achievements of students who cannot find enough coverage in the media. Therefore we::



Report on human rights violations at universities,

Disseminate the achievements gained on campuses,

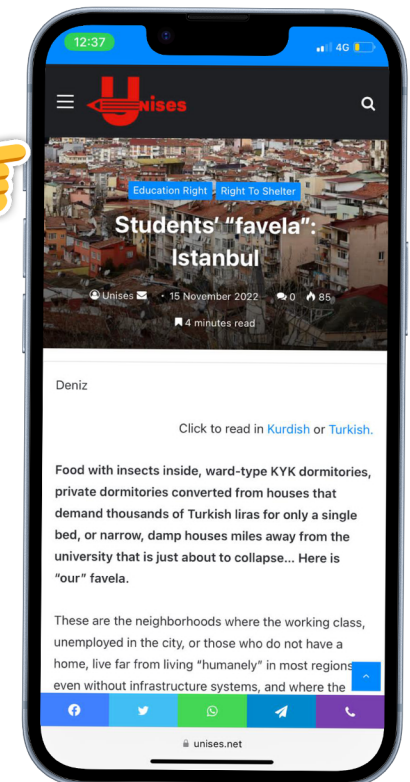


Conduct interviews with students regarding their agenda and demands,

Provide a space where students can make their voices heard through the unises.net news portal.



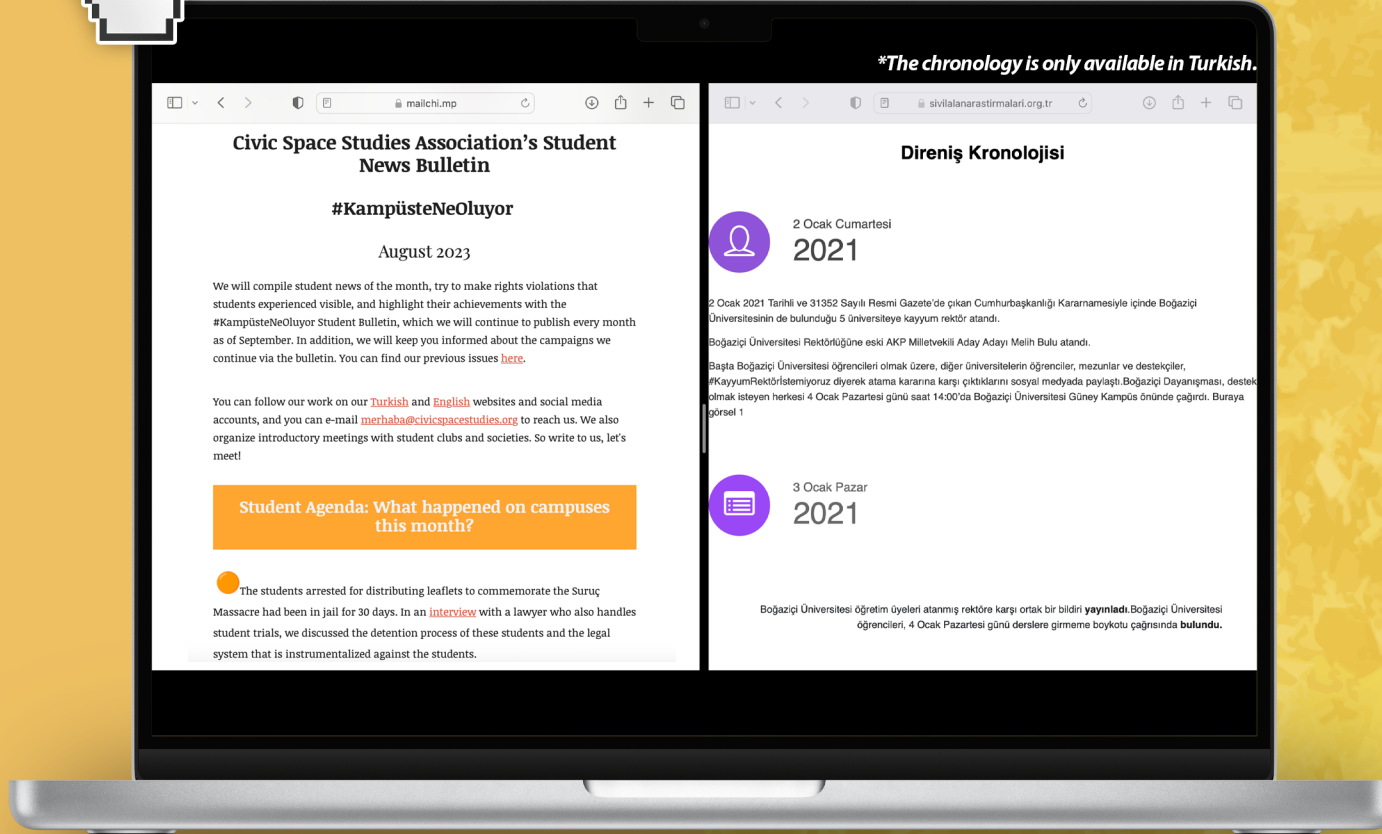
We established the Voice of the University News Portal to create a sustainable platform where students who are subject to violations can make their voices heard, inform the public about what is happening on campus, and at the same time, while experienced journalists can provide workshops to students who want to improve their knowledge and skills in this field.



Student News

Bulletin

With the #KampüsteNeOluyor (#What'sHappeningOnCampus) Student Bulletin, we compile student news monthly, try to make violations of students' rights visible, and highlight their achievements.



Boğaziçi Resistance Chronology

We created the chronology of the Resistance to contribute to the memory of the Boğaziçi Resistance, which has been continuing since Melih Bulu was appointed as trustee rector of Boğaziçi University on January 2, 2021, and we continue to record what has happened since that day.

workshops

On-campus citizen journalism and international protection mechanisms workshops

As part of student activism and promoting freedom of expression on campus, we organized workshops on Citizen Journalism and International Protection Mechanisms On Campus. As a result of the workshops, we produced two separate videos and prepared brochures for students. You can access these contents on our website.

We can also organize a workshop with you if there is a request regarding our rights on campus.



The videos and brochures are only available in Turkish.

Freedom of Expression on Campus For University Students
Ways to Apply Against Unfair Intervention

Like Comment Share

Legal support and trial monitoring



We provide legal support and produce informative content on legal procedures to support students who are investigated, prosecuted, or face disciplinary punishment due to a meeting, march, or event they attended on campus.

As we enter our 5th year, we are also happy to have taken steps to create a network of lawyers who follow student trials. Following the workshops we organized in Diyarbakır, İzmir, Ankara, and Istanbul, we are building the foundation for a network that can quickly communicate in case of trials, take action, and share exemplary decisions.

We are trying to make on-campus violations visible and raise public opinion on this issue, especially by following the prosecutions of students whose rights have been violated and who have faced legal sanctions while advocating for rights on campuses.



Open(the)Space

We organized a series of workshops with the Nonviolent Education and Research Center. In these workshops, we expressed the discomfort of our shrinking space through art and expanded the limits of the spaces where we come together.

videocampaigns

While university students are building new ways of struggle and solidarity against oppressive policies, we believe in the importance of keeping this solidarity and hope alive, and we strive to reflect this in our campaigns.

We started a campaign called #YasağaRağmen (**#DespiteTheBan**) to highlight students' struggles on campus, on the streets, and even in disaster areas. We ran the #HakkınVar (**#YouHaveTheRight**) video campaign to highlight the different achievements of students on campus.

We carried out a campaign called #HerHaldeHaklarımızVar (**#WeHaveRights**) to remind that many rights, such as the right to education, housing, and the freedom to gather and organize on campus still exist against the arbitrary practices taken after the earthquake and the pandemic, and to strengthen the students who are struggling.



#DespiteTheBan video campaign
*Only available in Turkish



#WeHaveRights campaign
*Available in Turkish and Kurdish



#YouHaveTheRight video campaign
*Only available in Turkish



Defending Rights Is Not a Crime
video campaign

Before the ones we organized in the last three years, we ran a video campaign against the slander against human rights defenders, saying that it is our duty to expand the civil space and be in solidarity with all rights defenders.

*Available in English.



All to videos you can access it from our YouTube account by reading the QR code.

Student Struggle in Turkey: Solidarity Strengthens!
documentary

*Only available in Turkish



We made a documentary in which we listened to the solidarity of the students who came together against the increasing pressure on campuses, the administrations that remain silent against sexual harassment and attacks, the high spikes in dormitories and dining halls, and the prevention of club activities.

1 9:41 - October 7, 2021 - Türkiye

The reports

University in the News



In the "University in the News" reports, written by journalist Beyza Kural and advised by Burak Özçetin, we monitor and analyze the news coverage about student activism in the pro-government media.



Freedom of expression on campus report: "Campus to be handcuffed"

In this human rights monitoring study, we aimed to record what happened on campuses after the pandemic regarding the right to association and peaceful assembly in the context of freedom of expression and to reveal the factors that prevent using these rights.

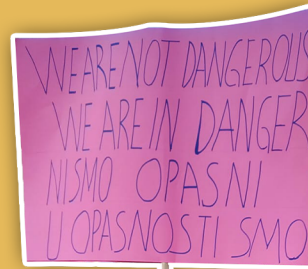
Campuses as Civic Spaces: Three Fundamental Rights and Freedoms in Universities in Turkey

We conducted a study called "Freedom of Expression on Campus" to strengthen student activism at universities in Turkey and contribute to its sustainability. As a result, we published a report called "Campuses as Civil Spaces: Three Fundamental Rights and Freedoms in Universities in Turkey" based on the research results.



Study Tour with student activists in Brussels and Strasbourg

We organize trips where young activists meet with Europe's leading rights defenders and representatives of international non-governmental organizations to pave the way for global solidarity and experience sharing.



Our international internship program for student activists

We have left behind two semesters in the internship program, where we give young student activists the opportunity to gain experience in international non-governmental organizations for a month, where all their expenses are covered.





*We've been
walking together
for 5 years.*



**Civic Space
Studies
Association**

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