

## WHAT IS VOIS?

“Voices of International Students in Cyprus” is a non-profit organization which aims to bring to light the problems faced by international students in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. VOIS Cyprus also aims and works actively to bridge the gap between students and public and private bodies to have successful dialogue between the two.

## OUR MISSION

- Put an end to racial discrimination, sexual based violence, unfair working conditions, unreasonable housing conditions, agent mal-practices, police bias and other issues
- Encouraging harmonious coexistence between international students and local residents,
- Build a healthier and more appealing community which promotes social progress and better standards of life for all.

## JOIN VOIS CYPRUS

Be the voice of change on North Cyprus

You can apply as an active volunteer/recruit to our media team and/or in any of these areas:

MENTAL HEALTH / HOUSING ISSUES

WORKING CONDITIONS / ISSUES BASED ON GENDER / INSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

Or just register to become a member.

voiscyprus@gmail.com / <http://voiscyprus.org/>



## OUR STRATEGY



Dialogue



Capacity building workshops



Raising Awareness



Working with public & private bodies



Engaging & fun activities

## VOICES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A non-profit organization which aims to bring to light the problems faced by international students in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

BY:



Working with stakeholders



Providing a platform for intl students



Raising Awareness

*Vois*

VOICES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
C Y P R U S

S P E A K U P

## OUR ORIGIN STORY

VOIS Cyprus was founded on February 5th, 2018 following the heinous murder of Kennedy Taomwabwa Dede, a Nigerian student resident in the Northern part of Cyprus. Prior to this murder, a seminar on 'The problems Faced by International Students in Cyprus' organized by the Teachers' Union of EMU had brought to the limelight many of the difficulties faced by international students. VOIS was founded following these two significant events, and out of the necessity to give a voice, as well as provide a platform for international students to share their experiences, with the aim of seeking for solutions to these problems.

Follow us on social media

- VOIS Cyprus
- @voiscyprus
- @voiscyprus
- @voiscyprus
- @voiscyprus

Contact Us

- [info@voiscyprus.org](mailto:info@voiscyprus.org)
- +90 (533) 000-0000

<http://voiscyprus.org/>

# S P E A K U P







## COMMITTEES

VOIS Cyprus is divided into 5 committees that handle all kinds of challenges related to those respective committees.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Deals with all things related to the mental health of international students; helping to remove stigma from those affected by it and improving the general situation of it.

### HOUSING ISSUES

Tackles issues related to housing. Issues such as scamming and landlord problems, and many others. Aiming to improve the housing situation in North Cyprus for everyone.

### WORKING CONDITIONS

Handles the working situation in North Cyprus and deals with exploitation problems, wage and permit problems and more; with a goal of making the working condition in North Cyprus fairer for everyone.

### INSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

Deals with discrimination on an institutional level. Problems such as racism and discrimination are issues that this committee tackles, and aims to solve.

### ISSUES RELATED TO GENDER

Tackles gender based issues and offenses such as sexual harrasment and verbal harrasment and so on; with a goal of making a much more safe environment for international students to co-exist in.

## A WORD OF CAUTION TO STUDENTS

There are certain things students in North Cyprus need to be wary of:

- **Do not** sign a document (contracts, etc) without having a translation in English.
- **Do not** give money or make payments to third parties.
- **Do not** use drugs or get involved in any drug related issues.
- **Do not** engage in criminal or illegal activities.
- **Do not** work at construction sites. It is illegal for international students.
- **Do not** disturb your neighbors with loud music and so on.
- **Do not** hitchhike. Or if it is absolutely necessary then please exercise caution.

## ACTIVITIES

VOIS Cyprus has come up with a number of activities which we believe might go a long way to sensitize and create awareness on these problems, in an effort to encourage positive action from relevant stakeholders as well as the Northern Cypriot authorities.

- [Fun events](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [Festivals](#)
- [Open mic](#)
- [Campaigns](#)
- [Q and A](#)

## SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Worked with the Ministry of Education particularly the Scholarship Board in a bid to make scholarships more accessible to international students.
- Working with the Ministry of Labor to improve the working conditions of international students in North Cyprus.
- Worked towards creating a closer connection between international students and civil society.
- Offered a platform for many international students to express themselves and talk about the difficulties they face.
- Expanded our reach to cover all major cities and universities of North Cyprus with over 400 members.
- Conducted a series of Dialogue and Capacity Workshops funded by the European Union to solve the challenges faced by international students and bring them in direct communication with the public and private bodies.



## THE MEDIA DEPARTMENT



The media wing of VOIS Cyprus handles the social media and visual arts of the organization, bringing you beautiful designs and videos and other creative visual forms. Prospective recruits are welcome to apply.



## PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries of the activities conducted by VOIS Cyprus are international students in the Northern part of Cyprus. We want every international student to be treated with dignity and respect as is outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Nonetheless, we do not only aim to create a platform where international students can share their experiences, but to also create a conducive environment for both international students and local students to co-exist and interact in.

## PARTNERS

- | **DAU-SEN**
- | **Civic Space**
- | **MAGEM**
- | **Women's Shelter**
- | **QUEER Cyprus**
- | **Human Rights Foundation**
- | **Refugee Rights Association (RRA)**
- | **The Management Centre**
- | **Human Rights Committee of the BAR Association**