

Dear members of the film University,

As usual before the election, politicians abuse the refugee rights and the rights of sexual minorities who are in fact the majority, to manipulate people and gain more votes. Politicians have never been expected to bring a fundamental change and understand human conditions, suffering and emotions. As it has been said before, "Politics and art come together but only at each other's funeral."

Sometimes it is society that decides how to coerce the politicians, as the votes are what they care about. This is where the role of art, culture, and their desire and tendency to create change and produce new ideas may or may not actualize.

As a trans refugee who is in the process of learning and changing, I cannot complain as I must try forever to overcome my own transphobia at this nonsense system/cistem in which heteronormativity ridiculously and simply traps every lifestyle, culture and society. The film university should be the center for cultural, political, and societal change. It should first and foremost feel the need for change and freedom, and fight for progress above all. And yet, it is surprisingly silent, passive, conservative, white-centered, white-oriented, white supremacist, and patriarchal. What, then, could we expect from politicians and folks?

When the university itself is the site of bureaucracy, restrictive legislation, paperwork, red tapism, and has no serious determination to change itself, its atmosphere, and its system of discrimination and from another side to make the cultural and social changes possible, we can no longer expect a politician to seriously consider the most notable social and cultural issues of our modern society. Or we can no longer expect civilians to understand patriotism, heteronormativity, and its dominance behavior, and understand the importance of freedom, democracy, and the responsibility to have them. It so happens that one day the majority will vote for dictatorship, and if that can't happen, will vote for discrimination, and will vote for murderer and killing; for violence and hatred; and for war and terrorism.

Today beside the tragedies that we are facing globally such as the tragedy in Afghanistan, patriarchy, trans phobia, queer phobia, and racism have constantly created a weird world for us, an unrecognizable, vague world, full of stupidity, unimaginable to a free one. And if we think that only we are the viewers of this dark comedy, we are mistaken. We are all actors here.

In this situation, our university is not only strangely and painfully silent, but also makes no serious effort to deconstruct and degrade heteronormativity and white-centric patterns with their destructive attitude. Rarely we know the name of an Arab or Afghan writer here. If I know, it's because I was born somewhere else. Above all, sometimes if the name of a Turkish or a Thai or an Egyptian female filmmaker is asked here, the majority including myself might remain dumb silent, grin proudly, and continue to live our own luxury and knowledgeable lives. I do not know three Moroccan, Taiwanese, Pakistani or Afghan female filmmakers, but if I am asked to write the names of the "Western" filmmakers, especially men, it can make a longlist on the paper.

I do not know how many Afghans study at this university. But I know that thousands of Afghans who are fed up with war, insecurity, violence, and are forced to flee Afghanistan and escape from the Taliban, are now on their ways to Germany. The country that has the experience of Stasi about thirty years ago, and the experience of Nazis from less than eighty years ago, today is the third largest producer of weapons and ammunition in the world and is proud of its exported democracy. Yet, in its public opinions and media believes democracy does not fit other people like Afghans.

In most cases, being from Iran is disgrace and cause of humiliation for me. But when it comes to Afghanistan, every Iranian shakes and carries the pain and guilt forever. The comedy is here that the debates among parties are about how many thousands less or more they will take refugees? And how the integration has been done so far and how it will be done from now on and there is a discussion about German-European values and correspondence to these values. However, "integration" itself is a nationalist phrase, and anyone with a call, desire and will for freedom and justice cannot look at it positively. Then, when we say that we are half plus one racist, it tarnishes their names, and they feel offended. While they confirm racism by feeling offended but not looking at the system/cistem.

Last week a trans woman ended her life in such a painful way right in the middle of the city at Alexanderplatz. Despite the mass media coverage of the incident, there were only two hundred people at her memorial. She chose Alexanderplatz, the center of the city and she chose the most painful way to end her life by burning herself with Benzin. She did this just 500 meters away from the police station, and right in the middle of the ugly malls and shops in Alexanderplatz, only twelve days before the election. When I saw only two hundred people attending on Sunday, for me her message became more frightening, sad, and painful. How one's life cannot matter at this level? How trans lives do not matter at this level? Trans lives and death, breath and soil have been always a political, cultural, and social move at this fucking Cistem which we tragically accept and in which we tragically live. At this ugly Cistem, the trans existence is the most progressive cultural, social, and political happening whether the politicians and the police officers like it or not. Cis people have a responsibility to ensure that we do not live in a world where things like this can happen.

I am very lucky because freedom found me and I have the chance to live in Berlin, and study at a university that flashes and looks sparkling and gets bigger and bigger day by day. The university that is equipped with all the facilities such as montage studios, large rooms, Mesa, workshop rooms, office, classrooms, library and so on; however, I cannot be proud of the careless, passive, silence, and conservative behavior of myself and my university.

It seems there is no will and desire to change the white-centric and normative environment. Why are we careless at this level? When a simple email to criticize the use of the German language is met with the creation of fake accounts that one calls me "Count", when a Syrian student and I who come from colonized places are told that here English is not used because of colonialism! and that is why we use German. When in a seminar, the professor argues that the inventors of cinema were the Skladanovsky brothers, not the Lumière brothers and the study of the history of cinema is limited to Europe and America and when in another seminar only European and American movies are supposed to be shown while the list is long, we cannot expect the term of integration will not be used by politicians.

I do not know how many people in this university are openly trans? But I believe we are more than what we count. How can I not be clearly trans-phobic, in such a trans-phobic environment? It is the university that now, instead of pushing the boundaries and restrictions and encouraging deconstruction and taboo-breaking attitude, has become a place of fear, shame, sentimentalism, and normativity. At this situation Its sparkle and flashes preoccupy, weakens, and shakes the human mind. Here is how the cinema, despite being born too late; was soon poisoned by money, power, politics, capitalism, patriarchy, and died early.

It is our responsibility to not be silent but more serious and active, regardless of any tendency and political beliefs be decisive for changing, influencing, and creating an open, freer, fairer and more humanistic atmosphere. Where there is a democracy, the price for asking for freedom and justice is not blood. This democracy has not been achieved easily and without blood either. It is the society that can decide to what extent and within what framework, structure, culture, and behavior the rights of refugees, children, women, trans and queer should be considered.

As a member of you, I beg you to ask the pronouns of each person with whom you first time meet, this is not only a respect, but it must also be A MUST! Many trans people do not care, but for me it does matter. Write it everywhere at university, "Ask people's pronouns". Please wear your skirt or tights or your make-up sometimes. These beautiful dresses are clearly not only for us, "THE WOMEN". Between all this variety in dresses and makeup, you will find the right outfit that you like or maybe nail polish or lipstick or eyeliner or eye shadow or something. Wear

it not only at home or at a party but also at university and get feedback from others. The more you wear, the more feedback you will get and the more this process will be normalized. Make sure you do not depart without wearing makeup in 2021 during your study at a film university. Even in paradise, the goddess will fetishize you for being such astonishing unreasonable creator.

Your friend,

Amina