

Formation of the Cypriot Gay Liberation Movement (AKOK)



December, 1987

AKOK, founded in December 1987 by Alecos Modinos, was Cyprus's first organised gay liberation movement, working clandestinely to decriminalise same-sex relations and challenge widespread homophobia.

The Cypriot Gay Liberation Movement (AKOK) was founded in December 1987 by prominent activist Alecos Modinos, together with 16 gay men and one lesbian woman, at a time when male same-sex relations were still criminalised in Cyprus and public discussion of homosexuality was deeply taboo. As the first organised LGBT rights group on the island, AKOK focused primarily on campaigning for the decriminalisation of sexual relations between men and challenging the widespread homophobia supported by state authorities and the Orthodox Church. Although it was never officially registered because it was too risky for enough people to publicly sign as members, AKOK joined the International Gay and Lesbian Association (ILGA), met in private spaces, and created support initiatives such as a “Gay Phone Line” for the community. AKOK’s activism, combined with Modinos’ landmark case before the European Court of Human Rights, paved the way for the eventual decriminalisation of same-sex sexual activity in 1998 and laid the historical groundwork for later organisations such as Accept – LGBT Cyprus.

For more information click here!

