

# The Frontline: Elif Shafak and the Power of Our Stories

In this episode we welcome the internationally acclaimed Turkish [novelist](#), [essayist](#), and advocate for women's and LGBTI rights and freedom of expression, Elif Shafak.

[Podcast](#), [Anti-gender Movement](#), [Equality](#), [Istanbul Convention](#), [Turkey](#)

The author of 18 books of fiction and non-fiction, including *The Bastard of Istanbul*, *Honour*, and *Three Daughters of Eve*, Elif has come under fire from the Turkish authorities for writing about human rights abuses that its government denies. Her most recent novel, *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World*, which tells the story of a sex worker in Istanbul, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2019. It sparked another investigation by Turkish prosecutors for addressing child abuse and sexual violence in her writing.

Elif joins ILGA-Europe's Executive Director, Evelyne Paradis to talk about a widespread decline of democracy, the fight for LGBTI rights and equality, the power of our stories and her own journey towards being a vocal member of the LGBTI community.

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