



THE FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY

2018 BULLETIN

THE FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY IS NOW 25 YEARS OLD!

The Foundation for Women's Solidarity was established in 1993 by women who organized against gender-based violence. In 25 years, we have built solidarity with thousands of women through our counseling center and shelter work. We have organized solidarity workshops with women in their neighborhoods, university students we got together with on campus, and grassroots activists. We have advocated for the advancement of women's human rights in Turkey as well as the adoption of new laws, and we monitored the implementation processes. In all our efforts, we have followed feminist principles and our methods have been guided by the legacy of the feminist movement in Turkey. We will further continue our struggle, which we have been building with great efforts for 25 years, by growing stronger with women and expanding the solidarity against gender-based violence.



WE CONTINUE TO BUILD SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN WHO FACE VIOLENCE

In 2018, **415 women** applied to our women's counselling center seeking support while combating gender-based violence. 87% of these women reported that they have experienced psychological violence. Of these women, 56% reported physical violence, 45% reported economic violence, 24% reported sexual violence, and 12% reported digital violence. 74% of these counselees were provided social support by our social workers and volunteers, 38% of them were provided legal support by our lawyers, and 3% of them were provided long-term psychological support by our psychologists. The interviews with these women once again showed the prevalence and extent of gender-based violence.

WE ORGANIZED A GENDER RELATED TRAINING FOR TEACHERS FROM ÇİÇEK KINDERGARTEN

Upon request of the Foundation for Women's Education and Employment based in Tuzluçayır, Mamak, we arranged a meeting in March with the teachers from Çiçek Kindergarten working within the foundation's structure. During the three-day training, we discussed with the teachers topics such as gender, male dominance, violence against women, different types of violence, sexual rights, myths about violence, and women solidarity.



WE CONTINUED TO MEET WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS

During 2018, **77 women** applied to volunteer at the Foundation for Women's Solidarity. In November 2018, we organized a four-day volunteer workshop where we jointly reflected on topics such as gender equality, violence against women, women's rights, body politics and sexuality, feminist women's movement, and feminist principles.

The Foundation for Women's Solidarity realizes most of its activities with the support of its volunteers, and the women who want to be a part of the Foundation are required to participate in volunteer workshops. Thanks to these workshops, we are able to share the same language and maintain the common principles and objectives establishing the *modus operandi* of the Foundation. We strongly believe that volunteering at the Foundation for Women's Solidarity would serve for challenging our prejudices, providing a gender equality lens to violence, and contributing to the struggle for eliminating violence against women.



WE MET WITH WOMEN LAWYERS FROM 43 PROVINCES OF TURKEY

During the three-day capacity development workshops we organized in March, April, and May, we brought together 61 women lawyers who specialized in combating violence against women. In these workshops, we discussed gender, violence against women, gender and law, feminist methods in trials, legal standards, Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, the decisions of European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) as well as secondary trauma that lawyers might experience. In September 2018, we organized another workshop bringing together all participants of the previous workshops. In this workshop, lawyers shared their experiences concerning the existing practices. Then, the participants further elaborated on the human rights and gender equality based legal standards.

In our project "Strengthening the Representation of Women Subjected to Violence in the Justice Mechanism," we targeted women lawyers who have been specialized in the areas of women's rights and violence against women. With this project, we aimed to strengthen the awareness, knowledge and experience of lawyers on "gender dimension of violence" and "gender dimension of law" in line with the standards of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention as well as the decisions of ECHR.

Last but not least, we discussed the possibilities of further collaboration in our meeting bringing together the NGOs combating gender-based violence and public institutions as well as associations providing services in this area. We also shared our findings and suggestions for the elimination of the obstacles and difficulties encountered at the prosecution stage.



WE GOT TOGETHER WITH WOMEN'S NGOS IN ANKARA, ADANA AND MARDİN



In April and October 2018, we organized two-day capacity development trainings for the women's NGOs in Ankara, Adana and Mardin. These trainings aimed to strengthen the capacity of local women's NGOs in providing support to Syrian women. The trainings covered issues and topics such as the circumstances and needs of women refugees, their rights in face of gender-based violence, application and legal/social support mechanisms when they experience violence as well as the effective strategies for supporting Syrian women at the counselling centers of the local women's NGOs. The participants also shared their experiences, which brought to the fore some prevalent barriers and challenges the Syrian women have been experiencing including the language barriers, cultural differences and the bureaucratic difficulties these women face when they apply to the public institutions, and so on.

In 2018, we have continued to implement the project "Gender-based Discrimination against the Refugee Women and Combating Violence" in collaboration with the Mardin Shareholding Women's Cooperation Association and Adana Women's Counselling Centre and Shelter Association. In this project, we jointly organized the local cooperation workshops in which the local public authorities, women's organizations and the NGOs focusing on refugee rights came together, shared their experiences and knowledge, discussed the existing problems and tried to identify cooperation areas.

WE CAME TOGETHER WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PLATFORM AND WOMEN'S NGOs IN WESTERN BALKANS

We met with participants from several women's organizations based in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania in a two-day workshop, "Istanbul Convention as a Tool for Advocacy and GREVIO Civil Society Shadow Reports," we organized on 29-30 March in Ankara. The head of GREVIO, Prof. Dr. Feride Acar mentioned how advisory decisions of GREVIO and shadow reports prepared by NGOs could be used as efficient tools for advocacy by women's organizations. Moreover, in the workshop held on 6-7 June in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the GREVIO member, Biljana Brankovic, brought up Istanbul Convention as a means of improving services for women experiencing violence in her speech focusing on shadow reports of NGOs.



Civil Society Strengthening Platform (CSSP) was created as a part of a project executed by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) in 2017, which gathers women's organizations from Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania. You can reach here the website of the platform which aims to support the monitoring activities of the women's organizations in Turkey and Western Balkans regarding CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

WE MET WITH WOMEN IN 9 NEIGHBORHOODS OF ANKARA



We arranged 9 meetings during January, February and March, and reached over 150 women. In these meetings, we discussed gender equality, violence against women, our legal rights, steps we can take when we experience or witness violence, institutions or organizations from which we can ask help, women's solidarity and empowerment. In collaboration with the Municipality of Çankaya, we organized three meetings in Cebeci, Bayraktar and Mürsel Uluç Çankaya Houses.

WE TALKED ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN WOMEN'S NGOs AT THE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

On 25-26 April, we were at the Civil Society Platform, organized by European Union Sivil Düşün Programme. In the "Volunteering at Women's Organizations" workshop, we served as the moderator in collaboration with Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation and discussed with the participants the need for separate organizations by and for women, volunteering in non-hierarchical women's organizations and feminist principles, volunteer working teams and the place of volunteers in decision-making processes. Sibel Güneş, on behalf of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, served as the moderator.



WE WERE IN SKOPJE FOR A MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

We attended a meeting titled "The Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Western Balkans and Turkey," organized by UN Women in Macedonia on 27-28 November. In this regional forum gathering together civil society and public representatives, we shared with the participants from Balkan countries some regional experiences as well as good examples and difficulties regarding the fight against violence against women. On the second day of the forum, Ebru Hanbay Çakır, a member of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, was a speaker at the session "A Holistic Approach to Violence Against Women: Integrated Politics and Data Collection" along with Prof. Dr. Feride Acar and Prof. Dr. Yakın Ertürk.



WE ATTENDED THE GREVIO TURKEY REPORT PRESENTATION MEETING

Representatives from several women's organizations, women's studies departments at universities and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations attended the meeting organized by the Turkish Women Union. During the meeting, GREVIO chairperson Prof. Dr. Feride Acar commented on GREVIO Turkey report which was published on October 15.



There are 65 recommendations and suggestions graded by urgency in the report which evaluates the congruence between the regulations and legislations in Turkey and the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. According to the report, the co-existence of positive progression and worrying causes in Turkey paints a complex picture. Additionally, the report highlights the failure in the implementation of the legislations and the lack of understanding regarding the link between gender equality and violence.

WE WERE AT THE 21ST ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS, COUNSELLING AND SOLIDARITY CENTERS

We participated in the 21st Assembly of Women's Shelters, Counselling and Solidarity Centers held on November 3-5, hosted by the Bodrum Women's Solidarity Foundation. This year, 205 women including participants from women's and LGBTI+ organizations, public institutions and municipalities from 28 cities attended the convention organized around the theme "Where is Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women in the New State Policies?"

Psychologist Tülinay Kambur, a member of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, was the moderator of the workshop titled "Secondary Trauma and Coping Techniques" on the second day of the convention.



WE TALKED TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (GRETA)

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) was in Turkey for an initial assessment on 5-12 October. In order to gather information on, observe and evaluate the implementation of the European Council Convention on Action against Trafficking by Turkey, GRETA met on October 5 with the NGOs combating human-trafficking. On behalf of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, Figen Demir Çıra attended a meeting with the GRETA chairperson Siobhan Mullally and 3 other members of GRETA.

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

During 2018, 59 people including students, academicians, journalists and researchers asked for consultation from the Foundation for Women's Solidarity regarding gender equality, violence against women and fight against violence, civil society, feminist women's movement and the Foundation's work. We contributed to their work by conducting face-to-face interviews with them as much as possible.

Ceren Kalay Eken, a volunteer lawyer at the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, gave a presentation "Current Debates on Alimony" at the panel "The Role of Turkish Civil Code in Combating Violence against Women," organized by the Faculty of Law at Ufuk University on November 29.

On behalf of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, Nihan Damarlı attended the Winner Women event organized by Hacettepe University's Entrepreneurship and Investment Group on April 12 and gave a presentation on the activities and principles of the Foundation, women's counseling center and the activities of the center.

We attended the "Utilization of Universal Periodic Review and Strategy for Turkey Workshop" organized by the Human Rights Joint Platform and International Commission of Jurists on December. This workshop was a part of monitoring practices regarding the implementation of the suggestions included in the 2nd cycle Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism created by the United Nations Human Rights Council in order to examine the protection and development of human rights in UN member states and thus to improve the human's rights situation. Huriye Karabacak, a member of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, presented "Universal Periodic Review in Practice: Women's Rights" in the workshop.

WE TOOK OUR STEPS IN ISTANBUL MARATHON AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We were at the 40th Istanbul Marathon on Sunday, November the 12th. Thanks to the donations from the supporters of our volunteer runners, we have established long term solidarity by providing support through our counseling center to women facing violence.



PUBLICATIONS

One of our new publications in 2018 was titled as "Combating Gender-Based Discrimination and Violence Against Refugee Women." The booklet, which draws a legal framework for refugee rights, gender-based discrimination against refugee women and the fight against violence, also includes information for women's organizations that carry out counselling center activities for women to organize their activities to include Syrian women and girls.



Another publication of ours was "Judicial Standards for the Fight against Violence Against Gender: A Guide for Lawyers." In this guideline, we aim to strengthen the accumulation of women lawyers working in the field of combating violence against women in line with the standards set forth in the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. We also touch upon judicial standards and the problems in the trial process regarding the fight against gender-based violence.

WE TRANSLATED DECISIONS OF CEDAW AND ECHR INTO TURKISH



We translated 10 CEDAW and ECHR decisions regarding violence against women and immigrant/refugee women into Turkish so that the lawyers working in the area of violence against women could benefit from the international decisions and utilize the standards from CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention in defending women's rights. We shared these translated versions in the website, www.kadinaricin hukuk.com, which is designed as a platform where lawyers could follow current law advancements and have access to the articles and sample lawsuits regarding this area.

Yerel Mahkeme Kararları
 Yerel Mahkeme Kararları bu alanda görülebilir.

Yüksek Mahkeme Kararları
 Yargıtay Emsal Kararları

Örnek Dilekçeler
 Başvuru Dilekçe Örnekleri

Anayasa Mahkemesi
 Anayasa Mahkemesi Kararları

Hakkımızda
 Kapasite Geliştirme Derneği (KAGED) ve Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı olarak Birleşmiş Milletler Kadın Birimi (UNWOMEN) desteği ile 2017'den bu yana sürdürdüğümüz "Şiddetle Maruz Kalan Kadınların Mahkemelerdeki Temsillerinin Güçlendirilmesi" projesi ile, Türkiye'nin 43 geyirinden, kadına yönelik şiddet alanında çalışan 61 kadın avukatla bir araya gelerek, toplumsal cinsiyet ve hukuk ilişkisi ile kadına yönelik toplumsal cinsiyete dayalı şiddet ve ayrımcılıkla mücadelede kadının insan hakları standartlarına ilişkin ulusal ve uluslararası mevzuat konusundaki kapasite ve farkındalıklarının artırılması amacıyla atölye çalışmaları gerçekleştirdik. Bu atölyelerde, CEDAW ve İstanbul Sözleşmesi'nde belirlenen standartlar ile ulusal mahkemelerin ve AİHM'in kararları doğrultusunda,
[DEVAMINI OKU](#)

We look forward to your support in order to continue our efforts to fight against gender inequality and violence against women. You can support us with your donations and expand the solidarity by contributing to the fight against violence against women!

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