

ABOUT US

The history of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity goes back to the opening of Ankara's first Women's Counseling Center in 1991 with a municipality partnership to support women who are subjected to violence. The Foundation, officially established in 1993, opened Turkey's first feminist women's shelter in Ankara, in cooperation with a municipality. Today, we continue to operate a feminist Women's Counseling Center, where we build solidarity with women who have experienced gender-based violence.

The Foundation for Women's Solidarity has been fighting against gender inequality and violence against women since its establishment.

- We take part in platforms which aim to advocate for the implementation of legal regulations for the prevention of violence against women
- We are one of the main components of the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers, which bring together women's organizations since 1998 to combat gender-based violence.
- We are a member of the Executive Committee for the NGO Forum on both CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, which prepare NGO shadow reports on the implementation of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.
- We are a component of the Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE Network), which brings together women's organizations combating violence against women in Europe. We take part in the Executive Board of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Turkey Coordination.



The Foundation for Women's Solidarity

Mithatpaşa St. No:61/12
06420 Kızılay/Ankara

Phone : (0312) 430 40 05 – 432 07 82

E-mail : bilgi@kadindayanismavakfi.org.tr



www.kadindayanismavakfi.org.tr



kadindayanismavakfi



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kadindayanismavakfi



THE FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Feminist principles guide all of the work and methods of the Foundation for Women's Solidarity.
- We care about local, national and international cooperation and collaborations to eliminate violence against women.
- We organize our decision-making processes in a way to ensure the inclusion of everyone's contribution equally.
- We adopt nonviolent methods and explore new ways in which everyone can express themselves well.
- We conduct our internal operations and relations with other institutions in a nonhierarchical way.
- We use our resources to support women's personal development.
- We believe in the importance of establishing face-to-face and intimate relationships among women for achieving awareness of women's common experiences

Women's Counseling Center

In our Women's Counseling Center, we provide free of charge social, legal and psychological support to women who are subjected to violence. We create an environment in which women can express themselves comfortably, with a discourse focused on "solidarity". We never blame women for the violence they were exposed to. We act with a pre-assumption that violence is never deserved, and we rely on women's statements. We always keep

Shelter activities

The Foundation for Women's Solidarity has operated 3 shelters so far. The first one was opened in 1993. The second shelter was opened by the Foundation in 2003. Both of these shelters were run in cooperation with municipalities in Ankara. However, both of the shelters were closed down due to local government changes and the decisions of the new administrations.

Between 2005 and 2016, we have established solidarity with 286 women and 11 children through the Foundation's shelter for trafficked women; and we provided social, legal and psychological support in their own languages. The shelter activities were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, and International Organization for Migration, Directorate General of Migration Management and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality.

in mind that we are not exempt from the threat of violence, and as a result of which we do not create any kind of hierarchy while establishing solidarity with women.

Women can reach our Women's Counseling Center via telephone, e-mail or by directly coming to the center for face to face meetings during the center's working hours. In applications, we do not look for ID or any other documents. For women's needs that go beyond the social, legal and psychological support that we provide, we provide information to refer to relevant institutions.

Awareness-raising & Advocacy

In order to raise awareness on gender inequality and fight against violence against women, we organize trainings and volunteer workshops. We work in cooperation with women's organizations in the field of combating violence against women; develop collaborations, and share our experiences. We organize trainings for the staff of the relevant units of public institutions and municipalities. We monitor and report on the functioning of the anti-violence mechanisms and the implementation of international conventions. Thus we expose women's experiences and the challenges they face while combating violence against women.