

Dear Members of the CEDAW Committee,

As the Executive Committee for NGO Forum on CEDAW – Turkey, we appreciate the effort put into updating General Recommendation No. 19. With the hope of contributing to this effort, rather than commenting on the individual paragraphs of the document, we would like to make a general statement regarding the document as a whole.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), which was in fact built on General Recommendation No. 19 and all previous documents, is today the most comprehensive and inclusive legal document related to gender based violence. The Istanbul Convention is also a document which provides incentive and strength for the advocates of the women's movement and gender based organizations in general with regard to gender based violence.

Consequently, we believe that General Recommendation No. 19 should be updated based on the Istanbul Convention in order to ensure that both documents are parallel to each other, thus eliminating any contradictions or ambiguities. As a result, the two documents will support each other so as to strengthen the argument against gender based violence.

We thank you for taking our views into consideration.

The Executive Committee for NGO Forum on CEDAW – Turkey