

## **MoFSP DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF STATUS OF THE WOMEN**

Please find below some of the legislative adjustments regarding women's rights, gender equality and violence against women:

The principle of equality between women and men in Turkey was reinforced with the amendments to Articles 41 and 66 in 2001, Articles 10 and 90 in 2004, and again Article 10 in 2010.

The Turkish Civil Code, which entered into force on 1 st January 2002, is a law which upholds equality between women and men, puts an end to sexual discrimination, renders women equal to men in both family and the society and values the women's work.

the Law no. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women was prepared, and it was published in the official gazette and entered into force on March 20, 2012.

The Turkish Penal Code, including reform-like regulations, entered into force on 1st June 2005. The prominent new regulations in the Code, which include modern arrangements with respect to gender equality and domestic violence against women.

The Law no. 5840 on the Establishment of the Committee on the Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (KEFEK) was published in the official gazette and entered into force on 24th March 2009.

The most significant improvement brought by the new Labour Law, which entered into force on 10 June 2003, is that any discrimination with respect to basic civil rights, including sex, could not be made in employer-employee relations.

In line with the legislative adjustment, please find below the efforts made towards increasing awareness:

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies carries out activities such as seminars, conferences at various levels in order to strengthen the awareness and sensitivity of the stakeholders and the different sections of the society in strengthening the equality of women and men in Turkey and combating violence against women. Within this scope, protocols were signed between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health and the General Command of Gendarmerie, Presidency of Religious Affairs and the MoFSP. Since 2006, 326 Family Court Judges and Public Prosecutors, 71,000 policemen, 65,000 health personnel and 47,566 religious officers have been provided with trainings within scope of the aforementioned protocols; seminars have been organized for Family Court Judges and Public Prosecutors, local authorities, employees of public institutions and organizations at various levels, media members and university students.

Following the enactment of Law No. 6284, seminars were held by GDSW in April-June 2012 in 16 provinces in order to introduce the Law. The seminars have reached out to 6,500 public officers in public institutions that provide direct services to women who have been exposed to violence.

“The National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020” ,which was

prepared with contribution of all relevant institutions under the coordination of MoFSP and is currently in force, includes the activity of “organizing activities such as seminars, workshops for the representatives of all institutions /organizations providing service on violence against women and the public” (Activity 2.1.) within scope of the target of “...raising public awareness, sensitivity and consciousness about domestic violence and violence against women and ensuring mental transformation”.

Within scope of the public trainings carried out by the Ministry of Health General Directorate of Public Health to eliminate negative attitude and behaviors that generate and intensify the violence, to raise public awareness, sensitivity and consciousness about gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence and to ensure mental transformation; 76.251 and 45.563 people were reached in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The “Protocol on the Role of Religious Officers in the Prevention of Violence against Women and the Training of the Procedures to be implemented” was signed on 22nd August 2013 between the Presidency of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies. In this context, 537 trainers including instructors in imam-hatips, müezzin kayyims, male preachers, female preachers, Quran instructors have been trained and the field trainings of 47,566 personnel have been completed so far.

The “Protocol on Promoting Gender Equality, Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Combating Violence Against Women, and Increasing Coordination and Cooperation” signed by the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies entered into force on 3rd July 2013. The protocol aims at organizing training programs for the soldiers and non-coms serving their military duties, about "Gender Equality" and "Combating Violence Against Women", and to enrich and strengthen the existing training programs and to train personnel who will give these trainings.

It was aimed to strengthen the efforts to combat violence against women in 26 project provinces through the development of support services provided by women victims of violence within the scope of the “Project on Women's Shelter for Combating Domestic Violence”, in short “the Project on Combating Domestic Violence” which was financed under the IPA-2009 program and was implemented between 2014 and 2016.

- In order to raise the awareness about violence based on gender in the Syrians who fled civil war in their country, to prevent violence against Syrian women and children and to strengthen the capacity of service providers, “Combating Gender Based Violence and Intervention Humanitarian Assistance Program” was conducted with the cooperation of the UN Population Fund, Disaster Relief Agency (AFAD) and Ministry of Family and Social Policies.

“Humanitarian Aid Program on Combating and Response to Gender-Based Violence” was carried out in cooperation with the GDSW and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in order to raise awareness about violence among the Syrian citizens who came to our country due to the ongoing war in Syria, to improve the capacities of the relevant personnel providing services to the Syrians on how to respond to gender-based violence and to provide technical support to our country.

## **MoFSP DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY**

### **Fact Sheet on the implementation of Resolution 72/247 (A/RES/72/247)**

The policies, programs and documents that are prepared or issued by United Nations and its affiliated organizations with the purpose of promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities are taken as the principal references in the formulation of policies and programs for persons with disabilities in Turkey. Within this scope, particularly; “World Program of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons”, “Asian and the Pacific Decades of Persons with Disabilities” that were prepared at a regional context for the upcoming decades and “the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” that was adopted in order to provide guidance to the member states have made significant contributions to the disability related policies and programs of Turkey during the periods in which they were in effect. Currently, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that was adopted by UN in 2006 and ratified by the Republic of Turkey in 2009 is the valid disability instrument that has been enhancing the rights based approach to disability in Turkey. Through enhancing the rights of PwDs, eliminating potential shortcomings and making disability more apparent in all fields of policy in Turkey, the Convention has had a promotive affect. In this regard, General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (EYHGM) has been cooperating with UN and affiliated organizations including Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) that mainly aim at promoting and ensuring implementation and monitoring of CRPD by States Parties.

The Republic of Turkey participates in the cooperation activities of the said organizations aspired after enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities through attending and sharing information at international events such as meetings, symposiums or workshops; contributing to national progress reports; and by conducting co-operation projects in order to develop rights-based policies and practices in the field of disability. The following activities can be cited as examples of the achievements that were obtained through participation and contribution to international cooperation;

- Representation of the Republic of Turkey by EYHGM at CRPD States Parties Conference that is held by UNDESA Secretariat annually,
- All activities carried out by UNDESA Secretariat for the preparation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that aims at ensuring a disability-inclusive post-2015 development,
- Statistical and methodological studies carried out by Washington Group in order to obtain internationally comparable data on disability,
- All processes and steps including the preparatory work of the Incheon Strategy that was prepared by ESCAP at regional level within the scope of 2013-2022 decade of persons with disabilities.

In addition, infrastructure studies on adoption and utilization of ICF in Turkey and the Project “Improving Services for Persons with Disabilities” are the examples of the activities of cooperation with WHO. Cooperation with UNICEF covers the Project “Reducing Social Distances” and preparation of children version of forms for medical disability reports in accordance with ICF. Besides, the project “Support to Implementation and Monitoring of CRPD”, which produced indicator sets and relevant question sets on human rights of persons with disabilities and provided awareness raising activities toward all related partners in Turkey, was carried out between 2013 and 2016 in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In the light of our experience gained from cooperation work in the past, it is considered that establishing a network that will enable the UN to share examples of good practice as well as strengthening the UN infrastructure for technical and expertise support to facilitate utilization of the extensive knowledge of the UN will contribute a lot to make future efforts in the field of disability more efficient and effective.

### **MoFSP DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CHILD SERVICES**

MoFSP Directorate General of Child Services and UNICEF Turkey organize Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program in order to create a platform that encourage Turkish and Syrian children come together and exchange knowledge. This platform under Children's Rights Provincial Committee also aims to provide social harmony by giving a right to speak for Syrian children living outside of the camps. With the financial support of EU Regional Trust Fond (EU-MADAD) “No Lost Generations” Project has been implementing.

Within the framework of the two-year work plan signed between the Ministry of Family and Social Policy and UNICEF, UNICEF provides conditional cash transfer to the Ministry's budget. This conditional cash transfer will help to reduce social adaptation problems of the Syrian children living outside of the camps, to increase their awareness about the existing risks and resources in the society, to ensure a peaceful life, and at the same time to develop socio-cultural activities in order to develop mutual understanding and tolerance among cultures. To reach these goals chess tournaments, workshops, sport activities, festivals, visits, artistic activities, meetings, seminars and conferences have been organized by the Ministry and UNICEF. It has been reached to 52,154 children within the program by now.