

BİLGİ NOTU

BAKANLIK	Aile, Çalışma ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı
KONU	“Human Rights of Migrants” Başlıklı Sualname
BİRİM/LER	Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü
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QUESTION 1- How does your Government define “gender responsiveness”?

Goal 5 in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 adopted by the United Nations was determined as “to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. In line with this goal, “the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment” was prepared to cover the period 2018-2023 under the coordination of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services General Directorate on the Status of Women.

Under the aforementioned action plan, women’s empowerment refers to “the process by which women gain power and control over their own lives and gain ability to make strategic choices. Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

QUESTION 2- Please provide information on any existing or forthcoming good practices or initiatives of gender-responsive migration legislation, policies or practices in your country. (Should you provide information on legislation or policy, kindly submit the original text, accompanied by an English translation if it is in a language other than the six official UN languages.)

- Article 4 of the Istanbul Convention includes the provision “Parties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to promote and protect the right for everyone, particularly women, to live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere.” Accordingly, Article 1 of the Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of

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Violence against Women” includes the provision *“The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and the international conventions to which Turkey is a party, particularly the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the other applicable legal regulations shall be based on.”*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law concerned, all refugee and foreigner women victims of all forms of violence against women and domestic violence and accompanying children can benefit from services by the Violence Prevention and Protection Centers, Women’s Shelters and Provincial Directorates of Family, Labour and Social Services without any discrimination.

- It is mainly aimed with “the Third National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2016-2020)” prepared under the coordination of GDSW;
 - Legislative amendments,
 - Awareness-raising and transformation of social attitudes,
 - Delivery of protective and preventive services and empowerment of victims of violence,
 - Organisation and delivery of health services,
 - Inter-institutional cooperation and policy-making.

The aforementioned Action Plan includes activities aimed at protecting refugee women against all forms of violence and enabling them to benefit efficiently from the existing mechanisms.

- In order to eliminate violence and ensure effective implementation of protective and preventive services, those who are subjected to violence or at risk of violence can apply to Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC). VPMCs provide counselling and guidance as well as empowering and supportive services on the issues needed. As of April 2019, nearly 409 thousand citizens including 318 thousand women, 65 thousand children and 26 thousand men have benefitted from Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC).
- **"183 Social Support Line"** working within the MoFLSS works as a psychological, legal and economic advisory hotline for women and children who are subjected to violence or at risk of violence and who need support and assistance; they are provided with

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information about their rights and where to apply. It also receives reports as precautionary measure for negligence, abuse and violence or for the prevention of honour killings; considering the urgency of the situation, the emergency response team responsible for the incident and / or the law enforcement officials are informed to intervene. This hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is free.

- “Gender-Based Violence Working Group” was established to meet once a month in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Migration Management and with the participation of representatives from UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and other relevant institutions, civil society and international organisations. The working group aims to plan activities to mobilise the refugees in Turkey on gender-based violence and raise awareness about this issue, share information on early and forced marriages and build solidarity among women. Within scope of the activities of working group, a booklet entitled “Standard Working Procedures for Gender-Based Violence” was prepared and turned into brochure to be used by the staff of UN agencies, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and institutions of host country which provide protection and assistance for refugees.
- **“The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023”** was prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services General Directorate on the Status of Women to promote women’s participation in economic and social life; ensure women’s equal access to rights and opportunities; mainstream the principle of equality between women and men into all main plans and programs. The Action Plan is the first comprehensive action plan prepared by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services on women’s empowerment.
- **“The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023”** was prepared with the contribution and opinions of all relevant stakeholders to enable all public institutions and organisations working in this field to act in cooperation and coordination and mobilize them, considering the multidimensionality of the issue; and it is currently in the implementation phase.

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- “The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023” includes 5 Main Policy Pillars aimed at women’s empowerment. These are **Education, Economy, Health, Participation in Decision-Making Mechanisms and Media**.
- Intersecting policy fields have been identified to be addressed under the policy pillars included in “the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment” and one of these intersecting policy fields is “**women with application or status for/of “temporary protection/international protection”**”. These intersecting policy fields have been taken into consideration in formation of objective, target, strategy and activities throughout the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment.

QUESTION 4- Based on the experience accumulated with these interventions so far; as well as the lessons learned, what would you have to do differently to maximise the gender responsive impact of these interventions.

QUESTION 5- What support could other stakeholders (other than your Government) provide to make your migration policies, legislation, and practices more gender responsive?

It is of significant importance to implement gender-responsive policies, deliver protective and preventive services in efficient way and adopt victim-oriented approach. At this point, in order to maximize the impacts of gender-responsive policies, following points have significant importance;

- Taking measures aimed at strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and efficient service delivery for migrants and increasing information sharing,
- Conducting institutional capacity building activities of mechanisms which provide service for fragile groups, particularly children and women; and promote availability of these mechanisms,
- Focusing on awareness-raising activities and publicity of services provided by institutions and organisations which provide service for migrants,
- Reviewing in-service trainings in all institutions and organisations which provide service for migrants.