



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

2017/62441669-BMCO DT/13029765

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 22 September 2017, concerning the State contributions to the report of the Secretary General on child, early and forced marriage, pursuant to resolution GA/71/175, has the honour to enclose herewith an information note compiled by relevant Turkish authorities.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

*Ar*  
Geneva, 3 November 2017

Encl: As stated

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
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**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**- 8 NOV 2017**

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**CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY FOR THE REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL PURSUANT RESOLUTION GA/71/175 “CHILD, EARLY AND  
FORCED MARRIAGE”**

Ministry of Family and Social Policies maintains its efforts resolutely for combating early and forced marriages. Information on major works on this issue is as follows:

- With the amendment in Turkish Penal Code in 2016, punishments for the crimes envisaged in the articles 103 and 104 with the titles of “Child molestation” and “Sexual intercourse with persons not attained the lawful age” were increased.
- In 2017, **General Directorate on Status of Women** under the Ministry of Family and Social Policies carried out activities on cities where the rates of early and forced marriages were high. Within this scope, field visits were performed to İzmir, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Antalya, Kars, Ağrı, İğdır in order to prepare “Provincial Action Plans on Combating Early and Forced Marriages”. During the field visits, Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies prepared reports on the situation of early marriages in those cities and a draft “Provincial Action plan on Combating Early and Forced Marriages” was developed for each province in line with the primary needs of the provinces and meetings with the representatives from relevant public institutions in each province.
- In addition, **General Directorate on Status of Women** initiated the preparatory work for the National Action Plan and Strategy Document on Combating Early and Forced Marriages (2018-2023), covering the period between 2018 and 2023, with the cooperation and participation of the public institutions and organisations, local administrations, universities and non-governmental organisations regarding solving the issue of early and forced marriages from the perspective of international conventions, our national legislations, Sustainable Development Targets for 2030. The Action Plan is planned to come into effect in early 2018. With the plan we aim at strengthening girls through education, raising awareness of public, improving institutional services.
- Presentations on “Basic Concepts- Combating Early and Forced Marriages” and “Model Activities for Combating Early and Forced Marriages” were prepared to be presented at the Provincial Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Commissions on Combating Violence against Women and they were sent to 81 provinces. The first presentation is intended to be

delivered at the Provincial Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Commissions to the members who are subsequently supposed to present them to the staff members in their own institutions to raise awareness. It is aimed to implement the model practices in the second presentation, in line with the priorities and needs of each province.

- National Action Plans on Combating Violence against women are prepared periodically under the coordination of Ministry of Family and Social Policies. The first National Action Plan implemented in 2007-2010 term and the second one implemented in 2012-2015 respectively. Now the third National Action Plan covering 2016-2020 are being implemented.
- As a result of the first and second National Action Plan legal framework aligned with Istanbul Convention and secondary legislations finalized. Accordingly “The Implementing Regulation of the Law Nr.6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women” and “The Regulation on Opening and Operation of Women’s Shelters” enacted.

In accordance with the targets of the action plans, awareness rising programs and trainings were conducted, Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers were set up and the number of women’s shelters was increased, “electronic surveillance” was applied. Furthermore, special units for combating domestic violence were constituted within law enforcement agencies in national and provincial levels.

- While preparing the 3rd National Action Plan for 2016-2020, the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW, provisions of national legislation, monitoring and evaluation reports of National Action Plans, 2008 and 2014 Survey on Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey, Results of Impact Analysis on Law No. 6284, and Parliamentary Investigation Committee Report on the subject have been studied.
- Public institutions, NGOs and universities also take part in the preparation of 3rd National Action Plan.
- Current National Action Plan has targets in 5 main fields, which are as follows:
  - Legislative Arrangements,
  - Raising Awareness and Mental Transformation,
  - Strengthening Protective and Preventive Services and Empowerment of the Victims of Violence,
  - Regulation and Delivery of Healthcare Services;
  - Improving Cooperation and Policy Development.

- Furthermore, in order to implement current National Action Plan more effectively in local level, 26 Provincial Action Plans for Combating Violence against Women prepared. In this context, 4-year Provincial Action Plans take local dynamics into consideration. Studies are ongoing to enhance the action plans for the remaining provinces.
- In order to monitor violence against women in national level, the "Committee for Monitoring Violence against Women" is convening annually since 2006 with the participation of the representatives from public institutions and organizations, universities, and non-governmental organizations under the coordination of Ministry of Family and Social Policies. This committee shares the knowledge and experience on the work being carried out and the problems encountered.
- In local level, "Provincial Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation Committee of Combating Violence against Women" established in 81 provinces in 2016. Committees convene every 6 months with the participation of all related local authorities. Meeting reports are submitted to the Ministry of Family and Social Policies periodically. These reports reviewed by the experts in the Ministerial headquarters and provide feedback to local in order to ensure actions for gender mainstreaming.
- In addition, "The Humanitarian Aid Program on Combating and Intervening Gender- Based Violence" was carried out with the cooperation of Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency and UNFPA between April 2013 and June 2015. The study was carried out to raise awareness of Syrian citizens on gender-based violence, to develop capacities of the staff serving to the Syrians on intervention to the gender-based violence and to get technical support to our country on this subject.

Syrian women were informed on issues about early and forced marriages, as well as violence against women. In addition, about 1.500.000 brochures on topics such as trafficking, early and forced marriages, violence, and information about the application mechanisms that need to be reached when violence is witnessed or experienced, are prepared and published in Arabic and Turkish.

**. What measures have been undertaken to promote girls and women’s autonomy and build the capacity of other stakeholders to promote social norms that support gender equality?**

Administrative measures are taken in Turkey to prevent early marriages. In “National Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Child Rights” that enacted in 2013, aims and strategies to prevent early, child and forced marriage take place. The Action Plan was prepared by General Directorate of Child Services affiliated to Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

“Social Cohesion Programme” has been formed for social integration of Syrian children living outside the

camps and for mutual dialog and information exchange between Syrian and Turkish children with the help of our Committees on Child Rights and with cooperation of UNICEF. The programme is conducted by Turkish and Syrian children who are registered to Committees on Child Rights by peer education technique with socio-cultural activities. The purposes of this programme are minimizing the social cohesion problems of Syrian children, raising awareness on current risks and resources and also developing mutual understanding and tolerance between two cultures.

The programme is conducted by Turkish and Syrian children who are registered to Committees on Child Rights by peer education technique. In the Social Cohesion Education Module that is prepared with empowerment approach; education is given in Turkish and Arabic on below subjects.

- Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- Community,
- Security, Violence-Abuse, Discrimination, Child Labor and Early Marriage concepts and prevention of these
- Culture-Tolerance-Cooperation © Understanding others
- Chief Institutions that render services for refugees.

Besides, Turkey representatives of Provincial Committees on Child Rights are elected as 1 boy and 1 girl members and these children represent the Provinces in every platform. Advisory Boards of Child Rights comprises of 10 girls and 10 boys.

In addition to these practices within the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Ministry of Justice has launched a website project on the prevention of domestic violence. The website is available in Turkish and English. In collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, The Ministry of Justice is also planning to conduct an education program towards women and children regarding the protection methods from domestic violence and early and forced marriage.