

A vibrant illustration of a diverse group of women. The women are depicted from the chest up, wearing various colored tops (orange, green, blue, yellow). They have different hair colors (red, black, brown, orange) and styles (straight, curly, buns). Some are wearing glasses (black, red). The background is a mix of solid colors (blue, green, yellow).

8 March

WOMEN'S DAY

We, the Peaceful Actions Platform, call upon all States and relevant stakeholders worldwide to take urgent steps in combating gender-based violence against women with particular focus on domestic violence. Elimination of discrimination and gender-based violence against women can only be accomplished if all decision-makers embrace and integrate the issue into their urgent agenda. As violence against women has dramatically intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that its mitigation goes hand in hand with the struggle against the disease.

Facts of Being a Woman

**300 women were
killed by men in 2020.**

In the last year, it has become evident that women and girls have been disproportionately affected by inequalities as the pandemic deepened pre-existing gaps and exacerbated gender-based discrimination and violence. "Home", has turned into a fearful place for many women and children and this has to stop immediately. In Turkey, the issue reached unprecedented lows in recent years as women were brought to the fore only as a carrier of symbols while they have not been protected by the authorities.

It is the bitter truth of the country that violence against women enjoys broad impunity. Thus, alone in 2020, 300 women were killed by men in Turkey alongside 171 others who died in rather suspicious ways. While 22 women were killed because of economic reasons, 96 others were murdered for making decisions about their own life, such as; going for divorce, refusing to get married or rejecting a relationship.



Being a Woman in Turkey- In Numbers:

01. Violence

4 out of 10 women are exposed to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime

02. Child Marriage

15 % of women are forced to get married before they turn 18.
48% of girls who are forced to get married before 18 are exposed to physical violence;

03. Working Women

11% of women in Turkey are prevented from working by their families

04. Education

In Southeast Turkey, around one third of girls are prevented from going to school by their families

05. Help

No more than 10 % of women who are exposed to violence apply an institution for help

06. Human Trafficking

90 % of human trafficking victims are women

Stop Violence

Break the Silence

The overall violence and violation of women's rights pertain to the policies of the existing government as it tends to confine women in the private realm and provide impunity to the perpetrators against women. On the issue of gender, AKP government and its undisputed leader, President Erdoğan, have been acting in extremely inconsistent ways. While they were the ones who hosted the Istanbul convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in their reformist days, currently they are the ones who practically undermine and run campaigns against it.

In line with its oppressive conservatism the AKP government follows restrictive policies on women's rights, and currently it is discussing a possible withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention that it hosted and became the first signatory. It is upsetting to see the government's enthusiasm on carrying misogynist elements onto political agenda. It goes beyond saying that Turkey's withdrawal from the Convention will have disastrous consequences for millions of women and girls as well as the organizations providing vital support to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.



STOP VIOLENCE
Against Women

Violation of Women's Rights

Alongside its overall tendency of restriction against women, the AKP government has targeted a specific group of women in recent years. As President Erdoğan targeted the Gülen Movement for its resistance to paying homage to his personal and autocratic rule, women affiliated with the Movement have been suffering immensely. While these women should be applauded for their contributions to the peacebuilding, education and social assistance activities of the Movement through perfectly legitimate means, the Erdoğan regime incriminated thousands of them with a wild imagination and set out to annihilate them as a social entity. There are 16035 politically persecuted Women, accused of "terror", just because they are not in line with the Turkish government.

While some of these women have been put in prison under the conditions that aim to break human dignity, many of them were forced to give deliveries in prison and raise their infants there. In the same vein, many women were arrested as they resorted to hospitals for delivery and then taken in with their newborn babies. These women – as many other prisoners, too- then, were strip-searched by police officers, faced physical and psychological abuse, and threatened with rape. Destructive effects of these inhuman treatments will stay with most of these women for their lifetime.

As for the ones who have not been arrested, they fear arbitrary arrest in the open prison that the country was turned into. With a total of 23,194 highly educated women were driven off their jobs and stigmatized with the ridiculous accusation of terrorism. These women were ripped off their economic independence and some 140 of them lost their lives as they could not stand this systematic oppression of the Turkish government. Openly and explicitly, we condemn President Erdogan`s autocratic and corrupt government for such atrocities that they commit to stay in power. We condemn the ones who approved the barbarous acts against women within and beyond the Gülen Movement with some kind of "banality of evil".

We Break the Silence to protect each other and have dignified lives!

We will not subordinate to oppression and take violence against women as our fate. For all the sake of the current and next generations, we won't let it go.

We Break the Silence.

#SessizliğeSonVer

#BreakTheSilence

