

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
PRIME MINISTRY

Directorate General
on the Status of Women

Combating Domestic Violence Against Women National Action Plan

2007 - 2010



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
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Combating Domestic Violence against Women National Action Plan has been prepared in the framework of Combating Domestic Violence against Women Project, implemented by the Directorate General on the Status of Women with the financial assistance of the European Union and technical assistance of the United Nations Population Fund.

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FOREWORD

Violence against women constitutes a violation of fundamental human rights and regrettably, domestic violence against women continues to exist in the 21st century all around the world. Violence not only affects the physical and mental health of women, but also results in a loss of self-esteem and confidence, quality of life and self-sufficiency. It impedes the advancement of women's legal, social, political and economic status.

A series of intensive efforts have been launched with the collaboration of relevant parties in the field of violence against women within the framework of our international obligations and through recent national legislation. The necessary legislative work has been undertaken for combating violence against women, and many initiatives have been introduced in order to protect and support women victimized by violence, and to punish the perpetrators. These legal efforts, however, are not sufficient by themselves to combat violence against women, and particularly domestic violence that takes place in the safest sphere of life, the family. Raising social awareness on gender equality and ensuring the necessary mental transformation are of utmost importance in the prevention of violence against women.

Our Government is committed to combating the unacceptable phenomenon of domestic violence against women. "Combating Domestic Violence against Women National Plan", which is co-prepared by the relevant public institutions, universities, and non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence against women, shall provide important contributions to the multi-dimensional and global mobilization process launched by our Government. It is within this connection that I would like to render thanks to primarily the Directorate General on the Status of Women, and all the public institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations that contributed to the preparation of the Plan; and I would like to call upon all the relevant parties to collaborate for the effective enforcement of all the activities within the Action Plan.

Nimet ÇUBUKÇU
State Minister

PREFACE

Domestic violence against women represents a severe societal problem that continues to exist in our country and all around the world and, as such, demands urgent attention. Following the establishment of a Parliamentary Investigation Commission and completion of a comprehensive report on “Causes of Custom and Honor Killings, and Violence against Women and Children; and Identification of Relevant Measures” within Turkish Grand National Assembly on 11.10.2005; the Prime Ministry Circular No: 2006/17 was issued. This Circular has defined specific tasks for the public institutions, universities, non-governmental organizations, and the media and marked the launch of a global campaign to combat violence against women. Our Directorate General has been assigned the role of coordination for the efforts aimed at preventing violence against women and custom/honor killings, and there are various projects and activities underway in this field. Our Directorate General has also been given the responsibility for preparing a National Action Plan in accordance with Article 9 of “Service Institutions” subheading of the “Institutions to Be Coordinated with in the Effectuation of the Preventive Measures on Violence against Women” section of the above mentioned Circular.

“Combating Domestic Violence against Women National Action Plan 2007-2010” has thus been prepared within the framework of “Combating Domestic Violence against Women Project” implemented by our Directorate General, with the financial assistance of the European Union and technical assistance of the United Nations Population Fund, in order to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for the eradication of domestic violence against women. The Plan has been prepared in a participatory manner with the involvement of public institutions, local administrations, universities, and non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence against women.



It is within the context of the National Action Plan that improvements are targeted in 6 main fields with regard to gender equality and combating domestic violence against women:

- Legal Arrangements
- Social awareness and mental transformation
- Advancement of women's socio-economic status
- Protective services
- Curative and rehabilitation services, and
- Inter-sectoral cooperation.


The Action Plan encompasses comprehensive and applicable activities to be developed in accordance with the objectives related to these main fields, and the institutions in charge as well as the collaborating institutions and agencies. Our Directorate General shall fulfill the coordination role in the implementation and monitoring of the activities set forth in the Plan, and shall provide guidance in every required field.

The objectives set forth in "Combating Domestic Violence against Women National Action Plan 2007-2010" shall supplement the efforts aimed at protection and promotion of women's human rights, empowerment of women in social life, and ensuring equal access to rights and opportunities. I fully believe that these objectives are going to be achieved as a result of the comprehensive and coordinated cooperation and joint efforts of the relevant public institutions, universities, local administrations, non-governmental organizations, and the media.

Esengül CİVELEK
Director General of KSGM



III. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Domestic violence against women is regarded as a violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms and represents a significant social and public health problem by reason of unequal power relationships between men and women. The problem is often not clearly apparent since it is most often expressed in the home and within the family structure and thus it is extremely difficult to identify and document accurately. Women are left vulnerable to violence as a result of not having equal power in social and domestic decision-taking processes, and lower levels of social and economic status.

Acts of violence are experienced by women of all income and education levels and regardless of age and marital status. Research investigations on violence against women gained momentum, especially after the 1990's, and this has resulted in the collection of significant information on the prevalence of violence against women, as well as its causes and consequences. The multi-country research by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 10 countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Japan, Brazil, Peru, Namibia, Samoa Islands, Serbia-Montenegro, Thailand, and Tanzania) and by means of interviews with 24,000 women, has revealed the following findings related to violence against women. Women were victimized by an intimate partner who subjected them to physical violence at rates of between 13-61%. The same study concluded that between 6 and 59% of women were the victims of sexual violence and between 20 and 75% reported having experienced emotional violence. Another study in this same area demonstrated that in the United States of America (USA) a woman is battered by her husband/partner at the frightening rate of once every 15 seconds.¹

In the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women³; the term violence against women is defined as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life". The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against² Women defines gender based violence against women as "violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately"⁴.

The term domestic violence is defined as "a form of violence appearing in the private life, and between individuals bonded by sexual intercourse or blood"⁵. It is more frequently perpetrated by men against women and children. Domestic violence is the most widespread, and yet the least visible form of violence against women. Domestic violence encompasses many forms such as physical, psychological, and sexual violence; but is not limited to only these as economic deprivation or isolation from her immediate environment can also be seen.

These acts of violence deprive women of their most fundamental human rights and freedoms. They inflict serious harm to a woman's physical and reproductive health, and can sometimes even lead to loss of life. The implications of domestic violence, which appears behind closed doors and


1 WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women Initial Reports on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses, (Geneva, WHO, 2005)

2 The World's Women, 2000- Trends and Statistics; UN

3 UN General Assembly Resolution No: 58/147 (22 December 2003) on "Eradication of Domestic Violence against Women" 4 CEDAW Komitesinin 19 Nolu tavsiye kararında (1992)

4 CEDAW recommendation No: 19 (1992)

5 UN General Assembly Resolution No: 58/147 on "Elimination of Domestic Violence against Women" (22 December 2003)



in an intimate relationship of mutual emotional linkages and responsibilities, can leave psychological and emotional scars more profound than the physical injuries to the body. The women victimized by violence can develop serious psychological problems, and experience difficulties in terms of involvement in social life and earning their livelihoods. A research study in the U.S, which examined women victimized by violence in the last 12 months, reported that 59% of the victims suffered serious psychological problems.⁶ Violence against women can significantly hinder all phases of women's active involvement in social and economic life.


Domestic violence against women also has serious implications on children who witness the violence. It has been suggested that infants who witness violence not only develop health problems but also suffer behavioral disorders, emotional trauma, and educational difficulties. Domestic violence not only damages and weakens women but impacts their entire families, as well, thus leading to a social emasculation. The cost of violence against women does not only comprise direct costs such as services provided to victims (health care services, shelters, counseling centers, help lines, etc.) and procedures regarding the perpetrators (costs associated with the police forces, prosecutors, courts and prisons), but also indirect costs such as declined productivity and employment (victims' loss of productivity and substantially effected changes in employability of both victims and perpetrators). The economic cost can be significant. A 2004 study in conducted in Great Britain identified the direct cost of violence against women as 5.8 billion pounds; and the indirect cost as 23 billion pounds. Recent analysis has strongly suggested that the cost of preventing domestic violence against women is far less than the cost of protective and curative services for victims and the legal proceedings related with the perpetrators. The preventive initiatives used to combat domestic violence are therefore of utmost importance both for the victimized women and the societies in which they live.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The concept of violence against women has become a part of the international agenda within the framework of the concept of human rights. The United Nations declared the period of 1975-1985 as the UN Decade for Women and the international women's movement has especially played a major role within this process. These efforts have paved the way for the determination of international norms and standards on violence against women; and many reports have been prepared.

The concept of violence against women was initially considered only within the context of the family. For instance; the Action Plan ratified during the 1975 World Women's Conference in Mexico contained recommendations for organizing training programs aimed at ensuring the equality and safety of family members within the family, without any special emphasis on violence. The parallel sessions for the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have argued for the recognition of different forms of violence against women. The Second World Women's Congress in Copenhagen (1980) adopted a resolution on the prevention of domestic violence against women that was portrayed

⁶ UN General Secretariat Report on "Advancement of Women: In-depth study on all forms of violence against women" (A 61/122/Add.1)2006



primarily as a woman's health issue. The conference called upon the international community to develop programs in order to protect women and children from violence. The most comprehensive undertaking regarding the concept of violence against women took place during the Third World Women's Congress in Nairobi (1985). Within the framework of "Nairobi, Forward-Looking Strategies", it was stated that violence against women appears in every society, and that there are many different forms of such violence including domestic violence against women, human trafficking, and situations of the increased vulnerability of women living in areas and regions of armed conflicts.

It was at this stage that violence against women was defined as the towering obstacle for the realization of the objectives of UN Decade for Women, and consequently the relevant linkages were established between the concept of violence and other issues within the UN agenda such as equality, development and peace. The Forward-Looking Strategies called upon the international community to develop preventive policies, take the necessary legal measures, establish comprehensive assistance mechanisms for victims, and conduct awareness-raising efforts.

During the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna; the term "women's human rights" was officially pronounced and included within the human rights documentation of the United Nations. The recognition of the issues of domestic violence against women and women's human rights in the Vienna Declaration of Human Rights was the product of the intensive efforts by the women's movement. This has been the driving force behind the ratification of "the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women" by the United Nations General Assembly. The Declaration defines violence against women as the consequence of unequal power relations between men and women that leads to discrimination against women and hinders the advancement of women. The Declaration also does encompass measures that must be taken by the various states for prevention of violence against women. One of the most important outcomes of the Vienna Conference has been the appointment of a Special Rapporteur (1994) in order to research on "The Causes and Consequences of Violence against Women". This has enabled the establishment of a mechanism that can thoroughly examine the concept of violence against women in the entire world.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) does not contain a section on violence against women; but it is considered within the framework of the concept of discrimination as described in the Convention. The 12th CEDAW Recommendation (1989) defined protection of women from violence as an obligation of member states, and the member states were asked to report on the measures developed for this purpose. The 19th Recommendation of the Committee (1992), on the other hand, explicitly states that violence against women is a result of gender based discrimination; and that one of the most important reasons for violence against women is the discrimination against women.

The Fourth World Women's Congress in Beijing (1995) was the venue of ratification of the Bei-



Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; according to which “violence against women” was officially recognized as a violation of women’s human rights. The Beijing Platform for Action determined 12 critical areas where urgent measures were required in order to attain the objectives of equality, development and peace. The eradication of violence against women has thus been considered as one of these critical areas. In the year 2000, the Beijing+5 Conference was convened for the purpose of reviewing the progress five years after the ratification of Beijing Platform for Action. The Conference once again emphasized the fact that violence against women and girls, whether occurring in public or private life, is a human rights issue and it was the responsibility of the States to take the necessary preventive actions. The issue of violence against women has been continuously kept on the international agenda by means of different units of international organizations, and inter-governmental conferences and summits.⁷

The most important outcome of the consideration of violence against women as a violation of human rights by the international community has been the rendering of the States liable. Now, at this juncture; the eradication of violence against women is a requirement for all States in terms of their international and regional commitments. There have been different mechanisms established for monitoring violence against women, and for assessing the efficacy of the measures taken by the States. Violence against women is no more considered as solely a women’s issue; it is now a topic covered by all advocates of human rights. The violence against women issue must thus be considered by means of a holistic approach and a multi-sectoral cooperation.


DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY

Violence against women has become a part of the public agenda in Turkey as a result of the campaigns, especially after the 1980’s, organized for combating violence against women. The first example of such campaigns was the “Stop Battering!” campaign launched by the women’s movement in 1987. The campaign had originally started in Istanbul, and subsequently replicated in Ankara and other provinces. The most important outcomes of the campaign were the shelters and women’s solidarity centers.

The Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family; which was originally enacted in 1998, and amended in 2007, represents an important milestone in terms of the protection of women victimized by domestic violence. This piece of legislation provides for measures that can be applied by the judges of the Family Courts in order to protect victims of domestic violence.

The recently enacted laws and regulations have done much to ensure gender equality in all parts of the national legislation, primarily in the Constitution. The legal status of gender equality has further been reinforced with the 2001 and 2004 amendments to the Constitution; in the following articles respectively: 41st and 66th, and 10th and 90th. Especially; the amendment of the 10th article

7 UN General Assembly Resolutions No:60/139, 59/167, 59/166, 59/165, 58/147, Human Rights Commission resolutions no: 2005/41 and 2001/49, Millennium Objectives and Developmental Goals set forth by International Conference on Population and Development, Second Summit of Heads of States and Governments in Strasbourg (1997) and the 3rd Summit in Warsaw.




of the Constitution has passed judgment on the liability of the State in ensuring gender equality. The new Turkish Civil Code (2002) and the new Turkish Penal Code (2005) have been prepared and made effective as a result of the intensive efforts and collaboration of public institutions, and the NGOs and Professional Organizations working in the field of women's issues. The NGOs and professional organizations have conducted a nationwide campaign: "Turkish Penal Code Reformation from Women's Perspective Campaign". The legislative reform process has witnessed a comprehensive review of the said bills from a gender equality perspective and the regulations that ensure gender equality and protect women from violence have thus been introduced. One of the most significant steps has been the establishment of a Parliamentary Investigation Commission (11.10.2005) on "Identification of Necessary Measures for Tackling Custom/Honor Killings and Violence against Women and Children by means of Research on the Causes of Such Acts".

The Commission has prepared a comprehensive report on the extent of the problem and the activities required for developing solutions. Following the report, the Prime Ministry Circular No: 2006/17 was issued in order to designate the necessary measures and responsible parties. The Directorate General on the Status of Women (KSGM) has been identified as the coordinator agency in the prevention of violence against women and customs/honor killings, by the Circular. KSGM prepares quarterly reports on the relevant activities of responsible parties, as defined by the Circular, and submits them to the Prime Ministry. The relevant State Ministry chairs the recently established "Violence against Women Monitoring Committee" as decreed in the Circular. The Directorate General on the Status of Women was given the responsibility to prepare Combating Violence against Women National Action Plan.

The Ministry of Interior has communicated a circular, on 11.01.2007, to all the provincial governorates in order to ensure effective and rapid enforcement of the duties and functions defined in the Prime Ministry Circular No: 2006/17, and thus informed them on the required actions for the prevention of violence against women and customs/honor killings. The Ministry of Justice, in order to ensure more effective enforcement of the Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family, has issued the Circular No: 35 (01.01.2006) for all judges and public prosecutors.

The legislative efforts are being complemented with campaigns aimed at improving social sensitivity. The "Stop Violence against Women Campaign" has been underway since November 25th, 2004. This campaign was co-run by the Directorate General on the Status of Women and United Nations Population Fund, and there is special attention given by the Campaign to improving the sensitivity and awareness of men by means education developed through collaboration with the public institutions, the private sector, media organizations, civil society organizations and local administrations. In the framework of cooperation with the Chief of the General Staff, the civics course program for recruits fulfilling their military service has been enriched with topics such as "gender equality, women's human rights, violence against women, and prevention of customs/honor killings". Relevant




audio-visual materials have been prepared by the Directorate General on the Status of Women. In the framework of Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, cooperation has been established with the Association of Turkish Clothing Industrialists, as a result of which the men's wear produced by affiliated firms have been put on sale with labels carrying "Stop Violence Against Women" message alongside the routine price tag. A series of short public service films have also been produced with the participation of the Prime Minister and the State Minister in charge of Women and Family Affairs in order to create awareness and sensitivity in the public opinion on violence against women, and customs/honor killings.

Another relevant campaign has been the "Stop Domestic Violence" campaign that was jointly launched by Hürriyet daily, Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı and CNN Türk. The campaign activities are based on the following objectives: exposing the impacts of domestic violence on women and children, creating violence-free families, and organizing several activities such as national and international meetings and training programs in order to eradicate domestic violence at every level of the society.

In addition to the above-mentioned awareness and sensitivity raising activities on violence against women, there are also in-service training programs for the service providing public sector professionals (law enforcement officers, judicial bodies, health care workers and social workers, etc.). It is within this framework that "The Role of the Police Forces in the Prevention of Violence against Women and the Applicable Procedures Project" has been launched in cooperation with the Directorate General of Security affiliated to the Ministry of Interior; by means of a protocol (26.12.2006) signed between the State Ministry in Charge of Women and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. The training program comprises areas such as "violence against women, gender equality, ways of approach to victims of violence, and the effective enforcement of Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family, and other relevant legislation. The project aims to train approximately 40,000 staff of the Security Organization that work in the initial application posts for women victimized by violence- the police centers and stations.

The Ministry of Justice also has implemented in-service training programs for judges and public prosecutors that cover the issues of violence against women, and Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family. The Ministry of Health; through the nationwide training bodies – "Reproductive Health Training Centers"; conducts "Reproductive Health Training Module" that also covers the issue of gender equality. The Ministry of Health also has a 10-hour course entitled "Victimization by Violence, Pediatric Emergencies and Relevant Care Services", in the framework of "Emergency Care Nursing Course" aimed at emergency service midwives, nurses and health workers. "Psycho-social Assistance and Crisis Intervention Centers" have been opened in the emergency wards of 81 pilot hospitals in 49 provinces (as of 01.02.2006) in order to prevent cases of suicide amongst women, as part of the Ministry of Health Program on Psycho-social Assistance and Crisis Intervention for Suicide Attempts at the Emergency Wards.




The Ministry of National Education; in the framework of the activities related with “Strengthening Individual Resources of Women and the Family” efforts, conducts the “Come on Girls! Let’s go to School” Campaign. There are nationwide activities organized by the Ministry within the scope of “Effective Parenthood Education” and the issue of violence is part of this program. Based on the Prime Ministry Circular No: 17 (4 July 2006); the Ministry of National Education has prepared an Action Plan, in the framework of which several studies and efforts are underway in collaboration with relevant institutions and organizations. In addition to these public education efforts, there are adult education programs at the Community Education Centers, as part of the principle of life long learning, aimed at providing men and women with functional literacy, income-generating vocational courses, skills development courses and parenthood education courses. The Project on Empowerment of Women for Active Citizenship aims to ensure active involvement of women in all facets of social life. The method of adult education is used in order to raise the consciousness of women on issues such as early marriage, polygamy, fellow wife practice, dowry abuse, wife inheritance, domestic violence, physical violence, verbal violence and sexual violence. There are also on-going efforts to incorporate the issues of negligence, abuse and violence to the course programs. The Department of Religious Affairs, in cooperation with KSGM, focuses on topics such as “the New Turkish Civil Code from the Women’s Rights Perspective, Customs/Honor Killings, and Gender Equality” as part of its in-service training activities.

In Turkey there are 40 women’s guesthouses/shelters for women victimized by or under the risk of violence. Twenty of these are affiliated with the Directorate General for Social Services and Child Protection, and 20 are run by non-governmental organizations and local administrations (2 of them focus on victims of human trafficking). The Help Line 183 for Counseling Women and Children is also operated for the purposes of providing psychological, legal and economic support to women and children victimized by or under the risk of violence. The Help Line also provides information on the availability of relevant services in order to ensure immediate access to the type of assistance needed by the victims. There are also 38 “Family Counseling Centers” in 20 provinces that are operated by the Directorate General for Social Services and Child Protection.

A total of 70 “Community Centers” under the Directorate General for Social Services and Child Protection provide services to women affected by domestic violence. In line with the main objectives of the centers, the women are given assistance on psychological, legal and economic issues. The women, who have a request for housing in the guesthouses, are assessed and assigned to the relevant units. Municipal Law No: 5257, which was put into force on 13.07.2005, obliges the metropolitan municipalities and municipalities with a population exceeding 50.000 to open protection houses for women and children.

There are also 29 Multi-purpose Community Centers in the southeastern Anatolian region of the country, under the Prime Ministry’s Southeastern Anatolian Project Regional Development



Administration. These centers provide training, orientation and career-building services to women. The Regional Development Administration has also organized gender training, in cooperation with UNDP, aimed at religious officers of the mosques and village/district heads.

Since the 1990's; there are many active non-governmental organizations that provide various services to women victimized by violence. Some of the most active NGOs include Purple Roof Women's Shelters Foundation, Women's Solidarity Foundation, Women's Center, Adana Women's Counseling Center and Shelter, Van Women's Association, and Kirkörük Cooperative for Combating Violence against Women. The NGOs provide legal and psychological support via their counseling centers and housing assistance via their shelter services. They conduct campaigns for raising awareness and provide training to service providers. They also have on-going efforts to ensure the strengthening of the relevant legislation in favor of the women.

The women's non-governmental organizations have been convening "the Women's Shelters Assembly" every year since 1998. The main components of the assembly comprise the independent women's organizations, and there is also participation from other relevant parties such as women's guesthouses under the Directorate General for Social Services and Child Protection, municipal counseling centers and women's shelters.

Within the framework of the 2005 Pre-Accession Financial Cooperation Program between Turkey and the European Union, the Promoting Gender Equality Project has been launched. This Project has a two-year duration (2007-2008) and the Directorate General on the Status of Women is the implementing agency. The second component of the project; "Combating Domestic Violence against Women" encompasses a nationwide qualitative and quantitative research project on the causes and consequences of violence against women. The main activities of the second component are the development of a comprehensive National Action Plan on combating domestic violence against women, the formulation of a database model in order to monitor the changes in relevant areas, the development of service delivery models, and several awareness-raising and training modules.

The efforts for the eradication of domestic violence against women in Turkey have gained a great deal of momentum in recent years and combating violence against women has become an official state policy with the Prime Ministry Circular No: 2006/17. As described in the that Circular; the Action Plan has been prepared with the participation and collaboration of all the stakeholders, and under the coordination of the Directorate General on the Status of Women. The meetings and workshops, and the legislative and literature reviews conducted during the preparatory process for the Action Plan have brought together many different parties including public institutions and agencies, local administrations, and representatives of universities and women's non-governmental organizations. The objectives, priorities and relevant activities of the Action Plan have all been determined as a result of this participatory preparation process.



KADINA YÖNELİK
AİLE İÇİ SİDDETLE
MÜCADELE PROJESİ

IV. OBJECTIVE AND TARGETS OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN



The objective of the plan is determination and implementation of all the necessary measures, jointly by all the relevant stakeholders, required for the eradication of all forms of domestic violence against women in our country.

a) OBJECTIVE and IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

The National Action Plan, prepared within the framework of Combating Domestic Violence against Women Project, covers three implementation phases: short-term (2007-2008), medium-term (2007-2009), and long-term (2007-2010 and beyond). The objective of the plan is determination and implementation of all the necessary measures, jointly by all the relevant stakeholders, required for the eradication of all forms of domestic violence against women in our country.

b) TARGETS

1. Realization of the legal arrangements on gender discrimination and domestic violence against women, and elimination of enforcement related defects;
2. Creation of public awareness and mental transformation on gender equality and domestic violence against women in order to eradicate attitudes and behaviors that generate and reinforce domestic violence;
3. Making the necessary arrangements for strengthening the socio-economic status of women, and ensuring the full enforcement of such arrangements;
4. Ensuring organization and implementation of attainable protective services towards women victimized by domestic violence and their children (if any);
5. Ensuring organization and provision of curative and rehabilitation services towards women victimized by domestic violence and the perpetrators, and;
6. Establishing a mechanism of cooperation amongst institutions and relevant sectors with regard to the service delivery to women victimized by domestic violence and their children (if any).



KADINA YÖNELİK
AİLE İÇİ SİDDETLE
MÜCADELE PROJESİ

V. ACTION PLAN



Goal I

Realization of the legal arrangements on gender discrimination and domestic violence against women, and elimination of enforcement-related defects.

LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS

There have been reformatory amendments in Turkish Legislation, primarily in the Constitution, for ensuring gender equality and elimination of violence against women (Turkish Civil Code, Turkish Penal Code, Labor Code, and Municipal Code). Furthermore; the Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family embraces provisions that aim to protect individuals victimized by domestic violence.

There can always be new changes in the legal area in parallel with the social developments and needs. It is within this context that one of the objectives of the action plan has been set as reviewing the existing legislation, preparation of new arrangements, and realization of the necessary changes in order to eliminate gender based discrimination and violence against women.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
1.1 Analysis of the existing legal arrangements to see whether they fully tackle the problem of violence against women	KSGM	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Bar Associations, NGOs	Short
1.2 Detection of the defects in the enforcement of existing legal arrangements on violence against women	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, KSGM	Relevant Public Institutions, Universities, Bar Associations, NGOs	Short
1.3 Correction of the defects in the enforcement of existing legal arrangements on violence against women	Ministry of Justice, KSGM	Relevant Public Institutions, Universities, Bar Associations, NGOs	Long
1.4 Preparation and enactment of the By-Law after Law No: 4320 on the Protection of the Family	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, KSGM	Ministry of Health, Bar Assc., NGOs	Short
1.5 Completion of the works on the establishment of Gender Equality Body model	KSGM	Ministry of Justice, relevant public institutions, Universities, NGOs	Short
1.6 Foundation of the Gender Equality Commission within Turkish Grand National Assembly	TBMM		Medium
1.7 Completion of the preparations for making the Equality Framework Law	Ministry of Justice	KSGM, relevant public institutions, Universities, NGOs	Long
1.8 Carrying out the legal arrangements on parental leave for apportioning the child care responsibility between the father and the mother, in the framework of EU directives	Ministry of Labor and Social Security, KSGM	Ministry of Justice, relevant public institutions, trade unions, NGOs	Long



Goal 2

Creation of public awareness and mental transformation on gender equality and domestic violence against women in order to eradicate attitudes and behaviors that generate and reinforce domestic violence.

AWARENESS RAISING AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION

The recent years have witnessed significant progress in our country in terms of ensuring gender equality and prevention of violence against women in the legal field. The Prime Ministry Circular No: 2006/17 (2006) has internalized the eradication of violence against women as a state policy. The practical repercussions of the legal developments and the attainment of the objectives of combating violence depend on creating social awareness about violence against women and ensuring an absolute mental transformation.

The public institutions, the civil society organizations, and the media are undertaking important activities by means of campaigns and training programs in order to demonstrate the negative impacts of violence against women on individuals and the society as a whole, and to create awareness of the fact that each individual has responsibility in the subject matter.

This action plan represents a vital tool in ensuring replication and coordinated sustainability of efforts for raising sensitivity on violence against women, especially domestic violence. The eradication of violence against women in our country can only be achieved by ensuring that relevant legal-administrative arrangements are known, service providers and the public opinion are rendered aware and conscious on the topic, and there is ownership by the politicians, administrators and the media.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
2.1 Preparation and distribution of visual and printed materials, and organization of information campaigns towards policy makers, service providers and the public opinion in order to ensure the reflection of gender equality principles and the combat against domestic violence on policy and programs	KSGM	Relevant public institutions, MONE, GAP Administration Local Admin., Universities, NGOs	Short
2.2 Preparation of visual and printed materials, and organization of training programs for ensuring awareness raising and mental transformation amongst men on gender equality and violence against women	KSGM	Ministry of Justice, Min. of National Defense, Min. of Interior, MONE, Min. of Health, Dep. of Religious Affairs, GAP Admin., Universities, Media Organizations, Private Sector	Medium
2.3 Removal of negative gender role models from the instructional materials, and replacing those with positive and egalitarian role models	MONE	KSGM, NGOs	Short
2.4 Incorporation of gender equality and prevention of domestic violence against women into the curriculum of formal and non-formal education programs	MONE	KSGM, SHÇEK, GAP Admin., Universities, NGOs	Short
2.5 Preparation and distribution of awareness-raising materials for couples applying for marriage; on gender equality, domestic violence and reproductive health	Ministry of Health, KSGM, ASAGM	SHÇEK, GAP Admin. Local Admin., NGOs	Short
2.6 Preparation and broadcasting of awareness-raising programs related with gender equality and violence against women on radio and TV channels	TRT	KSGM, SHÇEK	Short
2.7 Incorporation of the topics of gender equality and domestic violence against women in the under-graduate programs of the faculties of education, law, medicine, communication and others	YÖK	KSGM, Universities, Police Academy	Long
2.8 Informing the public opinion on the gender equality related amendments within the legislation by means of printed materials	KSGM	NGOs	Short

Goal 3

Making the necessary arrangements for strengthening the socio-economic status of women, and ensuring the full enforcement of such arrangements.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

The core principle of every service delivered to the victims of violence is to provide full support for ensuring the empowerment of the victim, and thus enabling them to regain the control of their lives and the responsibility of their children (if any). The experience and the knowledge level of the victim should be taken into consideration during the empowerment process of the women victimized by violence. In this context; the service providers are responsible of providing knowledge and skill-enhancing support and opportunities to the victims in order to help them re-establish a firm financial and economic base.

The action plan has therefore the objective of strengthening the victims of violence and takes the necessary measures for helping them re-establish the control of their lives.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
3.1 Identification of the parents that do not send their children to primary education, and persuasion and verbal and written disclosure with regard to their legal responsibilities. Insuring adequate functioning of the MONE e-school database and Ministry of Interior's MERNIS – Address Registry System to work jointly, and activation of MONE e-school database for monitoring the absenteeism and drop-out cases	Ministry of Interior, MONE	Ministry of Justice, NGO's, KSGM	Short-Medium-Long
3.2 Making the necessary arrangements for ensuring that girls benefit more from MONE scholarships. Replication of the existing scholarship system in a manner more beneficial for the girls, in accordance with the Ninth Development Plan that emphasizes the eradication of the gender inequality in secondary education	MONE	KSGM, NGO's	Short-Medium-Long
3.3 Respecting the gender sensitivity at pre-school and primary education level, and provision of such sensitivity through life skills courses within the programs	MONE	KSGM, NGO's	Short-Medium-Long

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
3.4 Provision of boarding services and economic and social assistance for bringing in girls to education	MONE	State Planning Organization, KSGM, Private Sector	Long
3.5 Carrying out scientific studies in order to identify the factors that hinder girls' access to equal education opportunities. Planning and implementation of necessary studies for eradication of obstacles faced by girls as a result of gender discrimination	MONE, YÖK, TÜİK	KSGM	Long
3.6 Encouragement of women entrepreneurship, provision of relevant trainings, counseling and financial services	İŞ - KUR, KOSGEB	MONE, KSGM, GAP Admin., Universities, NGOs	Long
3.7 Diversification of employability courses for women with guaranteed employment in the fields most needed by the labor market	İŞ-KUR	MONE, KSGM, KOSGEB, GAP Admin., Universities, NGOs, Private Sector	Long
3.8 Provision of support to the income generating activities of women in poverty and families headed by women, through the micro-credit schemes of the Law on Special Provincial Administrations, in order to reduce poverty	Ministry of Interior (Governorates)	KSGM, GAP Admin., Directorate General of Social Solidarity, Local Admin., Universities, NGOs	Long
3.9 Provision of the necessary support for increasing the number of professional women at a managerial position	Public institutions, Private sector	Trade Unions	Long
3.10 Capacity-building for women's NGOs on project preparation, execution and funding	KSGM	Public institutions, GAP Admin., Universities, International organizations, NGOs	Long
3.11 Ensuring public and private sector support for increasing the number of rescue homes and nurseries for providing care to elderly, handicapped people and the children in return for a reasonable fee	MONE, SHÇEK, Local Admin.	Relevant Public Institutions, Private sector	Long
3.12 Encouragement and realization of the necessary arrangements in order to ensure promotion of female teachers and educators to education related managerial positions within every level of MONE	MONE	KSGM, NGOs	Long
3.13 Taking the necessary measures against all forms of discrimination experienced by women at the entry to and during the work life	Ministry of Labor and Social Security	KSGM, İŞKUR, Relevant public institutions, Trade Unions	Long



Goal 4

Ensuring organization and implementation of attainable protective services towards women victimized by domestic violence and their children (if any).

PROVISION OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The process of combating domestic violence against women should prioritize measures that are going to prevent the victimization of women by violence (awareness-raising, mental transformation, etc.). In addition to the preventive measures; the protective services provided to women victimized by or under the risk of violence must be developed, and the standards and procedures of such services must be determined with the cooperation of relevant institutions.

The Law No: 4320, which was originally prepared in 1998 for the prevention of domestic violence, has been amended in 2007 for the purpose of correcting the defects associated with the enforcement, and it is an important legal arrangement with regard to the protection of individuals victimized by domestic violence. The consideration of domestic violence as a private matter within the society hinders the detection of the victims. These challenges can be overcome by means of developing service delivery models and ensuring coordination amongst all service providers. Increasing the number of the shelters and women's guesthouses, and provision of services at international standards shall improve the quality of overall services provided to women victimized by violence.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
4.1 Definition of the services required for women victimized by or under the risk of violence (protection, shelter, treatment, employment, empowerment, legal rights, child/elderly care and rehabilitation, etc.), determination of standards and procedures (development of a service network model), and establishment of an auditing mechanism model	KSGM, SHÇEK	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Health, SHÇEK, Local Admin., Bar Associations, Universities, NGOs	Kısa
4.2 Implementation of training programs for service delivery professionals, within the framework of terms of reference, authority and responsibilities prepared in accordance with article 4.1, in order to equip them with the necessary qualifications	KSGM	Relevant public institutions, NGOs	Short
4.3 Preparation of a directive embracing infrastructure standards and alternative management models in line with EU standards, for qualitative and quantitative improvement of shelters	SHÇEK	KSGM, Local Admin., NGOs	Short
4.4 Inauguration of women's guesthouses by the municipalities, and provision of support by local administrations and Special Provincial Administrations to existing and new independent shelters, and women's counseling centers initiatives by NGOs	Governorates, Local Admin.	SHÇEK, NGOs	Long
4.5 Provision of free of charge pre-school services at MONE education institutions for the children of women staying at shelters	Ministry of National Education	SHÇEK	Short
4.6 "VIOLENCE CALL LINE" to provide 7/24 services at international standards to women victimized by or under the risk of violence at nationwide scale	SHÇEK	KSGM, Turkish Telecommunications Inst., NGOs	Short
4.7 Development of family counseling services in a manner that encompasses combating domestic violence	SHÇEK	KSGM, ASAGM, GAP Admin., Local Admin., NGOs	Short
4.8 Better illumination of streets and parks, and increased accessibility of emergency call lines	Local Admin.	NGOs	Long



Goal 5

Ensuring organization and provision of curative and rehabilitation services towards women victimized by domestic violence, and the perpetrators.

PROVISION OF CURATIVE and REHABILITATION SERVICES

Domestic violence against women is defined as a significant public health problem that inflicts physical, psychological and social harm to individuals. The women victimized by domestic violence often need simultaneous provision of curative, rehabilitation and counseling services.

In order to develop permanent solutions in combating domestic violence against women there needs to be aversive sanctions on perpetrators, and also specific rehabilitation programs for such individuals.

In this context it is of utmost importance to set up special units within the health institutions where treatment, rehabilitation and counseling services can be provided to both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
5.1 Characterization of domestic violence as a health problem, giving attention to violence against women during the provision of health services, incorporation of the topic of violence against women to the routine work and household visits of the midwives and nurses working at the primary level health institutions	Ministry of Health, KSGM	Universities, Turkish Union of Physicians and other relevant professional organizations	Medium
5.2 Setting up special units within health institutions for provision of curative and rehabilitation services to women victimized by violence and employment of other relevant experts in such units in order to conduct joint efforts with the health personnel	Ministry of Health	Ministry of Interior, SHÇEK, Universities, Turkish Union of Physicians and other relevant professional organizations	Medium
5.3 Setting up special units within health institutions for provision of curative, counseling and rehabilitation services to perpetrators of violence and employment of other relevant experts in such units in order to conduct joint efforts with the health personnel	Ministry of Health	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, SHÇEK, Universities, Turkish Union of Physicians and other relevant professional organizations	Medium
5.4 Replication of departments of social services, psychological counseling and guidance at the universities, or increasing the available slots for students	YÖK	Universities	Long
5.5 Employment of the graduates of the departments defined in 5.4 at units that provide services to victims and perpetrators of violence	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, SHÇEK	Relevant public institutions	Long



Goal 6

Establishing a mechanism of cooperation amongst institutions and relevant sectors with regard to the service delivery to women victimized by domestic violence and their children (if any)

COOPERATION AMONGST INSTITUTIONS and ORGANIZATIONS

The efforts for the eradication of domestic violence against women, improvement of social sensitivity and the creation of mental transformation must be complemented by a multi-dimensional and global campaign that includes protection of victims, penalization and rehabilitation of perpetrators. This can only be achieved by setting up a well-structured cooperative mechanism that can enable simultaneous and joint action by different national and local institutions and organizations. The sustainable cooperation amongst service providing institutions and organizations has a vital importance for the eradication of violence against women and ensuring efficient use of available resources.

The prime Ministry Circular on “Identification of Necessary Measures for Tackling Honor Killings and Violence against Women and Children” (No: 2006/17) sets out a framework in order to define the responsibilities of different institutions in developing inter-sector collaboration and coordination for prevention of domestic violence against women. The said Circular has designated the Directorate General on the Status of Women as the coordinator agency for the efforts aimed at prevention of violence against women.

It is within this context that the National Action Plan is designed to function as a tool to replicate the cooperative network, and develop new models of cooperation.

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PARTNERS	IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
6.1 Preparation and signing of memorandums of understanding (cooperation protocols) amongst different institutions that define the cooperation framework in combating domestic violence, and the authorities and responsibilities of such institutions	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, KSGM	Relevant public institutions, GAP Admin., Local Admin., Universities, NGOs	Short
6.2 Establishment of local coordination committees with the participation of governorates, local security forces, gendarmerie, municipalities, universities, professional organizations and the mufti's office, and NGO representatives in order to work on prevention of violence against women	Ministry of Interior (Governorates, Provincial Directorates of Security Forces / Gendarmerie Commanderships, Local Admin.)	KSGM, SHÇEK, Department of Religious Affairs, Social Solidarity General Directorate, GAP Admin. Universities, Bar Associations, NGOs	Short
6.3 Obtaining and making available the researches and publications on violence against women	KSGM	Relevant public institutions, Universities, NGOs	Short
6.4 Conducting informative meetings and studies for relevant public institutions in order to ensure gender sensitive budgeting	KSGM, Ministry of Finance	SPO	Short
6.5 Determination of indicators that shall enable national-level monitoring of domestic violence against women, and establishment of an information system to be used jointly by relevant institutions	TÜİK	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, KSGM, SHÇEK, GAP Admin., NGOs	Short

ABBREVIATIONS

ASAGM	Prime Ministry Directorate General for Family and Social Research
BM	United Nations
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
ÇATOM	Multi-Purpose Community Centers
DPT/SPO	Prime Ministry Under-secretariat of State Planning Organization
İŞKUR	Turkish Employment Agency
KSGM	Prime Ministry Directorate General on the Status of Women
KOSGEB	Presidency of Small and Medium-scale Industry Development and Support Administration
MOLSS	Ministry of Labor and Social Security
MONE	Ministry of National Education
SHÇEK	Prime Ministry Directorate General on Social Services and Child Protection
STK/NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TBMM	Turkish Grand National Assembly
TCK	Turkish Penal Code
TRT	Turkish Radio and Television General Directorate
TTB	Turkish Union of Physicians
TÜİK	Turkish Institute of Statistics
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WHO	World Health Organization
YÖK	Higher Education Board