

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TURKEY

Violence against women is the most common violation of women's human rights in Europe. This problem became a current issue in Turkey in the mid-1980s.

Forms of violence in Turkey are the following: physical violence (every four out of 10 women experienced physical violence by their husband or an intimate male partner), psychological violence (44% of all women experienced psychological violence at any time in their lifetime and 26% in the last 12 months). Almost every three in ten women in Turkey have experienced stalking at least once.

Turkey has gained experience in developing and implementing Action Plans, which specify responsibilities that relevant Governmental agencies must assume, to combat violence against women.

The National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2016-2020) which was developed with the joint efforts of all the relevant stakeholders for implementation of all the necessary measures required for elimination of all forms of violence against women in the country, had 6 main targets:

1. Make legal arrangements on gender equality and domestic violence against women and eliminate enforcement-related defects;
2. Raise public awareness and achieve mental transformation on gender equality and domestic violence against women in order to eliminate attitudes and behaviors that generate and reinforce domestic violence;
3. Make the necessary arrangements for strengthening the socio-economic status of women and ensure the full implementation of such arrangements;
4. Organize and implement accessible protective services for women victimized by domestic violence and their children (if any);
5. Organize and implement treatment and rehabilitation services for women victimized by domestic violence and the perpetrators, and;
6. Establish a mechanism of cooperation among institutions and relevant sectors with regard to the service provision to women victimized by domestic violence and their child(ren).

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