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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences on her visit to Türkiye

Comments by the State**

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** The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Report of Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences on his visit to Türkiye, 18 to 27 July 2023– Comments by Türkiye

A. With regard to Introduction we make the following remarks to:

1. paragraph 3

1. The name of Ministry has to be changed as “Ministry of Family and Social Services”.

B. With regard to Part II of the report, " Manifestations of gender-based violence against women"

2. paragraph 7

2. Türkiye has adopted the policy of zero tolerance against domestic violence and violence against women. The state mechanism takes effective measures in line with this policy.

3. As a head of the state, the President Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN states at every opportunity that we have a zero tolerance policy and we will continue to do so.

4. Similarly, Minister of Family and Social Services, states that their focal point is the combating violence against women. The change in this focus is not even a matter of discussion. Again, Minister of Justice, stresses that combating violence against women is the first and unchanging agenda of the Ministry. The Minister of Interior, states in a speech that zero tolerance and zero violence against women must be achieved. Violence against women cannot be justified.

5. As is seen, the zero tolerance policy of Türkiye is being consistently emphasized at each levels of the State.

3. paragraph 8

6. The statement in question does not fully reflect the real situation.

7. Since the first case was detected in our country; As the Ministry of Family and Social Services, Türkiye has carried out with great devotion, by taking the necessary measures immediately, to ensure that the services for the victims of violence continue uninterruptedly and that no disruption is caused. During the pandemic period, Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres and 149 shelters in our 81 provinces continued their activities with a capacity of 3,624.

8. Guidance, support and guidance practices within the scope of Law No. 6284 for women who have suffered or are at risk of violence, their family members and individuals who are victims of stalking continued uninterruptedly in coordination with all of the relevant parties.

9. In the provinces where there are women's shelters serving beyond their current capacities, within the scope of the planning to be made with the relevant law enforcement units under the coordination of VPMC and the Provincial Directorate; 71 facilities in 49 provinces have been used for shelter.

10. In addition, both our legal regulations and policy documents on combating violence point to the uninterrupted fight with violence against women. In this context, the continuity of the services provided for the prevention of violence and the protection of the victim is essential in the fight against the COVID 19 epidemic.

11. During this period, victims applied to the relevant police station and gendarmerie station within the body of the General Directorate of Security and the Gendarmerie General Command in the field of combating violence, and the law enforcement personnel worked actively in the field 24/7.

12. Moreover; it is known that in every courthouse, watch schedules are prepared for the civil courts of first instance and family courts, and the judicial authorities are at the service of the victims in this context. Individuals exposed to violence can apply to law enforcement units and family courts without hesitation.

13. Necessary measures were taken in cooperation with our law enforcement units, VPMC and health institutions in order to ensure that our victims of violence have access to health services and to make the necessary assessment.

14. By taking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported domestic violence and violence against women into consideration, the Ministry's national helpline was prepared for an increase in demand for reports of violent incidents. A prioritization process was initiated in 183 Social Support Line, so victims calling to the helpline can contact the staff by pressing the "0" key without waiting in line. Helpline service has started to be offered through WhatsApp and BIP applications. Via the contact number "0 501 183 0 183, 24/7 support service was delivered.

4. paragraph 9

It's mentioned at the report that "at least 3.175 femicides have been reported in Türkiye between 2010 and 2020". According to the data from Ministry of Interior, between 2017-2020, 1.237 women were killed. According to the parliamentary commission on violence against women demonstrate data on femicide was started to collect by Ministry of Interior in 2014. And between 2014-2021, 2.513 women were killed. The source of the femicide data for the period 2010-2014 should be disclosed..paragraph 10

15. The Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 (TPC), which entered into force in 2005, is a codified regulation that attaches importance to individual rights and freedoms and is more sensitive to equality between men and women. Many criminal acts that do not comply with gender equality, reflect the general moral understanding of the society, keep the personal rights of women in the background and are incompatible with the principle of legality have been repealed.

16. Within the scope of the law, it is not possible to apply mitigating factors such as customs, culture, religion, tradition or the reasons for the so-called honor of the crime in Turkish Law, and the kinship between the perpetrator and the victim is also described as a factor that causes the punishment to be aggravated.

17. In the TPC section of "Crimes Against Life", the crime of willful killing is defined in Article 81 as "a person who intentionally kills a person is sentenced to life imprisonment." formatted. In Article 82 of the Law, the qualified cases of the crime, which envisage an increase in the punishment compared to the basic form, are listed. In these cases, the act is punished with aggravated life imprisonment.

18. In subparagraph (d) of the first paragraph of Article 82, it is regulated as a qualified case that the crime of intentional killing is carried out against persons with certain kinship relations. The intentional killing of one of the descendants or descendants of the person or his/her spouse, ex-spouse or sibling is an element that aggravates the punishment. The legislator has sensitively handled the situation, which is the most severe consequence of violence against women, and has more severely sanctioned the intentional killing of one's spouse.

19. In the same paragraph, in subparagraph (k), intentional killings with the motive of "custom" are also regulated as aggravating the punishment. "Töre motive" is a concept that TPC numbered 5237 brought into criminal law with its entry into force in 2005.

20. Regarding the statements that it covers crimes committed with the motive of honor, but may not cover murders committed under the name of "honour";

21. When the reason for the inclusion of the concept of "custom motive" in the justification of law is examined, it is seen that the main purpose is to prevent and punish intentional killings against women based on women's gender roles and committed on the grounds of "custom". As a result of the old and bad habits of the society, which can be

qualified as a harmful practice, the killing of women, usually by close male relatives such as husbands, fathers, brothers, was intended to be punished in a deterrent way.

22. Intentional killings committed in the name of so-called honor arise from the value system of the society and appear as the most severe form of violence. In society, women's use of their freedoms in general and their sexual freedom in particular is widely condemned, considered unfair with a moralistic approach, and women's fundamental rights are violated. It is considered that the subparagraph (k), also includes acts of willful killing committed in the name of so-called honor, which do not exhibit accepted customary characteristics but are common.

23. In its decision dated 11.05.2011, the Supreme Court of Appeals Criminal General Assembly decided that the qualified state would be applied in cases where the concept of custom also includes the concept of honor and the perpetrator acted with a sense of duty, and in this case, the provisions of unjust provocation could not be applied.

24. On the other hand, reasons such as culture, custom, tradition and honor are not accepted as mitigating factors in any type of crime in the Turkish Penal Code.

25. According to the unjust provocation, which is the subject of criticism in the report, the fact that the person performs the act under unjust provocation conditions does not cause any decrease in the unfairness content of the concrete case. The legislator emphasizes that this provision will apply if the perpetrator commits an unjust (unlawful) act while under the influence of anger.

26. The reason for seeking the realization of the "unlawful act" is shown as preventing the crimes of killing relatives called "custom or honor killings" from being evaluated within the scope of the provisions of unjust provocation. In this context, it is not possible to apply this institution in cases where acts of violence are committed in the name of so-called honor.

27. And also, The Law No. 7331 also amended the Article 82 (Intentional killing-Qualified cases), Article 86 (Intentional injury), Article 96 (Torment) and Article 109 (Deprivation of Liberty) of the Turkish Penal Code on 8/7/2021. With this regulation, the penalty to be imposed in case the aforementioned crimes are committed against the ex-spouse has been increased.

28. The Law No. 7406 amended the articles of the Turkish Penal Code on 27.05.2022. with this regulation, in order to combat violence against women more effectively and to provide deterrence, the penalties for deliberate killing, intentional injury, threat, torture and torture against women were increased.

29. The Law No. 7406 amended the article on grounds for discretionary mitigation. According to the amendment: the perpetrator's formal attitudes and behaviors aimed at influencing the court at the hearing are not considered as grounds for discretionary reduction. The reasons for the discretionary discount are indicated in the decision with their justifications.

30. In addition, in the Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women, it is planned to carry out a study to determine the dynamics of this phenomenon:

- A working group consisting of experts on the prevention of violence against women will be formed to examine the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 and the relevant legislation (Activity 1.2.1.).
- The praxis of "unjust provocation" and "extenuating circumstances" in disputes related to acts of violence against women will be analysed (Activity 1.2.4.).

31. In this framework, it is considered that the TPC numbered 5237 in force is capable of penalizing acts of willful killing against women, including acts of willful killing in the name of so-called honor, committed with a motive based on gender discrimination.

5. paragraph 12

32. In the paragraph its stated the "The incidence of domestic violence is still underreported, owing in part... low quality of existing services and protection mechanisms for victims of violence. The statement in question does not fully reflect the real situation.

33. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres have started their services pursuant to the Law No.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. These centres provide services of accommodation for the victims of violence, temporary financial assistance, counselling and guidance, follow-up and procedures of provisional protection orders ruled in case of life risk, crèche support, legal assistance, medical assistance, and employment support, scholarship for children and education and training.

34. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres are available in service in 81 provinces nationwide by the end of 2019. The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of VPMCs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa.

35. In order to facilitate access to victims and strengthen the effective services to combat violence against women at the district level, a contact point for combating violence was established in each 397 Social Service Centres throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

36. In 2022, a total of 298.178 people, including 256.507 women, 25.441 men and 16.230 children, received service from VPMCs.

37. And also women's shelters are residential social service institutions where women exposed to abuse or violence physically, emotionally, sexually, economically and verbally can be temporarily accommodated with their children, if any, and their needs are covered providing protection from violence, solving and strengthening their psycho-social and economic problems.

38. There are 112 women's shelters under the Ministry of Family and Social Services; 3 women's shelter affiliated with the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Migration Management, 1 shelter owned by NGOs, and 33 shelters under local administrations. A total of 149 shelters provide services with a capacity of 3.624 people.

39. Some of the work carried out just in 2022 to strengthen the capacity of these service units are as follows:

- 240 contracted personnel were employed to increase the number and capacity of violence prevention and monitoring centres and women's shelters.
- In line with the Self-Assessment Guidelines determined by the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW) and the scope of this study, visits were made to the provincial directorates in need.
- Online meetings were held with VPMCs managers and professionals in order to evaluate VPMCs services and provide guidance. "Workshop on Operation and Implementation of VPMC and Women's Guesthouse Services" was held on 24-28 October 2022.
- In order to develop the management and human resources capacity of the women's shelters and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers, to ensure that women who are victims of violence and their children receive more qualified services in place and in a timely manner during the transition to a safe life, psycho-social support training programs for the personnel working in the field of women are established and the trainings are carried out. need has been assessed. In this context, "Positive and Intercultural Psycho-Therapy Basic Training" was given to the professionals serving in the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre and Shelter for Women. By the training with 6 sessions, reached to 51 participants from 34 cities in 2022.

6. paragraph 14

40. It's stated that "...according to data received 12% of all married women in Türkiye stated that they experienced sexual violence at any time in their lifetime and 5% of them in 2022". The research was published in 2014. The data and year which is referred in the report has to be revised.

7. paragraph 17

41. Sexual violence is envisaged as a crime in Article 102 under the heading “Sexual assault”, in Article 103 under the heading “Sexual abuse of children/sexual molestation”, in Article 104 under the heading “Sexual intercourse with persons not attained the lawful age”, in Article 105 under the heading “Sexual harassment” and in Article 109 under the heading “deprivation a person of freedom” of Turkish Criminal Code.

42. According to the Article 105: “If a person is subject to sexual harassment by another person, the person performing such act is sentenced to a term of imprisonment from three months to two years or to a judicial fine; and if the act of sexual harassment is committed against a child, the offender is sentenced to imprisonment from six months to three years upon complaint of the victim.

43. If the act of offence is committed:

- a) by undue influence based on public office or employment relationship or by using the advantage of intrafamilial relationships,
- b) by his/her guardian, tutor, instructor, caregiver, custodial parents or by those who provide him/her with health care or are under an obligation to protect, look after or supervise him/her,
- c) by using the advantage of working in the same workplace with the victim,
- d) by using the advantage provided by mail or electronic communication instruments
- e) by the act of exposing, the punishment to be imposed according to the above paragraph is increased by one half. If the victim was obliged to quit his/her job or leave his/her school or family for this reason, the punishment to be imposed cannot be less than one year.”

8. paragraph 18

44. According to statistics provided by the General Directorate on the Status of Women the number of women Members of Parliament in the general elections held on 7 June 2015 was 98, with the representation rate of 17.82 per cent. In the general elections held on 24 June 2018, the number of women MPs and the representation rate in the parliament were 104 and 17,45 per cent respectively. In the current Presidential System of Government that entered into force with the 24 June 2018 elections, one female ministers (5,88 per cent) serve in the cabinet. Furthermore, there are three (5,08 per cent) Deputy Ministers in the Ministries.

9. paragraph 19

45. Although there is no data on the comments made in the mentioned paragraph, the linking of women's underrepresentation in politics compared to men to gender-based violence is a personal interpretation. When the current situation of women's participation in political life in Türkiye is examined, it is a fact that there are still ways to be taken in this regard, but there has been a serious increase in the representation of women in politics in recent years. On the other hand, when the legislation on this subject is examined in Türkiye, there is no legal obstacle, on the contrary, there are statements about positive discrimination.

46. The amendments in 2004 and 2010 to Article 10 of the Constitution, paved the way for positive discrimination applications, including ensuring the equality of women and men in the authorization and decision-making mechanisms. Also, with Article 90 of the Constitution, CEDAW has been rendered superior to national legislation in the event of a conflict, and this provides an important legal framework for equal participation of women in authorization and resolution mechanisms.

47. In Articles 67, 68, and 70, the Constitution entitles all citizens with the right to "vote and be elected" in local and parliamentary elections, "to form political parties", "duly join and withdraw from them", "participate in referendums" and "right to enter public service"; and in Articles 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, and 34, "freedom of thought and opinion", "freedom of

expression and dissemination of thought", "freedom of the press", "rights and freedoms of assembly".

48. Article 68 of the Law no. 4121 dated 23.7.1995 abolished the prohibition on political parties to establish women's branches, thus giving political parties the opportunity to open an additional area of participation for women.

49. Article 83 of the Law No. 2820 on Political Parties states that "political parties shall not pursue objectives contrary to the principle that everyone is equal before the law without discrimination based on language, race, color, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion, sect and similar reasons" and thus party activities aimed at gender discrimination are prevented.

50. In the Republic of Türkiye, women gained the right to vote and be elected in local elections in 1930 and in parliamentary elections in 1934, before many other countries in the world.

10. paragraph 20, 21

51. Religious marriages conducted by sheikhs or imams are not recognized by the Turkish authorities, though they are tolerated, while those conducted by state-recognized muftis are.

52. Comment: Those conducted by muftis are not religious in nature either. With an effort to control unrecorded and unrecognized marriages, state muftis were granted authorization to simultaneously conduct religious and non-religious official marriages together. Marriage bearing legal consequences remains to be the secular one.

53. The provision of annulment of the marriage due to treatment is regulated in Article 151 of the Turkish Civil Code. Forced marriage is not regulated as a distinct offense in the Turkish Criminal Code. However, sexual acts against women victims as a result of forced marriage are considered within the scope of sexual violence and may correspond to the offenses regulated in Articles 192, 103 and 105 of the Law. In addition, even if there is no sexual act, the crime of restriction of freedom of a person may arise with respect to the concrete case pursuant to Article 109 of the same law.

54. In Article 103 of the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 titled "Sexual abuse of children", it is stipulated that the person who abuses the child sexually shall be punished with imprisonment from eight to fifteen years, if sexual abuse remains at the level of molestation, imprisonment from three to eight years, if the victim has not completed the age of twelve, the punishment to be imposed shall not be less than ten years in case of abuse and five years in case of molestation.

55. Sexual molestation covers the following acts;

a) All kinds of sexual attempt against children who are under the age of fifteen or against those attained the age of fifteen but lack the ability to understand the legal consequences of such act,

b) Sexual behaviours committed against other children by force, threat, fraud or another reason affecting the willpower.

56. In the second paragraph of the article, it is stated that; In case of performance of sexual abuse by inserting an organ or instrument into a body, the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment no less than sixteen years and if the victim has not completed the age of twelve, the punishment to be imposed cannot be less than eighteen years.

57. The second paragraph, which regulates the qualified element that aggravates the penalty, was also the subject of the Constitutional Court's annulment decision in 2015. With its decision dated 12.11.2015 and numbered E. 2015/26, K.2015/100, the court annulled the provision.

58. However, the legislators did not adopt the reasoning of the Court and rearranged the paragraph in 2016, remaining faithful to the text of the paragraph before it was cancelled, in order to protect the child.

59. Thus, if the forced marriage of girls under the age of 18 is noticed, judicial proceedings are taken against the perpetrator and the parents involved in this situation due to their participation in this crime. Even if the victim of the crime makes a formal marriage to the perpetrator later, there is no opportunity to get rid of this punishment by marriage. Therefore, the victim's husband (perpetrator), mother, father, father-in-law and mother-in-law can be tried and punished for this crime.

11. paragraph 22

60. "Provincial Action Plans on Combating Early and Forced Marriages" has been put into effect to that 24 provinces (*Afyon, Diyarbakır, Urfa, Mardin, İzmir -Kiraz ilçesi, Antalya, Kars, Ağrı, Iğdır, Van, Mardin, Muş, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Kilis, Nevşehir, Yozgat, Aksaray, Niğde, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Ardahan, Edirne, Siirt*). Action Plans focused on awareness activities. Activities aimed at researching early marriages, preparing visual and written materials, and meeting girls with role model women were included.

61. A trainings were given on Supporting Provincial Action Plans for Combating Early and Forced Marriages to 140 personnel of provinces with a Provincial Action Plan for Combating Early and Forced Marriages and provinces where the prevalence of early marriage is high on 23-26 May 2022 and on 6-9 June 2022. The content of the Training Program included: "child rights", "early marriages", "health consequences of early marriages", "good practice examples from the world and Türkiye", "local action plan preparation training module".

12. Paragraph 24

62. The comment does not reflect the truth. According to the article 80:

Any person who procures, kidnaps, harbours or transports a person from one place to another or brings a person into the country or takes a person out of the country, by - the use of threat, pressure, force or violence, - employing deceit, - abusing his influence, or - obtaining a consent by exploiting control over another or the desperation of such other, for the purpose of forcing them into prostitution or to work, provide a service, harvest their organs or to subject them to slavery or any similar practice shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years and to a judicial fine of up to ten thousand days

63. Where an act is undertaken for the purposes referred to in the first paragraph one and such act constitutes an offence, the consent of the victim shall be presumed to be invalid. Where a person under eighteen years of age is procured, kidnapped, harboured or transported from one place to another for the purposes described in paragraph one, the offender shall be sentenced to a penalty described paragraph one, notwithstanding the fact that no act instrumental to the offence has been resorted to. Security measures shall be imposed upon legal entities in respect of the aforementioned offences." And also Child Protection Law No. 5395 has been in effect since 2005.

C. With regard to Part III of the report, " Groups of women and girls who are at particular risk of violence ", we make the following remarks to:

13. paragraph 26

64. Living with dignity without being exposed to any discrimination is under the guarantee of the Republic of Türkiye for all of our citizens.

65. Through the institutional regulations providing permanent solutions on equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities, our country strengthens its policies developed in this field.

66. The principle of equality is recognized and strongly emphasized in our Constitution as well as basic laws regarding women.

67. According to the Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution: "Everyone is equal before the law without distinction as to language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical

belief, religion and sect, or any such grounds. Men and women have equal rights. The State has the obligation to ensure that this equality exists in practice. Measures taken for this purpose shall not be interpreted as contrary to the principle of equality.”

14. paragraph 28

68. According to the Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution: “Everyone is equal before the law without distinction as to language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such grounds. Men and women have equal rights. The State has the obligation to ensure that this equality exists in practice. Measures taken for this purpose shall not be interpreted as contrary to the principle of equality.”

69. And also for protect interests of person with disabilities, there are legal practices.

70. For instance, the aim of the guardianship, also protect interests of person with disabilities. “Guardianship” rules are regulated in Turkish Civil Code.

71. Circumstances requiring guardianship, Organs of guardianship, appointment of a guardian, restriction for protection, duties of guardian, liability of organs of guardianship are defined strictly.

1) Civil society actors and women human rights defenders

15. paragraph 30

72. The purpose of this Law is to regulate the procedures and principles regarding the implementation of the sanctions decisions of the United Nations Security Council for the prevention of financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. According to the Article 33 of the Turkish Constituon: “Everyone has the right to form associations, or become a member of an association, or withdraw from membership without prior permission. No one shall be compelled to become or remain a member of an association. Freedom of association may be restricted only by law on the grounds of national security, public order, prevention of commission of crime, public morals, public health and protecting the freedoms of other individuals. The formalities, conditions, and procedures to be applied in the exercise of freedom of association shall be prescribed by law.

73. Associations may be dissolved or suspended from activity by the decision of a judge in cases prescribed by law. However, where it is required for, and a delay constitutes a prejudice to, national security, public order, prevention of commission or continuation of a crime, or an arrest, an authority may be vested with power by law to suspend the association from activity. The decision of this authority shall be submitted for the approval of the judge having jurisdiction within twenty-four hours. The judge shall announce his/her decision within forty-eight hours; otherwise, this administrative decision shall be annulled automatically...”

74. It is possible for every individual in Türkiye to come together for legal purposes and establish associations and to carry out activities for legal purposes.

16. paragraph 31

75. The allegations in the paragraph do not reflect the truth. Everyone has the right to organize unarmed and peaceful meetings and demonstration marches without prior permission. In Türkiye, no one is subject to any investigation, trial or conviction due to the civil society activities they carry out legally or due to demonstrate and assemble in accordance with the law.

17. paragraph 32

76. It’s stated that “The majority of of the documented incidents show that women human rights defenders, as well as their family members and intimate partners, face reprisals, death threats, verbal abuse and harassment by State and non-State actors to delegitimize their work.”

77. It should be explained that the documented incident which is referred in the report.

2) Kurdish Women**18. paragraph 33**

78. The 1982 Constitution protects the rights of citizens of the Republic of Türkiye. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees the right to live humanely, Article 19 guarantees the right of freedom, Article 20 guarantees the privacy of private life, Article 21 guarantees inviolability of domicile, Article 36 guarantees the right to own property and housing, and Article 42 guarantees the right to education. All citizens benefit from these rights without any discrimination such as religion, language, race, gender. Within the scope of the fundamental rights and freedoms recognized by our Constitution, there is no discrimination or intersecting discrimination against any ethnic group or gender.

79. And also Turkish Penal Code and Law no. 6284 have a principle of equity. According to the Article 3 of the Code, “Any penalty and security measure imposed upon an offender should be proportionate to the gravity of the crime. In the implementation of the Criminal Code no one shall receive any privilege and there shall be no discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

80. And according to the Article 94, “a public officer who performs any act towards a person that is incompatible with human dignity, and which causes that person to suffer physically or mentally, or affects the person’s capacity to perceive or his ability to act of his own will or insults them shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of three to twelve years. If the crime is committed against a woman, the lower limit of the sentence cannot be less than five years.” Within this scope, all violence acts against all women are investigated, prosecuted and adequately punished.

81. The aim of the Law No. 6284 is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people.

82. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, all women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, without any discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

3) Refugee and migrant women and girls**19. paragraph 34**

83. The 1982 Constitution protects the rights of citizens of the Republic of Türkiye. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees the right to live humanely, Article 19 guarantees the right of freedom, Article 20 guarantees the privacy of private life, Article 21 guarantees inviolability of domicile, Article 36 guarantees the right to own property and housing, and Article 42 guarantees the right to education. All citizens benefit from these rights without any discrimination such as religion, language, race, gender. Within the scope of the fundamental rights and freedoms recognized by our Constitution, there is no discrimination or intersecting discrimination against any ethnic group or gender.

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85. The aim of the Law No. 6284 is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, all women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, without any discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

20. paragraph 35

86. It’s mentioned in the report that “In 2016, Türkiye reached an agreement with the EU whereby all new irregular migrants and asylum seekers arriving from Türkiye to the Greek islands and whose applications for asylum have been declared inadmissible should be returned to Türkiye, at an immeasurable cost to people seeking safety and protection.” Since the basic subject of the report is not the general migration management in Türkiye, it is considered that the information should be removed.

21. paragraph 36

87. The 1982 Constitution protects the rights of citizens of the Republic of Türkiye. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees the right to live humanely, Article 19 guarantees the right of freedom, Article 20 guarantees the privacy of private life, Article 21 guarantees inviolability of domicile, Article 36 guarantees the right to own property and housing, and Article 42 guarantees the right to education. All citizens benefit from these rights without any discrimination such as religion, language, race, gender. Within the scope of the fundamental rights and freedoms recognized by our Constitution, there is no discrimination or intersecting discrimination against any ethnic group or gender.

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89. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, foreign women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, regardless of their status and nationality.

22. paragraph 37

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established in each 397 Social Service Centres throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

95. In 2022, a total of 298.178 people, including 256.507 women, 25.441 men and 16.230 children, received service from VPMCs.

D. With regard to Part IV of the report, " State response and measures to address violence against women" we make the following remarks to:

23. Paragraph 42

96. Women's human rights and the legislation on combating violence are included in the training program implemented by the Turkish Justice Academy for candidate judges.

97. And within the scope of awareness raising and capacity building studies:

- "The Protocol on Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Increasing Coordination and Cooperation for Women's Empowerment and Combating Violence against Women" was signed on 22nd January 2019 between the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of National Defense. In this regard, it is aimed to sustain the training on combating violence against women. In 2022, 8.538 privates were trained in the empowerment of women and combating violence against women.
- In last year, 76.115 law enforcement officers working in rural or urban areas have been trained on combating violence against women and domestic violence within the scope of the Coordination Plan's activities under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.
- In 2022, within the scope of the Operational Plan for 2022, with training programs on combating violence against women were held for
 - (i) 1.327 civil administrative manager
 - (ii) 195.518 healthcare personnel.
 - (iii) 79.222 law enforcement officers working in rural or urban areas
 - (iv) 21.096 candidate law enforcement officers on academy
 - (v) 353.195 teachers
- In order to increase knowledge and awareness on combating violence against women within the scope of VPMCs VPMC Regulation 7/2-(g), trainings and seminars held in 81 provinces under the coordination of our Ministry in 2022 and 61.428 public personnel and 58.823 citizens, 21.725 headmen, 25.451 university personnel and students were reached.

98. In addition, Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women includes awareness raisin and capacity building studies for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and civil servants.

24. Paragraph 43-48

99. Türkiye's withdrawal from the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence did not have a negative effect on domestic legal regulations on combating violence.

100. Law No. 6284 has been in force since 2012 and for its effective implementation the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior works in coordination with all stakeholders, under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

101. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the law, special circulars were issued by the MoFSS, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

102. Specialized units have been established within the scope of combating violence in public prosecutors' offices and law enforcement units and capacity building studies have been carried out.

103. There is no ambiguity in the context of the legality and applicability of the provisions of the law.

25. Paragraph 51

104. "Parliamentary Inquiry Commission to Research the Causes of Violence against Women in All Aspects and Determine the Measures to be taken" examined the causes of violence against women in Türkiye with all parties.

105. In our country, "The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)", which sets out the main policy priorities in the field of combating violence against women, is in force. The IV. Action Plan has been prepared with the strength of the international standards on combating violence and our legal legislation.

106. Through "The IV. National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)" to make improvements in the following 5 fields is aimed:

- Access to justice and the legislation
- Policy and coordination
- Protective and preventive services
- Social awareness
- Data and statistics

107. As of the previous Plans, the 4th Plan has been built from an evidence base of research and consultation with experts, governmental stakeholders and civil society. Within the scope of the IV. National Action Plan is include 5 main objectives, 28 Strategies and 227 activities. The coordination process within scope of effective implementation of the Action Plan have carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services General Directorate on the Status of Women.

108. In addition, scope of the IV. National Action Plan, Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women was announced for 2022, on 23.03.2022. The Operational Plan was prepared with Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. The Operational Plan is including 103 activity step for implementing IV. National Action Plan.

By The Operational Plan in 2022:

109. Within the framework of the main objective of "Access to Justice and Legislation":

- A data integration protocol was signed with the Ministry of Interior in order to electronically transfer the confidentiality decisions made within the scope of Law No. 6284 to the Database of the General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs.
- In order to facilitate women's access to justice, special centers in bar associations were established in Denizli, Balıkesir, Mardin, Antalya, Samsun and Rize in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.
- Secondary regulations on combating violence were evaluated by establishing the Permanent Law Commission.
- With legal regulations, the scope of legal aid provided to individuals who are victims of crimes involving acts of violence against women was expanded.
- The number of personnel working in the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates operating in courthouses was increased by 50 percent.

- Training and awareness activities were carried out for family court judges authorized to make decisions within the scope of Law No. 6284 and prosecutors of the Family and Violence Against Women Investigation Bureau.
 - Data integration between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior was provided for instant notification of detainees and convicts released in prisons to law enforcement units.
 - Studies to expand the practice of law clinics were carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice.
110. Within the scope of the main objective of “Policy and Coordination”:
- In order to increase the effectiveness of local policies, “provincial action plans for combating violence against women” in 81 provinces were put into effect.
 - Provincial Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Commissions for Combating Violence against Women under the chairmanship of governors was regularly brought together. In 2022, 190 meetings were held.
 - Gender Equality Sensitive Planning and Budgeting training was provided to parliamentarians, public administrators and policy makers in order to ensure the necessary resource and budget allocation for combating violence against women.
 - A Women's Rights symposium under the coordination of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye was held.
111. Within the scope of the main objective of "Protective and Preventive Services":
- 240 contracted personnel were employed to increase the number and capacity of violence prevention and monitoring centres and women's shelters.
 - The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of VPMCs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa.
 - Women shelter specialization studies have been completed in Denizli, Eskişehir, Sakarya and Trabzon.
 - Preparatory work to develop a preventive service model for perpetrators was carried out. The measures was determined to be taken for the effective implementation and monitoring of the health measures given about the perpetrator, and we have developed the workflow for health care provision for health measures in our hospitals with algorithms.
 - Special service models for women victims of violence was developed, and increased the number of medical social service units in our hospitals to 400. Piloting women's medical support units have been started.
 - In 2022, 145 Domestic and Juvenile Crime Units were opened, increasing the number of JGK units to 242. Together with 1,005 bureau chiefs of the General Directorate of Security and the number of specialized units of the Gendarmerie General Command across the country, we have reached a total of 1,247.
 - The capacity of the Electronic Monitoring Centre was increased, which operates under the Ministry of Interior, by 50%, bringing the total number of electronic clamps to 1,500. We increased the number of instant monitoring units by 100%.
 - Data collection studies were completed within the scope of the impact analysis study of the electronic monitoring application.
 - With the training activities we carry out for the personnel in charge of combating violence:
 - (i) 195,518 health workers,
 - (ii) 79,222 law enforcement personnel,
 - (iii) 13,858 non-commissioned officers,

- (iv) 1327 civil administration chiefs,
- (v) 21,096 candidate law enforcement personnel continuing their education in the academy,
- (vi) 162,530 private security guards,
- (vii) 40,702 Ministry of Interior personnel were reached.

112. Within the scope of the main objective of “Social Awareness”:

- Reached to 18,212 headmen with the awareness seminars on combating domestic violence against women which we spread.
- Within the scope of male-oriented non-formal education and awareness activities, reached more than 5 million men with the “KADINA EL KAL-KA-MAZ” campaign.
- Activities were carried out to promote the Women's Support (KADES) application which was implemented by the Ministry of Interior and offers services in 11 languages as of June 2022. A text message was sent to 22 million 515 thousand 639 women to inform them. Reached to 4,292,064 in the number of women who downloaded the application.
- Awareness seminars were held within the scope of combating violence against women in schools, reaching 353.195 teachers and 680.588 parents.
- Awareness activities were carried out on violence against women and cyber violence in high schools, reaching 1,758,975 students.
- Reached to 35,920 people in the first half of the year with the work carried out by the public health units.
- Awareness trainings were held on combating violence against women for religious officials.
- The issues of combating violence against women and domestic violence were included in sermons.

113. Within the scope of the main objective of “Data and Statistics”:

- The data collection studies have been completed of the “Research on the Impact of Violence against Women in Türkiye and the Covid-19 Outbreak in terms of Prevention, Intervention and Policy Dimensions”.
 - (i) The effects of the COVID-19 Epidemic on violence against women were investigated.
 - (ii) The impact of Law No. 6284 was analysed.
 - (iii) The perception, attitude and awareness of the public, public personnel and other relevant stakeholders regarding violence against women were examined.
 - (iv) A risk mapping for violence against women was made.
- Under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, a study was conducted for examining the causes of violence against women through perpetrators of crime.

114. And again scope of the IV. National Action Plan, Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women was announced for 2023, on 25.11.2022. The Operational Plan was prepared with Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. The Operational Plan is including 198 activity step for implementing IV. National Action Plan.

115. In this context, it is possible to say that the activities to combat violence are carried out in cooperation and coordination with all stakeholder institutions.

26. Paragraph 53

116. It is considered, remarking that psychological violence is not defined as a crime in the Turkish Penal Code is based on incomplete information.

117. Although psychological violence is not specifically regulated in the TPC, in the event of unlawful acts and deterioration of a person's mental health, the provision regarding the crime of "deliberate injury" regulated in Article 86 finds application. It's defined crime as "deliberately causing pain to another person's body or causing the deterioration of their health or ability to perceive". The definition covers not only physical health but also mental and psychological health of the person.

118. According to the Turkish Penal Code Article 86 "Any person who intentionally causes another person physical pain or who impairs another person's health, or ability to perceive, shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of one to three years."

119. And also the crime of "torture" regulated in Article 96 of the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 and the crime of "mistreatment" regulated in Article 232 ensure the punishment of psychological violence.

120. For example, psychological violence is recognized in Law No. 6284, but it is not criminalized in the Penal Code. Stalking is defined in Law No. 6284, but not criminalized explicitly and separately in the Penal Code.

121. Comment: As "psychological violence" may be deemed as an element of different offences under the Penal Code, we suggest writing this phrase as "but it is not explicitly criminalized in the Penal Code." Stalking has become an autonomous crime with recent amendments to the Penal Code that also acknowledged by the SR at paragraph 58.

27. Paragraph 54

122. Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on 8 March 2012 and entered into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette No. 28239 dated 20 March 2012, regulates the procedures and principles regarding the measures to be taken for the protection of women, children, family members and victims of unilateral stalking who have been subjected to violence or are at risk of being subjected to violence and for the prevention of violence against these persons.

123. "The Regulation on the Establishment and Management of Women's Shelters" entered into force on 5th January 2013, "The Implementing Regulation on the Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women" entered into force on 18th January 2013, and "Regulation on Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres" entered into force on 17th March 2016, having been published in the Official Gazette. The regulation, which is regarding the Procedure of Monitoring the Preventive Cautionary Decisions Taken within The Scope of the Law No. 6284 Through Electronic Methods was published on 4th September 2021.

124. In this scope there have been work flows for case of violence management for police, the judiciary, social services and the health care system and other relevant actors.

28. Paragraph 55

125. Türkiye's withdrawal from the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence did not have a negative effect on domestic legal regulations on combating violence.

126. Law No. 6284 has been in force since 2012 and for its effective implementation the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior works in coordination with all stakeholders, under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

127. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the law, special circulars were issued by the MoFSS, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

128. Specialized units have been established within the scope of combating violence in public prosecutors' offices and law enforcement units and capacity building studies have been carried out.

129. There is no ambiguity in the context of the legality and applicability of the provisions of the law.

130. And there is not any confusion or hesitation about the legality and continued applicability of key provisions in Law No. 6284. The implementation of the Law continues with determination.

131. And also after the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention;

- “The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)” was declared on July first 2021,
- Within the scope of the IV. National Action Plan,
 - (i) Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women was announced for 2022, on 23.03.2022.
 - (ii) Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women was announced for 2023, on 25.11.2022.

132. The Operational Plan was prepared with Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs.

133. Ministry of Family and Social Services continues to work with the belief that violence against women and femicide are unacceptable. Activities are continued in a wide range with the comprehensive cooperation of all parties. In this context, our studies on the priority topics, which are legislation on combating violence against women, training and awareness raising activities, increasing inter-agency institutional cooperation and coordination, and strengthening institutional mechanisms for the protection and support for the victims of violence against women, continue.

29. Paragraph 57

134. Non-registration of religious marriages has been ensured by virtue of Civil Code. Penal Code has never had direct relevance as to registration of marriages.

30. Paragraph 59

135. The Turkish Penal Code No. 5237, which entered into force in 2005, is a codified regulation that attaches importance to individual rights and freedoms and is more sensitive to equality between men and women. Many criminal acts that do not comply with gender equality, reflect the general moral understanding of the society, keep the personal rights of women in the background and are incompatible with the principle of legality have been repealed.

136. Within the scope of the law, it is not possible to apply mitigating factors such as customs, culture, religion, tradition or the reasons for the so-called honor of the crime in Turkish Law, and the kinship between the perpetrator and the victim is also described as a factor that causes the punishment to be aggravated.

137. In the TPC section of "Crimes Against Life", the crime of willful killing is defined in Article 81 as "a person who intentionally kills a person is sentenced to life imprisonment." formatted. In Article 82 of the Law, the qualified cases of the crime, which envisage an increase in the punishment compared to the basic form, are listed. In these cases, the act is punished with aggravated life imprisonment.

138. In subparagraph (d) of the first paragraph of Article 82, it is regulated as a qualified case that the crime of intentional killing is carried out against persons with certain kinship relations. The intentional killing of one of the descendants or descendants of the person or his/her spouse, ex-spouse or sibling is an element that aggravates the punishment. The legislator has sensitively handled the situation, which is the most severe consequence of

violence against women, and has more severely sanctioned the intentional killing of one's spouse.

139. In the same paragraph, in subparagraph (k), intentional killings with the motive of "custom" are also regulated as aggravating the punishment. "Töre motive" is a concept that TPC numbered 5237 brought into criminal law with its entry into force in 2005.

140. When the reason for the inclusion of the concept of "custom motive" in the justification of law is examined, it is seen that the main purpose is to prevent and punish intentional killings against women based on women's gender roles and committed on the grounds of "custom". As a result of the old and bad habits of the society, which can be qualified as a harmful practice, the killing of women, usually by close male relatives such as husbands, fathers, brothers, was intended to be punished in a deterrent way.

141. It is considered that the subparagraph (k), also includes acts of willful killing committed in the name of so-called honor, which do not exhibit accepted customary characteristics but are common.

142. On the other hand, reasons such as culture, custom, tradition and honor are not accepted as mitigating factors in any type of crime in the Turkish Penal Code.

143. According to the unjust provocation, which is the subject of criticism in the report, the fact that the person performs the act under unjust provocation conditions does not cause any decrease in the unfairness content of the concrete case. The legislator emphasizes that this provision will apply if the perpetrator commits an unjust (unlawful) act while under the influence of anger.

144. The reason for seeking the realization of the "unlawful act" is shown as preventing the crimes of killing relatives called "custom or honor killings" from being evaluated within the scope of the provisions of unjust provocation. In this context, it is not possible to apply this institution in cases where acts of violence are committed in the name of so-called honor.

145. And also, The Law No. 7331 also amended the Article 82 (Intentional killing-Qualified cases), Article 86 (Intentional injury), Article 96 (Torment) and Article 109 (Deprivation of Liberty) of the Turkish Penal Code on 8/7/2021. With this regulation, the penalty to be imposed in case the aforementioned crimes are committed against the ex-spouse has been increased.

146. The Law No. 7406 amended the articles of the Turkish Penal Code on 27.05.2022. with this regulation, in order to combat violence against women more effectively and to provide deterrence, the penalties for deliberate killing, intentional injury, threat, torture and torture against women were increased.

147. The Law No. 7406 amended the article on grounds for discretionary mitigation. According to the amendment: the perpetrator's formal attitudes and behaviors aimed at influencing the court at the hearing are not considered as grounds for discretionary reduction. The reasons for the discretionary discount are indicated in the decision with their justifications.

148. In addition, in the Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women, it is planned to carry out a study to determine the dynamics of this phenomenon:

- A working group consisting of experts on the prevention of violence against women will be formed to examine the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 and the relevant legislation (Activity 1.2.1.).
- The praxis of "unjust provocation" and "extenuating circumstances" in disputes related to acts of violence against women will be analysed (Activity 1.2.4.).

149. In this framework, it is considered that the TPC numbered 5237 in force is capable of penalizing acts of willful killing against women, including acts of willful killing in the name of so-called honor, committed with a motive based on gender discrimination.

150. Article 29 regulates "unjust provocation" which gives no place to "custom" as a mitigating factor. If the SR wishes to keep that subjective –yet unfounded- interpretation of the article in the text, it should be better emphasized that it is the allegation of her source.

31. Paragraph 60

151. Women's human rights and the legislation on combating violence are included in the training program implemented by the Turkish Justice Academy for candidate judges. In this context, the Academy carries out capacity building activities on a regular basis every year.

152. In addition, Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women includes awareness raising and capacity building studies for judges and prosecutors.

32. Paragraph 61

153. It's stated that "The 4th National Action Plan (NAP) for Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025) was introduced in 2022, ... was developed jointly between several key Ministries and the Presidency of Religious Affairs."

154. The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women covers the 2021-2025. And the NAP was declared on July first 2021.

155. The report has to be revised in this scope.

33. 11. Paragraph 63

156. Türkiye has various social service units for combating violence against women;

157. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres have started their services pursuant to the Law No.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. These centres provide services of accommodation for the victims of violence, temporary financial assistance, counselling and guidance, follow-up and procedures of provisional protection orders ruled in case of life risk, crèche support, legal assistance, medical assistance, and employment support, scholarship for children and education and training.

158. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres are available in service in 81 provinces nationwide by the end of 2019. The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of VPMCs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa.

159. In 2022, a total of 298.178 people, including 256.507 women, 25.441 men and 16.230 children, received service from VPMCs.

160. Women's shelters are residential social service institutions where women exposed to abuse or violence physically, emotionally, sexually, economically and verbally can be temporarily accommodated with their children, if any, and their needs are covered providing protection from violence, solving and strengthening their psycho-social and economic problems.

161. There are still 112 women's shelters under the Ministry of Family and Social Services; 3 women's shelter affiliated with the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Migration Management, 1 shelter owned by NGOs, and 33 shelters under local administrations. A total of 149 shelters provide services with a capacity of 3.624 people.

162. Some of the work carried out in just 2022 to strengthen the capacity of these service units are as follows:

- 240 contracted personnel were employed to increase the number and capacity of violence prevention and monitoring centers and women's shelters.
- In line with the Guide for Standards of Service and Self-Assessment Guidelines determined by the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW) and the scope of this study, visits were made to the provincial directorates in need.
- Online meetings were held with VPMCs managers and professionals in order to evaluate VPMCs services and provide guidance. "Workshop on Operation and Implementation of VPMC and Women's Guesthouse Services" was held on 24-28 October 2022.

163. In order to develop the management and human resources capacity of the women's shelters and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers, to ensure that women who are

victims of violence and their children receive more qualified services in place and in a timely manner during the transition to a safe life, psycho-social support training programs for the personnel working in the field of women are established and the trainings are carried out. In this context, “Positive and Intercultural Psycho-Therapy Basic Training” was given to the professionals serving in the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre and Shelter for Women. By the training with 6 sessions, reached to 51 participants from 34 cities in 2022.

164. And also In order to facilitate access to victims and strengthen the effective services to combat violence against women at the district level, a contact point for combating violence was established in each 397 Social Service Centres throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

34. Paragraph 64

165. In our country, “The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)”, which sets out the main policy priorities in the field of combating violence against women, is in force. The IV. Action Plan has been prepared with the strength of the international standards on combating violence and our legal legislation.

166. As of the previous Plans, the 4th Plan has been built from an evidence base of research and consultation with experts, governmental stakeholders and civil society.

167. During the preparation process of the 4th National Action Plan, focus group meetings were held with the representatives of the relevant public institutions and organizations in order to determine the current situation more effectively after the 3rd National Action Plan.

168. After the meetings held between July and September 2020, on 20 October 2020, the “4th National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women” with the participation of public institutions and organizations, NGOs, trade unions, international organizations and universities that are directly or indirectly party to the fight against violence against women. “Preparation Workshop” was held.

169. The official views of the parties regarding the 4th National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (2021-2025), which was prepared within the scope of both the focus group discussions and the Workshop, were also received in November 2020. Opinions were processed in the 4th National Action Plan and made ready to be submitted to the Ministry's Approval.

170. Within the scope of the IV. National Action Plan is include 5 main objectives, 28 Strategies and 227 activities. The coordination process within scope of effective implementation of the Action Plan have carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services General Directorate on the Status of Women.

35. Paragraph 67

171. First of all it's stated that “The National Action Plan (2022-2025) includes a specific goal...” The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women covers the 2021-2025.

172. To determine indicators to monitor domestic violence against women and to prevent domestic violence, a large-scale study "the National Research on Domestic Violence Against Women in Türkiye" was conducted for the first time in 2008 nationwide, to answer the question "What are the sources and types of violence against women?"; and a second research designed as a follow-up research of the first was conducted in 2014.

173. According to the “Recommendations of the Research” in Report of 2014: “The time interval of the research should be assessed according to the changes in the current legislation on violence against women or to the event of new regulations coming into force. In light of the results of this assessment, conducting the researches in time intervals that will not exceed 10 years is recommended.”

174. In this scope, the research, which will be a follow-up research of the research carried out in 2008 and 2014, is planned to be carried out in 2024. The preparation for research will be conducted in 2023.

175. And also “Research on Violence against Women and the Effects of the Covid-19 Outbreak with its Prevention, Intervention and Policy Dimensions” was carried out.

176. Conducting a “Domestic Violence Against Women Research” was included in the 2022 Investment Program, and the Research was initiated with the contract signed between GDSW and Ankara Social Sciences University (ASSU).

177. In research, data was collected within the scope of 3 separate components:

- Perception research for the public and public officials
- Impact analysis on Law No. 6284
- Risk mapping study

178. The research process was completed in 2022.

A. Access to essential services

36. paragraph 69

179. It's stated that in the report “In accordance with Decree Law No. 633 on Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the General Directorate on the Status of Women was restructured in 2018...” The duties of the General Directorate on the Status of Women was restructured in accordance with Decree No. 1 on the Presidential Organization in 2018.

37. paragraph 70

180. In scope of goal of Policy and Coordination, it's envisaged that preparing annual agenda with stakeholders for implementation of NAP (2021-2025) effectively. For this aim, Türkiye prepared annual plan in 2022 and 2023. These plans were designed with our stakeholders like Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of National Education. The agenda/annual plan is implemented in cooperation and this policy document is monitored periodically.

181. And also for monitoring the studies on combating violence against women, we have two monitoring mechanism. The first one is at national level: Committee on Monitoring Violence against Women. This committee gathers for once every year with relevant public institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations. The second one is Provincial Commission for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Combating Violence against Women. This commission gathers four times a year. By these monitoring tools, the studies in area are evaluated.

38. paragraph 71

182. The comment does not reflect the truth. Women's Rights Symposium was held on the occasion of 8 March International Women's Day by HREIT in 2022. At the symposium, the President of the Institution expressed his views on combating violence against women with the following words:

183. "The combating in the field of women's rights in particular is the flagship, source of inspiration and reference point of the general combating for human rights, combating for rights and freedom. When we look at it from this perspective, we see that this combating is actually very human thing. It is a demand for equality." The head of the institution stated that the combating for women's rights is valuable from the perspective of rights and freedoms.

39. paragraph 72

184. The aim of the Law No. 6284 is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of

violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people.

185. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, all women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, without any discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

40. Paragraph 73

186. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres have started their services pursuant to the Law No.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. These centres provide services of accommodation for the victims of violence, temporary financial assistance, counselling and guidance, follow-up and procedures of provisional protection orders ruled in case of life risk, crèche support, legal assistance, medical assistance, and employment support, scholarship for children and education and training.

187. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres are available in service in 81 provinces nationwide by the end of 2019. The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of VPMCs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa.

188. In 2022, a total of 298.178 people, including 256.507 women, 25.441 men and 16.230 children, received service from VPMCs.

189. Some of the work carried out in 2022 to strengthen the capacity of these service units are as follows:

- 240 contracted personnel were employed to increase the number and capacity of violence prevention and monitoring centres and women's shelters.
- In line with the Self-Assessment Guidelines determined by the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW) and the scope of this study, visits were made to the provincial directorates in need.
- Online meetings were held with VPMCs managers and professionals in order to evaluate VPMCs services and provide guidance. “Workshop on Operation and Implementation of VPMCs and Women's Guesthouse Services” was held on 24-28 October 2022.

190. In order to develop the management and human resources capacity of the women's shelters and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers, to ensure that women who are victims of violence and their children receive more qualified services in place and in a timely manner during the transition to a safe life, psycho-social support training programs for the personnel working in the field of women are established and the trainings are carried out. In this context, “Positive and Intercultural Psycho-Therapy Basic Training” was given to the professionals serving in the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre and Shelter for Women. By the training with 6 sessions, reached to 51 participants from 34 cities in 2022.

41. paragraph 74

191. The comment does not reflect the truth. Shelters are social service institutions where women who have been subjected to physical, emotional, sexual, economic and verbal abuse or violence can stay temporarily by protecting them from violence, providing psycho-social support, empowering them, and meeting their needs with their children, if any. The social workers work for empowering to women by with information and guidance services.

42. Paragraph 75

192. "183 Social Support Line" working within the MoFSS works as a psychological, legal and economic advisory hotline for women and children who are at risk of violence and who need support and assistance; they are provided with information about their rights and where to apply. It is also taken as a 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. The hotline in service in Arabic and Kurdish as well is equipped with short message feature and 3G function for the hearing-impaired individuals.

193. By taking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported domestic violence and violence against women into consideration, the Ministry's national helpline was prepared for an increase in demand for reports of violent incidents. A prioritization process was initiated in 183 Social Support Line, so victims calling to the helpline can contact the staff by pressing the "0" key without waiting in line. As of May, helpline service has started to be offered through WhatsApp application. Via the contact number "0 501 183 0 183, 24/7 support service was delivered.

194. And also awareness raising and capacity building studies for personnel of ALO 183 are conducted periodically.

43. Paragraph 76

195. Women Support System (WSS) Mobile application for smartphones was put into service on 24th March 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure rapid and effective response by making use of the advantages provided by the communication technology for women victims of violence or those under risk. Through the WSS application, which can be downloaded to mobile phones and used only by women, law enforcement forces provide effective and rapid response on 24/7 through "call for help" button in the application.

196. In order to facilitate access to the application, its interfaces were translated into 5 more languages, Arabic, Persian, French, English and Russian, and updated. As of 28 June 2022, it has been translated into Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Spanish languages, and it has been made possible for foreign women to use the application.

197. And also In 2022, WSS promotional SMS was sent to approximately 46 million women over the age of 18 by the Ministry of Interior. In last year, 4,753,307 people downloaded the application to their phones and 604,477 women reported using the application.

44. Paragraph 79

198. It's stated that "most cases of domestic violence are referred to mandatory mediation by the police." in the report. The statement in report does not fully reflect the real situation.

199. According to the "Regulation on the Implementation of Law No. 6284" Article 35/3 "Precautionary decisions are carried out immediately by public institutions and organizations in cooperation with VPMC, depending on the nature of the decision. Reconciliation or mediation cannot be offered between the victim of violence and the perpetrator of violence at the stage of taking and implementing protective or preventive measures."

45. Paragraph 80

200. There is no factual/legal connection between 2017 constitutional amendments and dismissal of judges and prosecutors during SoE.

46. Paragraph 82

201. It's stated that "...there is no indication that orders are routinely issued to protect women for the pre-trial period, when the alleged abuser is being prosecuted." in the report. The statement in report does not fully reflect the real situation.

202. According to the Article 6 of the Law no 6284:

"Due to the fact that the person's possession of a weapon or usage of drug or stimulant constitute a crime or result in another crime, the law provisions remain reserved in regard to the followings;

- The protective measures or supervised liberty measures during the investigation or prosecution,
- The execution of the sentence or security measures in case of conviction and the supervised liberty measures to be applied within this framework.”

203. According to the Article 7 of the Law no 6284:

“If there has been violence or there is a risk of it, everybody can report this situation to the official authorities and organs. The public officials who receive the report are obliged to fulfill their duties without any delay and inform the authorities for the other measures needed to be taken.”

204. The cautionary decision is taken either upon a request of the relevant person or law enforcement officers or public prosecutor. The cautionary decisions may be requested from the judge, administrative chief or law enforcement unit, whichever is in the nearest and easiest location.

205. Within the in this scope one of the measures in the Law no 6284, several of them or similar measures deemed appropriate shall be decided by judges, civilian authority and (in cases where delay is considered to be risky) by related law enforcement chiefs immediately and independently of criminal investigation and prosecution.

47. Paragraph 84

206. The statement in report does not fully reflect the real situation.

207. According to the Article 7 of the Law no 6284:

“If there has been violence or there is a risk of it, everybody can report this situation to the official authorities and organs. The public officials who receive the report are obliged to fulfill their duties without any delay and inform the authorities for the other measures needed to be taken.”

208. Within the in this scope one of the measures in the Law no 6284, several of them or similar measures deemed appropriate shall be decided by judges, civilian authority and (in cases where delay is considered to be risky) by related law enforcement chiefs.

209. The role of law enforcement officers within the Ministry of the Interior is very important in terms of preventing violence and taking the necessary precautions. Police or Gendarmerie are among the first institutions to which women exposed to violence apply. Besides, within scope of the Law No. 6284, law enforcement officers have very wide and important duties such as issuing injunction order, demanding an order to be taken and ensuring that orders are fulfilled.

210. In order to improve the services carried out by the police in relation to domestic violence and violence against women and to provide coordination between the institutions, “Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Bureau” was established on 11th November 2015 within the Directorate of Public Security Branches of 81 Provincial Security Directorates.

211. The Bureau of Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Women, which has an establishment at the provincial level, has been expanded to the district level in order to monitor all the works and transactions carried out within the scope of the Law No. 6284 at the provincial / district level in the area of responsibility of the General Directorate of Security. In this context, the number of office chiefs was increased from 81 to 1.005.

212. In addition, women who are subjected to violence or those who witness the threat of violence or violence can call 112 Emergency Lines free of charge 24/7.

213. The General Command of Gendarmerie Branch Office for Children and Combating Domestic Violence at the central organization are responsible for the coordination of the present services in its assigned positions, and the coordination with the related institutions and organizations.

214. A total of 242 Gendarmerie Children's and Women's Departments have been established at the provincial/district level under the Gendarmerie General Command. In

addition, women who have been subjected to violence or those who witness violence or the danger of violence can call the 112 Emergency Call Center free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

215. And also, Women Support System (WSS) Mobile application for smartphones was put into service on 24th March 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure rapid and effective response by making use of the advantages provided by the communication technology for women victims of violence or those under risk. Through the WSS application, which can be downloaded to mobile phones and used only by women, law enforcement forces provide effective and rapid response on 24/7 through “call for help” button in the application.

216. In order to facilitate access to the application, its interfaces were translated into 5 more languages, Arabic, Persian, French, English and Russian, and updated. As of 28 June 2022, it has been translated into Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Spanish languages, and it has been made possible for foreign women to use the application.

217. In this scope, all of the reporting on violence against women are evaluated diligently.

48. Paragraph 87

218. Necessary measures have been taken to ensure the smooth operation of the institutional service units to combat violence with 11 affected by the earthquake. In this regard, cooperation with international organizations is carried out. 11 out of 16 women’s shelters still provide service and the others are out of service temporarily due to renovation after the earthquake. The women shelters in nearby cities have taken over the services in the meantime.

E. With regard to Part V of the report, "Conclusion and recommendations" we make the following remarks to:

49. Paragraph 88b

219. Through “The IV. National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)” to make improvements in access to justice and the legislation for victims is aimed.

220. Within the IV. National Action Plan, in the judicial process, it will be provided that the victims use their rights effectively and their access to justice will be facilitated.

- The number of specialized family courts/courts of first instance responsible for the implementation of Law No. 6284 will be increased (Activity 1.1.5.).
- Regular training activities will be carried out for the judges in charge of the implementation of the Law No. 6284 and the public prosecutors working in the Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Investigation Bureaus (Activity 1.1.6.).
- Capacity building for the judicial aids working in the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices, criminal courts and family courts will be carried out to ensure sound and regular entry of data during the judicial processes regarding acts of violence against women (Activity 1.2.5).
- The capacity of the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates to provide services to the victims of violence will be enhanced (Activity 1.3.1.).
- Regular and continuous trainings will be given on women's human rights, combating violence and women's access to justice for candidate judges and prosecutors as well as for judges/public prosecutors and other personnel of the courthouse (Activity 1.3.9.).

221. Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women includes also awareness raising and capacity building studies for prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and civil servants.

222. Scope of the IV. National Action Plan, Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women was announced for 2022, on 23.03.2022. The Operational Plan was prepared with Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. The Operational Plan is including 103 activity step for implementing IV. National Action Plan.

223. By The Operational Plan in 2022:

- With legal regulations, the scope of legal aid provided to individuals who are victims of crimes involving acts of violence against women was expanded.
- The number of personnel working in the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates operating in courthouses was increased by 50 percent.
- Training and awareness activities were carried out for family court judges authorized to make decisions within the scope of Law No. 6284 and prosecutors of the Family and Violence against Women Investigation Bureau.
- Studies to expand the practice of law clinics were carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice.
- With the training activities we carry out for the personnel in charge of combating violence:
 - (i) 195,518 health workers,
 - (ii) 79,222 law enforcement personnel,
 - (iii) 13,858 non-commissioned officers,
 - (iv) 1327 civil administration chiefs,
 - (v) 21,096 candidate law enforcement personnel continuing their education in the academy,
 - (vi) 162,530 private security guards,
 - (vii) 40,702 Ministry of Interior personnel were reached.

224. On the other hand between 2019-2023, circulars were issued by each counterpart ministry for to mobilize local actors in combating violence against women.

225. In the Circular No. 154/1 published by the Ministry of Justice on 07/12/2019; Circulars on Combating Violence Against Women published by the Ministry of Interior on 01/01/2020. In the Circular No. 2021/5 on Combating Violence against Women published by the Ministry Family and Social Services on 16/06/2021.

226. On 10.01.2023, Ministry of Justice Circular No. 154/2 on the "Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women" has been published. In the circular, the issues to be considered while taking the statements of the victims of violence, specialization in the prosecutor's office, notification of the cases in which the perpetrator was released to the law enforcement were regulated.

50. Paragraph 89a

227. In order to follow up the measures included in the Prime Ministry Circular and to evaluate the current developments with the participation of all relevant public institutions and organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations "The Committee on Monitoring Violence against Women" was established. The Committee which meets once a year periodically under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, evaluates the activities and developments in violence against women and offers suggestions on this issue. The Committee has held 16 meetings so far.

228. At the provincial level, "Provincial Commission for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Combating Violence against Women" which was first established in 2016, meets with the participation of the relevant institutions in 6-month periods. The aforementioned meetings are reported by the VPMCs and submitted to the General

Directorate on the Status of Women; the General Report is prepared and shared by the General Directorate. In 2022, 190 meetings were held.

229. On the other hand Regulation on Using Monitoring Systems with Technical Methods under the Law No. 6284 published by Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior on 04/09/2021. The articles of this Regulation, orders risky cases to be managed in cooperation and coordination with social services and law enforcement.

230. And also between 2019-2023, circulars were issued by each counterpart ministry for to mobilize local actors and empowering coordination in combating violence against women. The Circular No. 154/1 published by the Ministry of Justice on 07/12/2019; Circulars on Combating Violence Against Women published by the Ministry of Interior on 01/01/2020. In the Circular No. 2021/5 on Combating Violence Against Women published by the Ministry Family and Social Services on 16/06/2021.

51. Paragraph 89b

231. In Türkiye, “Action Plans for Combating Violence Against Women” which set out the main policy priorities in the field of combating violence against women, has been has been implemented since 2017:

1. National Action Plan (2007-2011)
2. National Action Plan (2012-2015)
3. National Action Plan (2016-2020)
4. National Action Plan (2021-2025)

232. The IV. National Action Plan includes 5 main objectives, 28 Strategies and 227 activities. The 5 main goals of the plan are below:

- Access to Justice and Legislation
- Policy and Coordination
- Protective and Preventive Services
- Social Awareness
- Data and Statistics

233. Furthermore, “Provincial Action Plans on Combating Violence against Women”, which will cover the years 2022-2025, were held in order to implement the IV. National Action Plan more effectively at the level of 81 provinces. As of the end of February 2022, there have been Provincial Action Plans in 81 provinces.

52. Paragraph 89c

234. According to the IV. National Action Plan, within the aim of Access to Justice and Legislation, in the judicial process, it will be provided that the victims use their rights effectively and their access to justice will be facilitated:

- The number of specialized family courts/courts of first instance responsible for the implementation of Law No. 6284 will be increased (Activity 1.1.5.).
- Regular training activities will be carried out for the judges in charge of the implementation of the Law No. 6284 and the public prosecutors working in the Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Investigation Bureaus (Activity 1.1.6.).
- Capacity building for the judicial aids working in the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices, criminal courts and family courts will be carried out to ensure sound and regular entry of data during the judicial processes regarding acts of violence against women (Activity 1.2.5.).
- The capacity of the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates to provide services to the victims of violence will be enhanced (Activity 1.3.1.).

- Regular and continuous trainings will be given on women's human rights, combating violence and women's access to justice for candidate judges and prosecutors as well as for judges/public prosecutors and other personnel of the courthouse (Activity 1.3.9.).

235. By The Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women in 2022; Within the framework of the main objective of "Access to Justice and Legislation":

236. Training and awareness activities were carried out for family court judges authorized to make decisions within the scope of Law No. 6284 and prosecutors of the Family and Violence Against Women Investigation Bureau.

53. Paragraph 89e

237. According to the IV. National Action Plan, within the aim of Data and statistics, "Periodic research will be conducted on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of femicides." The time interval will be determined for this study which shall be carried out at the specified time interval. In the research, in-depth examination of the cases will be carried out with quantitative and qualitative analysis methods.

238. Within the Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women in 2023, the "Femicide Analysis Report", which analyses femicides between 2018 and 2021, will be completed and shared with the relevant parties by the Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Academy and the Police Academy.

239. And also in order to follow up the measures included in the Prime Ministry Circular and to evaluate the current developments with the participation of all relevant public institutions and organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations "The Committee on Monitoring Violence against Women" was established. The Committee which meets once a year periodically under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, evaluates the activities and developments in violence against women and offers suggestions on this issue. The Committee has held 16 meetings so far.

240. At the provincial level, "Provincial Commission for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Combating Violence against Women" which was first established in 2016, meets with the participation of the relevant institutions in 6-month periods. The aforementioned meetings are reported by the VPMCs and submitted to the General Directorate on the Status of Women; the General Report is prepared and shared by the General Directorate. In 2022, 190 meetings were held.

54. Paragraph 89f

241. The Turkish domestic law on combating violence against women has been empowered already. The Law No. 6284 allows authorities to act proactively.

242. According to the Law no 6284 Article 8:

The cautionary decision is taken either upon a request of the relevant person or law enforcement officers or public prosecutor. The cautionary decisions may be requested from the judge, administrative chief or law enforcement unit, whichever is in the nearest and easiest location.

No evidence or report proving the violence is required in order to take cautionary decision. The preventive cautionary decision is taken without delay. This decision cannot be delayed as to endanger the realization of the aim of this Law.

The cautionary decision is pronounced or notified to the protected person and perpetrator of violence. Regarding to the refusal of the request for a cautionary decision, only the protected person is notified. In cases where the delay is considered to be risky, the perpetrator of violence is immediately notified with an official report on the cautionary decision taken by the related law enforcement unit.

243. According to the Law no 6284 Article 3/2:

"In cases where delay is considered to be risky, the below measures shall be taken by related law enforcement chiefs as well:

- To provide an appropriate shelter to the person and if necessary to the person's children in the vicinity or in some other location.
- To provide a temporary protection upon a request of the relevant person or ex officio if there is a life threatening danger for the person.”

244. According to the Law no 6284 Article 5/2:

In cases where delay is considered to be risky, the below measures shall be taken by the relevant law enforcement chiefs as well:

- Not to exhibit an attitude and behaviors including the threats of violence, insult and humiliation against the victim of violence.
- To move from the shared dwelling or the vicinity immediately and to allocate the shared dwelling to the protected person.
- Not to approach to the protected persons and their residences, schools and workplaces.
- Not to approach the friends or relatives and children of the protected person even though they haven't been subject to the violence, without prejudice to the decisions that allows personal connection with children

245. The law enforcement chief shall present the report to the judge for approval no later than the first work day after the decision is taken.

246. In this context, it is possible to say that effective implementation of protection orders for all forms of violence against women and domestic violence. The orders can be easily available 24/7 and enforced to protect the well-being and safety of those under their protection, including children.

55. Paragraph 89g

247. In order to facilitate access to victims and strengthen the effective services to combat violence against women at the district level, a contact point for combating violence was established in each 401 Social Service Centres throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

248. The aim of the Law No. 6284 is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people.

249. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, foreign women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, regardless of their status and nationality.

250. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres have started their services pursuant to the Law No.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. These centres provide services of accommodation for the victims of violence, temporary financial assistance, counselling and guidance, follow-up and procedures of provisional protection orders ruled in case of life risk, crèche support, legal assistance, medical assistance, and employment support, scholarship for children and education and training.

251. The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres are available in service in 81 provinces nationwide by the end of 2019. The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of VPMCs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa. In 2022, a total of 298.178 people, including 256.507 women, 25.441 men and 16.230 children, received service from VPMCs.

252. In order to facilitate access to victims and strengthen the effective services to combat violence against women at the district level, a contact point for combating violence was established in each 397 Social Service Centres throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

253. "183 Social Support Line" working within the MoFSS works as a psychological, legal and economic advisory hotline for women and children who are at risk of violence and who need support and assistance; they are provided with information about their rights and where to apply. It is also taken as a 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. The hotline in service in Arabic and Kurdish as well is equipped with short message feature and 3G function for the hearing-impaired individuals.

254. By taking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported domestic violence and violence against women into consideration, the Ministry's national helpline was prepared for an increase in demand for reports of violent incidents. A prioritization process was initiated in 183 Social Support Line, so victims calling to the helpline can contact the staff by pressing the "0" key without waiting in line. As of May, helpline service has started to be offered through WhatsApp application. Via the contact number "0 501 183 0 183, 24/7 support service was delivered.

255. Women Support System (WSS) Mobile application for smartphones was put into service on 24th March 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure rapid and effective response by making use of the advantages provided by the communication technology for women victims of violence or those under risk. Through the WSS application, which can be downloaded to mobile phones and used only by women, law enforcement forces provide effective and rapid response on 24/7 through "call for help" button in the application.

256. In order to facilitate access to the application, its interfaces were translated into 5 more languages, Arabic, Persian, French, English and Russian, and updated. As of 28 June 2022, it has been translated into Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Spanish languages, and it has been made possible for foreign women to use the application.

56. Paragraph 89h

257. First of all the name of Ministry has to be changed as "Ministry of Family and Social Services".

258. And also the status of the General Directorate on the Status of Women is clearly regulated with the Article 70 of the Decree No. 1 on the Presidential Organization.

259. The duties and authorities of the Directorate General on the Status of Women are as follows:

- To carry out and coordinate the protective, preventive, educational, developing, guidance and rehabilitative social service activities of the Ministry for women,
- Coordinating the work of determining national policies and strategies for preventing discrimination against women, protecting and developing women's human rights and social status, making women active in all areas of social life, implementing the determined policies and strategies, monitoring and evaluating their implementation,
- To determine the principles, procedures and standards regarding the social services carried out for women by public institutions and organizations, voluntary organizations and real and legal persons, and to ensure that they are complied with,
- To carry out activities and projects in order to prevent all kinds of discrimination against women and to promote women's human rights, and to support studies in this field,
- To increase social awareness by informing and enlightening the public about the human rights of women,
- To work to prevent all kinds of violence against women, honour killings, harassment and abuse, to support the solution of women's problems arising from family and social life,

- To carry out studies to ensure the advancement of women and increase their participation in decision-making mechanisms in all fields, especially in health, education, culture, work and social security.

57. Paragraph 89i

260. For expand the activities of the Ombudsman, particularly in relation to receiving complaints from women about violence, various collaborative activities are being carried out. For instance, in March 2023, the new institution's experts were informed about the human rights of women and the fight against violence.

58. Paragraph 89l

261. According to the IV. National Action Plan, within the aim of Access to Justice and Legislation, in the judicial process, it will be provided that the victims use their rights effectively and their access to justice will be facilitated:

- The number of specialized family courts/courts of first instance responsible for the implementation of Law No. 6284 will be increased (Activity 1.1.5.).
- Regular training activities will be carried out for the judges in charge of the implementation of the Law No. 6284 and the public prosecutors working in the Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Investigation Bureaus (Activity 1.1.6.).
- Capacity building for the judicial aids working in the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices, criminal courts and family courts will be carried out to ensure sound and regular entry of data during the judicial processes regarding acts of violence against women (Activity 1.2.5).
- The capacity of the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates to provide services to the victims of violence will be enhanced (Activity 1.3.1.).
- Regular and continuous trainings will be given on women's human rights, combating violence and women's access to justice for candidate judges and prosecutors as well as for judges/public prosecutors and other personnel of the courthouse (Activity 1.3.9.).

262. By The Operational Plan to Combat Violence against Women in 2022; Within the framework of the main objective of "Access to Justice and Legislation":

Training and awareness activities were carried out for family court judges authorized to make decisions within the scope of Law No. 6284 and prosecutors of the Family and Violence Against Women Investigation Bureau.

59. Paragraph 89m

263. According to the IV. National Action Plan, within the aim of Protective and Preventive Services, to prevent violence, it will be certified that the risk factors leading to the cases are determined before occurrence of the cases and that the intervention is performed in a timely and effective manner. Within this scope:

- Effective response will be provided by reporting the cases and risk factors identified during the FSSP visits (Activity 3.1.1.).
- A risk-oriented approach and case-based work will be provided in the processes of case identification and evaluation in social service institutions (Activity 3.2.8.).
- The capacity of specialized law enforcement units at provincial and district level will be increased (Activity 3.4.1.).
- Early and effective intervention will be ensured by adopting a risk-oriented approach in the detection and monitoring of violence cases (Activity 3.4.4.).
- Efforts to increase the recognition and use of the Women's Support Application (WSS) will continue (Activity 3.5.2.).

In this regard, within the scope of the risk assessment principle, various operations are carried out:

264. According to the Article 7 of the Law no 6284:

“If there has been violence or there is a risk of it, everybody can report this situation to the official authorities and organs. The public officials who receive the report are obliged to fulfill their duties without any delay and inform the authorities for the other measures needed to be taken.”

265. Within the in this scope one of the measures in the Law no 6284, several of them or similar measures deemed appropriate shall be decided by judges, civilian authority and (in cases where delay is considered to be risky) by related law enforcement chiefs.

266. The role of law enforcement officers within the Ministry of the Interior is very important in terms of preventing violence and taking the necessary precautions. Police or Gendarmerie are among the first institutions to which women exposed to violence apply. Besides, within scope of the Law No. 6284, law enforcement officers have very wide and important duties such as issuing injunction order, demanding an order to be taken and ensuring that orders are fulfilled.

267. In order to improve the services carried out by the police in relation to domestic violence and violence against women and to provide coordination between the institutions, “Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Bureau” was established on 11th November 2015 within the Directorate of Public Security Branches of 81 Provincial Security Directorates.

268. The Bureau of Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Women, which has an establishment at the provincial level, has been expanded to the district level in order to monitor all the works and transactions carried out within the scope of the Law No. 6284 at the provincial / district level in the area of responsibility of the General Directorate of Security. In this context, the number of office chiefs was increased from 81 to 1.005.

269. In addition, women who are subjected to violence or those who witness the threat of violence or violence can call 112 Emergency Lines free of charge 24/7.

270. The General Command of Gendarmerie Branch Office for Children and Combating Domestic Violence at the central organization are responsible for the coordination of the present services in its assigned positions, and the coordination with the related institutions and organizations.

271. A total of 242 Gendarmerie Children's and Women's Departments have been established at the provincial/district level under the Gendarmerie General Command. In addition, women who have been subjected to violence or those who witness violence or the danger of violence can call the 112 Emergency Call Center free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

272. And also, Women Support System (WSS) Mobile application for smartphones was put into service on 24th March 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure rapid and effective response by making use of the advantages provided by the communication technology for women victims of violence or those under risk. Through the WSS application, which can be downloaded to mobile phones and used only by women, law enforcement forces provide effective and rapid response on 24/7 through “call for help” button in the application.

273. In order to facilitate access to the application, its interfaces were translated into 5 more languages, Arabic, Persian, French, English and Russian, and updated. As of 28 June 2022, it has been translated into Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Spanish languages, and it has been made possible for foreign women to use the application.

274. In this scope, all of the reporting on violence against women are evaluated diligently.

- Also, within scope of the Protocol between the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Security and the (former) Ministry of Family and Social Policies” which was signed in September 2017, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Registration Form for Incidents of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women under the Law No.6284” with the Ministry of Family and Social Services. This data integration is

expected to shorten the time to reach the victims of violence and increase the efficiency of protection.

In 2022, various studies have been carried out to improve the registration and risk assessment forms used by law enforcement units for violence cases. These studies will continue in 2023 as well.

- “6284 Order Follow-up System” which will contribute to efficiency of follow-up and monitoring of the orders has been put into service for 81 Provincial Directorates affiliated to Our Ministry and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMCs). Within scope of the Information Sharing Protocol between the Ministry of Interior and the (former) Ministry of Family and Social Policies” which was signed in September 2017, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Registration Form for Incidents of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women under the Law No.6284” with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

- In the cases of domestic violence and violence against women, it is crucial to identify and mitigate risks effectively. A “Risk Analysis and Management Module” has developed to increase the quality of services provided through the women’s service units affiliated by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

275. The Module consists of a risk analysis scale and risk management steps based on the level of risk identified, and these components has been integrated into the Family Information System.

276. In order to conduct pilot implementation study of the Module, 18 representative provinces were determined through the analysis of 81 provinces based on certain indicators such as administrative records on violence against women and geographical distribution. After the pilot study, the Risk Analysis and Management Module in Violence against Women was expanded to all 81 provinces on 21.10.2021.

277. Hereby, risk-oriented approach will be included into the crisis-oriented service understanding, and the chain of accurate identification – qualified intervention – effective service is strengthened on combating domestic violence and violence against women. Improvement studies for the effective use of the module in the women's service units of our Ministry and its integration with law enforcement units continue.

60. Paragraph 89q

278. Sexual violence is envisaged as a crime in Article 102 under the heading “Sexual assault”, in Article 103 under the heading “Sexual abuse of children/sexual molestation”, in Article 104 under the heading “Sexual intercourse with persons not attained the lawful age”, in Article 105 under the heading “Sexual harassment” and in Article 109 under the heading “deprivation a person of freedom” of Turkish Criminal Code.

279. According to the Article 105: “If a person is subject to sexual harassment by another person, the person performing such act is sentenced to a term of imprisonment from three months to two years or to a judicial fine; and if the act of sexual harassment is committed against a child, the offender is sentenced to imprisonment from six months to three years upon complaint of the victim.

280. If the act of offence is committed:

- a) by undue influence based on public office or employment relationship or by using the advantage of intrafamilial relationships,
- b) by his/her guardian, tutor, instructor, caregiver, custodial parents or by those who provide him/her with health care or are under an obligation to protect, look after or supervise him/her,
- c) by using the advantage of working in the same workplace with the victim,
- d) by using the advantage provided by mail or electronic communication instruments
- e) by the act of exposing, the punishment to be imposed according to the above paragraph is increased by one half. If the victim was obliged to quit his/her job or leave

his/her school or family for this reason, the punishment to be imposed cannot be less than one year.”

281. Moreover, sexual harassment in an explicit crime under TPC regardless of venue of crime. Does the SR intend to recommend creation of a crime that specifically applies to workplace with this sentence?: “Amend the Turkish Labour Law and the Penal Code to explicitly criminalize sexual harassment in the workplace and ensure that victims of sexual harassment in the workplace have access to effective, independent and confidential complaint procedure and that all complaints are effectively investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished, and victims are protected from retaliation”

61. Paragraph 89r

282. Forced marriage is not regulated as a distinct offense in the Turkish Criminal Code. However, sexual acts against women victims as a result of forced marriage are considered within the scope of sexual violence and may correspond to the offenses regulated in Articles 192, 103 and 105 of the Law. In addition, even if there is no sexual act, the crime of restriction of freedom of a person may arise with respect to the concrete case pursuant to Article 109 of the same law.

283. And also according to the IV. National Action Plan, “The Turkish Penal Code, existing crime types and the reasons that aggravate the punishment will be reviewed, especially in the context of violence types such as stalking, cyber violence, forced marriage, and a report will be prepared (Activity 1.2.2.)”

284. In addition “Provincial Action Plans on Combating Early and Forced Marriages” has been put into effect to that 24 provinces (Afyon, Diyarbakır, Urfa, Mardin, İzmir -Kiraz ilçesi, Antalya, Kars, Ağrı, Iğdır, Van, Mardin, Muş, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Kilis, Nevşehir, Yozgat, Aksaray, Niğde, Hatay ve Kahramanmaraş, Ardahan, Edirne, Siirt). Action Plans focused on awareness activities. Activities aimed at researching early marriages, preparing visual and written materials, and meeting girls with role model women were included.

285. A trainings were given on Supporting Provincial Action Plans for Combating Early and Forced Marriages to 140 personnel of provinces with a Provincial Action Plan for Combating Early and Forced Marriages and provinces where the prevalence of early marriage is high on 23-26 May 2022 and on 6-9 June 2022. The content of the Training Program included: "child rights", "early marriages", "health consequences of early marriages", "good practice examples from the world and Türkiye", "local action plan preparation training module".

62. Paragraph 92a

286. The 1982 Constitution protects the rights of citizens of the Republic of Türkiye. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees the right to live humanely, Article 19 guarantees the right of freedom, Article 20 guarantees the privacy of private life, Article 21 guarantees inviolability of domicile, Article 36 guarantees the right to own property and housing, and Article 42 guarantees the right to education. All citizens benefit from these rights without any discrimination such as religion, language, race, gender. Within the scope of the fundamental rights and freedoms recognized by our Constitution, there is no discrimination or intersecting discrimination against any ethnic group or gender.

And also Turkish Penal Code and Law no. 6284 have a principle of equality.

287. According to the Article 3 of the Code, “Any penalty and security measure imposed upon an offender should be proportionate to the gravity of the crime.

288. In the implementation of the Criminal Code no one shall receive any privilege and there shall be no discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

289. And according to the Article 94, “a public officer who performs any act towards a person that is incompatible with human dignity, and which causes that person to suffer physically or mentally, or affects the person’s capacity to perceive or his ability to act of his

own will or insults them shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of three to twelve years. If the crime is committed against a woman, the lower limit of the sentence cannot be less than five years.”

290. Within this scope, all violence acts against all women are investigated, prosecuted and adequately punished.

291. The aim of the Law No. 6284 is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people.

292. Within the scope of the Law No. 6284, all women and accompanying children who are victims of violence in our country can benefit from the services for combating violence in our country when they need, without any discrimination against any individual on the basis of their race, language, religion, sect, nationality, colour, gender, political (or other) ideas and thought, philosophical beliefs, ethnic and social background, birth, economic and other social positions.”

63. Paragraph 92b

293. As part of their judicial duties, the chief public prosecutors or the public prosecutors they will appoint, inspect the detention rooms where the detainees will be kept, the statement rooms, if any, the status of these persons, the reason and duration of their detention, and all records and procedures regarding arrest and detention.

294. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Regulation on Arrest, Detention and Statement Taking, the health status of detainees at the time of their arrest and during the detention process is subject to physician control in line with the relevant legislation.

295. The health status of the detained person is also determined by a doctor's report before the process of relocating for any reason, prolonging the detention period, releasing him or transferring him to judicial authorities.

296. In order to ensure that the law enforcement complaint system works more effectively and quickly, and to improve its transparency and reliability, recording and monitoring of the works and transactions done or to be done by the administrative authorities due to the crimes alleged to be committed or the actions, attitudes or behaviors that require disciplinary punishment, in a central system The Law Enforcement Oversight Commission was established in order to bring European Union standards and investigation procedures.

297. Penal institutions can be inspected periodically and whenever needed, by the parliament and national/international inspection mechanisms.

298. Penal institutions within the scope of administrative control; It is supervised by the inspectors of the Ministry of Justice, the controllers of the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, other officials of the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, chief public prosecutors and public prosecutors responsible for penitentiary institutions.

299. Investigations regarding human rights violations, torture and ill-treatment allegations are not left to the law enforcement officers, but are carried out effectively and adequately by the Chief Public Prosecutor or a public prosecutor to be appointed.

300. The Ombudsman Institution and the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye can also conduct on-site investigations to evaluate complaints from penitentiary institutions without obtaining permission.

301. Within the scope of parliamentary supervision, the TGNA Human Rights Investigation Commission or the chairman and members of the research commissions can visit penitentiary institutions and carry out research and inspection activities.

302. In addition, the Human Rights Investigation Commission, members of the monitoring board, enforcement judges, probation personnel and delegations and persons authorized by law can hold private meetings with detainees.

64. Paragraph 94b

303. In Article 3 of the Regulation on Combating Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims, the victim is defined as “a natural person who is exposed to human trafficking crime or who avoids suspicion of violence towards being exposed to it”. Article 25 of the same regulation includes the provision of “The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) can establish shelters with expert personnel. It can operate the works on a twenty-four-hour basis, seven days a week, or operate all or some of the services by making a protocol. In such a case PMM is responsible for providing; support and monitoring services for the survivors, accessibility to physical and psychological treatments, and the effective implementation of protective and preventive measures”

304. Within this scope; persons who are victims of human trafficking receive services from the Presidency of Migration Management.

65. Other comments

305. All foreign national women who have been subjected to violence in Türkiye and their accompanying children can benefit from women's shelter services. Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women ensures protection and offers services for women without any discrimination regarding their race, language, religion, nationality, or status.

306. 112 women's shelters affiliated with our Ministry; 33 affiliated with local governments, 3 affiliated with the Ministry of Interior Migration Management, and 1 affiliated with NGOs; 149 shelters in 81 provinces serve a total capacity of 3,624. As of 2023, women's shelters continue their services with an occupancy rate of 80% across the country.

307. Professional activities are carried out in women's shelters to help women and their children cope with the trauma they experience, become stronger and maintain healthy relationships again in a non-violent environment. Along with professional studies and evaluations, women, and children are provided with shelter, psycho-social support, legal support, medical support, economic support, vocational support, and educational support, daycare centers for their children, guidance, and other related services offered in the areas. In this context;

- Women who need legal support are directed to lawyers of Bar Associations, Legal Aid Offices, and Provincial Directorates, and lawyers are appointed without any fees.
- It is ensured that the woman and the child are directed to the health centers regarding health problems and they are followed up by the personnel working in the centers.
- Psychological support is provided to women and their children who have been traumatized due to their negative life experiences, and if deemed necessary, they are directed to relevant health centers for psychiatric treatment and followed up.
- In order to ensure the employment of women (who are receiving services from women's shelters) collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency is established. In this context, job club trainings are given regularly every month to support women in preparing a CV, interview techniques, gaining the necessary knowledge and skills about their participation in economic life, strengthening them in the social and economic field, taking part in more qualified jobs, and becoming self-sufficient. In addition, women who want to participate in vocational training courses are also directed to courses organized by Turkish Employment Agency, Municipalities, and the Ministry of National Education, in line with their interests and abilities.
- The registration of women who want to complete their education is renewed through the Ministry of National Education's Public Education Centers, and studies are started for illiterate women. Literacy courses are opened for women to obtain literate documents.
- At the same time, courses are offered to support women's personal development and handicraft skills. While these courses contribute to the effective use of women's time, it is also possible for them to sell handicrafts and turn them into a business sector.

- Trainings on Financial Literacy and Empowerment of Women Receiving Services from Women's Shelters in the Fields of Information Technologies were planned and trainings of trainers were organized under the headings of Financial Literacy, Parenting, and Information Security. Trainings are regularly organized for women who receive service from our institutions.
- In line with the need to reduce the effects of the traumatic experiences of children who receive service from women's shelters and witness violence and to develop healthy mother-child relationships, cooperation studies have been started with our General Directorate and the Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Lifelong Learning. A course Program has been created.
- Within the scope of efforts to combat violence and addiction, professional personnel working in the women's shelters were provided with Addiction Awareness Training in cooperation with the Green Crescent Society.
- "Zero Waste Management System Establishment Training Trainers" was held online to increase the knowledge, skills, and awareness levels of professional personnel working in women's shelters in cooperation with our General Directorate and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change General Directorate of Environmental Management.
- Family Education Programs (FEP) have started to be implemented by FEP trainers for women who receive service from Women's Shelters. Trainings in the fields of "Family Education and Communication", "Law", "Economics", "Media" and "Health" in the program are carried out at regular intervals in women's shelters, taking into account the special conditions and needs of women and their children.
- "Religious Guidance Activities" are organized for those who receive service from women's shelters within the scope of the protocol between the Presidency of Religious Affairs and our Ministry.
- In order to raise awareness about the risks that women and their children may encounter on online platforms and to improve their coping skills with the use of technology, the Information Technologies and Communications Authority provides online trainings via Zoom meetings. For women who are receiving services from women's shelters for "Digital Violence and Cyberbullying", "Parent and Family Module" training and Student Module" for children who are receiving services from shelters, are prepared. Trainings provide information on; Introduction to the Digital World, Digital Needs Safe/Unsafe Internet Domains, Risk Factors/Risky Applications, Symptoms in Children Exposed to Cyberbullying, Protection and Prevention Mechanisms for Cyberbullying, Digital Violence etc. information is provided.
- In addition, training activities are organized by the professional staff at the shelters to raise awareness women and their children. Women who are receiving services from women's shelters; violence-violence types, gender equality, effective communication, effective parenting, women's rights, recognizing and making sense of their feelings, etc. awareness trainings are provided. As for the children accompanying the women; children's rights, effective study techniques, time management, coping with stress, values education, etc. awareness-raising trainings are provided.

Free Day Care Services for Children staying at Women's Shelters

- Within the scope of Article No. 50, "Regulation on the Establishment and Operational Principles of Private Kindergarten and Day Care Centers and Private Children's Clubs", 3% of the capacity of the institutions is reserved for the free use of children to be determined by the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, and children who receive service from women's shelters with their mothers can benefit from this service.

Allowance Transactions for Children Receiving Services from the Women's Shelter

- The children of the women staying in the women's shelter, the children of the women who do not continue their education for various reasons and do not work are receiving an allowance. The amount is equal to the children staying in the children's institutions affiliated with our Ministry.

Social and Economic Support for Children Receiving Services from Women's Shelter

- Within the scope of the Social Services Law No.2828, children who receive service from the women's shelter with their mothers are getting economic support after they leave women's shelters. This support is provided to meet their basic needs and sustain their lives.

Trainings and Documents Provided for Children Receiving Services from the Women's Shelter

- A Psycho-Social Support Guide for Children in Women's Shelters is prepared to support the children of women who are survivors of violence and receiving services from women's shelters. Within the scope of the Guide, the "Introduction and Training Meeting" was held for 144 professional personnel working in women's shelters. The guide is in the printing phase. After its publication, it will be distributed to Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (VPMCs) in 81 provinces and women's shelters affiliated with our Ministry and Municipalities.
- With the dissemination of the guide to women's shelters, it is aimed to standardize services and supporting the development of children who are survivors of violence or have witnessed violence.

308. Moreover;

- Awareness raising trainings such as children's rights, effective study techniques, time management, coping with stress, values education for children who receive service from women's shelters with their mothers,
- "Parenting Skills" trainings in cooperation with Public Education Centers for women receiving services from shelters to establish healthier relationships with their children,
- Digital Violence and Cyberbullying Trainings ("Parent and Family Module" for women, "Student Module" for children) to raise awareness about the risks that women and their children who receive service from the women's shelter may face on the internet, together with the use of technology, and to improve their skills to cope with risks are provided.
- Professional Studies For Children Who Are Staying At The Women's Shelters
- Child development specialists and/or teachers plan the orientation of children who are coming to the Women's Shelters with their mother.
- The second week in the shelter, child development specialist implements a test on children by their age. There are Denver II Türkiye Standardization Test and Early Childhood Development Assessment Tool. Teachers evaluate children's academic abilities according to their level. Afterwards, professionals write an assessment report on these evaluations.
- Intervention plans are prepared by child development specialists and/or teachers considering the child's development assessment and needs towards Individual Study With Child Guideline. Social service meeting conclusions are considered in these works.
- Child development specialists and teachers follow up the intervention plans in every 2 months and keep a record of Child Intervention Tracing Plan.
- Safety Plan is prepared by child development specialists and/or teachers towards children who are staying with their mother.

- However, in some provinces, intervention plan, follow-up plan and safety plan can not be prepared owing to lack of personnel in women's shelters.
- Study after school hours with children who go to school and school follow-ups of children are carried out by teacher.
- Necessary guidance is provided for issuing the child's medical board report or following the present report.
- Social activities are planned by the child development specialist or teacher according to the subjects in the monthly program or special days.
- Counseling and guidance services are provided to children and mothers regarding to positive and negative situations that develop during the day or in the process by child development specialist or teacher.
- Individual and group activities (native language activity, music activity, handicraft activity, etc.) that support the development of children between the ages of 0-6, which are planned in line with the goals in the intervention plans by the child educator and/or care staff under the guidance of the child development specialist are carried out in line with the daily plan.

Disaster risk management response

- There are 16 Women's Shelters which provide a service with 357 capacity, that struck by the earthquake. There were no deaths or injuries in these shelters. Cause of the demolition after earthquake Women Shelters in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya were closed for renovation. Women's Shelters in these and nearby provinces have taken over the applications.
- At present, there are 13 Women's Shelters (Adana 1. Women's Shelter, Adana 2. Women's Shelter, Adana 3. Women's Shelter, Adıyaman Women's Shelter, Diyarbakır 1. Women's Shelter, Diyarbakır 2. Women's Shelter, Elazığ Women's Shelter, Gaziantep 2. Women's Shelter, Gaziantep 2. Women's Shelter, Kilis Women's Shelter, Malatya 2. Women's Shelter, Osmaniye Women's Shelter, Şanlıurfa Women's Shelter) in these provinces that provide service actively.