

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

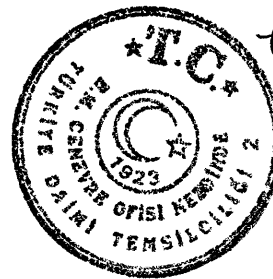
2019/62441669/24030471 - URGENT

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter from Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material dated 26 August 2019, regarding questionnaire on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, has the honour to enclose herewith information compiled by the relevant Turkish authorities.

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

Geneva, 16 October 2019

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Special Procedures Branch
Geneva



OHCHR REGISTRY

16 OCT 2019

Recipients :.....*SPB*.....
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Subject: Our Activities on Protection of Children from Exploitation

The services for children by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) are provided with the priority of family-oriented approach focusing on child's best interests. The base of our protective services is to get children grow up within family unity and integrity. This option is not possible, children are benefited from foster family services; if family-oriented care services are unlikely to be provided, then children are taken under house-like residential institutions. If it is compulsory to take care of the institution, it is aimed to return the children to their families after the rehabilitation process, and if this is not possible, they will be placed in the child homes or child homes building complex.

The same services is provided to all children of foreign nationality in need of protection.

Preventive and protective services are emphasized in order to support the development of children and to raise conscious and sensitive generations against risks. In addition, mechanisms are in place to anticipate risks for children and to take the necessary steps.

Protective and Preventive Activities

Studies are carried out to prioritize preventive and protective services and to identify risks early and to develop preventive mechanisms by foreseeing the risks that children may face.

ALO 183 Social Support Line: Denunciations on children working/living in the streets are received through the Alo 183 Social Support Line. Thus, they are intervened in the shortest possible time and they are guided to the services appropriate.

Mobile Teams: With the aim of detecting children living/working in the streets and steering them into the relevant services, mobile teams were formed in all provinces of Turkey by MoFLSS.

Mobile Social Service Units: Within the scope of the Presidency's 100-Day Action Plan, Mobile Social Service Units were established with the purpose of detecting children at risk and in need of social service intervention, and extended to all Turkey in March 2019.



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Expert Response Teams: The Expert Response Teams were established in 81 provinces of Turkey in order to protect children from neglect, exploitation and violence.

Project for Creating Book List with Appropriate Content for Children 0-6 Years Old: In order to guide parents to select books that have appropriate content for their children between 0-6 years, printed books are examined and a book list that has appropriate content for children is prepared. This list has been published as suggestion on the site of Directorate General of Child Services and the examination of books is still in progress.

Child Protection Coordination Mechanism: Central, Provincial and District Coordination Committees have been established to coordinate all institutions providing services in the child protection area. The main purpose of these committees is to create risk maps in the field of child protection, to establish an early intervention system by carrying out studies for the identified risks and to ensure that the problems or needs of the child, his/her family and his/her environment are eliminated through cooperation between the institutions without neglect or abuse.

Private Kindergarten and Day Care Centers and Private Children's Clubs: To support the development of children in preschool period; Private Kindergartens and Day Care Centers and Children's Clubs, which opened with permission of our Ministry, render services in order to provide care for children in the 0-6 age group and to provide them with basic values and habits.

Within the scope of Complimentary Care Service, which is a protective and preventive service model, disadvantaged groups are provided with free quota from Private Kindergartens and Day Care Centers and Children's Clubs.

Social Media Working Group: Activities for the protection of children against exploitation are carried out in social media. In case of any situation that children get hurt, social media working group under MoFLSS gets involved into that and works in coordination with Information Technologies and Communication Authority and Department of Cybercrime.

“Let Children Grow up with Their Peers, not with Screen” Campaign: The campaign named was launched by MoFLSS with the aim of protecting children from uncontrolled and malicious approaches in digital and social media environments, providing alternative physical,



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social and cultural living spaces, directing children to physical activities, supporting their spiritual and social development and assisting children to get socialized with their peers and improving their problem solving ability.

Children in Safe Program: Within the scope of the Children in Safe Program, the children at risk are monitored via Social Service Centers. Thanks to the Family and Social Support Program, house visits are carried out and, children and their family's risks and needs are evaluated and then guidance and intervention are conducted relevantly.

A Profession, A Future Project: The children attended to vocational courses with the project to direct vocational education of children under protection and care and children supported by Social and Economical Support (SED) Service.

Child Rights Activities

Directorate General of Child Services under MoFLSS have been assigned as Coordinator Authority responsible for implementing and monitoring UN Convention on Children's Rights.

Provincial Committees on the Rights of the Child: These Committees were established in every provinces of Turkey with the aim of implementing the principles and provisions of UNCRC at all levels of society including adults and children and ensuring child participation to all issues related to children. Provincial Committees on the Rights of the Child are nationwide organizations and based on voluntariness and every child has chance to be a member.

National Children Forums: National Children Forums are organized every year on November 20, World Children's Day, in Turkey, by the representatives of the Committee on the Rights of the Child invited from all provinces. Themes of Forum are determined by children.

Social Cohesion Program: Social Cohesion Program is an implementation for social integration of Syrian children living outside the camps and for mutual dialog and information exchange between Syrian and Turkish children with the help of Committees on Child Rights and with cooperation of UNICEF.