

CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
LETTER OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

The “Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence” was ratified by Turkey in 2011 and the “Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women” drafted in line with the provisions of the Convention took effect in 2012.

The said law incorporates comprehensive provisions on protective and preventive measures for women victim of violence or those at risk of violence.

By this Law, civilian authorities, and in cases where delay is considered to be risky, law enforcement chiefs have been granted power to take necessary measures. It has been envisaged that the protected persons will be provided with services such as accommodation, financial aid and psychological, professional, legal and social support. In addition, it has been indicated that when necessary, personal information and addresses belonging to the protected person and other family members will be kept confidential in all official records. It has also been stated that no evidence or document showing use of violence will be required for protective measures, and preventive measure will be ordered without any delay. "Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers", where support and monitoring services are provided for prevention of violence and implementation of protective and preventive measures, have been established. These centers operate on a 7 day-24 hours basis.

A 24 hour “Alo-183 Social Support” free hotline line is also available for all women and children, victims of domestic violence or in need of support of various forms and counselling.

In 2015, a Cooperation Protocol on “the pilot implementation of the use of technical monitoring systems within the efforts of combatting domestic violence” was signed between the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Labour, Social Services and Family. The protocol allows for, in some provinces of Turkey, the use of electronic monitoring systems and electronic bracelet for perpetrators of domestic violence.

An application for mobile phones was also developed, “Women Support System”, which includes an emergency button directly linked to the police and security forces emergency lines.

Efforts are under way among the various Ministries and other stakeholders, for developing a comprehensive database that would allow the integration of data collected by various public entities related to protective and preventive measures so as to ensure a quick outreach to victims that will allow for enhanced protection.

The third National Action Plan on the combatting domestic violence against women (2016-2020) includes under target 5 “on inter institutional cooperation and policy development” a provision on in-depth investigation and reasearch on underlying causes of feminicides with a view to strengthen preventive efforts. Towards this end, a Working Group has been established in 2018 under the coordination of the General Directorate for the Status of Women with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, the Police force and the Gendarmerie. The Working Group has recently conducted a conceptual study and is also now working on developing indicators/data variables that will allow for the collection

of disaggregated data that would ensure a more thorough analysis of the underlying causes of femicide.