



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA**

2014/62441669-BMCO DT/6710585

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 Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, Ms. Frances Raday's letter dated 1 May 2014, has to honour to transmit the questionnaire on non-discrimination and equality in family and cultural life, which is filled out by the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies.

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, 3 October 2014

Encl: As stated

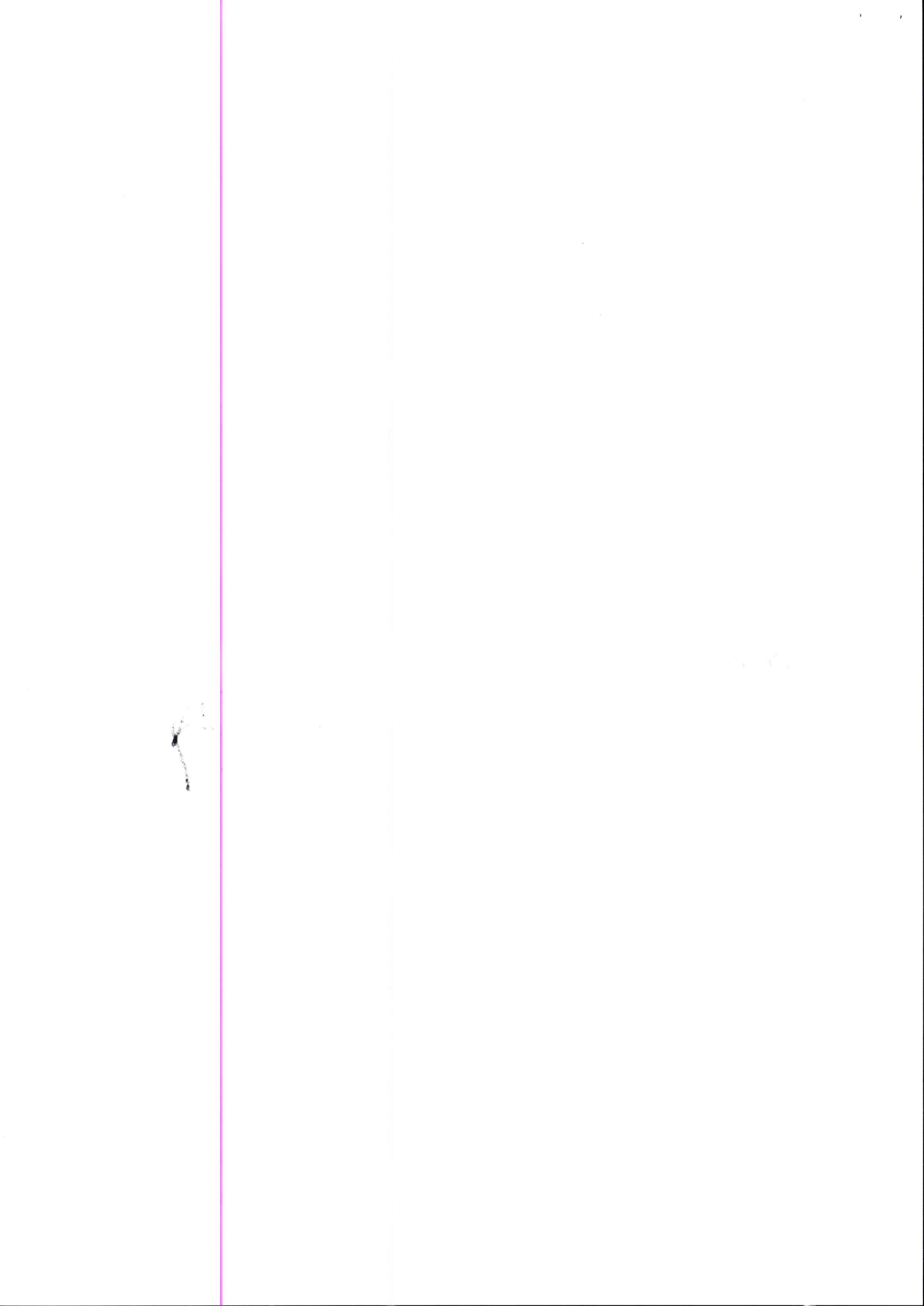


Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
Geneva

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 6 OCT. 2014

Recipients :.....SPD.....
.....
.....
.....



1. What status does your constitution give to international human rights treaties versus domestic law?

Article 90 of the Constitution of the Turkish Republic states that, in case of contradiction arising from the difference between the provisions of the duly ratified international agreements on fundamental rights and freedoms and the provisions of domestic laws, provisions of the international agreements shall be predicated. Thus we can say that the international agreements (international human rights treaties) have superiority over the domestic legislation.

2. Has your state ratified international human rights treaties with reservations to provisions dealing with equality in family life?

Yes () No (X)

Turkey withdrew her reservations with regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) in 1999. And the declarations put forward with regard to the annulment of nationality were withdrawn in 2009 following the legal amendments introduced.

3. Are the principles of non-discrimination on the basis of sex/gender and equality between men and women established in the Constitution of your State?

Yes (X) No ()

The 10th Article of the Constitution includes a provision stating that "everyone is equal before the law without any means of discrimination including language, race, color, sex, political views, philosophical belief, ethnicity and etc. Women and men have the equal rights. The State is liable for translating this equality into practice. Measures taken to this aim cannot be interpreted against the principle of equality".

The 41st Article of the Constitution stresses that the familial union is based on the equality between the spouses.

4. Are there any specific anti-discrimination or gender equality laws in your state?

Yes () No (X)

5. Have there been any recent legal reforms in your State to guarantee non-discrimination and equality between men and women in family and cultural life?

Yes (X) No ()

The Law Nr.6294 on The Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women took effect in 2012. The Law highlights the equality of men and women in its several provisions. These provisions are presented concisely below:

- Proceed responsively to the equality of men and women in provision of support and the services for the victims / survivors of violence.
- Train the law enforcement officers to be assigned in scope of the Law on the child rights and women's rights as well as the equality of men and women.
- Ensure that the members and staff of all the government offices and agencies and public occupational organizations participate in the training programs to be designed and coordinated by the Ministry with the themes of women's human rights and equality of men and women so that the Law is implemented effectively.
- Incorporate courses on women's human rights and equality of men and women in the primary and secondary education curricula.

See also answer 3.

6. Are there any law principles/provisions that discriminate against women in family and cultural life?

Yes (X) No ()

The 132nd Article of the Turkish Civil Code establishes that women shall wait 300 days to re-marry in the event of a break-up. This period of time shall be lifted by the court in the event that the women is not pregnant out of her previous marriage or the spouses whose marriage terminated, want to re-marry each other.

In accordance with the 187th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, establishing the "Women's surname" "Women receives her husband's surname upon marriage; however, she shall also be able to use her own surname after being followed by her husband's surname upon a written application to the registrar of marriage or later to the civil registry Office.

Another discriminatory regulation is the seeking the consent of the husband along with the personal consent in uterine evacuation in accordance with the 6th Article of the Family Planning Law in the event that the pregnant women is married.

Second Clause of the 23rd Article of the Population Services Law includes a provision stating that " the civil registry of the women, who got married, is moved to her husband's registry. Unless the woman, whose husband passed away, re-marries, her registry stays in the family registry of her husband. However, she shall be able to get back to her father's registry upon her request.

287th Article of the Turkish Penal Code, establishing the "Genital Examination", which states "women can genitally be examined without her consent upon the decision by a prosecutor or a judge" can be interpreted as a discriminatory provision. In addition, the relevant clause envisages imprisonment of those who force anyone into genital examination in the absence of a court ruling.

7. Are there any good practices that you can share regarding the elimination of sex discrimination in family and cultural life in your State?

“Equality between Women and Men” and “Gender Equality” Training Programs have been conducted since 2009 with the participation of the public officials to exchange information and experiences with the executives of the public institutions and agencies which work on the problems faced in the field of gender equality and solutions brought for these problems, raise their awareness and sensitiveness to enable them mainstream a gender perspective in their works and activities. As of November 2013, 3.300 civil servants have participated to the aforementioned training programs.

The “Young Ideas, Powerful Women” Project is being run with the cooperation of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Intel Technology Services Ltd. Company and Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey. The Project will last three years. Within the scope of the Project, idea camps will be organized in which the young between the ages of 18 and 30 will participate in three provinces of Turkey to be determined annually from the different regions of the country. During the idea camps, the young are expected to generate ideas on “activities to be launched through the families in mainstreaming gender equality within the society and in the next generations” (See also answer 8)

8. What actions have been taken by your state to eradicate negative gender stereotypes, including in the media?

Additional “Gender and Media Workshops” have been organized for the students for the communication faculties, who are the prospective media professionals. So far, 434 students have participated to the workshop programs. As for the local media professional, the “the Role of the Local Media Professionals in Combating Violence against Women and News Writing Workshops” were organized. 198 media professionals have participated to the program, which aims to raise awareness and sensitiveness on gender equality.

Gender Equality Trainings are organized for teachers within the scope of the protocol signed between the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Ministry of National Education and Young Life Foundation. Within the scope of the programs, teachers expected to carry out this activity with their students.

Within the scope of the Protocols signed between the Ministry and Social Policies and the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs, a number of gender equality training programs have been organized and currently are being continued (See Answer 46). Additionally, the issue of gender equality was added to the in-service trainings of a variety of public institutions and agencies such as the Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Family and Social Polices.

One of the most effective tools in eliminating gender based stereotypes is the preparation of the school curriculums and textbooks with a gender perspective. The Gender Equality

Commission was set up within the Ministry of National Education to remove all discriminatory objectives such as pictures, expressions and other similar factor from the educational materials and textbooks. The Commission reviewed the curriculum and the training materials through a gender perspective.

(See answer 7)

9. Are tribunals upholding the principals of equality and non-discrimination in matters relating to family and cultural life?

Yes (X) No ()

The 41st Article of the Constitution includes a provision stating that “Family is the foundation for the Turkish Society and is based on the equality between the spouses”. Although the Family Courts are not authorized to carry out inspections regarding equality or the issues related to the discrimination, it is binding with regard to the provisions included in the Constitution and have to observe the principle of equality between the spouses in its decisions.

10. Are there any other mechanisms to monitor draft legislation, specific provisions in draft legislation or reverse decisions discriminating against women in family and cultural life?

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (KEFEK) was constituted within the TGNA on March 24, 2009. The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women examines the practices on gender equality, inspects the practices in terms of gender equality, monitors the national and international improvements, screen out the application with regard to violation of rights, violence and discrimination against women and warns the relevant authorities when deemed necessary. The Committee is authorized to evaluate the law proposals and draft laws

The General Directorate on the Status of Women affiliated to the Ministry of Family and Social Policies also screen out law proposals and draft laws with a gender perspective and submit opinions.

11. Is there a legal designation of head of household?

Yes () No (X)

12. Do women have the same rights as men in your State in relation to:

(X) The minimum age of marriage

(X) The right to enter into marriage

(X) The freedom to choose a spouse and to express consent

13. With permission or authorization from parents/guardians/courts, at what minimum age can men and women marry in your State? What enforcement measures are provided by law in this regard?

In accordance with the 124th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, no one before the age of 17 can build a marital union. However, in state of emergencies and on vital grounds, Judge shall permit the marriage of women and men who turned his/her 16 age. If the conditions are suitable, mother, father or the guardian is heard before the ruling of the decision.

The Turkish penal Code includes provisions related to the punishment of those who build a religious marriage without a civil marriage and punishment of the persons who perform the religious marriage. (Article 230).

14. Is there a reference to dowry in the legislation of your State, for example in marriage contracts or in traditional practice.

Yes () No (X)

15. Are forced marriages prohibited in your formal and customary laws?

Yes () No (X)

Forced marriage is established as an act of crime in the Turkish Penal Code. Sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 18 is established as a sexual child abuse. The law maker points out the age of 15 as an age of consent to sexual intercourse and the act of a sexual intercourse with a child below the age of 15 was binded on the complaint by the minor.

On the other hand, in accordance with the Turkish Civil Code (Article 51), the spouse who have been forced to consent to marriage may demand the annulment of the marriage

16. Are forced marriages or arranged marriages practiced in your State?

Yes (X) No ()

If yes, please explain.

Although the Turkish Civil Code establishes the marriage age (Article 124) and stipulates that the marriage ceremony must be performed under the testimony of the civil marriage officer (Article 141), there are unregistered marriages and marriages performed before the legal age which is established in the Law. "Early and Forced Marriages" effects girls unproportionally and negatively as a reflection of gender based inequalities. On the other hand, there are also pre-arranged marriages in families on whom the traditional practices still show their effects.

As per the Turkish Penal Code, a forced marriage is voidable. Furthermore, The Istanbul Convention, which took effect on 1st August 2014, imposes on the state parties an obligation to adjust their national legislations to consider it a crime to force a child into marriage. Accordingly, it is considered to carry out activities to adjust the national legislation and define forced marriages as a substantive felony in line with the provisions of the Convention.

17. Is polygamy illegal in your State?

Yes (X) No ()

18. Is the registration of marriage compulsory in the following cases?

(X) Civil marriage

() Religious marriage

Only the civil marriages and the arrangements which make a marriage contract viable are stipulated in detail in Turkey under the Regulation on Registration of Civil Marriages of the Turkish Civil Code. According to the relevant part of the legislation, the marriage has to be solemnized before a registrar and two witnesses.

The registrar asks each spouse individually if they want to marry one another at a pre-decided venue and time and before the witnesses. After receiving positive answers from both and having the two witnesses acknowledge they heard the couple's answers, the registrar pronounces loudly the marriage has been solemnized duly and presents the registry of marriage to the spouses and witnesses for signature and lastly put his/her signature along with the date and time. Having completed the procedures, the registrar gives a family record booklet to the couple.

On the other hand, the religious marriage ceremony that is officially null and void may only follow the official ceremony. A religious marriage is not recorded.

19. Are same sex marriages allowed in your State?

Yes () No (X)

20. Are same sex relations criminalized in your State?

Yes () No (X)

21. Is equality guaranteed between husband and wife in law and practice with respect to:

() The right to choose a family name

(X) The right to choose a profession

(X) The right to choose the place of residence

(X) The right to retain one's nationality

(X) The freedom of movement

In accordance with the 186th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, spouses choose the communal residence together and the spouses manage the marital union in company. In accordance with the 187th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, women take her husband's surname however she can also take her surname to be preceded by her husband's surname with a written application to the relevant authority. In accordance with the 192nd Article of the relevant Law, each spouses does not have an obligation take the other's permission or consent in occupation, job or profession choice.

22. Do both spouses have the same rights in law and practice with respect to:

(X) Ownership of property and land

(X) Management and administration of property and land

(X) Enjoyment and disposition of property and land

In accordance with the 188th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, one of the spouses represents the marital union for the fulfillment of the continuous needs as long as the continuation of the common life. Additionally, there are not any discriminatory provisions against any of the spouses regarding the aforementioned issues.

23. Are women who get married subjected to any form of male guardianship?

Yes () No (X)

24. Do parents have same rights and responsibilities regarding to:

(X) Care of Children

Women and men have equal responsibilities in child care. The 104th Article of the Law No: 657 on Civil Servants, which establishes the parental leaves, provides for leaves for both women and men. The 108th Article of the Law includes a provision stating that the women civil servant who delivered a birth shall be granted unpaid leave up to 24 months after the end of the maternal leave and the men whose wife delivered a birth shall be granted unpaid leaves up to 24 months beginning from the delivery of the birth upon their requests"".

25. Are de facto unions recognized in law in your state?

Yes () No (X)

26. Do women and men have the same legal rights with respect to dissolution of marriage?

Yes (X) No ()

In accordance with the 188th Article of the Turkish Civil Code, one of the spouses can file a divorce suit if the marital union has been substantially distressed such d that the spouses cannot continue their communal life.

27. Do men and women have the same rights in law and practice when a marriage or union ends in terms of;

(X) Equal share of marital property and land

(X) Custody of Children

() Remarriage

Equal share of marital property and land: see the answer of the 6th question for details.

Custody of Children: the custody of the children is established in the 335th , 336th , 337th , 338th and 339th Articles of the Turkish Civil Code and there are not discriminatory provisions.

Remarriage: 132nd Article of the Turkish Civil Code (See the answer of the 6th question for details)

28. Is it contemplated in the legislation of your State that, in the event of a divorce, women should remain in the family or common household?

Yes () No (X)

29. Are legal provisions guaranteeing non-financial contributions, including care of children , the sick and elderly in the family, taken into account in the division of marital property upon divorce?

Yes (X) No ()

As established by the Turkish Civil Code, the claim of participation is based on the acquisition of the properties gained by each of the spouses during the marital union, the idea that each of the spouses has a contribution in terms of existing distribution of responsibilities and cooperation (236th , 237th , 238th , 239th , 240th , 241st Articles of the Turkish Civil Code)

30. Are rights of widow(er)s the same for women and men in terms of:

(X) Custody of Children (See 27th question for details)

(X) Property and land distribution (See 6th and 27th questions for details)

(X) Remarriage (See 6th and 27th questions for details)

(X) Freedom to choose residence (186th Article of the Turkish Civil Code)

31. Do women have legal access to legal aid in relation to family matters?

Yes (X) No ()

If yes, please provide any references.

Although there is no specific arrangement available for women, supportive adjustments are in place for every one with financial constraints. Free legal aid is available for women at the women's rights centers structured within the bar associations.

32. What is the legal definition/concept of "family" in your state?

Family has not been defined officially in our legislation; however, the Article 41 of the Constitution sets forth that "Family is the core of Turkish society and built on the equality of spouses". Family and marriage law is established in detail in the Turkish Civil Code.

33. In law are men and women equal in your state?

Yes (X) No ()

Please see the answer to the 3rd question.

34. Do men and women have the same social status within the family in your state?

Yes () No (X)

Please see the answer to the 50th question.

35. Does your state have data on the number of hours spent by women and by men on functions in the home or in care for family members, including children and the elderly?

The data pertaining to the time women and men make for their household and home care is obtained from "The Time Use Survey" conducted in 2006 by the Turkish Statistics Institute engaging 11.815 respondents. According to the survey, a review of the activities carried out round the clock by the respondents aged 15 + revealed that women spared 5 hours and 17 minutes for household and home care and men spared 51 minutes; while these periods decreased down to 4 hours and 3 minutes for women and 43 minutes for men in the event that they both worked at paid jobs.

36) Do women and men in the family have the same rights in law and practice with regards to inheritance?

Yes (X) No ()

Turkish Civil Code has no provisions that involve discrimination among men and women in terms of legacy.

37. Does family education in your state include a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of the children

In scope of the “The Project on Curriculum Development for Family Education” run by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, “The Family Training Program” comprised of 23 modules in 5 topics (inter-family communication, health care, economics, law and media) was formulated. The inter-family communication module highlights particularly the equal distribution of household chores and sharing of the child care responsibility. Furthermore, a similar training is applicable to the couples to get married, within the frame of the “Pre-Marriage Training” program. Gender equality is separately highlighted in the Trainer’s Program of Pre-Marriage Training”. Both trainings are applicable in 81 provinces and announcements are made to the trainees to attract them to the courses. Approximately 180.000 trainees have been trained so far.

The Ministry of National education runs “0-18 yrs. Family Training Program”. The general objective of the program is to help the children and adolescents realize their true potential through developing the “parenting skills” of the parents with children aged 0-18 and thus cementing the inter-family bonds. In scope of the program, Father Support Training and Mother Support Training programs are run for the parents with children of various age groups. The Father Support Program is aimed at ensuring the fathers realize their vital role in a child’s development, get acquainted with a child’s needs, have their expectations tailored to a child’s requirements, adopt a democratic attitude towards the distribution of work and responsibilities at home, improve their marital and familial communication and use the knowledge and skills thus acquired, in their own environment, as well.

38. If equality is guaranteed in law and practice, does this apply in all different types of families?

Yes () No (X)

39. Are there any of the following traditional practices in your State?

() Female genital mutilation

(X) Honor killings

() Son preference

() Dowry Deaths

(X) Polygamy

(X) Prohibition of work or travel without the permission of a guardian

()Other

If yes, is there legislation prohibiting such practices in your State?

Please provide any information on other actions taken to eradicate these practices.

- Custom killings are included among the major crimes of “willful murder” under the Article 82 of the Turkish Penal Code. Accordingly, the offender shall be sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment in the event that murder is motivated by custom.
- Polygamy is categorized as “Crimes against Family Order” and its penal clauses are established under the Turkish Penal Code.
- “Deprivation of liberty” and “Violation of the freedom to work and labor” are among the crimes established under the Turkish Penal Code, likewise. The punishment for “deprivation of liberty” is still more aggravated if committed against the spouse.
- Please see Answers 13 and 16 for the legal arrangements regarding the early and forced marriages.

40. Is there any anti-domestic violence legislation/regulations in your State?

Yes (X) No ()

If yes, please provide any references

There are legislative provisions governing violence against women in Turkey in such parts of the legislation as laws, regulations and circulars. The relevant legislation could be summarized as below:

- The Law Nr.4320 on the Protection of Family (effective between 1998 and 2012)
- The Law Nr.6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women (became effective in 2012)
- The Prime Ministerial Circular Nr.2006/17 on the Measures Due for Prevention of the Acts of Violence against Children and Women and the Custom and Honor Killings
- The Implementing Regulation of the Law Nr.6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women
- The Regulation on the Opening and Operation of the Women’s Shelters

41. Does your State have a legal definition of discrimination which covers gender-based violence or violence against women, which includes domestic violence?

Yes (X) No ()

The concepts of “violence against women” and “violence” are defined under the Article 2 of The Law Nr. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. According to its definition under the Law, violence against women constitute “all types of attitudes and behaviors that lead to gender discrimination directed at women solely because they are women or affecting them, as well as violation of women’s human rights and are defined as violence under this Law”.

42. Does your State have a national policy to eliminate gender based violence or violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes (X) No ()

“The National Action Plan Combating Domestic Violence against Women” was run between 2007 and 2010 and the implementation of the measures envisaged in the Plan was monitored by the General Directorate through periodic meetings.

Due to expiry of the Action Plan, “The National Action Plan Combating Domestic Violence against Women (2012-2015)” was put into effect having been updated with the involvement and contributions of the relevant agencies and authorities. The National Action Plan is aimed at improvements in five topics which are the legal adjustments, awareness-raising and mental transformation, women’s empowerment and protective service delivery, provision of health care services and inter-institutional/organizational coordination. The follow-up of the Action Plan is done by the GDSW through “Monitoring and Evaluation Meetings”.

43. Is marital rape considered a crime in the legislation of your State?

Yes (X) No ()

The Article 102 of the Turkish Penal Code which provides for “Sexual Assault” covers the marital rape, as well.

44. Is adultery considered a crime in the legislation of your State?

Yes () No (X)

45. Are there any public campaigns in your State to raise awareness that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation?

Yes (X) No ()

Several events are organized every year on 25th November on the occasion of “The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Solidarity”.

In scope of the 25th November events of 2004, “Stop Violence against Women National Campaign” was launched in 2004 with concerted efforts of the General Directorate on the Status of Women and the United Nations Population Fund and run by them between 2006 and 2010 in scope of the 4th Country Program.

46. What measures have been taken in your State to raise awareness among law enforcement officials regarding violence against women and girls, including domestic violence?

Please explain and provide examples.

It is one of the priority issues in combating violence against women in Turkey to promote the sensitivity of the public officials responsible for combating violence against women as well as increasing the level of their background information. To this end, cooperation has been established among our Ministry and other relevant Ministries, and various training and awareness-raising activities have been carried out ever since, for the senior public administrators, civil servants, policy experts, local government officials, the representatives of trade unions, universities and NGOs, along with the citizens.

Accordingly, 71.000 police officers, 65.000 health care personnel and 21.000 religious officials completed the training programs; seminars were delivered to 336 family Court Judges and Public Prosecutors. In addition, approximately 3300 civil servants from a wide spectrum of agencies and institutions have attended the "Equality of Men and Women and Gender Equality Trainings" launched in 2007 by our General Directorate. In scope of cooperation with the Gendarmerie General Command, training of trainers programs have been sustained for the Gendarmerie staff. In line with the Protocol signed in 2013 between our Ministry and the Ministry of National Defense, ToT programs on gender equality have been run for the personnel of the Turkish General Staff and these trainers are going to deliver gender equality seminars yearly to the privates and non-commissioned officers.

Moreover, it is intended to fortify the activities aimed at combating violence against women in 26 project cities, by improving the support services to be offered to the female victims of violence in scope of "The Project on Women's Shelters for Combating Domestic Violence against Women", which will be run between 2014 and 2016. Within the framework of the project, trainings are going to be held for the personnel of the Ministries of Justice and Health and the General Directorate of Security Affairs as well as the staff of the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers and Women's Shelters of our Ministry, with the themes of gender equality, violence against women and services for the victims of violence. (See also the Answers 7 and 8.)

47. Are there special law enforcement units to respond to complaints of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence?

Yes (X) No ()

If yes, do these include female law enforcement officers?

The Law Nr.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women provides for opening of the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers for follow-up of the activities aimed at preventing violence against women and implementing the injunction orders ruled under the law efficiently. These centers are in service in 14 cities as of 2014.

Several units have also been structured within the Law Enforcement Authorities to deal with the cases of violence against women and ensure the processes for the victims are fulfilled efficiently.

“The Branch Office for Combating Domestic Violence” in service under the Department of Public Order of the General Directorate of Security Affairs.

“The Branch Office for Children and Combating Domestic Violence” is in service at the central organization of the Gendarmerie General Command. “Section Chief Offices of Women and Children” are in service within the Provincial Gendarmerie Commands in 26 cities nationwide.

Arrangements have been made to have female staff employed at the units concerned.

48. Please provide information on the incidents/complaints of domestic violence, sexual assault including rape, and child abuse against women and girls in your state?

In scope of the Law Nr.6284, 31.828 protection orders, 198.961 prevention orders and 3.231 coercive imprisonments sentences were ruled by June 2014. From 2011 to May 2014, a total of 34.882 people, 24586 of whom are women and 10.296 children in their company benefitted from the women’s shelters. Currently, the shelters serve a total of 1823 people, 1323 of whom are women and 500 children along with them.

49. Are there shelters or safe houses for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence, including domestic violence in your State?

Yes (X) No ()

If yes, are these available to women and girls living in rural and remote areas?

Women wishing to benefit from the services of women’s shelters may refer to the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, violence prevention and monitoring centers, health institutions, judicial authorities, NGOs or law enforcement authorities. They can also call the ALO 183 hotline to access to the shelters. In addition, the notices by the third persons who get informed of violence are also accepted and processed.

The women victims of violence who live in the rural and remote areas may also file their applications using the aforementioned channels and benefit from the services of the shelters.

In the absence of a women’s shelter around the neighborhood of the victim, temporary accommodation may also be offered at the social complexes owned by the public institutions and organizations, dormitories or similar places and/or the victims may be transferred to a shelter in another city, as per the Law Nr.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women.

50. Are men and women equally entitled in law and practice to interpret cultural traditions, values and practices in your States?

Yes () No (X)

Our national legislation and the Constitution in particular include provisions safeguarding the equality of men and women and geared towards making this equality for real. However though, women are still under-represented and have disadvantages in the fields of education, health, decision making and employment. With a view to eliminating unequal representation and women's secondary status, activities are being carried out to increase awareness/ information on gender equality among men in particular and society.

51. Are there restrictive dress codes for women which do not apply to men?

Yes (X) No ()

The appearance restrictions apply to the public officers and are governed by the "Regulation on the Appearance of the Public Officers". The regulation stipulates the provisions for men and women in separate clauses and they differ from each other. The regulation was amended on October 4, 2013 and the headscarf ban was abolished. However though, the statement which reads "The Security Services staff, judges, prosecutors, Turkish Armed Forces staff shall abide by the procedures and principles outlined in the special regulations of the relevant institutions and organizations" was included to provide an exception to the headscarf freedom. Moreover, the TGNA Bylaw was modified to allow female deputies to cover their heads and put on trousers.

52. Are women in the country allowed to be a member and fully participate in cultural and scientific institutions in your state?

Yes (X) No ()

There are no provisions in our national legislation to prevent women from taking charge in any institutions or organizations, getting affiliated with or involved in them.

53. Are women entitled in law and practice, independently of their marital status, to decide freely whether or not to participate in certain cultural events, traditions and practices in your state?

Yes (X) No ()

Our national legislation is free from any provisions to hinder women's taking part in any cultural events, traditions or practices. The laws and other legal adjustments guarantee men's and women's free decision-making with regard to the issues that concern their lives. Moreover, practices built on suppressing and controlling women at times are available in social life due to mindsets based on gender inequality. The conviction that child care responsibility rests on women due to the gender roles tend to prevent women from participating in social life and further, it is observed in the family patterns where traditional gender stereotypes persist that women can only participate in social activities upon consent of their spouses, fathers or other family elders.

54. Are there any specific actions to recognize and value the contributions of women to culture in your state?

Yes (X) No ()

Please see the Answers 56 and 61.

55. Do you have data regarding the participation of women in arts, science, sports and in the proportion of public funding allocated to women in these activities?

In Turkey, the participation in sports is generally low, but women's participation in sports is even less compared to men. In our country 3.5 % of women who do sports have licenses and the rate of women who do sports actively accounts for %1.8 of the population. Women's participation in sports has increased dramatically in recent years. In 2009 the rate of women registered to the federation was 27 % (449.046), whereas by the end of 2013 it rose to 30 % (839.117) (Turkish Statistics Institute- TUIK statistics). This increase is considered to be a reflection of the successful infrastructural investments in Turkey and the role model set for girls and women by the achievements of our sportswomen in Olympiads and international competitions.

A review of "the rates of participation in outdoor cultural activities among the 15+ population in the reference month" demonstrated that only 1.6% of women went to the museums and art galleries, 1.8% to the theatre, ballet and opera and 2.6% to libraries while 6.9% of them went to the cinema. This data belongs to 2006 and has been updated ever since.

56. Has your state developed any temporary special measures to enhance the participation of women in arts, science, sports and any other cultural activity?

Yes (X) No ()

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies and The Ministry of Culture and Tourism signed a protocol of cooperation on 26th March, 2012. It is included among the aims of the protocol to promote women's participation in social and cultural activities and it confers responsibilities upon both ministries in this regard. The Protocol The implementation of the protocol is being continued.

57. Are women allowed and encouraged by your state to participate all sports?

Yes (X) No ()

In Turkey there are 4.721.371 sportspeople with licenses and 27 % (1.308.393) of them are women. as far as the active sportspeople are concerned, less than half of the licensed sportspeople (2.134.263) do sports actively and the active sportswomen account for 25% of them (Statistics of The Ministry of Youth and Sports).

On the other hand, 29,7% (8.572) of the students still attending the sports high schools were girls according to 2013-2014 school year data (The Ministry of National Education Statistics). The data of the school year of 2012-2013 pointed out that 32,2 % (34.483), of those who continue to the Academies of Physical Education and Sports and 37,2 % of those attending the Schools of Sports Sciences and Technologies were girls (Student Measurement, Selection and Placement (OSYM) Statistics).

However, women's participation in sports has risen significantly in recent years. In 2009, the rate of women affiliated with the federation was 27 % (449.046), whereas this rate rose to 30 % (839.117) by the end of 2013 (TUIK). This increase is considered to be a reflection of the successful infrastructural investments in Turkey and the role model set for girls and women by the achievements of our sportswomen in Olympiads and international competitions.

58. Is any special dress code provided in the legal regulations for all women exercising sports in your state?

Yes () No (X)

59. Are there any differences in your state in conditions for women's access to museums, parks, theaters, sports stadiums and other facilities where culture, sports and science are disseminated in comparison with men?

Yes () No (X)

The data pertaining to women's participation in cultural and social activities reveal that women outnumber men in terms of participation in many fields. It can be seen that women comprise 45 % of the people who go to the cinema, 51,8 % of the people who go to theatre, ballet and opera, 60,1% of the people going to the concerts and 62,4 of those who go to art galleries or museums, 44,3 of the people who go to libraries. (The Turkish Statistics Institute 2006 data)

60. Is your state promoting the participation of women in the arts?

Yes (X) No ()

Several incentives are being offered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to the female artists. Likewise, various award ceremonies are held to promote female artist. (See also the Answer 56)

61. Have there been any cases in your state in last decade of women artists prosecuted for the performance of art, allegedly violating public authority or morals?

Ministry has not received any complaints or applications with regard to this issue.

