

WWHR WOMEN FOR
WOMEN'S
HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



ACTIVITY REPORT

2025



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GREETINGS



The past year was marked by profound upheavals both in Turkey and across the world. It has been a period of intensified attacks on our hard-won gains, yet one in which we refused to relent in our struggle. Globally, we faced an atmosphere defined by wars and escalating securitization policies, the rise of racism and anti-immigrant sentiment, and a growing skepticism toward international norms and mechanisms. Ongoing wars in different geographies, peace processes, and deepening humanitarian crises have once again reminded us how vital peace and international solidarity are. In this climate of shrinking democratic spaces and oppression of dissenting voices, we, as women and LGBTI+ people, have continued to foster solidarity and fight for our rights. In Turkey, the environment of mounting political tension and state pressure manifested itself throughout the year through harsh suppression of protests, rights violations against youth—particularly young women—and the widespread implementation of trustee policies targeting elected local governments. All these developments have underscored the importance of remembering the struggles through which our rights were won and keeping the collective memory of the feminist movement alive.

Body politics took a more central stage in 2025. Not only was 2025 declared the “Year of the Family,” but the period between 2026 and 2035 was also designated as the “Decade of Family and Population.” Under the rhetoric of “protecting the family,” practices directly interfering with the lives of women, LGBTI+ people, and youth began to be implemented one by one. A rights-based approach was replaced by a mindset that controls, inspects, and disciplines bodies through direct judicial intervention. Provisions aimed at criminalizing LGBTI+ visibility and existence, which were reported to be included in the 10th and 11th judicial reform packages, were pushed back by the resistance of the women’s and human rights movements, spearheaded by the LGBTI+ movement. However, freedom of association was heavily targeted, particularly through accusations of “obscenity.” Lawsuits were filed against social media influencers, activists, and LGBTI+ organizations by leveraging charges such as “violation of public morality,” “obscenity,” and

“inciting the public to hatred and enmity,” leading to unlawful detentions and arrests. Heightened surveillance and control over gender expression, sexuality, and body politics have transformed into a direct tool of political subjugation.

The Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), following a sermon targeting women’s attire, once again opened women’s acquired rights to debate by openly disregarding the equal right to inheritance guaranteed by law. While the narratives of dozens of women speaking out about sexual violence in various artistic fields were questioned and their experiences were invalidated, the men who perpetrated this violence often continued their lives without accountability. Femicides were not prevented last year either; while male violence continued to threaten women’s right to life, the state’s failure to fulfill its obligations of prevention, protection, and effective investigation deepened the climate of impunity. Despite this, women have continued to raise their voices and persist in their struggle, both against attacks on their hard-won rights and in demanding a life free from violence.

The deepening economic crisis in Turkey made every area of life even more difficult in 2025. Rising inflation, unemployment, and precarity continue to affect women’s lives in multi-dimensional ways concerning the sustenance of daily life. Increasing costs of living make it harder to access basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare. This situation forces women within the household to sacrifice their own needs and results in a more intense burden of care and unpaid domestic labor, as well as livelihood responsibilities, being placed upon them.

Despite all these adversities, resistance continues in Turkey and across the world. Feminist movements, LGBTI+ movements, and all segments engaged in rights-based struggles have multiplied the ways of coming together instead of retreating in the face of rising oppression. As WWHR, we have continued to work to expand solidarity and struggle despite all these challenging conditions. With this Activity Report, we share a summary of our work in 2025. We continue the struggle with solidarity, courage, and persistence.

ABOUT US



As Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR), we collaborate with women's and feminist movements in Turkey and around the world in organized campaigns to ensure legal changes that safeguard women's rights and gender equality, develop policies centered on gender equality, and ensure the implementation of existing legislation with an egalitarian perspective. Having undertaken important roles in many legal reforms in the past, our association—in addition to local and national advocacy—builds international networks and conducts advocacy at the United Nations (UN) level to achieve political transformation on women's rights and gender equality.

To support women in having a say in their own lives and fully exercising their rights in all areas, we developed the Women's Human Rights Education Program (HREP) in 1995. One of the key goals of HREP—which has been conducted in different regions of Turkey for 30 years and remains one of the most comprehensive and widespread human rights education programs in the world—is the establishment of independent women's organizations and contributing to social transformation. In addition to HREP group work, we continue to reach large numbers of people through the Gender Equality Seminars we have been organizing since 2016 in cooperation with municipalities, women's organizations, and private sector institutions.

Since our founding, one pillar of our work has been conducting national and international research aimed at identifying factors that prevent women from exercising their civil, economic, political, sexual, bodily, and reproductive rights, and contributing to the creation of actions and policies to eliminate these barriers. As WWHR, we support every effort with publications and communication activities to document and multiply experiences, gains, and successful methods.

OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2025

From the Local to the Global / From the Global to the Local: What a Difference 30 Years Make! Ankara launch

At the end of 2024, we published a book covering WWHR's 30-year story alongside the history of the women's movement's struggle. We held the Ankara launch of *From the Local to the Global / From the Global to the Local: What A Difference 30 Years Make!* at the Çankaya Doğan Taşdelen Contemporary Arts Center with the participation of HREP trainers, feminists, women's organizations, LGBTI+ rights defenders, academics, and civil society representatives.

We continued to work within the scope of the “My Right to Abortion” Project



As part of the “My Right to Abortion” project, which we carry out together with the Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation and Women on Web:

Approach to Abortion Workshops: We began implementing “Approach Workshops for Medical Students,” which contain information on rights-based and safe abortion for medical students. In these workshops, the first conducted with students from the Turkish Medical Students' International Committee (TurkMSIC) and the second with the Association of Student Midwives (Öğrenci Ebeler Derneği), we have reached over 60 medical and health sciences students from various regions across Turkey. During these gatherings, we examined the history of the feminist struggle for abortion rights, their legalization processes, and the legal framework for abortion services in national and international law. We also focused on safe abortion methods used worldwide, including medical abortion, and discussed women's abortion experiences in Turkey.

Abortion Rights Workshop with Women's Organizations: In this workshop, attended by 23 women from 15 different organizations, we addressed abortion rights from a feminist perspective. We conducted comprehensive discussions on the history of abortion, global struggle and advocacy practices, the legal framework concerning abortion, and various abortion methods. Drawing on women's personal abortion experiences, we discussed common challenges and strategies for resistance while sharing knowledge and expertise.

We published the Areas of Capacity-Building for Women's Organizations: Needs Assessment Report

In April, we published *Areas of Capacity-Building for Women's Organizations: A Needs Assessment*, a report compiling the results of our research conducted with 57 organizations to understand the capacity-building needs of women's organizations in Turkey. The report provides an analysis of the capacity development needs of local women's and LGBTI+ organizations in key areas, including human resources and organizational structure, resource development, strategic planning, building solidarity networks and advocacy, gender equality and rights awareness, communication and digital skills, monitoring and evaluation, and risk management. We shared the findings of the report during online launch events held with HREP trainers on May 27 and with LGBTI+ organizations on June 24. These meetings provided a platform to discuss the areas identified in the report and the strategies that can be implemented to strengthen the organizations' capacities in these areas of need.

We join the Executive Board of the Istanbul City Council for the new term

We attended the 3rd Term General Assembly of the Istanbul City Council and participated in the Executive Board elections by declaring our representative. Carrying out our advocacy based on feminist principles within this platform, we will continue to support and collaborate with the Women's Council to advance equality and inclusivity in urban policies.



Strengthening our solidarity in Çanakkale



Organized in collaboration with the We Are All Different, We Are All Equal Association (Fark-Et), the Çanakkale Association for the Utilization of Women's Handicrafts and Women's Counseling Center (ELDER-KDM), and the Kepez Free Women's Solidarity (Kepez Özgür Kadın Dayanışma), the exhibition titled Seeing the Invisible: A Look at the Women's Movement in Çanakkale opened at the Çanakkale City Museum on November 25 and ran until March 8. Throughout that period, we hosted a talk titled "The Nervous System and the Freeze Response" with Gülşah Seral, and another panel on "Inclusivity and Organizing in Women's Solidarity" featuring Gül Erdost from the Women's Coalition and HREP trainer Şule Sepin İçli from Women of Hope (Umudun Kadınları) Magazine. We also held an event with the participants of four newly completed HREP groups in Çanakkale to present them with their certificates of participation.



In addition, the Sisterhood Monument (Kız Kardeşlik Anıtı) was inaugurated in Çanakkale on May 30. The monument is a collaborative output of a ceramic workshop conducted with the participation of 300 women during the HREP Festival, organized in cooperation with the Fark-Et, ELDER-KDM, and the Çanakkale Municipality. This public work of art, composed of individual ceramic tiles handcrafted by the women themselves, visualizes the power of co-existing with our differences, women's solidarity, and collective production. The fact that HREP has been carried out uninterruptedly in Çanakkale for 30 years is rooted in the continuity of our struggle and the strength of our solidarity.

We held our 9th Ordinary General Assembly

Bringing together our Board members from both the 2023–2025 and 2025–2027 terms, alongside our association members and broader team, the General Assembly served as a platform to share our 2024 activities and plan for the upcoming period.

We are expanding women's solidarity across Turkey with HREP Groups



Avcılar / HREP group



Adana / HREP group



Diyarbakır / trainers gathering and HREP group



Burhaniye / HREP group

The Women's Human Rights Education Program (HREP), which has reached more than 15,000 women across Turkey and Cyprus since 1995, is a program that aims to increase women's awareness and knowledge of their rights as equal citizens, support them in developing strategies to exercise these rights in their daily lives, and act as a catalyst for organizing efforts at local, national, and international levels.



Ataşehir Municipality Gender Equality Seminar and HREP Cooperation Protocol

In 2025, a total of 701 women participated in 50 HREP groups across 16 provinces, completing the 16-week group work sessions. HREP continues to create space for women to empower themselves not only individually but also collectively. The stories of trainers and participants range from entering politics and starting their own businesses to returning to education and breaking the cycle of violence.

As a result of our cooperation visits to municipalities this year and with the contribution of our trainers, 23 HREP groups that began in 2025 in 11 provinces with 576 participants are set to be completed in 2026. This year, we signed the KiHEP Cooperation Protocol for the first time this year with the municipalities of Çeşme and Bornova in partnership with the İzmir Women's Solidarity Association, along with the municipalities of Tepebaşı and Kadıköy, Adana Metropolitan Municipality, and Ataşehir Municipality. We also renewed our ongoing protocols with Tepebaşı and Kadıköy Municipalities. Thus, the number of our active cooperation protocols has reached 23 across Turkey. Through these cooperation protocols, we aim to ensure the sustainability of our HREP groups, our trainings for municipal personnel, and our efforts to strengthen women's rights.



Adana Metropolitan Municipality HREP Cooperation Protocol

We continued conducting Gender Equality (GE) Seminars



As part of our efforts to strengthen gender equality, we continued to organize seminars in both municipalities and the private sector. Throughout 2025, we conducted GE seminars in Antalya, Balıkesir, Eskişehir, İstanbul, and Şanlıurfa, in collaboration with 6 local governments and 3 NGOs, reaching a total of 504 participants, including 345 women and 159 men.

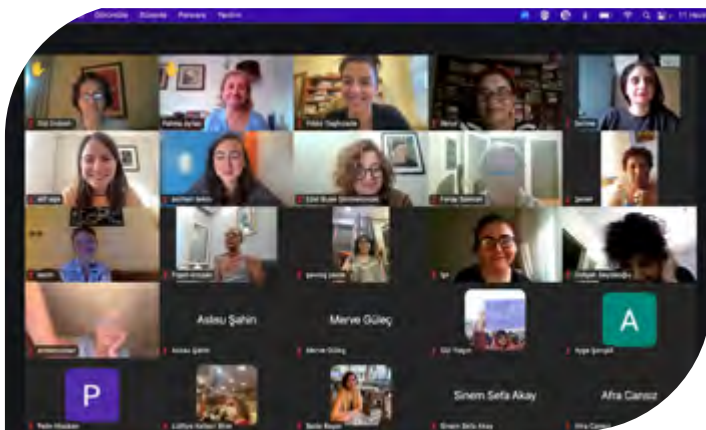
We Held the 14th HREP Training of Trainers Evaluation and Future Planning Meeting



From September 24 to 27, we gathered in Istanbul with the trainers who participated in the 14th HREP Training of Trainers held in 2024 and subsequently completed their first HREP group sessions. During the event, these trainers received their HREP Group Facilitator certificates. We extend our thanks to all the HREP trainers and participants who are part of our ever-growing and shared struggle.

We continued to monitor state obligations within international human rights mechanisms

• Our engagement in Turkey's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process



In May, we were in Geneva to follow the fourth cycle of Turkey's human rights review during the 49th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. As WWHR, Mor Çatı, and the Women's Coalition, we had prepared and submitted a joint shadow report ahead of Turkey's official review session, which takes place every five years. As a result of the collective advocacy we carried out as women, feminists, and human rights defenders, 10 countries called on Turkey to re-sign the Istanbul Convention, while 41 countries demand concrete measures to be taken to prevent and punish violence against women and protect survivors.

Furthermore, we met with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights to share the key findings and observations regarding women's rights and gender equality in the UPR report we prepared.

Following the review session, we organized a debriefing meeting with women's and LGBTI+ organizations in Turkey to present the gender-related recommendations and our observations from Turkey's assessment. Bringing together 19 representatives from various women's and LGBTI+ organizations, we shared our knowledge and experiences related to the UPR framework, its outcomes, its functions, and how civil society can utilize it as an effective advocacy tool. In addition to our last joint report and the advocacy process, we discussed how we, as women's and LGBTI+ organizations, can strategically use the recommendations in our future advocacy work.

- **We facilitated an online meeting between the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and local women's and LGBTI+ organizations from Turkey**

Together with Mor Çatı and the Women's Coalition, we organized a meeting bringing together local women's and LGBTI+ organizations from Turkey with representatives from the OHCHR, with whom we communicated during Turkey's UPR review process. Through this meeting, we both provided the OHCHR office with first-hand information regarding the developments in the field of women's and LGBTI+ rights at the local level in Turkey, and supported the local organizations in international advocacy by facilitating their direct engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

- **We carried the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention to the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)**

Following the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, we were among the numerous plaintiffs who filed lawsuits against this unlawful act at the Council of State. The 10th Chamber of the Council of State rejected all cases by a majority vote, despite the contrary advisory opinions issued by the Council of State prosecutors. Consequently, we filed an appeal with the Plenary Session of Administrative Law Chambers of the Council of State. However, our appeal request was also rejected in December 2024. In May 2025, we lodged an individual application with the Constitutional Court, primarily on the grounds that the freedom of association and the right to a fair trial were violated. Simultaneously with our individual application to the Constitutional Court, we brought the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention to the ECHR. We do not give up our struggle to ensure that Turkey becomes a party to the Istanbul Convention once again. We know that the decision in question constitutes a violation of our freedom of association, and we continue our struggle across every venue of national and international law. We will take back the Istanbul Convention and ensure its effective implementation.

- **We participated in the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

At the HLPF held in New York, Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), Gender Equality, was reviewed at the global level. During the sessions, it was emphasized that the advancement of gender equality worldwide remains critically slow and that rights are regressing in many countries. UN Women highlighted that investing in care labor and protecting civil society are of crucial importance. Civil society representatives who took the floor shed light on the effects of discourses such as "protection of the family institution" championed by the Vatican and certain member states, which serve to restrict the rights of women and LGBTI+ people.



In partnership with Women's Coalition and the Federation of Women Associations in Türkiye (TKDF), we organized an online side event titled "Family Values or Feminist Futures? Gender Equality and Bodily Autonomy in the Face of Rising Conservatism." We discussed how the rising pro-family, exclusionary, and heteronormative policies in Turkey and at the global level directly threaten sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-responsive budgeting demands, and inclusive public policies. You can examine our detailed observations regarding the HLPF session in the [information note](#) we published.

- **We participated in the 69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**



We followed the 69th Session of the UN CSW held at the UN Headquarters in New York in March. In addition, together with the Women's Coalition, we organized a side event within the scope of CSW. Nearly 70 participants attended our event, titled "Pushback against Gender Equality and Its Influence on Gender-Based Violence." We spoke about the global rise of anti-gender movements, the increase in family-oriented policies, changes in civil society's participation in CSW, the implications of the EU's ratification of the Istanbul Convention alongside the backlash organized against it, post-withdrawal developments in Turkey, international feminist solidarity, and related strategies of struggle.

Subsequently, in May, we organized an online debriefing meeting to share the outcomes of and our observations from the 69th Session of the CSW. This event also aimed to support women's organizations within our HREP network in using the CSW more actively and effectively as an advocacy tool.

- **We prepared a joint opinion for the UN Human Rights Committee on freedom of association**

We contributed to the joint opinion prepared in collaboration with Third Sector Foundation of Türkiye (TÜSEV), Civil Society Development Center (STGM), and Human Rights Joint Platform (İHOP) to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee regarding General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Our contribution specifically focused on protecting and advancing women's freedom of association.

Documentary screenings of *Remember This Crowd* continued



Urfa Bar Association 'Remember This Crowd' screening"

Throughout the year, episodes of the *Remember This Crowd* documentary series were screened at dozens of events organized by local governments, local organizations, university clubs, festivals, and HREP groups. In 2025, we continued to leverage these gatherings to discuss current pressing agenda items through post-screening panel talks, drawing collective strength from solidarity - the core message of this series. Some of these events included:

- **13th KuirFest, Ankara:** Following the screening of *Remember This Crowd: Civil Code and Turkish Penal Code Campaigns* episode, a panel discussion was held with the participation of Gaye Erbatur, Selma Acuner, and Umut Güner to reflect on the memory of the feminist struggle and the milestones of those campaigns.
- **Hatay and Istanbul:** Documentary screenings were held within the scope of the 25th Evel Temmuz Festival in Hatay and Istanbul Pride Week. Those were followed by discussions on the joint struggle in response to the "Year of the Family" discourse and the threats of anti-LGBTI+ legislative amendments proposed for the Turkish Penal Code and the Civil Code.
- **Galatasaray University:** At the invitation of the LGBTI+ and Queer Studies Club, we organized a documentary screening and a talk addressing the systemic threats posed by the 11th Judicial Package and our corresponding strategies of resistance.
- **Diyarbakır:** A documentary screening and a talk on the feminist struggle were held at the closing of the HREP group conducted in collaboration with the Rosa Women's Association. Screenings were also organized in various HREP groups throughout the year.
- **Manisa:** In cooperation with the İzmir Women's Solidarity Association and in partnership with the Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, Yunussemre Municipality, Şehzadeler Municipality, and the Manisa Bar Association, a screening of *Remember This Crowd* was held, followed by a talk conducted by Melek Serdaroğlu Arslan and Bengi Kanat.

Within the scope of the 2025 Feminist Gatherings, we discussed trustee policies and disclosure as a feminist method



In the first Feminist Gatherings, we addressed trustee policies. In the gathering, featuring the elected Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality Neslihan Şedal, Rojda Kızgın from the Department of Women and Family Services of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, and feminist local government expert Zelal Yalçın as speakers, we evaluated the effects of trustee practices on gender equality, women's experiences in local governments, and feminist struggle strategies. During the event, which emphasized that this trustee policy extending from Van to Istanbul is not a new phenomenon, we drew upon lived experiences of women to address how the appointment of trustees constitutes not only an anti-democratic measure but also a patriarchal intervention.

In the second Feminist Gathering of the year, taking the disclosures in the art world as a starting point, we focused on "Disclosure as a Feminist Method." Together with lawyer Deniz Bayram, actress Ceren Koç from the *Speak Up To End (Susma Bitsin)* platform, and director Özlem Çingirler, we opened up a discussion exploring the experiences of feminist disclosure, our motivations for employing disclosure as a method, how to create pathways for safe disclosure, and both the possibilities and limits of this method.

We held our Extended Team Camp

We gathered in Kırklareli for the Extended Team Camp, bringing together members of our extended team. Over the course of the 3-day camp, we conducted a comprehensive review of our 2025 activities and analyzed the current political atmosphere. Also, we planned the activities and strategies for 2026.

We held the International Conference on Abortion Struggles



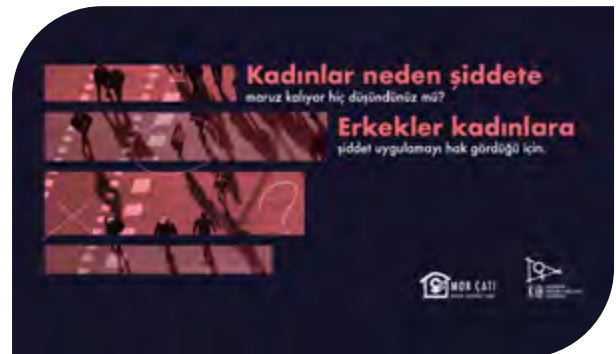
Within the scope of the “My Right to Abortion” project carried out by WWHR, Mor Çatı, and Women on Web, we organized the International Conference on Abortion Struggles on October 11 at the Istanbul Bar Association. This event held the distinction of being the first international feminist conference dedicated to abortion rights in Turkey.

In the session titled “Examples of Abortion Struggles from Around the World,” we, as feminists from Turkey and across the globe, had the opportunity to discuss the current status of abortion rights in different countries, struggle practices, and widely used methods such as medical abortion and telemedicine, while sharing our local experiences.

During the session, “Medical Abortion and Telemedicine: Where do They Stand in Access to Abortion?”, we had a discussion on the safety of medical abortion and how telemedicine strengthens women’s autonomy and access to abortion services. In the evaluation session, where we addressed the struggle for abortion rights as a practice of solidarity with feminists from different geographies, participants highlighted the similarities of common experiences and obstacles as well as the importance of transnational solidarity.

As WWHR and Mor Çatı, we raised our voices in the face of violence against women across Turkey on November 25

WWHR and Mor Çatı launched a joint campaign for November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Consisting of two main slogans, the campaign aimed to foster social transformation and



influence decision-makers by pointing out both the systemic causes of violence and methods of struggle against it. Within the scope of this campaign, we widely disseminated videos and visuals centered around the message: **“Have you ever thought about why women are subjected to violence? Because men see it as their right to inflict violence on women. So, how will violence against women end? By struggling together to eliminate gender inequality.”**



In cooperation with 15 women’s organizations across 37 municipalities, as well as on national television, digital press outlets, and magazines, we declared once again across Turkey that we are not alone in the face of male violence and that one must side with women.

Women’s Human Rights: Conference on International Experiences in Feminist Group Work - “Feminist Methodologies in Supporting Grassroot Organizing”



We came together with approximately 300 women at the *Women’s Human Rights: Conference on International Experiences in Feminist Group Work*, which we organized in Istanbul on December 13–14, 2025, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of HREP. For two days, we engaged in collective reflection, remembrance, and experience-sharing with local women’s organizations and initiatives born out of HREP, women’s and feminist organizations from Turkey, and feminist activists from the Global South.

Together with feminist activists from Turkey and diverse regions worldwide, we addressed the continuity of our feminist struggle and current anti-rights attacks, and emphasized the importance of our organizational strength in the face of these attacks. We discussed the opportunities

provided by the group work method for sharing our experiences as women, learning together, and organizing, in the light of experiences from different parts of the world and Turkey. Additionally, we set up a poster exhibition area in the conference hall to showcase posters from HREP groups and local women's organizations, serving as a meeting venue that mapped the collective memory of local feminist efforts across Turkey.

Following the conference, we gathered with 80 HREP trainers from different provinces of Turkey at the National HREP Trainer Meeting. Throughout the day, we conducted workshops including "Solidarity on Stage with Sociodrama," "Digital Communication Tools," and "Feminist Campaign Design." These aimed to foster shared experiences, empowerment practices, and collective learning through methods that enabled both physical and intellectual participation.

As the "No to Hate Law" Campaign Group, We Did Not Give Way to Hate

Since March, women's, feminist, and LGBTI+ organizations have convened regularly and worked in dedicated subgroups to counter the draft bill aimed at criminalizing LGBTI+ existence, which intensified in October following press reports that the bill would be introduced as part of the 11th Judicial Package. Mobilizing under the name "No to Hate Law Campaign Group," we published a synchronized joint statement across social media platforms to engage the public.

With this advocacy network we created, we organized an online forum for national and international decision-makers to discuss solidarity strategies and avenues for cooperation with global human rights mechanisms. A comprehensive analysis outlining the legal violations of the proposed bill, why it is unlawful, and its potential consequences if enacted was sent by the organizations in the campaign group to all members of parliament. Simultaneously, the campaign components collected signatures from 189 institutions, including human rights organizations and professional organizations. A forum was also organized, bringing all the signatory institutions together.

To demonstrate that the bill directly threatens diverse groups of society, including women, rather than solely affecting LGBTI+ individuals, the campaign group hosted a panel in Istanbul titled "No to the Legalization of Hate! We Stand Together Against Family Policies Encompassing Our Lives!" Attended by feminist and LGBTI+ activists, academics, artists, and representatives of professional organizations, the event addressed the anti-woman and anti-LGBTI+ policies intensifying around the "Year of the Family" rhetoric. We evaluated the regulations brought to the agenda with the 11th Judicial Package, and the effects of attacks on our fundamental rights on our lives from the perspectives of law, human rights, education, and culture and arts, while emphasizing the importance of expanding feminist and LGBTI+ solidarity and strengthening common resistance against these attacks. Ultimately, our collective struggle triumphed: the hate law aimed at criminalizing LGBTI+ existence was successfully excluded from the 11th Judicial Package.

Buradayız, vanz.
Hiçbir yasa kim
olduğumuzu
değiştiremez,
nefret bizi yok
edemez.

11. Yargı paketiyle getirilmek istenen
nefret yasasına karşı ortak açıklamamızdır.

Feminist Advocacy Workshop has launched



Initiated in 2025 and conducted twice in Istanbul, the Feminist Advocacy Workshop brought together 40 feminists between the ages of 18–24. In the workshops, we opened up space for thinking and discussing together, collective production, and strengthening solidarity. Alongside feminist participants from diverse corners of Turkey, we held discussions in a broad framework ranging from the historical gains of the feminist struggle to current rights violations, from rights-based advocacy methods to creative campaign design. While sharing experiences on topics such as consent culture, safe relationships, digital violence, and systemic threats to feminist organizing, we collectively reflected on diverse advocacy tools and ways of building solidarity and alliances. We put these insights into practice by developing campaign ideas that make visible the creative and collective power of feminist politics.

We published the research report *Neglected by the State, Holding onto Solidarity: Women's Experiences of Poverty in Istanbul* and held its launch event

In December, we published the report of our long-term research, titled *Neglected by the State, Holding onto Solidarity: Women's Experiences of Poverty in Istanbul*, prepared in collaboration with *Dissensus Research*. We presented the research findings and our policy proposals at a launch meeting held in Istanbul. The event featured a keynote presentation by İpek İlkkaracan, who analyzed women's poverty through the lenses of care labor, economic rights, and microeconomics, followed by an open discussion.



Based on in-depth interviews with 40 women living across Istanbul and supported by focus group discussions with activists working on women's and LGBTI+ poverty, the report examines localized experiences of economic precarity. We analyzed impoverishment within the framework of fundamental rights, including employment, housing, the unequal burden of care labor, access to healthcare and education, escaping the cycle of violence, and access to justice. The analysis makes visible the daily impacts of poverty, the profound emotional toll it exacts, and the critical public services and social policies that women urgently require.

We do not give up on our civil rights!

Following the discriminatory sermon of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in August regarding women's equal right to inheritance, we mobilized as part of the "We Do Not Give Up on Our Civil Rights Campaign Group." Consisting of more than thirty women's organizations, feminist organizations, and professional organizations, the coalition united against the government's agenda to introduce legislative changes aimed at curtailing women's civil rights.

We supported the dissemination of informative brochures prepared on the potential consequences of the legislative amendments discussed under the guise of "expediting divorces," and the discriminatory practices targeting women's equal application of inheritance laws. We continue to sustain our involvement with the campaign group, which has carried out various activities such as organizing protests across 18 provinces in Turkey against the legislative changes alleged to be included in the 11th Judicial Package.

We reiterated our call for a joint struggle against anti-gender movements this year

Within the framework of our strengthened solidarity as part of the One Day One Struggle (ODOS) Campaign, which has been coordinated annually on November 9 since 2019 by the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR), we held a meeting in collaboration with *Kaos GL* and *17 May Association*. During the meeting, we analyzed the local and regional impacts of anti-gender ideology across both Turkey and the Global South. We discussed its destructive consequences on equality, freedom, and democratic systems, while exploring the possibilities for a joint struggle.



We digitized our 32-year-old organizational archive



Within the scope of the grant program carried out by the STGM with the support of the European Commission, which aims to enhance the disaster prevention and crisis preparedness capacities of civil society organizations, we focused our efforts in 2025 on disaster resilience. In this framework, our priority was to digitize our 32-year-old organizational archive, safeguarding our institutional memory against potential disaster risks.

In October, we organized an event where we discussed the relationship between disasters and archives, specifically focusing on women-centered and feminist archiving. In November, we conducted a risk analysis to initiate our disaster planning efforts and held our first training meeting on measures in the face of disasters.

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Reports, Brochures

- [“I Want to Have an Abortion” brochures](#) (Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian)
- [15th International AWID Forum Observation Report: Global Feminist Solidarity and Resistance](#)
- [Women’s Organizations Capacity Development Areas: Needs Analysis Report](#)
- [Civil Code and Turkish Penal Code Reforms from a Woman’s Perspective: Success of Two Nationwide Campaigns](#)
- [Family Policies Workshop Report](#)
- [Abortion care guideline: executive summary](#)
- [Neglected by the State, Holding onto Solidarity: Women’s Experiences of Poverty in Istanbul](#) – Executive Summary and Policy Proposals



Information Notes, Press Releases, Statements

- [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) 69th Session Side Event Press Note](#)
- [Press Release: Women for Women’s Human Rights \(WWHR\) Carried the Istanbul Convention Case to the ECHR](#)
- [Do not even think about granting amnesty to woman-killers and child abusers under the name of ‘execution regulations’!](#)
- [Our observations on the United Nations High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) 2025](#)

- [We do not allow our right to inheritance to be opened to debate in any way!](#)
- [International Conference on Abortion Struggles Held in Istanbul: Global Feminist Solidarity for Women's Right to Abortion](#)
- [We Insist on Peace, We Build Peace: Feminist Demands for Sustainable, Lasting, and Inclusive Peace](#)
- [Side with women, not with violence](#)
- [Granting amnesty to woman-killers, child abusers, and perpetrators of violence against women is unacceptable!](#)
- [Revitalizing the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\): An Advocacy Information Note for National Women's Rights Organizations](#)

Videos

- [What is the Civil Code?](#)
- [What is the Law of Persons?](#)
- [What is Family Law?](#)
- [What is Inheritance Law and Property Law?](#)



WWHR IN PRESS

This year, we were featured in a total of **226 news reports** in the press.



Şiddetin kaynağı EŞİTSİZLİK

NEDEN?

"Kadınlar neden şiddete maruz kalıyor?" İlk soruya "Erkekler kadınlara şiddet uygulamayı hak gördüğü için" yanıtı verilen kampanyada, erkek şiddetinin bir öfke patlaması ya da bireysel psikolojik sorunlarla açıklanamayacağı, bunun kadınların eşit görülmediği bir toplumsal düzenin sonucu olduğu belirtiliyor. Erkeklerin kadınları kontrol etmek, cezalandırmak ya da baskı altına almak amacıyla ev içinde ve dışında sistemli bir şekilde şiddet uyguladığı vurgulanıyor. Kadın hareketinin mücadelesi sayesinde toplumdaki erkek şiddetini mazur gören kalıpların zayıfladığı, kamu kurumlarında bazı mekanizmaların geliştirildiği ifade ediliyor. Daha fazla kadın, maruz kaldığı şiddeti adlandıyor ve destek arayabiliyor. Ancak kampanya, tüm bu ilerlemeye rağmen şiddetin kaynağındaki eşitsiz zihniyetin hâlâ sürüp durduğu uyarısında bulunuyor.

Kadının İnsan Hakları Derneği ile Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı, Türkiye'deki erkek şiddetinin 'bir anlık öfke' değil, kadınların eşit görülmediği toplumsal düzenin sonucu olduğunu vurgulayan ortak bir kampanya başlattı

Nasıl son bulacak?

Kampanyanın ikinci sorusu ise "Peki kadına yönelik şiddet nasıl son bulacak?" yanıtı ise "Cinsiyet eşitsizliğini ortadan kaldırmak için hep birlikte mücadele ederek."

Kampanyada, kadına yönelik şiddetin, kadınların cinsiyetleri nedeniyle maruz bırakıldıkları ayrımcılığın doğrudan sonucu olduğu belirtiliyor. Bu nedenle eşitsizlikle yüzleşmeden şiddetin son bulmayacağı vurgulanıyor. Kampanya, cinsiyet eşitsizliğini hayata geçirmek kendi yaşamından başlayarak hepimizin sorumluluğu olduğunu ancak bu eşitliği sağlamak, kadınları şiddetten korumak, şiddetten uzak bir hayat kurabilmeleri için kadınları desteklemek ve faileri etkin biçimde cezalandırmak devletlerin yükümlülüğüdür diyor.

Kadın İnsan Hakları Derneği ve Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı, Türkiye'deki şiddet gerçeğine dikkat çeken ortak bir kampanya başlattı. Kampanya, şiddetin yalnızca sonuçlarına değil, onu üreten toplumsal eşitsizliğe ve erkek egemen zihniyete odaklanıyor. Dünya genelinde her 3 kadından 1'inin yaşamı boyunca en az bir kez fiziksel ya da cinsel şiddete maruz kalıyor. Türkiye'de her yıl yüzlerce kadın öldürülürken binlerce fiziksel, psikolojik, cinsel, ekonomik ve dijital şiddete maruz kalıyor. Kadınların büyük bölümü en yakınlarındaki erkeklerden şiddet görürken, kadın hareketinin yıllara yayılan mücadelesi sayesinde sessizlik perdesi giderek kalkıyor. Ancak kampanya, bu görünürlüğe rağmen şiddetin neden ortaya çıktığının hâlâ yeterince konuşulmadığını vurguluyor.

Ciğdem Yılmaz
Haber Merkezi

Kadına yönelik şiddet
nasıl son bulacak?

Cinsiyet eşitsizliğine
ortadan kaldırmak için
hep birlikte mücadele ediyoruz.

December 2, 2025 - Milliyet

İstanbul Sözleşmesi kararı AIHM'e taşındı

Kadın İnsan Hakları Derneği (KİH), Türkiye'nin İstanbul Sözleşmesi'nden çekilmesini Avrupa İnsan Hakları Mahkemesi'ne (AIHM) taşıdı. KİH tarafından yapılan açıklamada, iç hukuk yollarının tükenmesi üzerine 18 Nisan'da AIHM'e bireysel başvuru yapıldığı belirtildi. Başvuruda, İstanbul Sözleşmesi'nden çekilmenin örgütlenme özgürlüğü, adil yargılanma hakkı, etkili başvuru hakkı ve ayrımcılık yasasını ihlal ettiği; mahkemenin metodolojisi-ne uygun olarak sırasıyla kanuni ve meşru bir sebep taşımadığı ve demokratik toplum düzeninde gerekli ve orantılı bir işlem olmadığı vurgulandı. KİH ayrıca AIHM'e

gönderilen başvuruda, çekilmenin aşırı sağ grupların baskısıyla gerçekleştiğini, bu kararın ardından kadınlara ve LGBTİ+lara yönelik saldırıların arttığını da ifade etti. KİH'in açıklamasında şu ifadeler kullanıldı: "Şiddetten uzak, özgür ve eşit yaşamak bir Cumhurbaşkanı kararıyla bizlere lütfedilmediği gibi, bir Cumhurbaşkanı kararıyla da elimizden alınmaz. Mahkemenin kararı ne olursa olsun bu gerçeği değiştirmez. Haklarımıza, varoluşumuza ve özgürlüğümüze yönelen politikalara karşı hem sokakta hem hukuk önünde mücadele etmeye devam edeceğiz. İstanbul Sözleşmesi bizim vazgeçmiyoruz." **Haber Merkezi**



May 3, 2025 - BirGün

GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS IN 2025

Throughout 2025, as part of our efforts for the struggle for gender equality, we came together with numerous institutions, individuals, and platforms. By participating in various events at local, national, regional, and international levels, we shared our experiences, conducted discussions, and strengthened our solidarity networks.

- We participated in 135 meetings, panels, workshops, forums, and network meetings held on different themes throughout the year, voicing our policy and implementation proposals.
- We delivered 12 different presentations at events we attended upon the invitation of universities, international convenings, embassies, bar associations, and various civil society organizations. In these presentations, we shared our areas of work, the activities we conduct, and our experiences regarding the struggle for gender equality.
- We hosted women's organizations and student groups from abroad and different cities across Turkey at our office.
- We held meetings with a total of 16 students regarding their thesis, project, and research processes, and contributed to 2 academic research projects.



UN Women International Women's Day 2025 Beijing+30 Panel



International Support Network for Social Workers' office visit



3rd Term General Assembly of the Istanbul City Council

Some Events We Attended:

- Resistance Against Anti-Gender Movements panel organized by UN Women Turkey.
- “30 Years, 7 Stories” film screening and UN Women Turkey’s International Women’s Day 2025 Beijing +30 Panel, where we took part as speakers.
- The meeting of the Istanbul Bar Association Human Rights Center, which brought together institutions working in the field.
- International Mechanisms and Feminist Politics Workshop organized within the scope of the FIERCE project conducted by the KOÇ University Center for Gender Studies (KOÇ-KAM).
- 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action panel organized by KOÇ-KAM and the UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development.
- Flex 3.0 Feminist Learning Exchange program, themed “Feminist Unpacking and Strategising around Surveillance,” organized by IWRAW Asia Pacific in Thailand.
- “Women for Strong Cities” panel organized by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey.
- Safe Life for Women Workshop organized in cooperation with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Department of Social Services and Bakırköy Municipality.



Feminist Learning Exchange program by IWRAW: Feminist Unpacking and Strategising around Surveillance



Women for Strong Cities Panel of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey



Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Social Services & Bakırköy Municipality: Safe Life for Women Workshop

- Resistance in Anti-Gender Times Workshop conducted in cooperation with Lund University and Kadir Has University.
- Council of Europe World Forum for Democracy, where we followed the multi-dimensional course of the democracy crisis in 2025.
- Launch of Fòs Feminista's #ForAllFamilies campaign.
- Gender Equality Workshop organized by the CHP Istanbul Provincial Organization.
- Insisting on Gender Equality Seminar organized by CEİD.
- EU TACSO 3 Regional Workshop on CSO Governance in the Western Balkans and Turkey, which we attended as a panelist.
- "Femicides are Political" Open Forum event with Sultangazi Women's Solidarity.
- Tekirdağ Bar Association Women's Rights Center event, where we spoke on women's rights and gender equality.
- International Civil Society Solidarity Forum, attended by activists from 40 countries, where we made a presentation on anti-genderism in Turkey and the discriminatory legislative changes on the agenda.
- Side by Side for Equality Forum, bringing together 189 institutions that signed the joint text against the 11th Judicial Package.



EU TACSO 3 Regional Workshop on CSO Governance



Sultangazi Municipality: "Femicide is Political" Open Forum Event



Side by Side for Equality Forum

- Spearheading SDG5: From Stagnation to Implementation, Acceleration & Transformation event held within the scope of HLPF.
- Women's Human Rights and Feminism session at the Körfez Fem-Fest in Burhaniye, where we were speakers.
- ILO Fundamental Rights NGO Training Program held within the scope of the Women's Human Rights in Working Life Training Project.
- "Feminist Education as a Political and Transformative Practice: 16 Modules of HREP" session at the 10th AGORA Camp organized by the European Women's Lobby, where we were speakers.
- Strategy and Campaign Development Workshop organized by CHP Youth Branches and GoFor.
- UN Women Turkey's online evaluation meeting regarding the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) and HLPF processes.
- Meeting with women and LGBTI+ students from Koç University within the scope of November 25 events, where we discussed peace in the context of how war fuels patriarchy and male violence.



Burhaniye Gulf Fem-Fest: Women's Human Rights and Feminism Session



10th AGORA Camp: Feminist Education as a Political and Transformative Practice — The 16 Modules of HREP



November 25th Conversation with Women and LGBTI+ Students from Koç University

- Speed Dialogue Meetings organized within the scope of UN Women's "Reimagining Gender Equality Across Generations and Communities in Turkey" project.
- International Declaration of Human Rights Defenders launch by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV).
- "We Have a Voice!" session of the 9th Another School of Politics organized by the Zero Discrimination Association, where we participated as one of the speakers.
- "HREP Experience: Feminist Education and Group Work Methods" session organized by the Antalya Bar Association Women's Commission, where we were among the speakers.
- Meeting with members of the İzmir Women's Solidarity Association, Çeşme Women's Solidarity Association, and Çeşme Women's Initiative Production and Management Cooperative at the Çeşme Women's Cooperative.
- An event organized by the Kocaeli University Kuir Kozgun LGBTI+ student community, where we discussed how the articles of the 11th Judicial Package would affect our lives and our common struggle.
- Criminal complaint action against rights violations during the March 8 Feminist Night March.
- Invitation by the Women in Engineering Committee of the Marmara University IEEE club, where we made a presentation on Law No. 6284 and women's rights against violence.



Another School of Politics: "We Have a Voice!" Session



Meeting with Women's Associations and Cooperatives in Çeşme



Organization of Kocaeli University Queer Kozgun LGBTI+ Student Club

- Invitation from students at Turkish-German University, where we discussed preventive and protective efforts in the struggle against violence and what can be done on campus.
- Law Forum Against the Demonization of LGBTI+s organized by Lambdaistanbul.
- The 28th Annual Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers and the workshops held within the scope of the assembly, organized by Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, Women's Solidarity Foundation (KADAV), Women's Time Association (Kadın Zamanı), and International Migrant Women's Solidarity Association under the title "Combating Male Violence in the Absence of Social Services in Turkey: The Power and Possibilities of Feminist Methods."
- "A Life Without Violence is Possible" talk at Avcılar Municipality Cihangir Women's Counseling Center on November 25, where we met with women to discuss the current situation of our rights.
- Sancaktepe Municipality breakfast invitation on November 25, where we met with over 300 women and gave a presentation on their legal rights, primarily Law No. 6284, in the struggle against violence.
- International Conference on Gender organized by EuroMed Rights, where we made a presentation on Turkey's responsibilities under international human rights conventions, current practices, and the political context.
- Etkiniz Forum, whose theme for this year was determined as "Advocacy in Shrinking Spaces."



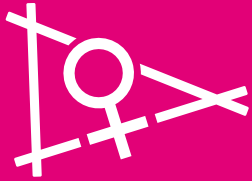
Shelters Assembly: Combating Men's Violence in the Absence of Social Work in Turkey: The Power and Possibilities of the Feminist Method



EuroMed Rights International Gender Conference



Etkiniz Forum: Advocacy in Shrinking Spaces



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HUMAN RIGHTS

WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS (WWHR)

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