

## **NGO LIST OF ISSUES**

FOR THE REVIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT  
UNDER THE UN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON  
THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Submitted by Kurdish Human Rights Project

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Kurdish Human Rights Project

11 Guilford Street

London WC1N 1DH

## LIST OF ISSUES & SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT

1. Statistics demonstrate that Kurds and Kurdish women experience lower indicators in all sectors, including access to justice, political participation, education, employment, and healthcare, yet the government declines to collect specific data on the Kurdish dimension of these issues. Will the Turkish government be collecting specific data on Kurdish populations in order to improve indicators?

### **Article 2**

2. What specific measures has Turkey taken to overcome the culture of indifference toward domestic violence and women's issues which is still pervasive among many officials in all levels of law enforcement and the criminal justice system?
3. What specific measures will Turkey take to ensure that non-Turkish speaking women, including Kurdish women, have equal opportunities to report domestic violence and have access to protective measures under the Law for the Protection of the Family?
4. In discussing its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periodic report with the CEDAW committee, Turkey mentioned that the government would take surveys on the issue of domestic violence. When will such surveys be undertaken?
5. Domestic violence disproportionately affects Kurdish women since many do not speak Turkish and are unable to gain protection and justice. Will these surveys on domestic violence also examine specifically domestic violence among minority women who do not speak Turkish?

6. In addition to giving warnings, how does the Turkish government intend to enforce the provision of the Law of Municipalities, Law 5393 which requires municipalities with populations of more than fifty thousand to build a women's shelter?
7. What mechanisms has the government implemented to provide guidance, funding, and oversight to these municipalities for the building of women's shelters?
8. How, specifically, will the Turkish government ensure oversight of law enforcement to eliminate the unofficial detentions and sexual assault of Kurdish women?
9. In response to the recent confiscation of Kurdish newspaper *Azadiya Welat* in Diyarbakir, what procedures will the Turkish government undertake to eliminate arbitrary restriction on the right to expression of Kurdish women? Has the government followed up on the allegations of sexual violence by plainclothes police officers in Diyarbakir?

#### **Article 7**

10. In light of the negative impact the ban against using minority languages in politics has upon Kurdish women, will the Turkish government consider revoking this ban?

#### **Article 10**

11. How does the government intend to enforce its law which makes eight years of schooling compulsory for children if many Kurdish girls are barred from attending school due to the prohibition on speaking or teaching Kurdish in schools?

12. In its periodic report, the Turkish government cited some limited measures undertaken to teach Turkish to non-Turkish speaking schoolchildren; is this programme going to be expanded to fully address the issues facing Kurdish girls?
13. What is Turkey's response to the statistic that 90 per cent of non-Turkish speaking women in southeast and eastern Turkey, many of whom are Kurdish, are illiterate, did not finish primary school, and are employed as low-paid agricultural or unpaid family workers,?
14. Is it the intention of the Turkish government to employ ÇATOMs as centres of education as temporary measures or as a more permanent measure?
15. If as a permanent measure, does the government view these ÇATOMs to be sufficient to provide literacy and educational training for women in the largely Kurdish regions of Turkey?

### **Article 11**

16. ÇATOMs are inaccessible to some women, especially Kurdish women who reside in communities that are long distances away from these centres and who are restricted by cultural constraints or domestic duties. In addition to ÇATOMs, what measures does the government intend to take to increase the Turkish language skills and literacy levels of non-Turkish speaking women in remote areas?
17. What specific measures does the government intend to implement to provide women with marketable job skills that increase women's employability and prospects of earning wages both in the Southeast and across Turkey?

### **Article 12**

18. When will the government propose a cohesive strategy to increase the availability and prevalence of health care providers and centres in the largely Kurdish regions of southeast Turkey?
19. What specific measures would the government propose to use to improve health indicators in southeast Turkey, and what specific measures has the government taken with regard to this issue?
20. In its Sixth periodic report, Turkey acknowledges a direct correlation between education and health care utilisation. Why has the government not taken more aggressive measures to increase Kurdish girls' and women's access to education in order to increase Kurdish health indicators?
21. Mental health services are an important component of health care services which contribute to the well-being of women. Does the Turkish government propose to provide such services to all women in Turkey, particularly those affected by displacement and violence?

### **Article 15**

22. Given the 2006 report by the police, Custom and Honour Crimes,' which noted a higher prevalence of 'honour killings' among those of Southeastern origin (mainly Kurdish individuals) in western cities, what targeted action has the Turkish Government taken to reach out to the Kurdish communities living outside of the Southeast to address this problem?
23. Given that the current law's practice of not providing translation in civil matters disproportionately impacts Kurdish women, what actions does Turkey propose to take to prevent this disparity?

24. What proactive steps is the Turkish government taking to target Kurdish women, a very high number of whom do not speak Turkish and are illiterate, to ensure that they are educated about and understand their legal rights?
25. Given the economic status of many women in Turkey and the precarious situation of women who are the victims of domestic violence or rape, what steps is the Turkish Government taking to ensure a more timely processing of legal aid applications for women in these situations?
26. In instances of domestic violence or sexual assault, would the Turkish government consider automatically providing legal aid to all women in these circumstances?

#### **Article 16**

27. In light of the low use of contraceptives by Kurdish couples, what measures is the Government taking to ensure that Kurdish women are educated and aware of contraception options?