

SPEAK-UP Roundtable (on-line)

**Gender Issues and Women's Rights in Field Projects
from higher Education, Civil Society to Direct Beneficiaries**

**Women's Human Rights Training Program:
A Grassroots Awareness-raising Initiative in Turkey**

**Ipek Ilkcaracan, Istanbul Technical University and
Women for Women's Human Rights - New Ways, Istanbul
June 21st, 2022**

Women for Women's Human Rights WWHR

- Autonomous feminist NGO
- Founded in 1993 in Turkey
- Name inspired by the 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna: «Women's rights are human rights»
- Works to
 - promote women's human rights, equality and non-discrimination in Turkey and worldwide
 - support the active and broad participation of women in all spheres of life as free individuals and equal citizens
 - Enable the establishment and maintenance of a democratic, egalitarian and peaceful social order at the national, regional and international levels

WWHR: MISSION

Spread awareness of feminist rights at the local, national, regional and international levels; contribute to women's equal, influential, and unobstructed participation in life; and advocate for the protection and strengthening of women's human rights.



WWHR: APPROACH

A holistic perspective in all its work to address the links between various issues concerning women (such as violence against women; education; political, social, economic and legal rights; sexuality and reproductive rights; the rights of girls, etc).

Working actively in women's human rights coalitions in Turkey and abroad, WWHR seeks to advance women's rights in national legislation and international documents, and help make these rights available in women's everyday lives.

Collaborating with women's and LGBTIQ organizations with similar objectives since its foundation, WWHR Ways combines various methods and tools in its efforts, such as action-research, publications, training, networking, and influencing decision-making and policy development mechanisms through advocacy.



WWHR: THEORY OF CHANGE

- Produce, share, and disseminate feminist knowledge and strategies
- Equip women with critical awareness and skills to exercise their human rights, and encourage them to become catalysts of social change through human rights training programs
- Raise awareness on women's and LGBTIQ rights through capacity building for activists, NGOs, social workers, and professionals working in the field of women's human rights
- Build solidarity networks and bring together international, regional, national, and local advocates of women's rights and gender equality issues to strengthen our efforts in promoting equality and nondiscrimination
- Engage in advocacy work nationally and internationally to actualize women's human rights and gender equality



WWHR: PROGRAMS

1. Rights-based Training Programs and Seminars

1. Human Rights Education Program for Women (HREP)
2. Gender Equality Seminars
3. HREP for Young Women (postponed due to Covid)

2. National and International Advocacy

1. Advocacy
 1. Protecting/improving earned rights
 2. Monitoring and reporting rights violations
2. Networking
 1. Supporting local women's organizations
 2. Forming/joining platforms for action

3. Producing and Sharing Feminist Knowledge

Publications as complementary to all its programs; a way to create knowledge and raise awareness; share experiences, strategies and best practices; and further advocacy and policy-making efforts

THE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN (HREP)

A Rights-based Field Training Program

Developed by Women for Women's Human Rights-New Ways in 1995 as a grassroots training program in line with two research studies (1994-1996) on the status and problems of women through face-to-face interviews with more than a thousand women

1. Women were often unaware of their existing legal rights, hence lacked the strategies to overcome violations of their rights in both private and public spheres
2. There was a severe lack of independent, grassroots organizing among women.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN (HREP)

A 16-week, participatory training program that aims to equip women with the necessary knowledge, critical awareness, and skills to exercise their rights in every sphere of life

- Introduction and Needs Assessment
- Women's Human Rights
- Constitutional and Civil Rights
- Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
- Strategies against Violence
- Women's Economic Rights
- Communication Skills
- Gender Sensitive Parenting and Children's Rights
- Women and Sexuality
- Women and Reproductive Rights
- Women and Politics
- Feminism and the Women's Movement
- Grassroots Organizing



Human Rights Education Program for Women

implemented in 60 provinces + Northern Cyprus



Human Rights Education Program for Women

- Implemented in all seven regions of Turkey over the past 25 years, comprehensive and widespread
- Through participatory and feminist methods, HREP aims to support women exercise their rights in all spheres of life, become empowered through rights-awareness, and organize in accordance with their needs
- HREP has been implemented in 60 provinces in Turkey and in Northern Cyprus to date; some 16,000 women have completed HREP so far



Human Rights Education Program for Women

PARTNERSHIPS

- 1998-2017: Protocol with Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- 2009-2015: In Cooperation with International Labor Organisation (ILO) Ankara Office and Employment Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Security
- 2009-2011: In Cooperation with the Directorate of Religious Affairs, more than 100 women Quran instructors
- 2002-onwards: +Women's Organisations
- 2016-onwards: Municipalities (protocols with 16 to date)

Human Rights Education Program for Women

Impact Assessment every seven years (most recent findings)

Satisfaction and impact: 98%

- I became more self-confident (91%)
- I feel stronger and better equipped (88%)
- I express myself better (88%)
- I am more aware of gender-based inequalities (87%), and have begun to fight against them (81%)
- I am more at peace with my body (85%)
- I am more attuned to my wants and needs (85%, %)
- I am more aware about my sexuality (84%)
- I am more compassionate and understanding toward myself (82%)

Human Rights Education Program for Women



“This program really surpassed my expectations in terms of developing myself, being in touch with myself and my environment, and learning about my rights.” (Izmir, HREP Participant)

Human Rights Education Program for Women

HREP was found to contribute to 84% of the respondents in their efforts to struggle against violence (domestic or otherwise).

- 57% reported being subject to words and actions reflecting emotional/psychological violence at home/in the family prior to HREP, and 34% was able to end said violence
- 26% reported being subject to words and actions reflecting physical violence at home/in the family prior to HREP, and 21% was able to end said violence
- 37% reported being subject to words and actions reflecting economic violence at home/in the family prior to HREP, and 24% was able to end said violence
- 16% reported being subject to words and actions reflecting sexual violence at home/in the family prior to HREP, and 11% was able to end said violence



Human Rights Education Program for Women



“For people like us who work in the field, programs like HREP actually function as a guide that truly strengthens our hand, makes our lives easier, finds its way onto the agenda of those who work professionally and in the private lives of many; especially in terms of the violence or conflicts women may experience in their private lives.” (Diyarbakir, HREP Participant)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Since 2012, focus has gradually shifted more to protecting earned rights:

- The Istanbul Convention
- Abortion
- Alimony
- TPC 103
- 6284...



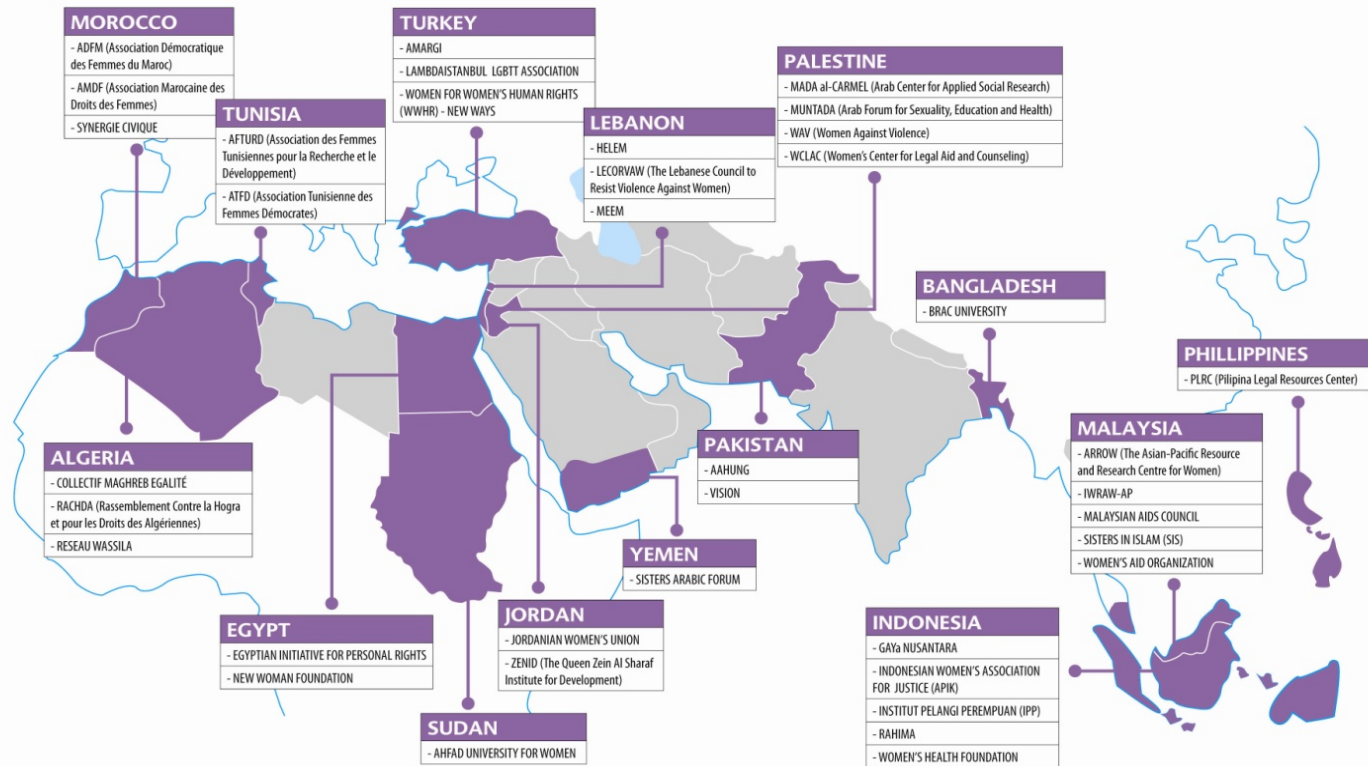
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

- WWHR spearheaded and co-founded the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR) in 2001, and served as its international coordination office between 2001 and 2011, bringing together leading NGOs and academic and research institutions working on these issues in the Middle East, North Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. The only international solidarity network working on sexuality in Muslim societies, CSBR currently has 38 member organizations from 15 countries.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

CSBR Organizational Members



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

WWHR is a member of numerous national and international networks and joins forces with them in advocacy efforts and campaigns:

National Coalitions and Solidarity Networks

- End Violence Platform
- European Women's Lobby Coordination in Turkey
- The Istanbul Convention Turkey Monitoring Platform
- Women's Coalition
- Women's Labor and Employment Initiative (KEIG)
- Women's Platform on the Turkish Penal Code
- Women's Platform for Equality

International Coalitions and Solidarity Networks

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
- Global Coalition for Human Rights Education
- European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs)
- Cairo+20 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Platform
- Women's Major Group (WMG)
- CSW Women's Rights Caucus (WRC)

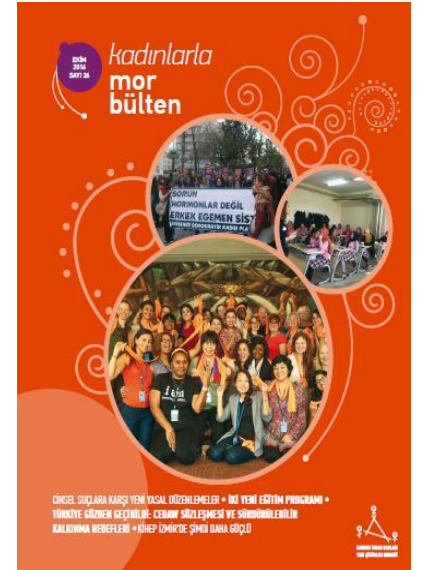
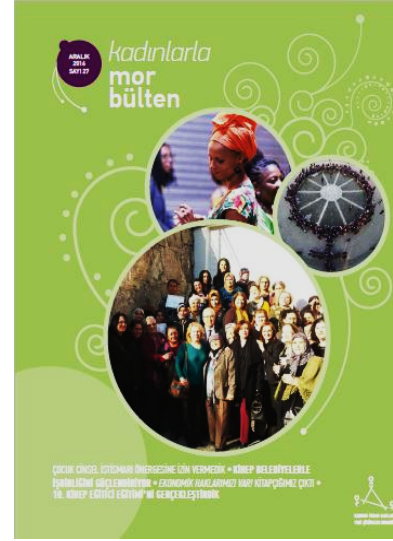
**CİNSELLİĞİMİZ
VAR!**

**EKONOMİK
HAKLARIMIZ
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**DOĞURGANLIK
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HREP PUBLICATIONS



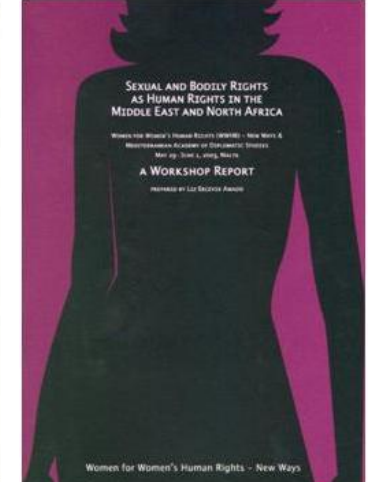
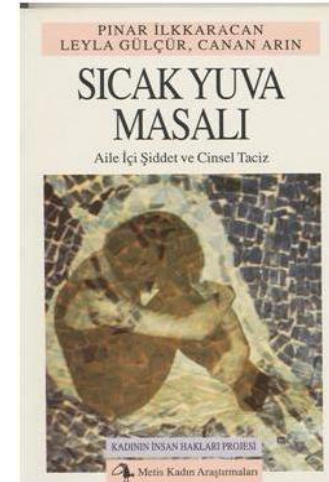
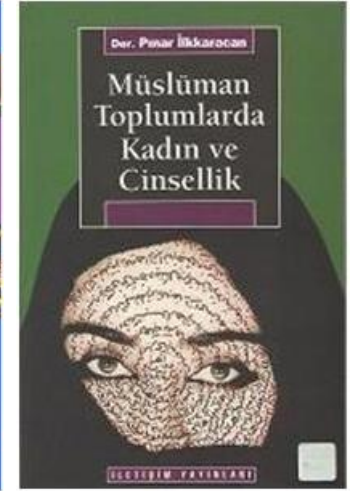
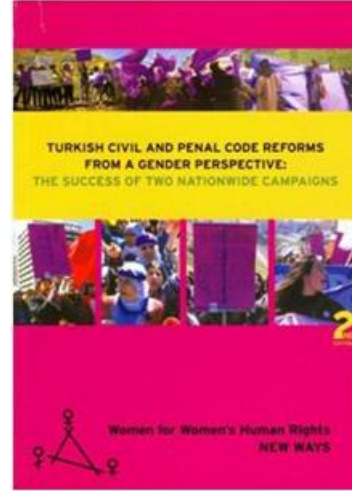

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS/MATERIALS



FEMİNİST

İSYAN

HER

YERDE

19. FEMİNİST GECE YÜRÜYÜŞÜ'NDE

imzasız dövizlerimizle ve
pandemi koşullarına uyararak buluşuyoruz

18.30-20.00 arası
Taksim, Sıraselviler

#8Mart



KADININ İNSAN HAKLARI YENİ ÇÖZÜMLER DERNEĞİ



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