



<b>BAKANLIK</b>	Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı
<b>KONU</b>	BMGS raporlarına katkı talebi
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***Contribution to the “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms” report***

**Türkiye** continues to work with the principle of zero tolerance towards violence against women. Activities are continued in a wide range with the comprehensive cooperation of all parties. In this particular context, ongoing endeavors center around key priorities, namely the enactment of legislation to address violence against women, implementation of training and awareness campaigns, enhancement of inter-agency institutional collaboration and coordination, and fortification of institutional frameworks to safeguard and provide support for victims of violence against women.

**Legal Regulations:**

**The Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women** is in force. The enactment of Law no. 6284 within the framework of the international standards is the most important indicator that the legal infrastructure has been strengthened and combating against violence against women has been taken to a next level.

In Türkiye, “**The IV. National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)**”, which sets out the main policy priorities in the field of combating violence against women, is in force. The IV. Action Plan has been prepared with the strength of the international standards on combating violence and our legislation.

To enhance the effective implementation of legislation, coordination efforts have been undertaken by the Ministry of Family and Social Services. These efforts focus on addressing issues related to confidentiality, security, and similar concerns through collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education, and other pertinent institutions. **In period of the 2022-2024, chronologically:**

- The Law No. 7331 also amended the Article 82 (Intentional killing- Qualified cases), Article 86 (Intentional injury), Article 96 (Torment) and Article 109 (Deprivation of Liberty) of the Turkish



Penal Code on 8/7/2021. **With this regulation, the penalty to be imposed in case the aforementioned crimes are committed against the ex-spouse has been increased.**

- The Law No. 7406 amended the articles of the Turkish Penal Code **on 27.05.2022.** with this regulation **“Stalking” are regulated as a separate crime with the article 123/A** added to the Turkish Penal Code.

In this context, in order to combat violence against women more effectively and to provide deterrence, **the penalties for deliberate killing, intentional injury, threat, torture and torture against women were increased.**

The Law No. 7406 amended the article on grounds for discretionary mitigation. According to the amendment: **the perpetrator's formal attitudes and behaviors aimed at influencing the court at the hearing are not considered as grounds for discretionary reduction.** The reasons for the discretionary discount are indicated in the decision with their justifications.

Also with this regulation; crimes of sexual assault, sexual abuse of children, stalking, intentional injury to women, torture or torture committed against women and children are included in the scope of legal aid.

- On 10.01.2023, Ministry of Justice Circular No. 154/2 on the “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women” has been published. In the circular, the issues to be considered while taking the statements of the victims of violence, specialization in the prosecutor's office, notification of the cases in which the perpetrator was released to the law enforcement were regulated.

- **On 25 November 2023, The Presidential Circular No. 2023/16 on Combating Violence against Women updated.** With the circular; the institutional responsibilities of the public sector were underlined, and The **"Coordination Board for Combating Violence against Women"** was established at the central level under the chairmanship of Minister of Family and Social Services.

### **Political Documents:**

Through **“The IV. National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025)”** to make improvements in the following 5 fields is aimed:

- ✓ Access to justice and the legislation
- ✓ Policy and coordination



- ✓ Protective and preventive services
- ✓ Social awareness
- ✓ Data and statistics

As of the previous Plans, the 4th Plan has been built from an evidence base of research and consultation with experts, governmental stakeholders and sivil society. National Action Plan was shared with public on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Within the scope of the IV. National Action Plan is include 5 main objectives, 28 Strategies and 227 activities.

The coordination process within scope of effective implementation of the Action Plan have carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

In addition, scope of the **IV. National Action Plan, Annual Activity Plans to Combat Violence against Women were announced for 2022, 2023 and 2024.** These Annual Activity Plans were prepared and implemented with Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. The Plans are including many activity step for implementing **IV. National Action Plan.**

**And also “Provincial Action Plans on Combating Early and Forced Marriages” has been was put into effect** to that 28 provinces (*Adana, Adıyaman, Afyonkarah ssar, Ađrı, Aksaray, Antalya, Ardahan, Bitlis, Diyarbakır, Edirne, Elazıđ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iđdır, İzmir -Kiraz il esi, Kahramanmaraş, Kars, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Muş, Nevşehir, Niđde, Osmaniye, Siirt, Şanlıurfa, Van, Yozgat*). Action Plans focused on awareness raising activities. Activities aimed at researching early marriages, preparing visual and written materials, and meeting girls with role model women were included.

#### **Institutional Cooperation and Coordination:**

In order to follow up the measures included in the (*repealed*) Prime Ministry Circular and to evaluate the current developments with the participation of all relevant public institutions and organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations **“The Committee on Monitoring Violence against Women”** was established 2006. The Committee which meets once a year periodically under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, evaluates the activities and developments in violence against women and offers suggestions on this issue. The Committee has held 16 meetings so far. The Last meeting was on December 2022.



In 2023, Presidential Circular No. 2023/16 on "Combating Violence against Women" was published on 25 November. With the circular, the institutional responsibilities of the public sector were underlined, and the "*Coordination Board for Combating Violence against Women*" was established at the central level under the chairmanship of Minister of Family and Social Services.

*First meeting* of the Coordination Board was held on 11 January 2024 under the chairmanship of Minister of Family and Social Services and participation of the ministers of Justice and Interior.

At the provincial level, "*Provincial Commission for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Combating Violence against Women*" which was first established in 2016, meets with the participation of the relevant institutions in 6-month periods. The aforementioned meetings are reported by the VPMCs and submitted to the General Directorate on the Status of Women; the General Report is prepared and shared by the General Directorate. In 2022, 252 meetings and in 2023, 218 meetings were held.

### **Institutional Mechanisms:**

#### ***Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMCs)***

The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres have started their services pursuant to the Law No.6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women. These centres provide services of accommodation for the victims of violence, temporary financial assistance, counselling and guidance, follow-up and procedures of provisional protection orders ruled in case of life risk, crèche support, legal assistance, medical assistance, and employment support, scholarship for children and education and training.

The Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres are **available in service in 81 provinces** nationwide by the end of 2019. The second Centre in Mersin was opened and increased the number of ŞÖNİMs to 82. Preparation instructions were sent for the opening to the provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya and Şanlıurfa.

In order to facilitate access to victims and strengthen the effective services to combat violence against women at the district level, a contact point for combating violence was established in each **411 Social Service Centres** throughout the country. In addition, several capacity building trainings for the service providers in these units have been conducted.

#### ***Women's Shelters***



Women's shelters are residential social service institutions where women exposed to abuse or violence physically, emotionally, sexually, economically and verbally can be temporarily accommodated with their children, if any, and their needs are covered providing protection from violence, solving and strengthening their psycho-social problems.

There are still 112 women's shelters under the Ministry of Family and Social Services provide services with a capacity of 2.805 people.

And also within the scope of preventing the spread of the coronavirus (**COVID-19**) pandemic in our country, under the leadership of our Presidency, under the coordination of our Ministry of Health, all relevant public institutions, especially the Ministry of Family and Social Services, have taken the necessary measures urgently. In this context, in the applications made for shelter during the epidemic period, within the scope of the planning to be made with the relevant law enforcement units under the coordination of VPMCs and Provincial Directorate; alternative accommodation facilities have been established in social facilities, dormitories or similar places belonging to public institutions and organizations. In this context, additional 70 facilities are used for shelter in 49 provinces within the scope of the coronavirus process.

In this period online meetings were held with VPMCs managers and professionals in order to evaluate VPMCs services and provide guidance / consultancy in the process of combating the COVID 19 pandemic.

23 online trainings regarding services were provided to the professional and administrative staff in and provided guidance and consultancy.

### ***Risk Assessment Studies***

In the cases of domestic violence and violence against women, it is crucial to identify and mitigate risks effectively. A "**Risk Analysis and Management Module**" has developed to increase the quality of services provided through the women's service units affiliated by the Ministry.

The Module consists of a risk analysis scale and risk management steps based on the level of risk identified, and these components has been integrated into the Family Information System (ABS).

In order to conduct pilot implementation study of the Module, 18 representative provinces were determined through the analysis of 81 provinces based on certain indicators such as administrative records on violence against women and geographical distribution. After the pilot study, the Risk



Analysis and Management Module in Violence against Women was expanded to all 81 provinces on 21.10.2021.

Hereby, risk-oriented approach will be included into the crisis-oriented service understanding, and the chain of accurate identification – qualified intervention – effective service is strengthened on combating domestic violence and violence against women.

In period of 2022-2023, by adopting the risk-oriented social service approach, activities to improve the Risk Analysis and Management Module continued. Study was carried out to improve the **“Domestic and Violence against Women Incidents Registration and Risk Assessment Form”** used by law enforcement.

Improvement studies for the effective use of the module in the women's service units of our Ministry and its integration with law enforcement units continue.

### ***Electronic Monitoring System***

For combating violence against women more efficiently, the pilot application for monitoring the perpetrator and victim of violence together with the electronic monitoring system infrastructure and electronic bracelet devices system established in the Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses in the Office of Supervised Freedom Department was started in cooperation with our Ministry, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

With the Protocol signed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the applicable period of the pilot scheme was extended for 2 years and was expanded to nine more provinces. The pilot scheme is maintained in the pilot provinces of Adana, Aydın, Denizli, Eskişehir, Malatya, Mersin, Sakarya, Samsun, Trabzon in addition to Ankara, İzmir, and İstanbul, Bursa, Antalya and Gaziantep.

After the initial implementation as pilot, the use of electronic monitoring bracelets is planned to be disseminated nationwide. By the Ministry of Interior, the work is carried out to build the legal and technical infrastructure needed.

In this context, the work was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs General Directorate of Security for the realization of this activity in 2020. An Electronic Monitoring Centre was established on 25.01.2021 within the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Security. The regulation, which is regarding the procedure of monitoring the preventive cautionary decisions taken within the scope of the Law No. 6284 through electronic methods was published on 04.09.2021.



In 2022, a study on the “Evaluation of the Efficiency of Electronic Bracelets - 2021 Applications” was carried out in the period of March–December 2022. In the research, the administrative data collected from the implementing units were analysed with the surveys conducted with the precautionary judges, the implementing parties (ŞÖNİM, law enforcement personnel), the victims of violence and the perpetrators of violence, in cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and Justice, under the coordination of Ministry of Family and Social Services. The data collecting process of the research report was completed as of December 2022. The report includes determinations and suggestions for the effective execution of the Electronic Bracelets application. The said determinations and recommendations have been compiled under the headings of "Improvements That Can Be Made in Coordination, Capacity Building and Training", "Improvements That Can Be Made in Technical Issues", "Suggestions Regarding Legislation and Policy Dimension" and "Improvements That Can Be Made on the Basis of Institutions".

Within the framework of the findings obtained, efforts to improve the system continue uninterrupted with the Ministries of Interior and Justice. Instant monitoring capacity in electronic bracelet has been increased by 25%.

#### ***Data integration studies***

✓ Ministry of Family and Social Services continues its efforts to keep record of the injunction orders issued under the Law No.6284 on **a common data system** through the inter-institutional integration. The integration activity of the injunction orders issued under the Law No.6284 on UYAP system between the (former) Ministry of Family and Social Policies and the Ministry of Justice has been completed. “6284 Order Follow-up System” which will contribute to efficiency of follow-up and monitoring of the orders has been put into service for 81 Provincial Directorates affiliated to Our Ministry and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMCs). Within scope of the Information Sharing Protocol between the Ministry of Interior and the (former) Ministry of Family and Social Policies” which was signed in September 2017, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Registration Form for Incidents of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women under the Law No.6284” with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

✓ Within scope of the Protocol between the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Security and the (former) Ministry of Family and Social Policies” which was signed in September 2017, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Registration Form for Incidents of



Domestic Violence and Violence against Women under the Law No.6284” with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

✓ Additionally, through the Data Integration Protocol signed on 15 April 2020, “Registration Forms for Incidents of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women”, used by law enforcement units affiliated by the Gendarmerie General Command, have started to be shared electronically with Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

✓ Additionally, within scope of the Protocol between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Family and Social Services” which was signed in 2022, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Confidentiality decisions for victim under the Law No.6284” with the Ministry of Interior.

These data integrations are expected to shorten the time to reach the victims of violence and increase the efficiency of protection.

### ***183 Social Support Line***

"183 Social Support Line" working within the MoFSS works as a psychological, legal and economic advisory hotline for women and children who are at risk of violence and who need support and assistance; they are provided with information about their rights and where to apply. It is also taken as a precautionary measure for negligence, abuse and violence or for the prevention of honour killings; considering the urgency of the situation, the emergency response team responsible for the incident and / or the law enforcement officials are informed to intervene. This hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is free. The hotline in service in Arabic and Kurdish as well is equipped with short message feature and 3G function for the hearing-impaired individuals.

By taking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported domestic violence and violence against women into consideration, the Ministry’s national helpline was prepared for an increase in demand for reports of violent incidents. A prioritization process was initiated in 183 Social Support Line, so victims calling to the helpline can contact the staff by pressing the "0" key without waiting in line. As of May, helpline service has started to be offered through WhatsApp application. Via the contact number "0 501 183 0 183, 24/7 support service was delivered.

### ***Women Support System (KADES)***

Women Support System (KADES) Mobile application for smartphones was put into service on 24th March 2018 in cooperation with the (*repealed*) Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure rapid and effective response by making use of the





advantages provided by the communication technology for women victims of violence or those under risk. Through the KADES application, which can be downloaded to mobile phones and used only by women, law enforcement forces provide effective and rapid response on 24/7 through “call for help” button in the application.

In order to facilitate access to the application, its interfaces were translated into 5 more languages, Arabic, Persian, French, English and Russian, and updated. As of 28 June 2022, it has been translated into Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Spanish languages, and it has been made possible for foreign women to use the application.

### **Awareness Raising Activities:**

✓ The Ministry of Family and Social Services carries out activities such as seminars, conferences at various levels in order to strengthen the awareness and sensitivity of the stakeholders and the different sections of the society in strengthening the equality of women and men in Turkey and combating violence against women. In order to ensure the continuity of their training and increase their effectiveness, cooperation is established with the relevant institutions and organizations.

Within this scope, protocols were signed between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health and the General Command of Gendarmerie, Presidency of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

Since 2007, 869.996 law enforcement officers, 1.536.039 private sergeant, 663.886 health personnel, 1.837 civil authority, 261.406 public officers, 631.954 teachers and 117.072 religious officers have been provided with trainings within scope of the aforementioned protocols.

✓ In order to increase knowledge and awareness on combating violence against women within the scope of VPMCs ŞÖNİM Regulation 7/2-(g), trainings and seminars held in 81 provinces under the coordination of our Ministry

- In 2022 and 61.428 public personnel and 58.823 citizens, 21.725 headmen, 25.451 university personnel and students were reached.
- In 2023 and 43.002 public personnel and 78.190 citizens, 3.443 headmen, 17.257 university students were reached.



***Contribution to the "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation" report***

According to the Law. No 5237 Turkish Penal Code, *"Any person who intentionally causes another person physical pain or who impairs another person's health, or ability to perceive, shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment... (Article 86)"*

*"If the act of intentional injury results in;*

- the permanent impairment of the functioning of any one of the senses or organs of the victim*
- or*
- The complete loss of functioning of one of the senses or organs;*

*Then the penalty to be determined shall be doubled. (Article 87)"*

***Contribution to the "Trafficking in women and girls" report***

The objective of the Law no. 6284 is *to regulate the principles and procedures concerning the measures to be taken for the protection of the women, children, family members who have been exposed to or under the risk of being exposed to violence and the persons who are the victims of unilateral persistent stalking and for the prevention of violence against these persons.* The law is implemented without distinction as to language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such grounds. Within this scope victims of human trafficking can benefit protection by the Law no. 6284.