



INTERNATIONAL LIONS

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VIOLENCE DIRECTED TO WOMEN

THE DEFINITION OF THE VIOLENCE

After the World 4th Woman Conference of United Nations made in Peking at 1995, the violence directed to women has been defined in Peking Activity Platform as “the acts which have been resulted or may be resulted with the physical, sexual or psychological damages or suffering of the women, including the menacing of these kinds of acts, the domination or arbitrary averting of the freedom and either made in front of the society or in private life, all kinds of violence based on the gender”.

Today one of every three woman in the world have been subjected to the physical violence acts, and every year approximately 2 million girls between 5 and 15 years of ages are obliged to work as sex-workers. In the world in every 6 minutes a women will be assaulted. Every year 2 million women will be used in cross-border women-slave traffic.

The first step of fighting against this violence directed to women is to describe this violence and taking out this violence from “private”, “personal”, or “in the family” problems, and as an extension of the perception which sees the women as a secondary creature in the patriarchal system, giving a social and political content to this.

Religious, ethnic, cultural values and traditions will be used to realize the violence. To explain the violence directed to the women with traditionalism, conventionalism, and underdevelopment or with religious or ethnic values is an extremely superficial approach.

Forced and arranged marriage, the low level of the marrying age, marriage with more than one women, bride wealth, berdel (marriage of two men/brothers in the same family will marry with two women/sisters from another family), child marriage and similar applications will be legitimated through religious and traditional reasons. The excessive forms of the violence directed to women are homicides in the name of honor and forced suicides. The honor notion is obliging both the women and men to act in a characteristic way. In most parts of the society, the commonly accepted honor perception is bringing a strict control to women’s life and if the women do not adhere the rules in their society which have been put in the name of honor, or even if they breach these rules just a little, it legitimizes to punish them.

The half of the women who lived physical or sexual violence, have shared their experiences with their immediate surroundings. On the other hand, more than half of the women who have been exposed to this violence have been explained that the people who have been witnessed to this violence or who have learned that did not help themselves. 34% of the women have explained this violence to their own families, and only 17% of their families wanted to help them.

The 26% of the women who have been subjected to the physical or sexual violence from their husbands or spouse(s) have left their houses even for one night. The women who left their houses as a result of the physical or sexual violence are first going to their own families (81%). A part of these women are going to their relatives (7%) to their friends (4%) or to the families/relatives of the men (4%).

FIGHTING AGAINST THE VIOLENCE DIRECTED TO WOMEN IN TURKEY

In Turkey the first examples of institutionalizing of fighting against the violence directed to women has been started with Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation in Istanbul and Women Solidarity Foundation in Ankara on the year 1990ies. These two foundations have been opened independent shelter in which the women can easily express themselves, can take legal and psychological support, in necessary cases can take the vocational education (courses, seminars, etc.), and can prepare to a new life; but, as from the year 1999 they have been obliged to close their shelters because of the financial problems and giving services only as advisory centers.

Between the years 1995-1998 in which the Purple Roof Women's Shelter was open, 350 women and 250 children have used the shelter. During this period the 60% of the women stayed in the shelter have left the violence environment, 16% have turned back to their homes but not subjected to violence. In summary, 76% of these women have established a future without violence for themselves and for their children. At the moment, because the government does not create resources, the Purple Roof Women's Shelter could not be opened. The Purple Roof Women's Shelter in Istanbul is giving service as a foundation.

For eliminating the violence directed to women in the family, with the financial contribution of the European Union and technical support of United Nation's Population Fund to strengthen the institutional structures, and in the scope of the "Fighting against the Violence Directed to Women in the Family Project" executed by General Directorate of Women's Statute (KSGM) the "2007-2010 National Activity Plan of Fighting against the Violence Directed to Women in the Family" has been prepared.

THE CATEGORIES OF THE VIOLENCE

The violence against women can be discussed in three categories:

Violence in the family: The violence in the family will be defined as “a violence type which occurs in private life between the individuals who have connected with sexual relations or blood bond”. Generally it will be committed by the men against women or children. Violence in the family is the most expansive type of the violence directed to women, however the less visible one. The violence in the family can be appear in various types including physical, psychological and sexual violence and it can also be seen as economical restrictions or isolating from the community or environment.

Violence committed by the society: The sexual harassment, intimidation, white-slave trade, forcing to the prostitution etc. in the business place, in educational institutes or on the street.

Violence sourced/committed by the government or the violence overlooked by the government: Torture, assault etc. made in the custody and armed conflict.

THE VIOLENCE DIRECTED TO WOMEN IN TURKEY

The “Study of the Violence Directed to Women in the Family in Turkey” made in the scope of this activity plan by the General Directorate of Women’s Statute (KSGM) in the year 2008 has countrywide showed one more time how expansive is the violence in the family. According to this study made in 51 provinces about the marriage women:

39% of them have subjected to the **physical violence** by their husbands or their spouses in some periods of their lives,

15% of them have subjected to the **sexual violence** by their husbands or their spouses in some periods of their lives,

42% of them have subjected to the **physical and sexual violence** by their husbands or their spouses in some periods of their lives,

44% of them have subjected to the **emotional violence/exploitation** by their husbands or their spouses in some periods of their lives,

23% of them have subjected to the **economical violence/exploitation** by their husbands or their spouses in some periods of their lives.

The violence committed against the women is showing its existence in all levels without treating class, race or culture different. Again according to the same study, it is a very dramatic finding that three of every 10 women **who have education of lyceum or over** have **subjected to physical and sexual violence** by their husbands or their spouses.

The primary goals of this plan are:

1. Making the legal arrangements
2. Creating the Awareness and Providing the Mental Transformation
3. Strengthen the Women
4. Offering the Preventive Services
5. Offering the Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
6. Providing the Cooperation between the Institutes and Establishments

As you may also appreciate, the purpose of the National Activity Plan is to put all the measurements for eliminating all kinds of violence acts against women in the family into the practice with the cooperation of all the related parties.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In the scope of the National Activity Plan determined by the Prime Ministry General Directorate of Women's Statute; a project will be executed with the cooperation of Lions Clubs, Prime Ministry General Directorate of Women's Statute, Galatasaray University Social Studies Center, Municipalities and Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation.

In the scope of this project; a training program will be organized by Galatasaray University Social Studies Center for Lions Club Members as a contribution to creating awareness and providing the mental transformation subjects with the title of "The Situation of the Woman in Europe and Turkey, and the Violence in the Family".

It is planned that the Lions Club members who will follow this education program will set out under the light of the gratuitous service philosophy created by Melvin Jones during the 1st World War as "what can we do for the people who have needs"; and with the cooperation of the municipalities they will organize the seminars with the subject "The Situation of the Woman in Europe and Turkey, and the Violence in the Family" and supporting the victims of the violence in the family.