

Sender:

Minister of Interior
Sayın Süleyman Söylü
İçişleri Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Türkei

Protect women from violence

Dear Minister,

In Turkey almost every day a woman is killed, much more women suffer from violence within their families. Unfortunately, with the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention Turkey sent a signal to the society and to perpetrators that the state is not willing to protect women effectively.

On occasion of the International Women's Day, I want to raise your attention to this grim situation. Women need much better protection and perpetrators must be punished.

I therefore ask you to

- ensure that criminal sanctions for violence against women are effective, proportionate and dissuasive, including as well stalking, psychological violence and forced marriage as separate offences in the Criminal Code.
- effectively implement protection and prevention measures to ensure the victim's right to safety and the prosecution of the perpetrator.
- ensure that judicial authorities and police issue protective and preventive measures on the basis of the victim's statements, without requiring further evidence, and that the duration of these measures is proportionate to the victim's protection needs. The perpetrators must be notified without delay and compliance with the orders must be enforced.
- instruct law enforcement, administrative and judicial authorities to provide women with the necessary protection in all cases. If this is not done, those responsible must be held accountable.
- ensure that mediation with the perpetrator only happens with the free consent of the victim of violence. Mediators, lawyers and judges must be trained accordingly.
- ensure that custody for children and visitation rights do not jeopardise the rights and safety of survivors of domestic violence.
- ensure the prosecution of police officers who use disproportionate force against women and LGBTI+ persons exercising their right to peaceful protest.
- end criminal investigations and prosecutions of women and LGBTI+ persons who have peacefully claimed their rights.

Yours respectfully

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