



IN TURKEY AND IN THE WORLD

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

SUMMARY REPORT

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Violence Against Women in Turkey and in The World  
–Summary Report–

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Designed and Illustrated by Family Academy

November–2014

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## RESEARCH FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TURKEY AND IN THE WORLD

A heavy focus of media, politics and public has been placed on the domestic violence, violence against women, and femicide over the past few years. As presented by this research, this issue is not discussed in a realistic, holistic and objective manner. The discourse of violence against women has been built on a manipulative, agitative, and subjective language. Unfortunately, this discourse that claims to prevent violence against women restrains us from understanding the fact of violence in all aspects.

Finding from thousands of research that have been combined in this research breaks the taboos imposed on the public. This study exhibits that data on the violence against women is distorted, exaggerated and communicated only in one way, and represents just a little piece of the big picture. This discourse, which chokes that particular aspect of the truth that only serves its construct and then reflects this construct as if it were the entire truth, unfortunately has now found a way to become a “formal discourse” and adopted as a government policy. This discourse/construct shows the family as the responsible for violence against women and aims at resolving the family. Adoption of this discourse/construct as an official policy by the Ministry, which expresses that its objective is to protect families, represents a deep and tragic paradox.

The research, titled “Violence against Women in Turkey and in the World” we conducted as the Family Academy Association, is composed of 5 sections excluding the introduction section. The first section discusses the violence and violence against women in a conceptual manner. The second section presents the fact of violence and murder in Turkey and in the world within the big picture. This section questions women’s movements as well as the extent to which popular discourse in the official documents reflects the truth, and is intended to show both sides of the coin based on scientific data. The third section discusses the risk factors related to the violence against women. The popular discourse shows the “men and masculinity” as the unique risk factor for the violence against women. The section including risk factors questions the reality this claim. The fourth section critically analyses the “scientific aspect” of the scientific research reports published in Turkey that are used as reference in official documents, legislations and popular discourse. The last section analysis the official documents published by the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies to “avoid violence against women”. These documents were analyzed by 5 criteria: the perspective on which the documents are base, type of prevention, whether or not a reference is made to other risk factors, whether or not a reference is made to sentimental values, and the place where the measure is taken.

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The summary report presents some findings selected from each section. Undoubtedly that the complete report includes a wider range of findings and analysis the findings in more detail. The source of findings contained in the summary report is included in the complete report. The summary report is intended to provide the reader with a pre-understanding and to share some prominent findings.

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### Summary Findings for Conceptual Nature of Violence

1. The definition of violence is an extended definition to incorporate even ordinary behavior into the definition of violence. The description listed on official documents as violence types remains uncertain in many ways. The uncertainty of the concept of "violence" is particularly underlined in the scientific literature.
2. With regard to definition of violence, no differences are made between "staying out of one's dressing" and "torturing", and "not providing information on the household income" and "forced prostitution", and all these are regarded as equal by the definition of "violence". From this aspect, the violence has been turned to a conceptual bog. Based on the definition of violence in official documents, it is highly unlikely to find only a single person who "does not use violence".
3. The conceptual nature of violence is created based on the neoliberal and capitalist philosophy. For example, while "*imposing restrictions that have adverse influence on career*" is included in the definition of violence, "*restrictions and implementations that have adverse influence on family life*" are not even mentioned.
4. Whether the violence is committed should be determined based on the perception of the woman who alleges that she was exposed to violence. Accordingly, this leads to a definition, for example, "the violence is what is perceived by women as violence".
5. The violence is defined in the Family Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women as: "*any physical, sexual, psychological, verbal or financial attitude and behavior that occurs in the social, public or private area and results in/may result in physical, sexual, psychological or financial damage to, or suffering by, the individual including related threat and oppression or arbitrary prevention of freedom*". As seen, this law seems to incorporate almost all possible behavior into the border of "violence", and includes even behaviors that have not occurred yet but are likely to occur in the scope of violence.

6. The definition contains ambiguous concepts such as "freedom", "oppression", and "threat". What is meant by freedom, what is included in the concept of oppression", what should be perceived as threat? Such questions seem to have no answers...

7. "Zero tolerance to violence" is not natural/natural. Thus, the policy of "zero tolerance" draws many normal/natural/ordinary acts into the border of violence, and the act stigmatized as violence brings with more severe violence.

**8. According to Debarbieux (2009, an authority name on violence, the extended definition of violence and the ambiguity of the definition lead to criminalization of natural behavior. He thinks that media further agitates dramatic violence events and creates a "panic environment". Even a normal/ordinary rude behavior associates the threat of "murder"; and interestingly this association itself feeds the mistrust and violence. Debarbieux emphasizes that the violence "sells well" which is called "benefiting from the violence".**

9. Debarbieux expresses that less tolerance to the violence in modern relationships and vulnerability of relationships completely obscure the difference between the violence and normal behavior.

10. Debarbieux says the problem is those who want to give a universal definition to violence rather than the violence itself: "We need to be loud and clear here: it is not the problem itself that causes nuisance here, the nuisance is caused by those who want to give violence a universal and steadily valid definition that would be agreed on by anyone."

### Summary Findings for Violence against Women in Turkey and in the World<sup>1</sup>

**11. The victim of murder, which is described as the extreme form of violence, is men both in Turkey and in the world. Men are murdered 4 times more than women are.<sup>2</sup>**

**12. As it is said, violence is not a fact that can be described by "domestic". 86% of murderers are committed outside the home/family members.<sup>3</sup> The ratio of those who die due to domestic violence is 0.9 (in 100 thousand) all over the world whereas the ratio of those who are murdered is 6.2 (in 100 thousand).**

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to relevant section for more findings provided above.

<sup>2</sup> We, as Family Academy Association see both women and men as "human". It is not the sex of the murdered person we care, what we care is that the murdered person is also a "human". What we try to emphasize here is not the message "men are murdered more, thus men suffer more". The purpose to share such data is to point out the subjective/biased approach that selects only women from the fact of violence and murder from a "gendered" perspective and puts the husband on the felon's dock, and to express that this is not the truth.

<sup>3</sup> Again, we want to ask why families and home are coded as the place of violence while the place of murder could be anywhere: office, traffic, stadium, hospital, prison, etc.; while the perpetrator and the victim of violence could be anyone: women-men, patient-doctor, employer-employee... Why chose "women" as victim, "husbands" as perpetrator and "home" as the place?

**13. Among countries where the ratio of violence against women is the highest, there are countries where the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming (GM) policies is the most effective, which are indicated as the way of solution for violence against women. The ratio of women's murder (28%) in Europa is 7 points higher than the world's average (21) and Turkey's average (20.5%).**

**14. Countries where the implementation of GM policies is the most effective are placed near the top in regard to the ratio of violence used by family members or a partner. 40% of overall murders in Sweden, 34% in Finland and 30% in Netherlands are committed by a family member or partner (husband or lover).**

**15. Europe takes the first place by far in regard to the ratio of women who are found guilty of murder. Of female convicts, 8% is in Europe, 4% in America, and 5% is in Asia. The world average is 5%. This result reveals that the use of act of murder by European women is the highest, which is the extreme form of violence.**

16. Although there is no decrease in violence against women in countries where GM policies are implemented, there is an increase in "violence used by women". There is a considerable increase in violence used by women against others in many countries including Turkey.

17. One-third of murderers are female in family murders committed in the USA. This rate is higher in murder of partners. Women represent 41% of murderers in partner murders.

**18. A research on Turkish female murderers in Turkey identified the degree between murderers and victims and found that the partner was placed on top with a ratio of 36.84%. Based on this research, women mostly kill their husband.**

**19. The result of survey study conducted by TBMM (Grand National Assembly of Turkey) with 26 thousands of high-scholars is very striking. This research found that female used any type of violence (physical, verbal, emotional and sexual violence) more than male did.**

20. As it is said, honor killings are not murderers committed mostly by "men for their wife/partner". Instead, men kill "someone they don't know" and "men". **The ratio of male victims killed by men is 65.8% in honor killings committed by men. The ratio of female victims is only 26.3% in murders committed by men to defend their honor. On the other hand, the victim is mostly men in killings committed by women for the same reason (76.5%).**

**21. The “honor” takes the first place among reasons why women kill their husband. Research demonstrates that women commit a murder for honor more than men do. A study found that women (46.2%) committed honor killing 2 times more than men did (23.2%).**

**22. Men are also killed (44%) with a ratio near the ratio of women in killings committed among family members in Turkey.**

**23. The cliché “In average, 5 women are killed a day” is a disinformation not a statistical information.** The report “5 women continue to be killed a day” issued by “We Will Stop Femicide” Platform is significant. Despite the title of the report, 0.3 women are killed a day in Turkey based on the content of the report. As seen in this example, women’s movement and lobbies that make propaganda over the “discourse of violence against women” appear not to feel the need of proving what they argue for.<sup>4</sup>

24. The statistic “Femicide has been increased by 1400% over the past seven years” is based on single source (the Ministry of Justice); this conflicts with other data from the same source and with information from other official sources (e.g., UN, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies).

### Summary Findings for Risk Factors for Violence against Women

**25. The claim that the only reason for femicide is “men” does not reflect the truth. Hundreds of research conducted in Turkey and in the world show that violence has many risk factors. The world health organization declares 16 risk factors, some meta analyses suggest 32 risk factors, and some studies report 25 risk factors.**

26. Findings of this research suggest that GM policies are a risk factor for violence used against women and men.

27. Research demonstrates that alcohol, gambling and poverty are strong risk factors for violence against women. In many scientific research, alcohol in particular has been identified to be the most important cause of violence against women. **According to American Psychological Association, alcohol and poverty are the main risk factors for violence.**

<sup>3</sup>Please refer to the first, second and fourth sections of the research for other examples.

**28. Approximately 65% of overall murders in Finland were found to be strongly associated with alcohol. More than 75% of overall deaths are said to be associated with alcohol. Approximately half of overall killings in Sweden are reported to be associated with alcohol.**

**29. The UK Center for Alcohol Studies reports that 917 thousand crimes of violence were committed in England and Wales between 2011 and 2012, and around half of these crimes (47%) was associated with alcohol.**

30. 220 crimes of violence were identified in Scotland between 2010 and 2011 and 63% of these crimes (138.600 crimes of violence) were committed under the influence of alcohol.

31. WHO (World Health Organization) published an international study including the correlation of alcohol with violence. WHO found a strong correlation between alcohol and partner's violence in many countries, and adds: *"Evidence demonstrates that alcohol promotes occurrence of domestic violence as well as the dose of violence."*

**32. Based on research, use of physical violence by men against women increases by 8 times with alcohol intake. The likelihood of increase in the dose of violence is more by 11 times. In addition, the likelihood of use of violence by men increases by 18 times, and the possibility of increase in the dose of violence increases by 19 times in days with higher alcohol intake as compared to days with no alcohol intake.**

33. Australian Government National Crime Agency reports that around half of overall murder cases (47%) committed between 2000 and 2006 was associated with alcohol. 44% of overall murders of partner/lover were committed under the influence of alcohol. The report issued by this agency suggests that 87% of murders of partner/lover committed in locals were associated with alcohol. The same report also emphasizes that alcohol has a strong role in domestic violence cases that do not result in death.

34. One of the risk factors for violence against women is gambling. It is found that women who have problem, gambling husband experience violence 10.5 times more than women whose husband do not gamble. **It is reported that women who have husbands both gambling and drinking alcohol experience violence in their marriage 50 times more than women who do not have such problems.**

**35. Another research reports that around 25% of violence in marriage are associated with gambling. The same research found that 15% of child abuse was associated with gambling.**

36. In one research conducted in Istanbul, 37% of women exposed to violence by their husband expressed that their husband used violence against them due to problems such as alcohol and gambling. In this research, the women were asked why their husband used violence against them, and 41.5% of women reported "I don't know" or "For no reason". The other reason followed by that was "gambling or alcohol".

37. A report issued by APC (Australian Productivity Commission) states that the use of domestic violence and other types of violence used by one in every 10 persons that gambled was associated with gambling.

38. Melbourne University mentions a new research that emphasizes domestic violence is strongly correlated with gambling. According to this research conducted on 120 individuals, 53% of participants reported they experienced some forms of domestic violence. The victimhood of 44% of those participants exposed to violence was associated with losing in gambling and related anger and disappointment experienced by those used violence.

39. Research shows that poverty is also a risk factor for violence against women. Violence is used between husbands and wives with high level of income, and poverty and economic trouble appear to be important risk factors for violence used by close partners.

**40. A research by Güler, Tel and Tuncay (2005) reported that a large number of women (58.8%) exposed to violence indicated the reason as economic insufficiency.**

41. Another research suggests that finance-induced stress is one of the predictors for violence of close partners.

**Summary Findings for the Reliability of Research Conducted by Turkish Ministries and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)**

**42. There are determinations that damage the reliability of scientific research – such as "directing", "deficient data", "prejudiced attitude", "distortion", "interpretation contradicting with evidence", and "presenting interpretation as if it**

**were evidence” – which are used as a source in writing official documents and establishment of policies for women in Turkey. Such research is not scientifically “reliable”.**

43. In such research, propaganda language of feminist theories is used rather than obtaining objective evidence.

44. Such research, shown mostly as reference by governmental authorities, codes the “family” as the most unsafe place. Such interpretation is not based on any data/evidence. Unfortunately, the “2009 Report”, the most extensive one of these research, was supported by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies.

**45. In both of the research to which a reference is made more frequently, one of major questions to collect data on physical violence begins with "Prevalence of violence used against women in Turkey", thus women were directed. This expression makes the collected data unreliable as well as indicates research ethics were not complied with.**

46. Answers to questions in questionnaires are designed in a “polarizing” manner. Responder are forced to answer as “yes or no”, a dilemma, and no answers are provided expressing “a middle way” or “agreement”.

*Summary Findings for Analysis of Prime Ministry Circular, National Action Plan for Prevention of Violence against Women, and Anti-Violence against Women Handbook*

#### *Prime Ministry Circular*

47. The Circular issued by Prime Ministry with the aim of preventing honor killings was drawn from a feminist perspective.

**48. One of the first 18 recommendations made in the Circular for preventing violence against women is "mentality transformation based on gender mainstreaming". Legal measures take the second place and financial measures take the third place.**

**49. In this Circular, the only risk factor for violence was indicated to be social gender inequality, which contradicts with many scientific research. Strong risk factors such as alcohol, gambling, and poverty were not mentioned at all.**

**50. The Circular did not make any reference to sentimental values (e.g. compassion, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, justice).**

**51. The Circular shows the place to take measure as "outside of home/family" places. The Circular's clauses include no measure for "domestic/family".**

52. The Circular's articles 8 and 10 of "Service Institutions" require gender mainstreaming policies to be incorporated into all primary plans and programs of the government, and states: "*all public organizations and institutions, universities and private sector must be provided with education on "gender mainstreaming" in country-wide*".

**2010—2015 National Action Plan for Prevention of Violence against Women**

53. There are 5 goals and 36 activities in total in the "2012-2015 National Action Plan for Prevention of Violence against Women.

54. None of these 36 activities make reference to sentimental values (e.g., compassion, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, justice).

55. None of these 36 activities mention other risk factors (e.g., alcohol, gambling, and poverty).

56. All of the goals and activities in the Action Plan take measure for preventing violence against women "outside the home". There are no measures for home or family.

57. All of the goals and activities in the Action Plan are designed from the perspective of gender mainstreaming. Actually, the circular recommends only one solution to prevent violence against women. This solution ensures gender mainstreaming.

58. Activities in the Action Plan intended to prevent violence against women are analyzed by the type of measures. The most common type of measures is "support services" with 15 activities (e.g., housing, children's nursery, and financial aid). The second and third measures include mentality transformation and well-being.

59. According to the Action Plan, 60 thousands of teachers and 100 thousands of religion members will be provided with education on gender mainstreaming. However, what matters more is that family physicians will also be provided with the same. As stated in the National Action Plan, 326 family physicians are already receiving this education. This may be considered intervention to law, and would cast a shadow upon impartiality of family physicians. As indicated by Quentin Woolf, a writer at Telegraph, the bias of judges, who regard men as criminal beforehand, that "that's a man then he's probably done it" will tarnish the impartiality of law.

### Anti-Violence against Women Handbook

60. This research analyze the "Anti-Violence against Women Handbook" published by the Ministry of Family and social Policies. This handbook is intended to inform women who have been or may be exposed to violence.

61. The handbook uses a language that seems to commove women against their husband and family rather than providing information on violence.

62. The violence is discussed and described as extensive as it could be in the handbook, and the handbook recommends women to resort to legal procedure regardless of type or level of violence.

**63. When providing information on violence, "having extramarital affair, extramarital conception, and being non-virgin" are underlined that they cannot be an excuse for violence, and it is often mentioned that the violence should be kept within limits of physical violence.**

**64. The handbook contains messages that normalize "extramarital affair and free sexual intercourse.**

**65. While women are given a message that "they cannot be held responsible for their sexual act", it is called "rape" when women do not want a martial sexual intercourse. At this point, the handbook sees the voluntary sexual intercourse of women with another man more ethical than the "involuntary" sexual intercourse with her husband.**

**66. The page 23 of the handbook underlines in capital letters "YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE" and reminds that "Practice of law does not only involve physical violence. It involves any type of violence".**

**67. The women's shelter is described as if they were a "5 star hotel" in the handbook.** Anyone who reads features of shelters described in the handbook feels to be "sheltered". According to the handbook, features and the service scope of such shelters are as follows: "Shelters are safe, clean and well-kept, provide psychological support, spending money and employment-work, issue green card for those who have no social security, offer day nursery services and aid in kind, provide legal counselling contracted with body of lawyers; and each woman is free/independent to make a decision on their own life; principles of privacy and security apply." Unfortunately, documents of the Ministry point out the family as the "most unsafe" place to women, whereas women's shelter is described as a "paradise".

68. After indicating that women can make complaints about their husband for 24 hours and 7 days by calling ALO 183, Police Help and 156 Military Police to initiate a legal procedure, the followings are underlined:

- Women make complaints and initiate legal procedures. They must not necessarily to be exposed to physical violence.
- They are not required to prove that they are exposed to violence. Their statement is essential.
- Legal procedures are immediately initiated and an interlocutory injunction is issued.
- Husband may be suspended from home. During his suspension, he may be obliged to pay any expenses of home from where he is suspended (this may be his own home).
- During the period of his suspension, the husband may be obliged to pay alimony.

**69. Interestingly, the handbook states that imam marriage is an offence without civil marriage. The Ministry warns readers by describing imam marriage an offence in our country where living together without marriage is not an offence.**

70. According to the law on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, women are not required to prove that they are exposed to violence. What is essential is that their statement.



Türkiye’de ve Dünyada

# KADINA ŞİDDET

Kadına şiddet ve aile içi şiddet olgusu Türkiye ve Dünyada gündemdeki sıcak yerini korumaya devam etmektedir. Medya takip ajansı Interpress’in araştırmasına göre 2014’ün ilk 10 ayında Türkiye’de kadına şiddet haberleri 47 bini aşmıştır. Konu sadece STK’ların ve üniversitelerin gündeminde değildir; devletler ve uluslar arası kurumlar da kadına şiddet ve aile içi şiddetin önlenmesi için araştırmalar yapmakta, projeler uygulamakta ve yasal düzenlemelere gitmektedir. Bu çabalar incelendiğinde resmi, sivil ve akademik çevrelerin konuyu ele alış biçimi; yapılan analizler, sorunun kaynaklarına ilişkin tespitler ve soruna yönelik sunulan çözüm önerileri benzerlik göstermektedir. Kadına şiddet ve aile içi şiddet olgusu bu bakımdan tek yönlü bir bakış açısına hapsedilmiş görünmektedir.

Tek sorun kadına şiddet olgusunun tek yönlü bir perspektifle ele alınıyor olması değildir. Ülkemizde kadına yönelik erkek şiddetiyle ilgili resmi ve sivil kurumların sunduğu veriler de güvenilir değildir. Bu araştırma kadın hareketlerinin etkisi altında tanımlanan ve zamanla devletin resmi politikası haline gelen "kadına şiddet" olgusunu bilimsel araştırmalara ve resmi belgelere dayanarak "eleştirel bir perspektifle" ele almaktadır.

