

**#WOMENEXCUSSE**

**16 DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST  
GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE**

**25 NOV - 10 DEC 2023  
CAMPAIGN REPORT**



# **#NOEXCUSE** CAMPAIGN TAKES A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A CALL FOR STRONGER LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. Despite many countries passing laws to combat violence against women, weak enforcement and discriminatory social norms remain significant problems. Globally, an estimated 736 million women — almost one in three — have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life.

We launched **#NoExcuse Campaign** to raise public awareness about the importance of protective legal frameworks and called for the effective implementation of laws to prevent violence against women.

Kicked off on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and concluded on December 10, Human Rights Day, the campaign aimed to raise public awareness regarding the legal framework on ending violence against women and urged the public to reject excuses with the hashtag #NoExcuse. As part of the campaign, we invited the public to participate in an 11-question quiz about national legislation on UN Women ECA webpage.

The **#NoExcuse** campaign commenced with an event uniting civil society organizations, government officials, diplomatic representatives, and the media. Together, they expressed solidarity and shared a commitment to ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

Within the campaign, an art piece was created by artist and lawyer Kutlay Evrensel aka kutlayus. Evrensel emphasized the importance of laws and legislation in combating violence against women in his work, in which he created an “Eye” silhouette using the basic concepts in the legislation.

The **#NoExcuse** campaign placed the stories of women who have escaped violence and harassment and are seeking justice through the law at the center to amplify their voices. The stories of women were narrated by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Demet Evgar in a powerful video testimony.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported us—our partners, private companies, organizations, and activists— speak out against violence towards women and girls.

This report gives detailed information about the numbers we have reached and the support our campaign received from partners. We believe that by working together to end violence against women and girls, we can make a positive impact on their lives and on families, communities, and societies as a whole. Our goal is to create a safer, better, more equal, and dignified world for everyone.

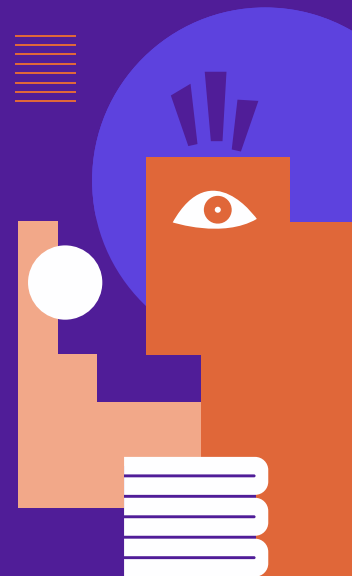
Even though the 16 Days of Activism has ended, we will continue to unite and engage in activism to prevent violence against women and girls everywhere.

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” is an annual international campaign run by the United Nations (UN) that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Having been started by civil society and women’s rights activists in 1991, today the campaign is used as an organizing strategy and platform by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. In support of this civil society initiative, the campaign, under the leadership of the UN Secretary General, calls for individuals and organizations to take action to increase awareness about violence against women and girls and to galvanize advocacy efforts.

UN Women has been organizing campaigns events and activities in Türkiye since 2012 as part of the 16 Days of Activism to raise public awareness about violence against women and call citizens to join the movement to prevent gender-based violence. You can access UN Women’s nationwide award-winning 16 Days of Activism campaigns by clicking on the years [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).



# WE SAY

# #NOEXCUSE

# FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace. However, challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

The effective implementation of these laws is of utmost importance to ensure the safety and well-being of women and girls, making it essential to advocate for their enforcement and to hold those who perpetrate violence against women accountable for their actions.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, which kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day, calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

This year, the United Nations marked 16 Days under the theme **UNiTE! Invest To Prevent Violence against Women & Girls**. By using #NoExcuse as a slogan and hashtag, the campaign called for financing different prevention strategies and transforming social norms to end violence against women and girls.

Aligned with the global campaign, UN Women Türkiye launched #NoExcuse campaign to underline the importance of protective legal frameworks and called for the effective implementation of laws to prevent violence against women.

**#NoExcuse (#BahanesiYok** in Turkish) campaign highlighted the protective significance of national frameworks, particularly Law to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women, other domestic legal provisions and the international legal frameworks to which Türkiye is a party. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the legal frameworks that play a pivotal role in ending violence against women and to call for the strengthening of laws to ensure women's safety.

The campaign emphasized that all forms of violence against women are against the law, informed the public about the importance of legal frameworks and possible individual interventions that can be taken in the incidents of violence.

The campaign said #NoExcuse to any form of violence against women and reiterated that violence against women is a human rights violation.

# #NO EXCUSE IN NUMBERS

Over  
**300**

News on  
Printed Media,  
Online Media and TV



Over  
**5.5M**

Reach on  
Printed Media,  
Online Media and TV



**748**

Users Took the  
Quiz on the  
Website



Over

**8.2M**

Reach on  
Social Media



Over

**63**

Companies Joined  
the Campaign

**1,120**

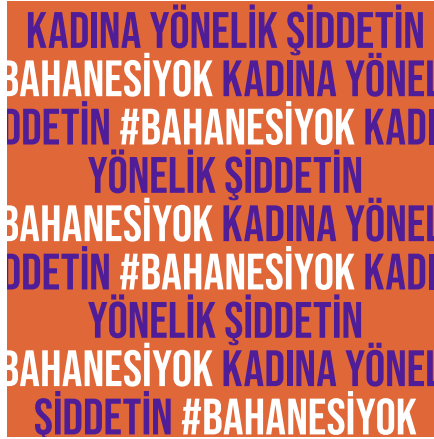
Media Outlets

**4.1M**

Impressions from  
Digital Media

**\$19.010**

Media Value of  
Outdoor and  
Digital Media



 <https://trello.com/b/A6dKhG0T/16-days-of-activism>





# UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE'S #NOEXCUSE CAMPAIGN UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS



Funded by  
the European Union

The #NoExcuse campaign was launched with an event in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye on 24 November 2023 at Atakule, an iconic tower in Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye. The event brought together civil society organizations, government officials, diplomatic representatives, and the media to express solidarity and commitment to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

At the event representatives from civil society organizations took the stage to say “No Excuse” to any forms of violence. Representatives of women-led civil society organizations supported by UN Women within the ‘Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality’ project, funded by the European Union, gave speeches at the launch event. They not only expressed their manifests and commitment to ending violence against women but also shared how they have played a pivotal role in transforming the lives of women survivors.



We raise our voices for women and girls who are exposed to violence in their homes, in their relationships, in their workplaces, in public spaces, or in the online digital sphere. In times of war, and in times of peace. In post-conflict and post-disaster settings. Gender-based violence is something we can prevent and end, once for all. We know what to do: reform and implement laws and multisectoral policies; ensure survivors have access to the services they need; scale up evidence-based prevention interventions and hold perpetrators to account. These will, however, not happen by themselves. Our gender-based attitudes and behaviors must change, and it must start right from ourselves; then, the transformation will spread to society.

*Asya Varbanova, UN Women Türkiye Country Director*



Eliminating violence against women and advancing women's rights and gender equality remains at the top of EU's agenda, both internally and in our partner countries. This October, we welcomed the historic accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention. In Türkiye, we aim to continue assisting society in empowering women and girls and assist Türkiye in safeguarding gains already made.

*Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, Ambassador, the Head of the EU Delegation to Türkiye*





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**It is difficult to create behavioral change in a society where women are silenced when they are subjected to violence, but we will succeed, even if it takes time.**

*Ayşegül Küçükafacan, Sil Baştan Association*

**Violence has serious effects on women's health. We continue our efforts to ensure that women survivors receive preventive and protective support from the health system.**

*Ayşe Tek, Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation*

**We envision of a future where women in Türkiye and around the world have the recognition they deserve, where equality and justice are ensured, and where we enjoy happiness in all areas of life with our equal representation rights. By strengthening our spirit of struggle together with women, we will embrace our future with hope and courage.**

*Leyla Onur Yanar, Leader Women Association*

**We continue our struggle with the dream of an equal and free world without violence and discrimination against women.**

*Merve Arılık, Foundation for Women's Solidarity*

**Gender norms and gender stereotypes are the root causes of injustice. We work to reduce the disadvantages women face in accessing justice due to gender inequalities.**

*Ceren Kurt, Flying Broom Foundation*

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**It is crucial to ensure the effective implementation of legal frameworks, and prevention and protection mechanisms to preserve the well-being of women and girls with disabilities. Women with disabilities are empowered when they are fully informed and have access to protection mechanisms.**

*Özlem Kara, Lawyer, The Association for Gender and Legal Studies, Association of Women with Disabilities.*



# DEMET EVGAR NARRATED THE STORIES OF WOMEN SURVIVORS

The #NoExcuse campaign places the stories of women who have escaped violence and harassment and are seeking justice through the law at the center to amplify their voices. The stories of Zeynep\*, Elif\*, and Fatma\* were narrated by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Demet Evgar in a powerful video testimony. The video, crafted with stories provided by KAMER Foundation, Leader Women Association, and Sil Baştan Association, was produced by UN Women and funded by Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identities*



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o61BTc4DtKA&t=16s&ab\\_channel=UNWomenEuropeandCentralAsia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o61BTc4DtKA&t=16s&ab_channel=UNWomenEuropeandCentralAsia)

# THEMIS BY KUTLAYUS



Lawyer and artist Kutlay Evrensel crafted an artwork that embodies the essence of “artivism” during the launch event of the 16 Days of Activism, using bleach instead of traditional paint on canvas. His dual expertise in both art and law lends a unique perspective of creativity.

The piece, titled "Themis," centers around the idea that words are the ultimate tools in recognizing the realities of legal life. Within the legal system, accurately expressed words enable these life realities to be seen and acknowledged by the law. This dynamic serves as a bridge between the fundamental principles of law and the real world. Words function as a tool expressing that the law "sees," is "aware of," and "possesses information" about these realities.

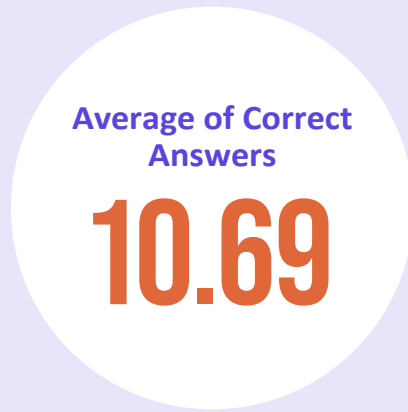
In this artwork, an "Eye" silhouette is created using key words frequently used in Türkiye’s domestic legal system and emphasized in international agreements related to preventing violence against women. Emphasizing the power of words and their critical role in societal change, the artwork also conveys the message that these legal realities should be witnessed by everyone.

Following the launch, the piece was exhibited at the Ankara Contemporary Art Center until the end of the campaign. The art piece was created with the financial support of the European Union.

# QUIZ



A quiz is created to raise awareness and test individuals' understanding of the legal framework combating violence against women. Through an engaging quiz published on the UN Women ECARO website and Instagram stories of UN Women Türkiye, participants are encouraged to empower themselves and take a stand against excuses.



Violence Against Women: Take our quiz and find out more.

PROPOSITION	T/F	EXPLANATION	DATA
<b>1. Violence against women is a human rights violation and is an illegal act.</b>	TRUE	<p>Decades of struggle by women's rights activists, organizations and movements has helped to raise public awareness of violence against women, nationally and internationally, and to ensure that the international community frames it as a human rights violation requiring government and public action.</p> <p>Türkiye is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The CEDAW Committee recognizes that the prohibition of gender-based violence against women has evolved into a principle of customary international law, binding all States.</p> <p>All forms of violence against women in Türkiye are illegal. It is sanctioned, among others, in Criminal Law and Civil Law. Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women additionally regulates preventive and protective short-term measures for violence incidents and risks. Permanent sanctions can be found in Civil Code (such as compensation) and Criminal Code (such as imprisonment).</p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%98.9</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>%95.1</b> Correct Answer</p>

PROPOSITION	T/F	EXPLANATION	DATA
<b>2. Law No. 6284 defines violence against women as “discrimination directed against a woman just because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately and any attitude and behavior violating the human rights of women”.</b>	TRUE	<i>Law No. 6284 Article 2</i>	Turkish Test: <b>%95.5</b> Correct Answer  English Test: <b>%97.6</b> Correct Answer
<b>3. Domestic violence is a private matter and requires resolution in the privacy of family.</b>	FALSE	Domestic violence is a human rights concern—and not just a private matter. States have a duty to take positive action to prevent and protect women from violence, punish perpetrators of violent acts and compensate victims of violence. This is irrespective of whether it occurs “in the contexts of the family, the community, public spaces, the workplace, leisure, politics, sport, health services and educational settings, and ... technology-mediated environment”.  <i>CEDAW General recommendation No. 35 Violence against women in private, social and public spheres are illegal. Law No. 6284 Article 2</i>	Turkish Test: <b>%90.5</b> Correct Answer  English Test: <b>%85.4</b> Correct Answer
<b>4. Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women only protects women who have been subjected to violence or are at risk of violence.</b>	FALSE	Law No. 6284 protects: - Women and, - Regardless of their gender: children, family members, and people who are victims of stalking  Who are subjected to violence or are at risk of violence. Therefore, Law No. 6284 also protects men and boys who are victims of domestic violence and stalking.  <i>Law No. 6284 Article 1</i>	Turkish Test: <b>%73.8</b> Correct Answer  English Test: <b>%70.7</b> Correct Answer
<b>5. Being placed in a women’s shelter, obtaining a restraining order, and monitoring of restraining orders via ankle monitors are among preventive and protective measures under Law No. 6284.</b>	TRUE	Law No. 6284 regulates protective measures for victims and preventive measures for alleged perpetrators. Measures mentioned in the proposition and more can be rendered by competent local authorities and/or family courts, and some can even be rendered by law enforcement in exceptional circumstances.  <i>Law No. 6284 Articles 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15</i>	Turkish Test: <b>%97.0</b> Correct Answer  English Test: <b>%82.9</b> Correct Answer
<b>6. Stalking is not a crime.</b>	FALSE	According to amendments to the Turkish Penal Code in 2022, persistent acts “to cause serious unrest or cause concern for the safety of oneself or one of their relatives by physically following them or trying to contact them using communication tools, information systems or third parties” are defined as a crime. As such, anyone who perpetrates stalking can be punished with imprisonment up to 2 years, and in its aggravated forms, up to 3 years.  <i>Turkish Penal Code Article 123/A</i>	Turkish Test: <b>%95.8</b> Correct Answer  English Test: <b>%82.9</b> Correct Answer

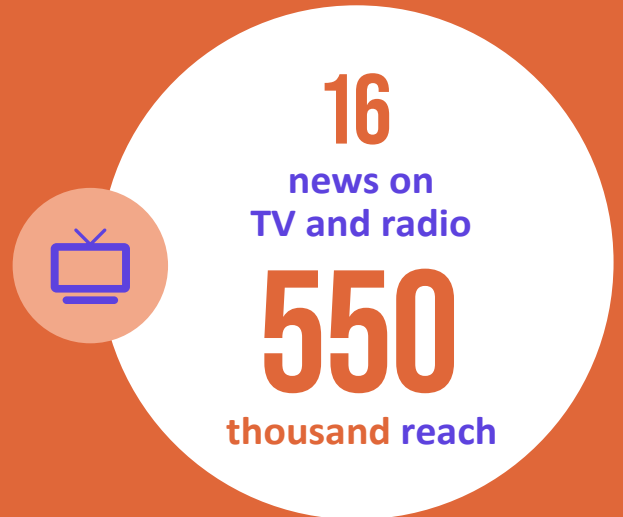
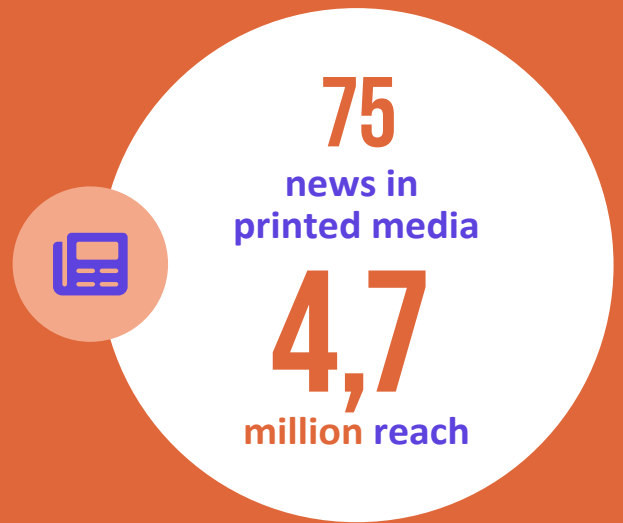


PROPOSITION	T/F	EXPLANATION	DATA
<b>7. Rape when it occurs between spouses is not a crime. 3. Domestic violence is a private matter and requires resolution in the privacy of family.</b>	FALSE	<p>Aggravated sexual assault, also known as rape, is a crime whether or not it occurs in marriage or not. Rape is punishable with imprisonment up to 12 years. Different from other forms of rape, marital rape is investigated and prosecuted upon the formal complaint of the victim.</p> <p><i>Turkish Penal Code Article 102</i></p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%95.8</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>% 87.8</b> Correct Answer</p>
<b>8. In order for crimes of violence against women to be investigated or prosecuted, the victim must file a complaint.</b>	FALSE	<p>Anyone who witnesses violence can report it. Public authorities receiving the report must act upon it. (Law No. 6284 Article 7)</p> <p>While a witness report might be sufficient for stimulating an investigation for some crimes, for others to be sanctioned, formal complaint by the victim is necessary. These include stalking and sexual harassment.</p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%65.8</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>% 58.5</b> Correct Answer</p>
<b>9. The victim has the right to request that a lawyer is assigned to them during investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women.</b>	TRUE	<p>If they do not already have one, the victim has the right to request a lawyer to be assigned to them by the bar association in cases of sexual assault, sexual abuse of children or persistent stalking, intentional injury, torture or torment committed against women, and crimes that require a prison sentence of more than five years. (<i>Criminal Procedure Code Article 234</i>)</p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%96.6</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>%95.1</b> Correct Answer</p>
<b>10. Domestic violence can be considered as a reason for divorce</b>	TRUE	<p>Each of the spouses may file a lawsuit for divorce on the grounds that the other has attempted to kill or has treated them badly or in a seriously humiliating manner. If the spouse can prove this claim, the divorce will be decided by the Court.</p> <p>In other types of violence, a divorce will be decided by the Court if it is proven that the foundation of the marriage union has been shaken due to these acts of violence.</p> <p><i>Turkish Civil Code Article 162, 166</i></p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%98.4</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>%97.6</b> Correct Answer</p>
<b>11. At the end of every divorce case, an alimony decision is made in favor of the woman.</b>	FALSE	<p>A man or a woman who will falls into poverty due to divorce may request alimony from the other party in proportion to his/her financial means, provided that his/her fault in the divorce is not more severe than that of the other party.</p> <p>If there is a change in the living conditions of the parties after the alimony decision, alimony may be removed, reduced or increased upon request.</p> <p><i>Turkish Penal Code Article 174, 175, 176</i></p>	<p>Turkish Test: <b>%79.3</b> Correct Answer</p> <p>English Test: <b>%61.0</b> Correct Answer</p>

# MEDIA AS KEY SUPP- ORTER

The campaign received coverage in print, audio-visual and online media. Various news channels have shown interest and support for our campaign.

Milliyet, Hürriyet Daily News, NTV Radio, Posta, NB Ekonomi, Tele 1 TV, TGRT Haber are among the news channels that cover the #NoExcuse campaign.





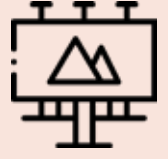
Our Media Compact partner Milliyet newspaper has provided extensive coverage throughout the campaign through exclusive news articles, columns, interviews with celebrities and experts on violence against women.



In the television series 'Judgment' aired on Kanal D, 'No Excuse' became prominent. Kaan Urgancıoğlu, portraying the character of prosecutor Ilgaz, emphasized "No Excuses" following an incident of violence, emphasizing, "There is no excuse against violence against women." The episode became the most-watched series of the day.



# #NOEXCUSE IN OUTDOORS



Eskişehir, İstanbul, Ankara and Adana municipalities supported the campaign with billboards and online banners.

The campaign was also supported by EssenceMediacom, which contributed pro-bono outdoor media, audio-visual media, and digital media.

**OUTDOOR  
MEDIA**

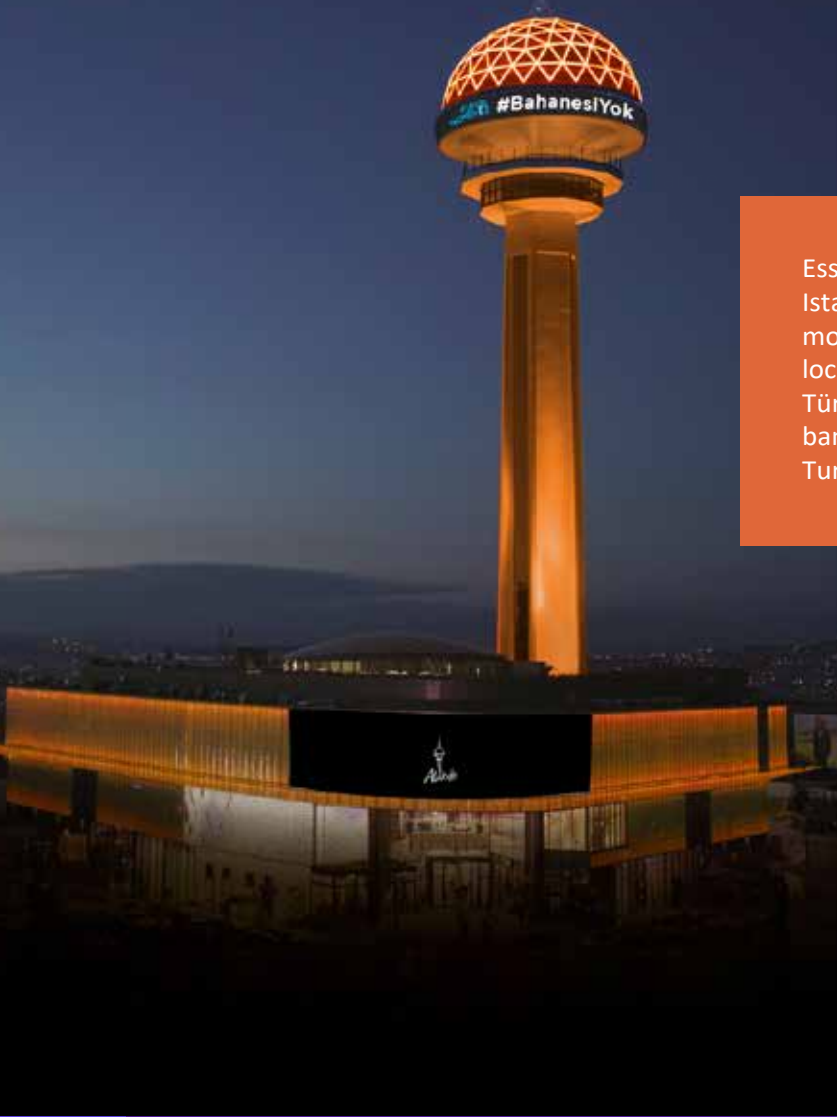
**1,120**  
media outlets

**DIGITAL**

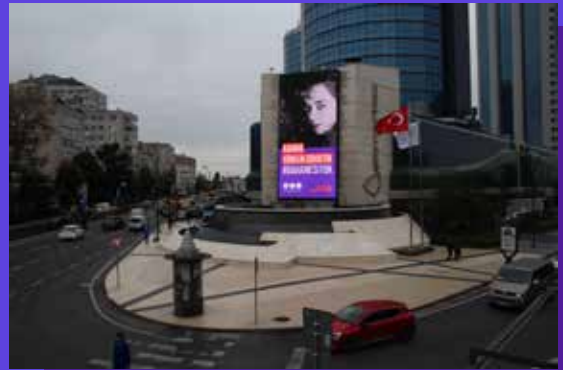
**4.1 M**  
Impressions

**MEDIA  
VALUE**

**\$19.010**



EssenceMediacom Türkiye supported our campaign in Istanbul with digital billboards in 8 distinct locations, in most popular shopping malls highly visible and most visited locations with a budget of \$17,460. EssenceMediacom Türkiye also gave us support in online media for online banners and visibility on social networks like onedio.com, Turkcell, Facebook with a budget of \$1,550.





# PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORTED #NOEXCUSE CAMPAIGN

From the banking and finance sector to food and beverage firms, insurance, real estate and fashion retail giants, more than 63 private sector companies became one voice and united under the #NoExcuse campaign through their social media channels, websites, events and messages. In 2023's 16 Days of Activism period, they galvanized support on their own platforms to highlight the message “#NoExcuse for violence against women and girls.”

AÇEV, ADM ELEKTRICS, AMERICAN HOSPITAL, AKBANK, ANADOLU HAYAT EMEKLİLİK, ANADOLU SİGORTA, AKSA ELEKTRİK, ALLIANZ TÜRKİYE, ALLIANZ PARTNERS TÜRKİYE, AVON, AYGAZ A.Ş., AYDEM ENERGY, OTOKAR, CASE AGRICULTURE TÜRKİYE, COCA COLA BEVERAGES, DİVAN, ECZACIBAŞI HOLDİNG, EGE DENİZ TEKSTİL, ENERJİSA, ENERGY, ENTEK ELEKTRICS, ENSPIRE ENERGY, ETİ HOLDİNG, FENERBAHÇE SPOR KULÜBÜ, FİAT, FİBA HOLDİNG, FDN GRUBU, FORD OTOSAN, GDZ ELECTRICS, GEDİZ PERAKENDE, GENPA, GOLDSTAR&RATEKS, İŞ KÜLTÜR YAYINLARI, İPSOS, HALKBANK, KAF FOODS, KOÇ HOLDİNG, KOÇ SİSTEM, KOÇTAŞ, KOTON, MAVİ, NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE, NUROL CONSTRUCTION, OPET, OPET FUCHS, ORHAN HOLDİNG, OTOKOÇ KARIYER, OTOKOÇ AUTOMOTIVE, PENTİ, PWN İSTANBUL, PWC TÜRKİYE, RIZVANOĞLU ARCHITECTURE, SENDEO TÜRKİYE, SEGER AUTO, SETUR, SETURDAY, SOFRA GRUP, SOFTTECH, TIME PUBLIC RELATIONS, TÜRK TRAKTÖR, UNILEVER TÜRKİYE, YAPI KREDİ, ZORLU HOLDİNG.



Fenerbahçe football team highlighted the message “#NoExcuse for violence against women and girls” at the stadium.



Turkish national athletes raised their voices on social media and supported the campaign.

UN Women joined a conference organized by the Batman Governorship with the participation from Batman Municipality, Batman University, Tüpraş.

# TOGETHER WITH THE UN, WE SAID #NOEXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Over 100 service providers working in the earthquakes affected provinces improved knowledge on specific needs and gender based violence risks of women with disabilities in the aftermath of the earthquakes in an inter-agency event that took place in Gaziantep on 8th of December. The event jointly organized by UN Women, IOM, UNICEF, UNIC and UNFPA and gave a platform to expert and earthquakes survivor women with disabilities to share their experiences to inform the service providers on how to better deliver the services with specific considerations.

The event opened with a speech by the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, panelists told their stories about their challenges of being women with disabilities especially after the earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş on the 6th of February, 2023.

For the 5th time in a row several UN agencies, including UN Women, jointly participated in the Orange Summit organized by Dokuz Eylul University as part of a 16 Days of Activism campaign. More than 300 students from universities and high schools raised awareness on gender-based violence. UN Women Türkiye Deputy Country Director Zeliha Ünalı gave a speech about the importance of legal frameworks and the role of youth in ending violence against women.



A UN joint webinar called “Policy and Legal Framework on Violence Against Women and Girls” was organized on the 14th of December to inform the UN staff about the policy and legal framework on violence against women and girls. The webinar was organized by the UN Result Group on Empowerment of Women and Girls (RG2) and UN Communications Group (UNCG). Opened with a speech by the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, UN staff and partners from UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR did presentations about CEDAW, Istanbul Convention, Law No.6284 and different aspects of the legal frameworks.



UN Country Team in Türkiye supported the 16 Days of Activism saying there is #NoExcuse for gender-based violence.

# UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE

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