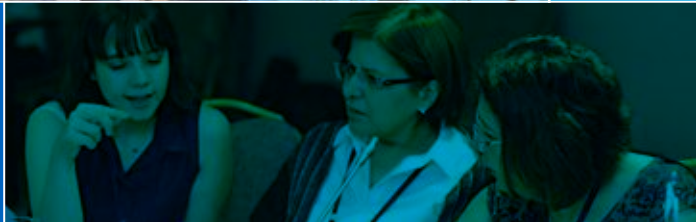
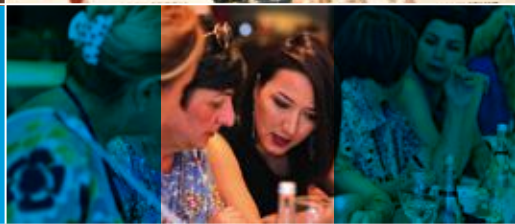


UN WOMEN TURKEY

Gender Equality in Political
Leadership and Participation
in Turkey project





Achieving the goal of gender equality, particularly with respect to women's political participation and leadership, needs to become a key priority in Turkey. Women have not been able to advance politically in significant numbers both national and local governments. UN Women Turkey works to empower women leaders to enable women's equitable representation in politics and government which is a prerequisite for real change.

Toplumsal cinsiyet dayalı
ayrımçılık

Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı
Ayrımcılık

Kadınlara yönelik
ayrımçılık

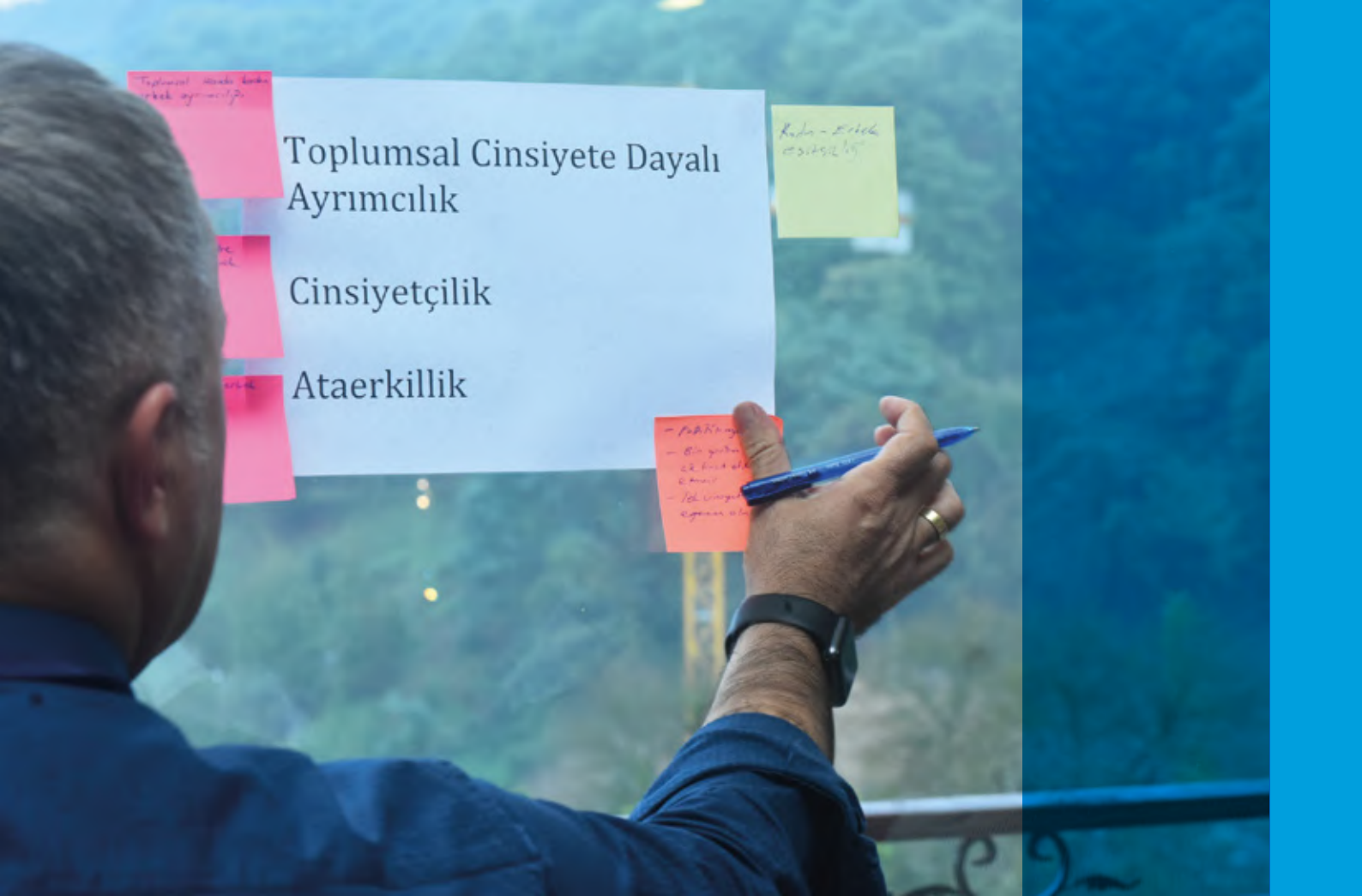
Toplumsal cinsiyet dayalı
ayrımçılık

Cinsiyetçilik

Toplumsal cinsiyet dayalı
ayrımçılık

Ataerkillik

- Ataerkillik
- Biri gücü
- Biri zeka
- Biri emek
- Biri emek
- Biri emek

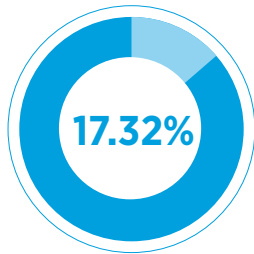




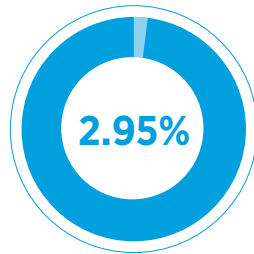
Gender Gap in Political Participation

According to the 2020 Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum, Turkey's rank is 109th in political empowerment.

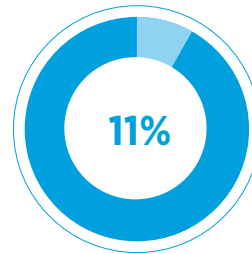
■ Ratio of women parliamentarians



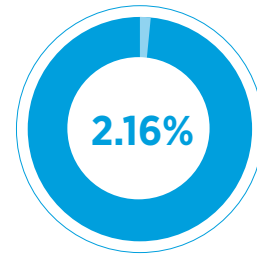
■ Ratio of women mayors



■ Ratio of women municipal council members



■ Ratio of women muhktars





Women's equal opportunities for leadership set by international commitments

UN Women's programmes on leadership and participation are guided by a history of international commitments to women's representation.



- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) upholds women's right to participate in public life.
- Gender balance in political participation and decision-making is also the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) measure progress towards gender equality in political participation and decision making. One of the targets of SDG 5 is “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.”

SİYASETE KADIN

SİYASE KADIN





Our Donor

Sweden through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Our Implementing Partner

Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Our Main Partners and Beneficiaries

- Turkish Grand National Assembly
- The Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (EOC)
- Central level public institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Local administrations
- Youth and university students



“Gender Equality in Political Leadership and Participation in Turkey” project aims at supporting women’s political leadership and participation in decision-making processes. This project works to ensure that:

- Legal frameworks and policies to advance gender equality and women’s right to participate in decision making are reformed/adopted and implemented;
- Women’s leadership and participation in politics is promoted by gender responsive measures (parliamentary mechanisms, processes and services); and
- Legal frameworks and policies to increase women’s leadership and political participation are influenced by gender equality advocates.

Within the project, capacity development and training activities with women in national and local councils, and advocacy and knowledge building activities especially with gender equality advocates are organized.

The project strengthens the capacities of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) in partnership with the Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (EOC) to advance gender responsive policies and legislation.

Civil society organizations, local administrations and women leaders are supported to strengthen gender equality in legislations, plans and budgets.

WHAT WE DID SO FAR



- » Through Gender Responsive Media Trainings, the university students of communications faculties acquired the gender perspective to apply to their daily work as the prospective media members.
- » Through Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Training of Trainers, first step to institutionalize GRB in the TGNA has been taken.
- » Initiatives have been taken to make Turkish Parliament's budget more gender sensitive through staff who participated in the GRB workshops and trainings.
- » Capacity building events have been organized with local authorities and local councilors in order for their services to be gender responsive.
- » Through study visits to Spain, Finland, Sweden and Norway, members of parliamentarians and experts exchanged best practices on gender equality and gender responsive budgeting.
- » Public dialogue events in several provinces of Turkey brought members of parliamentarians and local actors to discuss about major issues with respect to gender equality at local level.
- » Women from different political parties and civil society organizations discussed the challenges of women in politics and built solidarity at the Experience Sharing Workshops.
- » Women candidates from different political parties and representatives of civil society organizations improved their knowledge and skills on gender, leadership, public speaking and campaign management through Local Politics Workshops
- » Workshops for parliamentarians provided a platform to enhance knowledge and capacities on gender equality, and facilitated discussion about strategies for gender mainstreaming and mechanisms
- » Selected legislations of Turkey has been reviewed from gender equality perspective vis-à-vis to global agreements to which Turkey is a party.

“

It is of great importance to plan activities enabling women to observe best practices in order to contribute to achieving gender equality and increasing the ratio of women politicians.”

Canan Kalsın

The Chairperson of The Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men, Turkish Grand National Assembly



“We work in close cooperation with UN Women. It is important to establish international working groups and organize on-site trainings so that women politicians observe good practices in other countries, exchange experience with peers and build communications networks. It is of great importance to plan activities enabling women to observe best practices in order to contribute to achieving gender equality and increasing the ratio of women politicians.”



Canan Kalsın, the Chairperson of The Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (EOC) in the Turkish Parliament, has been active in politics for more than 18 years and has worked in several positions in her political party. As Chairperson of EOC, she collaborates with UN Women in promoting women’s political participation and leadership, and leads the Committee in achieving equal opportunities between women and men, advancing women’s rights, and mainstreaming gender equality in the parliament.

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie, stands in a hallway. He has his hands clasped in front of him. The background shows a hallway with a person walking away in the distance.

“

Increased technical assistance by UN Women play an important role on training of trainers in GRB.”

Naim Çoban

The Head of the Strategic Development Department, Turkish Grand National Assembly



“The training and guidance support we received from national and international experts through UN Women contributed greatly to the current state of our work. Increased technical assistance by UN Women will play an important role on training of trainers in GRB, enhancing institutional capacity and sharing experiences in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders including particularly EOC.”

Naim Çoban is the Head of the Strategic Development Department that operates under the Administrative Department in the Turkish Parliament. Administrative Department provides administrative and technical support to the General Assembly, committees, political party groups, and members of parliament. For the past few years, under the supervision of Administrative Department, Strategic Development Department is working on mainstreaming gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting in the parliament. UN Women provides technical expertise in exploring possible measures to enhance a gender-responsive parliamentary budget.



“

Politics is accepted as
a male dominant area.
However, challenges
empower us. ”

Çiğdem Sandıkçiođlu Başarır

*Councilor of Mentese Municipal
Council in Mugla*



“I have been in politics for almost five years. Politics is accepted as a male dominant area. As women candidates, we are ignored, and we are pushed aside. However, challenges empower us. At the workshop, I understood that there are many women like me who struggle and overcome these challenges. Workshops empowered and motivated us,”



Çiğdem Sandıkçioğlu Başarır attended the Local Politics Workshop that aimed to empower women candidates before local elections in March 2019 and she was elected as councilor of her province. More than 160 women from five political parties who were running in the local elections participated in the Local Politics Workshops that UN Women organized in December 2018 and January 2019 in four different cities of Turkey.

“

I am stronger in the face of challenges, and I continue to be active in politics.

”

Sultan Ünal

Politician, A participant of Local Politics Workshops



“I thought that if I took part in politics, I could be more active, I could be more useful to people. That’s how I’ve been involved in politics. Local Politics Workshop organized by UN Women has made tremendous changes in my life. It taught me how to communicate better with people, how to manage economic resources during campaign. My self-confidence increased. And the way people see me has changed. I think the workshop has empowered me in that sense.”



Sultan Ünal participated in the Local Politics Workshop. She ran for mayor of Caglayancerit, a district of Kahramanmaraş during local elections in March 2019 and ran a successful electoral campaign. At the workshops, more than 100 women from different political parties and provinces, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, came together to discuss negotiation techniques and build a solidarity network. The workshop also created a safe space for discussing the issue of violence against women in elections and politics.



“

While firefighting is traditionally known as a men's occupation, women can easily do it.”

Merve Erbay

*Firefighter, Turkish
Grand National Assembly*

“One day I saw a vacancy announcement by the Parliament for firefighters and immediately applied for it. Successfully completing the examinations, and outperforming many men, I started to work as the first woman firefighter at the TGNA. I was the first woman to apply for a firefighter’s job. While firefighting is traditionally known as a men’s occupation, women can easily do it. Strong muscles are not enough for being a firefighter. It takes good training, experience and ability as well.”



Merve Erbay works as a firefighter at the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA). UN Women conducts gender-responsive budgeting trainings at the TGNA to ensure that the planning and budgeting practices of the Turkish Parliament promote equal opportunities for women and men, and supports technical assistance in mainstreaming gender.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

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