



# WOMEN for WOMEN's HUMAN RIGHTS

• We are an autonomous action-research project aiming to document and disseminate information on women's human rights in Turkey.

Our group was founded in December 1993. We work in collaboration with the international network Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML). WLUML is an international information, solidarity and support network of women affected by Muslim laws, whether these are written in civil codes and/or religious texts or are unwritten and customary.

Our organization aims to end discrimination against women through empowerment programs linked to **action-research**, particularly to provide women's organizations at the grass-roots level with tools and strategies to confront structures of inequality and the effects of marginalization. This is accomplished by carrying out research, disseminating the gathered information in various forms appropriate for women of different literacy levels and by utilizing research result to help enact policy, legal and social changes.

We also recognize the importance and necessity of women's international solidarity and support. Within this context we support women's struggles for their rights in other parts of the world and cooperate with international networks such as WLUML (Women Living Under Muslim Laws).

In accordance with our aims, we have so far undertaken the following **research** and produced the following **materials** for dissemination:

- **Research on the legal status of women in Turkey.** A report was prepared which encompasses an analysis of the existing laws of the Turkish Civil and Penal Codes, their implementation, enforcement, and recent changes in these laws that promote or constrain women's rights. **The brochure "We do have rights!"**, which is based on this research, has been designed especially for women of lower literacy levels. The brochure is being used in our outreach programs and has been handed over to various other organizations for dissemination.

- **The Legal Literacy Project** aims to empower women living in the shanty-town-areas of Istanbul through workshops on women's human rights, women's legal rights in Turkey and strategies of confronting inequality at a community basis.

- **A research program on customary laws concerning women in several regions of Turkey** has been started. This program consists of three main topics: Women in the family, women and economics and women as individuals. This research will be undertaken in two geographic regions of Turkey in close collaboration with local women's groups.

- **The Myth of The Warm House - Violence in the family and Sexual Abuse:** A book compiling articles about domestic violence against women in Ankara and migrant Turkish women in Berlin, international legal strategies against domestic violence, sexual abuse, prevention of and legal strategies against sexual abuse and legal status of women in Turkey. Articles in the book are based on previous research undertaken by WWHR.

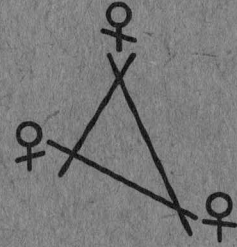
- **A bibliography of literature on women's issues in Turkey between 1975-1995.** This compilation of books and articles on women in Turkey includes an exhausting 50-page list of bibliographic references.

- Research about the situation of **migrant women from the Ex-Soviet Republics in Turkey**, who work in the so called suitcase-industry or as sex-workers.

- Research about the **situation of sex-workers in Turkey.** An action-research on the legal and the social barriers to sex workers' human rights and their empowerment.

- **"It's time to say No!"** A film about domestic violence in Turkey and the strategies to confront it, to be used in empowerment programs (in Turkish, with English and German subtitles).

In response to the positive feedback to its activities so far, WWHR is seeking to become an established NGO in Turkey: a place where women from all walks of life can come in order to see their ideas become reality.



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