

Gaps in response to violence against women and girls



11 May 2011



Turkey signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, on 11 May 2011. In March 2012, Turkey became the first country to ratify the convention.

Who are the key players in providing services for survivors of violence against women and girls in Turkey?



- Service providers are state institutions and women's NGOs, including municipality-run women's counselling centres and provincial directorates of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies.
- Service providers are least satisfied with collaboration with the UN and other development actors, media and religious institutions.

What are some gaps in services in Turkey?



← Turkey has a free, 24/7 helpline for social assistance, however the helpline is not only for survivors of violence against women and not all helpline staff are specially trained to support survivors.

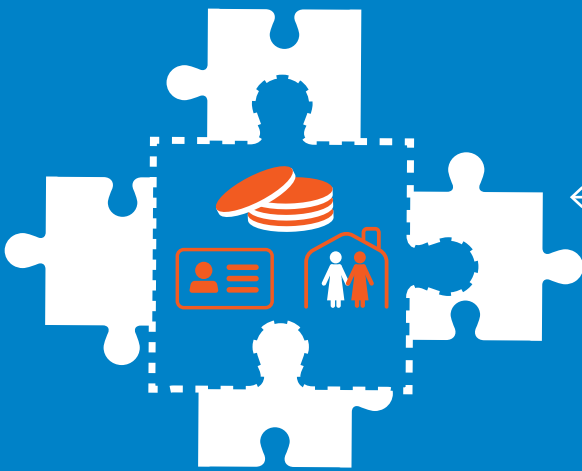
- Turkey does not yet have rape crisis centres or sexual violence referral centres that provide specialised support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Only 62% of service providers offer training on anti-discrimination and equality to their staff.



← Marginalised groups, including women with disabilities, do not have access to many shelters.

- Survivors often lack free legal aid and comprehensive assistance through the legal process due to poor collaboration.

What more can Turkey do to better address violence against women and girls?



← The gaps in legislation that limit survivors' access to shelter services must be addressed.

- The Istanbul Convention needs to be fully implemented to end violence against women and girls, and achieve gender equality.

Information is drawn from a Multi-Country Study conducted in 2015 by UN Women in partnership with the Council of Europe to map support services for women and girls subjected to violence.

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