

WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS (WWHR) NEW WAYS





IN SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR RIGHTS AND EQUALITY



Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways is an independent women's nongovernmental organization (NGO) founded in 1993, and aims to promote women's human rights, equality and non-discrimination in Turkey and worldwide. Its name was inspired by the UN World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna the same year. where it was affirmed that "women's rights are human rights." WWHR-New Wavs works for the realization of women's human rights, supports the active and broad participation of women in all spheres of life as free individuals and equal citizens. and strives for the establishment and maintenance of a democratic. egalitarian and peaceful social order at the national, regional and international levels.

WWHR-New Ways has been active for over two decades, and our efforts have been internationally recognized by a number of organizations:

1999: The Leading Solutions Award by the Association for Women in Development (AWID) in recognition of our contributions to advancing gender equality and social justice

2004: Recognition as one of the best tactics in human rights worldwide for our Human Rights Education Program for Women by the New Tactics in Human Rights Program of the Center for Victims of Torture

2007: The Gruber Foundation
International Women's Rights Prize,
co-recipient with WWHR-New Ways
co-founder Pinar İlkkaracan and the
Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights
in Muslim Societies for contributing to
legal reforms to safeguard women's
human rights and actualize gender
equality in Turkey, and promoting
sexual, reproductive and bodily rights
in Muslim societies

2015: The International Women's Health Coalition Joan B. Dunlop Award presented to WWHR-New Ways co-founder Pınar İlkkaracan for her exceptional record of work in Turkey and globally to promote the human rights of women and girls and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights of women



OUR APPROACH

WWHR-New Ways strives to promote sustainable social change and transformation to achieve gender equality and the fulfillment of women's human rights at the local, national, regional, and global levels. It believes that true and permanent change can only be affected when the struggle for women's rights and equality is integrated at all levels and all spheres.

To this end, WWHR-New Ways adopts a holistic perspective in all its work and addresses the links between various issues concerning women (such as violence against women; education; political, social, economic and legal rights; sexuality and reproductive rights; and the rights of girls, to name a few). Working actively in women's human rights coalitions in Turkey and abroad, WWHR-New Ways seeks to advance women's rights in national legislation and international documents, and translate these rights to the everyday lives of women.

Collaborating with women's and LGBTIQ organizations with similar objectives since its foundation, WWHR-New Ways combines various methods and tools in its efforts, such as action-research, publications, training, networking, and influencing decision-making and policy development mechanisms through advocacy.

OUR AIMS

- Equip women with critical awareness and skills to exercise their human rights, and encourage them to become catalysts of social change through human rights training programs;
- Raise awareness on women's and LGBTIQ rights through capacity building for activists, NGOs, social workers, and professionals working in the field of women's human rights;
- Build solidarity networks and bring together international, regional, national, and local advocates of women's rights and gender equality issues to strengthen our efforts in promoting equality and nondiscrimination:
- Engage in advocacy work nationally and internationally to actualize women's human rights and gender equality;
- Produce, share, and disseminate feminist strategies and knowledge.

OUR PROGRAMS

1) THE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN (HREP)

Developed by WWHR-New Ways in 1995, the Human Rights Education Program for Women (HREP) is a 16-week training program that aims to equip women with the necessary knowledge, critical awareness, and skills to exercise their rights in every sphere of life. HREP is a participatory program and covers issues related to women's human rights, constitutional and civil rights, violence against women and strategies against violence, economic rights, communication skills, gender sensitive parenting, rights of the child, sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, political rights, feminism, and community organizing.

A unique model of sustainable state-NGO partnership in Turkey, HREP was implemented in collaboration with the General Directorate of Social Services at community centers between 1998 and 2011. Since 2011, partners have been expanded to include women's counseling centers of various municipalities, and independent women's NGOs.

 Over 14,000 women from 56 provinces of Turkey and Northern Cyprus have participated in HREP, which has been running uninterrupted for over two decades.

- Including two pilot training programs, WWHR-New Ways has organized 11 HREP Trainer Trainings to date, most recently in 2016.
- HREP training materials and publications such as the illustrated booklet series "We Have Rights!" on women's legal, sexual, reproductive, and economic rights, and the 12-episode TV documentary *The Purple Series* have reached tens of thousands of women and serve as mass awareness raising tools.
- "We Have Rights!" and *The Purple Series* have been translated into Kurdish, thereby making comprehensive information on women's human rights accessible in Kurdish for the first time.
- Serving as a catalyst for women's mobilization to organize around their own needs and promote social change on a broader level, HREP has instigated the foundation of around 20 independent local women's organizations.



2) ADVOCACY

WWHR-New Ways forms pressure groups and organizes national and international advocacy campaigns to push for legal reforms, the enforcement of relevant laws, and the establishment of a non-discriminatory legal framework that will improve the rights of women and LGBTIQ individuals. Building bridges among local, national, regional, and international struggles to achieve gender equality is a priority for WWHR-New Ways.

Through continuous and persistent activism, advocacy, and network-building efforts that span two decades, WWHR-New Ways has contributed to major legal reforms in Turkey, the advancement of sexual and bodily rights in Muslim societies and at the UN level, and the inclusion of women's human rights and gender equality in global policies.

• WWHR-New Ways spearheaded and co-founded the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR) in 2001, and served as its international coordination office between 2001 and 2011, bringing together leading NGOs and academic and research institutions working on these issues in the Middle East, North Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. The only international solidarity network working on sexuality in Muslim societies, CSBR currently has 38 member organizations from 15 countries.

In collaboration with the women's movement in Turkey, WWHR-New Ways has initiated and coordinated numerous advocacy and lobbying campaigns for national law reform, furthering women's human rights and gender equality. These include:

* 1997 The Campaign against Virginity Testing

V An Administrative Ban against Virginity Testing was issued in 1997.

* 1997-1998 The Campaign for the Protection Order Law against Domestic Violence

√ Law number 4320 was adopted in 1998.

* 2000-2001 The Campaign for Full Equality in the Turkish Civil Code V The Turkish Civil Code was reformed in 2001 to grant full gender equality in the family.

* 2001 The Campaign for the Ratification of the CEDAW Optional Protocol by Turkey

√ Turkey ratified the CEDAW Optional Protocol in 2002.

* 2002-2004 The Campaign for the Reform of the Turkish Penal Code from a Gender Perspective

√ The Turkish Penal Code was reformed in 2004 with the amendment of over 30 articles safeguarding sexual and bodily rights.

* 2011-2012 The End Violence Campaign for a more comprehensive protection law against domestic violence

V Law number 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence against Women was adopted in 2012.

- WWHR-New Ways engages in international advocacy for the rights of girls, women, and LGBTIO individuals, most notably at the UN level. Having served on government and NGO delegations in UN processes, including the Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing+5, Beijing+10, Beijing+20, ICPD+10, ICPD+15, and ICPD+20, WWHR-New Ways has most recently been an active part of advocacy processes on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In collaboration with the international women's movement, WWHR-New Ways ensured that "gender equality and the empowerment of women and girl children" was included as a standalone goal (Goal 5).
- WWHR-New Ways plays a prominent role in initiating and coordinating advocacy processes for Turkey's periodic reviews by the CEDAW Committee; it organized the drafting of NGO shadow reports and the advocacy efforts of NGO delegations at the review sessions in 1997, 2005, 2010, and contributed actively to the 2016 CEDAW shadow reporting process.
- WWHR-New Ways is among the co-founders of the Turkey Monitoring Platform for the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women

and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and played an active role in the process of nominating a member from Turkey for the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) successfully campaigning for the election of a feminist scholar as its president.

3) PRODUCING & SHARING FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE

WWHR-New Ways adopts an expansive and well-rounded publication and outreach strategy with diverse written, audio-visual, and digital materials in various languages, targeting broad audiences in efforts to generate and share feminist knowledge. With publications ranging from research articles to illustrated booklets for women of lower literacy levels, documentaries to advocacy and policy reports, human rights training manuals to newsletters, WWHR-New Wavs sees its publications as complementary to all its programs; a way to create knowledge and raise awareness; share experiences, strategies and best practices; and further advocacy and policy-making efforts.



SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- We Have Rights! Illustrated booklet series (in Turkish, Kurdish)
- The Purple Series Documentary TV Series (in Turkish, Kurdish)
- The Human Rights Education Program for Women (HREP) Utilizing state resources to promote women's human rights in Turkey (in English, Turkish)
- Human Rights Education as a Tool of Grassroots Organizing and Social Transformation: A Case Study from Turkey (in English; in Intercultural Education 16/2, Taylor and Francis)
- The Purple Newsletter (periodical, in Turkish)
- Deconstructing Sexuality in the Middle East: Challenges and Discourses (in English)
- Women and Sexuality in Muslim Societies (in English, Turkish, Arabic)
- CSBR E-News (periodical, in English)
- "How Adultery Almost Derailed Turkey's Aspirations to Join the European Union" (in English; in Sex Politics: Reports from the Front Lines, Sexuality Policy Watch)
- Of War and Siege and Lebanon (in English)
- Gender, Sexuality and the Criminal Laws in the Middle East and North Africa: A Comparative Study (in English)

- "Re/Forming the Penal Code in Turkey from a Gender Perspective: The Case of a Successful Campaign" (in English; in Citizen Engagement and National Policy Change, Institute of Development Studies)
- Turkish Civil and Penal Code Reforms from a Gender Perspective: The Success of Two Nationwide Campaigns (in English)
- "Advocating Sexual Rights: The Campaign for the Reform of the Turkish Penal Code" (in English; in Building Feminist Movements and Organizations, Zed Books & AWID)
- Myth of A Warm Home: Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse (in Turkish)
- Towards Gender Equality in the Labor Market: Work-Family Life Reconciliation Policies (in Turkish)
- United Nations CEDAW Process and Advocacy and Lobbying with Non- Governmental Organizations
- Shadow Reports from Turkey: Experiences of 1997 and 2005 (in Turkish)
- "Legal Reforms on Violence against Women in Turkey: Best Practices" (in English; in Gender and Violence in the Middle East, Routledge)
- Beijing+5: Women's Human Rights in the UN and Turkey's Commitments (in Turkish)

Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) – New Ways is a member of numerous national and international networks and joins forces with them in advocacy efforts and campaigns:

International Coalitions and Solidarity Networks

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
- Global Coalition for Human Rights Education
- European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs)
- Cairo+20 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Platform
- Women's Major Group (WMG)
- CSW Women's Rights Caucus (WRC)

National Coalitions and Solidarity Networks

- End to Violence Platform
- European Women's Lobby Coordination in Turkey
- The Istanbul Convention Turkey Monitoring Platform
- Women's Coalition
- Women's Labor and Employment Initiative (KEIG)
- Women's Platform on the Turkish Penal Code



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Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) – New Ways Inonu Caddesi, No: 29/6 Saadet Apt. Gumussuyu, Beyoglu, 34437, Istanbul/TURKEY

T: +90 212 251 00 29

F: newways@wwhr.o

www.wwhr.org / www.kadinininsanhaklari.org