



TED UNIVERSITY
Center for
♀ Gender Studies

TED University Center for Gender Studies
Violence Against Women
Information Leaflet

No
TO VIOLENCE
♀ AGAINST
WOMEN

The global pandemic we are experiencing is deepening social inequalities. As is the case in general, members of disadvantaged social groups suffer the worst consequences. Among these are women and children. Studies conducted in countries that have experienced the pandemic before it started spreading in Turkey, sadly, reveal that violence against women and children has risen during this difficult time. This finding suggests that while the advice to “stay at home” might protect women and children from contracting the virus, it leaves them exposed to devastating consequences of abuse.

Economic, political and social uncertainties brought about by precautions taken against the spread of the pandemic might leave women who are exposed to violence powerless. They might also feel alone and helpless in the case of a difficulty accessing institutions that target violence against women.

TED University Gender Studies Centre would like to kindly remind authorities that increasing levels of violence against women and children during the pandemic should not be seen as a secondary issue in the fight against the virus. To the contrary, taking the necessary measures to prevent violence against women and children must be seen as an integral aspect of the fight against the pandemic. TED University Gender Studies Centre holds that effective implementation of Law No. 6284 and enforcement of means to facilitate women to gain access to preventive and protective mechanisms specified in Istanbul Convention are particularly important policies in this regard.

Violence against women is not an issue that can be tackled at the level of the individual by invoking individual human rights. Effective battle against this social problem requires simultaneous implementation and coordination of measures at individual, social, legal and political levels. It is still important, however, to be aware of what you can do as an individual.

In this regard:

- Do not forget that “social distancing” is meant to denote “physical distancing”. Remind yourself that though we have to keep physical distance from each other, there are different ways through which we can keep in touch socially.
- Studies conducted reveal that communication and solidarity among women is an effective method in the fight against violence. Do not disregard the power of social solidarity. Do not shy away from sharing your experiences when you can and asking for support when you need it.

It is important to remember that “We might be at home, but we are not alone”.

Below you can find some information about the institutions and centres that you might contact in case of a threat or an act of violence. If you need more information about these institutions or have other questions please do not hesitate to contact us, TED University Gender Studies Centre, via email (genderstudies@tedu.edu.tr).



What can you do if you are exposed to violence?

Law No. 6284, “The Law to Protect Family and Prevent Violence Against Women” aims “protection of women who are exposed to violence or are at risk of violence, as well as protection of children, family members and those who are victims of unilateral persistent surveillance”. According to this law, if you are exposed to or are in danger of exposure to any kind of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence:

- You can ask to be relocated to a shelter or request temporary protection.
- You can ask the authorities to confiscate perpetrators’ gun, to suspend the perpetrator(s) from the house, and to prevent the perpetrator(s) from approaching you physically or by other means of communication.
- You can request your address information to be concealed from the perpetrator(s) and your ID and other personal information to be changed.
- You can also ask for temporary residence, temporary health insurance, temporary financial aid and temporary alimony.

To use these rights, you can apply to the nearest police station, gendarmerie, Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, Violence Prevention and Monitoring Center (ŞÖNİM) (you can find the address information of the Center in your city on Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services’ website), Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Service’s Provincial Directorate, family courts, municipalities, district governorships and relevant women’s organisations.

**If you are facing difficulties going out,
you can call the following hotlines 7/24:**

Social Support Hotline (183)

Police Emergency (155)

Domestic Violence Emergency Help Hotline (0212 656 9696)

Gelincik Hotline (0312 444 4306)

Ankara Women’s Solidarity Foundation (0312 430 4005)

If you are unable to make a phone call, because you are with the perpetrator, you can use Ministry of Interior’s mobile application KADES to get police support to your location.

Important Note: Under the same law, witnesses of violence are also given a right to appeal to the relevant authorities to file a complaint.

How to Apply?

- You should contact a lawyer if you are subjected to attempted homicide, abduction, rape, or prolonged abuse. You can apply to your local Bar Association for free legal advice, if you cannot afford hiring a lawyer yourself.
- In case of a physical violence that requires medical treatment, you should approach Hospitals' emergency clinics and describe what you have experienced in detail to the relevant person. The person in charge will next notify the hospital police. For cases of physical violence that do not require medical treatment, you can apply to police stations, gendarmeries, and prosecutors' offices. After hearing your case, the relevant officer will direct you to a health centre for a medical assault report. It is very important for all the physical marks of assault to be reported at the health centre, since those will count as your proof of violence. If you are hesitant to go to a health centre, you can take photographs which prove that the pictured marks are on your body and are compatible with the date and time of the incident.
- If you experience crimes listed under the Turkish Penal Code such as physical violence, sexual assault, harassment, limitation of personal freedom, prevention of economic activity, threat, and insult, you can apply to Prosecutors' Office by submitting a written petition.
- You will be sent an official decision letter at the end of the investigation. If, after the original investigation, the conditions for suing the perpetrator(s) are found insufficient, remember that you have the right to appeal to Criminal Courts of Peace within 15 days of your receipt of the decision letter.
- Whichever institution you apply to, sharing your experiences with women's organisations and getting them involved in your case would enable you to get faster and more effective results. You could, for instance, get in touch with We Will Stop Femicide Platform via their support hotline 0212 912 4243 and ask for support.