



2022-2023 Academic Year

# Annual Report

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**Translated by:**  
Güvenç Arman Arı

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# About the Center

## Mission

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The goal of the Center for Gender Studies is to realize academic, administrative, theoretical, and practical studies to create a university environment that is based on the principle of gender equality in general and gender equality in representation and that has heightened awareness and sensitivity on the issue of gender. For this, the center conducts and supports national and international scientific studies, reveals an interdisciplinary approach, keeps the issue of gender on the agenda by including all faculties, departments, and administrative units, realizes events, conferences, projects, and activities that would connect society and academy and finally aims to prevent all discrimination and sexual harassment related to sex or sexual orientation.

## Field of Activity

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1. Doing scientific research in the field of gender.
2. Organizing national and international conferences, seminars, congresses, and panels.
3. Supporting academic and scientific research activities.
4. Realizing training, projects, and studies to raise the awareness and sensitivity of students, academic and administrative personnel on the subject of gender and gender equality.
5. Cooperating with national and international institutions in the field of gender and conducting national and international projects.
6. Creating an archive on gender, gender equality, women's studies, and similar subjects in the university's library.
7. Providing a must course on gender to be included in the curriculum as foreseen in the Document of Stance on Gender Equality by The Council of Higher Education (YÖK).
8. Encouraging to take all the measures to provide security and to prevent all kinds of harassment on campus.
9. Working to provide gender equality in representation and decision-making processes in every single unit of the university.
10. Supporting and leading all measures to make women's work environment in TED University easier. With the support of the psychological guidance and counseling department, the Center promotes the establishment of units and implementation of approaches to prevent sexual harassment and mobbing.

## **Components of the Center**

### **Administrative Board**

Prof. Zuhâl Yeşilyurt Gündüz

Prof. Kezban Çelik

Prof. Aylin Özman

Asst. Prof. Aylin Çakıroğlu Çevik

Asst. Prof. Gülşen Seven

### **Advisory Board**

Prof. Şebnem Akipek Öcal

Asst. Prof. Yağmur Ar Karcı

Asst. Prof. Selin Akyüz Tursun

Asst. Prof. Gülçin Con Wright

### **Members**

Asst. Prof. Beril Türkoğlu Demirel

Assoc. Prof. Bezen Coşkun

Dr. Burcu Asena-Salman

Dr. Burcu Sarı Karademir

Asst. Prof. Duygu Onay Çöker

Asst. Prof. Şule Akdoğan

Assoc. Prof. Zehra Yılmaz Yağcı

Dr. Sinem Sözen Özdoğan

Asst. Prof. Canay Doğulu

Research Assistant Cemre Öztoprak

Research Assistant Ezgi Alp

Research Assistant Sevi Gizem Zeybek

### **Assistant Specialist**

Assistant Specialist Tuğçe Çetinkaya

### **Partial Scholarship Students**

Berfin Ece Aslaner

Büşra Başar

Ecem Günaydın

Öykü Ünal

Zeynep Çavuşoğlu

## Partial Scholarship Students of the Center

### Berfin Ece Aslaner



Berfin Ece Aslaner is a graduate of the Department of Pre-school Education at TED University and a fourth-year student at the Department of English Language Education. She completed internships in state institutions during her education, and completed an internship at the Turkish-American Association Cinnah Kindergarten and the Ministry of Youth and Sports' Daycare Center. Aslaner focused on the relationship between gender and early childhood throughout her education, and she continued to digitally and individually report her perspective on the representation of gender in early childhood literature after having contributed to the scientific research project of Prof. Sibel Balcı entitled "Investigating Gender Roles in Turkish Early Childhood Story Books" as a scholarship student. In addition to projects and internships in the field of teaching, she complemented her interest in the field with the summer internship she completed at TED University Center for Gender Studies. She has contributed to research by focusing on the intersection of gender and education during her internship at the Center. While studying at the undergraduate level, she participated in TÜBİTAK 2237-A and TED Ambassadors Projects. She teaches English on a voluntary basis to scholarship students in Ankara within "TED Tam Destek Sosyal Sorumluluk Projesi" and works as an English teacher at Artı Dil education institution. Berfin Ece Aslaner is an active member of the Center, working on a part-time basis.

### Büşra Başar



Büşra Başar is a fourth grade student in the Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance at TED University. She has gained experience in working on projects in the fields of gender and sexual education with projects titled "The Effect of a Sexual Awareness-Based Sex Education Program on Beliefs in Sexual Myths, Sexual Attitudes and Sexual Knowledge," and "Exploring The Hegemonic Masculinity Hierarchy's Reconstruction and Deconstruction in Traditional Tales and Anti-Tales" funded by TED University Research, Technology and Innovation Directorate within the scope of Undergraduate Students Research Support (LAD). In addition, she carries out studies based on raising awareness on societal issues and battling discrimination by taking part in the Logos Society of TED University. She works as a scholarship student in TED University's Center for Gender Studies. Her interests include gender studies, sexual education and women's studies.

## Ecem Günaydın



Ecem Günaydın is a fourth year undergraduate student in the Department of Psychology at TED University. She actively takes part in the publication process of the study titled "The Effect of Driver Behavior on Masculinity Gender Role Stress" with her colleagues. She took part in the Psychology Society of TED University for a semester during her undergraduate studies. In 2022, she started taking part in the Center for Gender Studies at TED University as a scholarship student. She contributed to studies mostly focused on gender equality and gender-based violence in the Center. In addition, she conducted a research based on disaster-oriented gender studies. In 2023, she completed a voluntary internship in Women's Footprint Platform (Kadın Ayak İzi Platformu), which provides funds and grants to woman entrepreneurs. Her interests include social psychology, masculine fragility, gender equality and women's studies.

## Öykü Ünal



Öykü Ünal is a fourth grade undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at TED University. She has been involved in many voluntary studies and projects since the earlier years of her undergraduate studies. Some of these include projects that were funded by the United Nations or the European Union, covering the United Nations' sustainable development goals and focusing on subjects such as migration, social cohesion and gender inequality. In addition, she volunteered in AIESEC Ankara, Greenpeace and LÖSEV. She completed her first internship in Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants-ASAM, the Department of Protection in Central Anatolian Region, and had the opportunity to gather information on the status of migrants in the region. She completed her second internship at the Ministry of Finance, Revenue Administration, and the third in the Center for Asylum and Migration Research. In this process, she had the opportunity to conduct research on the sociological damage caused by the earthquake and the hate speech that emerged within the process. Some of her interests are the concepts of social awareness, gender, tradition, stereotype and prejudice, and the damage caused by these concepts in the societal context on the basis of gender and crime, cultural studies and migration.

## Zeynep Çavuşođlu



Zeynep Çavuşođlu is a third year undergraduate student (on full-scholarship) in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at TED University. She's also doing a minor in the Department of Sociology and her secondary field in Global Citizenship. She has volunteered in women's organizations such as the Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation and Women's Councils, and completed the "Building Gender IQ" certificate program developed by the HeForShe initiative, which was also supported by UN Women. Zeynep Çavuşođlu, who worked as a scholarship student in the Center for Gender Studies at TED University during the 2022-2023 academic year, is a member of the Policy Society's Board of Directors at TED University and is currently doing her internship at the Ministry of Interior, Department of European Union and Foreign Relations, and in Rapor Bülteni. In addition to conducting research and writing position papers on gender equality in Rapor Bülteni as an intern since June, she writes informative pieces on politics, covering subjects such as gender, women's and LGBTI+ studies within the Society and Media Research Association.

# Events

## a. Equal Care

### **The Study of Content Creation**

Within the scope of March 1 Equal Care Day, studies on creating social media content on gender, care work and disaster were carried out. The posts created were published on the social media accounts tha belong to the Center over a month. [Click here](#) to access the study.

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The article written by Prof. Zuhale Yeşilyurt Gündüz titled "[12 billion hours of unpaid labor per day](#)" to make care work visible and inform the public about equal care work studies was published in Birgün Newspaper on March 9, 2023.



## b. “Establishing Feminist Bridges in Academy” Seminar Series

The “Establishing Feminist Bridges in Academy” Seminar Series, which was initiated to create a dialogue between feminist academics in the center and peripheral universities, continued. The aim of these seminars is both to ensure the flow of information from the periphery to the center and to create a platform for women academics who are at the beginning of their careers to announce their work, thus sowing the seeds of future projects among feminist academics working in the center and the periphery.

On December 9, 2022, a seminar titled “Literature, Migration, and Women” was held with Assoc. Prof. Şule Okuroğlu Özün from the Department of Western Languages and Literatures at Süleyman Demirel University.

“The roots and usage of the word ‘diaspora’ date back to ancient times, and in its simplest terms, it defines ethnic and/or religious minorities that are defined as any nation’s branch that is separated from their country. The productive dialogue in these living spaces ensures the existence of heterotopic spaces for diaspora identity. It is in these areas that the debates of ‘identity’ and the stereotyped narratives of the unchangeable self are challenged, and at different times and in different spaces, the polyphony of continuous and non-continuous selves that are in relation to the ‘other’ is embraced.

When drawing the lines of diaspora subjectivity in the light of nation and border themes, it is necessary to consider women in diasporas more carefully. In the dominant colonial and patriarchal discourses, nationalist discourse made women the pure and non-historical image of subordinancy, inferiority and vulgarity while the representation of women imprisoned in the Western framework was accompanied by the cultural neglect of women. In this Western framework, men were given a dominant role, and women were described as second-class. Both patriarchal discourse and patriarchally shaped nation, homeland and guest rhetoric target female identity; thus, all other orders that can be an alternative to the desired order are suppressed. In such a case, female immigrants are doubly moved away from the essentializing center. The two-layer displacement discourses can produce a plurality of internal and external voices of existence elsewhere. Thus, the cross-cultural physical journey becomes an expanded metaphor that represents the woman’s journey to different selves. The main point here is to be able to produce many liberating alternatives such as B, C, D, rather than replacing A with non-A. This talk aims to discuss the words diaspora, identity and women and in this context to examine the selected novel of Anita Desai, who is also an immigrant woman writer. Anita Desai’s *Bye-Bye Blackbird* is one of the major novels about the lives of dark-skinned Indian immigrants -Madrassas, Bengalis and Punjabis- who migrated to England and were labeled as ‘blackbirds’ in England. Although it was written in the post-independence period, the traces of the colonial past and imperial power continue to shape the consciousness and spatial practices of the characters in the novel. Adit’s wife, Sarah (an English woman) also joins the marginalized Indians and faces problems such as alienation, inability to integrate and loneliness in her own society. Structurally, this novel reveals the fragmented self formation of both the migratory blackbirds Dev and Adit, who are trapped in an area where they are strangers, and Sarah, who struggles to cope with the problem of integration and alienation. In this talk, the circular life of all immigrants, which leads them to a dead end between life and death in England, and leads women to schizophrenia in Desai’s novel, which she describes as a journey of a soul seeking the perfect life, will be examined.”



On January 6, 2023, a seminar titled "A Tale of Womanhood in the Periphery: Women Producers in Bingöl" was held with Dr. Melek Halifeoğlu from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Bingöl University.

"In the study carried out within the project center of Bingöl University, 20 women were given theoretical basic training on beekeeping, and they were allowed to install bee hives and produce honey in the field with an expert. The honey produced was then processed in the kitchen in the company of a food engineer and faculty members from the Department of Culinary Arts, and various products were obtained. During all these theoretical and field trainings, conversations were held about women's relationships with their children, spouses, family and social environment. As a result of some meetings with women, the most deeply felt emotion in women proved to be trust, and the sentence that was heard many times from women was 'being able to produce was a valuable experience.' Women's perspectives towards themselves and their search for meaning are among the most abstract but most meaningful outcomes of the study. In addition to the views and perceptions of women towards themselves, a survey study was conducted with the local people. Since it coincided with the pandemic process, the surveys were conducted online or by phone and then evaluated by way of the SPSS program. In this sense, at the end of the study, a three-dimensional structure composed of 'women and family,' 'women and society' and 'women and entrepreneurship' was obtained regarding the perception of local people, and their differences according to demographic situations were tried to be analyzed."



The poster is for a seminar titled "Taşrada Bir Kadınlık Hikayesi: Bingöl'de Üretici Kadınlar" (A Tale of Womanhood in the Periphery: Women Producers in Bingöl). It features a portrait of Dr. Melek Halifeoğlu, a woman with dark curly hair. The text on the poster includes the TED ÜNİVERSİTESİ logo, the name of the center (TED ÜNİVERSİTESİ EKONOMİK VE SOSYAL ÇALIŞMALARI MERKEZİ), the seminar series (Akademide Feminist Köprüler Kurmak Seminerler Serisi), the title, the speaker's name (Dr. Melek Halifeoğlu), her affiliation (Bingöl Üniversitesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve Kamu Yönetimi Bölümü), and the date and time (6 Ocak 2023, Cuma, Saat: 13:00) along with a QR code link (bit.ly/3GigleS).

### c. Critical Masculinity Studies Seminar Series

On March 29, 2023, a seminar titled "Men in the Kitchen: Looking at Unpaid Domestic Labor Through the Kitchen" was held with Oğuz Can Ok.

"Looking at quantitative data such as time use surveys, it can be seen that women in Turkey still spend more time on unpaid domestic labor. One of the areas where domestic gender inequalities arise is the issue of food preparation. The data also reveal that women spend more time on free labor than men in matters such as preparing food at home (Eurostat, 2018). It can be said that these data are in line with the discussions of the role of the 'feeder of the family' imposed on women and the significant invisible unpaid labor burden that this entails, which have been mentioned in feminist literature for many years. Although professional kitchens are a male-dominated area, responsibility in home kitchens should be evaluated with all these discussions, and kitchens should be included in the research in terms of the ways in which gender inequalities arise. In addition, behaviors of men who are actively involved in kitchen activities other than behavioral norms are also an area that need to be examined. Besides the possibility that the involvement of men in kitchen activities can be a step to reduce these inequalities, it can constitute a maneuver area to cover inequalities and create new equalities such as the behaviors described by Bridges and Pascoe (2014) as 'Hybrid Masculinities.' The aim of the research, the outputs of which will be presented in this seminar, is to examine the representations of masculinity produced by men who take active responsibility in kitchen and cooking in Turkey from the perspective of Critical Masculinity Studies. For this purpose, a total of 51 semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with men and their partners who have shared the same house with their partners for at least 2 years. The data obtained in the field study were analysed by content analysis. The most important finding that emerged after the analysis is that men's participation only in kitchen activities can create a suitable environment for hybrid masculinity maneuvers without creating a suitable ground for an egalitarian masculinity construct in all activities that require unpaid domestic labour. This can act as an impetus for new inequalities and social pressures for their partners."



On May 24, 2023, a seminar titled "Fragility of Masculinity and Sexual Violence" was held with Dr. Fatma Yaşın Tekizoğlu.

"The status of masculinity is not acquired at birth; it is earned through gender expectations and consistent behaviour. The status of deserved masculinity does not last forever. On the contrary, the first time one does not behave 'like a real man' it is lost, and in order to become a 'real man,' society has to be convinced of this again. Fragile Masculinity Theory argues that much of men's anxiety about being a 'real man' stems from a fundamental assumption about the nature of masculinity: Masculinity is a status that is hard to gain but easy to lose and requires constant social proof. The most effective strategies used to prove or regain masculinity are risky (expressing courage), difficult (making imitation difficult and costly) and visible to others' behaviors. Therefore, although not always visible, aggression is one of the most frequently used ways of proving or reconstructing masculinity. As the traditional gender system encourages men to be sexually dominant and aggressive, sexually aggressive behaviour is a common and accessible way to (re)assert their masculinity. Although research on the relationship between perceived masculinity threat and aggression has mostly focused on physical aggression, insecure masculinity beliefs or masculinity norms are known to have a strong relationship with sexual aggression. Accordingly, this presentation will focus on the effect of perceived threat to masculinity on sexually aggressive behaviours."



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Eleştirel Erkeklik Çalışmaları Seminerler Serisi

**Erkeğin Kırılganlığı ve Cinsel Şiddet**

Dr. Fatma Yaşın Tekizoğlu

24 Mayıs 2023 Çarşamba, Saat: 16:00  
TED Üniversitesi - K184

## e. Other Events

Within the scope of 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Dr. Erman Örsan Yetiş gave a seminar, with Dr. Selin Akyüz as the facilitator, titled "Book Launch: Toplumsal Cinsiyet Temelli Şiddetin Çözümünde Erkekler [Men in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence] - 25th of November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - Special Event."

"Today, the global struggle against violence against women is strengthened by the expansion of the ground for social and political struggle. With the realisation that violence is both a part of and a consequence of gendered power relations, the concept of gender-based violence has come to the fore. The fight against violence against women provides a roadmap that allows a common struggle against violence against the LGBTI+, children, youth, minorities, migrants, the poor, persons with disabilities and even against various forms of violence that occur in gendered power relationships such as violence between/against men.

However, in the face of this struggle, we see that a right-wing, conservative and populist politics that opposes gender equality, emphasises that women's place is primarily in the home and insists that they live a life under the shackles of traditional roles defined within the family, and whose influence we feel more and more intensely every day, is prominent. According to this view, violence against women is not related to gender inequality and the mechanisms of oppression and control over women's lives, but is the result of women's defiance of their traditional roles and their objection to the relatively powerless position that is deemed appropriate for them. Within the framework of this view, women who seek their rights and insist on determining their own life decisions are perceived as a threat to the understanding of masculine power, which is the buttress of the existing political and social authorities. As a result, violence against women is seen as a punishment for women. For this very reason, violence should be addressed not in relation to women's vulnerability, weakness and powerlessness, but in relation to almost every obstacle to their life choices. The violence that women face while struggling against these obstacles is a product of the endeavor towards the reinforcement of the structural violence reproduced by society, the state and men. From this point of view, the struggle for women's rights and freedom is the history of the struggle against violence against women. This struggle shows that the struggles for the rights and freedoms of other sections of society who live under oppression, are subjected to violence and are constantly subjected to injustice can be articulated with each other in line with a feminist understanding of social justice.



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25 Kasım Kadına Yönelik Şiddete Karşı Uluslararası Mücadele Günü

**Toplumsal Cinsiyet  
Temelli Şiddetin  
Çözümünde  
Erkekler - Kitap  
Tanıtımı**

Dr. Erman Örsan Yetiş  
Manchester Üniversitesi, Kriminoloji Bölümü

25 Kasım 2022, Cuma  
14.00  
<http://bit.ly/3TFBgMm>

Is it possible for men, who are the subjects of this violence, to leave their current positions and join such a struggle? Men can only become involved in this struggle when they begin to question the place and meaning of violence in their lives. In order to do so, they need to recognize and confront both their privileges within the patriarchal order and their own fragility in the face of violence. In order to ensure this confrontation, we need more studies and research that prioritise learning about where men position violence in their own lives. We see that men have lives built around violence, with their positions as perpetrators, victims and witnesses intertwined in the face of violence. On the other hand, even when men identify violence as part of their own experience, they remain reluctant to talk about the effects of this violence on themselves. According to a position of masculinity where violence is defined as a matter of the weak, the weak and the fragile, it can be seen that their own masculinity is based on a kind of denial of fragility. Through this denial, they find it difficult to recognize violence as a dramatic experience or process that affects their own lives. For this reason, while violence against women is discussed as a social problem, it is described as the problem of women who are seen as vulnerable to violence. Contrary to popular belief, the man who inflicts violence on women is not defined through a masculinity that is thought to represent power, authority and prestige. Men, in general, always prefer to portray violence as the other man's problem. In addition, an abstract notion of masculinity that transcends concrete male experiences is held responsible for male violence. Male violence is defined as an essential element of toxic masculinity, a definition that is becoming more and more popular these days, or as the last consolation of a masculinity in crisis. However, none of these explanations and definitions provide sufficient opportunities for men to relate violence to their own life experiences in sincere and concrete ways.

For men to talk openly about violence requires them to question and reflect on the place of violence in their own lives. However, the main aim of every study aimed at understanding violence should include the prevention of this violence. Therefore, every endeavour to understand is an essential element of the struggle. Despite this, it is seen that various intervention studies and practices for men generally go in the opposite direction. Attempting to find solutions to violence before understanding violence brings with it frustration, pessimism and despair, which are inevitable at the end of this path. The determination of the method to be preferred in men's questioning of violence and the quality of the environment in which practices for this questioning will be carried out are of particular importance. First of all, we must recognise that it is not easy for men to question their privileges within the existing system while openly acknowledging their own vulnerability. By closing themselves off to this kind of questioning, men can often display a defensive attitude of denial and indifference. For such questioning to be possible, this defense must first be broken down. A 'sufficiently' safe and comfortable environment needs to be created in order to discuss such topics, which inevitably make men uncomfortable. Here, how much is enough should be determined by considering both methodological and ethical aspects. Adopting a feminist understanding and methodological approach seems to be of great importance in this determination. We must always take into account the risk that the environment to be created will turn into a co-operative environment that reproduces the superiority of masculinity. It should also be kept in mind that the main purpose of such an inquiry is not to highlight the victimisation of men in the face of experiences of violence, but rather to question their roles embedded in the structural violence of which they are a part and their experiences of masculinity shaped within this system."

On December 12, 2022, a panel titled "Violence Against Women, Law No. 6284, and the Function of the Ankara Bar Association's Gelincik Center" was held with Adv. Med. Nazlı Özlem Atmaca within the scope of World Human Rights Day. The seminar was moderated by Prof. Şebnem Akipek Öcal and held face-to-face, with the opportunity to participate via Zoom.

"Any action aimed at depriving people of their freedom and harming them is defined as violence. Types of violence are classified as physical, psychological, sexual, economic and digital. According to estimates by UN Women, one out of every three women in Turkey is subject to physical or sexual violence by family members or her husband. According to reports in local and national newspapers, men have killed 296 women, and the death of 169 women was found as 'doubtful' in media outlets. Among OECD countries, Turkey ranks first in terms of violence against women and femicides.

The Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women, which is a special law for the prevention of domestic violence and the protection of the person subjected to violence, provides protection to women who are subjected to violence or who are in danger of being subjected to violence and can apply to family court judges, public prosecutors, local authorities and law enforcement officers to take measures. Anyone who has been subjected to violence or is aware of the risk of violence can apply to the Ankara Bar Association Gelincik Center, the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Center (ŞÖNİM), the 183 Social Service Hotline, health institutions, the police and gendarmerie, the public prosecutor's office, women's solidarity centres of municipalities or bar associations, and women's NGOs.

The Gelincik Project, which was established to protect fundamental rights and freedoms and to realize the freedom to seek rights, provides legal assistance to individuals, primarily women, who have been subjected to physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence, provides social and psychological support and raises awareness on the prevention of violence in society."



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10 Aralık Dünya İnsan Hakları Günü Paneli

**Kadına Karşı Şiddet,  
6284 Sayılı Kanun ve  
Ankara Barosu Gelincik  
Merkezi'nin İşleyişi**

Av. Arb. Nazlı Özlem Atmaca  
Moderatör: Prof. Dr. Şebnem Akipek Öcal

12 Aralık 2022, Pazartesi 15:00  
Ahmet Ersan Konferans Salonu  
<https://bit.ly/3XZAK8Z>

On December 14, 2022, a seminar titled "Iran - Women, Life, Freedom" was held with Asst. Prof. Gülriz Şen within the scope of the Pathways to Peace Seminars.

"Asst. Prof. Gülriz Şen in her seminar focused on the basic dynamics of the protests in Iran that started after the death of Mehsa Jina Emimi and centered on women. The seminar analysed women's relationship with society and politics in Iran through both its historical trajectory after the 1979 Revolution and its current situation. In this context, women's rights, demands and struggles are analysed under the conditions of post-revolutionary transformation and the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, in the context of the reconstruction of the country and the hope for reform in the 1990s, and in the context of social and geopolitical crises and increasing conservatism in the 2000s in an intertwined manner.

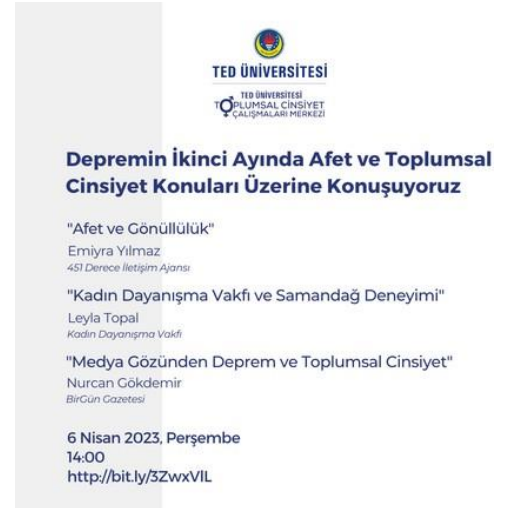
While underlining that the protests are a new threshold in Iranian women's quest for rights, equality and freedom, Gülriz Şen emphasized the policies and strategies of both the protesters and the regime in the face of the protests."



On 6 April, the second month anniversary of the earthquake that took place on 6 February 2023 and had an impact in many provinces, a seminar titled "We Talk About Disaster and Gender Issues in the Second Month of the Earthquake" was held with the participation of Emiyyra Yılmaz from 451 Derece Communication Agency, Leyla Topal from Women's Solidarity Foundation and Nurcan Gökdemir from BirGün Newspaper.

### **Emiyyra Yılmaz – "Disaster and Volunteering"**

"One of the issues that attracted my attention in the earthquake zone is that families/individuals have created their own private spaces in tents, schools and public areas. It seems that they are trying to create a shared home environment. The most remarkable point observed in the aim of creating a living space is that the tasks attributed to women such as washing clothes, cooking and ensuring the hygiene still continues. On the other hand, I observed that the authoritarian power of the mother-in-law continued even in this limited living space. It is possible to say that the social roles attributed to women are also valid in the earthquake zone and under these conditions. In addition, another problem is that young people in adolescence and beyond have very limited space and privacy to socialize. This situation led to isolation and problems with accessibility. And maybe to psychological problems. In addition to all these, we can say that there are some minor frictions between the refugees living in the region and Turkish citizens. In the pre-disaster period, the encounter and cohabitation of refugees with Turkish citizens in the region was relatively limited. However, after the disaster, the areas where they encountered one another, the areas where they lived together and shared spaces multiplied."





***Leyla Topal – "Women's Solidarity Foundation and the Samandağ Experience"***

"The Women's Solidarity Foundation set off to Hatay's Samandağ district with three volunteers to show solidarity with women affected by the earthquake in the region on 8 March International Women's Day. During the time spent in the region, the effects of the disaster on women were examined and activities were carried out with women. At the end of the process, the Women's Solidarity Foundation also published a report on these activities and examinations.

Firstly, the foundation volunteers observed that women in Samandağ district had a different experience compared to the experiences of women affected by the earthquake in 11 other provinces and districts. The reason for this is that the general economic livelihood in Samandağ district is that the men in the family are workers abroad. For this reason, women are more active in the district. Before setting out, the Women's Solidarity Foundation issued a call for solidarity and gathered information for lists of needs from the foundation's staff in the region. With the call for solidarity, the donations collected within two weeks provided the materials on the need lists.

Upon arrival in the region, it was observed that in addition to the problems caused by the lack of coordination by the state, the fact that the coordination was not focussed on gender equality also affected the women in the region. These deficiencies are exemplified as women's lack of access to menstrual pads and hygiene products, problems in water installations, and the fact that mobile bathrooms and toilets are mostly available for men to use. Access to electricity and water is easier in Samandağ compared to other provinces and districts, but sewage water is mixed with normal water. It has been observed that the debris in the region is still standing and there are no search and rescue operations in these debris; most of the markets have been looted and the ones that have not been looted have just been opened. Especially in the region, people are afraid to live in their slightly damaged houses, but at the same time they do not want to leave their houses because of the risk of their belongings being looted, so they ask for tents set next to their houses, but the state is reluctant to give tents to people in this situation. In such cases, non-governmental organisations set up their own tents in parks and open spaces in the region and distribute hot meals to people.

50 women from the district participated in the 8 March event and for the first time after the earthquake, women found an environment where they could stop and look at themselves and tell about their situation. After the earthquake, women's care labor intensified and the number of people who needed care work increased. As if women were not affected by the earthquake at all, they were also expected to provide psychological support to those around them. Due to the fact that washing machines and dishwashers were in their damaged houses, people needed to wash everything by hand in the region. Some women tried to reduce the frequency of going to the toilet by drinking less water than they normally do during the day to avoid using the toilet and as a result, skin diseases caused by dehydration have arisen. Women were also sent to receive the aid coming to the region because men have developed a sense of pride against aid. Olive and citrus agriculture in the district, where women are more active, is also carried out by women, but since the rubble from the debris was placed near the agricultural areas, these areas became unfarmable and the economic resource of the region was thus disrupted.

Hygiene kits created by the Women's Solidarity Foundation were delivered to 500 women. In addition, women did not have time to mourn and therefore became vulnerable to violence and abuse once again. For this reason, support should be provided for 1-2 more years in the region and measures should especially be taken to protect women from violence and abuse. In the long term, the foundation plans to continue organizing such volunteer activities. They plan to carry out activities by interacting with women not only in the earthquake zone but also in large cities such as Ankara, where a large number of people migrated due to the earthquake. At the same time, it was planned that all these assistance and voluntary activities be systematized."

***Nurcan Gökdemir - "Earthquake and Gender from a Media Perspective"***

"We travelled to the earthquake zone on the 20th day of the earthquake and encountered a scene beyond our expectations. Being professional and experienced or having worked under difficult conditions was not enough for us to be prepared for the situation here. There were unbearable images, we lived through it, we shared as much as we could, but we went back to our own lives. The people there were left alone with their pain and problems. The whole country was distanced from the great suffering in the earthquake zone. This can be understood by that the aid going there has decreased. The fact that it coincided with the election period was also a big factor in this. However, it should be a priority for all of us to keep it on the agenda. We need to maintain solidarity; there is a need for it.

Women were the first ones to be seen there (in the earthquake zone) and they are more affected by this disaster. The woman who collected the aid, took the tent, then cleaned that tent, took care of the elderly and children... The woman did not have the opportunity to experience pain and grief. Women postponed everything. But their survival resilience is very high. They don't have the chance to sit in a corner and watch and worry like their brothers, husbands or fathers. The women there have their own invisible, special needs other than those which are necessary for survival. In the 1999 earthquake, there was also a problem of menstrual pads, and we are still facing this problem in 2023. Such needs of women are met by the aid going to the region. A sensitivity has developed. However, women are reluctant to make their voices heard for these special needs. We have to be their voices. Now they need birth control pills. Since the hygiene conditions are quite poor, the risk of fungus is quite high. It may sound luxurious, but we need to make women feel good about themselves. Services such as hairdressing, lipstick and waxing need to be delivered.

The main concern of women in Hatay is the education of their children. They are trying to set up small co-operatives, they are very active in the field. Their strength is renewed because they have tested their resilience. They think that 'they came, they left and we remained here.' We have to deliver permanent aid there. They need new options to be put in front of them, to rebuild their lives. As their sisters, we must provide support for them. I think we are doing a very bad test by not reflecting the losses, the real experiences in the media and focusing only on the positive events."

On 3 May 2023, we carried out a book launch with the author of the book *The Political Economy of Patriarchy in the Global South*, Dr. Ece Kocabiçak. In this event, one of the members of our Center and an Asst. Prof. in the Department of Sociology, Gülçin Con Wright participated as a debater and provided a critical analysis emphasizing the book's main themes. The author of the book Dr. Ece Kocabiçak (Open University) delivered a detailed presentation on the main points of the book and answered the questions of the participants. The event was carried out in English.

[Click here](#) to access the seminar record uploaded to our YouTube channel.



XXII. Ünitelerarası Cinsel Taciz ve Saldırıya Karşı İşbirliği, Destek ve İletişim Grubu Çalıştayı

5 Mayıs 2023 | 10:00-17:00

TED Üniversitesi  
Çok Amaçlı Salon

Çevrimiçi katılım:  
<https://bit.ly/40D7nzC>



The 22nd The XXII. Workshop of Interuniversity Cooperation, Support and Communication Group against Sexual Harassment and Assault was held on 5 May 2023 hosted by our Center. Mustafa Damar's talk "Invisible Assaulter Supporting Sexual Harassment and Assault," Prof. Gülriz Uygur's talk "CTS (Sexual Harassment and Assault) from Past to Present: Achievements and What to Do Next," Asst. Prof. Nezahat Demiray's talk "The Problem of Understanding the Positive Obligations of the State in Preventing Sexual Violence, and CTSs," Prof. Fatma Umur Beşpınar's talk "Thinking Together on the Possible Effects of the Last Amendment to the YÖK Disciplinary Regulation on Sexual Harassment Prevention Units," Prof. Nigar Yarpuz Bozdoğan's talk "The Establishment of Çukurova University's CTS Unit and Its Study," Assoc. Prof. Selda Tuncer's talk "Varying CTS Experiences by Region and Organizational Culture: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies," Dr. A. Aslı Şimşek Öner's talk "From Center to Periphery and from Periphery to Center, How to Establish Cooperation in the Context of CTS?," and Asst. Prof. Nuran Belet's talk titled "ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment" were given, to which faculty members from various universities and civil society employees in Turkey attended.

On June 6, 2023, a seminar titled "Recognizing and Understanding the Discipline of International Relations" was held with Prof. Duygu Bazoğlu Sezer in cooperation with TED University Department of Political Science and International Relations.

[Click here](#) to access the seminar recording uploaded to our YouTube channel.



## f. Podcasts

The first episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, the Podcast channel of our Center, was published on 22 November 2021. The publications of this academic year were transcribed into texts and published on our website by Berfin Ece Aslaner, Büşra Başar and Öykü Ünal, who worked as part-time scholarship students at our center. [Click here](#) to access our podcasts.

### "An Interview with Melisa Ayşegül Çal on 'Kırmızı Kapüşonlu Kız'"

In the sixth episode of TEDU Gender Podcast, Şule Akdoğan interviews Melisa Ayşegül Çal, the author of *Kırmızı Kapüşonlu Kız* (trans. *Little Red Riding Hood*), in the context of children's literature, narratives and gender. Beginning by discussing how *Kırmızı Kapüşonlu Kız*, which is shaped in the context of Covid-19, is constructed differently from *Little Red Riding Hood*, and thus transforms into a narrative that questions stereotypical masculine language narratives and their impact on gender roles, this chapter emphasizes the importance of the intersection of literature and gender studies for inclusive and equitable education.



### "An Interview with Gülsüm Kav on 25 November, Women's Struggle for Life, Freedom and Hope"

In the seventh episode of the TEDU Gender Podcast, volunteer member of the center Dr. Burcu Sarı Karademir interviews the General Representative of the Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (trans. *We Will Stop Femicides*), Dr. Gülsüm Kav. The interview that took place on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women commemorates the Mirabal Sisters, also known as Butterflies, and discusses the lives touched by the struggle of Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (*We Will Stop Femicides*), the struggle in the field, and women's right to life. Selected by the BBC as one of the 100 most inspiring women in 2020, Dr. Gülsüm Kav said that she was embarrassed to receive the award for doing something that should be done and that she accepted the award on behalf of all women who struggle for their rights at the cost of their lives.

Gülsüm Kav and Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu's fight for rights on defending women's constitutional rights in Türkiye is both important and precious for women's right to life today and for the historical context of fight for women's rights in Türkiye. Dr. Gülsüm Kav shared her valuable experiences and hopefully talked about the establishment of the platform; the concept of femicide; the importance of investigating suspicious deaths; the fact that women are subjected to violence and killed when they want to take their own decisions about their lives and most often while exercising or after having exercised their right to divorce under the Civil Code; the impact of the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention on women's struggle against violence; the inclusivity of the platform and that the platform defends the right to life regardless of class, sexual orientation, belief or ethnicity; the demand for freedom by women from all segments of society, and the fact that mainstream politics is not even aware of the fact that it lags behind women's demands; the case opened against the platform and its importance in the context of the protection of our constitutional rights; the bond of sisterhood that makes us believe that the platform has never been and will never be left alone by women; the duties of universities in the women's fight for rights; and the liberating family, love and life for a different world. This interview, which notes the depth of this struggle, is dedicated to the Mirabal Sisters, to women who lost their lives as a result of male violence, to those who have struggled for equality and freedom at the cost of their lives, to feminists whose lives have been woven with the fight for women's rights, and to the 'Purple Butterflies' of Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız (*We Will Stop Femicides*) Platformu, who are the defenders of women's right to life and freedom. We thank Gülsüm Kav and Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız (*We Will Stop Femicides*) platform with feelings of gratitude on behalf of all the lives they have touched. With determination and hope to continue the struggle for freedom until Nazım Hikmet's dream for humanity, "To live as one and free like a tree, and as unisonally as a forest" becomes a reality for our sisters and all of us...



## **g. Other Activities**

### **Gender Equality Plan**

TED University Gender Equality Plan was adopted on 13 September 2022 with the Senate decision no. 2022/19-5. [Click here](#) to access the Gender Equality Plan, the creation process of which was carried out by our Center.

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### **Opinion Text on Decisions on Distance Education and Credit and Dormitories Institution's (KYK) Evacuation of Dormitories**

On 13 February 2023, TED University Center for Gender Studies, student societies and Radio TEDU published a position paper on the decisions taken on 11 February regarding distance education and the Credit and Dormitories Institution's evacuation of dormitories.

[Click here](#) to access the opinion text shared via the hashtag #TalepEdiyoruz.

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### **8 March International Women's Day Message**

On 8 March International Women's Day, a text containing our message on the earthquake that took place on 6 February 2023 and had an impact in many provinces was published.

[Click here](#) to access the text.

## Women/LGBTI+ Newsletter

On 17 March 2023, the first issue of the Women / LGBTI+ Newsletter was published. Click here to access the newsletter consisting of consisting of the sections "Equal Care Labour," "Access to Health and Hygiene," "Gender-Based Discrimination / Violence / Inequality / Neglect," "Discrimination / Neglect Based on Ethnicity," "Support, Assistance, and Call," "Earthquake Solidarity" and "Post-Earthquake Discrimination and Inequality."



## Design in Law Study: How Can You Benefit from Free Legal Support When You Are Exposed to Violence?

On May 25, 2023, a brochure titled "How Do You Benefit from Legal Support Free of Charge When Exposed to Violence?" was published. The brochure was prepared in collaboration with TED University's Center for Gender Studies and Ankara Bar Association Gelincik Center. We hope that the brochure, prepared by TED University's Center for Gender Studies intern Asena Damla Şahin and designed by part-time work scholar Büşra Başar, will be helpful and guiding for all women in Ankara.

By saving and disseminating the digital version of the brochure, you can contribute to our goal of building a life free from violence. [Click here](#) to access the digital version of the brochure.

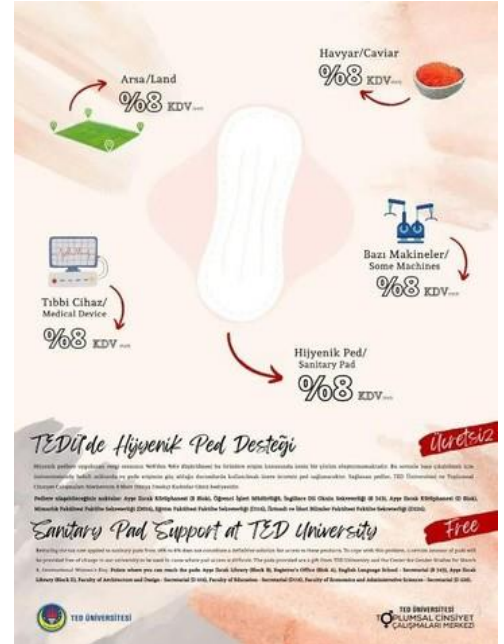
## Archive of Current News and Columns on Gender

The compilation of current news and opinion columns on gender was continued to be carried out. [Click here](#) to access the compilation work updated every day.



## Sanitary Pad Support at TED University

In Turkey, menstrual products were subject to an 18% tax under the Luxury Consumption Tax. The tax rate in question was reduced from 18% to 8% in 2022. However, given that the increase in prices resulting from the economic crisis, it did not provide a definitive solution to access to these products, and women, the economically disadvantaged and university students began to raise the issue of “menstrual poverty” and demand a tax freeze on menstrual products. It is clear that menstrual products should be considered under the category of basic needs and that menstrual poverty is a social problem related to equality. In order to overcome this problem, our university has started to provide a certain amount of free menstrual pads in cases where access to pads is difficult. The pads provided were given as gifts from TED University and the Center for Gender Studies to the members of our university on 8 March International Women’s Day. Studies are carried out to ensure that hygienic pad support is sustainable.



## The Breastfeeding and Baby Care Room

The breastfeeding and baby care room, which was included as a short-term goal within TED University's Gender Equality Plan, accepted by the Senate decision dated 13 September 2022 and numbered 2022/19-5, the first thematic area of which was under the heading of Work-Life Balance and Organizational Culture is open for the use of our members.

The room, which was created as a result of efforts given by the Center for Gender Studies, is located on the ground floor of Block H, next to the tea room. Hygienic and suitable for the protection of personal privacy, the room has a washbasin, an armchair, a diaper changing table, a coffee table and a mini fridge. Personal keys will be made for our university members who want to use the locked room. Requests for obtaining a key should be made to [ichizmetler@tedu.edu.tr](mailto:ichizmetler@tedu.edu.tr). Our members who want to use the room but forget the key can request support from the H Block hygiene and cleaning staff (ATALIAN).



# Internship Program

## a. Winter Term Internship Program

In the winter internship program carried out between 16 January - 10 February, 2023, "The Study of the Media Representation of Syrian Women," "The Study of Care Work in Academia," "The Study on 'the Mainstreaming of Aging' in Rights-Based NGOs Working in the Field of Gender Equality," "The Study of Masculine Politics," "The Study of Religion and Women," and translation studies were carried out. Within the scope of these studies, 24 interns participated in our Center.

Asya Selimođlu	Beyza Kahveci	Hatice Tosun	Pınar Akgün
Ayşe Damla Önal	Buse Baylar	Hicran Çokyaman	Şeyma Nur Şafak
Azranur Elif Sucuođlu	Esra Akçabađ	Irmak Dünder	Tuna Keskin
Beril Atalay	Esra Kasap	İrem Aras	Yasemin Kılınc
Beste Sađlam	Gizem Derebek	Nefise Gül Özulucan	Zeynep Oyan
Betül Alp	Gülsün Tercanlı	Nurefşan Altay	Zeliha Yetiş

## b. Summer Term Internship Program

In the summer internship program carried out between 24 July - 18 August, 2023, "The Study of Research and Compilation of Different Countries' Legal Regulations on the Subject of the Surname of Women," "The Study of Representations of Women's Mobility in the Media," "The Study of Political Masculinity and Women's Empowerment," "The Study of Examining Practices for Reducing the Impact of Gender in Recruitment Processes," and "The Study of Gender Based Data Search on Political Science and International Relations or International Relations Departments in Turkey" were carried out. Within the scope of these studies, 13 interns participated in our Center.

Ahmet Eren Tuncay	Betül Kahraman	Özge Karban	Yiđit Yiđitsoy
Aslı Meraki	Beyza Genç	Önem Ceren Turhan	Zeynep Begüm Keskin
Asya Beyza Şahin	Meryem Gümüş	Şevval Bahtiyar	Zeynep Sevinç
Aylin Demiral			



# Next Semester

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The seminar series titled Building Feminist Bridges in Academia and Critical Masculinity Studies and podcasts will be continued in the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Winter and summer internship programs will be repeated. You can follow our website and social media accounts to be informed about all the events and announcements.

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[Click here](#) for our website

[Click here](#) for our social media accounts

[Click here](#) for our podcast accounts

[Click here](#) for our YouTube channel