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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
Pre-session working group  
Thirty-second session  
10-28 January 2005

**Responses to the list of issues and questions for  
consideration of the combined fourth and fifth  
periodic reports**

**Turkey**

## **Questions and answers concerning the periodic reports of Turkey**

the same ratio for people living under male-headed households is 26.6 per cent. The poverty term used here consists of both food<sup>1</sup> and non-food poverty line.

**Citizenship Act, the Civil Servants Code, the Labour Code and Security Code. Please provide an update on recent amendments to the Constitution and on other measures taken to review, amend or repeal discriminatory laws.**


The amendment of Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution is in answer 1 above. The provisions of the new Labour Code are as follows:

paragraph. However, when the worker puts forward a situation strongly suggesting the probability of the existence of an infringement, the employer becomes obliged to

Ministry, due to its hierarchical status, it can cooperate with all regional and local-level public organizations.

The Organizational Law of the General Directorate was approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 27 September 2004. With the approval of the Law, the General Directorate will be able to increase its human resources and, as a result, will work more actively and effectively. Apart from that, an Advisory Board for the Status of Women is being set up in the organization Law of the General Directorate and will consist of high-level representatives from various state organizations. This body, which will start working in the near future, will be an effective instrument in mainstreaming a gender perspective into all public policies.

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example, the number of cases reported in 2003 is one third of all the cases reported to date.

The Law defines the perpetrator of viol





**12. Please provide data on the incidence of violence, including sexual violence, committed against women in custody or in detention. What measures are being taken to protect women under police custody and to women prisoners?**

There are two regulations that relate to people held in custody:

1. A bylaw regulating the institutions responsible to execute criminal punishments and prisons and execution of criminal punishments.
2. A regulation that regulates the processes of arresting, holding in custody and taking official statements of accused people.

In order to implement these regulations effectively and completely, a total of 172,960 police officers are taken into in-job training sessions and informed about them. Criminal acts that constitute violations of these regulations are punished according to Turkish Criminal Law and offenders in police units are dismissed.

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The victims are, in general, women and between 20 and 35 years old. In Turkey, during the police operations, no adult men

trafficking. Besides that



<i>Female</i>			<i>Male</i>		
<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Turkey</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Turkey</i>



**security system and its impact on women. Kindly provide an update on the status of the revision of the Civil Servants Law and on the discontinuance of the “household head” concept in the access to social security programmes.**

Reform studies regarding social security are being carried out within the framework of the Government programme and Urgent Action Plan but are not yet concluded.

In accordance with the change made in the “Law of Social Security for the Self Employed in Agriculture” in 2003, parallel to the change in the Civil Code, the condition of being “family head” is not valid to be included in the law. It is said that the abrogation of this provision has put women in difficulty in making their premium payments. Studies for a new regulation has started in the related social security organizations regarding who will be under compulsory insurance in line with this aim.

Implementation of article 203 of Law No. 657 regarding government employees continues as before.

**21. The report states (p. 30) that women hold nearly 55**



**23. What measures have been taken or implemented to combat sexual harassment at work?**

According to the new Labour Law, if:

- The employer talks to or shows attitudes towards the employee or his/her family hurting his/her honour;
- The employer sexually harasses the employee;
- The employee is sexually harassed by another employee or a third person in the workplace;
- The employer does not take necessary measures in spite of the employee's person

who do not attend a compulsory primary education institution cannot be employed in any public or private workplace or any other place, regardless of whether the conditions necessitate working either paid or unpaid, and those who act against this rule will be punished by fines and imprisonment.

In spite of these legal arrangements measures are being taken to overcome the difficulties of providing schooling for those who live in areas where the population is scattered. For example, in such areas, villages are grouped around area schools, or regional boarding schools are established. In this context, where total in 170 schools (142 primary education regional boarding schools (YIBO) and 28 primary education schools (PIO)) there were 74,741 students before 1977 when the law regarding eight-year compulsory education was adopted, the number of students in 572 schools (297 YIBO and 275 PIO) became total of 170,025 (1 Z 6,700 boys and 53,325 girls) by 19.08.2004.

In the South-east and East Anatolia regions, where girls mostly do not attend school, to ensure the attendance of girls and considering the cultural structure of the region, 9 girls primary education regional boarding schools (girls YIBO) and 14 girls primary education school with pension (girls PIO) to which only girls were accepted were opened and in these schools, a total of 5,792 girls are being educated. In 2004, 15 pensions were put into service where girls attending middle school can stay as boarders.

In addition to these measures, because women and girls lag behind men at all levels of education, two projects are being carried out to remove this inequality that becomes apparent, especially when considering urban-rural, regional and age differences.

One of these projects is "Support to Girls Attending School". This project was started by the cooperation between the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, NGOs and private sector, and aims for a world where no child will face discrimination. The project started by acceptance of the principle that all children have the right to education and all Governments are responsible for realizing that right.

This project, which aims to achieve equality between girls and boys until 2005, will be carried out in 53 cities which have the lowest rate of attendance of girls. The project started in June 2003 in 10 cities in the South-east and East Anatolia region, with a very low rate of school attendance of girls. W

education. Gender equality is one of the subjects to which the project gives special importance. Although support to basic education concerns both girls and boys, girls are more disadvantaged in



customs and traditions, elimination of th

society and individuals against media, in addition to the control of media”, “Benefit of educational programmes to strengthen the sensitivity of media workers about violence etc. and cooperation on this”, “Carrying out studies to develop ‘awareness’ of public against media and to create conscious viewers, and studies about media literacy”.

In addition to the above, a Defensive Subprogramme is carried out by DGWSP within the Turkish Government-UNFPA Third Country Programme and seminars are given to local media workers to train them in gender equality/justice, reproduction health, population and development. These took place in the local visual and printed media. Also, seminars and competitions were organized to the students of communication faculties as the future communication professionals.

“Media Counseling Board” consisting media professionals is established within the project for more effective coverage of these subjects in the media.

## **Health**

**29. On page 38 of the report it is indicated that male participation in reproductive health programmes is at insignificant levels. What measures are contemplated or have been undertaken by the Government to encourage and enhance the participation of men in such programmes?**

Turkey has taken many initiatives in recent years for male participation in reproductive health programmes. Most important of the initiatives is the start of a continuous education programme for the members of Turkish Armed Forces about reproductive health with the cooperation of Ministry of Health, the Turkish Armed productiv

from 35 to 29 per cent (see annex I, table 1). To expand and increase the use of family planning methods, family planning method distribution and provision of service is done free of charge by public