

MIGRATION AND WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of migration can cause many social, cultural, financial and psychological consequences on societies. Women and women's identity, which are predominantly affected by the transformations in migration movements over time, are also affected by many national and international paradigms. In this context, it is necessary to analyze the phenomenon of migration under the heading of globalization in order to examine the relationship between women and migration. The main reason for this is that international migration policies and welfare conditions of the society are created with the effect of globalization, and the living conditions of women are also affected in parallel. In our study, the life standards of women who experience the migration process, their participation in education, work and employment process, gender-based victimization, if any, identity formation, studies and activities carried out by the Directorate of Migration Management in the light of national and international legislation and court decisions were examined.

In this study, an evaluation will be made on the role of gender in the formation of immigrant identity within the framework of migration. In this direction, in this research, after looking at the definitions and theories of migration from an overview, the difficulties brought by the identity of being a woman in the migration process of immigrants and the activities that can be done and done in overcoming the difficulties will be evaluated.

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1. Concepts of migration and asylum

Although the phenomenon of migration differs as a concept defined in various ways, basically it is about the separation/leaving of the individual/community from the area where he/she resides. International migration after crossing international borders refers to the permanent or temporary entry into the political borders of a country or the transition from there to a third country. In addition, migration is not just a physical displacement movement; it is also a complex process that includes socio-cultural, psychological, economic, and security dimensions. Therefore, migration is not from one land to another; it can also be done from one society to another society. Thus, it is defined as large population movements that include socio-economic, cultural, political/political, and security dimensions following the process of geographical location change (Genkova and Grimmelsmann, 2020).

International migration also encompasses a sociocultural, economic, political, cultural, and demographic process that examines the relationships between the migrant and the local community that connects a wide variety of migration actors, types, and structures. Migrations are grouped as both voluntary and forced migrations as internal (internal) and external (outside) migrations (Yüce, 2003). Although people's internal migration movements are called "internal migrations", The definition of "external migrations" is used for cross-border crossings outside the country. In addition, voluntary and forced migrations are separated by the question of 'why'; Voluntary migrations basically cover labor and employment opportunities, family reunification and education of international students (Wallerstein, 2000). Forced migrations, on the other hand, include female asylum seeker and refugee movements and international migration movements, which constitute the scope of our study. In order to examine this multidimensional, multi-actor complex relationship of the migration process and to analyze its phenomenon in Turkey, it is necessary to explain the concepts of both migration and migrating women.

In the literature on migration, it has been stated that it refers to a process that starts with the decision of women by men for a long time and affects women and therefore children as well due to factual reasons such as marriage and family reunification. It has been stated that the male individual is represented as a subject in the migration process, and the woman as a passive and male-indexed predicate.

Because the role of women in the migration process has been associated with the identity of a good wife, mother or young girl and her role in the family. From this point of view, it provides insufficient information in terms of comprehending the position and role of women throughout the migration experience and producing solutions. However, although the experience of international migration has many traumatic consequences for all immigrants, it creates a mixed problematic process that includes gender inequality for women and severe psychological problems, especially social, financial and cultural (Natalucci et al., 2020).

According to the study of Şen and Vural (2014), 75% of the immigrant population fleeing the civil war in Syria is women and children. It was stated that most of these women were primary school graduates and did not work as housewives. According to a study published by AFAD, 21 out of every 100 Syrian women are illiterate and the literacy rate is 64%. In addition, it was stated that women living inside the camps have a higher level of education than women living outside the camps. Proportionally, while the rate of primary school and higher education students in the camp is 76%; it was calculated as 66% outside the camps (Şen and Vural, 2014). This showed that immigrant women's education levels and family structures, places of residence, and socio-cultural lifestyles constitute an interrelated equation. In particular, the social policies and immigration legislation of the target country reveal that women significantly shape their immigrant identity and their way of life.

1.1. Migration in Turkey

Migration movements in the early periods of the Republic of Turkey are examined in two separate groups: the state's orientation of migration on the basis of the search for national identity and migrations on the basis of modernization movements. These two types of migration have varied in their causes and consequences; While the government of the period was creating its immigration policy, it did not abandon the "immigrant policy" in the Ottoman period. In order to develop on a populist and egalitarian basis, immigrants have been replaced according to Turkey's land policy. Immigration policy decisions were implemented in the context of the obligations of the Turkish Constitution and relevant legislation in the placement of immigrants (Oğuz, 2019).

Turkey's first and most notable development in the field of migration went down in history as the "Turkish-Greek Exchange"; In the years 1922-1938, approximately 400 thousand people came from Greece. In this exchange, which included Greece's Dodecanese and Aegean Islands, it was foreseen that in case of any possible crisis between Turkey and Greece, these migrations would accelerate (Bozdağlıoğlu, 2014). Following the Turkish-Greek Exchange, the third wave of migration from Macedonia to Turkey began in 1953 on the basis of the "Free Migration Agreement" in Yugoslavia, which was prepared on the recommendation of Marshal Tito. This process accelerated with the start of the Balkan Wars and approximately 1 million Bulgarian immigrants came to Turkey in this period. Subsequently, it was determined that approximately 218 thousand 998 people migrated by signing the "Residency Agreement" and "Turkey-Bulgaria Immigration of Close Relative Relationship Agreement" between Bulgaria and Turkey. In the Middle East geography, it was stated that an estimated 1 million people migrated from Iran to Turkey with the realization of the "Iranian Islamic Revolution" in 1979 (Torbay, 2017). In addition, after the "Iraq Halabja Massacre" in 1988, the "Gulf War" in 1991, and the Yugoslavian civil war, approximately 600 thousand people were reported to have migrated to Turkey (Cömert, 2009).

In the period from the beginning of the 1990s until today, the largest migration mobility towards the Republic of Turkey represents the migration from the Syrian Arab Republic in terms of the character and size of the migration. The 2011 civil war process, which broke out after the spread of protests and anti-regime actions to Syria, which started with the Arab Spring process, initiated an intense mass migration flow. These migratory flows have developed toward neighboring countries with the natural course of migration and were mostly made towards Turkey. Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt followed Turkey (Taşkın, 2018). In addition, the other countries that sent the most refugees to Turkey were Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Yemen, Palestine, and Somalia, respectively. Therefore, Turkey's migration rotation began to be drawn with natural selections and various paradigms.

The signs shown in the graph show the direction of the migrations and it is shown which paradigms are used in determining the direction. Among these paradigms, regular/irregular migrations, voluntary or forced migrations, the formation of the concepts of refugee/asylum seeker/temporary protection, and internal and external migrations are tried to be described. In our study, the theoretical and practical stages of migration policies are organized by examining cause-effect relationships for all foreigners in understanding migration trends and interpreting them in the context of women.

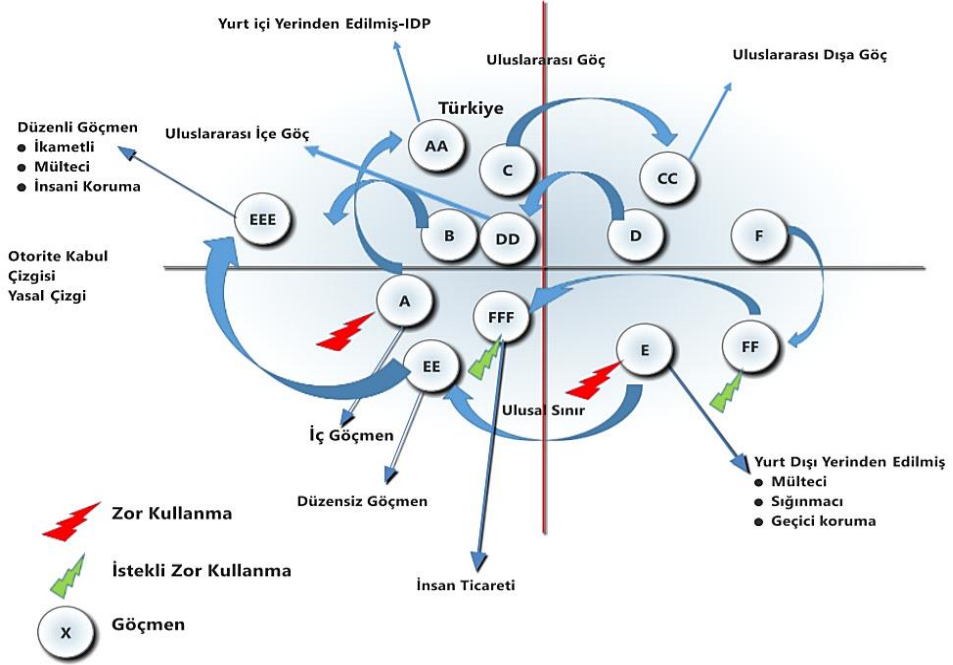


Figure 1: Classification of Migration Movements by Types (Şeker & Uçan, 2016) 2016)

The Republic of Turkey became a country that gave women the right to vote and to be elected on December 5, 1934, before many European countries. In addition, the principle of equality between men and women was changed in Articles 41 and 66 of the Turkish Constitution in 2001; It was further strengthened with some changes in the 10th and 90th articles in 2004 and in the 10th article in 2010. In Article 10 of the Constitution, it has been stated that men and women have free and equal rights, and the state is responsible for realizing this equality. Therefore, all the actions required by the state to fulfill this obligation cannot be considered contrary to the principle of equality (Müftüoğlu, 2019). In addition, in Article 41 of the Constitution; Equality between spouses was emphasized with the phrase "Family is the foundation of Turkish society". In the regulation made in Article 90, the provision "In case of conflicts that may arise in case of international agreements on fundamental rights and freedoms and national laws that have been duly put into effect, the provisions of international agreements shall prevail". In this context, gender equality, including national regulations, has been strengthened through the

“Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW) (Erşen, 2006).

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was announced by the General Assembly's decision dated 20 December 1993 and numbered 44/104, and the following definition was made regarding migration:

“Some women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, women in need of care, women in prisons or detention centers, girls, women with disabilities, elderly women, and women in armed conflict zones. Concerned about the vulnerability of women's groups to violence (...) it was stated that violence against women is widespread and occurs in all income groups, in all classes and cultures, and urgent and effective steps must be taken to eliminate its consequences”.

In addition, in the decision of the Economic and Social Council dated 30 May 1991 and numbered 1991/18, the Council should work rapidly to prepare an international document that will specifically examine the issues of violence against women and form the basis for its implementation, and that women's legal, health, cultural, social, educational, It was stated that the opportunities provided for political and economic equality should be improved (Erşen, 2006). Legal, socio-cultural, and economic problems in underdeveloped or developing countries that are experiencing the migration process can also significantly affect women's education and employment opportunities. Therefore, this situation increases the total workload of women, in addition to their other responsibilities, as both local and migrant women work uninsured without job security or in risky jobs.

The idea of establishing an action framework on equality between women and men, which was first presented at the "United Nations Conference on Women" in Nairobi in 1985, was expressed as an official goal for the members of the United Nations at the "Fourth World Conference on Women" held in Beijing in 1995. Thus, an important breakthrough has been made by supporting an international commitment; The “Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action” has been adopted by 189 countries. In this text, it was emphasized that the empowerment of women is the basic condition of sustainable development, it was stated that women's political identities should be viewed positively, and they decided to apply a quota for working hours (Yıldırım and Gül, 2021).

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2017) reference to the Action Plan; In the international arena, the concept of the head of the family is encountered only in one-quarter of women. Women's working families, on the other hand, are generally among the poorest groups. It is stated that the breaking up or disintegration of the family is frequently caused by the events such as internal migration, external/international migration, war, internal conflict and forced displacement, which cause the families to undergo a change as female-dominated. Factors such as race, language, religion, age, ethnicity, culture, disability, and being from different statuses of women can hinder the implementation of the understanding of equality and welfare. Migrant women can also be affected by environmental disasters, judicial cases, infectious diseases, and many forms of violence against women.

AGE RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0-4	262.446	244.996	506.442
5-9	292.446	274.684	567.150
10-14	219.816	206.498	426.314
15-18	138.820	118.891	257.771
19-24	285.104	214.794	499.898
25-29	222.228	161.324	383.612
30-34	167.625	121.657	289.282
35-39	125.776	98.499	224.275
40-44	85.947	74.934	160.881
45-49	58.257	56.954	114.211
50-54	46.215	45.078	91.293
55-59	35.165	35.216	70.381
60-64	23.182	23.936	47.118
65-69	15.099	15.941	31.040
70-74	8.923	9.828	18.751
75-79	4.388	5.439	9.827
80-84	2.404	3.208	5.612
85-89	1.144	1.689	2.833
90 +	782	1.084	1.866
TOTAL	1.995.847	1.714.650	3.710.497

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Syrians in Turkey (September 2021) (General Directorate of Migration Management, September 2021).

The data shown in the table belong to September of 2021; It deals with Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey. There are 1,995,847 Men and 1,714,650 Women among a total of 3,710,497 Syrians. In the table, it is seen that the age weight is in the range of 0-50 children and young population. The numbers involved are not fixed, but change over time; the child population is increasing rapidly. In addition, the increase in the number of those who transferred to a third country and voluntary returns also indicates the changes in the numbers in the table.

Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection on the basis of age and gender

Age range	Male	Female	Total
Total	1.835.999	1.611.838	3.447.837
0-4	231.517	216.331	447.848
5-9	279.168	262.821	541.989
10-14	203.806	192.472	396.278
15-18	137.088	122.503	259.591
19-24	218.244	177.020	395.264
25-29	204.553	154.227	358.780
30-34	148.510	113.255	261.765
35-39	125.878	97.269	223.147
40-44	88.800	74.266	163.066
45-49	59.713	57.519	117.232
50-54	44.957	44.394	89.351
55-59	35.776	36.052	71.828
60-64	23.353	24.241	47.594
65-69	15.918	17.257	33.175
70-74	9.478	10.319	19.797
75-79	4.792	5.735	10.527
80-84	2.415	3.237	5.652
85-89	1.213	1.725	2.938
90 and above	820	1.195	2.015



*16.03.2023

Table 2: Syrians under Temporary Protection 2023

As shown above, data for 2023 reveal current population proportions by age and gender ranges. In this respect, although it shows that the number of men and women does not differ greatly compared to each other; It turns out that the number of women in the elderly population is higher than the number of men. This situation starts from the age range of 50-59 years and the opposite situation is observed in the age groups under 55-59 years of age. While this difference points to the middle and upper middle age range of the population that came with the war, the return or death of the male population; This can explain the equal increase in the child and

adolescent population, with the proportion of people who took refuge in Turkey and gave birth after the war.

1.2. Women in Turkey

Since its establishment, the Republic of Turkey has given priority to policies and studies that promote and support Turkish women and has generally continued to give importance. In this direction, the "Unification of Education Law", was accepted in 1924 and provided equality in education; It adopted the "1926 Turkish Civil Code", which provided its legal status and the right to have a say in the concept of family. In addition, the right to vote for Turkish women, which was accepted in 1930 in the Republic of Turkey before many Western countries, continued with the right to vote and be elected in 1934. Additionally;

- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (District, 2021).*
- *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*
- *European Social Charter*
- *The Convention on the Rights of the Child is included in the planning.*

In addition, in light of the relevant legislation and agreements, the agreements and decisions of organizations such as the EU, ILO, OECD, and OSCE have also been approved. Subsequently, the "4th World Conference on Women's Action Plan and Beijing Declaration" was added as a basis for women's studies in Turkish legislation in line with the provisions of the "Cairo World Conference on Population and Development Action Plan". The National "General Directorate on the Status of Women", which was established with the aim of preventing all kinds of discrimination and violence by ensuring that women benefit equally in all areas of social life today, continues to work rapidly as one of the main service units of the Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Services with the Presidential Decree No. is doing. Effective activities continue to be implemented by the General Directorate of Migration Management for preventive/protective, educational and improving social service activities for women.

The General Directorate on the Status of Women, specially organized for women, has prepared the "National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women (2016-2020)" in order to prepare the coordination of all relevant issues and has started its activities with the following items:

- *"Legislative Arrangements",*
- *"Awareness raising and mentality transformation",*
- *"Providing protective and preventive services and empowering victims of violence",*
- *"Organization and implementation of health services",*
- *"Developments are aimed in these 5 main areas, namely cooperation between institutions and policy" (Salar, 2018).*

In the places where study visits were made, holistic policies were formed and provincial action plans were prepared with the cooperation of the Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Health Directorate, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports, Law Enforcement Units, Provincial Mufti, Universities and Non-Governmental Organizations. Provincial action plans, which have been organized with the aim of "combating early and forced marriages" in a total of 19 provinces, are continuing. In addition, priority was given to the opening of women's guesthouses; The first public women's guesthouse started to work in İzmir and Ankara Provinces of the Social Services and Child Protection Agency. The women's guesthouses opened under the Ministry of Family and Social Policies with the Decree No. 633, today 110 women's guesthouses; It has been stated that 32 guesthouses affiliated to local administrations, 2 women's guesthouses affiliated to the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Migration Management and 1 guesthouse affiliated to non-governmental organizations continue their activities with a total capacity of 3482, with a total of 145 guesthouses throughout the country.

Migration and Women

Castles and Miller argued that the character of migration throughout history in the global arena has changed and that they will continue their existence with new forms, and they stated that there are five basic migration trends today. Accordingly, the new migration characteristics are as follows: 1) Globalization of migration, 2) Acceleration of migration, 3) Differentiation of migration, 4) Feminization of migration, and 5) Increasing politicization of migration (Çağlayan, 2006). In terms of

examining the relationship between migration and women, which constitute the universe of our study, the feminization of migration will be emphasized.

Migration; It refers to the transition of individuals or groups from the country of origin to the destination country for various reasons and using many methods, individually or collectively. This process is not only a displacement movement, but can also cause health, psychosocial and traumatic events for individuals and especially affects women and children. (Salar, 2006).

Women taking on multiple roles or responsibilities, being uneducated, poverty and lack of social support, the effect of post-traumatic stress caused by the migration process, cultural conflict and family conflicts, the effect of the environment and the crowd at home, pregnancy, malnutrition, language barrier, inability to benefit from health services, social The inability to benefit from integration is the most important negative impact on women in the migration process. In addition, the inadequacy of prenatal and postnatal care of migrant women causes maternal and child health to be adversely affected (Kurtuldu and Şahin, 2018).

Immigrant women may be excluded and isolated due to their family structure, and in cases where they cannot benefit from health services, they experience a "postpartum period" especially during the process of giving birth at home. This situation represents a very important process due to the health care needs of both the baby and the mother. Therefore, it causes the mother to experience psychological difficulties (Gonzalez and Kopparapu, 2022). For example, Thai immigrants who immigrated to Australia stated that when they gave birth, social isolation, differences in family structures and cultural differences caused great anxiety for them. In addition, in a study conducted on this issue, it was concluded that it is very difficult for immigrant families to raise children without the support of society and cultural adaptation, and cultural conflict disrupts the family structure (Monvillers et al., 2020). increases the probability. In addition, it has been determined that the pregnancy and birth process of women who immigrated to Sweden from regions such as Somalia and Ethiopia, which are poor developing countries, are lower than Swedish women, and miscarriage and stillbirths are more common (Şahin, 2001).

One of the most common health problems experienced by immigrant women is sexually transmitted diseases. It has been observed that the general infectious diseases are common in immigrant women who are exposed to poverty and cultural conflict. In addition, it is emphasized that migrant women in developing countries are exposed to "domestic violence". It is stated that migrant women and children are a population at risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and any form of sexual

violence. Women who have been subjected to sexual violence; Pregnancy prevention, protection from STIs, managing all kinds of problems related to abortion and birth process, receiving services and providing consultancy are considered as the most basic obligatory needs. In addition, the fact that women are immigrants in the international arena can cause them to become vulnerable and vulnerable to acts of violence and to live in fear and anxiety (Declercq, 2008).

It has been stated that in Europe, which is one of the important destination countries of international migration, migrant women are frequently employed in housework, child and elderly care services, smuggling and prostitution. The fact that women experience discrimination based on gender and ethnicity in addition to their lack of education, lack of qualifications, lack of knowledge of a foreign language, lack of self-confidence, cultural conflict, psychological pressures, fear and anxiety can also cause immigrant women to be involved in these jobs (Nieke, 1991). Another obstacle for migrant women to work in skilled jobs is that their professional skills and diplomas are not recognized and recognized by the countries they migrated to. As an example, it can be shown that women who took asylum from former Eastern Bloc countries, Russia, Thailand and the Philippines were not recognized for their qualifications and had to work in jobs other than their specialization (Gürkaynak, 2005).

The 21st century, which includes today's period, represents a kind of "turning point" due to the increase of immigrant women in the international arena. It is stated that the migration movements, which have increased rapidly in recent years, pass to a very diverse dimension and are feminized. Approximately half of the internationally known immigrant rate is composed of women; Gender differences arising from cultural reasons are gendered women. Women who are highly affected by the migration process can change their migration trends and dimensions and change the migration dynamics in the target countries (Özkoçak and Taşkın, 2021).

In addition to family reunifications in the destination country, female immigrants can enter asylum, health, education, cultural / social activities and work in skilled jobs. Migration studies in the context of women have started to separate from the male-centered perspective since the 1970s and have changed with an early feminist perspective. By getting rid of the male-dominated stereotypes, the position of immigrant women on the migration routes and in the destination countries changed the heterogeneous structure. In Turkey, on the other hand, women have successful integration activities, strong social relations networks and establish social-cultural relations (Merry, 2001).

At the "Migration Board" meeting held in Ankara on September 15, 2022 by the Directorate of Migration Management, Mr. With the support of our Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu, issues related to the determination, coordination and implementation of Turkey's migration strategies for foreigners were discussed.¹ Turkey plays a very important role in the global arena with the rapid and effective decisions it has taken in the field of migration together with the migration originating from Syria; Stating that he manages it as an Open Door Policy and Social Cohesion Process, he stated that it would not be wrong to specify the third period as the Global Sharing period with both increased border security systems and international initiatives. Despite the fact that the Syrian civil war and irregular migrations are watched from afar by the whole world, the Republic of Turkey, Mr. It has been stated that it is an example to the whole world with its expanded migration policy, implementation, and strategy documents under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He stated that Turkey's immigration policy is in three statuses: those who are substituted with international protection status and temporary protection status, those with residence permits, and those with irregular migration, and gave the following information:

"Due to the low resettlement quotas of third countries, 15,975 people in international protection applications and 48 thousand people in temporary protection applications since the granting of temporary protected status to Syrians have been resettled in the third country. Evaluations about third countries on this subject are null and void. In other words, there are no 48 thousand people. If we calculate the number of people in our country and calculate the incoming person, we will all see that the West or third countries lack any goodwill steps in this regard. Currently, 3 million 710 thousand 532 people in our country are Syrians under temporary protection. The number of people staying with a residence permit is 1 million 207 thousand 749 and they are registered. The number of Syrians who returned voluntarily is 462 thousand 26 people with this process we started in 2019. Since 2016, the amount of illegal immigrants we have blocked on our eastern and southern borders is 2 million 327 thousand. "

¹ <https://www.goc.gov.tr/on-ucuncu-goc-kurulu-toplantisi-icisleri-bakanimiz-suleyman-soylu-baskanliginda-gerceklestirildi>

Studies Conducted on Women migrants in Turkey within the scope of YUKK

It is home to more than 5 million foreigners, including Syrians under temporary protection status, foreigners under international protection, irregular migrants and regular immigrants who have the legal right to stay in Turkey. On the other hand, 47% of foreigners in Turkey are women. Of these women, 21% have a residence permit, 6% have international protection, and 73% live under temporary protection. Migrant women; Migration stories differ in many areas such as their culture, social environment, demographic characteristics, languages, religions, and countries of origin. Migrant women face difficulties such as post-traumatic situations, feelings of pressure and anxiety, language barrier, not being able to benefit from education services, forced marriage, and domestic violence. In addition to these structural difficulties, difficulties such as exposure to violence, unemployment, and an increase in poverty have been added due to the rapidly increasing psychological pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation creates difficulties and additional vulnerabilities for women in accessing basic needs, food, and health system (Selimbeyoğlu, 2022). For this reason, by recognizing and being aware of all these vulnerabilities, the activities organized by the Directorate of Migration Management continue by focusing on women's empowerment experiences and coping strategies.

As seen in the table, Iraq ranks first in the chart listing the top ten nationalities in Turkey; Syria is in the 5th place. The reason for this is that although the number of Syrians is high; the reason is that the number of foreigners coming with a residence permit is comparatively low. As a result, of granting temporary protected status to those who came due to war, education, tourism, work, etc. The fact that the number of people arriving via passports is less for reasons explains this situation. In addition, the nationalities with more female population than male population are Germany, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Kazakhstan. The reason for this is thought to be the presence of women who come to work.

Nationality	 Male	 (%) ⁴⁴	 Female	 (%) ⁴⁵	Total	(%) ⁴⁶
Iraq	166.675	51,76	155.340	48,24	322.015	17,96
Afghanistan	106.625	58,08	76.942	41,92	183.567	10,24
Iran	64.747	50,23	64.136	49,77	128.883	7,19
Turkmenistan	65.140	52,54	58.825	47,46	123.965	6,91
Syria	56.555	54,09	47.999	45,91	104.554	5,83
Germany	50.203	48,93	52.389	51,07	102.592	5,72
Uzbekistan	23.085	32,44	48.060	67,56	71.145	3,97
Azerbaijan	31.490	45,92	37.072	54,08	68.562	3,82
Russia	25.170	37,68	41.616	62,32	66.786	3,72
Kazakhstan	15.927	40,36	23.527	59,64	39.454	2,20
Other ⁴⁷	285.240	49,13	295.562	50,87	580.513	32,39
TOTAL	890.857	49,71	901.179	50,29	1.792.036	100

Table 3: Nationality distribution of foreigners staying in Turkey with a residence permit (top ten), 2021. Source: Zaferoğlu et al. (2022)²

Studies by the Directorate of Migration Management

It is aimed to create a migration policy that ensures the observance of the human rights and health rights of women and men, children and gives importance to gender equality at all stages of the activities carried out by the Directorate of Migration Management. As stated in the "Global Migration Consensus", which was implemented in 2018 and to which we are a party, gender sensitivity is taken into account in all activities of the Presidency. In this case, we provide assistance, health, psychological and other counseling services to meet the special needs and sensitivities of migrant women and girls. In addition, studies are underway to develop migration policies that include fair, fast and effective means of access to law

² <https://aybu.edu.tr/GetFile?id=1c168fe4-c95c-447f-b3eb-8ab7d312794c.pdf>

in cases such as sexual issues and gender-based violence and abuse (Global Compact for Migration, 2018).

Within the framework of the Action Plan, it was stated that women who struggle with poverty and have socio-cultural marginalization should reach a fair employment and welfare economic level. It has been reiterated the importance of ensuring that women are integrated into society and that both local, migrant and refugee women have access to economic opportunities and are accepted with their own skills and qualifications. The Republic of Turkey has internalized all these requirements and accelerated its work with the Directorate of Migration Management; It continues to maintain and develop various activities such as women's meetings, business women's workshops, handicraft courses, education and training activities, and employment opportunities (Özkoçak and Taşkın, 2021).

Studies on Women Migrants Victims of Human Trafficking

In the international arena, more than 70% of the victims of human trafficking in Turkey are women.

- *In 2019, 3,738 people were interviewed on suspicion of being a victim of human trafficking, while this rate increased by 32% to 4,919 in 2020.*
- *The number of victims identified after 4,919 interviews increased by 33% from 215 in 2019 to 282 in 2020.*
- *Out of 282 victims identified in 2020, 213 are women and girls migrant victims.*
- *209 victims who wanted to benefit from the victim support program were provided with shelter in guesthouses affiliated to ASPB as well as DGMM Shelters.*
- *In 2021, 127 of the 160 victims identified until 20 May 2021 are women and girls migrant victims.*³

In this context, preventing human trafficking and combating human trafficking in all areas constitute an important dimension of the activities carried out for women by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey. It has been stated that women are mostly exposed to sexual exploitation, which is the most common form of human

³ <https://www.coe.int/tr/web/ankara/strengthening-the-human-rights-protection-of-migrants-and-victims-of-human-trafficking-in-turkey>

trafficking, and they also face other forms of this crime, such as forced marriage and domestic work.

Victim Support Program

The process, which starts with the identification of the victims of human trafficking, continues with the victim applying to support services and requesting any of the voluntary safe return or support programs. Thus, a victim support program is provided by taking the victim's life and property safety into account and obtaining information and consent in accordance with the principle of privacy and confidentiality.

- *Shelter in women's shelters or safe places*
- *Ensuring access to health services*
- *Providing psycho-social support*
- *Access to social services and benefits*
- *It is listed as a consultancy service for the right to benefit from legal services.*

The fact that the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", which was accepted at the 11th meeting of the "Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women", was the main condition for this was also effective. On criminal offenses and all forms of violence for every woman internationally:

“(...) to pursue an active and visible policy to mainstream a gender perspective in all policies and programs, such as those charged with law enforcement, law enforcement, forensic, medical and social workers, and those dealing with issues relating to minorities, migrants, and refugees. It was emphasized that those responsible for implementing policies should actively promote, support and implement programs and measures aimed at increasing their knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women (...) and develop strategies to prevent victimization”.

With the Turkish Civil Code, which was prepared based on the Swiss Civil Code of 1907 and entered into force in 1926, provisions such as ensuring gender equality, empowerment and employment of women, granting the right to vote, and having the right to speak in the family were mentioned. On January 1, 2002, the new Turkish Civil Code numbered 4721 entered into force; a new provision based on gender equality has been adopted. Today, the concept of family has changed and

developed with the support of this law. Especially with the migration from rural to urban areas that started in the 1950s and the migration of workers abroad, the traditional patriarchal family structure has been replaced by the economic and social life, including women, to evolve into today's modern nuclear family structure (Yüksel, 2014).

Activities in the Field of Social Cohesion

“Meetings of Women in Local” organized by the Directorate of Migration Management aims to support the integration process in Turkey and to provide a common life culture for foreigners and women in the local community. Within the scope of these meetings, activities are carried out to inform women from both communities in many areas. It is thought that these activities can contribute to the development of the living culture. In this direction, women; It is aimed to raise awareness on many issues such as the right to health, ensuring security and preventing all kinds of violence, and problems arising from family structure. In 2019, a total of 1075 women from domestic and foreign women; In 2020, a total of 335 women were reached and 1410 Turkish and immigrant women; were informed about the activities.

The provinces held within the scope of Local Women's Meetings are: Afyonkarahisar, Istanbul, Şanlıurfa, İzmir, Bursa, Mardin, Mersin, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adana, Ankara, Kayseri, Kütahya. In the event, it is aimed to inform women in various fields and to support the harmony between the foreign society and the local society with the participation of women. The event consists of kermes sections where information and cultural interaction are aimed.⁴ In the first part of the event, information is given on the following subjects:

- *Women Migrants and Integration - DGMM*
- *Prevention of Violence Against Women – Provincial Directorate of Family, Labor and Social Services*
- *Women's Health – Provincial Health Directorate*
- *Child Marriage, Polygamy, Judicial Process and Victim Rights in Turkey – Ministry of Justice*
- *Parental Attitudes and Children's Continuation to Education – Provincial Directorate of National Education*

⁴ <https://www.goc.gov.tr/yerelde-kadin-bulusmalari>

In the bazaar area, which is included in the second part of the event, non-governmental organizations working for the empowerment of women are given the opportunity to open stands and provide information. In this way, it is ensured that women and civil society come together and that women are informed about the activities aimed at them. It is planned as consecutive translation in two languages, Persian and Arabic; for children, who come with their parents, a playground will be established and the MUYU mascot will be featured. In 2019, a total of 1075 women from local and foreign women; In 2020, a total of 335 women were reached and 1410 Turkish and immigrant women; were informed about the activities.

1	Trabzon	8 November 2019
2	Bolu	19 November 2019
3	Antalya	10 December 2019
4	Yalova	17 December 2019
5	Isparta	28 January 2020
6	Aksaray	11 February 2020
7	Nevsehir	4 December 2020
8	Afyon	23 June 2021

Table 4: Local Women's Meetings

Guard Tables

Guard tables; Evaluating the conditions of people with special needs, directing them to institutions that will provide them with access to legal solution mechanisms, psycho-social support, rehabilitation services, social and economic resources that will help them to continue their lives, and following up, urgency assessment (low, medium) after the first interview was established for the purpose of on-site intervention in emergency cases. Detailed interviews are conducted with the people with special needs who are directed to the protection desks, and foreigners are directed to the relevant public institutions and organizations according to their needs.

Referred Institutions and Organizations

- *Provincial Directorates of Family, Labor and Social Services*
- *Police and Gendarmerie*
- *Bar Associations*
- *Municipalities*
- *Public Education Centers*
- *Provincial Health Directorates*
- *Foreigners Communication Center (YIMER).*

“Social Harmony and Life Education” program, which is one of the adaptation activities in Turkey, is “Foreigners and International Protection Law No. 6458, National Education Basic Law No. 1739, Vocational Education Law No. 3308, Official Gazette No. 30474 dated 10/7/2018. Presidential Decree No. 1 on the Organization of the Presidency, Regulation on Lifelong Learning Institutions of the Ministry of National Education No. 30388, Prime Ministry Circular No. 2007/17, Law No. 6331 on Occupational Health and Safety, dated 30/6/2012, Ministry of National Education Lifelong Learning General It has been prepared based on the letter of the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning and the cooperation protocol of the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning and the General Directorate of Migration Management, dated 06/02/2012 and numbered 579. The Social Cohesion and Life Course Program aims to facilitate the integration of all adult foreigners living in our country, especially Syrians under temporary protection, into social, economic and cultural life.

Other Studies on Education, Awareness Raising, and Gender Equality

- Within the scope of the “Strengthening Turkey's National Asylum System” project carried out with the UNHCR, 16 integration, and transition modules have been prepared to enable unaccompanied children and women to access rights and services in our country.

- On the other hand, Gender Trainings continue. (Exchange project carried out with the German Institute for International Cooperation (GIZ) - "Gender Mainstreaming Training" was given to personnel working in the field of women and children in January and February 2021.

- The "Gender Equality" target, which is an important part of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals within the scope of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, is an issue that the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Migration Management actively work on.
- There are activities to ensure gender equality as an intersectional area in the "Budapest Process Five-Year Implementation Plan" and other national and international documents in which Turkey carries out the presidential process.
- Within the scope of raising awareness, various activities were planned for immigrant women in the Almaty Process Strategy Document, which we took over the 2-year term presidency with the Ministerial Conference held on January 27 (the Secretariat of which is carried out by IOM and UNHCR).
- It is aimed to raise awareness about gender equality with the webinars themed "Permanent Solutions in Combating Sensitive Migrant Groups and Human Trafficking" and the documents to be prepared afterward.
- Trainings on "Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Protection of Victims" are provided within the scope of another project that aims to strengthen Turkey's asylum area with the Swedish Migration Agency.

Conclusion

Various studies are carried out in terms of empowering, supporting, protecting women and providing services in the context of gender equality in Turkey's women and migration policies. It has been determined that these studies were created on the basis of national and international legislation, court decisions and recommendations, and were implemented by considering the principle of fairness with an ethical understanding. It has been revealed that the studies can be interrupted due to the language barrier brought by the immigration phenomenon, psychological trauma and culture shock, and therefore the necessity of continuing the integration studies with women's studies.

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