**PRESS STATEMENT**

**SUPPORT FROM 33 COUNTRIES TO THE URGENT ACTION CALL**

**OF WOMEN AND LGBTI ORGANİSATIONS FROM TURKEY**

**Updated: 30th November, 2015**

Violence in the Middle East and Turkey escalates with each passing day. While the world’s eyes turn to the tragic attacks in Paris, what we are experiencing at present in our country is much more extreme than the past, and we are deeply worried about what tomorrow will bring. It seems like our very future, our fundamental human rights, and the most basic right to life are under threat. For the past 40 years, Turkey has been in a state of war that has deeply affected our society, especially women and girl-children in eastern Turkey, and it has become impossible to prevent severe rights violations. Since Turkey’s June 7th 2015 general elections, in a context of escalating violence and military operations, which have continued after the recent November 1st snap elections, the Human Rights Association reports that: 262 civilian lives have been lost (602 lives in total, including soldiers, police and Kurdish militants); 759 people have been wounded; 5,713 have been detained; and 1,004 people arrested.[[1]](#footnote-1)

In these conflicts in the Kurdish region, concentrated mostly in the provinces of Diyarbakır, Hakkari and Şırnak, in the towns of Cizre, Silvan, Nusaybin, Silopi and many others, some settlements have endured blockades and 24-hour curfews of over 10 days, threatening the lives of civilians, especially women, girl-children, and LGBTI people. While the people of these regions cannot even obtain the most basic necessities for life, like water, food, and electricity, thousands of them are being forced to leave their homes. Additionally, they cannot access health services: it has been reported that between August and October 2015, 300 women in the towns of Hakkari province (Şemdinli and Yüksekova) who could not leave their homes have had miscarriages or are in danger of suffering miscarriages due to the extreme stress and trauma they are undergoing.[[2]](#footnote-2)

As Turkey’s women’s and LGBTI movements, we have repeatedly raised our voices to call for peace. However, at this moment, it is critically urgent that international solidarity networks be established with the women living in these conflict zones. 101 organisations from 33 countries have supported this urgent call and we have sent the following letter with their signatures to Turkish President and Prime Minister. We have also shared the Press Statement with the media in Turkey on 26th November 2015.

**Honourable President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

**Honourable Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu**

The conflict in the eastern and south-eastern regions of Turkey has been causing civilians to lose their lives, be wounded, and has threatened their basic survival; women, girl-children and LGBTI are particularly affected. We are well aware from our own experience that this kind of escalating violence can greatly threaten women’s lives. This extremely worrying situation prompts us to act, as organisations working toward empowerment of women and LGBTI all over the world.

We remind you of Turkey’s international obligations under SR 1325, UN GA Res 65/283 (2011) co-sponsored by Turkey and Finland, and the most recent resolution adopted in Oct. 2015, Res. 2242, which call for the peaceful resolution of disputes, and for inclusivity and women’s participation specifically in peacemaking.

With this letter, we, as 101 women and LGBTI organisations from 33 countries, appeal to you to stop all attacks directed toward civilians in the country, we call on you return to ceasefire conditions and resume the dialogue and negotiation process that was initiated during the previous administration in 2013.

**THE ORGANISATIONS MADE CALL FROM TURKEY**

1. Adana Women’s Shelter and Association for Solidarity/Consultation - Adana Kadın Dayanışma Merkezi ve Sığınma Evi Derneği
2. Adıyaman Association of Women and Life - Adıyaman Kadın Yaşam Derneği
3. Altı Nokta Kibele Wmen’s Magazine - Altı Nokta Kibele Kadın Dergisi
4. Amargi İzmir - Amargi Izmir
5. Amida Women’s Consultation Center - Amida Kadın Danışma Merkezi
6. Ankara Feminist Collective - Ankara Feminist Kolektif
7. Antalya Women’s Consultation Center and Solidarity Association - Antalya Kadın Danışma Merkezi ve Dayanışma Derneği
8. Ayvalık Independent Women’s Initiative - Ayvalık Bağımsız Kadın İnisiyatifi
9. Women’s Peace Initiative - Barış İçin Kadın Girişimi (BIKG)
10. Batman Women’s Solidarity Association - Batman Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
11. Bodrum Women’s Solidarity Association - Bodrum Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
12. Buca Evka -1 Women, Culture and Solidarity Association - Buca Evka-1 Kadın Kültür ve Dayanışma (BEKEV)
13. Çiğli Evka -2 Women Culture Association - Çiğli Evka-2 Kadın Kültür Derneği (ÇEKEV)
14. Ceren Women Association - Ceren Kadın Derneği
15. Association to Combat Sexual Violence - Cinsel Şiddetle Mücadele Derneği
16. Association for Gender Equality Watch - Cinsiyet Eşitliği İzleme Derneği (CEID)
17. Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Department of Women’s Politics - Diyarbakır Büyükşehir Belediyesi Kadın Politikaları Daire Başkanlığı
18. Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Department of Combat with Violence Against Women - Diyarbakır Büyükşehir Belediyesi Kadına Yönelik Şiddetle Mücadele Şube Müdürlüğü
19. Ergani Selis Solidarity Foundation - Ergani Selis Dayanışma Derneği
20. Women from Workers Movement Party - Emekçi Hareket Partili Kadınlar
21. Erktolia - Erktolia
22. Erzincan Katre Women’s Group - Erzincan Katre Kadın Oluşumu
23. Esender Women Center / Ekin Wan Consultation Center - Esendere Kadın Merkezi / Ekin Wan Danışma Merkezi
24. Home-Based Working Women’s Group - Ev Eksenli Çalışan Kadınlar Çalışma Grubunu
25. Fethiye Free Women and Life Association - Fethiye Özgür Kadın ve Yaşam Derneği
26. Filmmor Women’s Cooperative - Filmmor Kadın Kooperatifi
27. Rainbow Women Association - Gökkuşağı Kadın Derneği
28. Hebun LGBT Diyarbakır - Hebun LGBT Diyarbakır
29. İstanbul LGBTT Solidarity Foundation -İstanbul LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği
30. Human rights Association Women Sekretariat - İnsan Hakları Derneği Kadın Sekreterliği
31. Human Rights Association (İHD) Ankara Branch Women’s Committee - İnsan Hakları Derneği Ankara Şube Kadın Komisyonu
32. İmece House Workers’ Union - İmece Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
33. Izmir Independent Women’s Initiative - İzmir Bağımsız Kadın İnisiyatifi
34. Izmir Women’s Solidarity Association - İzmir Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
35. Women’s Solidarity Foundation - Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı
36. Women’s Education and Labor Association - Kadın Eğitim ve İstihdam Derneği (KEID)
37. Women’s Labor and Employment Initiative Platform - Kadın Emeği ve İstihdamı Girişimi (KEİG) Platformu
38. Feminist Researchers Studying Women’s Labor - Kadın Emeği Çalışan Feminist Araştırmacılar (KEFA)
39. Women’s Labor Collective - Kadın Emeği Kolektifi
40. Women for Women’s Human Rights – WWHR New Ways -Kadının İnsan Hakları-Yeni Çözümler Derneği (KIH-YÇ)
41. Women’s Solidarity Foundation - Kadınlarla Dayanışma Vakfı (KADAV)
42. Women’s Free Assembly - Kadın Özgürlük Meclisi (KÖM)
43. Women Writers Association - Kadın Yazarlar Derneği
44. Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association - Kaos Gey ve Lezbiyen Kültürel Araştırmalar ve Dayanışma Derneği (KAOS GL)
45. Kapadokya Women’s Solidarity Association - Kapadokya Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
46. Karya Women’s Association - Karya Kadın Derneği
47. Confederation of Public Workers Union Women’s Assembly - KESK Kadın Meclisi
48. Konak City Council Women’s Assembly - Konak Kent Konseyi Kadın meclisi
49. Free Women’s Congress - Kongre ya Jinên Azad (KJA- Özgür Kadınlar Kongresi)
50. Lambdaİstanbul LGBTI Solidarity Association - Lambdaistanbul LGBTİ Dayanışma Derneği
51. Mardin Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Women’s Policies - Mardin Büyükşehir Belediyesi Kadın Politikaları Başkanlığı
52. Mardin Derik Peljin Women’s Center - Mardin Derik Peljin Kadın Merkezi
53. Muğla Women’s “It’s My Labor” Association - Muğla Emek Benim Kadın Derneği
54. Muğla Menteşe Women’s Assembly - Muğla Menteşe Kadın Meclisi
55. Muş Women Association - Muş Kadın Derneği
56. Muş Women’s Roof - Muş Kadın Çatısı Derneği
57. Moira Sakarya Women’s Solidarity Association - Moira Sakarya Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
58. Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association - Pembe Hayat LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği
59. The Association of Social Policies, Gender Identity and Sexual Oriantation Studies- Sosyal Politikalar Cinsiyet Kimliği ve Cinsel Yönelim Çalışmaları Derneği
60. Sosyalist Yeniden Kuruluş Partisi Kadın Meclisleri – Women’s Assemblies of Socialist Re-Creation Party
61. Sosyalist Kadın Meclisleri – Socialist Women’s Assemblies
62. Şırnak Municipality Zahide Women Consultation Center - Şırnak Belediyesi Zahide Kadın Danışma Merkezi
63. Psychologists Association for§ Social Solidarity Women’s Committee - Toplumsal Dayanışma İçin Psikologlar Kadın Komisyonu (TODAP)
64. Flying Broom Women’s Communication and Research Association - Uçan Süpürge Kadın İletişim ve Araştırma Derneği
65. Life Cooperative for Women, Environment, Culture, and Management/Operation - Yaşam Kadın Çevre Kültür ve İşletme Kooperatifi (Yaka-Koop)
66. Green Left Women - Yeşil Sol Kadınlar
67. Yoğurtçu Women’s Forum - Yoğurtçu Kadın Forumu
68. Women From the Federation of 78’s - 78’liler Federasyonu’ndan Kadınlar

**ORGANISATONS FROM WORLD SUPPORTING THE CALL**

1. Aboriginal Rights Coalition – (Austria)
2. Association of Women in Development (AWID)- (Canada)
3. Asociación Egeria Desarrollo Social – (Spain)
4. Autonomous Women’s Centre – (Serbia)
5. Bridges of Peace International – (USA)
6. Centre for Research and Action on Peace (KEDE)
7. Czech Women´s Lobby – (Czech Republic)
8. Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies - (Pakistan, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Jordan, Palestine, Phillipines, Algeria, Yemen, Turkey)
9. Connectas-Brazil
10. European Women’s Lobby (EWL)
11. El Nadeem Center For Rehabilitation For Victims Of Violence –(Egypt)
12. French Coordination for the European Women Lobby – (France)
13. Gender at Work – (Canada)
14. glokal e.V., Berlin – (Germany)
15. Isis-Women’s International Cross Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE) – (Uganda)
16. Just Associates (JASS) – (USA)
17. Justice, Human Rights and Gender, Civil Association – (Mexico)
18. Lesbenberatung e.V.Berlin – (Germany)
19. League of Women-Lawyers – (Tajikistan)
20. Network for European Women’s Lobby – Serbia, (coalition of 27 women CSOs)
21. Rural Women’s Network (RUWON) – (Nepal)
22. Rutgers for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – (Nedherlands)
23. Qadims Lumiere School and College Peshawar – (Pakistan)
24. Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights – (USA)
25. Slovene Union of University Women (SUUW) – (Slovenia)
26. Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF) – (Yemen)
27. Women's Lobby of Slovenia – (Slovenia)
28. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights – (Nedherlands)
29. [Widows for Peace through Democracy](http://www.widowsforpeace.org/) – (Britain)
30. Women in Black against War-London Group- (Britain)
31. VISION – (Pakistan)
32. Women against Violence Network Serbia, (27 Kadın Örgütünün olduğu Koalisyon) – (Serbia)
33. Združenje univerzitetnih izobraženk Slovenije (ZUIS) – (Slovenia)

1. “[İHD: 7 Haziran’dan Beri 262 Sivil Öldü](http://bianet.org/bianet/insan-haklari/169178-ihd-7-haziran-dan-beri-262-sivil-oldu)” (İHD: “Since 7th June, 262 civilians killed), BİANET, 12 Nov. 2015; “[İHD raporu: 7 Haziran’dan beri 602 kişi hayatını kaybetti](http://www.demokrathaber.net/guncel/ihd-raporu-7-hazirandan-beri-602-kisi-hayatini-kaybetti-h57155.html)”(İHD Report: 602 people lost their lives since 7th June), Demokrat Haber, 12 Nov. 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “[Savaşta, doğmamış çocuklar da ölüyor](http://www.evrensel.net/haber/264917/savasta-dogmamis-cocuklar-da-oluyor#.Vk0q9n0JX0A.twitter)”(In war, even unborn children are dying), Evrensel, 11 Nov. 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)