**Country:** Turkey

**Committee:** UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

**Agenda Item:** Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women

Turkey, or officially the Republic of Turkey, is a transcontinental country with most of its territory in Anatolia and a small part in Thrace, the southeastern extension of the Balkan Peninsula. Turkey has an important geopolitical power as it is located at the crossroads of the European and Asian continents. The Republic of Turkey was established under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK with the opening of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara on April 23, 1920. The War of Independence (1919-1922) against the invading forces under his leadership was successful, and the Ottoman Empire became history with the abolition of the sultanate by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 1 November 1922. With the proclamation of the republic on October 29, 1923, the first important step was taken in the formation of modern Turkey. Turkey is a democratic, secular and unitary constitutional republic governed by a presidential system. Its official language is Turkish and most of its population is Muslim. Today, Turkey is a member of NATO, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the G-20 communities. In addition, the European Union started the Full Membership Negotiations in 2005. Turkey; Oghuz hosts a wide variety of cultures that emerged with the mixture of Anatolian, Ottoman and European cultural traditions. As a result, today's Turkish culture has been shaped as a result of the effort to become a "contemporary" Western state by preserving traditional beliefs and historical values.

Despite the great efforts made by governments, institutions and non-governmental organizations for many years in Turkey, women and especially girls are still exposed to violence and abuse, cannot participate in education and politics, and face many other human rights violations.

In Turkey, especially since the beginning of the 2000s, great progress has been made in eliminating gender inequality. However, statistics show that we still have a long way to go in this regard. According to the World Economic Forum's 2020 Gender Inequality Index, Turkey ranks 133rd among 156 countries.

According to the most recent election data, only 17% of parliamentarians in Turkey are women. Unfortunately, this table points to a situation far from equality in terms of representation. As in many other areas of life, gender inequality also manifests itself in the labor market. While the labor force participation rate for women is 32%, this rate is 68% for men (TUIK Labor Force Statistics 2020). The unemployment rate is 13% for men and 14.5% for women.

Violence against women, a concept that emerged with gender inequality, is still very common in Turkey as it is all over the world. According to the 2014 Domestic Violence Survey, 4 out of 10 women experience physical and sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (42% in 2008 and 38% in 2014). These figures also reveal the extent of the problem and the need for urgent action. UNFPA's "Business Against Domestic Violence" research reveals that sexual and physical violence is also common among white-collar working women and that the private sector does not have the necessary response mechanisms.

According to official data, in 2020 alone, 266 women died as a result of male violence in Turkey. These figures reveal the dimensions of gender-based violence in Turkey and the seriousness of the issue.

Turkey runs programs in collaboration with national and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector to promote gender equality, combat gender-based violence and involve men and boys in these efforts.