

2022

Activity Report



MOR ÇATI
WOMEN'S SHELTER FOUNDATION



Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation

2022 Activity Report

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1990, we have been fighting against male violence against women with feminist methods, and we, encouraged and empowered by our solidarity with women, work for an equal and free world where we are not exposed to violence. Solidarity we built in our solidarity center and shelter in 2022 provides us the lens to see both the impact of gender inequality on women's lives and the dynamics of violence and shows us women's will to continue their lives notwithstanding violence. On the other hand, women's experiences give us the opportunity to observe how and to what extent the existing mechanisms for combating violence function in Turkey.

We contend that Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in 2021 has led to a loss of an important ground in the fight against violence. The convention's emphasis on gender equality and graduated definition of the steps to be taken in combatting violence are overtly wanting in Turkey's current fight against male violence. The efforts to combat violence against women are not carried out with the aim of eliminating gender inequality and discrimination against women; hence, such work prevents the discrimination and violence women are subject to from being understood as a shared as well as unique experience that stems from their gender. The fact that these efforts lack such an approach and standard in service provision, reduces the work by some institutions to a personal trait or to an initiative.

The smear campaign and widely circulated misinformation about the Istanbul Convention often claim that the convention is contrary to family values. We have been expressing since day one that this claim aims to perpetuate gender roles, deepen gender inequality, prevent women's emancipation, and protect men's advantages within the patriarchal system. We see this approach in family-themed protests which aim at imposing an understanding of family where women are oppressed, as is the case in family-oriented social services, and fueling hostility against LGBTI+ community, as well as in efforts to define family in the constitution. These practices, policies, protests, and discourses attack gender equality under the guise of protecting family. These assaults, which seek to perpetuate social conditions through which women and LGBTI+s are discriminated against and exposed to violence, continue not only in Turkey and all over the world. Under these circumstances, we consider it our social duty to strive for gender equality and to stand up against discrimination.

Family-oriented policies have a multifaceted effect on women and make particularly women's struggle to stay away from violence difficult. For instance, Family Courts give decisions without considering the violence against women and its impact on women and their children (if any), causing an important problem. Especially in issues of child custody and the visita-

tion right, family courts make decisions by focusing on the paternal rights and considering neither the impact of ongoing violence on the child nor the best interest of the child. A judicial system that prioritizes the protection of the family and paternal rights hinders women and children's from staying away from violence and its effects. In 2022, we went to courtrooms and witnessed the justice struggles that sometimes have lasted for years and built solidarity with women. We continue to work and struggle to reverse the ongoing injustice in family courts and criminal cases in women's favor.

The combat against male violence cannot be considered independent of the struggle for equality that continues in all walks of life and of freedom of expression and association. In addition to the lawsuits for the closure of women's organizations, in 2022 our freedom of assembly and association was restricted during the 8th of March Feminist Night March and on November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The struggle against male violence in Turkey started in 1987 with the March for Solidarity against Battering. The freedom of assembly and association, apart from being a fundamental right for expressing our demands in public, is one of the most important tools for women to speak up against and fight the discrimination they are subjected to. We will not give up this right and our struggle in all areas of life.

This year, we kept up our feminist struggle against male violence with our solidarity we built with women in the shelter and the solidarity center as well as with our monitoring work and awareness raising activities. In this report, you will find comprehensive information and analysis regarding our methods of struggle along with what we have witnessed and experienced in our solidarity.

As is the case in previous years, our work was made possible only by the solidarity of Mor Çatı volunteers and friends. We achieve social transformation together, thanks to institutions and employees who have the will and experience of working with an approach that favors women. It was the feminist movement that made possible our achievements in the fight against male violence in Turkey as well as our struggle under challenging conditions that we describe in detail in what follows. We will continue our work with the strength of being a part of the feminist movement, which grows bigger every year in Turkey. Our hope is that this report will contribute to the fight against violence against women in Turkey.

KADINA YÖNELİK ŞİDDET
SUÇTUR

ŞİDDETEN UZAKLAŞMAK
HAKKIMIZ.



SOLIDARITY CENTER

Women reach out to the Mor Çatı solidarity center in order to stay away from violence they have been exposed to, to end violence, to make sense of their experiences, to identify violence, and to learn about their rights and to make plans about what they can do. Our solidarity with women in Mor Çatı and our social work in this context rely on feminist principles. First, we listen to what women want to share. Later, based on the experiences of all women with whom we have been in solidarity for 32 years, we we build solidarity through which we figure out what women need and what they want to do.

Both our solidarity with women and the feminist principles we adopt indicate a common point that make violence stems from gender inequality and that we are subjected to this violence solely because we are women. With this in mind, we work with the awareness that all women and their situations are singular and unique. Throughout our solidarity work with women in Mor Çatı, we work to uncover not onlu women's strengths and resources but also the obstacles that are stemmed from gender inequality and that make it difficult for women to stay away from violence. We value making plans together with women while gaining strength from women's solidarity and pushing the existing mechanisms to combat violence against women. Our interviews with women sometimes start with applicants naming violence and its types, and in some interviews, women need to simply hear that this behavior, systematically committed, is violence, that it is normal to stand up to violence, and that women deserve a life free from violence. This need may arise from the fact that perpetrators commit violence to control women, that they see themselves entitled to commit violence, and that they make women think that women's experience of violence is normal. Women's solidarity and social work in the solidarity centers creates an environment where they can name male violence against women and talk about women's rights as well as what they can do against violence in a non-violent environment.

Our solidarity with women at Mor Çatı enables women to gain or regain the power they could not develop or have lost due to discrimination and violence. Thanks to the support provided, women can realize their potential and cope with the effects of violence and the hindrances that had prevented them from staying away from violence. In addition, we evaluate with women the existing mechanisms and what they can do, and we support them in making and implementing plans. We always leave the final decision to the women and do not force them to take any steps. We let them know that they do not have to take a step immediately after sharing their experience of violence and that we can meet again in the future if they want to take action.

While acting in solidarity with women, evaluating the acute situation of women when they reach us as well as the peculiarity of their situation is as important as conducting in-depth interviews. When women reach us, they

might need to urgently leave the environment they are in, to go a shelter or mobilize law enforcement, to apply to the relevant institutions if they have just been exposed to sexual assault and want to file a complaint, and to receive medical care and report violence if they have experienced physical violence. In such situations, guaranteeing women's safety, filing complaint or reporting before the evidence is lost, and making sure that they are physically healthy or receiving urgent health care might be a priority. Considering the time constraint in these first meetings, we plan a future meeting to discuss in more detail by giving the most basic and urgent information for the moment without making an in-depth interview.

Women reach Mor Çatı mostly via phone, they also choose to reach out via e-mail or directly visiting our solidarity center. In addition to applicants who personally reach us, the friends, relatives or specialists such as doctors, lawyers, and social workers can also reach Mor Çatı on behalf of women to consult on certain issues. We listen to women and share with them that male violence stems from gender inequality. Listening to their needs and demands and conducting risk analysis together, we give them information about mechanisms and institutions from which women get support. It is also possible that while they try to stay away from violence, the violence women are exposed to gets intensified or change form. At this point, it gains importance to do preventive work and to discuss the violence experienced by women, the effects of violence on women, the sources of violence, and information about the perpetrator while conducting this risk analysis together with women. The social support that we provide at the Solidarity Center consists of an entire set of work where we conduct these interviews and listen to women and their children (if any), identify the relevant mechanisms where they can get support and direct women to these mechanisms, meet with the institutions with the approval of women, follow up the support they receive, and write Social Review Reports (SIR). Our solidarity with women is built by sharing with them the support mechanisms needed to stay away from violence and following up their functioning, by acknowledging the power and potential that women have to instigate change in their lives, by giving them the necessary support to gain their self-esteem and confidence which had been effaced and shattered, by addressing women's needs with a holistic approach, and by respecting their decisions. In this process, we, together with women, point out sexist approaches and decipher sexist practices by examining the reasons why the existing mechanisms fail to provide necessary support for women to stay away from violence. In addition, Mor Çatı volunteers provide legal and psychological support provided in accordance with the specific needs of women and their children as they move away from violence, cope with the effects of violence, and build their lives.

Legal Support: Knowing our rights as we move away from violence enables us to see what options we, women, have and make decisions accordingly. Our experience in building solidarity with women shows that

women who are exposed to violence often do not know their legal rights. In cases that they have the knowledge of their rights, they share with us the unlawful practices they face while claiming their rights, the difficulties they experience in accessing justice, and the malfunctioning in the implementation of the law. Women can request support from Mor Çatı for basic information about the divorce process, how they can request, issue, and implement restraining order under Law No. 6284 and guidance on where to get support if they do not have the resources to hire a lawyer. In addition, they can also request comprehensive legal support for their relevant needs. These supports are provided by Mor Çatı volunteers and Mor Çatı volunteer lawyers who act in solidarity with women. Thanks to this solidarity, we disclose not only the impact and importance of legal regulations and their implementation to keep women away from violence but also how women's effort to stay away from violence is hindered when they fail to be preventive or effective.

Psychological Support: When women are exposed to violence, they can be affected not only physically, socially, and economically but also psychologically, and they can experience related difficulties. As a result of male violence, women may feel complex emotions such as guilt, fear, helplessness, shame, or hope that the perpetrator will change and improve. At times, the experience of violence can damage women's capacity to cope with the responsibilities and obligations of daily life. Not every women who is exposed to violence needs psychological support; however, it is important for women to be able to access psychological support when they need so that they can work through the psychological effects of violence while they recover from and stay away from violence and its effects. In the first meetings women have with social workers in Mor Çatı, sometimes they directly request psychological support, and sometimes volunteers who build solidarity with women offer this support. In addition to the psychosocial support and psychological first aid carried out by Mor Çatı volunteers, more intense psychological work is also a part of our solidarity with women. Long-term and in-depth psychological work with women and children on the dynamics, emotions and effects of violence is provided by Mor Çatı volunteer psychologists throughout the year.

In 2022

2417 interviews were conducted with **897** women who reached Mor Çatı for the first time in **2022**.



928 interviews were conducted with **209** women who had reached in previous years.



A total of **1105** women had interviews with Mor Çatı in **2022**.



The number of interviews with women conducted through the Solidarity Center: 3345

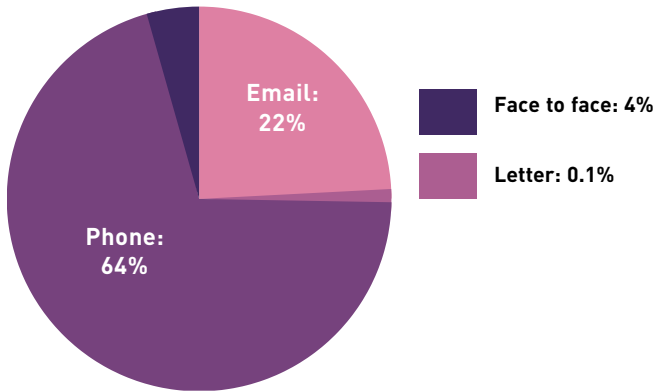
We pay heed to building solidarity with women at Mor Çatı by having one-on-one meetings with women. Mor Çatı volunteers, who build one-on-one solidarity with women, conduct in-depth interviews with women where possible so that they can develop a holistic approach to women's needs, understand their risks, resources, wishes, strengths, and obstacles, and establish solidarity with them in a way that is most appropriate to the specific conditions of each women. While women who want to get support and solidarity often reach Mor Çatı themselves, in some cases, people around them reach Mor Çatı when women or children cannot contact us directly or if there are people who want to support them.

Friends and relatives reaching Mor Çatı on behalf of women

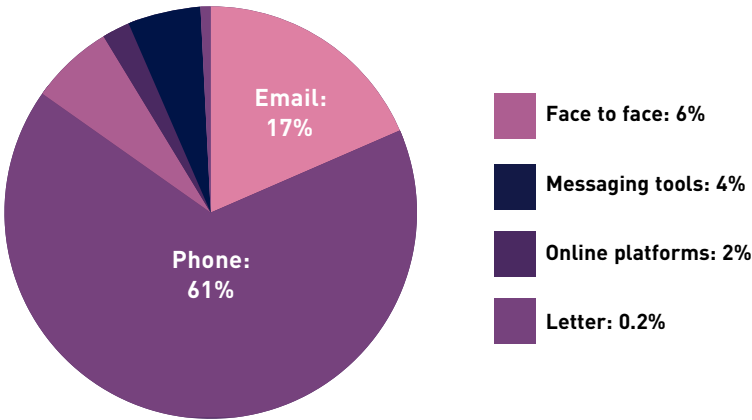
Of 897 women who reached out to Mor Çatı for the first time in 2022, 806 women reached us themselves. For 91 of them other people reached us before them, and we had the first meeting with the people who contacted us. Among those who called us instead of women, who were exposed to violence, were relatives of women, acquaintances or friends, lawyers, institutions, psychologists, social workers, policemen, teachers, or strangers they had never met. Compared to 2021, there was a 6% decrease in the number of applications made on behalf of women who are exposed to violence. This decrease is possibly caused by the ability to return to school, work, and public and social spheres after the end of the pandemic, by the possibility of using communication tools away from the perpetrators especially at home, and by the ability to go out and apply to solidarity centers in person.

In case where someone else reaches Mor Çatı on behalf of a woman and child who are exposed to violence, we, together with the person who reaches us, seek to find ways in which the said woman or child can reach us and inform them about our suitable communication methods.

Distribution of the communication method used by women who reached the solidarity center for the first time in 2022:



Interview methods:



48% of the women had interviews more than once.

The format of the interviews we hold at the solidarity center varies depending on the reason why women reach us, their demands and needs. In our one-time interviews, we build solidarity by listening to the woman, informing her about her rights, referring her to relevant institutions, and letting her know at the end of the interview that she can reach us if needed. We also conduct multiple interviews with women depending on their needs and demands. These interviews allow us to learn the rights violations women experience in their struggle to stay away from violence, the institutions from which they can access support, and the institutions in which they are exposed to bad practices. In such cases, we continue our solidarity with women by meeting them more than once while women actualize their plans step by step. Besides one-on-one interviews with women, we have meetings with institutions from which women receive support or consider receiving support or from which women receive negative response to their application. An important section of the experience we present in the annual report comes from this monitoring work and interviews we conduct. In 2021, we were able to return to the solidarity center for building solidarity and working with women following the decrease in the impacts of the pandemic and lockdowns. Compared to 2021, in 2022, we held more face-to-face interviews in the solidarity center. We consider face-to-face meetings as one of the factors that unveil the strength of women. Therefore, a part of this solidarity involves encouraging women to come to the solidarity center if there is no restriction and planning their methods to access the solidarity center. However, given that Mor Çatı is a women's organization that receives applications from all over the country and from different countries, the most preferred method for interviews was phone calls again in 2022. We continued to use online interview methods, which we started to use after the pandemic, and made them a part of our work. The most important factor that led us to use this method was the increase in women's digital literacy during the pandemic.

Online communication tools enabled us to make audio and video calls with women who live in Istanbul but not able to leave home for reasons such as restrictions or disability as well as with women who live in other cities or even in other countries. This experience showed us again the importance of digital literacy and accessibility of digital tools for women. This experience showed us once again the importance of digital literacy and accessibility of digital tools for women. Moreover, we have yet again noted why it is crucial for institutions responsible for combating male violence against women to include alternative communication tools while providing services to women.

Nationality of women:

Migrant and refugee women:

59

Women with dual citizenship:

11



Nationality of women:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, England, Finland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Moldova, Netherlands, Philippines, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, USA

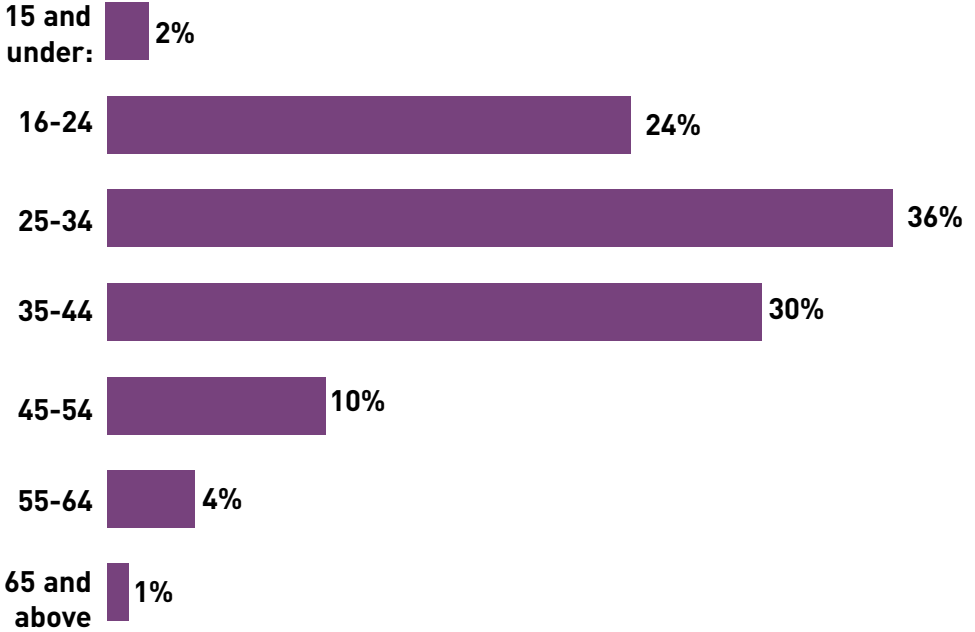
Countries from which institutions or women reach us from abroad:

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Egypt, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, USA.

Migrant and refugee women living in Istanbul and various cities of Turkey also reach Mor Çatı. Women from Turkey or from other countries living abroad also contact us. In addition, there are institutions or individuals who contact us from abroad on behalf of women who have the citizenship of another country and have married to or had a relationship with men from Turkey. Migrant and refugee women contact us about the violence they have been subjected to and the support they can receive. Women from abroad or institutions and individuals contacting us on their behalf reach us to get information about the violence that women have been subjected to during their stay in Turkey and support mechanisms they can apply in Turkey. We observed that the reason why more refugee and migrant women reach Mor Çatı lies both in current conditions and in the fact that translation support is provided during the interviews. At the same time, we have figured out that changes in Turkey's agenda, changes in the application processes that dictate refugees and migrants to receive services where their residence is registered under the pandemic

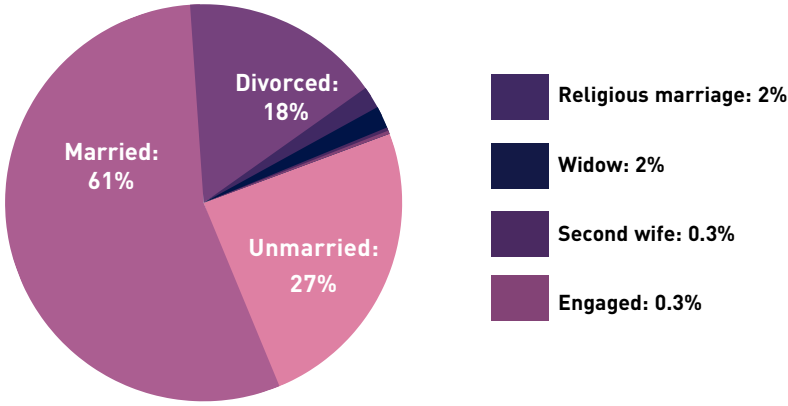
conditions, and the limitations in the shelter support stood out as factors in reaching us. In addition, 25% of the applications made by migrant or refugee women were contacted by someone else on behalf of women. After the first application was made on their behalf, women themselves contacted us. The reason for applications done on women's behalf usually lies in the belief that women cannot receive support when they apply, especially due to language barrier and discrimination. For the same reason, applicant resort to women's organization instead of state mechanisms. 23% of the migrant and refugee women with whom we built solidarity in 2022 shared that they were exposed to sexual violence, and 43% sought shelter. These women mostly need shelter support for staying away from death threats from their husbands and family members. They also seek support because, as refugees and migrants, they face difficulties in accessing their healthcare rights and information about their rights, they need legal support, and they need to access safety against threats of abduction or harm to their children. Some of the women shared that although they came to Turkey because of the death threat that had received and to start a new life away from violence, that violence continues here as well. Some of them contacted us because they wanted us to help them leave Turkey. While building solidarity with migrant and refugee women, we witnessed that they could not receive support in the institutions they applied, such as psychological and psychiatric support, abortion, obtaining information about their rights, and financial support. Women often shared that they were threatened with their children in Turkey or in another country. Women who have children with a man from Turkey are threatened over the custody of their children and, in some cases, they are sent abroad with their children for a vacation and somewhat prevented from entering Turkey. For instance, one of the women who contacted us had to complete her application by a certain date for the extension of her residence permit; however, she was stalled by her husband until the deadline and lost her residence permit because she was locked in the house especially in the last days before the deadline. For this reason, she faced the risk of deportation. Another woman, who had a child with a man from Turkey, was sent abroad to visit her family but she could not come back to Turkey as her husband did not tell her that she would lose her residence permit if she did not come back to the country until a certain deadline. Women we talked with shared that men do not take responsibility for childcare and that when they oppose violence, men threaten them with abducting their children. We saw some cases where husbands deliberately worked for women to lost their residence or stalled women to apply for renewal within deadlines, where women's passports were confiscated by the husbands, and where women were prevented women from leaving Turkey by filing a complaint against women. Women with dual citizenship often shared that men confiscate their passports, hide children's passports and IDs, and prevent children from leaving the country. We witnessed that women have been deprived of opportunities to receive social support and live a life free from violence.

The number of women who applied for the first time in 2022 and whose age we know: 622

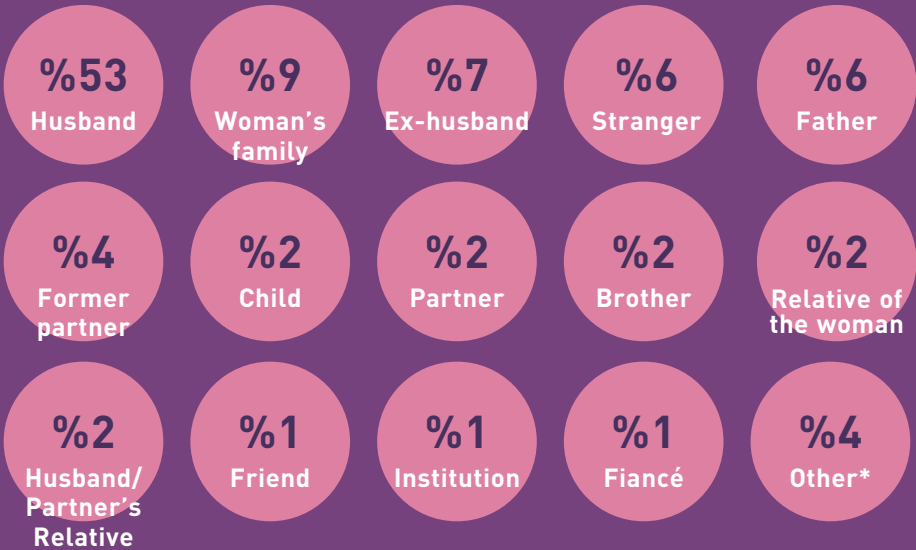


Applications from women above 65 were marginal in this year as well, and in some applications, another family member such as the woman's child or daughter-in-law contacted us. The women who reached us themselves contacted us after a relative mentioned it. The women we had interviews with shared that they were hesitant to stay away from the violent environment they were in, that they did not want to change their life, or that they were worried about being sent to an environment such as a geriatric care center. There are many reasons why women cannot stay away from the environment where they are exposed to violence, and for aged women, the most articulated of these reasons include the difficulties of getting used to a new life, the concerns that family relations will deteriorate, or the worry that they will not set a good example for their children. Especially those whose children are married shared that they are trying to cope with the violence they are exposed to with the desire to "be a good example for the children". We witnessed that some elder women were subjected to violence by their own children. When we talked to them about filing a complaint or requesting a restraining order by applying to Law No. 6284, they shared with us that they did not consider these methods as an alternative because they thought that these methods could harm their children and cause them another trouble.

The number of women who arrived for the first time in 2022 and whose marital status we know: 671



Perpetrators of violence committed against women who reached us for the first time in 2022:



The number of women exposed to violence by more than one person: 13

*Other: 4% (boss, former boss, stepfather, friend's father, neighbor, police, famous actor, landlord, coworker).

Most of the women who applied to Mor Çatı were married, and the perpetrators of violence were mostly their husbands or ex-husbands. Despite this phenomenon that we have been witnessing in the past years, family-oriented policies ignore violence and insist on the continuation of marriage. Women are subject to discourses that lead them to marry or continue their marriage not only by their own families and social networks but also by the very mechanisms they apply to stay away from violence. Divorce, a long and challenging process both socially and legally, makes it difficult for women to gain their independence and access the limited resources provided by the state.

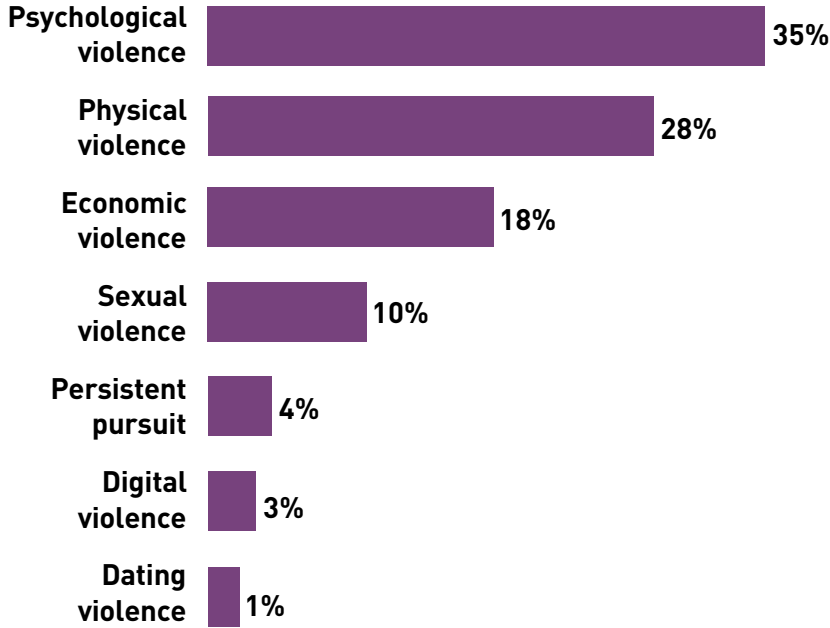
Women are exposed to violence both in the families they grew up in and in the family that they started with a man. Their families and the society at large pressure them with discourses that protecting family integrity is women's top priority, which makes it difficult for women to express their experience of violence within their families. Women are often seen responsible for and deserving of violence by their fathers, brothers, or husbands and are systematically exposed to this unequal power relationship, which, in turn, induces feelings of shame or self-blame in women and makes it harder for them to speak up against what they are going through and seek support.

Women, due to their experiences, either cannot create social networks, lost them or cannot access to existing social networks. In addition to all of these, the inadequacy of the social support provided by the state causes the family to be seen as the only support mechanism. When women face difficulties in meeting basic needs such as economic needs, childcare, shelter, and nutrition, they try to meet these supports within the family before requesting them from the social support mechanisms of the state. When many women apply to the existing public systems for various supports, they either have to wait for a very long time or get a negative response because their marital status appears to be "married" officially.

Factors such as not being able to receive alimony during or after the divorce process, not being able to access regular and affordable daycare support for childcare as a single parent, having to resort to the extended family as an alternative for childcare, lack of regular social support provided by the state for unmarried women affect women's decisions to get a divorce. Women feel obliged to use their existing strength to stay in a relationship where they are subjected to violence because they have to leave the family that they had built for staying away from the violence perpetrated by their fathers or brothers, they cannot establish an independent life due to current economic conditions, or they cannot get support after returning to their parents' home due to the social judgements.

Types of violence

The number of women who applied for the first time in 2022 and that we know which type of violence they are subjected to: 755



Male violence against women is rooted in gender inequality and is deliberately perpetrated by men to perpetuate the existing inequality. Violent attitudes and behaviors systematically committed against women constitute male violence. As is the case in previous years, the experiences of women this year show that the perpetrators of male violence are mostly the members of the current households or the individuals with whom women once shared the same household such as husbands, partners, and fathers. Men use violence to control and oppress women, to gain advantage over women, to vent their anger, and this violence can take the form of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, or digital violence or stalking.

Men can commit more than one type of violence at the same time. Looking at the types of violence that women who reached Mor Çatı for the first time in 2022 are subjected to, we see that women are most exposed to psychological violence, similar to previous years. We define psychological violence as all attitudes and behaviors in which the emotional integrity and needs of women are assaulted or related boundaries are overstepped in order to control, humiliate or gain advantage from women. Unlike physical violence, the symptoms of psychological violence and its effects on women's psyche can be more difficult to recognize. Sometimes women do not

name psychological violence, but they call it “verbal/emotional violence” and name systematic violations of their emotional integrity and boundaries. Some women compare psychological violence to physical violence and point out its effects on themselves by saying “it is even worse” or “that’s actually the real torture”. Women shared with us that they were subjected to various forms of psychological violence such as ridiculing, pressuring, blaming, threatening, insulting, threatening to kill, forcing into marriage, throwing out of the home, threatening to harm himself or commit suicide, cheating, isolating women by preventing them from seeing their friends and family. Young women stated that they were exposed to psychological violence especially by their families or relatives, and the violence takes the form of interfering with their lifestyles, clothing, friendship relations: they are pressured on such issues and threatened to be unenrolled from school with excuses such as “what matters is not your profession but your honor and your marriage” when young women do not behave or dress in accordance with the family’s demands. Since perpetrators of violence know women closely, they also use violence by harming or threatening to harm the people, pets or things that women care about. Threatening women to kidnap their children, not allowing women to see their children, reaching out to women’s family and friends, threatening to harm them, their pets, and not caring about women show the extent to which psychological violence can reach.

Acute or chronic mental disorders are not always an obstacle to pursuing daily life. Not every patient needs medication. That person can maintain daily life and keep control of her life with forms of support such as individual therapy, group therapy, and medication support. Women already face discrimination when they have a kind of mental health problem; in addition to all this, stigmatization, making their illness a tool of violence, hindering their access to mental healthcare, and treating women as insane are also forms of psychological violence used to control and oppress women. This oppression and stigmatization make women’s daily life difficult; furthermore, fear of being stigmatized can sometimes cause women to feel afraid of seeking psychological support, which, in turn, leads to further difficulties for women to pursue a life that they desire. A woman who was exposed to psychological violence and received psychiatric treatment stated, “You are a feminist organization, you must be more supportive of women. You don’t adopt with the mindset that women cannot do. Wherever I went, I heard ‘you can’t do it, you have issues’, but I always heard from you ‘these are your strengths’” and shared how empowering the support she was given was.

Physical violence is the second most common type of violence after psychological violence. We define physical violence as all attitudes and behaviors through which the physical boundaries and bodily integrity of women are violated or threatened to be violated and through which physical and bodily power is used as a show of strength and to control and oppress women. While it is possible to detect physical violence with the scars and wounds it leaves on the body, sometimes perpetrators can use physical violence in a way that does not leave any traces. When women want to file a complaint against physical violence, their complaints may not be processed, and they may be deterred from seeking their rights if there is no visible trace. Factors such as not performing examination because of the absence of a visible trace, not referring them to issue assault report, not starting judicial process undermine the sense of justice of women who experienced violence. Women are exposed to forms of physical violence such as beating, coming at her, breaking objects in the house, wounding with a firearm, hair pulling, exposure to drugs, forcing women to use drugs, strangulation, run over women with a car, trying to burn them, depriving women of enjoying their right to healthcare. The physical violence they are exposed to can have physical consequences such as loss of organ function, dependence on healthcare support for a long time, not being able to fulfill daily tasks such as going to work and taking care of themselves, and mental consequences such as high fear, anxiety, and helplessness. Physical violence can as well claims women's lives. Relatives of women who lost their lives due to violence they were exposed to reached Mor Çatı throughout the year and demanded solidarity. Since such an event can affect women's friends and relatives, we had interviews with the relatives of women and shared about the steps that can be taken and the support that can be received.

Perpetrators of violence may also use violence against children at home, or children may have to witness the violence their mothers are exposed to. Factors through which women are exposed to violence such as violation of their personal boundaries, neglecting their care and nutrition, exposing them to sleep deprivation, not changing diapers can speed up women's decision to leave the violent relationship.

Restricting the economic resources that are vital for our survival in the current system and preventing access to these resources in different ways is another method used by men to control women. Economic violence is used to prevent women's economic power and development and to delegate the decisions and control of women's lives to men. Economic violence had an important place among the types of violence that women were exposed to. Women shared with us that they were subjected to forms of economic violence such as limiting women's right to education when they are young, not allowing them to continue their education in later ages, preventing them from working, forcing them to work, confiscating their earnings, not leaving money at home, not paying the alimony, not taking responsibility for the financial needs of children, not providing any financial support for housing and educating, confiscating, selling, or damaging the jointly owned property

after the end of marital unity, and preventing women from having job security and insurance in their working life.

Rampant impoverishment, deepening economic crisis, and difficulties in accessing the already inadequate social support increased the impact of economic violence. Economic violence has an after-effect of making it all the more difficult to establish a life, to rent an apartment, to buy furniture, and to meet the school-related needs for women who continue their education. A few women shared with us that men interrupted their established life arrangements by forcing them to move in together yet violently kicked them out of home after they moved in together or women had to leave the house to avoid violence; however, women state that in current economic conditions, it was not nearly as possible for them to set up home as before. Women reported that even after the restraining order for perpetrators were issued, the men entered the apartment with the excuse of taking their personal belongings, but they also damaged objects at home and took valuables such as the children's computers, piggy bank or internet modem, and even unsubscribe from electricity and water services. All these behaviors show that men deliberately use violence against women by depriving them of their basic needs.

Sexual violence is defined as the use of sexuality to display power, humiliate, oppress, abuse women and violate women's sexual boundaries. Sexual violence may be difficult for women to speak about and prove, as it mostly takes place in the private sphere and has no witness. Women, who are exposed to sexual violence, can feel shame, helplessness and guilt. Among the forms of sexual violence that women shared their experiences of are marital or extramarital rape, forced anal intercourse, forcing women into sex work or virtual sex in exchange for money, forcing women into group sex, humiliation over women's sexual orientation, telling about or making women watch their sexual intercourse with other person, forcing women to watch pornographic content, forced pregnancy, forcing women into unprotected sex, transmission of STDs, forcing women to take virginity test. In addition to experiences of violence during their adulthood, they also talked about the types of violence and abuse they were exposed in their childhood asked for support. The sexual violence they had experienced in their childhood can have lasting impacts on women such as feelings of insecurity, guilt, anger, constant alertness, and inability to continue their daily life. When cases of sexual violence, which take place within the family or the household, is shared by the person –child or adult– who is exposed to violence, family members can respond by blaming or not approaching favorably to women and children exposed to violence; this can make women feel insecure or guilty. On the other hand, women may avoid sharing with their families about their experiences of sexual violence that took place outside the household and asking for their support. This may sometimes stem from the worry that the family might take a position accusing women and pose a threat to women's safety; some other times, women are afraid of upsetting their families and becoming a burden because of the violence they

are exposed to. Women feel guilty about being exposed to violence and do not talk about it with their families or relatives. They cannot get any emotional and social support from their families, and they have to cope with the effects of violence on their own and take steps accordingly.

Digital and technological tools may be used by men to control, oppress, display power over, and use violence against women. Digital violence is committed by restricting women's use of such tools, threatening women using these tools, interfering with how women use them, hindering women's digital and technological literacy, violating women's right to privacy in the digital world. Among the forms of digital violence are restricting women's access to electronic communication tools, publishing or threatening to publish videos or photos of women, opening an account on digital platforms on behalf of women without their permission, sharing women's contact information with third parties, sharing private conversations and messages with third persons, confiscating the passwords women use on digital tools and platforms. Sharing women's contact information with third parties causes them to be disturbed by other people, and they might have to change their phone numbers and social media accounts. Sharing or threatening to share the voice, photo or video footage of women causes women to experience various forms of distress. Women sometimes call Mor Çatı to ask for legal support when men share or threaten to share these recordings obtained with or without the consent of the women. Sharing the records of women sometimes causes them to face threats and violence from their families as well as isolation. Digital violence that men perpetrate to control and weaken women makes them feel powerless and it becomes for them to see their strength.

Another type of violence that keeps women on their toes, insecure, and distressed and that prevents them from pursuing their daily lives is stalking. We define stalking as all form of systematic behaviors such as violating women's personal boundaries using various communication methods, reaching out to women by coming near them or by means of communication, and disturbing women in their homes and workplaces. Appearing before women in unexpected places, constantly texting, e-mailing, or calling them, constantly following them with social media tools, threatening them to inform their families, sending romantic or creepy gifts were the forms of stalking that women were exposed to. Stalking has been one of the types of violence especially underlined by women this year. Exposed to stalking, women can become unable to continue their work, and they may have to constantly change their home address and their children's schools. In addition to making women feel constantly alert, stalking also causes a breakdown in women's social networks, keeps them away from communication tools, and disrupts the daily routine of their children, if any. Although stalking was added to the Penal Code in 2022 as a form of crime, the women we had interviews with did not mention that the perpetrators are punished under this law. Sometimes, electronic bracelets are used as a precaution against perpetrators of stalking who do not comply with the restraining orders and confidentiality orders and continue committing

violence, so that they can be stopped from reaching women. Some women who contacted the solidarity center said that this method was not suggested to them or that the perpetrator did not even comply with the legal measure of electronic bracelets measure and kept on their violent behavior. A woman shared that the perpetrator who stalked her, smashed the electronic bracelet, reached women and inflicted violence but was later fined for damaging public property. In the current system, perpetrators who do not abide by the measures do not face deterrent penalties. Moreover, punishing the perpetrators of violence for damaging public property shows that keeping the perpetrator away from the woman and the fight against violence is not a priority.

Due to patriarchy, women can become convinced that they deserve violence or that violence is normal and acceptable. Sometimes women call, thinking that something is wrong with their relationship. In these meetings, we, together with women who called, name violence and share with them that violence is a crime and that we experience it because we are women, not because we did something wrong. It is very important for women that the violence they experience is “seen” and acknowledged by others, that they are supported, and that the perpetrators are punished. This can shape the steps taken by women and their priorities when asking for support. For instance, if there is psychological violence in the relationship, women ask “How can I prove it during the divorce process?” When women are exposed to psychological violence at home by their father or brother, they may worry that their will not be paid attention to without any evidence in the event of filing a complaint to the police. Similarly, we heard from many women this year too that the law enforcement has the approach of “such things are normal within the family”. It is important for women that the violence they experience are acknowledged from the outside, because this is the only way they can access support.

A woman told us that she had been subjected to psychological, economic and physical violence by her father for many years and this was known in the extended family. However, her extended family supported her only after her father committed physical violence on her in the public sphere and the police got involved in the process. This narrative is an example of why women feel compelled to prove their experiences of violence.

Since sexual violence occurs especially in private areas and behind closed doors where there are no witness, women may want to talk first about how they can prove their experience of violence and request legal support when they reach Mor Çatı. If the sexual violence is perpetrated by men with whom women are together in an institutional setting, the institution’s approach to the perpetrator becomes one of the factors that affect women’s post-violence lives and recovery processes. In these institutions, the perpetrator can be in different positions such as a student who is on an equal setting

with the women, a trainer, or a supervisor. Sometimes, women report that institutions do not impose sanctions on the perpetrator before any legal process begins. For women, this means being forced to remain in the same environment as the perpetrator. After women share their experiences with the institution, institutions do not impose any sanctions and the perpetrator holds on to his position in the institution, which can sometimes lead women to question their own reality. We observe that women feel obliged to focus on legal support when they are exposed to sexual violence and may postpone receiving psychological or social support they may need. In our solidarity with women, we inform them about other forms of support they can receive and the mechanisms they can apply to. We see that it is of significance for institutional structures to determine internal complaints mechanisms and sanctions against violence and to prepare policy documents for preventing violence as well as for women's lives and recovery processes after violence.

Impunity

Women, in their effort to prove the violence they have been exposed to and to have the perpetrators sanctioned while accessing protection for themselves, face impunity. We see that even if the men who commit violence are punished, they are not necessarily imprisoned due to implementation of the legal rule called the deferment of the announcement of the verdict in criminal proceedings; their imprisonment is converted into fines and paid in multiple installments. And these practices do not deter men from committing violence. A woman who is in the process of divorce shared with us that there are various criminal cases against her husband, who repeatedly perpetrated violence against her, and that the violence stopped only when her husband was convicted after it became clear that he would be imprisoned. Another woman said that her husband, a law enforcement officer, was dissuaded when he applied to the police because of his own experience of violence and at the police station he was told that he might be out of work, which deterred him from filing a complaint. After her husband saw that no sanction was imposed on cases of violence and she cannot file a complaint, he "got above himself" and continued the violent behavior.

Men can develop various methods in their use of violence to oppress women. Besides being encouraged by impunity, men also use legal processes to exhaust and cause trouble to women. This year, women stated that the perpetrators were also filing complaints in response to women's complaints, especially after the event of violence, aiming to wear women out with long and complicated legal procedures. A woman told us that two days after she could drive her husband, who had severely beaten her, out of home with the help of the police, the husband got an assault report and filed a complaint against her. Although the woman was exonerated many times, in the process her husband kept objecting to the decisions,

trying to harass and control her again and again by making her deal with the legal processes. Another woman told us that her husband, for whom she had issued a restraining order, kidnapped her children six times even though she was given the temporary custody of children. The children could not be found because the father took them a place which he did not report to the state institutions. When the woman sent a message to her husband saying, "where is my child, bring them to me", she was punished twice for violating the restraining order and got prison sentence for 4 and 6 days, respectively. Another woman shared with us that her ex-partner, who used economic, psychological, and physical violence and never accepted "no" as an answer and with whom it was very difficult to break up, filed a complaint about her and she learned it on the court day for the proceedings of her complaint against him for physical violence. She talked about the difficulty of having to defend herself again in a legal process after the end of the relationship about which she commented "I barely survived, I am gaining my self-confidence back only recently". She expressed that her ex-partner filed a complaint against her thinking "if we file complaints about each other, she will withdraw her own complaints". She also talked about the feeling of helplessness created by having to follow up this legal process after the experiences of violence she had to go through. One of the abovementioned women, whose husband is a member of the law enforcement, told us that her husband pressured her in every possible way to make her withdraw her complaint. However, the husband did not withdraw his complaint against her and required her to pull out her complaint against him. Another woman's ex-husband locked her up at home on the day of the divorce for six months, confiscated her communication tools, and exposed her to torturous violence. Despite all this, she told us that the legal process has been going on for 8 years, and she had to change 4 cities to remove her trace. When he was finally put in electronic bracelets, she still had to go the shelter because public officials told her that it would be easier for him to find her address if she did not stay in the shelter. This example shows that the woman's ex-husband was not arrested and there was no solution to prevent the perpetrator from posing a threat to the woman, so she was sent to a shelter as a temporary solution. In this case, we see that the woman was punished instead of the perpetrator and that the constitutional rights of the woman who has been exposed to violence are violated. Yet another woman stated that her husband, who committed economic, psychological, sexual, and physical violence on her, also complained about her by getting an assault report, and she had to go through the court processes. In all these examples, we see that men try to pester women with legal processes in order to dominate and put pressure on women and make them feel helpless. And we know that men, in doing so, are encouraged by sexist approaches, discriminatory practices, and incomplete and incorrect implementation of legal regulations.

Men looking for women who moved away from violence

In 2022, animated by the false perception that the contact numbers of our solidarity center belong to the shelter and that all shelters in Turkey are called Mor Çatı, we received 417 calls from those who wanted to find out the location of the women who moved to the shelter, to get information about the women or to send a message to them. 278 of these calls were made by men to whom we replied by saying that shelter locations are confidential. The vast majority of these calls were made by the women's husbands/ex-husbands, fathers, or male relatives. As in previous years, callers often put forward reasons such as "we had a small argument, there was no violence," "she was mentally ill" to explain why women went to the shelter. After the information that the shelters cannot be reached from outside has become commonly known, men who wanted to get information about women often resorted to manipulative methods such as "I am worried about my child", "she called me and asked me to pick her up", "we were on the phone, but the phone got disconnected." Even after women went to shelters, men continue stalking. We also received repeated calls about particularly 18 women from men who tried to get information about women's whereabouts.

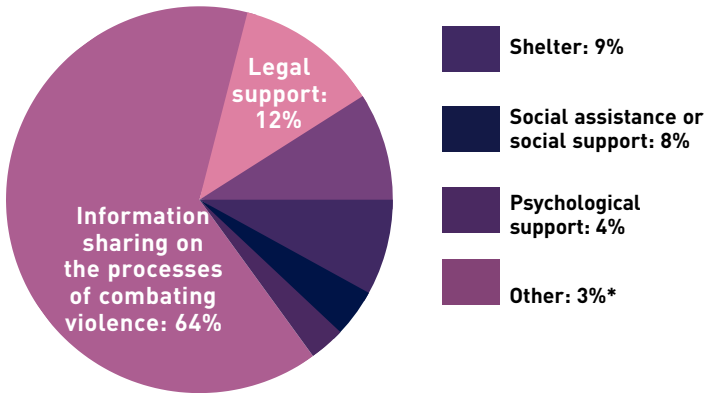
Our feminist psychological work

In 2022, psychological support became an important part of our support and solidarity with women, both in the solidarity center and in the shelter. In the feminist psychological work at Mor Çatı, we sometimes worked on the ongoing psychological effects of the acute violence that women experience, and at other times of their previous violence experiences. This year too, we saw how complex the effects of violence on women's psyche are. In addition, we observed that judgmental and negative reactions they received from their social circles and society in general and being left without support can affect women as negatively as the experiences of violence. This year, women's not only current experiences of violence but also their experiences in their childhood became an important part of our psychological work. Integrating childhood experiences into the psychological work has been enlightening while working on women's current experiences. In addition, the psychological barriers preventing women from getting out of violent relationships, feelings of guilt, shame, helplessness and fear, and the hope that the perpetrator will change created an enduring cycle of violence were raised in our work. An important issue that women brought up and focused on in the psychological work this year pertained to how support mechanisms in the process of staying away from violence or its effects are determining factors in women's mental well-being. We saw that the negative experiences of women in the institutions they apply to avoid violence or its effects, the inability to receive support, judgmental and accusatory attitudes, and especially the fatiguing conditions in the judicial processes cause mental difficulties. Therefore, these experiences sometimes found a place in psychological work as much as the experiences of violence.

Our experience in 2022 once again demonstrated the importance of psychologically supporting women by experts who focus on violence with a feminist perspective. Another information we learned from the experiences of women was that this support was not accessible in public or private clinics. For this reason, the feminist psychological work carried out at Mor Çatı filled an important gap in the system, providing support that is not available either in practice or in approach.

Forms of support women need to get away from violence

We can receive differing requests when we have more than one interviews with a woman. Looking at all the requests coming to the solidarity center in 2022, we see the following:



***Other: 3% (finding a job, abortion, finding an apartment, medical assistance, psychological support for their child/children, daycare/school support).**

Women, in their effort to stay away from violence, may need various forms of support depending on their conditions and needs in order to build their lives or make plans to stay away from violence. Needs and support each woman demands may change depending on what they want to do, their plans, whether or not they have children, their existing resources, social networks, the support they get or don't get from their families, their priorities, the type of violence they have been subjected to, the steps they want to take against violence, and whether or not they want to initiate a legal process against the perpetrator. After thoroughly listening to women at Mor Çatı, we inform them about the institutions and mechanisms from which they can get support to achieve their plans, we point out their own strength and resources, and relying on the experience we have gained from our ongoing solidarity with women for years, we share with them other forms of support

that we think women may need. Women can express varying demands during the interviews we have throughout the year. This year, women mostly reached out to share their experiences, get legal information and request shelter support. When they contacted Mor Çatı, Mor Çatı volunteers give them information on basic legal right. Mor Çatı volunteer lawyers provide women with legal support in accordance with their specific situation and answer women's questions throughout the year. Afterwards, if the women wanted to initiate a legal process, they were referred to the legal aid units of the bar associations for legal support. Regardless of their situation, we inform women about ŞÖNİM and municipality shelters and how they can get shelter support. The shelter requests done by women are evaluated in line with the capacity of the Mor Çatı Shelter. When it was established the Mor Roof shelter has vacant place that could meet the needs and demands of women, the women were admitted to the Mor Çatı shelter with their children.

In addition to these support, women sometimes asked for psychological support for themselves or for their children. This year, women at the solidarity center demanded psychological support especially for their children. Among the reasons why women requested psychological support for their children were their exposure to abuse due to direct physical, psychological, and sexual violence at home, negligence of their basic needs, having to witness the violence that their mothers or siblings were exposed to, and having special needs or need for special education and/or psychological support. We always conduct face-to-face or online interviews to assess the need for psychological support that women demand for themselves or for their children. This way, we can develop an in-depth understanding of the need and demand. After in-depth interviews, we refer women to psychological support for themselves and their children. This year, Mor Çatı volunteer mental health experts provided psychological support to women and children, and women were directed to public institutions that offer this service, such as municipalities, social service centers, and hospitals.

While women are building their post-violence lives, they may need different forms of support to cope with the effects of violence and set up their lives. Among women's needs to establish and sustainable live their lives are finding a job, finding an apartment, school or daycare support for their children. When they go through an unwanted pregnancy, they requested guidance on the right to abortion. There were also requests for medical assistance to for the recovery of the effects of violence on their physical and mental health. Women were informed and given guidance on their rights and mechanisms to meet their needs as well as on the social support provided.

Social assistance demands took an important place among the needs brought up by women in 2022. The ongoing economic crisis and inflation that have been going on alongside the pandemic, the increase in cost of living and housing costs have made it difficult for women to plan a post-violence life.

Similar to the previous year, some women expressed only their need for financial support, without sharing any experience of violence. In particular, young university students reached out to us to be able to access the basic necessities they needed to continue their education, such as scholarships, dormitories, digital tools such as computers, schoolbooks, and clothes. Some women contacted us because their families pressured them to drop out of the school, because they could not meet their basic needs, or because living in the dormitory instead of family home is a means of staying away from violence. Some other women also said that their families could not afford to meet their basic needs and that they needed this support for themselves and at times for their siblings. In such cases, we referred women to institutions from which they can receive scholarship or social support. Dynamics specific to young women entail specialized support to this group. However, we realized that there are currently no specialized service units to which this group can be directed and that the existing mechanisms do not meet their needs. Another issue that puts a strain on women is the rising rents. Compared to previous years, this year, the increase in rents in all cities, especially in Istanbul, posed an obstacle to women's ability to rent their own apartments. Relatively massive increase in rents as well as realtors and landowners requiring deposits worth two months' rent made it challenging for women to meet their necessities with their already limited resources. The social assistance provided by public institutions fails to respond to the current reality created by the inflation rates. In this context, we not only directed women to the support they can receive, we also suggested them various options such as house-sharing and residential care jobs that they can think about.

Child-Adolescent Social Work at the Solidarity Center

In 2022, we held a total of 19 one-to-one interviews with children at the solidarity center. Children often asked where they could contact about the violence they were exposed to and what the possibilities are for them to leave home and stay in another place because they are exposed to violence by their families or close relatives. In addition, adults, who through social media posts witnessed a case where children are exposed to violence, also reached Mor Çatı to consult what can be done. We conducted these interviews provided that the children applied with a trusted adult or with their mothers.

A part of the social work we do at Mor Çatı is to support women regarding difficulties they have with their children and empower them in parenting. 30 of the women we interviewed this year requested social, psychological or psychiatric support for their children, sometimes during their first call and sometimes during the ongoing social work process. Not only this situation but also the direct applications we receive from children over the age of 15 in recent years renders all the more visible the impact of violence on children. In our relationship with women, we observed that their children

are also affected by violence because of living in a violent environment, that women have to take all responsibility for parenting due to men's negligent attitude towards children, and that women sometimes have developed an overprotective attitude for guarding their children from violence and could have a dependent relationship with their children. In some cases, women had to leave their children with the perpetrator in order to stay away from violence. We, together with women, worked on this problem and devised a safety plan for transferring children to a safe environment. In the social work interviews, we focused on children's development, their relationship with their parents and peers, their skills and access to education, their problems in language acquisition and sleeping habits, and how much they normalize violent behavior. In these interviews we also aimed to plan women's empowerment regarding their children's needs and their access to the social and psychological support they demand for their children.

One of the reasons why women remain in a violent relationship stems from their conviction that divorce and growing up separately from their fathers will negatively affect children's development. We hear that women take steps to get out of the relationship or to get support for their children as they realize that their children also get harmed in time. Relatedly, we observe an increase in women's demand for psychological support to their children. We noted some points common to the narratives of the women who directly expressed such requests. Women ask for direct support for their children for reasons that can be listed as follows: Children's exposure to violence is usually the tipping point for women, they do not want their children to grow up witnessing violence, their children started to inflict violence on themselves and on their peers as they keep staying in a violent environment or they develop behaviors that gradually normalize violence, their children experience a decline in academic achievements, or women realize that developmental and emotional problems that their children experience stem from their experiences of violence.

This year too, we saw in our work with children that child protection mechanisms fail to protect children from violence. We observed that in cases where children directly applied, no investigation was opened or that even in high-risk situations such as child abduction, the investigation started too late, only when it is reported by others. Moreover, we noted that women who have sons above 12 continued to have difficulties because they are not accepted to public shelters. Children exposed to sexual violence face problems due to the lack of coordination between institutions in the judicial process or because the processes took a very long time. Although children give statements and necessary examinations are made in the Child Monitoring Centers that are established to protect children from secondary trauma, children repeatedly give statements during the court proceedings or children are exhausted because the court requests reports from different institutions disregarding CMC reports, causing the perpetuation of the effects of the traumatic event.

During our social and psychological work with children, we observed that children are affected by violence in different ways. Children who grow up in an environment of violence do not only witness the violence of their fathers, but they are also directly exposed to it. In the narratives of violence we heard from children, we learned that men who control and exert power over women also use the same power to abuse their children physically, psychologically, and sexually. For example, a child reported that his father did not allow his children to move or even change their facial expressions after he used violence, and when they did, he used violence again. We see that the use of such control and power over children's bodies and minds leads to problems such as social adaptation problems, anxiety, low self-esteem and self-confidence, sleep and nutrition problems, self-harm, and suicide attempts. Another remarkable issue in our work with children is that different types of violence can affect each child at different levels. For example, a child who was sexually abused by someone outside the family reported that they felt much more insecure and anxious because of domestic violence. Contrary to the popular belief, growing up in an insecure and violent environment where the perpetrator of abuse is usually someone who is closest to them can traumatize children as at least severely as sexual abuse.

We saw that how rapidly children, who are often characterized by vulnerability and weakness and who remain invisible in domestic violence situations, responded to our work, showing the importance of working with children on the effects of violence.

Our work with LBT+s

We share with every woman, who applies to the solidarity center because of the violence she is exposed to, that they never deserve the violence they experienced, that those who subjected them to violence committed crimes, and that they experienced all these because of gender inequality not for personal reasons. Besides their gender identity, women are also exposed to violence because of their sexual orientation, which is also rooted in patriarchy. LGBTI+s are exposed to multi-layered forms of violence because they do not conform to the heteronormative binary gender system. Women, girls and LGBTI+s are subjected to social exclusion, discrimination and marginalization by the society and are tried to be controlled and oppressed especially because of their gender identity and sexual orientation.

In our work in the solidarity center, we do not ask women's sexual orientation and gender identity, and in every application, we focus on listening to the information women want to share with us. We built solidarity with women who reached us in 2022 and shared their experiences of violence by identifying themselves as lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Therefore, our experience is limited to our observations and to the statements of women, with whom we establish solidarity, who identify themselves as LBT+ and share their

gender identity with us. While some of the LBT+s who contacted us in 2022 reached us in person, there were also those who reached us on other women's behalf.

Apart from an LB+ woman married to a man, all LBT+ applicants reached Mor Çatı because of the violence they are subjected to by their families. We established that they mostly could not/cannot share their gender identity and sexual orientation with their families because they knew that they would be exposed to violence if they came out to their families. We saw that in cases where their sexual orientation/gender identity is learned or guessed even without them coming out, families restrict their lives and threaten them with physical, psychological, economic and sexual violence, and in some applications, we saw that the applicants had already been exposed to the aforementioned forms of violence. They shared with us that they were exposed to forms of violence such as being locked in home, being denied their right to education, not meeting their financial needs, restrictions on women's social life, preventing them from working, confiscating their phones and other communication tools, and forcing them into marriage. We also observed how marriage, presented as a method of social acceptance, affects the lives and decisions of LBT+s and how they may need psychological support in this process. We learned from the statements of other people who reached us on behalf of underage LGBTI+ children living with their families and of young LGBTI+s living with their families that they made concessions on their life decisions in order to avoid violence yet they were nonetheless exposed to violence.

Trans women who contacted Mor Çatı told us that they often received death threats from their families, their hair was cut, and they were prevented from taking hormones. In addition, we witnessed that they had difficulty in finding a job; even if they found a job, they were often forced to quit their jobs by way of violence in the workplace; they were kicked out of their family house and were discriminated against when they wanted to rent an apartment; and they were deprived of economic opportunities too. For these reasons, they reached Mor Çatı for requesting shelter support.

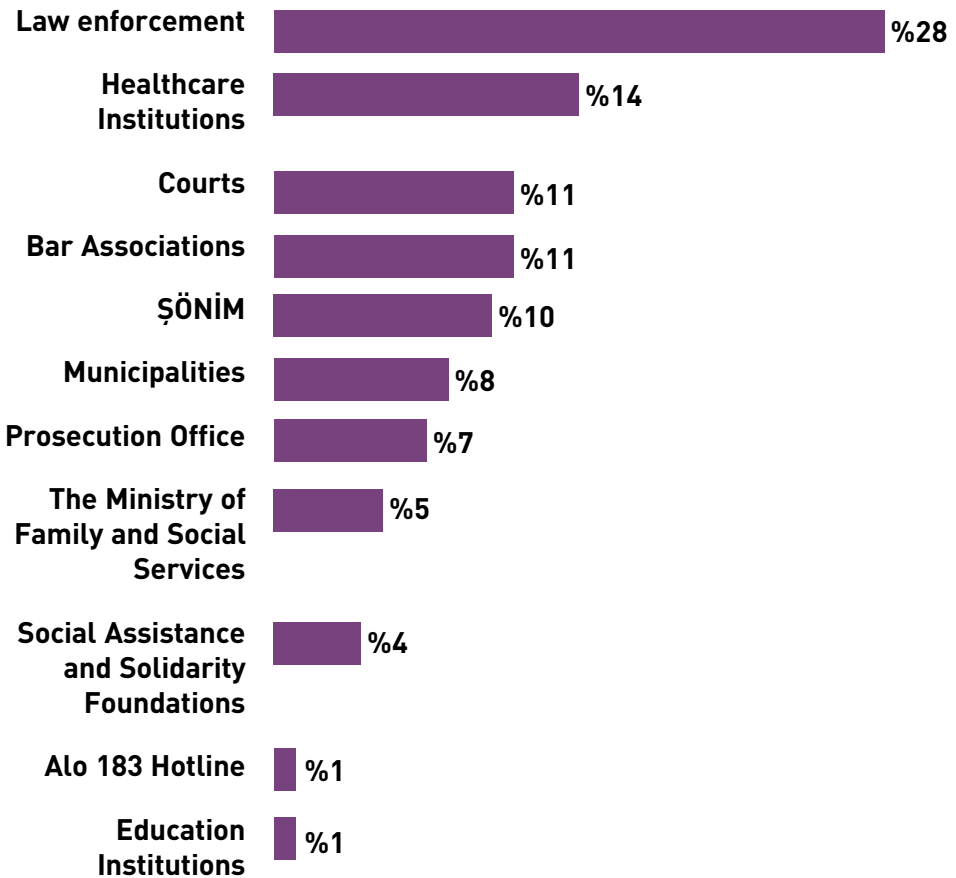
An LB+ woman expressed that after her husband learned about her sexual orientation, he abused her, threatened her to out her, claimed that she cheated on him with his female friends, and accused her of corrupting her children's morals. While the conjugal union continues or when a decision is made to terminate it, women's LB+ identity is represented as immoral and as a flaw in relations to the relevant institutions, which becomes another form of violence against women. Our observations show that when it comes to divorce and child custody, women face accusations of being immoral and faulty, and violations of rights of LBT+ women are widespread in institutions. As a result, we saw that LBT+s do not apply to institutions thinking that they will be exposed to violence when they need support, and that they may

actually be exposed to violence when they apply.

Among the women who contacted Mor Çatı, some of them applied to share that their LGBTI+ children were exposed to violence and received support from us. In such cases, we were able to work with women who called us for their LGBTI+ child, and we could work on discriminatory thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors towards their children.

Support Requested from Institutions Responsible for Preventing Violence against Women:

Women, in an effort to stay away from violence they are exposed to, apply to various institutions and demand various forms of supports. When we look at the institutions they have applied to, we see that the law enforcement was at the top of the list this year as well. This high rate can be explained not only with the fact that women apply to law enforcement for their life safety and to file complaints about violence but also with the fact that law enforcement is designated as the main mechanism for combating violence against women in Turkey.



Women's statements about the violence they are exposed to and their applications to the Alo 183 Social Support Hotline showed that women could not directly reach out to the line or, even when they did, they were given inadequate information without being heard, their needs were not listened in detail, or they were guided wrongly without any needs analysis done for them. This information shows that Alo 183 fails to urgently respond to women's needs or take swift action by taking initiative. Especially when women call Alo 183 for information on shelters, they encounter an approach that does not take into account whether her safety is at risk in acute situations and that is limited to telling women to "go to the police station".

We see that ŞÖNİM, which was established to provide social, economic, legal, and psychological support to women who have been subjected to violence and to ensure inter-institutional coordination, does not fulfill this duty and since the law enforcement is designated as the only institution in the fight against violence, many women do not know about ŞÖNİM. The responsibility of providing social, legal, and psychological support as defined in ŞÖNİM regulations rather remains on paper and women are left without such supports. Women should also be able to access to ŞÖNİM for purposes such as talking about the difficulties they experience, expressing their feelings and needs in the face of these difficulties, discussing the support mechanisms they can apply to or how they can use the resources they generate, and discussing the difficulties and obstacles they face in their struggle to avoid violence. When women call ŞÖNİM after we give them the aforementioned information about ŞÖNİMs at Mor Çatı, they often give us feedback saying, "They did not listen, they did not care like you did". However, a system that provides support to women as stated in its regulations could contribute to women's capacity to create alternatives to avoid violence, to get information about their social and legal rights, and to get more empowered without needing to go to a shelter.

Similar to previous years, this year we saw that women have difficulties in enjoying their rights, and that the existing legal regulations are either not implemented at all or implemented with severe shortcomings. The fact that the law enforcement is the institution that women apply most because of violence leads to implementation problems frequently.

Women expressed that they had problems such as waiting for a long time in the police station, being forced to make peace or reconcile with the perpetrator, not being taken seriously when they file a complaint, or not being officially recorded when they report violence. On top of all this, Law no. 6284 gives the law enforcement the authority to make decisions in emergency situations; however, the police tell women to go to the domestic violence bureaus and do not take any responsibility in directing them, causing challenges and exhaustion in women after the experience of violence. Arbitrary and inattentive approach of law enforcement officers, who are

incumbent with enforcing the law, pose further challenge to women while accessing their rights.

We observe that the law enforcement increasingly adopts a practice through which women, who made applications about violence, are approached with suspicion instead of taking woman's statement as essential. Women stated that when they apply to the police station immediately after the incident of violence, the police try to convince them to reconcile with their husbands, fathers, brothers, that is, with the perpetrator. In the applications made immediately after the violence, women report that the police try to discourage them from filing a complaint by saying, "Are you sure, look, you may regret after a while". Law enforcement officers act with the perception that women apply with the intention of "punishing" the person about whom they file a complaint. Although it is women's purpose/need/right to report violence they have been exposed to and to demand action against this crime, they encounter comments by the law enforcement such as "are you sure, this file won't progress. Nothing will come out in the end, it's not worth the effort" making women reach to a point of withdrawing their complaints. Moreover, we heard that when a woman repeatedly and regularly applies to law enforcement about the violence she has been systematically subjected to, she is not taken seriously and faces discourses such as "you always come with the same issue, you'll anyways make peace with him and withdraw your complaint tomorrow", in this way, what she goes through is not taken into account and becomes trivialized. However, the main duty of the law enforcement in both singular incidents and recurring situations is to play a preventive role and to take the responsibility so that women do not experience a risk to their life or safety again.

We also observed that women faced numerous bad practices in their applications to judicial organs. First of all, it was a bad practice common to all mechanisms that women were neither given enough time and attention nor properly listened. There are other bad practices that negatively affect women's motivation to express violence and ask for support, among them are giving incomplete and incorrect information, giving biased information about their rights, using deterrent words and behaviors, and exposing women to comments that their application will not yield any meaningful results and that it is a "waste of time".

We noted that the periods that restraining orders cover get shorter and shorter and that there is not standardized practice in the applications for the extension of restraining orders. While some courts approved women's requests for the extension of restraining order before the expiration date, some courts rejected women's applications claiming that the order cannot be renewed before the deadline, and that they had to re-apply after it was expired. These differences in practice, which vary from city to city and from court to court in the same city, also caused women to lose their

rights. Women's struggle to stay away from violence becomes all the more challenging due to factors such as failure to take protective-preventive measures within the scope of Law no. 6284 or taking such measures for short periods, not taking necessary measures for their implementation, and the lack of coordination among institutions.

The most frequently encountered problems that women come across in judicial processes are as follows: the investigation and prosecution process takes too long, the proceeding dates are scheduled at later dates, the judicial authorities tend to make decisions based on concrete and singular events without paying heed to women's needs in a holistic manner, the perpetrator is left unpunished, and the prevalence of male-dominated and judgmental discourses that hold women responsible for the violence they are subjected to in their relationship.

We encountered various examples where the confidentiality, temporary custody, and temporary alimony decisions taken by the Family Courts pursuant to Law no. 6284 are given to a lessening degree in practice or where these requests are immediately rejected. This decline had a direct impact on women and children in the process of moving away from violence. Moreover, these measures are not taken for children, enabling the perpetrator of violence to reach women by obtaining information about children. Especially migrant women are unable to obtain a temporary custody or they can obtain it too late, causing a setback to women's plans to return to their countries with their children to stay away from violence.

Social Support and Assistance

With the effect of the ongoing economic crisis, women often apply for economic support. In many interviews, women expressed that they needed support as well as economic support from their social networks in the process of avoiding violence. In particular, we observed that women with children need not only physically moving away from violence, but also integrated support that will facilitate their plans for their children. At this point, women had previously applied to these institutions for common purposes such as looking for a job, enrolling in vocational courses, accessing daycare support, and accessing psychosocial support for themselves or their children.

Our social work with women at Mor Çatı also includes referring women to various institutions for the support they need. After these referrals, we heard back about women's encounters with institutions while endeavoring to reach socioeconomic support and especially about the factors that make it difficult for women to participate in work life. There are various factors that make it difficult for women to work in a job that generates regular income such as the lack of education, professional skills and competence due to gender inequality and gender division of labor imposed on us; having less work

experience due to discrimination in the labor market; being prevented from working and getting education by the family; expectations and pressures to not work and instead take care responsibilities.

In addition to these factors, current economic conditions and the effects of the economic crisis led women to find day labor and irregular jobs or piecework at home. Generally, women, who have serious childcare expenses, have to spend a large part of their income for them. Childcare is a service that should be provided by the public, the lack of a regular public system for the care and education of children in Turkey reinforces the attitude that women are responsible for childcare. Many women we built solidarity with stated that when they can access public services through institutions such as municipality, district governorship, or ministry, it became easier for them to participate in the working life and make plans accordingly.

A system where women are not considered “responsible” for not only childcare but also the care of the elderly, the people with disabilities, and the sick, where there is a state planning for the provision of care services, where access to daycare in the neighborhoods and workplaces is facilitated, and where free and quality daycare centers provide services in line with women’s working hours is a basic requirement for women to stay away from violence. We see from the experiences of women these supports can dramatically change women’s lives.

Effects of Violence on Health and Approaches of Healthcare Professionals

Women frequently apply to healthcare institutions regarding the violence they are exposed to. Their applications is mainly for accessing mental health support, requesting assault report after the event of acute violence, or accessing treatment for the physical or psychosomatic effects of systematic violence. We figured that it is not possible for women to receive long-term psychiatric support or psychotherapy, especially in public hospitals. Due to the increasingly shortening examination times in public hospitals, women cannot find enough time to explain what they go through, on top of that the lack of awareness of doctors and other healthcare workers about violence against women hinders the possibility of comprehending that women’s health problems may be related to violence. For instance, women cannot see the same doctor regularly—a problem making it difficult to evaluate how the psychosomatic conditions they experience might be related to violence. Furthermore, the absence of careful support by healthcare workers to women who indicated their experience of violence leads to obstacles to receiving assault report which covers all concrete findings about the violence or to obtaining information about where to apply for support in cases of a security risk.

Among the most common effects of systematic violence on women are chronic pain, intensive stress and anxiety in daily life, loss of self-confidence, hesitation while contacting people and seeking support. On the other hand, in some cases doctors perform examinations by considering the psychological effects as well as physical findings when women access hospitals with acute conditions after physical and sexual violence and apply for an assault report or forensics report, or they work in coordination with the social service units of hospitals and make a holistic assessment in a way to allow women to access the support they need. These practices contribute both to women's access to healthcare and to preventing rights violations during legal procedures.

Some of the bad practices women face in institutions are as follows:

- A male staff who answered a woman's call to ŞÖNİM said to her "it will be difficult to pick you up, you better spend the night at the bus station" and did not give her information that she could access the law enforcement in order to go to the shelter,
- In more than one instance, women felt compelled to leave the shelter after a short while and before even having an in-depth interview with a social worker because they faced challenging conditions such as limited hours allocated to eating, smoking, phone calls, and garden use and the fact that they had to share the room with a lot of people.
- When a young woman left the institutional care after turning 18 and applied for the support from social service center, social center not only disregarded her decisions and wishes but also they called and gave information about her location without her consent, she was also told, "go back to your mother, the big city consumes you, you will have difficulties".
- Women who called the police using the KADES application told many times that the police came too late. A woman's statement regarding her experience with the police who came after the KADES call showed that they tried to discourage her from application saying, "are you sure? Such arguments are normal in a marriage" and did not take any action.
- We saw examples where the law enforcement suggested that women allow the perpetrators, for whom the restraining order had been issued, in the house for a short time so that they could "get their belongings" even though the restraining order was still in place. However, when

men entered the house with this excuse, they damaged things in the house, tried to cut off gas, electricity, or water, and took things such as computers, piggy bank, savings, etc. with them. In turn, women reported this to the police, and they were responded with words such as “we can’t do anything, all we can do is take her statement, it’s his home to in the end”.

- When a woman who had issued a restraining order reported the violation to the police, she was referred to the prosecutor’s office; when she contacted the prosecutor’s office, she was referred back to the police. This is an example faced by more than one woman, and although it is the shared responsibility of the institutions to take action in cases of a violation of restraining orders, this is not met in practice.
- A woman who had previously issued a restraining order applied for another restraining order because she was threatened again, her request was rejected by the court on the grounds that “he hasn’t done anything for the last two years, so I am convinced that he will not do anything”. However, in these said two years, the woman had applied to the police station more than once regarding the violation of the order yet the police had not taken any action.
- When a woman who applied to the gendarmerie station asked, “can I go to the shelter”, the commander replied her saying, “If you go to the shelter, you won’t be able to leave. Think twice.” She then thought, “If I can’t reach the state [institutions] I can’t complain, for if I complain how can I stay with that man?” and felt compelled to return to her home.
- In many cases, when women applied to the law enforcement, they heard statements such as “make peace with him”, “get your assault report with your own means”, “we cannot take any action unless there is physical violence”, “we cannot take action if he is not your husband or ex-husband, he must be a member of the family”.
- When a woman who applied to file a complaint about people who attacked her and her shop, she asked for a lawyer before giving her statement. The police acted to discourage her and gave her incomplete and incorrect information saying, “you cannot ask for a lawyer, you cannot ask for temporary protection measure”.
- When a woman who checked in to a hospital for first aid after the violence she was exposed to, a police officer approached her to persuade her to give up on filing a complaint saying, “the man also attempted suicide, he is in the hospital and his condition is critical”. The same

police officer turned out to be an acquaintance of the perpetrator and was there without any authorization to process the complaint.

- A woman, who reached the police on a Wednesday to report the sexual assault that had happened on the previous Sunday, was told that “it’s too late now” and that it was not necessary to take her to the hospital. The woman had to go to the hospital herself to get an assault report.
- In more than once cases, when women went to the emergency room for suicide attempts, they were only given physical treatment and they were not interviewed or followed up for psychological support by the hospital’s psychiatry service or the social service unit, if any.
- When a woman who applied to the police after sexual violence, the police did not accompany her to the hospital for the assault report. After the woman went to the hospital using her own means, the police called her asking “Are you not done yet? Are you not coming to give a statement?” After she gave her statement, the police, planning to capture the perpetrator, told her, “You tell him the meeting place, he will come there, and we’ll arrest him there”. This example shows us that the woman again was held responsible both for her urgent needs and for the actions to be taken without paying heed to the woman’s psychological conditions.
- When a woman applied to a social service center for daycare support, the center did not collect her information and documents including contact info. Because of this incomplete and inattentive approach, her daycare request was only concluded after months.

Good Practices that were told by women were as follows:

- When a woman who left her home applied to the district municipality was told that her need for shelter could not be met immediately and, given that she did not have any place to stay, she was given a short-term accommodation support by the municipality to respond to her emergency condition.
- When a perpetrator, for whom a 15-day restraining order was issued due to violent behavior, violated the order saying, “What could happen? This is my house anyways”, the police fined him 2000 Liras.

- When a woman went to see a psychiatrist because of what she was going through, the psychiatrist told her “what he has been doing is violence, you can contact Mor Çati”. She then reached out to us and told that it was a comforting step that she was not held responsible for what she was experiencing at home.
- When a woman had an interview the police to plan how she would leave home, she was told her that she could get her belongings when the perpetrator was not at home and that she could ask support from the police for it. She was also informed that in any case she could go to the police station a day before leaving home and ask for law enforcement support for 2-3 hours.
- Some women receiving psychiatric support from hospitals were able to see their doctors for longer than the designated appointment time and were able to get regular follow-up appointments or reports, which could be used in the courts, from their doctors.
- Women who reached women’s cultural centers in some districts were given basic information about shelters and violence against women, and women could reach us through these channels.
- When it was figured that a woman staying in the shelter was at risk, she was provided with a vehicle and transferred to another city without any delay.
- A woman, who applied to a metropolitan municipality for financial support for herself and for her children, was contacted by the district municipality and provided support. At the same time, she was informed that her case was forwarded to the district governor’s office and that thanks to an inter-institutional coordination, she could be provided support without having to each institution separately.
- A woman who had issued a restraining order was regularly invited to the gendarmerie station or called in order to follow up with her whether there has been any violation.
- After a woman who was locked up by her husband called the police, the police came to her home with a locksmith and took out the women and her children. When it was learned that the woman was planning to go to a shelter in another city, the law enforcement supported her to change city with a police vehicle so that her access to the shelter with her children could be facilitated.

- A woman who got an assault report at the hospital was called by the social services unit of the hospital and her condition was followed up.
- Following a woman's application to the prosecutor's office, the prosecutor decided to issue both confidentiality order and electronic bracelets for the perpetrator for one year.
- A woman, who applied to uphold Law no. 6284, was assigned a lawyer. The same lawyer was again assigned to her in the divorce process.
- The experience of violence of a woman, who was exposed to violence by her family at the age of 15 and is adult now, was noticed by her teachers at school and teachers reported on her behalf. After that, she could stay under protection in institutional care until she was 18.
- When a woman, while applying to receive a document from mukhtar's office for legal aid, shared her experience of violence, a plan was devised with the guidance of the mukhtar to make sure that watchmen would patrol more frequently in the street she lived.
- When a woman, who had to leave the shelter and change city for security reasons and had to leave with her children using her own means, arrived in a metropolitan city, she was given a 10-day accommodation by the city police.
- A woman who applied to the emergency room of a private hospital was informed that her complications pointed a forced sexual intercourse, that is a post-rape condition. A report documenting the medical findings was given to her and she was told that although she might have difficulties in reporting it now, she might want to initiate a judicial procedure.

The most common theme in women's narratives regarding their encounters with other institutions was "being listened to". We realized that women primarily expect to be given the opportunity to express themselves while applying to institutions for emergency aid, economic, legal, or psychological support, and various forms of support for their children. Even if the support they demanded could not be provided, sharing basic information with them and acknowledging the violence they experienced had a very soothing effect on women. We are aware that both this expectation and most of the examples we categorize under good practices are in fact basic services that institutions should offer. We saw that when women encounter with this approach while accessing institutions, other applications that they make in order to access other forms of support become easier, and it positively affects their strength to follow up on applications. This, in turn, plays a transformative role in the process of getting away from violence over time.

MOR ÇATI WOMEN'S SHELTER

We know from the experiences of women who applied to Mor Çatı that the root-cause of violence is fundamentally the desire for power and control. Men use violence to pressure women, to keep them under control, to vent their anger over them, or to punish them. Women's body, labor, and sexually are controlled through physical, psychological, economic, sexual, and digital violence, and stalking.

Women beginning to tell their stories becomes an important step in the process of writing new stories about liberation/independence and a life free from violence. In this sense, a lot of women crossed path with Mor Çatı in 2022. Women contacted us and shared their experiences to talk about the violence they were exposed to and to get information about methods and alternatives to deal with violence. As women continued to share their experiences, they were suggested many alternatives for avoiding violence by paying attention to the needs and wishes of each woman who applied. One of these alternatives is shelters, which provide women and children exposed to violence with a place where they can stay in safety and confidentiality, access the support they need, and plan for a life free from male violence.

Each woman has her own way of expressing their strength and resilience in the face of violence. One way to animate this power is through our work in the shelter, a space where women can come together and draw strength from each other's experiences. In this section of the report, we will present what kind of changes occurred in the lives of women who received shelter support from Mor Çatı and how the solidarity we built affected the ways in which women and children get away from violence, look at the effects of violence, and recognize their strength.

In 2022, shelter support was given to a total of 66 people, including 9 women and 4 children who had been receiving support since 2021, as well as 27 women and 26 children who were accepted in shelters in 2022. While admitting in shelter and providing necessary support, Mor Çatı does not discriminate any one on the basis of age, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, or legal status. The ages of the women who came to the shelter in 2022 ranged from 18 to 51, while that of their children ranged from 0 to 17 years old. 7 women were primary school graduates, 10 were secondary school graduates, 2 were university dropouts, 13 were high school graduates, and 5 were university graduates.

Based on the principle that everyone is a child until the age of 18, we accept all boys between the ages of 0-18 who come to the shelter with their mothers. In the Mor Çatı shelter, we conduct regular one-on-one interviews and organize age-appropriate group activities with children and adolescents. In these studies, we organize thematic sessions where we discuss girls and

boys about a non-violent life, gender roles, the bodily boundaries, and we create spaces where they can socialize.

There is no standard length of stay for women who come to the Mor Çatı shelter, so each woman's duration of stay in the shelter varies in line with her resources, conditions, and goals. On the other hand, we observed that due to the economic crisis, women had difficulties in planning the process of establishing a life for themselves, and that they had difficulties in setting up a house in the planned time frame.

The reasons why women applied to the Mor Çatı shelter and the types of violence they have been subjected to

Below are women's statements as to why they applied to the Mor Çatı shelter:

- 28 women were exposed to physical, psychological and economic violence by their husbands during their marriages, 7 of them suffered injuries as a result of violence,
- 8 women were exposed to sexual violence by their husbands during their marriage,
- 7 women applied to the shelter because of the physical and psychological violence they were subjected to by their father and/or brothers in their families,
- 8 women were forced into marriage by their families at a young age and then exposed to psychological and physical violence by their husbands,
- 11 women were isolated at home for many years by their husbands and families-in-law since the day one of their marriage and could not go out alone,
- 1 woman left home due to being deprived of her right to education and being exposed to physical violence by her brothers,
- 5 women were compelled to choose marriage to escape the violence they experienced in their families; however, they were subjected to psychological, physical, economic, and sexual violence by their husbands throughout their marriage,
- 1 woman was systematically subjected to sexual violence by her partner, and when she wanted to break up with him, she was subjected to stalking and her ex-partner threatened her to kill both her and her family,
- 12 women experienced violence in their families since their childhood and were subjected to emotional and physical neglect and abuse,

- 3 women, 2 of whom are immigrants, were subjected to psychological, economic, and physical violence by their husbands, and when they wanted to leave the house, their husbands forbade them to leave the country and isolated them,
- 1 women was forced by her family to get engaged with a relative who was in prison when she was a child and was forced to marry him after she reached lawful age.
- 1 woman was forced by her husband to seek psychiatric support with the claim that she had psychological problems. Later her husband used this to get custody of the baby.
- 6 women were deprived of their right to education by their families either because they were unenrolled from school or were forced to get married at an early age.

As in previous years, we understood as a result of in-depth interviews with women when they came to the shelter that although many women were admitted to the shelter for the reasons listed above, they were also exposed to various forms of violence from other people. For instance, 3 women who began staying in the shelter in 2022 had been sexually abused in their childhood; 27 women were exposed to physical, psychological, and economic violence by their family or relatives or by their husband's family or relatives.

WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES

In this section of the report, we will focus on the experiences of women and children who stayed in the shelter in 2021 and whose experiences of violence we had touched upon above. The social work we carried out with the women and their children in the shelter, regular one-to-one interviews, and group work within this scope allow us to obtain detailed information about the other types of violence they have been subjected to, besides the experience of violence which was the reason for applying to Mor Çatı.

In the interviews, we saw that men sought ways to legitimize violence by blaming women or normalizing violence. Two women stated that their husbands justified violence by saying "this is nothing compared to what people are going through", another woman told that her husband blamed her as the reason for the sexual violence he committed against her. 3 women shared that their husbands used alcohol and drugs at home and when the children were at home. We observed that men sometimes use being under the influence of alcohol or drug as a justification of violence. Another woman mentioned that she heard statements that she deserved violence. In our interviews with women, we saw that sharing information and experiences pointing out that being exposed to violence is not women's fault and it stems from the patriarchal system and that it's men's active

choosing to use violence serves a supportive role in the process of women's empowerment and coping with the effects of violence.

A woman shared with us that her husband, who has higher education and works in important positions abroad, seems on the outside to be a very sympathetic person fully defending women's rights, whereas the same man isolated her and her daughters at home, used both psychological and physical violence and did not allow her to work. **These examples show once again that the profile of perpetrators does not come from a single socioeconomic background and that violence is an intentional and chosen behavior.**

Physical Violence

In interviews with women who received shelter support at Mor Çatı in 2022, we saw that physical violence had serious and persistent physical and mental effects on women. In addition to battering, men caused harm to women with methods such as hair pulling, slapping and punching, dragging them by their hair, hitting their bodies with objects, throwing objects at them, strangling or attempting to strangle women, walking over them, pulling a knife at them, walking at them with a chopping knife, stabbing, putting a knife on their tongue, threatening to kill them by hanging them from the balcony, squeezing their arms, hitting them in the face, abducting them, denying them access to psychological and psychiatric support, cutting at their legs, and isolating them. In addition, 11 women shared that they experienced physical violence in their family when they were children.

One woman stated that she almost lost her sight due to the systematic physical violence by her husband and that her body had fractures that caused chronic pain. Another woman shared that her husband used violence by targeting her eye, which required professional treatment in the hospital. One woman stated that after her trans identity was learned by her family, her father used physical violence for 6 hours and choked her, causing shortness of breath. One woman stated that her partner pushed her into the car, and that he drove like insane and threatened to kill her in an accident.

Women state that the perpetrators often threaten them with death or harm to their families, that sometimes this threat is actualized with the use of tools such as guns, knives, or sticks. And especially when women express their will to leave, want to take the children with her, or get a divorce, these threats surge. A woman told that while she was planning to leave, her husband threatened her by saying, "If it weren't for the children, I would have killed you long ago."

We learned that physical violence against women continued during pregnancy; women were undernourished during pregnancy, they were hindered from going to regular checks required for maternal and infant health, they had to work in difficult physical conditions, and they were left alone during the labor.

1 woman stated that her husband and her family restricted her movements during her pregnancy due to the risk of miscarriage, she was not allowed to go out of the house. 2 women shared that they were kicked in the belly during pregnancy by the husbands. 1 woman told that her husband threatened her with a knife, hit her with a belt, wanted to cut at her tongue and leg while she was pregnant. Women expressed that they were left alone during childbirth and that they had to take care of the baby alone during postpartum period. One woman, who had to give birth by C-section, stated that because she was left without support, the stitch scars got infected and she received treatment for 40 days. Being left without support after giving birth and being prevented from going to regular health checks cause women to experience chronic women's health problems.

One young woman, who was subjected to violence by her family, told that she was deprived of her right to education at an early age and was forced to work. One woman stated that although she got into university, she could not enroll because her family prevented her from enrolling and she and her sister were exposed to physical violence when it was realized that she was nonetheless preparing for the exam.

Women usually want the violence to end and not their relationship. When they decide to end the relationship and take steps, they may face many obstacles. Women told about the worsening cycle of violence when they returned home for economic, personal, or social reasons and how their return became a reason for violence. Especially women who return home after applying to law enforcement or shelter are subjected to forms of psychological violence such as insults, slander, accusations, as well as severe forms of beating. Women who follow the path of getting support from their families to avoid violence can also experience violence when they return to family house. 1 woman stated that when she left the shelter and returned home, she was locked in a room alone, she was prevented from seeing her young children, she was exposed to psychological and physical violence. Another woman reported that she experienced psychological, economic and physical violence when she got away from her husband's violence and returned to her family house. One woman also expressed the psychological violence she experienced when she went to her family house with the words "I became a burden to my family".

Shelters are institutions where women can talk about their experiences of violence, work on its impacts, get information about their rights and social support mechanisms, get guidance on the relevant institutions, and receive legal and psychological support. When women are provided with social work support that favors women and that focuses on women's strengths, they can become empowered and distance themselves from violence.

In the interviews, women told us that when they applied to institutions that should support them after the violence, they were exposed to various forms of ill-treatment and faced difficulties in accessing the support they needed. 7 women, although they had previously benefited from shelter support, had to return to the violent environment because during their stay in the shelter they could not access the legal, social and psychological support they needed due to the lack of qualified social work. One woman shared that she had to return to an environment of violence because her husband located the shelter she was staying in, and when she returned, her husband continued his violent behavior more and more. In 2022, when the location of a woman receiving shelter support from Mor Çatı was disclosed, her shelter support was terminated and she was referred to another shelter. In the interviews that followed, we learned that the woman had many difficulties due to the conditions of the shelter she stayed in, the lack of one-to-one work, and the difficulty of reaching a social worker.

Sexual Violence and Marital Rape

Many women who received shelter support from Mor Çatı in 2022 were exposed to forms of sexual violence such as forced sexual intercourse with the threat of rape or violence against children, forced anal intercourse, forcing women to get pregnant by not using any contraceptives, forced sexual intercourse, taking and sharing women's intimate photos without her consent, threatening her in cases of rejection, forcing women for group sex, preventing women from terminating unwanted pregnancy, refusing to have sex, and humiliating women's body. One woman stated that her husband degrading her body by saying, "You look like anything but a woman."

According to women's statements, 8 women were forced into sexual intercourse by their partners/husbands. 1 woman was punched in the face by her husband when she refused to have sex with him. 1 woman stated that her husband hit her with a belt and then raped her. 1 woman expressed her experience of physical violence during sexual intercourse, saying "he was treating me like an animal during sexual intercourse".

4 women got pregnant after getting raped by their husbands, 3 women stated that their husbands did not allow them to use birth control methods. 1 woman told us that she was exposed to sexual violence by her husband while her small child was sleeping next to her. One woman told that her partner forced her into sexual intercourse by threatening to tell her family about their relationship, and when she resisted and wanted to end the relationship, he stalked her and threatened her and her family.

3 women shared that they also experienced sexual abuse in childhood. We observed that women who had been exposed to sexual abuse in their childhood felt ready to share this experience mostly in the follow-up interviews instead of the first interview. This highlights the importance of

regular meetings in the shelter, which enable a holistic understanding of women's needs and building solidarity.

Eight women shared that they were forcibly married or forced into marriage as a child or at an early age by their families. In some cases where women were forced to get engaged by their families at an early age, they had to wait until they came of legal age for official marriage. 1 woman shared that her age was changed to an older age on the identity card so that she could be married, and 1 woman was forced into marriage in exchange for a dowry.

In our in-depth interviews, we saw that women had sexual intercourse as if they perform a duty even though they did not want to, and some women told us that other women in their family or family-in-law sometimes tried to persuade her to fulfill this duty. One woman, who was forced into marriage at an early age, stated that she had no knowledge or experience of sexuality at the age of marriage, and that she thought that only men enjoyed sexual intercourse. She told that she was very surprised when she learned that women can also have orgasm in her later years and she did not believe this information.

Psychological and Digital Violence

We saw that men used psychological violence, as another type of violence, to break women's self-confidence, to make women feel scared and helpless, and to control them. All of the women who received shelter support from Mor Çatı in 2022 stated that they had been subjected to psychological violence from their husbands, partners or relatives (father, older brother, etc.).

The experiences of women showed that men commit psychological and digital violence in various forms such as shouting, insulting and slandering women, swearing, accusation of sex work, discrimination, skepticism, stalking despite the injunction orders, kidnapping her child, not sending her child to school, disrupting the child's relations with their teachers and not allowing the woman to communicate with the teachers, seizing her phone, kicking them out of home, making women feel as if she as a mental problem, accusing her of being a bad mother, pressuring her, taking her photos or videos without consent and broadcasting them, confiscating the woman's e-mail and e-government passwords, and controlling her phone.

Women expressed that men humiliated especially their bodies and sexuality with sexist swearwords and insults. Women frequently mentioned in their narratives that they were subjected to insults, teasing, humiliation and belittlement for being a bad mother and a bad wife when they did not conform gender division of labor or did not act as men wanted.

We noted that men chose methods such as cheating on women for many years, hiding the religious marriage with another woman, or punishing women

by talking about their affairs. On the other hand, men used psychological violence and pressured women, claiming that they were cheating on them. One woman stated that after she got married, she learned that her husband had previously been married with a religious marriage, that he had children from this marriage and that he had a separate house. Another woman told that her husband stabbed a man who he suspected of having an affair with her.

2 women shared that their husbands pressured them by controlling every step they took in the house. One woman shared that her husband, who thought that she was talking to her ex-husband, did not allow her to close the door even in the toilet, that he was constantly monitoring whether her ex-husband was online on WhatsApp, and that he accused her of talking to her ex-husband when they were both coincidentally online at the same time. Another woman said that her husband installed cameras in the house and questioned her when she spent a long time in the bathroom. One woman stated that her husband criticized every move she made and was constantly recording her on a video and threatening her to use it in the court.

In addition, women often stated that when they wanted to break up with them, men threatened women with harming them, their families, and their children. On top of all this, perpetrators used methods to punish women or to isolate them from her social circles such as confining women to their rooms, preventing them from going out by keeping a hold on the house keys, confiscating women's communication tools, confiscating/damaging women's ID cards and passports, and remotely controlling or blocking women's internet access.

Young women who applied to our shelter due to the violence they experienced in their families were also frequently subjected to psychological violence by their fathers and brothers. We learned that young women are exposed to forms of psychological violence such as forcing them into marriage, seizing their incomes/savings women earned by working, depriving them of their education, forcing them to cover their head, threatening them with physical violence and death, insulting them, isolating them because of their gender identity, locking them up, and confiscating their phone. One woman, who was deprived of her right to education and forced to work at an early age, shared that she experienced physical, psychological, and economic violence when her family learned about her partner. They learned about it because her messages were constantly checked by her father. One woman told that she was not allowed to reach anyone that could support her for a month because her phone, identity and savings were taken from her. She said that she was locked in her room, could only leave her room for food and toilet, and was not allowed to talk even with her siblings.

When women who experience violence in their marriages want to get away from the violent environment, they are not supported by their families

and experience severe psychological violence. One woman, who asked for support from her family in the process of making a plan to avoid violence, stated that she was told to come home without having her children with her. Another woman stated that her family did not accept her back in the family home because she married to someone they did not approve of.

One woman said that her older brother threatened her by saying “only your dead body will leave that house” while another woman said that her family made her make peace with her husband. This approach of families causes women to feel unsupported while living in a violent environment.

Another type of violence mentioned by many women was digital violence. Women expressed that their social media accounts are constantly monitored by their partners or husbands and they are banned from using social media; men constantly check their e-mail accounts and exchange correspondence on their behalf; they learn the passwords women use for e-government, e-nabız (online personal healthcare website), and online banking; and men threaten them with messages or take away their phones for punishment especially when women want to end the relationship.

One foreign woman stated that her husband could remotely control her internet access, prevented her from using a smart phone, prevented her from leaving the house when he is not at home, and isolated her by taking away her communication tools. Her husband always blocked the woman’s efforts to return to her country, prevented her from meeting new people, integrating into culture and learning a language during her stay in Turkey, so she could not get out of violence for many years. Another foreign national woman spoke about the discrimination she was subjected to by her husband and family-in-law. She shared that because she is a foreigner, she and her son were often subjected to degrading, sexist and racist insults.

A migrant woman told that after she moved to the shelter, her family continued to pressure her. She was called by the police and told that she had to return home immediately and that she had to talk to the person who was allegedly a police officer via a number they sent, otherwise she would be deported or get penalty.

When women decide to get away from violence and start taking steps, they face many different risks. Due to these risks, separation can be the most dangerous period of the relationship for women and children. In 2022, we saw that men inflict violence on women in many ways when they were in the process of divorce/separation. We observed that men expose women and children to psychological and economic violence, especially regarding the custody of children. Men, who took responsibility neither for childcare nor their emotional and physical needs throughout their marriage, insistently want the custody of their children in order to intimidate women, put pressure

on them, and maintain a controlling relationship. This leads to a contested divorce process which takes a very long time. It was seen that women were psychologically worn out during these processes. Women see prolonged divorce cases as an obstacle to becoming independent and establishing a life free from violence. A woman stated that her sense of justice was injured due to the prolongation of the divorce case. She said, “what they call justice is only on paper, there are women’s rights only on TV”.

The women shared that even when they stayed in the shelters, they still had to constantly change places or cities due to the perpetrators’ stalking. One woman shared that her husband stalked her in the city where she was staying and because she did not feel safe, she changed cities and applied for shelter. Another woman who was subjected to violence by her husband also faced stalking through digital violence after she came to the shelter.

Social Isolation

This year too men systematically isolated women by preventing them and their children from leaving the house and communicating with other people under the pretext of jealousy. In this sense, 11 women shared that they were severely socially isolated by their families, husbands, or partners. They were exposed to social isolation in the form of house arrest, confiscation of their phones, not being allowed to go out alone, weakening their relationship with their neighbors and relatives, and isolating them.

One woman shared that she was banned from leaving the house even for shopping, and that her husband controlled how open the curtains were inside the house. One woman mentioned that her husband disrupted relations with her neighbors, with the aim of trying to isolate her and leaving her without support. Another woman with a similar experience mentioned that she was too afraid to do anything alone even after the social isolation was lifted.

One transgender woman, who suffered physical, psychological and economic violence from her family because of her gender identity, shared the discriminatory practices she was exposed to while she was in institutional care in her childhood. She told that although she had issued a restraining order in order to get away from her violent family, the police wanted her to return to her family, saying, “You are both homosexual and foreigner”. She stayed in many different institutions in Turkey and faced similar discriminatory practices and discourses in every institution she stayed. For example, even though the official quarantine period was 15 days under pandemic conditions, she was kept in quarantine for a month. She was constantly told that no one wanted her, and he was sent to institutions in different cities, saying “You are not normal, you cannot stay here”. In the institutions she was forbidden to talk to other children. She stayed alone in the dormitory in a block separate from other children, was prevented from participating social activities and she could not continue her high school

education because she was not allowed to go to school in his last institution. We learned that no social work was carried out for her so that she could establish an independent life and get away from the violent environment during the process of leaving the institution when she came of age. We observed that when trans women experience violence, it is not possible to stay in shelters affiliated with the state, and preventive and protective measures are not implemented.

Economic Violence

As in previous years, in 2022, we encountered many examples where men restricted women's freedom to generate and use economic resources. 21 women reported that the perpetrator men prevented them working, expected them to cover household expenses, food expenses and children's needs with very little money, confiscated their salary if they had a job, prevented them from saving money, confiscated their savings if they had any, took no responsibility for the needs of their children, confiscated their bank cards, and forced them to take out loans.

Women told that they were impoverished to the point of starvation, and that they had to come to the shelter because there was nothing to eat at home. One woman reported that although her husband had sufficient earnings, he deliberately did not spend it on household needs. The same woman told us that when they travelled to a different city prior to her admission to the shelter, she and her children were hungry as there was no bread at home. She tried to bake bread with the ingredients at home and tried to meet the children's needs.

Another woman reported that her husband restricted the food consumption of her child she had from her previous marriage, saying "This child eats too much, you are now two mouths to feed". He subjected her to economic and psychological violence saying "You will sit at home and eat whatever I bring to you" or other similar things.

Similar to previous years, women frequently reported that their savings and bank cards were confiscated by their violent husbands and fathers. One woman mentioned that her husband confiscated her bank cards and forced her to take out a loan, while another woman mentioned that her father confiscated her savings that she earned by working.

In addition, most of the women stated that after committing violence, men had kicked them out of the house or threatened to kick them out. One woman shared that she and her daughter set up a house together after she separated from her husband. But she had to keep moving between houses and cities more than once because her ex-husband came and settled in the new house, and she had to go into debt more than once due to the moving expenses.

A woman who was subjected to violence from her family stated that when she received the news of a 3-week pandemic lockdown in 2021, she had to accept to marry a man she had never met before because she needed a place to stay and food before the lockdown was in force.

Male Violence against Infants, Children and Adolescents

Children can start to be affected by violence even before they are born. These effects include restricting the mother's access to health services during pregnancy, malnutrition due to economic violence, and premature birth due to violence.

Home, which should be a safe space for children, ceases to be a safe space due to violence, and the conditions necessary for children's healthy mental, cognitive, emotional and physical development are disrupted.

In addition to the physical and psychological problems caused by children's exposure to physical violence, children's frequent witnessing of violence at home leads to their psychological abuse and negative effects. We also observed that fathers neglect children by not meeting their basic emotional and physical needs. Due to this neglect and abuse, children experienced problems in their physical, mental, emotional and linguistic development as well as nutritional problems.

Witnessing violence causes children to develop fear that their mothers will be harmed and to experience separation anxiety. We also observed that children in the shelter had difficulty separating from their mothers, often had crying episodes even during short separations and had difficulty calming down. This witnessing also negatively affects children's social and academic development.

In individual interviews with children, adolescents and their mothers, we learned that children are exposed to many different forms of violence:

- 3 children at the ages of 0, 10, and 15 were born as a result of marital rape,
- All children in the shelter witnessed the physical and psychological violence perpetrated by their father against their mother, either directly or indirectly (e.g. they were sent to their rooms during the violence but heard what was happening),
- 2 children aged 1.5 and 3 had serious health problems during infancy and their father refused to take them to hospital,
- 2 children, aged 3 and 6, were repeatedly kicked out of the house by their father during winter, and he abandoned the woman and children at the bus terminal at knife point,

- A 6-year-old child fell from the 3rd floor balcony due to the physical conditions of the house and because she was neglected to the extent of risking her life. This accident caused neurological damage, problems in his mental and cognitive development. The child had to follow lifelong routine hospital check-ups but was neglected by her father,
- Boys aged 15 and 17 witnessed systematic violence at home and were subjected to sexual abuse by their fathers,
- 2 children aged 3 and another child aged 6 developed speech impediment and stuttering after the violence they experienced/witnessed,
- A 3-year-old witnessed violence at home and was subjected to psychological and physical violence by the father and psychological violence by the father's relatives,
- An 8-year-old developed self-harming behaviors due to the violence he/she experienced,
- A 17-year-old witnessed violence at home, was subjected to manipulations by his/her mother's partner and received death threats.

One of the striking points in the children's stories is that children are both emotionally and physically neglected at home. They have been deprived of the most basic child rights such as growing up in a safe environment, sufficient nutrition, play, healthcare, and education. Children who have witnessed violence may take on parental responsibilities and turn into caregivers for their mothers. Two children at the ages of 15 and 17 took responsibility for their mothers to move away from violence and made the exit plan together with their mothers. We learned that a 17-year-old child, who heard that his mother was subjected to physical violence, went to the parents' bedroom and hit his father, after which his father walked on him with a knife. In the shelter, they take responsibility for legal and social processes that their mothers should follow. In the interviews, it was observed that this situation causes children to be anxious and angry, they develop psychological symptoms and feel hopeless about the future.

The economic crisis in 2022 led children to face the difficulty in building a new life with as much anxiety as adults. In the interviews, children aged 10 and above were as concerned about rent and bills as their mothers, and they shared their thoughts to start working as soon as possible and support their mothers.

The fact that men do not take any responsibility for the care and basic needs of children has caused women to have to take responsibility for their children alone and to have difficulties in childcare. While they do not take responsibility, they criticize women over the childcare and continue to use violence by accusing them of not being good mothers and threatening to take custody of the baby. A woman shared that although she met all the

needs of her baby, her husband asked her to bathe and breastfeed the baby at odd times and when she did not do so, he videotaped her and threatened her, saying that he would use the recordings as evidence to take the baby away from her. Women often experience the fear that the father will retain custody of their children, feeling that they are not enough despite their best efforts to care for their children.

Another striking situation is that men inflict psychological violence on women through their children. We encountered forms of psychological violence such as kidnapping children and threatening to hide children from women, telling children inaccurate and negative stories about their mothers, sharing with children that their mothers have psychological problems, and we observed that such acts had negative effects on children.

Support Provided to Women and Children in the Shelter

The women, children, and adolescents staying in the shelter were provided with different forms of support through individual and group work. Every woman, adolescent, and child staying in the shelter had regular interviews with their social worker. These interviews were conducted with an approach which asserts that the first step towards women's empowerment pertains to recognizing the dynamics and mechanisms of violence and making sure that women realize that the experience of violence is not women's fault. In these interviews, women discussed with the social worker, with whom they have regular interviews, their goals and plans in order to build a violence-free life, the resources they have to attain these goals, and how they can overcome the difficulties throughout.

One of the things we observed in shelter work this year was that women moved away from home and stayed in the shelter for very short periods of time in order to get the support of their families. We saw that women, who wanted to show their families their determination to build a life without violence, came to the shelter, even for a short time.

With the support they received from the shelter, women can find a space to recognize and work on violence and its effects and can begin to challenge systems based solely on protecting the family in favor of their own freedom. Through goal-oriented work, they were able to insist on their basic rights such as education and health. Women, who had difficulties in deciding on their lives and defining their needs due to the impact of violence, were supported to define their needs and realize which mechanisms they could use to claim their rights. A woman shared that she was isolated for years and her relations with both her family and neighbors were severed; as an effect of this isolation, she was afraid to do anything outside alone or to

go to institutions, but thanks to the individual interviews and group work in the shelter, she was able to do something alone again and she felt very good about it.

Shortly after coming to the shelter, women want to actualize their plans such as starting a job or filing for divorce. In the shelter work carried out at Mor Çatı, we take into account the needs and priorities of women. To our understanding, the first days of women's arrival at the shelter are very important for them to rest and think about their goals. Considering the importance of holistic work on the effects of moving away from the violence at home, we share information about the support they can receive in the areas they need. After this period, we make a plan together with the woman taking into account and unique situation of each woman. In line with this plan, in addition to regular social work, we provide women with a space where they can benefit from group work and one-on-one psychological support where they can work on the effects of violence while dealing with legal processes. The psychological support available during their stay in the shelter contributes significantly to women's empowerment.

In order to plan the flow of daily life in the shelter and improve coexistence, we held weekly meetings with adults. In addition, we organized children's meetings so that we do not ignore the needs and voices of children. We observed that these meetings contributed not only to the improvement of women's and children's problem-solving skills through non-violent methods but also to the discussion and resolution of problems related to collective life in the shelter by creating a space of solidarity. Interviews and meetings continued regularly, both through face-to-face meetings and via online tools.

In order to address the group needs that emerged during the meetings for organizing daily life, we planned meetings that are facilitated by Mor Çatı volunteers to share information and experience on specific issues such as discrimination, nonviolent living, collective living practices, women's solidarity, etc. Similarly, we organized a 6-week seminar series on women's health. A woman who participated in this seminar, which focused on issues such as fertility regulation, women's health problems, safe motherhood, child and adolescent health, and safe sexuality, said that she forgot herself and her own body while dealing with life. Another woman said that when she became pregnant, her husband prevented her from going to the doctor by saying "Our mothers did not see the doctor, why should you?". A woman shared that she only went to the doctor during her pregnancy and realized the importance of regular medical check-ups after the seminars.

A 10-week group work was organized with the participation of women who applied to the Mor Çatı solidarity center and received shelter support from Mor Çatı. It created the opportunity to work in depth on the dynamics of violence, its effects, and ways of coping. As a result of this group work, a woman, who had received support from the solidarity center and was

regularly followed up, came to the shelter with her children bearing the strength and courage she received from the women who participated in the group work and stayed in the shelter. In addition to this group work, we organized regular a therapeutic group work through art which is open only to women who receive shelter support from Mor Çatı. This group work addresses topics such as the dynamics of violence, living together, solidarity, and conflict.

We continued our meetings with mothers which are organized to support mother-child communication and to discuss difficulties children face in their shared life, and to help them overcome the difficulties they may encounter in the new life they will build together. Group meetings, information sessions and art activities were held with children and adolescents in the shelter to support them in areas such as recognizing and expressing their feelings, problem solving, body recognition and approval, creativity, productivity, social relations, identifying violence, establishing safe relationships and discrimination. Thanks to the increase in online programs during the pandemic, online museum visits were organized with children.

Cinema activities were organized with children in the shelter and social activities were organized outside the shelter. In addition to the support provided in the shelter, women and children were referred to support and activities provided by other institutions that would contribute to their empowerment and distancing from violence. The list of institutions to which women were referred are as follows:

- For legal support, women were referred to Istanbul Bar Association's Legal Aid Unit and Mor Çatı volunteer lawyers,
- For psychological support, women and children were referred to Mor Çatı volunteer psychologists and psychological counseling units of municipalities,
- Women in need of psychiatric support were referred to Mor Çatı volunteers or psychiatrists who provide support in public hospitals,
- For tutoring support, women and children were referred to Mor Çatı volunteers and municipalities,
- For temporary housing support, healthcare needs, and cash support to start a business, they were referred to contact Istanbul Governorship Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation,
- For temporary cash support, they were referred to Social Assistance Units of the municipalities,
- For daycare support, women with children between the ages of 0-6 were referred to the relevant units of the municipalities and the ministry,
- For furniture and transportation support during the moving process, they were referred to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality,

- They were referred to municipality polyclinics where they could benefit from free healthcare services,
- For vocational trainings, women were referred to ISMEK and Public Education Centers
- Women were directed to trainings and meetings organized by provincial and district municipalities on topics of interest,
- Children were referred to Counseling and Research Centers to identify their developmental needs.

In addition, daily needs, clothing and school supplies were met with in-kind donations to Mor Çatı. Also, women and children were regularly supported for the medical needs, transportation, communication, and notary expenses.

Leaving the Shelter

- 2 women who stayed in Mor Çatı shelter left the shelter by renting a house together with the economic and in-kind support they received from Mor Çatı volunteers.
- A woman left the shelter with her sister who received support from another shelter. They rented an apartment with the economic and in-kind support they received from Istanbul Governorship Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, Municipalities and Mor Çatı volunteers.
- A woman left the shelter after finding a full-time job and renting an apartment.
- A woman found a job and moved to a different country.
- A woman found a job and moved in with a relative with her two young children.
- A woman found a job and left the shelter to rent a house with her 18-year-old daughter.
- A woman set up her own house by working during her stay in the shelter and receiving in-kind and economic support from district municipalities, Istanbul Governorship and Mor Çatı volunteers.
- A woman left the shelter and returned to her workplace and her home with her two children.
- 5 women moved in with their families to receive support from their families.
- A woman moved back to her family to receive support from her family but stated that she was again subjected to violence a few days after leaving the shelter.

- When her stay in the Mor Çatı shelter was disclosed, a woman was referred to another shelter by contacting the institutions where she could receive support.
- 4 women returned to the environment where they experienced violence.
- A woman left the shelter by renting a house in a different city with her children.
- Shelter support was terminated for 5 women because they violated the shelter rules.
- A woman left the shelter unannounced.

Barriers to Women's Living an Independent Life

From the day they arrive at the shelter, women need social support and pro-women policies in order to build and sustain a post-shelter life. The lack of a holistic support mechanism on the effects of violence may cause women to remain without solutions, prolong their exit from the shelter, return to the perpetrator, experience indirect violence, have difficulties in establishing a life on their own, and have to leave their children due to the difficulty of establishing a new life.

When women are exposed to violence, they are not informed about their rights and the steps they can take in institutions such as hospitals and police stations. One of the reason for this is the lack of adequate knowledge among professionals and is often related to the fact that violence is socially acceptable.

This year, we observed that the duration of preventive measures issued under Law No. 6284 was shorter than in previous years. It can be even more difficult to get results for migrant women. The lack of preventive and protective measures also creates an obstacle to women and children's access to basic rights such as education and healthcare. We witnessed that a migrant woman, who received shelter support with her two children, could not enroll her children to the school because her request for confidentiality measures was rejected and the children had to take a break from school.

One of the most basic needs of women during their stay in the shelter and during the separation process is daycare support for their children and, accordingly, to work or to benefit from economic support. The fact that women with young children cannot find a place in daycare centers, that they cannot receive social and economic support if they benefit from daycare support, or cannot receive additional economic support on the grounds that they stay in the shelter, and that the limited number of institutions provide care outside of school hours for women with school-age children

are other factors that make it difficult for them to find a job as well as to leave the shelter.

Poverty Makes it Difficult to Build a Life Free from Violence

We observed that compared to previous years, this year it took much longer time for women to move out of the shelter either by themselves or with their children. Even if women find a job where they can earn a regular income, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to pay the high rents, utility bills and other basic needs in Istanbul, which becomes one of the biggest obstacles for women to leave the shelter and establish an independent life.

Women find solutions to this setback by further developing the culture of solidarity among women. This year, women have tried to overcome the obstacles to building a life without violence by planning a shared house and supporting each other in childcare.

Insufficient Support for Psychiatric Conditions

Male violence affects the lives of women and children in the short and long term. Within the shelter work, the effects of violence can become evident in some psychiatric conditions. The lack of a holistic and supportive system for women with psychiatric symptoms and diagnoses prolongs their recovery process and may prevent them from taking steps towards a new life. We observed that women with psychiatric conditions need specialized work.

Shelter Employees

In this period, we organized regular individual supervisions on social work with shelter employees. Also we held group supervision with an expert psychologist which was attended by all social workers. In order to improve the work with children in the shelter, a specialized psychologist conducted child supervision. We held regular coordination and case study meetings with the participation of volunteer social workers so that we could maintain coordinated work between the solidarity center and the shelter. In order to strengthen our one-on-one solidarity with women, we regularly organized meetings throughout the year where lawyers, psychologists and social workers came together. In this period, we also made earthquake and fire drills in the shelter. In order to enrich the social work with women, we received capacity building trainings from expert trainers. Two students supported the shelter work as interns.

Sharing Knowledge and Experience

Growth of the Volunteer Network

At Mor Çatı, we gather the strength for our struggle against male violence from our volunteer network comprised of women. To become a Mor Çatı volunteer, it is necessary to attend the Purple Gathering meetings organized periodically and to participate in the volunteer workshop. The meetings and workshops aim to raise awareness on and increase the knowledge pertaining to gender and male violence by way of addressing topics such as gender, feminism, our legal gains, feminist methods in combating male violence, as well as Mor Çatı's policy. Volunteer work not only contributes to Mor Çatı, but also helps us to face the forms of violence to which we are exposed and confront ourselves with respect to our perception of violence. In 2022, 1400 people filled in the contact form on our website to become a volunteer.

Following the volunteer workshop, knowledge and experience have been intensively shared with the volunteers who want to establish one-to-one solidarity with the women at the Mor Çatı solidarity center. Previous experiences were also shared with the new volunteer lawyers and psychologists about the Mor Çatı approach that they could adopt when they give support based on their professional knowledge. As Mor Çatı Volunteers, we came together in Purple Conversations to discuss the 2021 report "Violence Against Women: Women's Experiences, Institutions, and Platforms".

It is Our Right to Stay Away from Violence!

As we approached 25 November 2022, we organized an awareness raising campaign that is centered around the support offered within the scope of Law No. 6284. In the campaign, the slogan of which was It is Our Right to Stay Away from Violence, we aimed to raise awareness about Law No. 6284, and emphasize the vital importance of the law for women. We renewed our microsite kararaldim.org, which we launched in 2018 and which provides information about Law No. 6284. We added practical information as well as sample petitions that women can use in their applications for access to their rights. We produced a video, and social media visuals which emphasizes that violence is a crime and that there are support mechanisms to which women can apply to get away from violence. Our video circulated in social media and was shown in Metro Istanbul advertising spots. Our visuals were displayed on billboards provided by Büyükçekmece, Avcılar, Ataşehir, Kadıköy, and Şişli Municipalities. In order to reach women who do not use social media, we used the strip advertisements on TV channels.

The Effects of Violence Should Not Remain Invisible

We organized a social media campaign with the slogan “The Effects of Violence Should not Remain Invisible” to disseminate the Report on the Impact of Male Violence and Mechanisms to Combat Violence on Children’s Rights in Turkey, which was written for submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. We emphasized not only that children can be directly exposed to domestic violence, but also that they can experience the effects of violence in an environment where their mothers are exposed to violence and that the effects of violence remain invisible in a social support system where children are ignored. With our campaign, in addition to disseminating the report we prepared, we aimed to raise awareness about the violence which children are exposed to or affected by, and to pave the way for a transformation in support systems in favor of children.



Violence is not just physical!

In January 2022, we released two videos highlighting economic and psychological violence. With these videos, we aimed to effect a change in the perception that sees violence against women consists only as physical violence and to raise awareness on different types of violence. In addition to raising public awareness, these videos create a space for women to recognize the violence in their own lives and to understand that this violence does not only happen to them.

Among the videos created with the slogan “**Violence is not just physical!**”, the one focusing on economic violence tells the story of a woman whose husband prevents her from working. This video ends with an emphasis that violence is not just physical and that husbands who prevent their wives from working are exerting a form of violence. The video on psychological violence tells the story of a woman who is forbidden by her father to meet another woman. This video ends with emphasizing that violence is not just physical and that forbidding women to meet with their relatives or friends is a form of psychological violence.

Our Solidarity in the Courtrooms

In recent years, unlawful and family-based decisions made by Family Courts, the lack of holistic policies and impunity have been common problems

that women's struggle against violence has been addressing. This year, as part of our solidarity with women, we attended the ongoing hearings of three women with whom we are in solidarity, and we followed the trial processes. We brought to the agenda the fight that women have to give in search for justice as well as the sexist approaches and decisions they face in courtrooms. In the hearing we attended in Eskişehir Family Court, we drew attention to the decisions of Family Court judges regarding custody and visitation rights, which favor men's paternity rights over the best interests of the child and prevent women from leaving behind the cycle of violence. In the criminal trial of E.S. in Istanbul, whom we learned about through the news in the press about the baby she left on the street, we made visible the male-dominated understanding of justice which holds women responsible for the consequences of violations that occur at every stage of the mechanisms of combating violence and which leaves women without a choice. Finally, together with our volunteer lawyers who follow it, we attended at the Gebze Courthouse the hearing of the rape case, which has been going on for 14 years and in which the perpetrator has been aiming for the decision of statute of limitation.

Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers

Founded in 1998 with a call made by Mor Çatı to share experiences in the field of combating violence against women, to determine common policies, and to establish a permanent communication network among organizations and institutions, Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers came together twice this year, as it does every year, as an interim assembly and as the main assembly. In this assembly in which Mor Çatı acts as the permanent secretariat, we come together as women's organizations working in the field of violence against women in different cities of Turkey.



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25. Komcivîna Stargehên Jinan û
Navendên Şêwirmendiye

12-14 Kasım / شهر نوڤمبر / 2022 / Diyarbakır / Arned



The Interim Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers, organized for the 25th time this year, was held in Bursa between June 4-6. The assembly was attended by 52 women from constituent organizations. During the three-day interim assembly, experiences on violence against women were shared and besides the theme, the title, the workshops, the presentation contents of the main assembly the possible organizations that might be the host this year were discussed.

The Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers, which convenes in a different city of Turkey every year before the 25th of November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was hosted this year by Rosa Women's Association in Diyarbakır. 310 women from different cities, including participants from women's organizations, LGBTI+ organizations, public institutions, and municipalities, attended the assembly titled "How do the Family-Oriented State Policies Weaken the Struggle against Male Violence against Women?" on 12-13-14 November 2022. Women who contributed to the founding of the assembly also shared their evaluations on the past 25 years of the struggle.

Local Administrations and Support Mechanisms in Combating Violence Against Women Workshop

On April 21, 2022, we organized the "Local Administrations and Support Mechanisms in Combating Violence against Women" workshop with the participation of women working in the support mechanisms focusing on fighting violence against women in the metropolitan and district municipalities in Istanbul and Mor Çatı volunteers. 46 women from 10 different municipalities participated in the workshop. During the workshop, we shared information and experiences on the support mechanisms, holistic services, and coordination offered by local governments in the processes of women's struggle against violence and in their efforts to stay away from violence. In addition to women's counseling centers and shelter policies, we also focused on issues such as combating poverty, socio-economic support, housing, daycare and care services, economic empowerment, institutional culture, and working conditions of municipality employees.

We were excited to meet face-to-face with the women whom we met on online platforms during the pandemic. As Mor Çatı we compiled the experiences of women who try to get away from violence from our 2021 annual report and our monitoring reports that we wrote throughout 2020 and 2021 and we shared them under the title "Why we are together". After sharing this, we talked about the "municipality of our dreams" with all the women participating in the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, we shared our suggestions. These included the following: we can come together regularly and exchange information-

experience, municipalities can create implementation standards for support mechanisms in combating violence against women with a feminist approach that focuses on the unique needs of women, and the demands from the workshop can be sent to the top management of municipalities by letter. At the end of the day, everyone shared the sentiment that coming together had strengthened both solidarity and well-being, that it was good for us to hear about similar problems in terms of knowledge and experience, and that it was motivating to hear new ideas for solutions. The participants also underlined that this workshop has been organized by Mor Çatı when it should have been organized by a public institution.

Rethinking Family in the Context of Violence Workshop

In the workshop we organized in May, we invited feminists living in Istanbul to discuss family –which we usually discuss with reference to family-oriented policies– in the context of the dynamics of violence and the struggle to get away from violence. In the first part of the workshop, presentations with titles “The Relationship Between Family Law and Violence” and “What does it mean that the violence inflicted by the family is not as visible as husband/partner violence” were made. In the afternoon, we discussed the relationship between male violence, patriarchy, and family structure, how the state’s family-oriented policies affect social policies, how women are left dependent on the family, and how women make sense of the idea of family. The discussions we conducted make it possible for us to share with feminists the knowledge that we gained while building solidarity with women at Mor Çatı and to adapt the ideas with which we come up in these discussions to the work we carry out.

Rendering Children Visible in the Mechanisms for Combatting Violence

As we combat male violence, we witness that children are also affected by violence and remain invisible and unsupported within the state’s social support mechanisms. In order to make visible how children are affected by violence and the rights violations they experience within child protection mechanisms, we presented the shadow report “The Impact of Male Violence and Mechanisms to Combat Male Violence on Children’s Rights in Turkey”, which we prepared last year, at the Preliminary Session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on September 30th and answered the questions of the committee regarding the information note we prepared as an annex. We observe that men use children as an instrument of violence in custody cases through the “parental alienation syndrome”. We shared the information we received from women and children on this issue by contributing to the report prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women on the relationship between custody and guardianship cases, violence against women and violence against children.

In different countries around the world, children can suffer similar rights violations due to male violence. We participate in international meetings to discuss how we can support children and share our experiences. In this context, we participated in webinars organized by WAVE and the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies. One of these webinars was held on June 9 with the title “Child Contact and Violence against Women”; another on June 23 with the title “Child Safeguarding in Women’s Support Services”; and another on December 1-2 with the title “A neglected interconnection: child custody and violence against women”. In these webinars, we shared our experiences on child work in solidarity centers and shelters in different countries, neglect of children in child custody cases, and safety risks of women and children in child visits.

Study Visits Made to the Women’s Organizations in Europe

In June, we made study visits to Spain, Italy and Portugal to hear about the social support methods of feminist organizations working in the field of violence against women as well as to hear about the problems encountered and solutions developed in countries with similar contexts to Turkey. These visits took place with the participation of 12 people from Mor Çatı, İzmir Women’s Solidarity Association, Beşiktaş Municipality Women’s Solidarity and Life Center and Istanbul Municipality Women’s Counseling Center. During the visits, we organized meetings with Fundacion para la Convivencia Aspacia and courts specialized in violence against women in Madrid, AMCV - Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência, Equality Commission and Portuguese Women’s Rights Platform in Lisbon, and finally with Casa Della Donna women’s organizations in Pisa and Bologna in Italy, where we received information about the work carried out in combating violence against women, legal regulations, shelter work and policies and shared our own experiences. These visits contributed us to reflect on our own work and to develop new practices by hearing different methods.

Meeting with Healthcare Professionals

We translated and disseminated the reports and guides produced within the scope of the Cooperation between Women’s NGOs and Healthcare Providers in the Western Balkans and Turkey Project into Turkish and held a roundtable meeting with healthcare professionals. In this meeting attended by 24 healthcare professionals from various fields of expertise we presented the challenges faced by women and children who have been exposed to violence in the healthcare system. Some of the topics that came to fore include: the obstacles that preclude women who have been exposed to violence from expressing their experiences of violence in the primary healthcare system, the negative attitudes they face when they express

their experiences of violence, healthcare professionals who fail to notice the violence, failure to properly record the evidence in cases where women state that they have been exposed to violence, judgmental and accusatory attitudes, lack of coordination with social workers in hospitals, obstacles before accessing to psychological support for women who have experienced violence, difficulties and negative approaches in accessing specific needs and support in case of sexual violence, systemic problems experienced by women and children with confidentiality decisions. Additionally, physicians working in primary care and various specialties shared information on the current system, appointment times, forms used and not used, and trainings for healthcare professionals. We concluded the meeting by talking about how we will establish a stronger cooperation for the future.

Meetings with Women’s Organizations and Civil Society Organizations

While combating violence against women, one of our main activities is to share the knowledge and experience we have gained from women with other women’s organizations and civil society organizations, and to formulate policies by learning from each other’s experiences. In 2022, we held meetings with women’s organizations and civil society organizations, came together on the same platforms and campaigns, and organized workshops. **In 2022, we came together with 37 women’s organizations and civil society organizations in 52 meetings, events, or discussion panels.** We organized workshops for 10 women’s organizations or civil society organizations and shared our experience in the field.

Our Transnational Feminist Networks

We believe that combating violence against women can only be possible through transnational feminist solidarity. For this reason, since the day we were founded, we have been coming together with feminists and women’s organizations working in this field in different parts of the world, especially in Europe. This year, in addition to the study visits we organized to Spain, Italy and Portugal, we participated in various visits, meetings, conferences and gatherings where we came together internationally. In 2022, we continued to be a component of the WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) Network and EWL (European Women’s Lobby). As a member of the WAVE Network, we participated in the Advisory Board Meeting held in May. The annual conference organized by the WAVE Network was held in Prague in October this year under the title “Women’s specialist services as pillars of peace in times of crisis and beyond”. On the first day of the conference, we participated in one of the panels as a speaker and presented the situation in Turkey. On the second day of the conference, together with the Russian organization INGI/Crisis Center for Women, we participated in a panel

discussion entitled “Sustaining Work in Times of Uncertainty: Feminist Struggles against Permanent Crises”.

As part of the WAVE Network’s thematic working group Preventive Work, we regularly participated in their meetings. During the year, we attended workshops on “Supporting women affected by sexual violence with a stress and trauma sensitive approach”, “Child Contact and Violence against Women” and “Child Protection in Women’s Support Services”. These workshops were effective in strengthening our international ties as well as building the capacity of our volunteers.

In October, we organized a 2-day study visit to Brussels. During our visit, we met with the organizations Garance, Collectif contre les violences familiales et l’exclusion, Groupe Santé Josaphat and received information about the experiences of feminists’ struggle against violence, support mechanisms and legal regulations in Belgium; we shared the latest situation in our struggle in Turkey.

International Activities

Since Turkey’s decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, we have been using different international monitoring mechanisms for effective international monitoring of the problems that already exist in the implementation of the laws against violence. This year, we prepared shadow reports for different international monitoring mechanisms and participated in monitoring meetings.

On June 13-15 we participated in the 82nd Session of the CEDAW Committee, the monitoring mechanism of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), where we took part in the writing of the shadow report, in Geneva and shared our knowledge and experience on many issues that we experience every day in the field, such as the non-implementation of laws on combating male violence against women, police violence, attacks on the rights that have been gained for women and LGBTI+ persons to live equally and freely. In the Recommendations they announced in July after this meeting, the Committee members emphasized their concern about Turkey’s decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention and underlined the issues we also mentioned in the shadow report, such as making a law that prohibits discrimination against women in all areas, defining violence against women and femicide as a separate crime in the Penal Code, establishing a multilingual emergency hotline that provides support only for male violence against women, improving the capacities and conditions of shelters, and conducting social work with women by considering their specific conditions.

We participated in the 93rd session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the monitoring mechanism of the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child, held in Geneva on September 30th and contributed to the list of issues/questions that the Committee created for the report to be prepared by the Turkish state with our shadow report. In our report, we shared that the impact of domestic violence on children in Turkey is not visible, that there are no mechanisms that children can directly apply to, that the protection of the family is prioritized over the best interests of the child and that there is a lack of coordination between institutions. We emphasized discrimination against children in shelters, the lack of effective social work and spatial deficiencies. With the contribution of our submissions, the Committee, in the list of issues/questions announced on October 26, asked about the measures taken to ensure coordination between public institutions, measures taken to prioritize the best interests of the child in all legal regulations, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, measures taken to raise the awareness of relevant professionals, and measures taken to recognize and effectively intervene in all cases of violence against teachers.

On September 19, we participated in the 35th session in Geneva to monitor the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and shared the poor practices faced by migrant women in Turkey in their struggle to escape domestic violence. We contributed with our shadow report to the list of issues/questions that the Committee created for the second periodic report to be prepared by the Turkish state. Based on our report and taking into account the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, the Committee asked for information on the protection mechanisms that women can turn to when they are subjected to violence and the discrimination they face in these mechanisms.

In July 2022, we held a face-to-face meeting and prepared a report to contribute to the report that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Its Causes and Consequences will present in June 2023 as part of her visit to Turkey. In our report, we discussed family-oriented policies and lack of political will in combating violence, problems in the implementation of existing laws, problems regarding the capacity and quality of support mechanisms as well as the lack of coordination between mechanisms, discrimination faced by migrant women in accessing support services, and obstacles to women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights. Additionally, in December 2022, we contributed to the Rapporteur's call for information on custody cases, violence against women, and violence against children. We underlined that due to the male-dominated and family-oriented perspective of the judiciary in Turkey, the impact of the perpetrator father's violence on children is rendered invisible; we emphasized that women and their children are endangered by granting visitation rights to the father without conducting a risk analysis and that the right to custody is used as a tool for psychological violence.

We submitted a shadow report to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoEEC) this year, after a 2-year hiatus, to follow up on the Opuz Group Cases, which have been heard and decided by the ECtHR. Since the Opuz Group Cases focus on protecting women against violence and ensuring justice, in this report we focused on “effective investigation and impunity”. We also made an information presentation on our report to the delegates and representatives of the Committee of Ministers on November 28.

Meetings with Municipalities and Public Institutions

The knowledge we gain from the solidarity we form with women at Mor Çatı provides us not only with information on the mechanisms necessary to combat violence, but also on the difficulties encountered in existing mechanisms and institutions responsible for combatting violence. In our meetings with public institutions and municipalities, we share our experience, remind them of the standards they have to abide by and their obligation, and offer support if they need it.

On January 18, we held a meeting with the **Istanbul Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Family and Social Services** and exchanged our experiences. On January 19-20, as part of the **Provincial Coordination Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on Combating Violence Against Women**, we attended the **Provincial Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women** meeting organized by the **Governorship of Istanbul** and **Istanbul Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Family and Social Services**. On April 4, we attended the **Provincial Coordination Monitoring and Evaluation Commission Meeting on Combating Violence against Women**, which was organized by Istanbul ŞÖNİM. We did not receive any meeting calls after this date. Subsequently, on December 2, we paid a visit to **Istanbul ŞÖNİM** to share information on violations and malpractices we have encountered in practice and to evaluate solutions together.

Our requests for visits to the Governorship of Istanbul and Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services were rejected on the grounds of our visit to Istanbul ŞÖNİM.

On December 15, we did not attend the 2022 Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on Violence Against Women held in Ankara, which was organized under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, because women’s organizations were prevented from holding a press statement at the venue of the meeting and women who gathered there were subjected to violence.

In 2022, we came together many times with **Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IBB) Social Services Department’s Directorate of Women and Family Services, Children’s Unit and Social Services Directorate, IBB İSADEM**

and neighborhood houses, Istanbul Planning Agency, IBB City Council Women's Assembly through various meetings, workshops, events and visits. In addition to IBB, we met one-on-one with **Avcılar, Esenyurt, Büyükçekmece, Beşiktaş** and **Kadıköy municipalities** in Istanbul and shared our experiences. In addition to the aforementioned municipalities, we also met with women from **Kartal, Ataşehir, Beylikdüzü** and **Maltepe municipalities** through the "Workshop on Local Administrations and Support Mechanisms in Combating Violence against Women" we organized on 21 April 2022.

In addition, we came together with **Diyarbakır Çınar Municipality, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality** and **Ankara Çankaya Municipality** in various events and exchanged views. We frequently came together with IBB within the scope of the work carried out on the design and implementation of the Sexual Violence Counseling Service, and we also came together to understand the needs and exchange experiences. We provided support to some municipalities for their women's counseling centers and shelters and shared our experiences.

Using our rights under the **Law on Access to Information**, we made a total of **42 access to information applications** to public institutions and municipalities, asking questions about their activities in the field of combating violence against women.

Meetings with the Bar Associations and Lawyers

This year, we continued to organize workshops and meetings with bar associations and lawyers from Istanbul and other cities to improve the capacity and quality of legal support provided to women in the fight against violence and to strengthen women's access to justice. We held face-to-face experience sharing workshops with the Mersin and Muş Bar Associations. We held two meetings with the Istanbul Bar Association Women's Rights Implementation Commission regarding the decisions, which are unlawful, and which adopt an approach that is not in favor of women in family courts in Istanbul; we shared our experiences and underlined the role of the Bar Association in eliminating bad practices. We held a focus group with lawyers from Istanbul and other cities who have experience in criminal cases, including Mor Çatı volunteer lawyers, to create the content of the Opuz Group Cases Shadow Report.

Workshops with Social Workers and Psychologists

Our solidarity with women in solidarity centers and shelters enables us to accumulate knowledge and experience on what kind of social work and psychological support should be offered in the fight against violence against

women. We organized various workshops and meetings to exchange and share this experience with experts working in the field. On June 18-19, we organized the third of the Workshops for Social Workers in the Field of Combating Violence against Women, which we have been organizing regularly since 2020, in Istanbul, with social workers who provide services to women and their children who have been exposed to violence in different cities and districts. We came together with psychologists working in the field at the **“Workshop on Psychological Support Work in the Field of Violence against Women”** on July 30-31 in Istanbul. The workshops aimed to raise awareness of experts working in the field on violence against women, to provide more effective services to women and children exposed to violence, and to support experts in coping with secondary trauma. We reflected together on the solutions to the various difficulties experienced by the workers and the solidarity networks established through the workshops enabled us to maintain our communication throughout the year.

We shared the knowledge and experience on psychological support that is accumulated at Mor Çatı in various gatherings. In 2022, we shared this knowledge and experience in workshops for psychiatrists working in Kartal State Hospital and psychologists working in Yol Psikoloji team. We also organized the “Feminist Approaches to Psychological Support Work in Combating Violence against Women Workshop” with the participation of Mor Çatı volunteers, experts we know working in the field, and psychologists and psychiatrists we came together in workshops. In this workshop, we talked about Mor Çatı’s mental support system, feminist psychotherapy, and our field experiences in feminist psychological work.

For the shadow reports we prepared based on our experience in the field as Mor Çatı, we held focus groups with Mor Çatı volunteers as well as social workers working in public and other institutions in the field of combating violence against women. We came together in focus groups on July 27 for the shadow report prepared within the scope of Opuz Group Cases Rule 9.2, and on October 25 to discuss the experience regarding the KADES implementation within the scope of the monitoring report to be written in 2023 and listened to the knowledge and experiences of social workers.

We also continued the work we carry out pertaining to children and their needs in the field of combating violence against women. In 2022, we organized a roundtable meeting with experts working with children to share experiences in this field.

Works Focusing on Young People

Among the awareness-raising activities we carry out at Mor Çatı, the events we organize and participate in for young people have an important place. In 2022, we had the opportunity to meet and interact with middle school, high school, and university students through seminars, lectures, interviews, and panels. We participated in **47 events** where we talked about violence and its effects, our legal achievements, the fight against violence against women in Turkey and our rights, and Mor Çatı's work.

Student and Researcher Interviews

In 2022, we conducted **66 interviews** with students and researchers from various schools and universities in Turkey and abroad and contributed to their research. During the interviews, we shared information on violence against women, the current state of the struggle against violence in Turkey, feminist social work, shelter work and psychological support, Mor Çatı's work methods, and solidarity with women.

Meetings with the Private Sector

We met with private sector institutions upon their request and shared our knowledge and experience on violence against women and gender equality. We organized seminars for 3 companies on violence against women and methods of combating it, we met with 2 social media companies and discussed possible collaborations.

Mor Çatı in the Press

We issue press releases and give opinions to the press in order to inform the public about violence against women and the struggle against violence in Turkey, to raise awareness and to transform the mechanisms of combating violence in Turkey in favor of women. This year, we gave opinions to different press organizations from Turkey and around the world; our publications, activities and collaborations were covered in the press.

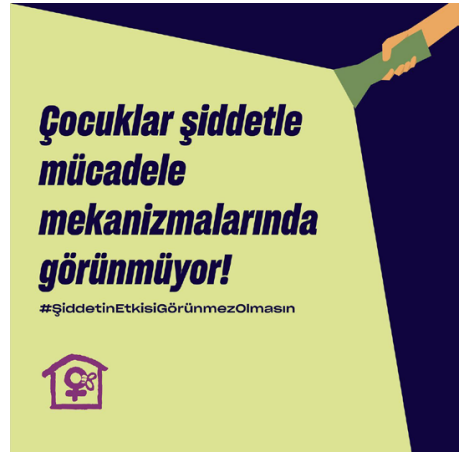
In 2022, we were featured in a total of 238 news articles, including 9 mainstream, 103 independent and 63 local news. We featured once in a news article in international press.

We take part in various social responsibility campaigns and accept donations to support the resources Mor Çatı needs to continue its activities. In 2022, we were featured in 56 news articles on social responsibility collaborations and donations.

Our Social Media Campaigns

In 2022, we organized social media campaigns to raise awareness on violence against women, to publicize our monitoring and policy-making work and to disseminate policy recommendations. We started the campaigns in 2022 with the videos Violence is Not Just Physical! These videos received high interaction from social media users and reached a wide user base.

In our 2021 Monitoring Report on Coordination in Combating Against Male Violence, we pointed out the problems in the operation of ŞÖNİMs. For the dissemination of the Report on the Impact of Male Violence and Mechanisms to Combat Male Violence on Children's Rights in Turkey, which we prepared in 2022, we prepared a social media campaign with the slogan "The Impact of Violence Should Not Remain Invisible" and emphasized how children are affected by domestic violence and underlines the inadequacy of mechanisms in supporting children.



On the occasion of March 8, International Women's Day, we produced videos and visuals with the slogan "If Women Were Free, The World Would Get Loose", one of the slogans we often use in feminist protests, to emphasize the place of feminist solidarity in our struggle.

To disseminate our 2021 annual report, we organized a campaign based on the information on the dynamics of violence against women, which was

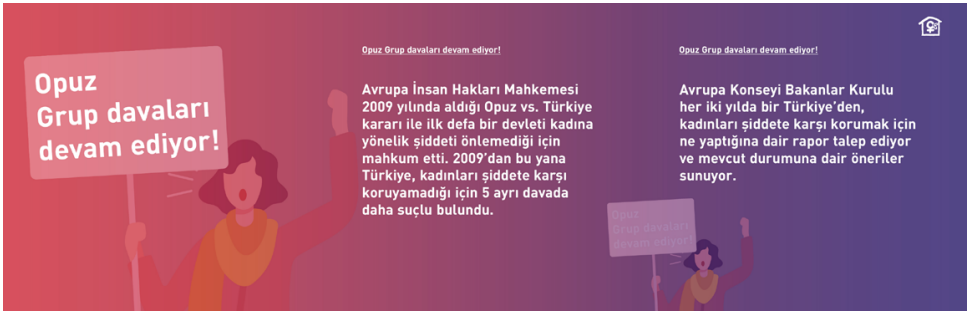
highlighted in the solidarity center section of our report. In this series, we highlighted with social media visuals the impact of leaving the Istanbul Convention on women, the role of family in women's lives during the process of moving away from violence, and the situation of debt as a form of economic violence.



We underlined that violence is a crime and that we have rights within the scope of Law No. 6284 through the videos and visuals we prepared as part of our campaign "It is Our Right to Stay Away from Violence".



The last campaign of the year was the report we prepared for the monitoring of the Opuz Group Cases and the dissemination of the highlights of the report to the public. Visuals were prepared about the importance of effective investigation in crimes of violence against women and the ongoing impunity in Turkey.



Publications

At Mor Çatı, we prepared new publications to share with the public the knowledge and experience we have gained from women and the results of the monitoring studies we have conducted; we renewed and reprinted our old publications. By translating our publications, we aimed to reach both women who live in Turkey and do not speak Turkish and international individuals and institutions monitoring the struggle against violence against women in Turkey. We translated into Turkish the reports and brochures of international feminist organizations of which we are a member and published the resources we saw a need for in Turkey. We shared our publications with relevant institutions and individuals online and in print.

This year, we prepared a shadow report to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which monitors the judgments in the Opuz Group Cases before the ECtHR in which Turkey was convicted. We printed the report in Turkish and English. Again this year, together with the constituents of the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers, we prepared a monitoring report titled *Shelters and Counseling/Solidarity Centers in Combating Male Violence in Turkey* by analyzing the difficulties women face in mechanisms to combat violence in the light of the experiences of women's organizations that receive applications and of the information we obtained through information requests to public institutions responsible for combating violence. We also prepared a brochure on the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers.

This year we republished the long out-of-print book *The Process of Normalizing Violence* by feminist academic Eva Lundgren with a new foreword by Berna Ekal, the translator of the book. We translated our brochure *In Prevention Male Violence Law No. 6284* into Kurdish and reprinted it in Turkish, Arabic and Persian. We also reprinted our corporate brochure on Mor Çatı in Turkish this year. We renewed and reprinted our brochure *You Can Apply to Law No. 6284 When You Are Subjected to Male Violence or Under the Threat of Violence* and distributed it in different cities of Turkey with the participation of some of the constituents of the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers.

This year, we published three publications in English: our *Monitoring Report on Coordination in Combating Against Male Violence*, which focuses on the challenges posed by the lack of inter-institutional coordination in women's struggle against violence; our *2021 Annual Report*; and our report on *Shelters and Counseling/Solidarity Centers in Combating Male Violence* in Turkey, prepared by the components of the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers.

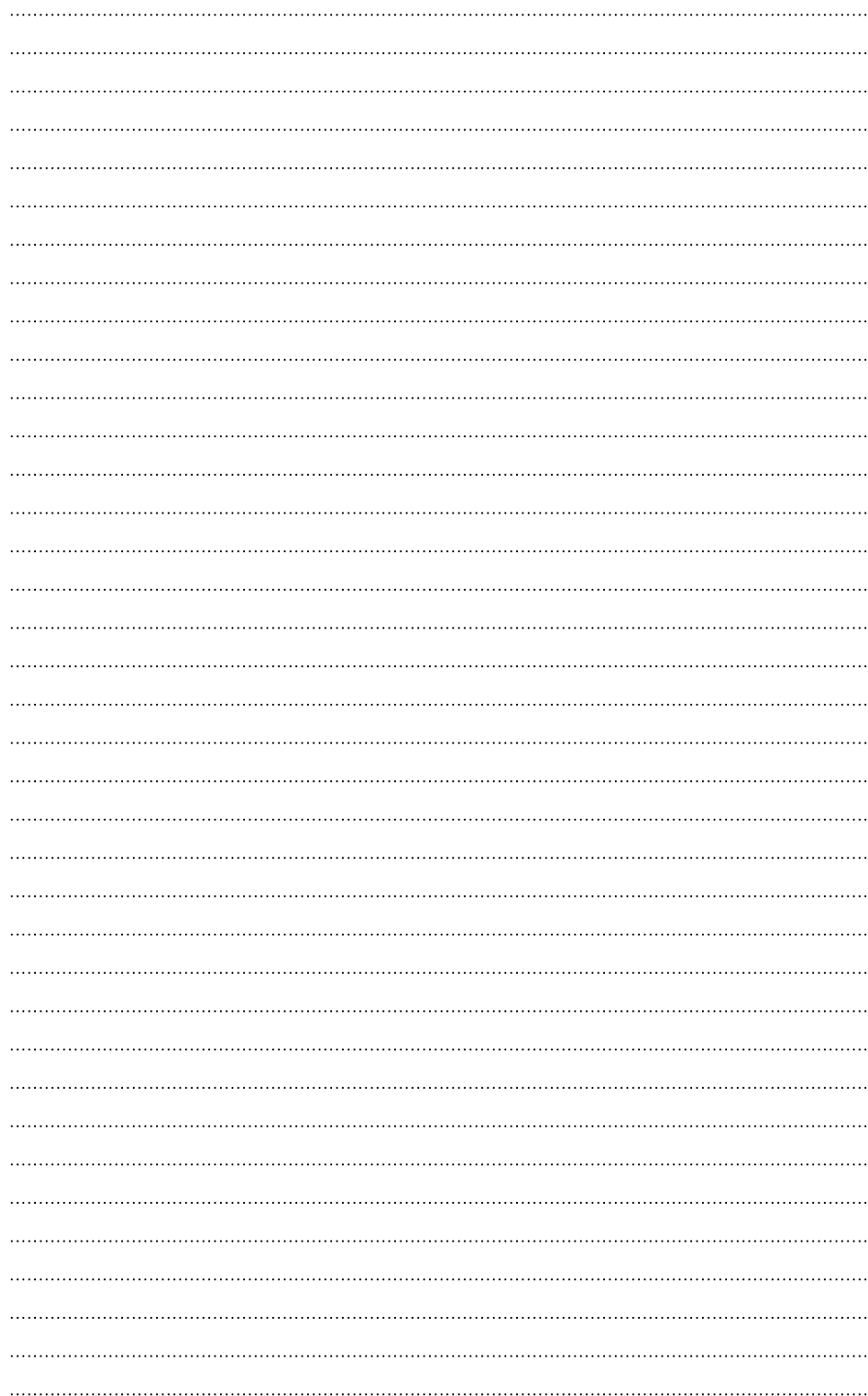
We translated the *Women's NGOs and Health Service Providers in the Western Balkans and Turkey* report prepared by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) into Turkish and published it. We also translated the *Guide for Health*

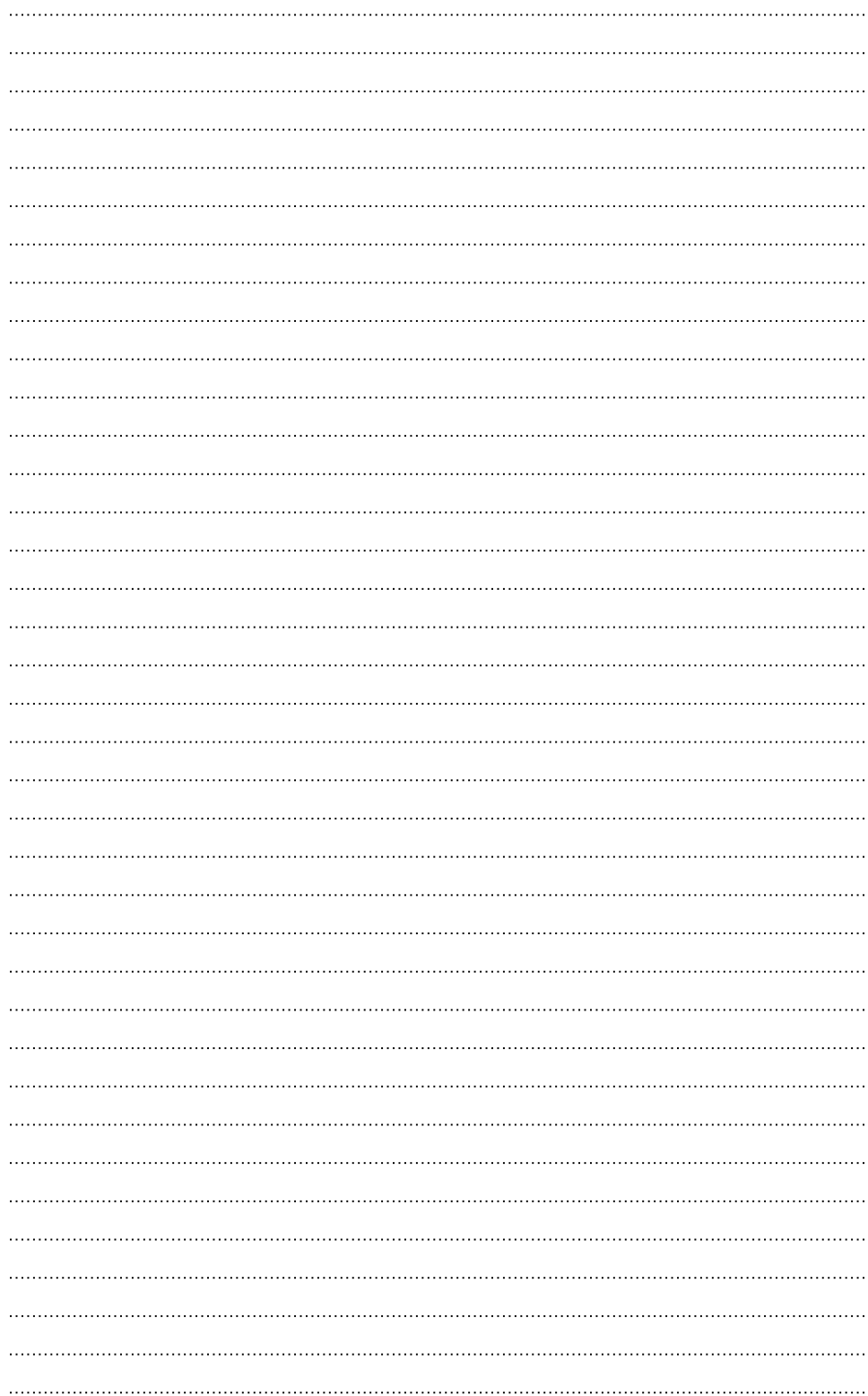
Workers on Approaching Violence against Women prepared by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) into Turkish and published it.

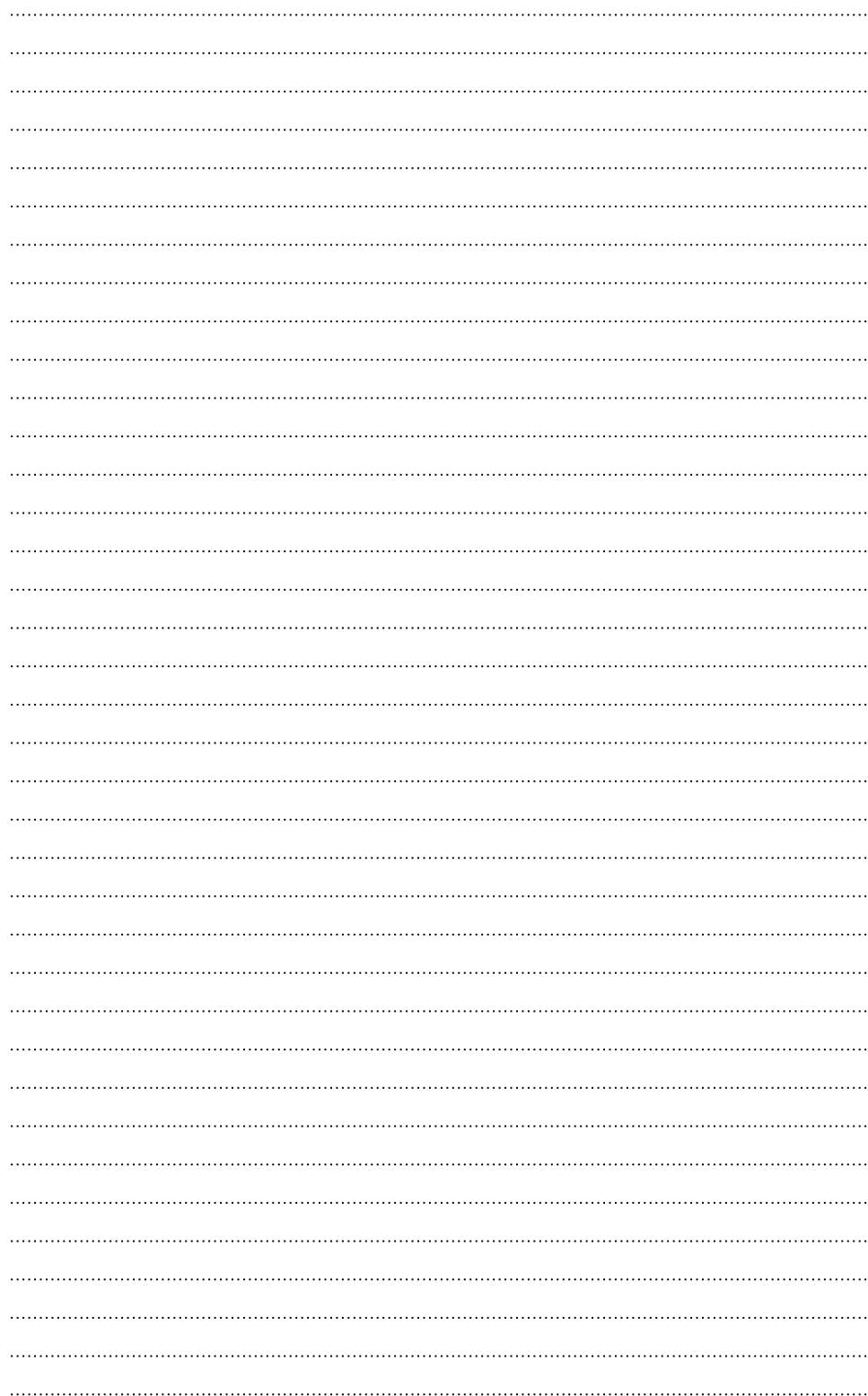
This year, we added Turkish subtitles to our Mor Çatı Anlatıyor video series on our Youtube channel.

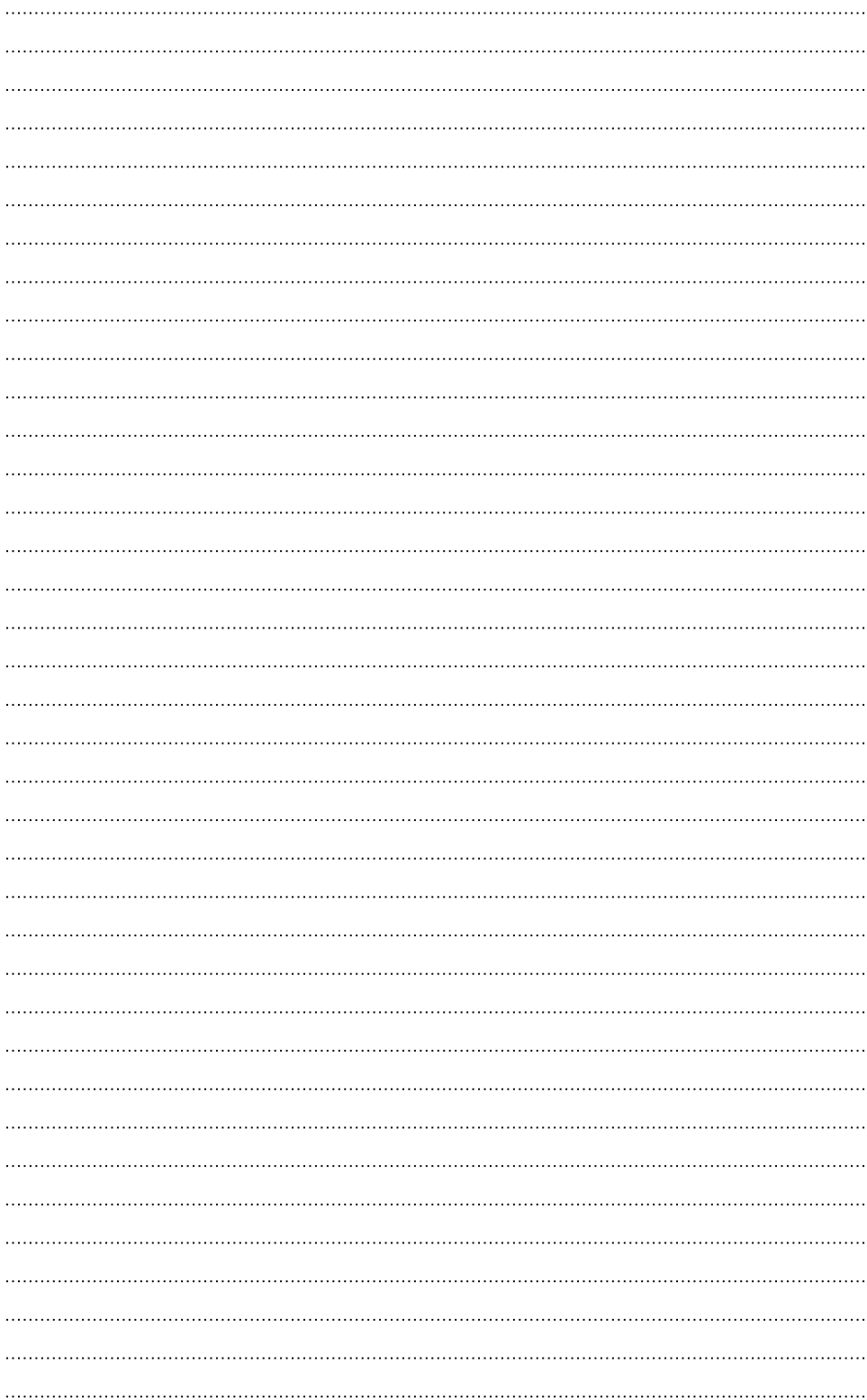
Together with our other publications, we distributed our *Monitoring Report on Coordination in Combating Against Male Violence* and our report on *Shelters and Counseling/Solidarity Centers in Combating Male Violence in Turkey*, which we prepared as the constituents of the Assembly of Women's Shelters and Solidarity Centers, to ŞÖNİMs, Municipalities and Women's Rights Units of Bar Associations in 81 cities in print and via e-mail. We sent our *Monitoring Report on Coordination in Combating Against Male Violence*, our *2021 Annual Report* and the report on *Shelters and Counseling/Solidarity Centers in Combating Male Violence in Turkey*, which we prepared as the components of the Women's Shelters and Counseling Centers Assembly, to the Governorship of Istanbul, Istanbul Bar Association, relevant units of municipalities, relevant persons from the ministry and MPs interested in the issue. We sent our *2021 Annual Report*, the report of the *Workshop on Combating Violence against Women while Loss of Rights Continues*, as well as the Turkish, English, Arabic, Persian, Spanish and Portuguese translations of our 6284 brochure and thematic brochures to all units of all municipalities in Istanbul that carry out activities on women and immigration. We sent our *2021 Annual Report*, the report of the *Workshop on Combating Violence against Women while Loss of Rights Continues* and our book *The Process of Normalizing Violence* to ŞÖNİMs, Municipalities and Women's Rights Units of Bar Associations in 81 cities. We sent our *2021 Annual Report* and the report of the *Workshop on Combating Violence against Women while Loss of Rights Continues* to the trainers of the Women's Human Rights Training Program organized by the Women's Human Rights New Ways Association. We sent our publications to lawyers who participated in the experience sharing workshops organized with the Mersin Bar Association and Muş Bar Association. We sent the English translation of our 2021 Annual Report to the Consulates.

We also distributed our publications to educational institutions and student groups such as Hisar Schools, Manisa Celal Bayar University Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, METU Productivity Society, Altunizade Sevinç College, Üsküdar University, AIESEC; to local public institutions in Istanbul and other cities such as Muğla Governorship Provincial Migration Administration, İzmir Çiğli Municipality Women's Life Center, Tekirdağ Municipality Women Solidarity Center, Ordu Bar Association, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and Izmir domestic violence prosecutor's office, to professional organizations, migrant, women, and LGBTI+ organizations such as the Women's Commission of the Turkish Medical Association, SPOD, İlkadım Women's Cooperative, Love and Sisterhood Association, the International Migrant Women's Solidarity Association and Urfa Yaşamevi Women's Solidarity Association.











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