



Gender and Security Perception in Istanbul

Workshop Report



ISTANBUL
CITIZENS'
ASSEMBLY

WOMAN
ASSEMBLY



KOC
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND HUMANITIES

HAT





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Gender and Security Perception in Istanbul Workshop Report

The workshop "Gender and Security Perception in Istanbul" was organized in partnership with the Istanbul City Council Women's Assembly, Koç University College of Social Sciences and Humanities HAT activities, and within the scope of the Futurewell Design team's joint project; with Northumbria University called "Embroidered Protection" funded by British Council, UK.

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Scope of the Study

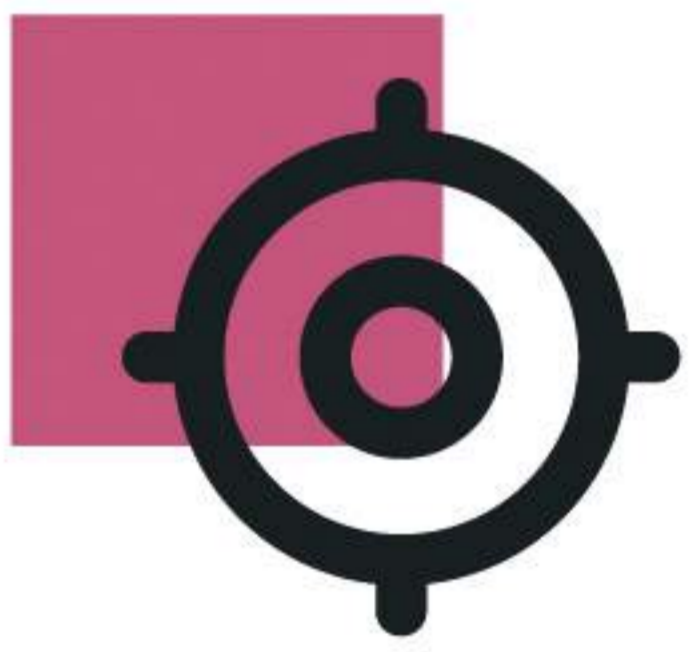
Koç University 'HAT' activities are shaped by the experience and transformation of the scientific knowledge of academics at Koç University, College of Social Sciences and Humanities. HAT aims to build an open platform for academic activities shared with everyone interested in those topics. HAT aims to define not yet pinned new areas of contribution through such workshops, interviews, and the creation of voluntary groups.

The **Futurewell research group** aims to create critical thinking and social structures in Turkey's design, service, and technology studies. Current work includes discoveries about access and aging, future communities, and creative potential and sustainability (employment, education, food, beauty, rituals). Futurewell develops, shares, and implements multi-disciplinary methods to imagine a better future. In the Embroidered Protection Project, the researchers carry out a project that uses socially oriented and smart technologies by centering the ideas of design justice and women's security in technology through collaborative embroidery and quilting work.

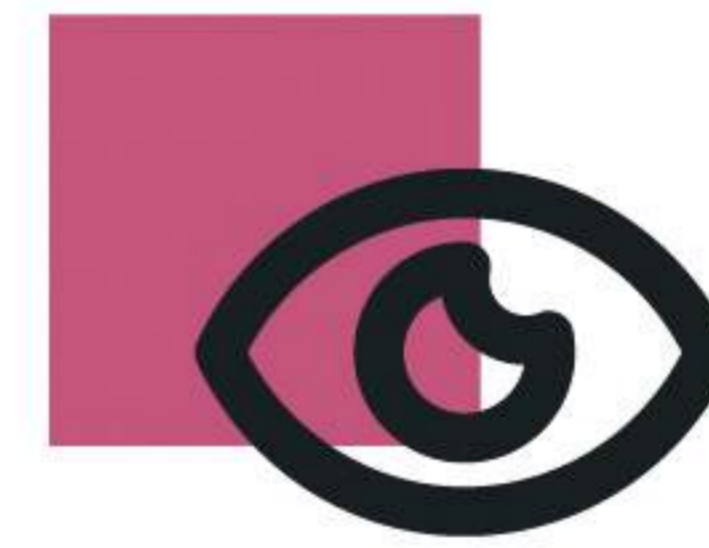


Image 1. Call image shared on social media accounts.

City councils are platforms established to facilitate and develop democratic participation. The city councils are Turkey's most critical "institutional participation tools." Many important actors in the city, such as representatives of public institutions, civil society, professional organizations, political parties, and mukhtars (neighborhood administrators), come together in the city council to discuss the agendas of the city. The main functions of the city councils are to discuss the problems in the city within the framework of common mind with its components and stakeholders. The stakeholders consist of various actors in the city. The city council aims to provide reconciliation environments between different stakeholders, establish new bridges and channels of dialogue between public institutions and segments of society, promote democratic participation, and strengthen civil society. From this point of view, the **Istanbul City Council** creates a democratic participation area with different tools (focus group studies, surveys, workshops, forums, etc.) to increase participation and prepare for every individual who wants to talk about Istanbul and convey their thoughts.



This report was created by the Koç University's Futurewell team based on the Participatory Cafe and design workshop on "Embroidered Protections" held at IBB Zeytinburnu Social Facilities on 15.03.2022. This workshop is moderated by the Koç University Futurewell team and ICC members.



Istanbul Citizens' Assembly Woman Assembly and Koç University Futurewell team jointly conducted and moderated the program of this workshop.

Method of Study

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The team adapted the "World Cafe" technique in this study and used social design visualization methods to create a collaborative idea generation environment. Also, the team adapted the social design methods toolkit prepared by Lucy Kimbell and Joe Julier[1] for discussing gender and security in Istanbul. In this way, at the planning meetings, the participants discussed women's* safety on five different themes selected by the stakeholders, taking into account the reports for 2020-2021. These themes were: **These themes are (1) poverty and employment; (2) insecurity and discomfort; (3) solidarity; (4) violence, violations of rights, and discrimination; and (5) health.** Each theme is assigned to a table in the beginning of the session, and discussed by at least 3 different tables during the workshop through swapping and traveling of the themes across tables.

* Gender identities assigned at birth, such as "female" and "male" used throughout the report, to reflect the way the participants of the study used them. The organizing team carried out an inclusive moderation that did not favor the prominence of any identities.

DURATION

The 'Gender and Security Perception in Istanbul' workshop lasted for half a day.

Study Results

This section summarizes the study results on (poverty and employment, insecurity and discomfort, solidarity, violence, rights violations and discrimination and health.

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Poverty and Employment

The 'Poverty and employment' theme included women's problems in terms of employment and solutions in the economy, politics, socio-culture, technology, environment, and education. The participants discussed these from the perspective of women's security in Istanbul, and collected good examples from multiple tables. In the Defining the Problem section, where participants raised issues from different contexts, the moderator noted each problem mentioned. Thus, five categories of issues emerged under the heading of Poverty and Employment from the statements of two other table participants. Participants concluded that all of the problems are highly correlated. **The identified issues are systemic, care labor issues, global crisis problems, social assistance issues, and professional problems.**

In the sub - theme of **systemic problems**, the participants discussed the inadequacy of the laws related to women's poverty and employment. System procedures are insufficient, and some laws are not adequate to solve the problems. For example, women are more involved in the informal economy, an illegal, uninsured, and insecure form of work. For migrant women, this rate is to reach 99%. Women preferred to work part-time or without insurance. Participants also emphasized the loss of income, security, and retirement rights caused by precarious work. People close to the person, such as spouses, fathers, and siblings are affected by the psychological pressure caused by economic insecurity.

In the sub - theme of **care labor problems**, participants discussed the issues caused by the care services provided by women to their immediate environment. The expectation and pressure on the fulfillment of the duty of care by women negatively affect women's employment and contributes to women's poverty. Participants discussed that the lack of neighborhood nurseries where women can leave their children and the lack of childcare centers for the disabled people who need care constitutes a significant obstacle for women to take part in business life. In another example that draws attention to the depth of poverty, participants stated that women prefer to take care of their disabled children instead

of sending them to school and benefit from financial assistance. They see this as a strategy to fight poverty. Participants interpreted that the conditions imposed on women and the expectations from traditional gender roles led to the conclusion that 'a woman's place should be at home'. Likewise, it was emphasized that not only women who provide child care but also women who provide care for the elderly face similar problems. Therefore, the necessity of institutionalizing women's unpaid care work has come to the fore to increase women's employment.

Suggestion 1: Do not focus on the services that offer temporary and short-term solutions to poverty and employment, but find permanent solutions to ensure the continuity of women's employment, creating and maintaining processes inclusively.

In the sub-theme of **global crisis problems**, participants noted that women are the most vulnerable segments of society, especially in economic terms, in times of crisis such as pandemics. They said that the crisis had increased the burden on women's shoulders. They stated that women living alone sometimes have difficulties performing their self-care and managing their economic sustainability.

In the sub-theme of **social aid problems**, participants mentioned that the official poverty criteria did not reflect the reality of the lived experiences of poverty;

They stated that the institutions should re-evaluate social assistance criteria and offer more inclusive solutions. For instance, women who have movable or immovable property (registered to them) cannot benefit from assistance because they do not meet the social assistance criteria, even if they do not have any economic income. At the same time, participants stated that social assistance incomes were insufficient compared to rent increases, and this financial crisis deepened poverty for women.

In the sub-theme of **professional problems**, participants discussed various difficulties women face in their working life. Participants stated that the criteria of employment offices, as in the social assistance criteria, prevent most women from working. For example, the age limit of 40 in HR departments during recruitment is an essential obstacle in decreasing women's place in the labor market. The sentence "Do we have to crochet to make a living?" pointed out how women are excluded from secure employment opportunities. However, participants stated that some women limit themselves (through self-criticism and feelings of insufficiency) to the sectors they want to work in. They are more interested in jobs such as cleaning and serving tea in offices, limiting their employment options. Based on this social phenomenon, participants stated that most women applying for these jobs do not have a profession and do not have sufficient vocational training.

Unfortunately, most of the roles and occupations assigned to women within traditional gender roles impose working in the informal sector on women. The main reason women are stereotyped into traditional gender roles is that women are not trained to work in different sectors. For example, immigrant women especially concentrated in industries such as apparel and dishwashing. As a result, participants discussed that the professions and sectors in which women are heavily employed might be related to gender. Participants mentioned that the inadequate working conditions offered to immigrant women also negatively affected women from Turkey. In addition to that, the support mechanisms for trans women are insufficient, and this situation poses a fundamental problem in terms of employment for trans women.

Suggestion 2: Provide women with various training beyond traditional gender roles to cope with poverty.

Suggestion 3: Open vocational courses and/or increase the number of courses for women.

Suggestion 4: Support activities through advertising and announcements such as women's labor markets and Potlaç (a local marketplace) by city councils and associations

Suggestion 5: Inform women about associations and cooperatives and direct them to these organizations so that they can access information.

At the 3rd table, the moderator summarized the problems discussed in the previous tables to the participants and asked if they wanted to make additions. Participants confirmed that the points covered were sufficient.



Image 2. Poverty and employment desk.

SOLUTIONS

The question is, “**What brings change for poverty prevention and employment?**” regarding the economy, politics, socio-culture, technology, environment, and education. Possible solutions for the problems determined to cover the near future, such as the next 5-10 years, were discussed. The proposed solutions are mainly shaped around economy, education, and socio-cultural.

Economy - oriented solutions: The first solution proposed for poverty prevention and fostering employment as solutions was to eliminate wage inequality. Participants stated that, “even if we are employed, we are poor because we are women”. Everyone needs to work on eliminating sexual discrimination in the professional environment. State laws should include home labor in the system with the support of cooperatives, and every woman should be under the state's guarantee, even if she works at home. Social Security Institution (SSI) should also support non-working women. Women should be encouraged to start a company. The curriculums should include the family economy course in schools. The household-based social assistance should be prevented from putting women in a disadvantageous position.

Policy - oriented solutions: Participants repeated the importance of state policies, apart from local governments.

Local governments are not enough to solve all problems, and the government should strengthen state policies to better support women, in accordance to the suggestions outlined in this report.

Social and cultural-oriented solutions:

Participants said it is necessary to accept that women experience gender-based discrimination, and everyone needs to inform society about these experiences. Women with children require a sufficient number of nurseries. To increase women's employment participation, women need to reduce or quit the informal care work. The care of the elderly and children should be institutionalized, and kindergarten and playhouses should be free. The world population is getting older and social policies should be produced to support this. Institutions should provide public care so that women are freed and gain their economic freedom. Most women are not aware of the institutional opportunities they can benefit from. Participants suggested better dissemination of information about the possibilities, and other awareness-raising activities are also required. They discussed that women need training for these things. Television can broadcast public service ads. Of course, there is no doubt that civil society will also play one of the leading roles in disseminating this knowledge.

Technology - oriented solutions: Within the scope of the suggestions for technology - oriented solutions, participants stated that women should use the internet efficiently and adequately to sell handicraft produced by them, and 'Dolap' (a local app) can be a suitable platform for this purpose. Providing free training and technological infrastructure would be very useful for this context. Participants stated that the masculine mentality that dominates the technology production sector should change. Women should be in a position that produces technology, not just technology users.

Environmentally - oriented solutions: Women should be made aware of the environmental effects of over-cleaning since women mainly undertake the cleaning task. Supporting the production of materials that can contribute to recycling by women has been suggested.

Education - oriented solutions: Finally, the schooling rate of girls should be higher, and related incentive policies should change. Primary schools should reintroduce gender and equality education courses in the syllabi of primary education. Most importantly, children should receive training on environment, gender, socio-cultural structure, and economic topics.



Image 3. Workshop

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Insecurity and Discomfort

The perception of insecurity and discomfort affect women's urban experience significantly. The participants especially emphasized that the primary determinant of this experience was "gender inequality." As the Istanbul City Council Women's Assembly constantly stressed, the importance of the "**Istanbul Convention**" and the concept of "**Safe Cities**" came to the fore throughout the workshop.

During the workshop, public spaces were primarily designed for men and reserved for them revealed that the experiences of insecurity and discomfort for women started at home and continued on the street, neighborhood, and city scales. In addition, domestic violence cases have shown that women can be in danger and experience insecurity even at home. In addition, participants mentioned that women do not feel safe when there is no man at home, especially at night.

It is among the frequently shared experiences that women have to act according to the time of day and darkness in streets and neighborhoods while using public transportation or while walking on the streets. They feel uncomfortable when passing by crowded groups of men. The desire of women to feel safe and to exist freely in the neighborhoods at night has emerged intensely. Accordingly, participants mentioned that women mostly want to move to the areas in the city center, but that

Suggestion 6: Define and establish a safe area in the city.

Suggestion 7: Ensure the continuity of the perception of security with the support of individuals and constructed spaces. For example, law enforcement officers may actively support security in neighborhoods. Ensure that the lighting properly works in neighborhoods and side streets.

While discussing the experience of insecurity, it has emerged that participants should discuss the cultural and social experience, and they should emphasize the issues of women's education and employment again. In addition, distrust in the justice system has been one of the prominent themes. Participants discussed that "good behavior reductions (the punishment of the suspect reduces if they behave well in the court)" in the justice system encourage the state to "take the risk" of punishment for violent crimes committed by men. This act indirectly supports the insecurities that women are exposed to. Participants revealed the "male" - oriented justice systems' threat posed to women's security.



Image 4. Workshop

The **change in social structure and dynamics** has also been one of the topics discussed. It has emerged that the social incompatibility and tensions experienced in the neighborhoods due to the immigration policies in the country create an air of insecurity for women in the neighborhoods (contributing to a polarisation). In addition, participants discussed that the culture of a known area and the acquaintances in the neighborhood contributed positively to the experience of being safe. They emphasized that male individuals with the perspective of "women should be protected" in the neighborhood environment can also commit harassment. The "Purple Bus" (an info bus that travels to the least accessible neighborhoods) example revealed the benefits of the information and awareness activities in the neighborhoods, aiming to reach women everywhere.

Suggestion 8: Organize gathering events in the neighborhood, for people to form acquaintance and

solidarity environments. More experienced women sharing their experiences with young women, building bridges that can make a positive impact.

Suggestion 9: Organize the safety chains created by women in the neighborhood systematically and inclusively. To make a "security planning" for each neighborhood related to this, for example, determine a common sign for women to give each other the message "I am not safe".

Suggestion 10: Carry out activities to strengthen social solidarity in the neighborhoods. For example, when social workers experience insecurity and violence against women in the neighborhood, they can inform that person about their rights and give information on the subject. Establish an inclusive system where social workers will regularly visit or check on women, especially women who have experienced violence before.

Suggestion 11: Expanding the use of applications such as "Kades" and "Red Light" (applications where women can report that they experience unsafety, momentarily) making them accessible to women from different socio-cultural and economic levels. For this, municipalities can also provide free internet on the streets.

The concept of **intersectionality** through different socio-economic or cultural identities also came to the fore throughout the workshop. Participants also discussed the experiences of insecurity and the inability to exist freely in the city for LGBTIQ+ individuals and persons with disabilities.

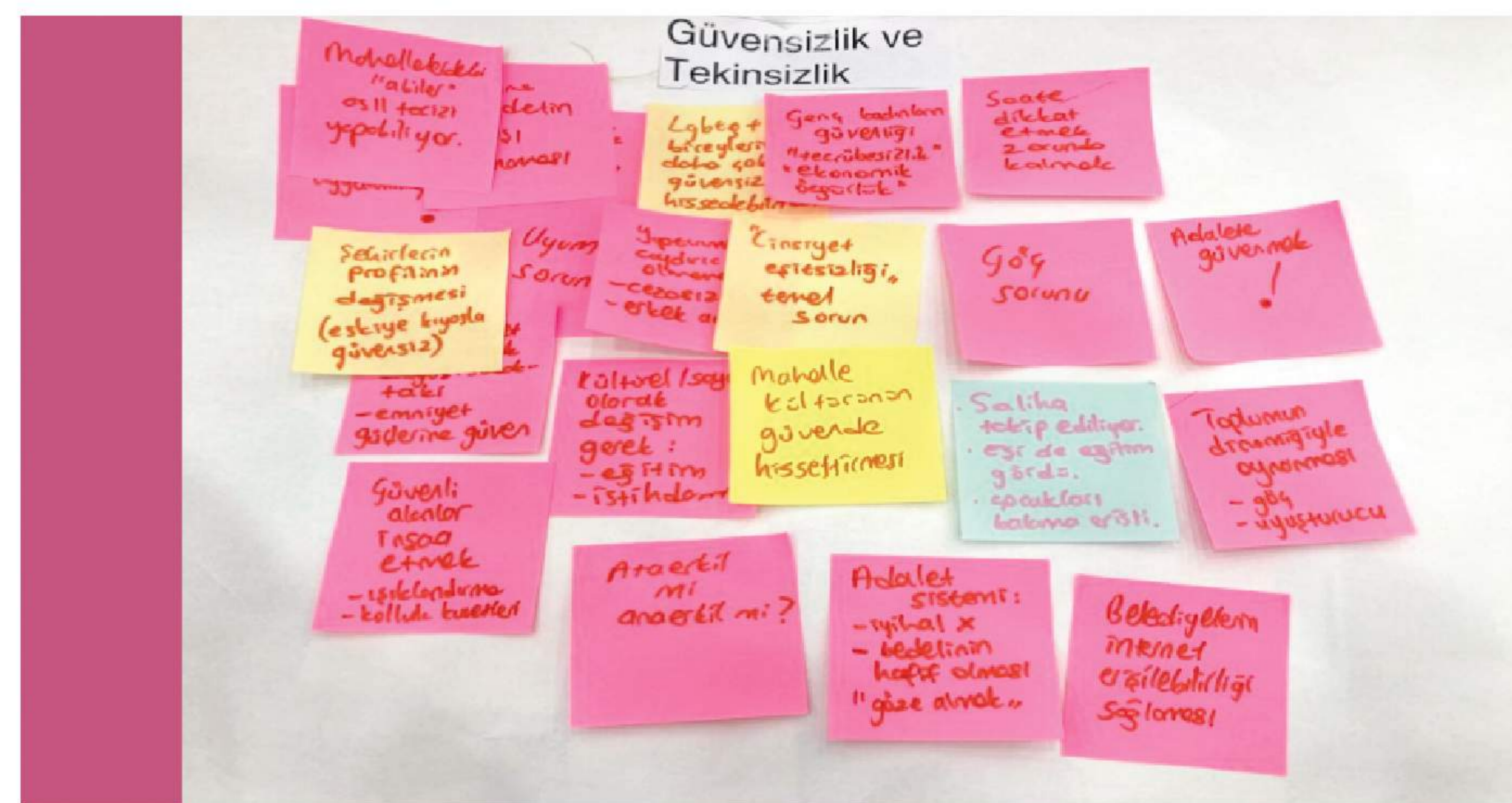


Image 5. Listed ideas for “problem definition” for the table 2.

Story

Making a case analysis and concretizing the problem to suggest an identification, all the experiences and suggestions related to insecurity and discomfort were brought together by narrating them throughout the workshop.

Persona:

Saliha is a woman with two children. One of Saliha's children is disabled and needs constant care. During an argument with her husband, her husband throws a vase toward Saliha; the vase does not hit Saliha, but still, she feels unsafe at home. However, she is not sure whether this was violence or not.

What can be done?

First of all, Saliha may need support to define her experience as violence. For Saliha to receive information and awareness training, she needs to be able to go to the information center/social service center with her child. Therefore, information centers/social service centers should provide a space for children. Then, Saliha needs to determine what she wants, and for this, she needs to know her rights. If she wants to divorce, she needs legal support, or if she does not want to live in a separate house, she needs financial help. In addition, Saliha needs to determine if she intends to work or not. If desired, employment support should be provided. Make sure that Saliha knows and can reach all her legal rights regarding her experience of insecurity and violence. In this process, those who provide social support services and legal support should work together, considering Saliha's wishes and needs.

“ Solidarity

"Solidarity" was considered a process in the context of women's security, especially at the time of any conflict. This process includes examples of concrete actions (e.g., informing with booklet distribution, reaching the authorities through stands, etc.) and implicit solidarity (eye contact with other women). Participants discussed the need to inform women about their rights. Information activities (Purple bus, brochure distribution, business cards with emergency phone numbers, etc.) carried out by the Istanbul City Council Women's Assembly are shown as examples. The participants tried to determine which stakeholders to involve and how to manage the solidarity process through a mapping activity.

PROBLEMS

Solidarity in times of violence

Based on the examples of implicit solidarity that emerged in the street and the taxi, participants discussed how a woman could show solidarity (e.g., with her neighbor, a passerby) when exposed to violence. Participants mentioned different notification or information methods that women can use outside of the phone, and people who can ask for help

Suggestion 12: Establish implicit solidarity models through which women can seek help from their neighbors. These models can be agreeing upon symbols and actions together in the neighborhood.

Suggestion 13: Inform people working in neighborhoods such as Bekçi (local security officials) about women's safety and ask them to take a role in providing security.

Participants reported that women do not know what kind of assistance they can request through the **Social Support Line (183)**. For this reason, participants argued that informing them about social support and guidance are important.

Suggestion 14: Give women information about which institution they can apply to, what kind of support they can get, and the support they can get at the designated solidarity points. Websites and booklets can capture and transfer these information.

Stakeholders to cooperate

Participants stated that local administrations such as **neighborhood representatives and city council offices** are the people that women prefer to contact and ask during conflicts. Neighborhood representatives who are women have a significant role in directing women who have been subjected to

violence to relevant institutions. Women see women local authorities both as people who can help, understand, and cooperate because they are spatially close and more likely to help as they are women. They are more likely to be reliable and trusted.

Suggestion 15: Social workers, psychologists, and lawyers should be accessible to the neighborhood administrations and City Council offices that take an active role in informing women.

Suggestion 16: Use materials such as booklets to transmit solidarity processes. The neighborhood administrations which take an active role in informing women may distribute them. This process should be explanatory, starting from the places where she can get help and even the process of shaping her life in the shelter and afterward.

Some participants mentioned that the **women's shelters** that they visited with the expectation of solidarity left an unsafe impression. The shelters are currently positioned/designed as a place that aim not to create a positive experience so that the women do not get used to staying there. Participants emphasized that women who asked for help did not want to stay in shelters, because they knew that the people close to them had negative experiences in shelters. Participants also mentioned that this safe area created for them does not make them feel safe and does not support their survival after leaving the shelter.

Suggestion 17: Design the women's shelters to support both the psychological healing process of women and the personal development and empowerment process. The new life in the shelter has many facets. Make the transfers easy during settling in the shelter, accommodation period, leaving the institution, and creating their own life in the shelter.

Suggestion 18: Supply employment guidance to the individuals who stay in the shelters. Networking between small workshops and cooperatives to support women's employment is essential. After the person is employed the authorities must carry out the insurance follow-up as soon as possible because it is common that women in need are working in uninsured employment.



Image 6. Solidarity desk.

Suggestion 19: Establishing sharing-based spaces and systems in neighborhoods for women who leave women's shelters to establish their life. Their identity should be kept confidential, and their lives should be protected.

Access to Stakeholders For Solidarity

Individuals exposed to violence should be made aware of what kind of support they can get from which association, how the associations may help them and what kind of support they can receive. Online (websites) and offline (neighborhood administration) information are of help. Some websites contain this information, but they are not up to date.

Suggestion 20: Map the roles and phones of active associations and make them accessible to individuals who want to cooperate in online and offline environments. Actively update online spaces and make them accessible to the community.

Suggestion 21: Identify offline areas such as the headman's office and city council stands for support and convey the roles of associations in these areas. Booklet format can provide this information.

Awareness Studies

The lack of a place for individuals who have a tendency to perform violence, and who want to get help, is an important issue. It would be significant to emphasize men's role in solidarity and make support accessible.

Suggestion 22: Create areas to raise awareness of individuals prone to violence and show how they can get help.

“ Violence, Rights Violations, and Discrimination

Under the topic of violence, violations of rights, and discrimination participants first clustered existing problems of gender and perception of security in Istanbul, identified the affected groups, and then checked whether there are social and cultural diversities specific to the problems. Lastly, they listed good practice examples, if there were any. Participants talked about the difficulties they faced, observed and experienced from many different angles, and placed a handful of well-functioning examples at two different tables. In the "Defining the Problem" section, where participants raised issues from different contexts, the moderator noted each case. From the participants' statements in two separate tables, five categories of problems emerged under the theme. It should be noted that all the problems that were raised are interrelated. For this reason, the problems were then evaluated to form a storyline with each other. The problems are as follows: **(1) Deficiencies in claiming and defining rights, (2) Systemic problems stemming from institutions, (3) Socio - cultural pressure and discrimination (e.g. inadequacy and discrimination against a widely spoken language), (4) Information and education, and their lack of it.**

At the end of the first stage, approximately 30 people from three separate tables agreed that “violence, rights violations, and discrimination are everywhere without any socio - cultural or economic status excluded”. It is a situation that happens to every group, regardless of work, public place, and home. In the second stage of the study, problems were discussed in - depth, participants reviewed socio - cultural reasons, the most affected groups, and presented good practice examples.

PROBLEMS

Participants stated that the insecurity created by systemic inequality is based on several systemic problems. For example, the judiciary and decision - makers can

discriminate based on gender (reducing sentences, releasing, and not taking action despite a complaint). Social norms and rituals can also turn into a masculine insistence and create inequality (existing arrangements in matters such as funerals, inheritance, home care). Other reasons are women's exposure to bullying in business life, inability to define violence that occurs in different forms in every field, anti - women political advocacy due to patriarchy (e.g. daily politics about the role and placement of women in the society, the interpretation of social norms in societal context by influential figures such as ‘pregnant women not belong to streets’ or ‘women do not laugh loud in public’), and the inability to organize the sharing and dissemination of information.

individual support, and consultation were also discussed. Participants discussed the inaccessibility of definitions within the scope of violence and discrimination, the failure to define the problems experienced in accessing or implementing the information on women's rights, not returning to fundamental human rights (violation of the right to life) while concentrating on the perpetrators and the background. When women face the forced choice between freedom and security (e.g. 'you are more secure when you stay at home, so you need to give up your freedom of getting out at nights'), women do not have the competencies to question this.

One crucial issue is not having access to the right information. For example, not knowing the process and rights in the application procedures (e.g. divorce request) can hold women from filing a divorce. Or not being able to define discrimination (e.g. an unjustified rejection by the local administrative authorities in the shelter applications), can increase the possibility of discrimination. Training on defining and demanding rights is needed.

Suggestion 23: Create a training series on defining and claiming rights. This training may include determining what violence is starting from the person's body, such as body identification, and then establishing body and violence definition training and applying them to different groups (65+, refugees, general, asylum seekers)

Affected Groups

Participants stated that the problems identified at the beginning became clearer with different examples from vulnerable groups. Examples are the fear of deportation experienced by asylum-seeking women, difficulty in accessing fundamental rights and freedoms, and a lack of capacity (language support and legal aid). Even so-called safe areas are not secure. For example, trans women may not be safe in shelters as the rules that regulate shelters are not flexible enough or administrative staff may lack understanding. Another example relates to older people who can face age-based discrimination (In Turkey, people older than sixty five years old were obliged to stay at home for months during the pandemic. Their practical and social needs were long ignored in this decision). The need for a common platform, where people can seek help and accompany and discuss openly on these cross-cutting topics has been a prominent proposition for all these. Participants made suggestions for this platform to be digital and in a physical place where access will be higher and should always be accessible.

Suggestion 24: Design neighborhood houses as multi-representative spaces, accessible to all, and arrange their contents to integrate different groups. Establish counseling offices for various fields and groups (e.g., refugee women), providing a consultancy service in their language if needed.

As part of the third stage of this session, participants described experiences through a fiction but realistic story (storytelling method from the kit is used where participants first brainstorm characteristics of a person who is the main character of the story, and later they build a story using those mentioned aspects). The moderators structured the discussion to include possible connections, thoughts, perceptions, skills, dreams, and abilities of the fictive person whose rights were violated and who faced violence or discrimination.

Storytelling

The participants narrated a story, where the characteristics of the individual who experienced a violation of rights are as follows:



Connections

Local government and women's councils, strong parents, and acquaintances are examples of the connections a character can make to move forward and fight against violations positively.



Social Media and Television

Accessing success stories through social media or mass media can motivate this individual. Having information in channels such as the media can raise awareness of women about rights violations, controlling violence in TV series and developing a reflex against violence can help to break the normalized perception of violence and violation of rights.



Skills, Habits, Tastes, and Personal Possessions

The workgroup defined environmental characteristics independent of the identities. Participants emphasized that the following points led any character to be determined by others from outside. Therefore, it is important to empathize with the character and support the person independent of these characteristics. Those points are:

- Dress, image
- Rituals
- Being with or without children
- to be divorced
- Orientation and preferences
- Any situation that may cause fragility



Thoughts and Perceptions

Participants expressed that they thought every woman who experiences a violation of rights and perceptions will also be pushed to "feel guilty", "feel compared", "feel like they have to tell". And if she does not experience these emotions, she will be accused of being emotionless. In addition to these, participants concluded that the "obligation to be a giving person (not a taking person)," "not to be a bad mother," and "the obligation to conduct a holy marriage" made it difficult to perceive that one could establish new social relations. One could overcome these with women's solidarity, sharing, and trust.

Learning to define rights, solidarity, and organizing, which should start from the neighborhood, are necessary for stories to have a happy ending.

“ Health

Participants stated that especially immigrant women living in the different areas of İstanbul have difficulties accessing healthcare. Participants reported that they do not know where they can have tests and screenings related to women's health, such as pregnancy, breast cancer, and uterine cancer, and they do not have access to these rights.

Participants emphasized that a health center or association should be established to provide information on the health of women and immigrants. They stated that women generally do not have complete control over the family physician processes. They reported that immigrant women who do not have a residence permit also have difficulties accessing healthcare. Immigrant women could not find enough opportunities for psychological support and private centers charge exorbitant fees for health and counseling services.

The participants shared women's problems in different regions regarding access to health. Most women living in the area would like to prefer a doctor who is also a woman. However, women who want to make an appointment cannot go to the doctor because of their fears and reservations. There are severe problems in transportation to hospitals due to insufficient public transport in some regions, and therefore women miss their appointments or have to cancel them.

Participants discussed that women do not have enough information about sexual and women's health, especially in Esenyurt (a neighborhood in İstanbul, where two participants came from).

The participants shared women's problems in different regions regarding access to health. Most women living in the area would like to prefer a doctor who is also a woman. However, women who want to make an appointment cannot go to the doctor because of their fears and reservations. There are severe problems in transportation to hospitals due to insufficient public transport in some regions, and therefore women miss their appointments or have to cancel them. Participants discussed that women do not have enough information about sexual and women's health, especially in Esenyurt (a neighborhood in İstanbul, where two participants came from).



Image 7. Violence, rights violations and discrimination desk.

Participants made suggestions to conduct neighborhood studies, conversations, or informative seminars. Participants also stated that young girls need information on topics such as puberty, women's health, and birth control methods. In addition, some references were made about the fact that sanitary pads, one of the basic needs of women, should be free. In general, there are serious problems in women's access to health in Istanbul. Participants shared the difficulties faced by disabled women in accessing their personal health rights.

Story

All experiences and suggestions about health that emerged during the workshop were brought together through stories. The in - depth story example has also helped delineate the roles of many stakeholders.

Persona: Ayşe, 37 years old, married, lives in Beyoğlu.

She succeeded in university exams but quit due to economic problems, and she started working. She works as a data entry operator in the hospital. She married her friend from work. Later, she was dismissed without any relevant justification. In this process, she was exposed to harassment and bullying. There is intense family pressure, and she experiences a lack of self - confidence.

She is treated as useless at home. They want to have children with her husband as a solution, and they do. They think that this will strengthen the family bond. But her husband's violence is on the rise. At the same time, financial concerns begin to arise. Ayşe cannot eat healthily and sufficiently even when she is pregnant due to economic reasons. After the birth, there are deficiencies in her child's development (1.5 years old).

Ayşe first goes to the police because of the violence she was subjected to by her husband, but she gets the answer that "he is your husband. He loves you and beats you too". He goes to his family; the family also approaches the issue from a patriarchal point of view saying her place is next to her husband. Ayşe is also exposed to violence from her brother. She does not know what to do. She needs psychological support. She also needs treatment because of the blows she received. Continuity of care is required to benefit from health services. And she is looking for free healthcare: Which section of the health system will you go to? Should I go to the General Practitioner or the Emergency Department?

Ayşe writes and shares a post describing her situation on social media. A volunteer woman from a support organization accompanies her to the doctor. She goes to the emergency room at the hospital to get a report of an assault. She wants a divorce. She doesn't know where to turn. She doesn't know her rights. She has no money. The volunteer woman who is accompanying her helps. She needs to take a turn from the consultation. Do you have your ID with you? She lines up along the yellow floor markings in the hospital. It is ten in the evening. The hospital is very crowded. She waited for 40 minutes. Thanks to the accompanying volunteer (a woman), priority is given to her because this is a forensic case. Ayşe prefers a female doctor. This request is welcomed in the context of the right to choose a physician. She is not exposed to any marginalization and gets her examination.

She has to take the prescribed medication, but she has no money in her pocket with which to buy these. The volunteer woman supports her. Ayşe has SGK (a health security insurance system in Turkey), but she can use it only if her husband is present at the pharmacy. He still has to pay extra for the medication. She has debts from her previous medical inspections. The pharmacist takes the payment. With solidarity, women are given life. After the medical exam, she received the assault report from the police as well.

Suggestions for the story: What to do?

Suggestion 25: Create a safe environment where the women whose rights were violated and/or who are subjected to violence.

Suggestion 26: Create platforms that aim to raise awareness of women regularly (e.g., Women should learn about their rights).

Suggestion 27: Plan for spatial support (Examples: Şönim centers (women support centers) should also be inside the hospitals. Neighborhood councils should be established).

Suggestion 28: Support women during the process of leaving their home and neighborhood due to violence.

Suggestion 29: Build nurseries where children's care is available.

Suggestion 30: Create a "women's quota" at IBB so that they can find employment in IBB (municipality).

Suggestion 31: Support her with housing support / accommodation assistance.

Suggestion 32: In the context of practices related to Law No. 6284, share that women who have been subjected to violence can request necessary measures from the Ministry of Family and Social Services (for example, protection measures, identity change, etc.).

The institutions that are involved and should be included in these processes can be listed as follows:

- Women's associations - **Neighborhood representatives** - Local institutions - **Family**
- Media - **ŞÖNİM** - Women's solidarity centers of municipalities - **Police** - Hospitals

Conclusion

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In this study, "Gender and Security Perception in Istanbul", the participatory 'World Cafe' technique was adapted together with social design visualization methods to create a collective idea generation and brainstorming environment for women. Social design methods prepared by Lucy Kimbell and Joe Julier were applied in Istanbul. Participants discussed women's safety over five different themes. These themes are; (1) poverty and employment, (2) insecurity and the uncertainty, (3) solidarity, (4) violence, violations of rights, and discrimination, and (5) health. Outputs and recommendations, all categories listed separately, are intended to guide decision-makers in Istanbul.

Workshop Stakeholders

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Hatice KURŞUNCU - Vizyon 2050 Ofisi
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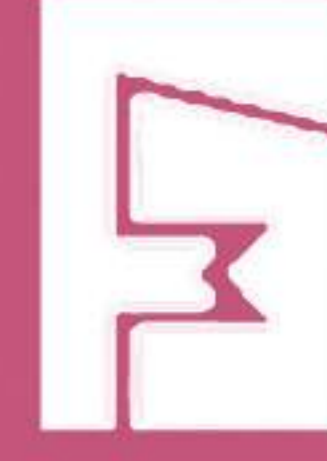
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