

STRATEGIC PLAN

CŞMD

Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence

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INTRODUCTION

CŞMD's 2021-2023 Strategic Plan is the very first strategic plan and the part of institutionalization process of the Association, which has reached its 5th anniversary. In 2018, the Association conducted an organizational self-assessment study under the mentorship of STGM (Civil Society Development Center) and formed its anticipatory "Improvement Plan"; and it has implemented studies regarding the strategic plan for the one year between January 2019 - January 2020 within the scope of this plan.

Within the scope of these studies; regular meetings and studies were held regarding the subjects like:

- The vision & mission of the Association
- The definitions and concepts used within the scope of rights-based policies implemented by the Association
- Organizational documents of the Association
- Target group of the Association, stakeholder analysis, field analysis
- Long-term activities of the Association.

The CŞMD team both participated in trainings and meetings under the mentorship of STGM, and availed itself of the consultancy support it gets in different fields. The Association also participated in SIDA's (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

4-day Result-Based Management (RBM) training, where it was able to gain an insight into the theory of change. During the annual strategy camp organized by the Association every summer, the key messages of this training was transferred to the CŞMD team; and the framework of three-year strategic plan was tailored together with the theory of change there, with the contribution of the whole team in this camp. The Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence has given a structure to its activities by identifying 3 core programs by specifying its strategic objectives that can pave the way for 3 kinds of transformations it would like to observe, aiming to reduce the cases of all forms of sexual violence perpetrated against all forms of physical beings, as its ultimate goal. The activities within the "Empowerment and Support Program", "Transformation and Prevention Program", and "Organizational Sustainability Program" also tally with the CŞMD's core activities being implemented for 5 years.

With this document herein, Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence aims to indicate the transformation it would like to ensure by providing all activities, outputs and outcomes while taking into account the political, economic and social circumstances in Turkey; and with this way, it aims to form a road map that can be applicable to the greatest extent possible while managing the possible risks. CŞMD will conduct its activities on combating sexual violence for the next 3 years in order to achieve its objectives under this plan. With this organizational learning and implementation process, the Association also aims to build closer relations and to develop cooperation with all the stakeholders.

CHAPTER I

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security that cannot be arbitrarily threatened, limited, or taken away for reasons related to sexuality.”

Declaration of Sexual Rights

World Association for Sexual Health (WAS)

1.1 Who are we as CŞMD?

Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence (CŞMD); was established officially in 2014 in Istanbul by the activists, who have taken/take part in feminist, LGBTI+, children's rights movements, animal liberation movements, movement for the rights of refugees and ecology movements, and who make efforts in order for the issue of sexual violence in Turkey to be addressed as a matter of concern by an inclusive, intersectional and empowering approach despite the polarized gender binary system in Turkey.

The Association conducts support, workshop and advocacy studies with a queer feminist perspective in order to make the sexual violence more visible, addressable and debatable; in order to bring the invisible forms of sexual violence to the agenda and to struggle against all forms of sexual violence without establishing any hierarchy among them.

1.2 Our Values

CŞMD is a Queer Feminist Association: While CŞMD is combating sexual violence perpetrated against all forms of physical beings in different forms and manifestations, it notes that these different forms are fed by different or multiple power systems / mechanisms such as patriarchy, general and public morality, polarized gender binary system, racism, nationalism, and speciesism; and it devotes itself to act without establishing any kind of hierarchy between them. Therefore, it adopts queer and feminist perspectives / methods that can allow the intersection of both similar and different fields of struggle.

It is Inclusive and Intersectional: It does not define its field of activity as an association limited to serve a certain area such as women, LGBTI+, youth or children. Sexual violence is a form of violence which can be perpetrated against children, young people, elderly people, persons who identify themselves as a woman or man, persons who do not fit into any gender in gender binary system, refugees, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+, animals; and it is a form of violence that can be perpetrated against any person from any profession, gender, social class, country, ideology, belief and lifestyle. CŞMD embraces this inclusion and intersection in all the information it provides and in all the materials it produces.

It is Creative and Flexible: It always cares about experience sharing and sustainability. At the same time, it is open to change and development, new ideas and methods while being flexible.

It has a Critical Point of View It acts with the assumption that sexual violence is a matter directly related to power and authority. It questions and criticizes the power dynamics and the norms arising from these dynamics. In the same way, it gives importance to the mechanisms of criticism and self-criticism in building communication within the Association.

It is anti-hierarchical: CŞMD is an anti-hierarchical association that believes the power of teamwork and solidarity. In case of building internal and external communication, it embraces the open communication and transparency approach. It does not establish any hierarchy among the forms of violence; it is in a constant struggle against all forms of sexual violence, while giving priority to the invisible forms of sexual violence.

It is Sex-Positive: CŞMD has a point of view that sexuality is a common phenomenon and that everyone can enjoy their sexuality in different forms and in various ways. It respects personal values. It does not associate sexuality with public morality, nor limit it to gender norms. It does not establish any hierarchy between the attitudes and practices of persons regarding their sexuality and it defends the consent and communication. It considers sexuality, as something shall be spoken-out loud and it encourages the persons to talk about their sexuality. The right to comprehensive and inclusive sexuality education, which is implemented from a sex-positive perspective, is among the areas that CŞMD built as a part of its struggle.

It embraces Anti-Discrimination and Equality: CŞMD is against all kinds of discrimination based on the factors such as gender, age, race, religion, language, political or other opinion, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, health status, disability status, marital status, asylum seeker or refugee status. It has a zero tolerance policy against hate speech and discrimination, speciesism, sexism, homophobia / transphobia / biphobia, and any form of discrimination. Working principles of CŞMD include providing and ensuring a working environment where everyone can feel safe and free from prejudices.

It embraces Anti-speciesism: CŞMD argues that all animals are sentient beings having the right to live without being exploited, tortured or ill treated. As the sign of its struggle against speciesism and against the exploitation of animals; CŞMD embraces the abstention from all animal products and by- products within its office environment and during its activities. It does not use its financial resources for the products obtained as a result of animal exploitation.

It adopts a Participatory Approach: CŞMD focuses on and encourages the participation of children, young people and survivors in its field of studies. It participates in rights-based networks and platforms that can enhance the combat against sexual violence. It uses consensus as a method of decision-making; it cares about participation and collective production.

Testimony carries an evidentiary weight: CŞMD believes the testimonies of the survivors. Survivors do not bear the burden of proof in their testimonies, they are not obliged to prove and document the violence they are exposed to. CŞMD does not look for evidence to initiate the necessary processes. It acts to operate mechanisms that strengthen those exposed to violence and support their well-being.

It is Accountable and Transparent: CŞMD considers the principle of transparency and accountability in its activities, actions and financial resources. It constructs the methods and structures that will ensure that resources are used wise and responsibly.

It promotes the global ecosystem: CŞMD imagines a world where there is no exploitation against all living things in the ecosystem. It is aware of the fact that the climate crisis targets the entire ecosystem and all the lives within it. It treats climate justice as a political problem and it adopts a responsible approach. It uses its resources in this direction.

It is an Anti-militarist Association: CŞMD is an anti-militarist association, it is against every organized or unorganized policy and practice of violence; it has a structure that uses nonviolent communication methods believing in the right of self-defense.

1.3 Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence Approach to Sexualized Violence

- Rather than a mercifying, victimizing, judging, embarrassing social language; it embraces and advocates for an empowering, solidarity promoting and rights-based language and approach, while addressing the survivors of sexual violence. It combats the social perception blaming the survivor of violence and acquitting the perpetrator.
- It works to make the forms of sexual violence that are less visible in society, to be visible and does not establish hierarchy between different forms of sexual violence.
- It adopts the idea that each individual may be the subject or the survivor of violence. It does not use a language that marginalizes or alienates sexual violence; it does not polarize persons as “we” and “they”.

- It emphasizes the importance of individual transformation in the combat against sexual violence and advocates for “Change Starts with Me”.
- CŞMD does not aestheticize violence, does not reproduce it, it avoids consuming it.

1.4 Vision & Mission

Vision:

Contributing to a kind of a planet, where the existed social perception on sexual violence are fully transformed into another that can liberalize and empower the survivors in a way that it will eliminate all forms of oppression and discrimination; a planet in which all human beings and animals have their own dignities and the right to live without being exploited, tortured or ill treated.

Mission:

Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence conducts productive studies and supportive and awareness-raising activities in order to change the social norms, perceptions, behaviors and practices that cause sexual violence. It contributes to the mainstreaming of a rights-based and empowering approach that covers all individuals in order to prevent the prevalence of silencing, shaming, victim blaming and to break the social construction of false beliefs about sexual and sexualized violence.

Core Activities Implemented in line with the Mission:

- Awareness-raising workshops and events
- Providing Information and production of materials
- Advocacy activities

1.5 Main Concepts

Sexual Violence:

Sexual Violence; defines any actions, behaviors and interventions inflicted by the person(s), including attempts and threats regarding sexuality, without getting consent, by building consent or in cases where persons are incapacitated to consent.

In what kind of situations persons are incapacitated to consent?

- In cases where the person is exposed to violence
- In cases where the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- In cases where the person is not sober enough to consent due to substance use such as drug consumption, etc.
- In cases where the person is Incapacitated physically or mentally / spiritually to consent
- In cases where the person is a minor (under the age of 18)
- In cases where the involved party is non-human animals, incapable of giving consent

What do we mean by all kinds of actions, behaviors and interventions?

The action may be actual, attempted, or threatened act or behavior. Those acts are directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion that may involve psychological intimidation, blackmail or other threats. It may involve interfering with someone's physical and / or sexual integrity: for example, an intervention threatening sexual health, hindering the access to medical treatment and services related to reproductive health, or a mandatory gender-confirmation operations in intersex persons.

Sexual violence is not related to sexuality; rather is related to the use of power as a means of violence.

It is a problem affecting public health.

It is a direct violation of rights and freedoms.

It is a socially learned behaviour, therefore it can be PREVENTED

Sexualized Violence: is any non-consensual, unwanted, actual, attempted or threatened act or behavior that is carried out through sexual means or by targeting a person's sex, sexual identity, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Why is the concept of 'sexualized violence' used?

Sexualized violence is a more inclusive concept that explains the invisible forms of sexual violence including not only physical coercion, but also threat and pressure on our gender identities. In many countries in the world, rights-based activists and experts choose to use this concept, because sexual violence does not occur solely through 'sexual acts' and it is inadequate in explaining the forms of violence that affect our lives and that target our sexuality.

The concept of sexualized violence refers to the invisible, less visible forms of physical and emotional violence, oppression, the acts targeting the sexuality of persons and the acts related to the sexual or commercial purposes or the forms of non-consensual sexual contacts inflicted by perpetrators in the societies in which many people perceive sexual violence only as harassment, rape and sexual abuse.

Sexualized violence highlights the message that sexual violence is not about sexuality, but is about power relations, unequal conditions and discrimination such as sexism-speciesism-homophobia etc. It also implies that those acts are inflicted on women, animals, LGBTI+ persons in order to control and regulate their bodies and sexuality; to humiliate, insult and punish them.

Sexual Abuse:

It means the sexual exploitation of individuals who are under the age of 18 (defined as children in international conventions and national legislation) by a person who is responsible for themselves in regard to their age and developmental state, and who has a relationship of trust or power with the said individuals. Sexual abuse should not be confused with curious, consensual sexual games or violent behaviors between peers. For an act to be called sexual abuse, one of the parties must be an adult. Sexual abuse can also occur in a virtual environment and is not limited to physical contact. Contrary to popular belief, people who expose children to sexual abuse are not often strangers, but the relatives or the people they know, trust, respect and maybe like. Abusive adults often abuse them by abuse of confidence and betrayal of trust. When this abuse occurs in the family, it is called "domestic sexual abuse".

Survivor:

It is used for people who have been subjected to any form of sexual violence at some point in their lives. It is preferred because it is a more empowering concept than "victim" or "injured party". To survive; means that regardless of the violence experienced and the extent of the trauma it led to, we can find healing by clinging to ourselves and getting support from acquaintances, and we can live a more satisfying and productive life.

CHAPTER II

2. Field Analysis on Sexual Violence

2.1 Legislation, issues and restrictions on sexual violence in Turkey

Sexual violence has been brought up to the agenda together with "domestic violence" and "harassment" for the first time in Turkey by the women's movement in the 1980s, the activism in that regard has become stronger in 1990s, where the movement has positioned itself as opposed to the practices such as virginity testing. As of 1990s, owing to the fact that departments of women studies were opened in universities, the cooperation were developed with international organizations, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) was used as a reference in regulations and legal practices, General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW/KSGM) was opened, the women's movement and the feminist movement have also empowered at the organizational level, advocacy and lobbying activities have been conducted to eliminate the problems of violence and discrimination.

Following the process where Turkey became the candidate for nomination for EU membership, Civil Code was amended in 2002, Turkish Penal Code was amended in 2004, and in this process, the feminist and LGBTI+ organizations have been able to ensure the majority of their requests to be reflected in the reform process. In this process, important legal amendments have been made such as division of marital property, change of the status of man as the head of family, abolition of crime of adultery, abolition of differences in penalties in sex crimes regarding the sexual assaults against married / single women or abolition of abatements in penalties regarding the rape of sex workers and the inclusion of spousal rape as a crime. An important development for the prevention of violence was the signing of the Istanbul Convention in 2011, in which the state ratified that it will play an active role in cooperation with all institutions in preventing domestic violence against women and girls. In this context, Law No. 6284 was also adopted and a legal framework was established to protect women and girls from violence.

Despite the fact that advocacy and legal measures against gender based violence increased in Turkey throughout the 2000s, problems and limits in the understanding and treatment of the issue of sexual violence persists in Turkey. Some of those problems are listed below to better understand CŞMD's intervention in the field/how the struggle against sexual violence and its effects is carried out in the Turkish context.

Limited understanding of sexual(ized) violence and its effects: The first of all these is that the handling/treatment of sexualized violence in the Turkish context is mostly focusing on domestic violence and as a threat to the family structure and relations (rather than a human rights issue) both at institutional and social levels. Even within the framework of such conceptualization preventive and precautionary measures are and the services offered by institutional mechanisms are limited. Different types of sexual(ized) violence such as harassment, different axes of inequalities such as ethnicity or sexual orientation, and structural reasons (such as sexual myths, patriarchal and sexist stereotypes) are not problematized and even reproduced.

Conservatism & gender backlash: In Turkey, state-supported media makes regular propaganda and states that Law No. 6284 and the rights it contains, right for alimony and the Istanbul Convention destroy the family institution, women's shelters are dysfunctional and independent women and LGBTI+ organizations harm the society. No steps have been taken to prevent early and forced marriages, rather a parliamentary commission has been established to prevent divorces, a bill was introduced to the parliament to marry off the children to the perpetrators of rape, muftis have been given the authority for performing official weddings and the education system has been changed and limited to 4+4+4 years, which negatively affected the schooling rate of girls. Even though the rights of women, such as the right to abortion, divorce, alimony, protection from violence, file a complaint against domestic rape and sexual abuse, educational rights are included in the legislation as the protected rights and freedoms, it has become difficult for the persons to enjoy these rights as well as recognition of LGBTI+ persons in constitution, freedom of assembly and fundamental human rights with the actual practices caused by these discourses. "Gender Equality", which was one of the 26 targets covered by 2019-2020 program of the General Directorate of Special Education Guidance and Counseling Services, was removed from the program on 11 September 2019 and then "Gender Equality" was removed

from the all field of activities of the Ministry of National Education's Regulation on Social Services with an amendment on regulation published in the Official Gazette on 12 September 2019. In addition to that, Council of Higher Education has removed the Certificate of Attitude on Gender Equality sent to all university rectors from its website.

Problems in practice: As mentioned, in the Turkish context the issue of sexual(ized) violence is treated selectively, with a mere focus on domestic violence. It is stated by women's organizations that despite its inadequacy, the Law No. 6284 is a significant legal document, however there are still problems in the implementation of the law and the relevant public staff has not enough information and level of awareness. The number of women's shelters in Turkey is still far below the numbers expected and there is no monitoring and evaluation study regarding the quality of the service provided there. Public institutions do not provide information and support to civil society regarding support services and they refrain from providing their opinion and collaboration. It is observed that public institutions do not share information with the media or with each other, and there is no decent coordination other than some specific services. It is not known who is behind the mechanism controlling the services, and the state seems to monitor and control its own services. However, there is no current research about violence against women and sexual violence that the state has shared with the public the most updated one is dated on 2014. State does not publish statistical data and research to show how many women were subjected to violence; how women and girls are protected from violence. Discrimination and violence to which LGBTI+ persons are exposed to are addressed only by LGBTI+ organizations.

The Deficiencies in mechanism and in practice: Within Turkey, **there are no specialized support units for the survivors of sexual violence. There are no units such as National Emergency Response Hotline, Rape Crisis Center, Sexual Violence Counseling Center and "Sexual Crimes Unit" or similar units in the Prosecutor's Office or in the Police Department.** Since the existence and functions of such units are not known to the public, the issue of supporting the survivors is not brought up to the agenda enough and the public is mostly discussing the impunity of the perpetrators. State agencies do not assume the obligations of preventing and protecting the survivors; the concept of "sexual violence" is almost never used by public institutions.

Lack of public-civil society dialogue and problems in access to information: The policy on violence, which has always been eclectic/fragmental in Turkey, could not reach to a holistic perspective due to the fact that the communication between the state and civil society organizations has been interrupted thoroughly since 2015. Non-governmental organizations cannot find a ground for bringing up the deficiencies regarding the rights and services to the agenda, and the organizations that call themselves feminist or LGBTI+ or the organizations that raise the violations of the rights of different groups are presented by the government as marginal organizations and even as a threat to national security. State of Emergency and then the transition to presidential government system in Turkey affected the functioning of bureaucratic and institutional structures and affected the coordination and efficiency of support systems for the survivors of violence negatively which are already inadequate, and affected the access to information negatively.

In this period, where democratic rights were limited on the grounds of security measures, where polarization and violence cases in the society escalated, it is observed that the number of sexual violence cases has increased and vulnerable groups (refugees, LGBTI+ persons, children, women, persons with disabilities, animals, etc.) of the society became more vulnerable to the risk of sexual violence.

Reproduction of patriarchal sexist discourse through media channels: Media, which is identified as a strategic area for the first time by Beijing Declaration Platform for Action, is one of the areas where gender inequality is observed most in Turkey. The increasing pressure on the media in the new era has limited the capacity of the media to approach the practices or policies critically, the contents produced are mostly tabloid or sporting and the media has continued to reproduce its problematic point of view in that regard. The mainstream media maintains male dominant, discriminatory and marginalizing language and perception, and the news on sexual violence do not have a rights-based perspective approach, rather victim-blaming approach are being spread at the social level.

2.2 Least visible forms of sexual violence in Turkey

Sexual violence / abuse against animals: Although Law No. 5199 on Protection of Animals has been in force since 2004 in Turkey, it does not consider the animals as the holder of right and thus it clearly fails to protect them. Both in society and in the laws, animals are seen as goods, and they are not considered as social creatures and as sentient beings. Second paragraph of Article 151 of Turkish Penal Code, defines the killings of owned animals or the sexual abuse of owned animals as "damage the property" and it imposes administrative fine. Violence against animals "not owned" is not considered as a crime and even the administrative fines that must be compulsorily imposed are not fined persistently. Although as an electoral pledge it is stated that imprisonment will be imposed in cases of violence against animals during election periods, the impunity of acts of violence against animals continues since the expected amendments in the law after the elections have not yet been made. Although it is known to be very common, there is no statistics or research on sexual abuse of animals. Many animal rights organizations treat the crime of sexual abuse of animals as an individual crime, which prevents the social background from being visible. There are no preventive-protective studies in the field of education.

Sexual abuse of children and young people: Sexual abuse of children is addressed in Turkey by leaving the rights and participation of children aside. In addition to the cultural reasons, such as the fact that adults have authority over the children, children are not seen as individuals, unconditional respect and obedience are expected by adults from children, the family is considered as sacred and as superior to all values, ignorance regarding sexual abuse and false beliefs; the structural reasons, such as the lack of access to regular and rights-based training and raising awareness activities like comprehensive sexuality education, increase the sexual offences against children and make the violation of children's bodily integrity and sexual abuse invisible. Sexual abuse is discussed after the occurrence of violent behaviors and the children are harmed, public institutions has no point of view regarding preventive-protective approach to sexual abuse and adequate preventive measures are not taken. Course of action in abuse support services provided by the relevant Ministries and the approach of administrative staff is far from being rights-based and preventive. Children may be exposed to secondary traumas and their statements may not be taken seriously. Although Child Monitoring Centers have been opened, there are no standardized practices yet. In addition to lack of information and coordination, there is no adequate monitoring study conducted. On the other hand, violations of the rights of children are widespread in the media. There are scarcely any research and applications for children with disabilities. Sexual development and education find limited space in the field of special training, like other fields. The subjects such as sexual development of children, communication, personal boundaries, concept of consent, children's bodily autonomy can only be studied through guidance counselors in schools, these guidance counselors have limited access to empowering resources and materials. Sexual abuse of adolescents is more invisible due to the perception of adolescents in the society and these cases are generally found acceptable as if the young persons have given their consents to such cases. This perspective paves the way for early marriages and school dropouts. The discrimination and violence experienced by LGBTI+ children in school and family increase the rate of suicides among adolescents.

Dating violence: Although the concept of dating violence is becoming more visible in Turkey, this issue is not discussed within the scope of "safe relations" or "sexual health" in related platforms. The fact that the concept of dating/flirt is harmonized with "immorality" due to conservative policies hinders the studies on dating violence to mainstream and to be transformed into preventive protective studies in schools in Turkey. Instead of reducing and preventing the severity of dating violence, it is seen that policies such as early marriages and lowering the age of consent are applied to eliminate flirts. Although guidance counselors and psychological counseling and guidance teachers in high schools are aware of the incidents of dating violence among young persons, they cannot find adequate resources to develop and implement a preventive - protective approach. The number of young persons who have access to comprehensive sexuality education in the formal education system is limited and very few and those can only have access to this training in private schools. While news about young persons murdered by their partners take place more frequently in media and get negative reactions; the mainstream media maintains its perspective, which is victim-blaming and normalizing violence in relationships. Because of gender inequality and prejudices, it is more difficult for young women and young LGBTI+ persons to express the violence they exposed to in their relationships. Even though it is rare, there are some centers of municipalities, NGOs and some Youth Centers that conduct raising awareness studies in that regard and welcome the applications in cases of dating violence.

Sexual violence against LGBTI+ persons: Despite Article 10 on the equality before the law, since there is no reference to the terms such as sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBTI+ persons are not recognized in and protected by

the Constitution. In addition to nonrecognition and bias in the criminal justice system, the stigmatization and marginalization of LGBTI+ identities facing discrimination, physical coercion, threat and pressure within the society lead to a higher risk for sexual violence. Besides the constitutional and societal levels, LGBTI+ persons also encounter sexual violence in the medical setting through unethical practices such as 'corrective therapies' to change the sexual orientation, forced genital and anal examinations, and treatment on intersexual children without their consent. Addressed only by the LGBTI+ organizations, preventive-protective approaches to the sexual violence against the LGBTI+ persons are either inadequate or unavailable, in addition to the non-existence of the specialized support units. Lesbian, bi+ and trans women who face forced marriage and coercive rape cannot access the support systems and shelters for women because of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. Additionally, because of the fear caused by prejudices and discrimination such as disclosure, judgment, and victim-blaming, LGBTI+ survivors who experience sexual violence in their relationships cannot practice their right to legal remedies.

Sexual violence against men: Sexual violence against men is a taboo in Turkey and is an invisible issue, which is never discussed. There is no common belief in the society regarding the fact that men can be exposed to sexual violence. Likewise, there is no shelter or support unit for cis-male survivors.

2.3 The visibility of sexual violence in social level in Turkey and the increase in its visibility

Sexual violence has been brought up to the agenda by the feminist and LGBTI+ movements in the 1980s and 1990s as a rights-based field of struggle and developed as a form of activism built on visibility effort. In the last decade, sexual violence and abuse have evolved into a field of political advocacy, the steps of organizing and institutionalizing at the level of activism have started to take place, and a certain level of responsive approach has started to arise in the public sector (although it is not sufficiently comprehensive).

The visibility in Turkey in that regard has increased after the use of Internet and social media has extended; the fact that sexual violence is mentioned more and anti-violence campaigns take place in alternative media channels more are the significant elements ensuring this visibility. After the cases of sexual assault and sexual abuse, such as rape and murder of Ozgecan Arslan, mass abuses of children in one of the Ensar Foundation's dorms, caused public indignation in Turkey, social awareness has been raised and this causes the sexual violence cases to be newsworthy and regular news in that regard take place both in media and social media platforms. Via #metoo movement, which started in 2015 through social media and enables women all over the world to raise their voice against sexual violence and via #sendeanlat movement in Turkey, in which more than 4 million women participated, survivors were able to share their experiences of sexual violence.

The government's policies and initiatives have led the public to infer that state agencies and the judicial system will not provide women and children with a de facto protection and led the public to mistrust the public institutions. The fact that the government did not take effective measures to serve for the public conscience in certain and other sexual violence-sexual abuse cases that caused public indignation, and the fact that it did not take its own responsibility and it sometimes finds itself in defending the perpetrators, reinforced this mistrust. In November 2016, in the "Report of the Parliamentary Commission on the Investigation of the Factors Affecting the Integrity of the Family Negatively and Investigation of Divorce Cases", it is stated that there is a bill introduced to parliament stating that the perpetrator of the abuse /rape would benefit from probation if the perpetrator had a "decent" and "successful" marriage with the complainant child for 5 years. There is still effort to introduce this bill that is withdrawn after the negative reactions, to the parliament's agenda. Such initiatives increase the mistrust of Turkey's politics and state agencies and attract the attention of the public more while creating the motivation to follow similar initiatives via the media.

In the light of these developments, it has been observed that there is an awareness raised about the issues of sexual violence and abuse in social media, in alternative media and at the social level. We listed some of the recent developments we identified below, **we consider these developments as opportunities to promote the rights-based and holistic approach against violence embraced by CŞMD:**

- The awareness on different forms of sexual violence is raised in Turkey, especially among young persons. It is observed that the concepts regarding dating violence, sexual violence and sexual abuse become more visible and were discussed by the public.
- In the independent media, there are some efforts for the right-based reporting of sexual violence, albeit those are few. In this regard, in the studies of independent media, attention is paid to the use of language and visuals and the opinions of rights-based organizations are included in while the news are framed.
- Law No. 6112 on the Establishment of Radio and Television Enterprises and Their Media Services was adopted on 15.02.2011 and it was emphasized in the Article S of the Law that the programs that contradict gender equality, encourage oppression against women and abuse women cannot be published.¹
- Forms of sexual violence and related violations of rights can be reported in civil society in a more diverse and inclusive manner than before. In addition to the murders of women and transgender persons, sexual violence is also recorded and these can be used to forge public opinion and pressure. About the different forms of sexual violence occurring in educational institutions, sports fields, public institutions, detention facilities, religious institutions, public spaces, there are studies produced by social facets like trade unions, political parties, municipalities, universities, NGOs and professional groups.
- We observe that the concept of the Rape Crisis Center and requests in that regard have been taken over by the women's movement especially since 2012 and the awareness on this has raised in the country. In fact, this demand has been included in the agenda of some political parties as an electoral pledge. It is observed that requests for support / service units specialized for the survivors of sexual violence have started to emerge publicly.
- It can be stated that the violence against animals is relatively more visible in the public opinion. As a result of this visibility, it has been observed that the request for the inclusion of violence against animals as crime are included in the electoral pledges of political parties. It is a fact that with the increasing number of vegan animal rights defenders, the number of the studies to combat against violence, which all animals are exposed to regardless of species increased.
- In Turkey, there are support services for children exposed to sexual abuse in 34 provinces called as ÇİM (Child Monitoring Center) and there are support services for survivors and for juveniles pushed to crimes in 63 provinces called as ÇODEM (Child Support Center). It is known that ÇİM will increase in number. There are also more NGOs and platforms that carry out projects supporting children's rights and projects for children. Partnership Network for the Prevention of Violence against Children increases communication and solidarity between NGOs and public institutions working in the field of rights of children In particular, it is observed that public pressure on the disclosure of sexual abuse cases and protection of children intensifies day by day.
- Access to accurate information on the issues such as sexuality, sexual development, gender neutral parenting, gender-responsive education, feminist pedagogy, and safe relationships has increased through digital platforms such as podcasts, mobile applications and radio broadcasts; finding resources, networking and solidarity have become more possible for parents, young persons and educators.
- Educators follow materials produced for sexual and sexualized violence against children and adolescents and initiate rights-based practices in their local communities where they work with their own initiative. Requests for training and activity on issues related to gender and sexual violence are increasing.
- As a result of the increased visibility and responsiveness at the social level, it is observed that there is an increase in level of awareness on prevention of sexual violence and support for survivors in some local governments.

¹ B ker, Őe il, "Medyada Toplumsal Cinsiyet EŐitliĐi Haritalama ve İzleme  alıŐması", CEİD publishings, 2018, Ankara

CHAPTER III

Sexual violence is a multilayered and deep-rooted social issue not only in Turkey but also in the rest of the world. A single and quick solution may not be possible but it can be reduced by interventions to be made on each layer and it **CAN BE PREVENTED.**

3. Theory of Change and Thematic Fields of Study

3.1. Field Intervention

Field analysis presented in Chapter II, particularly the problems and opportunities we have assessed in the struggle against sexual violence are summarized in the table below.

Problems that need to be addressed	
Problems at societal level	Problems at institutional level
The fact that safe and healthy sexuality is not discussed because of gender norms, heterosexual family-oriented approach and public morality	Lack of preventive activities such as comprehensive sexuality education, raising awareness workshops
The fact that sexual violence is not known as a concept, only concepts of rape and harassment are discussed	Lack of legal and institutional regulations to combat different forms of sexual violence
The fact that the sexual violence is considered as an inevitable issue	The fact that preventive raising awareness and monitoring activities do not take place in public institutions
The fact that sexual violence (related to other forms of violence and social / economic / cultural and political dynamics) is not considered as a structural problem	The fact that legal regulations on sexual violence is limited to the punishments imposed on the perpetrators whereas other factors are ignored, gender equality was removed from the curricula of MoNE and Council of Higher Education
Perspectives that do not see the needs and diversity of individuals affected by violence	Lack of support services for different forms of sexual violence
The fact that survivors of sexual violence do not know their rights and where to apply, victim-blaming social approach	The lack of support and services following the experienced sexual violence. The fact that the services are not visible
False beliefs (myths) that are internalized in society as a result of rape culture	The fact that the myths about sexual violence are internalized even by service providers and professional experts
The fact that the children are not seen as individuals, unconditional respect and obedience are expected from children, the ignorance and misconceptions about sexual abuse	Lack of institutional structures for children to enjoy their citizenship rights, lack of family counseling centers and lack of training studies for building best parent attitudes
The fact that survivors cannot claim their rights and blame themselves because of the widespread victim blaming approach in society	The language of media organs which is victim blaming and is reproducing the violence
The fact that violent behaviors are considered as the indicators of love in relationships, the violent language is learned and reproduced in the society	Lack of the availability of raising awareness studies and training on safe relationships in institutions for young people, lack of youth counseling centers
The fact that sexual violence against animals are invisible and there is a widespread speciesism in society	Lack of penal sanction of sexual violence against animals, failure to keep statistics of violence cases
The firm perception in the society that the forms of sexual violence are individual cases and the fact that survivors feel lonely. Civil society's inability to create advocacy based on fundamental data	The fact that the state does not provide disaggregated data and statistics, and does not conduct research and reporting in cases of sexual violence and gender-based violence
Opportunities & Developments that need to be benefited	
Opportunities/ New Developments at societal level	Opportunities/ New Developments at Institutional Level
A social understanding in which safe and healthy sexuality, respect for personal boundaries and the concept of consent are discussed and embraced	Making comprehensive and inclusive sexuality education compulsory at all grades starting from elementary school in the formal education system and ensuring the trainings to be conducted by qualified experts

Definition, different forms and reasons of sexual violence should be known; the level of individual knowledge, level of responsibility and awareness should be raised	Legal, local and institutional regulations, regular campaigns to combat different forms of sexual violence
Considering the sexual violence as a preventable issue	Electoral pledges should be included in the programs of political parties on the forms of sexual violence such as dating violence, sexual violence against LGBTI+ persons, sexual abuse, institutions should form and implement their policy documents on sexual violence
The fact that sexual violence is considered as a structural problem related to poverty, gender inequality, patriarchal and adult centric social order and heterosexism	Reintegration of gender equality into the curricula of MoNE and Council of Higher Education, the development of anti-poverty strategies, inclusion of studies on sexual violence in strategic plans of local governments, organization of special conferences, events and meetings on sexual violence
Survivors should be able to express their needs and be able to enjoy their rights	Increasing support services for different forms of sexual violence by local governments, building the capacity of support units
Inadmissibility of victim blaming and violence justifying approach	The efforts of independent and social media for making the news on sexual violence in a way to have rights-based approach
More diverse and inclusive reporting in civil society than before, the concept of Rape Crisis Center and the requests in that regard to be owned by the women's movement	Increased cooperation and communication channels with the requests of civil society in local and metropolitan municipalities, although there is a political centralization
A social structure, in which the children's rights to physical integrity are recognized, the children are considered as individuals, the culture of consent built by mutual respect is established and false beliefs on sexual abuse are transformed	Increasing child-friendly municipalities and child assemblies, monitoring the violations of rights of children, organizing capacity-building trainings on the preventive-protective approach for the staff of local governments, establishment and ensuring the functioning of negligence and abuse prevention units in MoNE affiliated institutions and Guidance and Research Centers.
Raising awareness of young persons on different forms of sexual violence and dating violence	Implementation of preventive and raising awareness studies for young people going to the schools by school counselors and psychological counselors in schools, youth-friendly counseling services provided in youth counseling centers of local governments
Considering sexual violence against animals as violence, adopting an anti-speciesist approach in society	Identification of sexual violence against animals as crimes within the scope of Turkish Penal Code and reporting studies should be implemented

3.2 Theory of Change

IMPACT: REDUCTION OF SEXUAL AND SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECTS

OBJECTIVE 1: EMPOWERMENT & SUPPORT

Outcome 1: The survivors of sexual violence enjoy their rights more and have more access to support and services.

Output 1.1: Providing survivors information about their rights and available health, legal and social services, self-care, care and support for survivors, and information of empowerment

Output 1.2: Strengthening the capacities of related institutions and professionals/service providers

OBJECTIVE 2: TRANSFORMATION & PREVENTION

Outcome 1: Increased preventive and protective studies for the prevention of sexual violence before it occurs

Output 1.1: Providing social and legal service experts information about the standards of a rights-based and positive approach in the treatment of sexual violence

Output 1.2: Providing school counselors and municipality experts information about different forms of sexual abuse and bodily rights of children

Output 1.3: Providing school counselors of secondary education and municipality experts tools and materials for mainstreaming safe relationships and consent culture

Output 1.4: Mainstreaming the protective-preventive studies by introduction, implementation and dissemination of the related workshop and programs

Outcome 2: Increased transformation of social perceptions and practices that lead to sexual/ized violence

Output 2.1: Providing media professionals information and tools & materials about rights-based and gender-equality approach in reporting sexual violence incidents

Output 2.2: Advocating for social transformation

OBJECTIVE 3: ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Outcome 1: Ensuring the sustainability of financial and organizational structure of the Association

Output 1.1: Formulating and mainstreaming policies and practices of organizational accountability and transparency

Output 1.2: Ensuring effective mechanisms for participatory decision-making and also effective running of work

Outcome 2: Increased organizational capacity of the Association on institutional communication, team capacity building, advocacy and networking

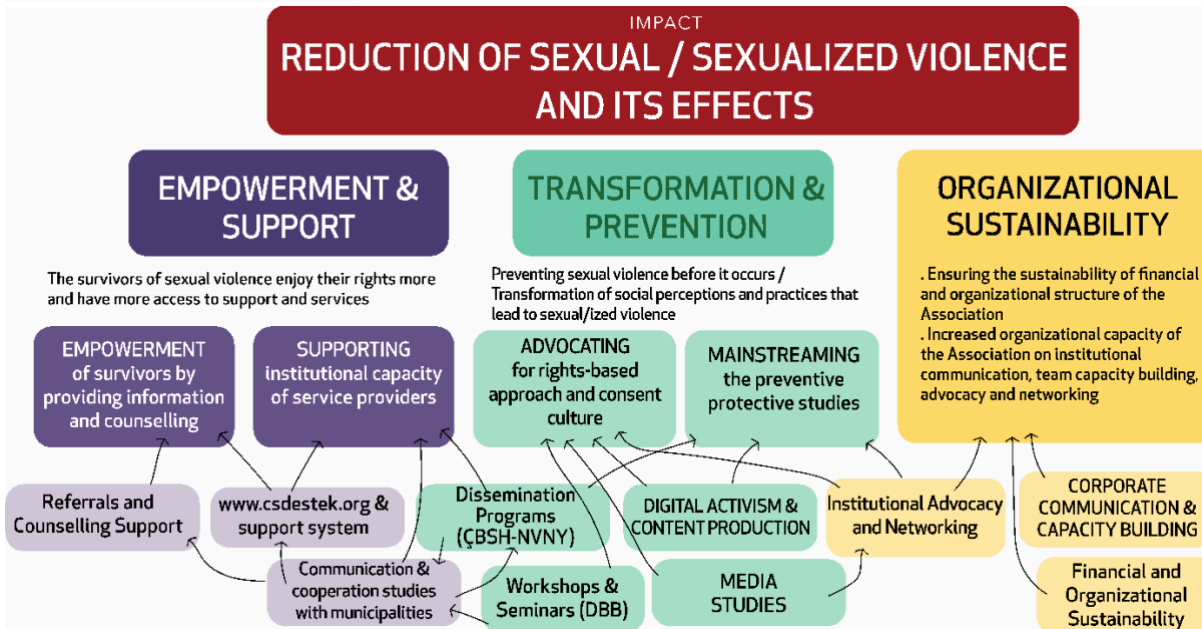
Output 2.1: Supporting the institutional communication through sustainment of Association’s visibility materials

Output 2.2: Empowering and supporting CŞMD staff to realize their potentials and to reach organizational goals through team organizations, local or international activities and study/stakeholder visits

Output 2.3: Building strong and lasting networks and partnerships at national and international levels

Output 2.4: Ensuring the sustainability of monitoring studies of the human rights violations of sexual violence survivors.

TABLE 1: Theory of Change



COVID RESPONSE BY CŞMD - Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence

Nearly a month after the Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence has presented its 3-year strategic plan on 17 February 2020, global pandemic of COVID-19 has spread with alarming speed in Turkey. As the coronavirus spreads in the country, voluntary self-quarantine measures are imposed for blocking the spread of disease. As CŞMD, we have taken following measures for adapting to rapidly changing conditions:

- The staff of the Association has started to work from home on 12 March and will work from home during the pandemic.
- We have developed an emergency/contingency plan as the full team and built a communication & solidarity network within ourselves in case of any health issues.
- We prepared 2 info sheets regarding our measures.
- By participating online meetings, we provided information on CŞMD with NGO networks. We shared the relevant data with them before and during COVID-19.
- The face-to-face seminars, workshops, panels and activities, the visits to foreign stakeholders planned were canceled due to the Covid agenda and the priority was given to the production of digital contents. The costs for prints and distribution have been reduced as much as possible. We postponed attending the international meetings to the second year, except for litigation-trial monitoring.
- A series of awareness-raising articles and podcasts were produced for the agenda regarding the bill of law about penal system and the impunity for the perpetrators of sexual abuse. Live broadcasts were organized with the experts. Content on dating violence focused on digital forms of violence during this period. Practices of online university seminars have started. The team of this program have been empowered by learning about new digital tools and methods.

CŞMD has brought changes to its existing studies by the following updates for 2021-23 period in order to adopt an approach for taking care of its own staff and for the public health:

- The changes were brought to strengthen the support team and we ensured the employment of a social worker. We made revisions to the planned face-to-face meetings, communication and training activities with municipalities, support service staff of the municipalities and other support service providers, and we planned these as online meetings to be held until the end of 2021 and we revised 3 Change Starts with Me workshops into online workshops. We postponed the municipality visits.
- Instead of holding the face-to-face Change Starts with Me workshops and the dissemination programs planned for 2020-21; It is planned to continue online productions, to revise the workshop presentations in accordance with the online tools, to prepare the workshop modules in the written format and to ensure their sustainability. The online seminars are started by abridging Change Starts with Me contents.
- Although it was planned to hold face-to-face activities in 2022 and 23, it was decided to review the implementation tools of raising awareness activities at the end of 2021, after the impact assessment of online tools. The media studies and digital activism was revised by adding information sharing and event activities via new media platforms and social media.
- We hope to conduct most of the organizational sustainability activities via online meetings while consulting to the experts. We plan to keep track and monitoring the Association's accounting records within the Association and we plan to employ an Accounting expert who will strengthen the team in this regard.
- The activities to be held as institutional monitoring and capacity building activities require team members to conduct discussion meetings and workshops with the support of various experts from the field. In this sense, we have not canceled our study camps, which we have concentrated on, and we plan to conduct study camps by taking all necessary measures.
- For the costs for moving into the new office and administrative expenses of the Association's new office, we have not yet determined when the Association will start to work physically in its office premises or whether it will switch to a new working system completely. We will carry out a planning and decision-making process on this matter by the end of the year. However, we do not anticipate a full return to the office work before January 2021.

Efficiency & Effectiveness of the online activities

As CŞMD, we consulted with our stakeholders and we benefitted from expert consultancy service on conducting our workshop and seminar activities via online tools during the Covid-19 pandemic process. In addition, our Practice & Project Coordinator participated in Beraberce Academy online trainings, where these online tools were introduced. We have developed a strategy for the efficiency and effectiveness of our online seminars and workshops. We plan to reach maximum of 25 participants in each online workshop as we planned in face-to-face workshops. This number of participants can increase up to 100 participants in the seminars. We planned the full-day workshops (6 hours a day) as 3-hour-long 2-day workshops by dividing them into two. We anticipate that this will be more effective and practical in terms of participation, as it will not be necessary to go anywhere in person. All the stakeholders we consulted argue that online trainings should not take a full day. Since CŞMD workshops are mostly provided to teachers, psychological counselors, social workers and similar expert groups, we purchased the Zoom program for the workshop. We think that this audience will not have a problem in accessing Zoom, as an online tool. However, since we will have an alternative target audience, we are planning to make need assessment before the workshop to identify which online tools the audience can access. For example, we have learned that the refugee groups use the Facebook - facetime and WhatsApp video chat more effectively. In order to maintain the attention of the participants, we are planning to use interactive applications where the participants can speak more, with less presentations, more video and visuals, as we also used in our face-to-face trainings. CŞMD workshops received positive feedback from most of the participants in this sense.

Regarding monitoring tools; we purchased the Zoom Webinar program so that we can divide participants into working groups and rooms where they can focus on the topics. By purchasing Padlet, the evaluations of the workshop sections separately and anonymously will be monitored via online panels. We plan to evaluate the notes and comments from the participants in order to measure how far the others agree with these comments. CŞMD was also conducting impact measurements in face-to-face workshops using online survey method. As we always did, in online workshops and seminars we plan to use monitoring tools such as pretest & posttest, evaluation form at the end of the workshop, one-question evaluations during the workshop, Q&A sections during the workshop, group studies, word cloud, Mentimeter, panel evaluations and online survey or focus group study 1 month after the workshop. As CŞMD, we anticipate measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of these first online applications during the last quarter of 2020 and during 2021 and developing online workshops in line with these results.

In the Covid-19 pandemic, the new needs and the demands we got from stakeholders in all our fields of work and the programs we carry out; are focused on monitoring studies to collect data, information and content production for refugees and ensuring the CŞMD's contents as accessible for persons with disabilities. We have included these studies on all 3 subjects in the activity plan that we updated.

CŞMD - 9 July 2020