

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMPATIBILITY OF SUPPORT UNITS AND THE EXPERIENCE OF SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

ISTANBUL February-November 2021

I HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK FOR SUPPORT



29

applicant interviews



11

applications to public institutions to get information



60

Approximately document scans

We monitored public institutions based on information we received from applicants.

We found out that:

**SURVIVORS HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ACCESSING RIGHTS!**

%13 of our applicants said they had access to support.

13

## SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

- Feminist and LGBTI+ Organizations
- NGOs
- Bar Associations
- Local Administrations

## NOT THE STATE!

THE PERPETRATOR HAS STILL NOT BEEN ARRESTED.

92% of applicants are worried about impunity.

92

Our applicants are worried about their lives.

## DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD:

Court board asked a survivor of sexual violence:

"WHY DID YOU NOT SHOUT?"



Another applicant, who had no assault marks, received the following comment from the court board:

"THEY HAD CONSENT TO SEXUAL ASSAULT."

## WHY CAN'T SURVIVORS ACCESS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED



- 1 There ISN'T a one-stop support center dedicated to sexual violence!
- 2 Staff at current institutions are inadequately trained.
- 3 At the institutions, applicants are faced with victim blaming and discrimination.
- 4 There ISN'T any fair treatment!
- 5 "Multiple door" system exhausts survivors.

## SHELTERS ARE INSUFFICIENT!

### THERE AREN'T ANY RAPE CRISIS CENTERS!

0

NUMBER OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT CENTERS dedicated to persons exposed to sexual violence "0" - NONE!

Total number of ministerial support service centers around the country

477

### HOWEVER,

WHAT SHOULD BE based on the Council of Europe Minimum Standards:

312 Sexual Violence Support Centers

833 Legal Counseling Centers

Minimum number of centers Turkey should have based on the population in 2020:

5314

Number of shelters Turkey should have based on the population in 2020:

4169

Number of ministerial shelters:

112



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## ACCESSIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS:

55,6% of applicants accessed NGOs in their first call.



**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE ENOUGH!**

36% of institutions partially replied to our questions.



percentage of those who answered most of the questions: %1

## INSTITUTIONS THAT ANSWERED OUR APPLICATION TO GET INFORMATION (OUT OF 11 INSTITUTIONS)



- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Judiciary, Support and Victim Services (ADMHDB)
- Ministry of Family and Social Services General Directorate of Women's Status (KSGM)
- Istanbul Bar Association Bureau for Judiciary Assistance
- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- Istanbul Center of Prevention and Monitoring of Violence

## COLLECTING DATA FROM INSTITUTIONS IS VERY DIFFICULT!

Not enough data is shared.

Although the Ministry (Ministry of Family and Social Services) has action plans and legislation against violence; data collection, in-service training, policy documents and transparency conditions specified in the sub-groups have not been complied with and the data was not shared with the public.

## MUNICIPALITIES:

Municipality services are LIMITED to "WOMEN"!

Support that the LGBTI+ people can receive are not openly stated!

People do not know if the services are inclusive of refugees, people with disabilities or LGBTI+.

Municipalities inform "women" about their legal rights against violence.

## FEMINIST, LGBTI+ ORGANIZATIONS AND WOMEN'S NGOs EMPOWER SURVIVORS AT MOST.



90,9% of our applicants think that their application to CŞMD empowers them.