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Acc. to Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

To the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

-We, as **The Foundation of Support and Training for the Women in Healthcare** (Kadın Sağlıkçılar Eğitim ve Dayanışma Vakfı, hereinafter as KASAV) base our foundation upon the article of “serving all the communities and individuals and disadvantaged of the society in every kind of health problem by offering the necessary healthcare solution and education in awareness”. KASAV was established in 1986 as the “Initiative of Female Healthcare Professionals”, then evolved in “Society of Education and Support for the Women in Healthcare” (Kadın Sağlıkçılar Eğitim ve Dayanışma Derneği, KASAD). Since 2013, the Foundation continued its activities under the umbrella of KASAV. For 31 years, KASAV, combats violence against women and domestic violence. As an NGO in this field, KASAV emphasizes on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and KASAV works to create a conducive environment to implement the preventive ideas and to offer early education in order to identify the person who is inclined towards violence.

- KASAV as the group of Female Healthcare worker, is presenting the analysis of Istanbul Convention, article on sexual violence and sexual abuse in the light of updated available information.



- a) We request a legal enforcement on monetary compensation for the spouses who contract a Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) from their partner who failed to run the necessary tests before marriage or consummation despite knowing about the disease beforehand. In case, it results in losing a limb or organ or even a fatal medical problem like a cancer, the compensation should be replaced with the penal sanction.

We suggest that if a woman is subjected to catch a virus like the HPV cancer virus which cannot be diagnosed by a prior test and the woman was uninformed about this medical condition intentionally or unintentionally, the case should be viewed under the law about sexual abuse.

The knowledge about the direct relation between the HPV virus and a cervical cancer is introduced to legal ruling after the CEDAW agreement. Thus a reconsideration of the issue on women's sexual health as a matter of human rights is essential. We believe that the HPV virus which cannot be diagnosed in a carrier male earlier and causes Cervical Cancer in woman is clearly a violation of right to health and even violation of right to live. Regulating this matter through proper sanctions will definitely reduce the abuse of women. This virus is spread carelessly with the excuse of having sexual freedom. However, by creating awareness in society about Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) will spare many men and women from this fatal medical condition. Thus, we request a regulation which will ensure the prevention of such problems.

- b) Sexual practices which are harmful to woman's health like anal sex, with or without the consent of the woman, should be considered as sexual violence and sexual abuse since it is known to cause health problems for woman, both temporary and permanent. Numerous articles and studies state that such practices damage woman's body. Viral infections like HPV and HIV are often transmitted through anal sex and anal cancer is

another medical condition which is mostly caused by anal sex. In order to prevent harmful practices as such, the society should be trained and educated through awareness campaigns. The kind of support mentioned in the article 20, 21, 22 and 25 should be considered in this content.

-Istanbul Convention, wherein Turkey is among the first countries to sign and agree, addresses to an essential issue for every country. The Convention approaches the issue of woman comprehensively, without disregarding her role in the family which needs to be understood clearly.

-There should be an uncompromising endeavor about combatting and preventing violence against woman, however, the issue of “gender” is a very sensitive topic and needs various consideration. Each and every society in the world has a unique definition for the “man and woman”, the idea that a society or culture creates gender roles, and these roles are prescribed as ideal or appropriate behavior for a person of that specific gender should remain in this framework and “man and woman” should be viewed as biological definitions rather than sociological one. Likewise, any legal regulation and implementation should concentrate in this definition.

-Turkey has been working on the improvements of the legal arrangement about the violence against women for the past decade. The government of Turkey established specific institutions and allocated budget for this cause. Nevertheless, the notion of violence is a growing problem worldwide which proves that respective states and international bodies should support NGOs in order to have an effective fight. Turkey, while hosting 3 million Syrian refugees in the past years, continues to work for the betterment for the citizens. We believe that Turkey will be more successful in preventing and combatting violence against women with support of international community and

international bodies. Turkish NGOs are ready to contribute for this cause.

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