

# Combating Violence against Refugee and Migrant Women in Turkey

ÖZGE BURAK

WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION (KADAV)

03.10.2018, ATHENS

# KADAV

- ▶ Feminist women's organization based in Istanbul, Turkey
- ▶ Born out of a solidarity practice after an earthquake in 1999 in the Marmara region in Turkey, when women went to the region to provide gender-sensitive support to affected women and children
- ▶ Founded in 2001 in Istanbul
- ▶ Since then...

# Working areas

- ▶ Women's Employment and Labor (Advocacy and networking)
- ▶ Violence against women (Supporting survivors, advocacy and networking)
- ▶ Women and LGBTI+ in prison (Advocacy, supporting during and after prison)
- ▶ Migrant and refugee women (Individual support and advocacy)

# Principles

## Feminism and feminist methodology...

- ▶ Solidarity and self-organizing instead of help
- ▶ Agency and inclusiveness instead of paternalistic services
- ▶ Recognizing multiple discrimination/intersecting violence and designing strategies accordingly
- ▶ Feminist research tools (Focus group discussions)
- ▶ Services and individual support + **systematical change!**

# Principles

## KADAV works...

- ▶ Based on activism and voluntarism
- ▶ With holistic approaches and methods
- ▶ In local cooperation with women, women's organizations, migrant organizations, humanitarian organizations and local government actors
- ▶ With a diverse, collective and non-hierarchical organizational structure
- ▶ Survivor-centered case management and support to women

# Projects

- ▶ Women's employment: Vocational trainings and gender workshops+social activities (funded by GIZ)
- ▶ Combatting child labor through employment of mothers (C&A)
- ▶ Solidarity with women and LGBTI+ in prison (diverse)
- ▶ Capacity-building of Turkish and Syrian groups and organizations (UN Women)

# Networking and Advocacy

- ▶ Women's Labor and Employment Initiative network (KEIG-Platform) founded in 2007, together with 33 women CSO's
- ▶ Active member of the Shelters and Consultancy Centers Assembly Network
- ▶ Member of Istanbul Convention Monitoring Platform (Grevio)
- ▶ Initiator of **Women Without Borders**: A platform of various independent women organizations build in 2012 (Solidarity with migrant/refugee/undocumented/displaced women)



# Showcase

- ▶ From field work to advocacy
- ▶ Basing advocacy on field work and lived experiences of women
- ▶ Transforming field work results into advocacy
- ▶ Encouraging self-organizing of women
- ▶ Building solidarity and platforms



## Project: Combatting SGBV against Syrian refugee women and girls

- ▶ 2016: Pilot phase supported by IMC and UNHCR

12 focus group discussions with 165 women and 15 in-depth interviews with 15 LGBTI sex workers

- ▶ 2017/2018: Supported by UNHCR

30 focus group discussions with 354 women and 30 in-depth interviews with 30 LGBTI sex workers

- ▶ More than 200 migrant and refugee survivors of violence were supported

# Activities

## Prevention of SGBV and empowering women:

- ▶ Awareness-raising activities: house visits, focus group discussions, workshops
- ▶ Workshops: SGBV, women's rights, women's health, child marriages, solidarity, design, sewing, skills trainings etc.
- ▶ Community-based activities: Focal point trainings and meetings, social cohesion, language activities, activities with children, platform activities and meetings etc.
- ▶ Services: PSS, individual counseling, legal counseling, support with jobs and CV's
- ▶ Advocacy: campaigns and coordination/cooperation with humanitarian and women's NGOs and institutions in the field, social media and visibility activities

# Activities

## **Response to SGBV and supporting survivors:**

- ▶ Case management (women, LGBTI+ and child survivors of violence)
- ▶ Legal counseling and assistance
- ▶ Mental health and psychosocial counseling and support
- ▶ Individual counseling
- ▶ Referring survivors of SGBV to appropriate service providers (government institutions, police, shelters etc.)
- ▶ Helping survivors with getting jobs

# Focus group discussions



- ▶ Snowball method and agency: participating women organize the meetings themselves and invite other women
- ▶ Mobile teams make house visits and provide child care during the meetings
- ▶ Discussions about violence against women, women's rights, protection mechanisms and women's solidarity
- ▶ Identifying possible community leaders

# Tools



- ▶ Emergency hotline cards in Arabic and English for Syrian and other migrant groups



- ▶ Brochures about violence, rights and protection mechanisms in Arabic and English for Syrian and other migrant groups



# Results and Challenges

Different forms of interpersonal/embodyed violence **and** structural/legal violence:

- ▶ sexual, physical, psychological, economical violence by partners and husbands, in the workplace and in institutions
- ▶ early and forced marriages, multiple marriages
- ▶ Temporary Protection, registration and lack of access to ID cards
- ▶ Socio-economic situation, poverty, limited access to financial resources and jobs
- ▶ Language barriers and mobility barriers of women due to transportations costs and child and home care burden
- ▶ Improper implementation of legal frameworks regarding migration and violence against women (Istanbul Convention)



# Platforms

## "Kadın Kadının Yurdudur,,

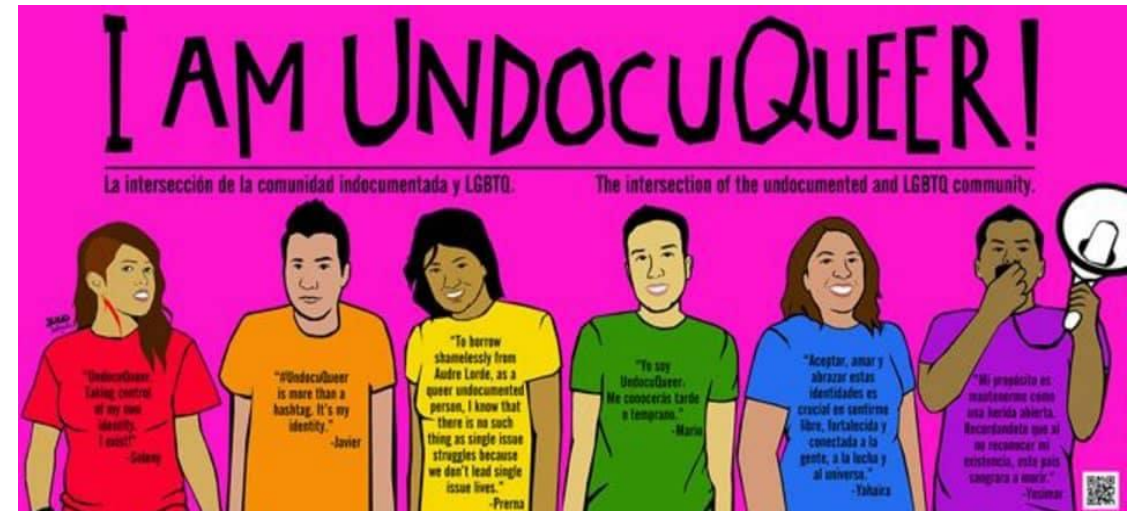
- ▶ Means "A Woman is A Land to A Woman"
- ▶ Aim: Brining together and building a long lasting solidarity network between refugee, migrant and citizen women
- ▶ One meeting organized in April 2017
- ▶ Activities: platform meetings, newsletter, campaigning, capacity-building



# Platforms

## Altogether Istanbul

- ▶ Coordination between local sex workers and migrant sex workers
- ▶ Safe spaces and work safety
- ▶ First gathering organized during 8th Trans Pride Week





# Gatherings in women's houses



# Child care and socializing





# Trips and activities



# Community leader/focal point trainings

...Women were trained on gender, violence against women, women's rights and women's solidarity





# Workshops on early marriages and violence against girls



# Design & Sewing Workshops





# PRODUCTS

- Products made by refugee women in the sewing and design workshops in KADAV's solidarity center
- The earnings go to the women



# Products





# Products



# Products





THANK YOU!