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## İNSAN HAKLARI DERNEĞİ HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Necatibey Cad. 82/11-12,  
06430 Demirtepe-Ankara  
TURKEY  
Tel: +90 312 230 35 67-68-69  
Fax: +90 312 230 17 07  
E-mail: [ihd@ihd.org.tr](mailto:ihd@ihd.org.tr),  
<http://www.ihd.org.tr>

### 20 NOVEMBER WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN WITH THEIR RIGHTS

*"Mankind owes to the Child the best that it has to give."<sup>1</sup>*

Human rights of the child constitute a field that needs to be handled in a more special and careful manner because of many reasons such as each child is unique and goes through a special phase in his/her development, is affected more by what happens around him/her in comparison to adults, faces obstacles in having a say in decisions directly or indirectly affects him/her, is vulnerable to rights violations and becomes a target of such violations, and has a limited access to mechanisms of the right to legal remedies.

The United Nations' General Assembly adopted and opened for signature the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>2</sup> on 20 November 1989 in order to render the human rights of children be handled in a more special and careful manner. This Convention is still the one that has the highest number of States Parties, having been ratified by 193 countries. This fact provides hope for all in demonstrating that the rights of the child account for one of the most significant issues that countries all around the world have a common stake in.

Turkey signed the Convention in 1990 and it entered into force in 1995. Thus, Turkey through this ratification contracted that it would undertake its commitment to **provide for respect, promote, and ensure** the human rights of all children in Turkey **without discrimination of any kind** (Article 2), having regard for the **best interests of the child** (Article 3), their **inherent right to life and the right to survive and develop** (Article 6), **the right to participate** in decisions (Article 12) having adopted these 4 fundamental principles of the Convention. Moreover, Turkey maintained its will to promote and develop the rights of the child by signing many other international conventions and protocols on the rights of the child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child prescribes forms of attitude which invest minimum responsibilities about children primarily on States Parties, families, communities, the young, teachers, medical professionals, and security officers. The Convention calls on States Parties to

<sup>1</sup> Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924.

<sup>2</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by UN General Assembly resolution 44/25 of November 1989. The Convention entered into force on 2 September 1990 in accordance with Article 49. Turkey signed the Convention on 14 September 1990, ratified it on 9 December 1994, and it entered into force on 27 January 1995 after its publication in the Official Gazette (no. 22184).

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Human Rights Association (İnsan Hakları Derneği-İHD) is a non-governmental, independent, and voluntary body. The association, which was founded in 1986 by 98 human rights defenders, today has 28 branches, 6 representative offices, and 7,945 members. İHD is the oldest and largest human rights organization in Turkey and its "sole and specific goal is to promote 'human rights and freedoms.'"

create suitable conditions for children in order to encourage their active and creative participation in their countries' social and political lives.

A Committee on the Rights of the Child was established in Geneva under Article 43 of the Convention in order to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Convention by States Parties and to form, as it were, “**report cards**” of the states on the subject.

While the Convention on the Rights of the Child invests the task of implementing children's rights by protecting the “best interests” of the child on States Parties, it also imposes a duty on the civil society and non-governmental organizations to monitor such implementations and the respective impacts on children's lives brought about by measures taken.

No efficient and complete legal legislation, however, could be drafted in Turkey to protect and promote the rights of the child following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although the obstacles and problems before the protection and promotion of the rights of the child have mostly been identified, the solutions offered are generally palliative and topical, and have remained limited to works to be undertaken and procedures to be followed in incidents only brought before public authorities. Mechanisms and policies that would determine and prevent risks concerning children beforehand have not been formed yet.

While regulations concerning children are present dispersedly in about ten legislative provisions, including the Constitution, at the national level, the points that should be predicated upon in works and procedures concerning children remain mostly unknown and children face rights violations once again in a great majority of decisions taken. A complete “**Basic Law on the Rights of the Child**” that prescribes the rights of the child should be drafted and the legislative confusion should thusly be eliminated as soon as possible.

According to the data on children's population issued by the Turkish Statistical Institute<sup>3</sup> (TSI), children account for 28.3% of the population which makes 22 million 883 thousand children. Other than this figure, 43.58% (1.7 million) of about 3.9 million refugees in the country are children who are mostly from Syria.<sup>4</sup>

## **Legal statistics about children are alarming**

According to data provided by the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses<sup>5</sup>, there are 7 “Closed Juvenile Penal Institutions” (Ankara, Diyarbakır, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir Kayseri, Tarsus) and 4 “Educational Houses for Children” (Ankara, Elazığ, İstanbul, İzmir, Uşak) in Turkey. Children are also placed in penal institutions for adults other than the aforementioned.

According to data for April 2018, the number of incarcerated children aged between 12-17 (who have not turned 18) is **2,491**. While 1,719 children are inmates, 772 are convicts. 2,416 of them are males and 75 are females.<sup>6</sup>

It has also been observed that judges continue to easily rule for the detention of children. A great majority of detained children are placed in juvenile wards in prisons where adults are incarcerated

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=27596>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unicefturk.org/yazi/acil-durum-turkiyedeki-suriyeli-cocuklar>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cte.adalet.gov.tr/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cte.adalet.gov.tr/#>

and this practice should immediately be put to an end. While deprivation of liberty should be the last resort within the juvenile justice system, detention of children is, unfortunately, commonly seen in Turkey. The ways in which complaints can be filed before the Ombudsman concerning the rights violations of children in prisons by administrative staff are not clear and transparent either.

## **Children grow up in prisons instead of kindergartens and pre-schools**

A legislative proposal that was presented before the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) in July 2018 for children kept in prisons with their mothers reveals the fact that 668 children have been incarcerated with their mothers. These data also point out that most of these children are aged between 0 and 3.<sup>7</sup> While keeping children in prisons with their mothers constitutes a problem all by itself, basic goods (food, toys, clothing, etc.) for children in prisons cannot be supplied most of the time. Most of the children who have to stay in prisons with their mothers do not have access to **kindergartens, pre-schools, and counselling services**. Although the Law on Execution of Sentences offer many enforcement models with alternatives, women with children are not allowed to benefit from such alternatives.

According to data provided by the TSI, the number of children who came in or brought to security authorities increased by 0.5% to 335,242 in 2017 in comparison to 2016.<sup>8</sup> It has also been observed that 57.7% of these children were in the 15-17 age group, while 23.3% were in the 12-14 age group and 18.5% were 11 years old or younger. Among these children 66.1% were males, while 33.9% were females. 66,321 children were forwarded to legal authorities in 2017 and it was pointed out that 33.3% of juvenile delinquents abused addictive substances.

It has been ascertained that 46.2% of 335,242 children who came in or brought to security authorities were victims, 32.2% with allegations that they had committed an act defined as an offence by law (juvenile delinquency), 13.7% to ask for information from them, 3.4% were lost (those who had been reported as lost and subsequently found), and 4.4% for other reasons. These data underline the fact that **children were brought before security authorities most commonly as victims of a crime**.

Of 137,482 children who came in as victims before security authorities, 59.1% had been victimized in bodily injury offenses, 13.5% in sexual offenses, and 6.8% in offenses against the family order. Further, 3.8% of victimized children had been victimized in threat, 3.7% in theft, and 3.1% in deprivation of liberty offenses.<sup>9</sup>

Moreover, 16,348 of 35,896 pending and finalized cases within the scope of "Offenses against Sexual Inviolability," referred to in 2017 legal statistics by the General Directorate of Criminal Records and Statistics of the Ministry of Justice, were comprised of "Sexual Abuse of Children" cases.<sup>10</sup>

Sexual abuse of children has recently been brought to the public's and GNAT's agenda following related incidents and news reports and the issue has mostly been deliberated within the scope of **castration and capital punishment**. Human rights and children's rights organizations have stated

<sup>7</sup> <https://bianet.org/bianet/insan-haklari/199424-hapishanede-annesiyile-kalan-cocuklar-icin-kanun-teklifi>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/guvenlik-birimlerine-gelen-veya-getirilen-cocuk-sayisi-artti-225462.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://tr.sputniknews.com/analiz/201808131034719161-tuik-adli-istatistik-raporu-suca-suruklenen-cocuklar/>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/istatistik\\_2017/istatistik2017.pdf](http://www.adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/istatistik_2017/istatistik2017.pdf)

that mere criminal sanctions cannot solve the problem which should be handled holistically; risk assessment analyses should firstly be conducted along with risk-eliminating social and economic initiatives to be supported by awareness-raising activities by means of educational and healthcare institutions; effective investigations should be conducted after victimization; and a comprehensive initiative encompassing return to well-being through rendering victimized children effectively benefit from psycho-social support mechanisms. No legislative initiative, on the other hand, has been started yet.

## **Child labor continues to be exploited!**

The term “child labor” is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development by ILO. According to available data regarding Turkey, it has been estimated that 1 million 185 thousand children under 18 are in work life; of these 292,000 children are between the ages 6 and 14 while 893,000 children are between the ages of 6 and 17.<sup>11</sup> On the other hand, according to the 2017 “Labor Studies: Being a Child Worker in Turkey” report by the DİSK/Genel-İş Trade Union, there are 2 million child workers in Turkey.

Yet informal employment, data collection, and access to current data still remain as challenges.

According to the results of the TSI’s Child Labor Survey, which has not been updated since 2012, 49.8% of child workers were in school, while 50.2% dropped out of school. Further, 41.4% of working children in the 6-17 age group stated that they had been working in order to “contribute to their household income” while 28.7% indicated to have been doing so in order to “assist their household economic activity.”

UNICEF Representative in Turkey, Philippe Duamalle, stated in July 2017 that there were 850 thousand child workers in Turkey and of these 400 thousand children were working in the agricultural sector that has been listed among “Worst Forms of Child Labor.”<sup>12</sup>

The failure to engage in a competent fight against informal employment and the lack of deterrent sanctions increase the demand for child labor and the exploitation of child labor becomes a rule when the goal to achieve the highest profit with the lowest cost is united with **lack of supervision**.

Studies reveal that child workers cannot attend schools mostly, those who both work and are enrolled in schools drop out and discontinue their compulsory education because they cannot be successful enough academically.

Although the Office of the Prime Minister had issued a circular letter declaring 2018 the “Year against Child Labor,” the exploitation of child labor continues in all its might.<sup>13</sup>

In spite of the fact that the General Directorate of Labor of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security designed a “**National Action Plan to Fight Child Labor**” to be implemented between 2017 and 2023 is an important step to this end, no data was provided as to what kind of progress was achieved in favor of children within the scope of initiatives undertaken on the issue from 2005 to 2015. Further, no concrete measures to tackle child poverty and household poverty were mentioned, which

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/ankara/news/WCMS\\_375596/lang--tr/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ankara/news/WCMS_375596/lang--tr/index.htm)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/400-bini-tarlada-850-bin-cocuk-isci-40507847>

<sup>13</sup> <https://tr.sputniknews.com/turkiye/201802201032321365-2018-cocuk-isciligi-yili-basbakanlik-genelgesi/>

account for one of the most fundamental reasons of child labor, along with those to eliminate inequality in income and tax equity. The amount of budget that would be spent for the benefit of children have not been openly stated by any public institution, including the mentioned ministry's own budget.

Although the action plan indicated that the program would be conducted with many public institutions, it only prescribed advisory meetings with NGOs operating in the field of rights of the child. A "Basic Law on the Rights of the Child" which would have required many public institutions to take a common course was not assessed to be a need.

According to the monthly data provided by the Health and Safety Labor Watch, **at least 61 child workers** lost their lives within the first 10 months of 2018.<sup>14</sup>

"Report on Child Labor and Corporate Murder of Children" by the Labor Watch underlined the fact that at least 319 children were killed between 2013 and June 2018. The report also noted that 29 of these 319 child workers were refugee/immigrant children. Such a high mortality rate of refugee children reveals the fact that they both have to work in much more dangerous jobs regarding work conditions and how great the impact of violence against refugee child workers is. The mortality rate of female children who were killed in corporate murders was 16% which was high above the rate of women workers referred to by general corporate murder data.<sup>15</sup>

## **Wars affected children the most worldwide**

A recent UNICEF report entitled "A Future Stolen: Young and out-of-school" issued in September 2018 states that there are more than 104 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 in countries affected by conflict or natural disasters worldwide.<sup>16</sup>

The findings and analysis results show that the greatest humanitarian crisis witnessed in the world after WWII has been brought about by the conflict in Syria. The war in Syria has been going on since 2011. Children keep on being the segment that has been paying the heaviest cost and carrying the heaviest burden: their education, emotional health, and even lives are at risk.

Out of 1.7 million children, most of whom are from Syria, 616 thousand children have been enrolled in a school at the commencement of the 2018-2019 educational year while 430 thousand children are still out of school.<sup>17</sup>

Each year hundreds of children lose their lives and hundreds more lose their families and become unaccompanied children due to incidents that take place while illegally travelling to European countries departing from Turkey to access better living conditions. These families mostly come from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. Turkey must sign the Geneva Conventions prescribing refugees' rights without delay and should stop its double standard assigning statuses to refugees based on the country or region they come from.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.guvenlicalisma.org/is-cinayetleri-raporlari>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.guvenlicalisma.org/19520-turkiyede-cocuk-isciligi-ve-cocuk-is-cinayetleri-raporu-ankara-isig-meclisi>

<sup>16</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-future-stolen/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.unicefturk.org/yazi/acil-durum-turkiyedeki-suriyeli-cocuklar>

## **Armed conflict in Turkey is still risking children's lives**

The failure of the Peace and Resolution process initiated in 2013 has given way to the re-escalation of conflict and this has short and long-term impacts on children's lives and development. The cognitive, physical, and psychological development of children who are exposed to or witness such violence can be affected. Children victimized by war are notably deprived of their right to life, survival and development, right to education, and right to health care.

Death is the most destructive impact of wars, yet, children who grow up in an environment of war and conflict may experience social and psychological challenges throughout their lives.

Armed conflict and military mobilization did not lose their pace in cities in the [eastern and south-eastern] regions during 2017 either and curfews which become periodical and the sustained operations continued to affect children's lives the most. Unclaimed mines, military ammunition, and war surplus continued to be children's fatal toys and tens of children were hurt and lost limbs because of these. Similarly, news reports covered incidents where children were killed and injured due to the excessive mobilization and uncontrolled maneuvers of military vehicles in residential areas.

Whether hundreds of thousands of children, who had to leave their homes and schools during the curfews, were able to continue with their education in the ensuing period and whether they had access to psycho-social support services are still not known.

## **Children are subjected to violence and rights violations in all fields of life!**

The term "violence" mostly signifies mere "physical" harm and/or "intentional" harm in common use. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, however, referred to violence for the purposes of general comment as meaning "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse."<sup>18</sup>

The Committee does not see any form of violence against children as something acceptable and notes the significance of national action plans in the prohibition, prevention, and elimination of violence against children. It also underlines the importance of co-organization of such plans with development policies, programs, budget, and other coordination mechanisms.

Reports, penned by the Documentation Center of the Human Rights Association through limited means, reveal that many forms of violence, referred to as tolerable by the civilian authorities of cities, were tolerated in all fields of social life, prominently in educational institutions, and children were commonly subjected to negligence, abuse, and violence. The following balance sheet at the end of the present report presents violations in some rights categories that children were subjected to.

The TSI data demonstrate that a total of 59,284 children -7,466 boys and 51,818 girls- were subjected to sexual abuse between 2014 and 2017 in Turkey. According to the 2017 age-range data, the number of 11-year-old and younger sexually abused boys was much higher than that of other age groups (47.15%), while the number of sexual abuse cases increased as the ages of sexually abused girls got higher. Further, sexually abused girls aged between 15 and 17 accounted for the largest

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.unicef-irc.org/portfolios/general\\_comments/CRC.C.GC.13\\_en.doc.html](https://www.unicef-irc.org/portfolios/general_comments/CRC.C.GC.13_en.doc.html)

group among all age groups with a rate of 59.18%.<sup>19</sup>

### **Disabled children are isolated in all fields of life!**

Parks, outdoors, commercial and social centers, educational and public institutions where social life goes on cannot be accessed largely by disabled children. According to official data, there are 422 thousand disabled children between the ages of 3 and 17. Almost all disabled children are subjected to various forms of discrimination and deprivation of rights.

### **2018 has been “the year of the lost children” for children living in Turkey**

4-year-old L. A. and 8-year-old E. Y. were lost in Ağrı and Polatlı, Ankara respectively; search parties that went on for days came to nothing, and the bodies of both children were found days later. These incidents left profound marks in the collective memory of the society and lifted the lid off the incompetence of search and rescue mechanisms regarding lost children once again. According to the statistical data provided by the TSI, 104,531 children got lost between 2008 and 2016. The fact that more than a hundred thousand children were reported lost within 8 years shows that we face a dreadful picture regarding children.

***On the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Turkey needs to adopt the Basic Law on the Rights of the Child protecting the “best interests of the child” without delay and propose a national action plan providing for the prevention of violence against children in no time.***

### **Children are not allowed to exercise their right to education**

Turkey not only has ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child, but it has also been a party to the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Articles 13 and 14 of the Covenant cover right of everyone to education. Accordingly, communities belonging to different ethnic and belief groups have the right to education in their own native languages and to religious education in conformity with their own convictions. Further, states parties recognize that, with a view to achieving the full realization of the right of everyone to education that compulsory education should be available free to all and should be provided by the state.

Within this context, IHD reminds all the concerned of the necessity that Turkey should lift its reservations (Articles 17, 29, and 30 of the Convention) when entering the Convention on the Rights of the Child into force, which means accommodation of conditions in international law, and should protect the best interests of the child in order to prevent discrimination against all children and to support the development of all children.

Kurdish courses are offered only as electives in Turkey. This does not meet the conditions for the right to education in one’s own native language for Kurdish children.

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<sup>19</sup><http://www.dokuz8haber.net/toplumsalcinsiyet/turkiyenin-korkulan-ve-korkutan-konusu-cocuga-yonelik-cinsel-istismar/>

Subjecting particularly children of the Alewite creed to compulsory religious courses infringes upon the provisions of the Convention. In spite of numerous ECtHR judgments against Turkey on this matter, compulsory religious courses are still maintained in the country.

Primary education in Turkey, which has been defined to be 4+4+4 and went into effect in 2012, derogates from the rule as prescribed by Article 28 of the Convention to make it compulsory and available free to all. Only the first 4 years of primary education were made compulsory, while the ensuing years were not prescribed as such. The political power continuously implemented policies encouraging private educational institutions which led to the privatization of education and the frequent modifications in curricula in state schools gave way to drawbacks in the quality of education which in turn forced parents to send their children to private schools. This situation is at odds with the rule that primary education should be compulsory and available free to all. Further, such practices as donations at state schools created social pressure in many places and became virtually compulsory.

***The Human Rights Association believes that the current unfavorable conditions that children face can be altered! How so?***

- The principles set forth by the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Turkey should be promoted and a holistic rights-based policy for children to materialize the liability to **respect, protect and ensure** the human rights of all children should be created.
- Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, approved by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984, reads “[The General Assembly] **solemnly proclaims that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace.**” The primary step in establishing a happy and peaceful future for our children is the creation of a safe environment free from all kinds of violence. Children need peace the most.
- Legislative works should immediately be started in order to fully reflect international standards in domestic law and a holistic law should be drafted within the framework of the “Basic Law on the Rights of the Child.”
- A “National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children” should be designed without delay and made public in order to fight all kinds of violence against children in the short-run and to raise social awareness.
- A “Committee of Experts for the Rights of the Child” that will protect and promote the rights of the child should be founded within the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- Allocation of resources for children should be made compulsory within the budgetary plans of central and local administrative bodies and the spending of such resources for children should be governed by rules.
- A National Database should be formed to keep the data on children well-organized and right based.
- The determination to effectively fight child labor should be put forth legally and the process should be closely monitored.
- “Deprivation of liberty should be turned to as a last resort,” which is a requirement of juvenile justice. Until the infrastructure for this is provided for, the penitentiary institutions being built should be construed as cultural and sports centers where children

can have psycho-social support and undertake artistic and sportive activities. Prisons and wards for children should be repealed and the practice that punishes children by incarcerating them should be put to an end.

- The sentences of women inmates and convicts with children should either be converted into alternate sanctions or initiatives should be undertaken to let them serve their sentences at their homes under judicial control.
- All measures that would enable disabled children and their families to be included in social life, prominently those concerning accessibility, should be taken with the recommendations and participation of related NGOs.
- Mechanisms, in which children can participate and offer their ideas and suggestions to about all matters concerning children, should be established, including the Higher Board of Radio and Television.
- Cooperation mechanisms should be designed through which organizations operating in the human rights and children's rights fields can be consulted in order to implement the measures taken in the field of children's rights and to report any progress in the field.
- Primary education should be compulsory and available free to all as per children's right to education, the right to access to education in one's own native language should be accorded to children of different ethnic groups, and the imposition of compulsory religious courses to different belief groups should be put to an end.
- Turkey should immediately implement regulations in compliance with international recommendations regarding the improvement of juvenile justice system.

## HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

**Note:** The statistical data on the rights violations and victimization of children provided in this report are comprised of those obtained by the documentation center of the Human Rights Association which have been collected with limited means. A detailed assessment will be presented in IHD's annual report.

## Appendix: A Collection of Data on Rights Violations against Children (2018)

Violations of rights that the state is directly liable to protect	
Violence in educational facilities	20
Children taken under custody in social events	103 <i>Diyarbakır 30</i> <i>Adana 10</i> <i>Hazro 1 infant</i> <i>Mardin 17</i>
Children arrested in social events	33 <i>Mardin 17</i>
Torture and ill-treatment	31

Violations of rights that the state is liable to prevent	
Violence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical violence (Battery)</li> </ul>	84
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual violence /Sexual abuse</li> <li>Child marriage/Enforced early marriages</li> <li>Enforced sexual work</li> <li>Child pregnancy</li> </ul>	476 10 21 736 <i>Bağcılar 392</i> <i>Edirne 186</i> <i>İstanbul 158</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatal violation of right to life</li> </ul>	49
Child worker mortality cases ( <i>January- October 2018</i> )	61
Lost children	4
Abduction, detention, and hostage-taking	53
Injury/disability	60
Suicide	20

Subject of Violation	Data																
Child workers	<p>According to ILO, it is estimated that there are 1 million 185 thousand children under 18 in work life; 292 thousand being between the ages of 6 and 14 while 893 thousand being aged between 6 and 17.</p> <p>According to 2012 TSI data, however, there are 958 thousand child workers. Moreover, there is an ample number of immigrant and refugee children in informal employment.</p>																
Child agricultural workers	<p>According to TSI data, there is a total of 893 thousand child agricultural workers, 44% of whom are seasonal workers.</p>																
Children coming/brought to security authorities	<p>According to TSI data, 46.2% of children coming or brought to security authorities came in as victims, while 32.2% did so with allegations that they had committed an act defined as an offense by law (juvenile delinquency), 13.7% to ask for information from them, 3.4% as lost (those who had been filed as lost and subsequently found), and 4.4% for other reasons.</p>																
Children in dispute with laws	<p>According to TSI data, the total number of juvenile delinquents was 107,984 while 92,849 of them were boys and 15,135 were girls.</p>																
Children restricted of their liberty at prisons	<p>According to the April 2018 data provided by the Ministry of Justice, there are 2,491 children aged between 12 and 17 in prisons. 1,719 of these children are detained, while 772 are convicted and while 2,416 are boys, 75 are girls.</p>																
Refugee children	<p>According to the data provided by the Ministry of Interior, there is a total of 1 million 703 thousand and 665 refugee children in Turkey.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1317 1410 1579"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Range</th> <th>Boys</th> <th>Girls</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>293,953</td> <td>274,574</td> <td>568,527</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-9</td> <td>246,538</td> <td>231,422</td> <td>477,960</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-18</td> <td>352,652</td> <td>304,526</td> <td>657,178</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of these, 616 thousand are not in school.</p> <p>Out of these 1.7 million children, most of whom are from Syria, 616 thousand children have been enrolled in a school at the commencement of the 2018-2019 educational year while 430 thousand children are still out of school.</p>	Age Range	Boys	Girls	Total	0-4	293,953	274,574	568,527	5-9	246,538	231,422	477,960	10-18	352,652	304,526	657,178
Age Range	Boys	Girls	Total														
0-4	293,953	274,574	568,527														
5-9	246,538	231,422	477,960														
10-18	352,652	304,526	657,178														
Disabled children	<p>According to official data, there are 422 thousand disabled children aged between 3 and 17. Virtually all disabled children are subjected to</p>																

	various kinds of discrimination and deprivation of rights.
Sexually abused children	TSI data reveal that a total of 59,284 children were sexually abused in Turkey between 2014 and 2017. While 7,466 of these children were boys, 51,818 were girls. According to the 2017 age-range data, the number of 11-year-old and younger sexually abused boys was much higher than that of other age groups (47.15%), while the number of sexual abuse cases increased as the ages of sexually abused girls got higher. Further, sexually abused girls aged between 15 and 17 accounted for the largest group among all age groups with a rate of 59.18%.
The problem of gender equality targeting children as well	Turkey ranks 130 out of 145 countries within the global gender equality index.

**\*Note:** The data presented in this report have been collected by the documentation center at IHD with limited means. TSI and other governmental agencies have not been issuing data on rights violations and have not updated the data on children for a while now.