

2026

# Türkiye

## Mapping study

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## Introduction

The project *Empowering Civil Society to Fight Impunity*, focusing on accountability, impunity, and violations of the right to personal security in Türkiye, has been implemented collaboratively by EuroMed Rights, the Human Rights Association (İHD), and the Capacity Development Association (KAGED/İHOP).

This mapping study – the third of its kind – builds on previous editions by updating and expanding the list of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Türkiye and Europe working on impunity, accountability, and conditions in places of deprivation of liberty. While maintaining the core thematic framework, this edition revises and updates the organizational landscape, addresses gaps in coverage, and introduces a more detailed thematic tagging system to facilitate navigation and cross-referencing. As in previous editions, trade unions, bar associations, and professional organizations are excluded; the focus remains on the most prominent and active CSOs within the selected thematic areas.

This edition also reviews previously mapped organizations alongside new additions, noting that the mapping of international partnerships and the active CSO network can be consulted in the second edition. Its added value lies in situating civil society actors within the broader political, legal, and socio-economic context in which they operate, with particular attention to the evolving dynamics, emerging risks, and shifting patterns that have shaped the field over the past year. By doing so, the study aims to provide not only an updated overview of the organizational landscape but also a deeper understanding of the conditions under which civil society continues to engage in the struggle against impunity in Türkiye.

The report is structured around three main sections:

- *Impunity* – presenting the problem in relation to severe human rights violations and listing CSOs engaged in dedicated anti-impunity work.
- *Accountability* – exploring its close and mutually reinforcing relationship with impunity, with a focus on rights and freedoms essential for ensuring accountability, including freedoms of assembly, association, expression, participation, and access to information. This also encompasses organizations working on accountability in specific thematic fields such as women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights, child rights, disability rights, and environmental justice, where restrictions on civic space directly undermine broader accountability efforts.

- *Places of Deprivation of Liberty* – providing an overview of the situation in prisons and removal centres, alongside the presentation of CSOs focusing on these settings.

There is a deep, structural link between impunity and accountability – one that extends far beyond the legal sphere into every aspect of social life, affecting everyone living in a country. In contexts where a climate of impunity prevails, accountability inevitably remains weak, reflecting this mutually reinforcing dynamic. The combined effect of this dynamic is perhaps most visible in places of deprivation of liberty, where the absence of oversight and sanctions allows systemic violations to persist. This interconnection has gained renewed urgency in Türkiye's current political context: a fragile peace process – set in motion by Abdullah Öcalan's call for the PKK to lay down arms in February 2025 and the PKK's subsequent declaration of disarmament in July 2025—continues to unfold against the backdrop of ongoing wars in the Middle East and the uninterrupted consolidation of authoritarian rule in Türkiye. A negative peace, defined by the mere absence of armed conflict, is unlikely to pave the way toward positive peace – a structural transformation grounded in equality, justice, and accountability – as long as impunity remains embedded in the foundations of the political order.

In this context, CSOs in Türkiye have long struggled to sustain human rights work in an increasingly restrictive civic space. Following the closure of hundreds of associations under state of emergency decrees between 2016 and 2018, organizations that remained active have faced stringent administrative oversight and intensive inspections. A May 2025 ruling by the Council of State, secured by the Freedom of Expression Association (İFÖD), annulled the arbitrary "risk classification" system introduced by the Associations Regulation – an important step, yet one that fell short of eliminating the broader risk of closure under the prevailing repressive environment. Last year also saw an intensification of pressure targeting LGBTQ+ organizations and human rights defenders more broadly. Similarly, with Türkiye set to host COP31 in 2026, climate advocates have increasingly found themselves in the crosshairs of state repression. The arrest of Ekrem İmamoğlu, the main opposition candidate for the presidency, on 19 March 2025, and the sustained judicial operations against the Republican People's Party (CHP) that followed, triggered a wave of protests in which young people played a prominent role, bringing a new generation into visible confrontation with the authorities and exposing the depth of popular discontent with the erosion of democratic norms.

At the same time, legal insecurity and administrative pressure are compounded by a deepening economic crisis that has further eroded CSOs' ability to access funding and sustain their activities. The operating environment is also shaped by the criminalization of civic action and digital repression – including online censorship,

surveillance, and harassment – which together create a chilling effect on monitoring, documentation, and advocacy efforts.

According to official data from the General Directorate of Civil Society Relations, as of 07 May 2026, there are 102,508 registered associations in Türkiye. Of these, only 1,534 operate in the field of rights and advocacy. While these figures point to the numerical scale of civil society, they also reveal the relatively limited share of organizations directly engaged in rights-based work. Moreover, the geographical distribution of associations—concentrated in major urban centres such as Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir—highlights existing regional disparities in civil society presence and capacity.

With this landscape in mind, the following sections do not aim to provide an exhaustive list of organizations, but rather to capture the main trends, actors, and methods shaping the current civic landscape. Some organizations appear in more than one section, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of their mandates. This mapping includes organizations that are currently active. For those whose activities have relatively decreased or that have transitioned from association status to networks or collectives, this is indicated in their profiles.

To enhance usability and analytical value, a thematic tagging system has been integrated into the lists of organizations – an approach introduced in an earlier edition and continued here. Each organization is categorized under one of the four main thematic areas of the study, while additional hashtags indicate specific areas of focus (e.g., #womensrights, #LGBTQ+Rights, #memory). This makes it easier to identify cross-cutting fields of work and specialized expertise, enabling clearer analysis of overlaps, complementarities, and potential synergies among local and international actors.

The study is based primarily on desk research, supplemented by targeted consultations to verify and update information. Sources include organizational websites, reports, strategic documents, social media outputs, and relevant media coverage. For local organizations, entries present their full Turkish names followed by commonly used acronyms, with links prioritized in this order: English website, Turkish website, active social media account, or relevant public source. For international organizations, priority is given to English-language resources.

Now in its third edition, this mapping serves as a reference and analytical tool for navigating the ecosystem of actors working on impunity, accountability, and places of deprivation of liberty in Türkiye, while situating civil society within the conditions shaping its work.



*Demonstration in front of the Human Rights Monument in Ankara, protesting the Detention of two journalists, Can Dündar and Erdem Gül. 27 November, 2015. (<https://cgd.org.tr/fotografilar/2015/11/25/can-dundar-ve-erdem-gul-yalniz-degidir/>)*

## 1. Impunity in Türkiye

### 1.1 Overview

According to international human rights law, impunity refers to the impossibility or failure to hold perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable – meaning they are not subject to any inquiry that could result in accusation, arrest, trial, and, if found guilty, sentencing to appropriate penalties, nor are they required to make reparations to their victims. Serious human rights violations include, among others, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, slavery or human trafficking, rape or sexual assault, and serious physical assault (including domestic violence), as defined under international humanitarian and human rights law.

Both the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe (CoE) have outlined the core obligations of member states in combating impunity, including:

- Investigating violations and ensuring timely prosecution, trial, and punishment of perpetrators;

- Respecting and fulfilling victims' and their families' right to know the truth through independent and effective investigations;
- Providing victims with adequate remedies and reparations;
- Establishing independent, impartial, and competent commissions of inquiry to establish the truth;
- Preserving archives relating to violations and ensuring accessibility to victims and relatives;
- Undertaking legislative and administrative reforms, and other necessary measures, to guarantee non-recurrence of violations.

Although Türkiye has not acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and withdrew from the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention in 2021, it remains a party to several core international human rights treaties that contain essential provisions for preventing impunity. These include the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the UN Convention against Torture (CAT). Despite these binding obligations, Türkiye's compliance has significantly deteriorated in recent years. This decline reached a critical point in early 2026, when the President of the Constitutional Court stated that the Court lacks the authority to ensure the implementation of ECtHR judgments — a position that is technically accurate, as responsibility for implementing ECtHR rulings lies primarily with the executive branch. However, this statement obscures a more fundamental obligation: under Article 90(5) of the Turkish Constitution, duly ratified international treaties on fundamental rights and freedoms take precedence over domestic legislation in cases of conflict. This provision places the Constitutional Court under a clear obligation to apply ECtHR standards in its own reasoning and rulings — an obligation that has increasingly been disregarded in practice, and one that the statement of the Court's president did little to reaffirm.

the President of the Constitutional Court stated that the Court lacks the authority to ensure the implementation of European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgments, effectively placing responsibility outside the domestic judicial framework.

This position is particularly striking given that Türkiye continues to rank as the country with the highest number of applications before the ECtHR among Council of Europe member states, with over 18,000 applications filed in 2025 alone – more than 80 percent of which relate to post-2016 measures, frequently involving violations of the right to liberty and security and the right to a fair trial.

Historically, legal and judicial responses in Türkiye have been inadequate in addressing grave violations such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture, and forced displacement in the Kurdish region, as well as emblematic cases

including the Madımak Massacre (1993) and the Gezi Park protests (2013). While some ECtHR judgments have led to limited proceedings, these have rarely extended to those most responsible. As a result, accountability has remained partial and ineffective, falling short of international standards. In recent years, this pattern has deepened into a more entrenched and systemic form of impunity, characterized not only by the failure to investigate and prosecute violations, but also by the selective use of judicial mechanisms against political actors, lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders. The continued imprisonment of Selahattin Demirtaş, Figen Yüksekdağ, and Osman Kavala – despite binding ECtHR judgments – illustrates the widening gap between international legal obligations and domestic practice. The culture of impunity has expanded to include the systematic targeting of legal professionals. In January 2026, the President of the Istanbul Bar Association, Prof. İbrahim Ö. Kaboğlu, and 10 executive board members faced prosecution for "spreading terrorist propaganda" after issuing a statement regarding the killing of journalists in Syria. Human rights organizations view this trial as a direct attack on the independence of the legal profession.

This expansion of impunity has increasingly intersected with broader political developments. The period from 2025 to 2026 has been marked by a significant escalation in judicial and administrative pressure on opposition actors. The detention of Istanbul Mayor and CHP presidential candidate Ekrem İmamoğlu in March 2025 triggered mass protests, during which hundreds of individuals, predominantly university students, were subjected to arbitrary detention. Subsequent indictments targeting hundreds of individuals, along with further detentions of opposition representatives, demonstrate how criminal law has been instrumentalized to reinforce impunity for state actors while criminalizing dissent. In this context, the events of March 19 and their aftermath mark a critical turning point in youth-targeted repression. The widespread detention of students during protests, increased policing of campuses, and administrative sanctions against student activism reflect a broader pattern in which young people are disproportionately exposed to rights violations. This trend not only restricts youth participation in public life but also contributes to a broader climate of impunity by normalizing excessive use of force and arbitrary detention against specific social groups.

The persistence of impunity is especially evident in cases involving torture and ill-treatment. Recent reports of severe abuse in police custody, along with the routine use of excessive force during protests, show that existing safeguards remain ineffective in practice. Investigations into such violations are often delayed, incomplete, or fail to result in meaningful accountability. A recent case from March 2026 illustrates this pattern: a 19-year-old man (M.A.E.Ş.) alleged that he was subjected to prolonged physical assault and sexual torture by police officers at a station in Kadıköy. Although an investigation was initiated, the case highlights the ongoing risk of ill-treatment in

custody and the broader structural shortcomings in ensuring effective accountability. These patterns are further reinforced by policing practices during protests, where journalists and demonstrators are frequently subjected to police violence, tear gas, and arbitrary detention.

At the same time, repression of journalism and digital expression has intensified. Türkiye's ranking in global press freedom indices has continued to decline, while incidents of violence against journalists, judicial harassment, and digital censorship – including large-scale internet throttling – demonstrate the consolidation of a restrictive information environment. The crackdown on independent journalism intensified in 2025, with Türkiye dropping to 159th in the World Press Freedom Index.

This restrictive environment is further reinforced by recent legislative developments that expand the scope for criminalizing journalistic activity, civic engagement, and public interest reporting. Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code, commonly known as the “disinformation law,” along with the Cybersecurity Law adopted in 2025, has enabled authorities to prosecute not only journalists but also civil society actors, trade unionists, and human rights defenders for “spreading misleading information” or reporting on alleged data leaks. In practice, the vague and broad wording of Article 217/A has turned it into a tool for suppressing dissent across multiple domains, including investigative journalism, labor struggles, environmental activism, and gender rights advocacy. As documented, thousands of investigations have been initiated under this provision, targeting individuals engaged in public interest activities and critical expression.

The recent cases involving journalists such as Furkan Karabay, Alican Ulusoy, and İsmail Arı show how investigative reporting on corruption or state conduct violations can be reframed as criminal activity. The use of this provision against trade union representatives, environmental defenders, and civil society actors also demonstrates how legal instruments are increasingly used to silence broader forms of the opposition. These practices deepen the climate of impunity by shielding state actors from scrutiny while penalizing those who expose violations.

At the same time, proposed legal amendments such as the so-called “foreign agents” (*etki ajanlığı*) regulation – although not formally adopted – remain a persistent threat to civil society organizations. The repeated introduction and withdrawal of such proposals create a climate of legal uncertainty and self-censorship, further weakening civil society's ability to monitor and challenge impunity.

Parallel to these developments, the period since 2025 has also seen an intensification of policies and public discourse targeting LGBTQ+s. The declaration of 2025 as the “Year of the Family,” along with administrative directives restricting the use of terms such as “gender,” “sexual orientation,” and “gender identity,” has contributed to the institutionalization of discriminatory practices. In addition, debates over multiple draft

legislative packages introduced since 2025 – some proposing to criminalize conduct deemed contrary to “biological sex” – signal a deepening legal and political environment in which LGBTQ+s are increasingly exposed to both direct and indirect rights violations.

These developments not only increase the vulnerability of LGBTQ+s but also reinforce patterns of impunity, as hate crimes, discriminatory practices, and targeted violence are often inadequately investigated or prosecuted. Similar patterns appear in cases of femicide and killings of transgender individuals, where structural discrimination intersects with judicial inaction.

In response, hundreds of civil society organizations have united under the “Eşitlik İçin Yan Yana” - “Side by side for Equality”- platform to collectively challenge the systematic legal and administrative measures that deepen this environment. While coordinated advocacy has led to the withdrawal of certain discriminatory provisions proposed in the 11th Judicial Reform Packages, new draft laws remain on the agenda that seek to criminalize the public visibility of LGBTQ+ identities and impose prison sentences by targeting gender affirmation processes.

These pressures are further reinforced by ongoing closure cases and judicial harassment against civil society organizations, such as the case against Defne Güzel, head of the board of the 17 Mayıs Association, and the closure of Genç LGBTİ+, the unlawful restriction of freedom of expression through “obscenity” charges, and administrative barriers that prevent individuals under 21 from accessing essential hormone treatments. At the same time, stigmatizing rhetoric by public authorities – framed as “protecting the family” – contributes to the normalization of institutional homophobia and transphobia, leaving LGBTQ+s and human rights defenders increasingly exposed and unprotected.

Beyond legal and political dynamics, the deepening economic crisis has become a significant aspect of the broader impunity framework. According to 2026 reports, official inflation rates of approximately 31 percent have severely undermined access to basic rights such as housing and food, disproportionately impacting low- and middle-income groups.

The aftermath of the February 2023 earthquakes continues to illustrate how impunity operates in the field of economic and social rights. Despite the scale of destruction and loss of life, accountability for construction practices, regulatory failures, and delayed emergency responses remains limited. This is reflected in the systematic prosecution of defendants under “conscious negligence” (*bilinçli taksir*) rather than “probable intent” (*olası kast*), significantly reducing potential sentences. Furthermore, the “shield of administrative permission” under Law No. 4483 continues to obstruct justice: by late 2025, only 84 public officials had been granted permission to stand trial across the entire affected region, despite well-documented structural and

regulatory failures, including in state-owned facilities such as İskenderun State Hospital, where official “unstable” reports had been ignored for over a decade prior to its collapse.

Ongoing deficiencies in reconstruction processes, lack of transparency in public resource allocation, and persistent barriers to effective remedies for affected populations point to a continued absence of meaningful accountability. Conflicting official data on housing delivery—where presidential reports cite 46,140 completed units while ministerial statements claim nearly 100,000—further highlights a deepening transparency crisis. At the same time, the aggressive implementation of “Reserve Areas” (*rezerv alan*) under Law No. 6306 has been widely criticized as a mechanism of state-led dispossession and rent-seeking, often forcing survivors into debt for substandard housing lacking basic infrastructure such as water, gas, and electricity.

Although a proposed provision in the 11th Judicial Package (Article 27), which would have effectively enabled reduced sentences for those responsible for earthquake-related deaths, was ultimately withdrawn following sustained pressure and advocacy by victims’ families, including the Justice-Seeking Families Platform (*Adalet Peşinde Aileler Platformu*), its introduction nonetheless reflects an ongoing tendency to institutionalize impunity.



\* Placards held by members of the Justice-Seeking Families Platform (Adalet Peşinde Aileler Platformu) during their protest outside parliament against Article 27 of the 11th Judicial Package, December 2025. (<https://www.adaletpesindeaileleri.org/donate>)

Historically, one of the most central and persistent dimensions of impunity in Türkiye has been linked to the Kurdish issue. Across a wide range of rights – from the right to life and the prohibition of torture to freedoms of expression and assembly, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights – patterns of impunity have long been embedded in practices associated with the conflict. Despite the emergence of a relative “negative peace” over the past year – marked by the PKK’s announcements of dissolution and disarmament in July 2025 – this context remains fragile. The prospects for a structural transformation of longstanding accountability deficits are limited by shifting regional dynamics in the Middle East and the government’s continued reliance on a security-centered framework often branded as the “A Terror-Free Türkiye” (*Terörsüz Türkiye*) model.

More broadly, the coexistence of an evolving peace context with increasingly authoritarian governance has further complicated the situation. While the TBMM established the “Commission on National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy” in August 2025 to facilitate this transition, its authority remains unclear as it lacks a formal legal statute. The Commission has held consultations with approximately 130

institutions, including civil society organizations, experts, and academics. However, this relatively broad participation has remained largely consultative, with the Commission limited to a listening role and with little transparency about how these inputs are incorporated into decision-making processes or translated into concrete legal and policy outcomes. The state's focus on the "security verification" of disarmament often takes precedence over rights-based peacebuilding, leaving the legal basis for future transformation undefined. While the Commission's 2026 report proposes a "*Türkiye Model*" involving an integration law and a review of anti-terror legislation to protect non-violent expression, it explicitly aims to avoid any public perception of "amnesty". Beyond this limited and carefully framed approach, the report avoids mentioning roots of the Kurdish issue directly and fails to put forward any broader legal or discursive steps toward democratization. This absence of engagement with root causes effectively translates into an implicit neglect of accountability and anti-impunity principles.

The absence of meaningful accountability mechanisms risks perpetuating existing patterns. Opposition voices and human rights organizations point to a stark disjunction between the peace process and the government's domestic legal practices, such as the refusal to implement binding ECtHR judgments for political figures like Selahattin Demirtaş and the ongoing judicial harassment of the CHP and other dissidents. Thus, the current period is marked not only by continuity but also by the reconfiguration of impunity; as the armed conflict ceases, the judicial system is increasingly weaponized against non-violent political actors, lawyers, and journalists under the guise of national security. This ensures that while the guns may be silent, the structural violence and lack of accountability that underpinned the conflict remain unaddressed.

## **1.2 Local CSOs Fighting Impunity**

**10 Ekim Barış Derneği/10 October Peace Association:** The association founded in Ankara in March 2016 by survivors' families, trade unions, professional chambers, and civil society groups in response to the 10 October 2015 Ankara bombing. The association aimed to secure justice and accountability through legal monitoring, trial observation, psychosocial support for families, public advocacy, and commemorations. It also formed strong ties with national and international solidarity networks to amplify its demands for systemic transparency and responsibility. Though officially shut down by court order in 2018, the Association continued its legacy of ensuring civic memory and accountability—its social media pages remain active, hosting commemorations and continuing to mobilize communities for truth and justice.

**Adalet Peşinde Aileleri Platformu/Platform for Families Seeking Justice:** Founded in the aftermath of the February 6, 2023 earthquakes, the Families Pursuing Justice Platform brings together relatives of victims who argue that the disaster was not a

natural calamity alone, but the result of negligence, lack of oversight, and the disregard of scientific warnings. The platform unites families from 37 different apartment complexes and residential sites, advocating not only for justice in their individual cases but also for accountability for the deaths of at least 53,000 people. It demands criminal prosecution of all responsible actors—from contractors to public officials and ministries—for violations of the right to life, framing these failures as gross human rights violations. Through vigils, public statements, litigation support, and national advocacy, the platform keeps the pursuit of justice alive and resists entrenched impunity.

**Adli Tıp Uzmanları Derneği (ATUD) / Association of Forensic Medicine Specialists:** Based in Istanbul, ATUD, founded in 1992, is a human rights organization working to prevent impunity and strengthen accountability in investigations and prosecutions. It develops scientific and professional standards, contributes to the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol, and supports the continuous monitoring and improvement of practices affecting judicial processes through congresses and scientific publications. ATUD also works in close cooperation with other rights organizations, demonstrating prompt support and solidarity on human rights issues. In 1997, members of ATUD participated in the UN-established international forensic team in Bosnia, conducting exhumations from mass graves, identifying victims, and documenting causes of death, with evidence submitted to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

**Baran Tursun Vakfı/Baran Tursun Foundation:** Established in Izmir in 2010, the Baran Tursun Foundation works to protect the right to life and combat impunity in cases of deaths caused by law enforcement. Named after Baran Tursun, who was killed by a police bullet in 2007 and whose case ended in impunity, the foundation actively monitors extrajudicial killings through its “Right to Life Monitoring” programme. It builds and maintains a database and mapping of these cases, regularly publishes impartial and verified reports for domestic and international human rights actors, and advocates for accountability. The foundation also conducts advocacy meetings—including high-level dialogue with policymakers and oversight bodies—and offers legal and moral support to victims’ families.

**Cumartesi Anneleri/Saturday Mothers:** The Saturday Mothers is a victims-led platform that has been holding weekly peaceful sit-ins at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul since 27 May 1995, demanding truth and justice for relatives who forcibly disappeared in custody or killed in unresolved political murders in Türkiye. Emerging in the aftermath of the disappearance and killing of Hasan Ocak in 1995, the movement has become one of the most enduring civil initiatives confronting entrenched impunity for grave human rights violations. Operating as a loose collective of families and supporters, the group uses peaceful assembly to document cases,

sustain public attention, and advance demands for truth, accountability, and the recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity. Despite repeated bans and police violence—particularly following the crackdown on their 700th gathering in 2018—they have persisted as a symbol of resistance to structural impunity. After years of systematic obstruction despite Constitutional Court rulings, the group was able to return to Galatasaray Square in November 2023, underscoring both the impact of sustained civic and legal pressure and the continued fragility of the right to peaceful assembly.

**Cağdaş Hukukçular Derneği (CHD)/Progressive Lawyers Association:** Founded in 1974 and headquartered in Ankara, the ÇHD works to combat impunity by providing legal support to individuals and groups subjected to rights violations, particularly the right to life, torture, and ill-treatment. It engages in trial monitoring, advocacy, and legal defence to ensure accountability. ÇHD has branches in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Alanya, Mersin, Adana, Antalya, and Hatay, and representatives in Bursa and Eskişehir. It is closely tied to the international legal community, with its detained lawyers condemned in joint statements by global bar associations and membership in the European Democratic Lawyers network.

**DEMOS Araştırma Kolektifi/ DEMOS Research Collective:** Founded in Ankara in 2015, DEMOS initially operated as an association dedicated to advancing conflict transformation, peace and reconciliation, social memory, and transitional justice. Although it ceased its formal legal status in late 2024, it continues actively as a collective. DEMOS conducts rigorous research and analysis, hosts conferences, workshops, and a popular “*Voices from DEMOS*” podcast series on topics such as transitional justice, peace studies, and human rights. Through its work on memory and justice—even amid ongoing conflict—it plays a vital role in addressing past violations, countering impunity, and laying the groundwork for future accountability.

**Eşitlik İçin Kadın Platformu (EŞİK)/Women’s Platform for Equality:** EŞİK is a broad-based coalition established in 2020 to collectively respond to legal and policy initiatives that risk undermining women’s and children’s rights. Bringing together over 300 women’s and LGBTQ+ organisations alongside more than 150 professional bodies, unions, bar associations, and political actors, the platform operates as a large-scale civic network confronting measures that may enable or reinforce impunity. Emerging from the mobilisation against proposed amnesty provisions for perpetrators of child sexual abuse (TCK 103), EŞİK engages in coordinated advocacy on issues such as violence against women, child abuse, and the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, while closely monitoring legislative processes. Through regular collective coordination and a horizontal, volunteer-based structure, the platform not only tracks but actively intervenes in law-making processes, aiming to strengthen accountability and prevent the rollback of fundamental rights.

**Fikir ve Sanat Atöyesi Derneđi Çocuk Hakları Merkezi (FISA Çocuk Hakları Merkezi)/Children Rights' Center of Idea and Art Workshop Association:**

Founded in May 2019 in Ankara, FISA CHM works to combat impunity and strengthen accountability for violations of children's rights, especially protecting the right to life. It conducts systematic monitoring, follows court cases, and initiates strategic litigation to ensure institution-level responsiveness. Additionally, FISA CHM participates in key coalition networks in Türkiye —including the Refugee Rights Coordination Network, the Women's Coalition, the Partnership Network for Preventing Violence Against Children, and the Alliance Against Impunity—highlighting its multi-sectoral collaboration in advancing accountability and combating impunity across rights spheres.

**Hafıza Merkezi/Truth Justice Memory Center:** Established in Istanbul in November 2011 by lawyers, journalists, and human rights activists, the Center works to uncover the truth about past human rights violations, strengthen collective memory, and support survivors in their pursuit of justice. It combats impunity through legal documentation, litigation monitoring, research and analysis, and national and international legal interventions. In recent years, it has expanded its work to include in-depth research on enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture, while also providing policy recommendations for accountability mechanisms. The Center compiles and shares its findings through its digital archive failibelli.org and develops projects combining memory work with legal advocacy to amplify victims' voices and promote institutional reform. In 2022, the Center became a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

**Hak İnsiyatifi Derneđi/Rights Initiative Association:** Founded in 2017 in Ankara, the Rights Initiative Association works to protect and promote human rights. Its areas of focus include freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, the right to a fair trial, the rights of refugees and migrants, and violations of rights in prisons. The association monitors and reports on human rights violations in detention facilities, provides legal support to victims to ensure access to justice, and engages in advocacy before national and international mechanisms. It issues press statements, conducts campaigns, and publishes reports to raise public awareness. It also documents and monitors allegations of torture and ill-treatment, advocating for accountability and an end to impunity.

**Hevi LGBTİ Derneđi (Hevi)/Hevi LGBTİ Association:** Founded in Istanbul in 2015 by minority LGBTQ+ activists, the association works to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and actively combats impunity in hate crime killings. It provides legal counselling, monitors cases, and runs advocacy campaigns—such as *Justice for Ahmet Yıldız*—to hold perpetrators accountable. HEVI also focuses on the rights of LGBTQ+ refugees, offering support and advocacy to address their specific

vulnerabilities. Committed to fighting LGBTQ+ phobia, it envisions a society free from discrimination, where equal rights, including the right to life, are fully respected. Internationally, HEVİ is part of ILGA-Europe, ILGA World, and the Safe Space Alliance.

**İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD)/Human Rights Association:** Founded in 1986 in the aftermath of Türkiye's 1980 military coup, the Human Rights Association (İHD) is one of the oldest and largest human rights organizations in the country. Headquartered in Ankara, it has 27 branches and 7 representatives across different regions. İHD conducts extensive monitoring and legal advocacy on the right to life, access to justice, prisons, torture, and impunity, and has played a central role in documenting past and ongoing human rights violations. Actively engaged with international human rights mechanisms and networks, İHD uses its reports, case monitoring, and public campaigns to combat impunity, strengthen accountability, and promote the protection of fundamental rights throughout Türkiye. İHD's international institutional collaborations include membership in FIDH since 1995 and in EuroMed Rights (formerly EMHRN) since 1997. It is also member of the OMCT.

Since the onset of the current peace process in October 2024, İHD has been actively engaged in advocacy for a durable and rights-based resolution of the Kurdish question, consistently calling for the process to be grounded in legal and democratic reform rather than framed solely as a security matter. In this context, İHD has issued joint civil society declarations and organizational statements demanding inclusive negotiations, transitional justice mechanisms, the release of political prisoners, and the repeal of anti-terrorism legislation as indispensable steps toward lasting peace.

**İnsan Hakları Ortak Platformu (İHOP)/Human Rights Joint Platform:** The Human Rights Joint Platform (İHOP) was established in 2005 by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (hYd), Human Rights Association (İHD), Association for Solidarity with the Oppressed (MAZLUMDER), Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye (TİHV), and Amnesty International Türkiye to provide a framework for joint action in areas where human rights NGOs could not generate effective solutions individually. Today, İHOP brings together the Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (ESHİD), Citizens' Assembly, Rights Initiative, Human Rights Association (İHD), and Human Rights Agenda Association (HRAA). In addition to uniting these leading CSOs, İHOP coordinates and participates in several thematic networks, including the Alliance Against Impunity, the Human Rights Education Joint Working Network, the Refugee Rights Coordination, and the Coalition for the International Criminal Courts. İHOP and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) are collaborating under a joint initiative known as the REACT project, funded by the European Union. İHOP also contributes to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

process, both by submitting its own inputs and by facilitating the engagement of other civil society organizations with this mechanism.

### **İşçi Sağlığı ve İş Güvenliği Meclisi (İSİG Meclisi)/Health and Safety Labour**

**Watch:** Based in Istanbul since 2011 and now active in several major cities, İSİG Meclisi is a worker-led network that frames all workplace deaths as preventable work-related murders, not accidents, exposing systemic negligence and impunity. It produces monthly reports on “work murders,” supports worker resistance through panels and solidarity actions, and regularly publishes updates, analyses, and public statements to demand justice. Through its vigilant reporting and public advocacy, İSİG Meclisi plays a critical role in holding institutions and employers accountable for labor rights violations.

### **Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (KCDP)/We Will Stop Femicide**

**Platform:** Founded in 2010 as a platform by women’s and LGBTQ+ rights organizations following the murder of Münevver Karabulut, and becoming an association in 2012, the KCDP works to end femicides and safeguard women’s right to life. It provides legal assistance to the families of victims, participates in criminal trials, and publishes monthly reports on femicide data. Through the active involvement of its lawyers in court cases, KCDP challenges impunity by pushing for deterrent sentences and preventing unjust penalty reductions, while shaping public awareness and demanding stronger institutional responses to gender-based violence.

### **Kaos Gey ve Lezbiyen Kültürel Araştırmalar ve Dayanışma Derneği (KAOS GL)/ Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Studies and Solidarity Association:**

**KAOS GL** began in Ankara in 1994 as a grassroots magazine and community initiative, and in 2005 became the first LGBTQ+ association in Türkiye to gain legal status. It is dedicated to promoting equality, combating discrimination, and protecting the rights of LGBTQ+’s. KAOS GL documents rights violations through annual human rights reports, monitors court cases involving hate crimes and discrimination, and publishes judicial monitoring reports that expose patterns of impunity. In 2025, its affiliated news portal (kaosgl.org) was blocked by a court order, reflecting escalating censorship of LGBTQ+ media in Türkiye. Undeterred, KAOS GL continues to publish via the new domain kaosgl1.org. Additionally, its X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram accounts were blocked, but the group now shares updates on a new account to maintain visibility. KAOS GL also engages with international human rights mechanisms, advocates for legal reforms—particularly in hate crime legislation—and provides legal support and strategic advocacy to strengthen accountability for violations against LGBTQ+’s. Internationally, KAOS GL is a member of ILGA-Europe, has been part of the global coalition Girls Not Brides since 2012, and collaborates with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) through feminist internet and digital rights initiatives.

### **Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı (Mor Çatı)/ The Mor Çatı Women's Shelter**

**Foundation:** Established in Istanbul in 1990 by feminist activists, Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation works to combat gender-based violence and support survivors through shelter, legal, psychological, and social assistance. It documents systemic failures in protection mechanisms, challenges impunity in cases of violence against women, and advocates for effective implementation of laws and policies. Mor Çatı also engages with international human rights mechanisms, including submitting shadow reports to the CoE to strengthen institutional accountability and promote lasting change in preventing and addressing violence against women. At the international level, Mor Çatı is a member of WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe), a network of women's shelters and support centers across Europe, which enables mutual learning and exchange of feminist policies and practices.

### **Özgür Hukukçular Derneği (ÖHD)/Association of Lawyers for Freedom:**

Based in Diyarbakır and officially established in November 2019, the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) is a human rights organization dedicated to preventing impunity by supporting individuals and groups subjected especially to violations of the right to life, torture, and ill-treatment. With branches in Istanbul, Diyarbakır, Van, Şanlıurfa, Hakkari, İzmir, Mersin, Ankara, Mardin, Bursa, Gaziantep, and Batman, ÖHD is actively engaged in protecting access to justice, strengthening accountability, and serving as a key partner in the broader human rights ecosystem through legal advocacy, solidarity actions, and institutional cooperation.

Since the onset of the current peace process in October 2024, ÖHD has been actively engaged in legal advocacy for a rights-based resolution of the Kurdish question, calling for transitional legislation, the implementation of ECtHR rulings on the right to hope, and the release of political prisoners as indispensable conditions for lasting peace. Through systematic prison monitoring and regional rights violation reports, ÖHD has consistently documented the gap between the political process and conditions on the ground, arguing that the peace process cannot yield durable results without concrete legal reform.

### **Roboski İçin Adalet Girişimi/Justice for Roboski Initiative:**

Formed by the families of the 34 civilians killed in the 2011 Roboski (Uludere) airstrike, the Justice for Roboski Initiative is a survivors-led movement demanding accountability for the massacre and an end to impunity. The Initiative organizes regular public statements, vigils, and advocacy actions—often in Ankara—to keep the case on the national agenda, document rights violations, and pressure national and international bodies for justice. Although not a registered CSO, it plays a significant role in Türkiye's human rights landscape, focusing on state accountability, right to life, and the fight against impunity.

**Soma 301 Madenciler Sosyal ve Yardımlaşma Derneği (Soma 301)/Soma 301 Families Association:** Legally registered as an association, the Soma 301 Families Association was founded in the aftermath of the 2014 mining disaster that claimed the lives of 301 workers. Led by the victims' families, the association fights for justice and accountability, highlighting systemic impunity for those responsible for gross negligence and unsafe working conditions. It documents failures in workplace safety, monitors court proceedings, and exposes legal loopholes that enable perpetrators to avoid effective punishment. The association also provides legal aid to affected families and organizes commemorations, public statements, and advocacy initiatives to push for structural reforms in mining governance and labor oversight.

**Sosyal Yardımlaşma Rehabilitasyon ve Adaptasyon Merkezi (SOHRAM-CASRA)/Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment for the Victims of Torture:** Based in Diyarbakır since 2000, SOHRAM Casra works to combat violence in society, with a focus on supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of torture and providing them with legal assistance. Over the years, it has contributed to addressing the consequences of torture and promoting victims' access to justice, while maintaining its institutional presence in the human rights field. SOHRAM-CASRA is also a member of the OMCT SOS-Torture Network and part of the international network of rehabilitation centers for torture victims coordinated by the IRCT.

**Suruç Aileleri İnisyatifi/Suruç Families Initiative:** Established by the relatives of the 33 people killed in the 2015 Suruç bombing, this initiative seeks justice, truth, and recognition of responsibility in an environment of entrenched impunity. It monitors trials, raises public awareness, and advocates for victims' rights while confronting systemic failures in addressing politically motivated mass violence.

**Tahir Elçi İnsan Hakları Vakfı/Tahir Elçi Human Rights Foundation:** Founded in Diyarbakır in 2019 to carry forward the legacy of prominent human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi, the Foundation works to secure justice for victims of gross human rights violations and to challenge the pervasive culture of impunity. As a key actor in following the Tahir Elçi murder case—a stark emblem of accountability failures in Türkiye, highlighted by the June 2024 acquittal of police defendants despite evidence and procedural flaws—it sustains public and legal scrutiny of the case while organizing trainings for lawyers, interns, and CSO representatives to strengthen legal advocacy. Through workshops, panels, projects, contributions to ECtHR jurisprudence, and active participation in international solidarity networks, the Foundation promotes legal awareness, fosters cross-border cooperation, and advances systematic resistance to injustice.

**Toplum ve Hukuk Araştırmaları Vakfı (TOHAV)/Foundation for society and Legal Studies:** Founded in Istanbul in 1994 by lawyers, the TOHAV has long worked

to address impunity and strengthen accountability in cases of human rights violations. It has provided legal assistance, conducted research and investigations, and prepared reports—particularly on violations of the right to life, the prevention and punishment of torture, and conditions in prisons. While its public visibility has been more limited in recent years, TOHAV’s past work and expertise remain a reference point in the field, and it continues to maintain its institutional presence. TOHAV has also collaborated internationally through its partnership with Media Defence to provide legal support to journalists and media outlets in Türkiye. TOHAV is also a member of International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

**Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı (TİHV)/Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye (HRFT):** Established in 1990 by İHD for the treatment and rehabilitation of torture survivors, TİHV works to eliminate torture and combat impunity through treatment, rehabilitation, documentation, and advocacy. Headquartered in Ankara, with representative offices in Diyarbakır, Istanbul, Izmir, and Van, and a reference center in Cizre, TİHV provides comprehensive medical, psychological, and social support to victims, while systematically documenting cases of torture and other ill-treatment. It played a pioneering role in the preparation and global dissemination of the UN-endorsed *Istanbul Protocol*, a key international standard for the investigation and documentation of torture. Through its rigorous documentation, monitoring, and international advocacy, TİHV contributes to holding perpetrators accountable, strengthening prevention mechanisms, and challenging the culture of impunity in Türkiye. TİHV is also a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

**Uluslararası Af Örgütü Türkiye Şubesi (UAÖ)/Amnesty International Türkiye Branch:** Formally established in 2002, Amnesty International Türkiye is an active human rights organization that closely monitors violations in contexts of impunity, advocates strongly for initiating judicial proceedings, and rigorously tracks relevant hearings—particularly through its Trial Monitoring Programme—to ensure that cases move toward fair and lawful resolution. Amnesty International Türkiye is not a member of external international networks; it functions as the national section of Amnesty International’s global movement, which operates in over 150 countries.

**Yaşam Bellek Özgürlük Derneği/Life Memory Freedom Association:** Established in 2008 in Eskişehir, the Association for Life, Memory, Freedom conducts human rights monitoring, reporting, advocacy, trial monitoring, and provides legal support to victims of rights violations. In recent years, it has focused on translating and disseminating decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee, contributing to wider access to international human rights jurisprudence. Through its work—such as documenting violations, tracking court proceedings, advocating for the implementation of human rights standards, and preserving the memory of past

injustices—the association plays an active role in strengthening accountability and challenging impunity.

Organization	Headquarters
10 Ekim Barış Derneği / 10 October Peace Association	Ankara
<a href="#">Adalet Peşinde Aileleri Platformu/Platform for Families Seeking Justice</a>	Network/ nationwide
Adli Tıp Uzmanları Derneği (ATUD) / Association of Forensic Medicine Specialists	İstanbul
Baran Tursun Vakfı / Baran Tursun Foundation	İzmir
Cumartesi Anneleri/Saturday Mothers	Network/ nationwide
Çağdaş Hukukçular Derneği/Progressive Lawyers Association	Ankara
DEMOS Araştırma Kolektifi / DEMOS Research Collective	Ankara

Eşitlik İçin Kadın Platformu/EŞİK	Network/ nationwide
Fikir ve Sanat Atölyesi Çocuk Hakları Merkezi (FISA) / Children Rights' Center of Idea and Art Workshop Association	Ankara
Hafıza Merkezi / Truth Justice Memory Center	İstanbul
Hak İnisyatifi Derneği / Rights Initiative Association	Ankara
Hevi LGBTİ+ Derneği / Hevi LGBTİ+ Association	İstanbul
İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD) / Human Rights Association	Ankara
İnsan Hakları Ortak Platformu (İHOP) / Human Rights Joint Platform	Ankara
İşçi Sağlığı ve İş Güvenliği Meclisi (İSİG Meclisi) / Health and Safety Labour Watch	İstanbul

Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (KCDP) / We Will Stop Femicide Platform	İstanbul
Kaos GL / Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Studies and Solidarity Association	Ankara
Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı / Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation	İstanbul
Özgür Hukukçular Derneği (ÖHD) / Association of Lawyers for Freedom	Diyarbakır
Roboski İçin Adalet Girişimi / Justice for Roboski Initiative	Şırnak
SOHRAM-CASRA / Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment for the Victims of Torture	Diyarbakır
Soma 301 Madenciler Sosyal ve Yardımlaşma Derneği / Soma 301 Families Association	Manisa

Suruç Aileleri İnisyatifi / Suruç Families Initiative	Şanlıurfa
Tahir Elçi İnsan Hakları Vakfı / Tahir Elçi Human Rights Foundation	Diyarbakır
Toplum ve Hukuk Araştırmaları Vakfı (TOHAV) / Foundation for Society and Legal Studies	İstanbul
Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı (TİHV) / Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye	Ankara
Uluslararası Af Örgütü Türkiye Şubesi (UAÖ) / Amnesty International Türkiye Branch	İstanbul
Yaşam Bellek Özgürlük Derneği / Life Memory Freedom Association	Eskişehir

### 1.3 International CSOs Working against Impunity in Türkiye

**Amnesty International:** Founded in London in 1961, Amnesty International is a global movement of over 10 million people, with national sections and offices in more than 150 countries. It works to prevent and end grave human rights abuses, documenting violations by governments, armed groups, corporations, and other non-state actors, and campaigning to hold them accountable. Key focus areas include combating impunity, protecting refugees and asylum seekers, improving prison conditions, defending human rights defenders, and upholding fair trial rights. In

Türkiye, where it has a national branch, Amnesty International has reported on arbitrary detention, restrictions on freedoms, prison conditions, and unlawful returns of refugees.

**Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC):** The CICC is a global network of over 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries working to strengthen international justice and ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It promotes the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Rome Statute, monitors the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and supports local civil society through information-sharing, advocacy, and capacity building. The Coalition also engages media and international bodies to keep accountability high on global and regional agendas.

**European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR):** Founded in 2007 and based in Berlin, ECCHR uses strategic litigation to challenge impunity for torture, war crimes, sexual and gender-based violence, corporate exploitation, and abuses at Europe's borders. It holds both state and non-state actors accountable through innovative legal action, third-party interventions, and collaboration with affected communities. ECCHR also supports lawyers, activists, and partners worldwide in advancing human rights through the courts. Türkiye is represented in the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) through the Turkish National Coalition for the ICC (TCICC), founded in 2005. Its members have included leading human rights NGOs and bar associations such as the İHD, TİHV, Citizens' Assembly, Rights Agenda, MAZLUMDER, Amnesty International Türkiye, TOHAV, as well as several local bar associations and women's and LGBTQ+ organizations including KAOS GL and Pembe Hayat.

**Freedom from Torture (FFT):** Founded in London in 1985, FFT provides specialist therapy, medical documentation, and legal support for survivors of torture, while campaigning to hold perpetrators—primarily states—accountable. Its medico-legal reports, prepared jointly by doctors and lawyers, are used as evidence in asylum claims and submitted to international human rights bodies. FFT also engages in public advocacy to end torture worldwide and improve protection for survivors. FFT has provided rehabilitation and medico-legal support to torture survivors from Türkiye since its establishment—and published in 2017 the report *“Torture in Türkiye: Past, Present and Future?”* based on 60 medico-legal cases documented between 1992 and 2015.

**Front Line Defenders (FLD):** Founded in Dublin in 2001, FLD works to protect human rights defenders (HRDs) at risk through rapid response, advocacy, security training, and grants. It supports HRDs challenging impunity and lack of accountability, and campaigns for justice in cases where defenders have been killed. FLD also engages with governments, international bodies, and the public to strengthen

protection mechanisms and end reprisals against HRDs. FLD is also a key member of the international consortium implementing the ProtectDefenders.eu program—together with Reporters Without Borders, OMCT-Europe, FIDH, and ILGA-Europe—which provides support to human rights defenders in Türkiye.

**Geneva Call:** Founded in 2000 and based in Geneva, Geneva Call works to protect civilians in armed conflict by engaging armed non-state actors and de facto authorities. Through dialogue, training, and monitoring, it promotes compliance with international humanitarian norms—particularly those concerning civilian protection, the prohibition of sexual violence, the protection of children, and the banning of anti-personnel mines. Geneva Call utilizes “Deeds of Commitment” as a distinctive mechanism for armed groups to formally pledge their adherence to these standards. It has engaged with the PKK since 2001 through its “Deeds of Commitment”, promoting humanitarian norms such as ending child recruitment and sexual violence, and continues to collaborate with Turkish civil society partners to monitor implementation despite limited direct operations in Türkiye.

**Human Rights Watch (HRW):** Headquartered in New York, Human Rights Watch (HRW) investigates and reports on human rights abuses in over 100 countries, combining rigorous fact-finding with local, regional, and international advocacy, including submissions to human rights mechanisms. In Türkiye, HRW has long addressed impunity for torture, unlawful killings, and other abuses, publishing detailed reports and pressing for accountability through legal and policy reforms. It also monitors judicial harassment, repression of civil society, and violations of freedom of expression and assembly, and has joined international legal interventions—such as the ECHR case concerning Osman Kavala—often in collaboration with Turkish NGOs and bar associations.

**Impunity Watch:** Established as an independent organization in 2008 after starting as a project in 2004, Impunity Watch works with victims of violence to dismantle entrenched impunity, secure redress for grave human rights violations, and promote justice and peace. Based in The Hague, with offices in Guatemala and Burundi, it conducts research, training, and policy work; builds partnerships with victims’ groups; and mobilizes joint political action grounded in field-based knowledge and demands.

**International Commission of Jurists (ICJ):** Founded in 1952 in Geneva, the ICJ is composed of 60 eminent judges, lawyers, and legal academics dedicated to ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations and crimes under international law. It monitors human rights situations worldwide, engages in legal advocacy before national, regional, and international bodies, and contributes to the development of key human rights instruments. The ICJ also strengthens the capacity of practitioners and civil society organizations through training, tools, and guidelines. It has collaborated with Turkish civil society through joint projects like REACT with İHOP, produced

access-to-justice and environmental law reports, intervened in ECHR cases, issued statements at the UN Human Rights Council, and submitted joint Rule 9.2 briefs with HRW urging enforcement of key ECtHR rulings in Türkiye.

**International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH):** Founded in 1922 and headquartered in Paris, FIDH federates 188 member organizations from 116 countries. It works to end impunity for abuses by states, armed groups, and corporations through fact-finding, advocacy, and strategic litigation before national, regional, and international bodies, including the ICC. FIDH also operates a regional office in Tunis. İHD and TİHV are member of the FIDH.

**International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT):** Headquartered in Copenhagen with a liaison office in Brussels, the IRCT is a global network of 174 member organizations and independent experts across 78 countries, including three (TİHV, TOHAV, SOHRAM Casra) in Türkiye. It specializes in the treatment and documentation of torture, combining medical expertise with legal advocacy to combat impunity, promote access to justice, and prevent recurrence. IRCT engages with UN bodies, regional mechanisms, and national courts to press states to end torture and ensure justice and reparation for survivors.

**Redress:** Founded in 1992, Redress is a UK-based human rights organization dedicated to securing justice and reparation for survivors of torture and related international crimes. With offices in London and The Hague, it brings legal claims in domestic, regional, and international courts to hold perpetrators accountable and combat impunity. Redress currently has over 60 cases and projects in 38 countries, including Türkiye, where it has represented torture survivors before the ECHR. It also participates in international advocacy through initiatives such as the United Against Torture Consortium.

**TRIAL International:** Founded in 2002, TRIAL International combats impunity for international crimes and supports victims in their pursuit of justice. With offices in Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it provides legal assistance, documents and investigates cases, engages in strategic litigation, and builds the capacity of local actors. Its work spans war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, sexual violence in conflict, and corporate-related human rights abuses.

**World Organization against Torture (OMCT):** Established in 1985 in Geneva, OMCT is the world's largest coalition of over 200 civil society organizations working to eradicate torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. It advocates for reform of laws and policies, provides direct assistance to victims, and works to hold perpetrators accountable through national, regional, and international mechanisms. CİSST, İHD, SOHRAM Casra and TOHAV from Türkiye are member of the OMCT.

Organization	Headquarters
Amnesty International	London
Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)	New York
European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)	Berlin
Freedom from Torture (FFT)	London
Front Line Defenders (FLD)	Dublin
Geneva Call	Geneva
Human Rights Watch (HRW)	New York
Impunity Watch	The Hague,
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)	Geneva,

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)	Paris
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)	Copenhagen
Redress	London & The Hague
TRIAL International	Geneva
World Organization against Torture (OMCT)	Geneva



*Protest at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey by opposition MPs regarding the drafting process of the "Disinformation Law" (also known as "Censorship Law") 4 October, 2022. The law has since then been passed, and foresees prison sentences for anyone who publicly disseminates "false information" in a way that is "suitable for disrupting the public peace". This law is being widely used to imprison journalists and human rights defenders.*  
([https://ankahaber.net/haber/detay/tbmm\\_genel\\_kurulunda\\_sansur\\_yasasi\\_protesto\\_edildi\\_105795](https://ankahaber.net/haber/detay/tbmm_genel_kurulunda_sansur_yasasi_protesto_edildi_105795))

## 2. Accountability in Türkiye

### 2.1 Overview

To prevent human rights violations and build and sustain a rights-based social order, impunity must be eliminated and accountability firmly established. Accountability is a core principle of a functioning democratic state governed by the rule of law and works in tandem with the prevention of impunity. It is essential not only for addressing and remedying past human rights violations, but also for preventing ongoing abuses, strengthening the rule of law, and reducing the risk of conflict. Although this relationship is not unique to Türkiye, accountability in the national context is deeply intertwined with impunity, where a pervasive and increasingly institutionalized pattern systematically undermines accountability across multiple domains.

Accountability also empowers rights holders by enabling them to demand information and actions through key principles such as participation, transparency, access to information, monitoring, assessment, enforcement mechanisms, and oversight of progress or setbacks. In this sense, accountability cannot remain merely formal; it is essential for fostering active citizenship and requires that the accumulation and exercise of power be subject to control at all levels, whether by public authorities or private actors.

Defined broadly as responsibility for actions, decisions, and omissions, accountability includes three interrelated dimensions: responsibility, answerability, and enforceability. *Responsibility* involves clearly defined duties and standards for objectively and transparently assessing the conduct of those in authority, based on an active due diligence standard that goes beyond passive procedural compliance to test effectiveness. *Answerability* requires decision-makers to provide reasoned justifications to affected individuals, oversight bodies, and the public. *Enforceability* relies on effective monitoring mechanisms that ensure compliance with standards and the application of sanctions when these are not met, including mandatory oversight of public resources and enforcement of binding international judgments.

In the human rights framework, accountability is intrinsically linked to the state's three core obligations: to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. States bear the primary responsibility not only to refrain from violations, but also to prevent abuses by third parties, investigate violations, prosecute those responsible, and ensure effective remedies for victims in accordance with both international and domestic law. In this

sense, accountability goes beyond the prosecution of perpetrators and includes a set of interrelated obligations: the effective investigation of violations, the prosecution and sanctioning of those responsible, the provision of adequate remedies and reparations to victims, and the adoption of structural measures to ensure non-recurrence. Together, these elements form the basis of a sustainable, rights-based legal order.

Impunity and accountability should be understood as points along a continuum, with potential breakdowns at every stage – from investigation to prosecution, sanction, and reparation – due to factors such as procedural authorizations, deficiencies in evidence collection, political interference, or lack of judicial independence. Real accountability, in this context, requires narrowing exceptions to the right to information, establishing binding domestic mechanisms for implementing international court judgments, and creating independent and effective civil monitoring bodies.

In Türkiye, accountability mechanisms remain structurally constrained and unevenly applied, reflecting a broader pattern in which legal and institutional frameworks exist in form but do not function effectively in practice, alongside a wider erosion of institutional safeguards. Rather than operating as an integrated system, accountability is fragmented and systematically undermined across multiple domains. These constraints can be understood across four interrelated dimensions: judicial limitations, the instrumentalization of law, administrative and structural barriers, and patterns of selective accountability.

First, judicial constraints are a central barrier to accountability, as the judiciary increasingly operates under executive influence and lacks effective institutional independence. Recent reports, including Human Rights Watch's and the European Commission's 2025 reports, highlight persistent political interference in prosecutorial processes, reinforced by the structure of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK). Its members are no longer elected by their peers but are appointed by the President and the TBMM, where the ruling coalition holds a majority. This arrangement significantly limits judicial autonomy, undermines the effective functioning of accountability mechanisms, and has led to a marked erosion of public trust in the legal system.

This structural weakness is most visible in the systematic non-implementation of binding ECtHR judgments. In high-profile cases such as Demirtaş and Kavala, authorities have resorted to reintroducing substantially identical charges under new legal formulations to evade compliance, a practice that has persisted over time and become an entrenched pattern rather than an exceptional deviation. A similar trajectory can be observed in the aftermath of the Yüksel Yalçınkaya judgment, where domestic courts have continued to rely on forms of evidence that Strasbourg explicitly deemed unlawful, further reinforcing the continuity of this approach.

At the domestic level, procedural barriers further institutionalize impunity by restricting access to the investigative phase itself. The requirement of administrative authorization under Law No. 4483 creates a system in which the initiation of criminal proceedings against public officials is subject to executive discretion, effectively limiting judicial scrutiny. As documented in multiple cases, this permission requirement has led to prolonged delays or complete obstruction of investigations, including in emblematic cases such as the Hrant Dink assassination and the Soma mine disaster, where authorization to investigate public officials was granted only after many years or not at all. More broadly, this permission-based system functions as a structural filter, preventing a significant number of complaints from ever reaching the prosecution stage and thereby reinforcing patterns of impunity at the very outset of the criminal justice process. This aligns with broader findings that a substantial proportion of cases involving serious human rights violations remain stalled at the investigation stage, with many files never progressing to trial.

These procedural and structural barriers do not operate in isolation; rather, they contribute to a broader pattern of selective accountability. While investigations into state actors and public officials are frequently delayed, restricted, or blocked at the authorization stage, cases involving opposition figures, journalists, and activists tend to advance rapidly through the criminal justice system. This asymmetry reflects a systemic imbalance in the application of the law, where accountability mechanisms are not applied uniformly but are instead shaped by political considerations. As a result, the legal system functions less as a neutral arbiter of justice and more as a differentiated mechanism in which some actors are effectively shielded from scrutiny, while others are exposed to accelerated and often punitive legal processes.

Beyond judicial and procedural constraints, accountability is further undermined through the instrumentalization of law and administrative measures targeting specific groups. The closure of the Genç LGBTİ+ Association constitutes a striking example of the increasing judicial and administrative pressure targeting LGBTQ+ organizing in Türkiye. The decision of the İzmir 3rd Civil Court of First Instance on 11 December 2025 to dissolve the association on the grounds that certain social media posts were deemed “obscene” demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory restriction of freedom of expression and freedom of association. The fact that this decision was issued despite prior non-prosecution decisions and expert opinions confirming that the content in question did not constitute obscenity raises serious concerns regarding legal certainty and consistency in judicial processes. Moreover, the case has extended beyond institutional closure, as criminal proceedings have been initiated against 11 members of the association’s executive and supervisory boards, exposing them to potential prison sentences of up to three years. The use of vague notions such as “public morality” and “obscenity” reflects a broader pattern of criminalizing LGBTQ+ rights advocacy. This case illustrates how fundamental rights—including freedom of

expression, association, and peaceful assembly—are systematically restricted in Türkiye, often in the absence of effective judicial oversight.



\* Civil society organizations in İzmir issue a joint press statement condemning the court-ordered dissolution of the Young LGBTQ+ Association (Genç LGBTI+ Derneği) on grounds of "obscenity," calling the decision a disproportionate attack on freedom of association and LGBTQ+ rights advocacy, December 2025. (<https://tihv.org.tr/basin-aciklamalari/orgutlenme-ozgurlugu-engellenemez-genc-lgbti-dernegi-kapatilamaz/>)

In this context, the pressures faced by young people—particularly university-based LGBTQ+ groups—highlight another dimension of the accountability deficit. The shrinking civic space on university campuses, marked by the closure of student clubs, disciplinary investigations, and administrative interference, reflects an increasingly restrictive environment for youth organizing. Monitoring findings from the period after March 19 indicate a systematic pattern of rights violations targeting student youth, including excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, restrictions on freedom of assembly, and the politicization of campus disciplinary processes. These actions have been accompanied by additional sanctions such as dormitory expulsions and scholarship cuts, effectively extending punitive control over students' access to housing and education. This dynamic has been particularly visible in cases such as Boğaziçi University, where student protests have been met with police intervention,

disciplinary sanctions, and administrative pressure on student groups. At the same time, evidence from recent monitoring indicates that campus environments are characterized by widespread insecurity, exposure to gender-based and identity-based violence, and a lack of effective and accessible support and complaint mechanisms. This points to a failure of public authorities not only to prevent violations but also to ensure protection and provide effective remedies, thereby deepening the accountability gap in higher education governance.

This illustrates how accountability failures are not only produced through legal obstruction, but also through the systematic use of administrative and socio-economic controls. In this context, civil society actors play a critical role in documenting violations, challenging arbitrary practices, and sustaining demands for accountability, particularly where formal institutional mechanisms fail to function effectively. At the same time, these dynamics reveal the existence of persistent cracks within the system—moments of legal, institutional, or civic opening that, although limited, create opportunities to contest impunity and reassert accountability claims.

In Türkiye, these dynamics are reflected in the sustained efforts of civil society initiatives that seek to challenge impunity and keep accountability claims visible. Platforms such as Adalet Peşinde Aileler and Eşitlik İçin Yan Yana Platformu operate in overlapping advocacy spaces, sustaining public pressure in contexts where accountability has been delayed or denied. The role of Adalet Peşinde Aileler became particularly visible during the debates surrounding the 11th Judicial Package. A proposed provision (Article 27), which would have effectively enabled reduced sentences for those responsible for earthquake-related deaths, was ultimately withdrawn following sustained pressure and advocacy by victims' families.

In a distinct but related trajectory, Eşitlik İçin Yan Yana Platformu has mobilized collective advocacy against legislative initiatives targeting LGBTQ+'s, including coordinated campaigns that brought together a broad coalition of organizations—192 signatories in its initial response—demonstrating both sustained engagement prior to such proposals and the capacity to rapidly re-organize in response to renewed legislative threats.

In addition to advocacy and monitoring efforts, civil society actors have also created alternative spaces to articulate accountability claims beyond formal institutional channels. In this context, the People's Climate Summit, to be held in Antalya on 15–18 November alongside COP31, aims to bring together communities directly affected by the climate crisis and to open a space for debate grounded in climate justice. By positioning itself parallel to official negotiations, the Summit seeks to foreground voices and demands that remain excluded from formal decision-making processes, linking environmental justice to broader struggles over rights, inequality, and democratic participation.

Together, these examples illustrate how accountability failures are not only produced through legal obstruction, but also through the systematic use of administrative and socio-economic controls. At the same time, they reveal how civil society actors—despite operating under sustained pressure—continue to expose structural failures and mobilize collective responses against impunity. While these efforts do not substitute for functioning institutional accountability, they constitute critical sites of resistance that generate pressure points—fragile yet persistent cracks—through which accountability claims can be articulated and contested.

## **2.2 Local CSOs Promoting Accountability**

**17 Mayıs Derneği/May 17 Association:** Founded in 2019 in Ankara, this LGBTQ+ association strengthens LGBTQ+ communities and activism, particularly in the face of rising constraints. It provides psychosocial and legal support, crisis response, and capacity-building grounded in health, education, gender, HIV, intersectionality, and civic participation. Its work spans legal advocacy, local government engagement, and inclusive policymaking—especially supporting marginalized groups like refugees and intersex individuals. Through monitoring, advocacy, and coalition building, the association pushes for multilayered accountability in social and institutional spheres. May 17 Association is a member of ILGA-Europe.

**Adalet Sistemini İzleme Derneği/Association for Monitoring Justice System:** Founded in 2019 in Izmir, the association conducts monitoring and produces policy recommendations to promote a fair, transparent, accessible, and accountable justice system in Türkiye. While its activities have been more limited in recent years, it continues to engage in select monitoring efforts and advocacy on judicial transparency and accountability.

**Aramızda Toplumsal Cinsiyet Araştırmaları Derneği/Among Us Gender Studies Association:** Founded by feminist advocates, Aramızda works to advance gender equality and civic accountability by supporting grassroots-led dialogue, storytelling, and peer-based empowerment initiatives. The association challenges societal norms and structural barriers that marginalize women, LGBTQ+’s, and other vulnerable groups. Through participatory advocacy and inclusive cultural programming, Aramızda elevates under-heard voices and fosters social and institutional accountability in matters of gender justice.

**Bir Arada Yaşarız Eğitim ve Toplumsal Araştırmalar Vakfı (BAYETAV)/We Live Together - Education and Social Research Foundation:** Established in 2020, BAYETAV addresses social, political, economic, and ecological inequalities to foster inclusive and solidarity-driven coexistence. Its core work spans equality research, education, child, ecology & food studies, and public scholarship through art and design. In response to the 2023 earthquakes, BAYETAV produced actionable frameworks like the “Life Parks” ecological recovery guide and the “Rebuilding

Hatay” participatory research, offering community-focused, accountability-centered approaches to post-disaster restoration.

**Cinsiyet Eşitliği İzleme Derneği (CEİD)/Association for Monitoring Gender Equality:** Established in 2011 in Ankara, CEİD systematically monitors gender equality in Türkiye, using monitoring as a key tool to strengthen the accountability of public authorities. It carries out capacity-building activities, monitoring projects, and grant programs that enable both civil society and public institutions to evaluate laws, policies, and practices from a gender equality perspective. Through its data-driven reports, policy analysis, and advocacy, CEİD identifies gaps, documents rights violations, and presses for legal and institutional reforms—thereby contributing to greater accountability and reducing impunity in cases of gender-based discrimination. In 2022, CEİD conducted a gender equality performance study commissioned by UNDP, underscoring its role in international monitoring and policy analysis efforts.

**Cumartesi Anneleri/Saturday Mothers:** The Saturday Mothers is a victims-led platform that has been holding weekly peaceful sit-ins at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul since 27 May 1995, demanding truth and justice for relatives who forcibly disappeared in custody or killed in unresolved political murders in Türkiye. Emerging in the aftermath of the disappearance and killing of Hasan Ocak in 1995, the movement has become one of the most enduring civil initiatives confronting entrenched impunity for grave human rights violations. Operating as a loose collective of families and supporters, the group uses peaceful assembly to document cases, sustain public attention, and advance demands for truth, accountability, and the recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity. Despite repeated bans and police violence—particularly following the crackdown on their 700th gathering in 2018—they have persisted as a symbol of resistance to structural impunity. After years of systematic obstruction despite Constitutional Court rulings, the group was able to return to Galatasaray Square in November 2023, underscoring both the impact of sustained civic and legal pressure and the continued fragility of the right to peaceful assembly.

**Çocuğa Karşı Şiddeti Önlemek İçin Ortaklık Ağı/Partnership Network for Preventing Violence Against Children:** Founded in 2012, this coalition of 96 CSOs, bar associations, and universities worked to strengthen monitoring and advocacy to prevent violence against children. While active in producing reports, engaging with international mechanisms, and holding policymakers accountable in its early years, the network has been less active in recent years.

**Çukurova Ekoloji Hafıza Derneği/ Çukurova Ecological Memory Association:** A grassroots initiative founded by environmental activists in Adana, focusing on documenting and preserving the local impacts of the climate crisis and ecological destruction in the Çukurova region. Operating as a digital memory platform,

Çukuravo aims to collect testimonies in text, visual, and audio-visual formats, making them publicly accessible through interactive storytelling and mapping tools. Its work connects environmental degradation with broader issues such as animal rights, rural livelihoods, cultural heritage, and climate justice.

**Denge Denetleme Ağı (DDA)/Checks and Balances Network:** The DDA was established in 2011 during the drafting of a new constitution as a network of 279 CSOs from across Türkiye, working at both national and local levels. Its mission is to contribute to strengthening the system of checks and balances in the country—an essential pillar of Türkiye’s democratization—through monitoring, policy development, public opinion building, and advocacy. Over the years, DDA has addressed accountability gaps in governance by engaging in election-related campaigns such as “*Our Eyes on Democracy*”, and by promoting transparency and the rule of law.

**Doğa Derneği/Nature Association:** A leading environmental organization working on biodiversity conservation, ecological rights, and community-based environmental protection. Combines scientific research, legal advocacy, and grassroots mobilization, and contributes to both national and international environmental governance processes, including as BirdLife International’s partner in Türkiye.

**Doğal Hayatı Koruma Vakfı/World Wildlife Fund for Nature-Türkiye (WWF Türkiye):** Founded in 1975 as the Association for the Protection of Nature and integrated into the global WWF network in 1994, WWF-Türkiye leads nature conservation and sustainability efforts in Türkiye. It combines science-based advocacy, reforestation, and legal action against environmental harm, while promoting renewable energy and sustainable agriculture through initiatives such as the Water Stewardship Program and Healthy Soil Campaign. Recent reports, including the *2024 Living Planet Youth Report* and studies on coastal plastic pollution, highlight accountability gaps in environmental governance and call for stronger institutional responsibility in addressing ecological challenges.

**Doğa İçin Sanat Derneği (DİSDER)/Art for Nature Association:** An environmental organisation, founded in 2019, that uses artistic expression as a form of advocacy to expose ecological destruction and raise public awareness. Bringing together artists and activists, the association highlights harm to ecosystems, non-human life, air, and water—particularly in contexts driven by profit-oriented exploitation.

Through visual arts, music, and other creative practices, it seeks to make environmental damage visible, foster public sensitivity, and contribute to broader ecological consciousness and mobilisation.

**Doğanın Çocukları/The Children of the Nature:** A youth-driven grassroots environmental initiative, informed by an ecological socialist perspective, emerging

from local resistance movements against ecological destruction, particularly in regions affected by mining and energy projects. The initiative mobilises young activists alongside local communities to defend land, water, and forests through direct action, public advocacy, and community-based organising.

**Eşit Haklar İçin İzleme Derneği (ESHİD)/Association for Monitoring Equal**

**Rights:** Established in 2010 in İstanbul, ESHİD works to strengthen accountability and combat impunity in Türkiye through election monitoring, legal advocacy, and rights-based monitoring. Its core areas include access to justice, freedom of assembly and association, combating discrimination based on race, ethnicity, belief, or religion, and supporting human rights defenders. ESHİD monitors restrictions on fundamental freedoms, documents violations, and conducts election observation to hold institutions accountable. It also files complaints to national human rights bodies such as the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (TIHEK) and the Ombudsman Institution and pursues compliance with international standards. The association engages in strategic litigation, public reporting, and international advocacy by submitting shadow reports to UN treaty bodies and the Council of Europe. Since 2022, with a representative office in İzmir and headquarters relocated to Ankara, ESHİD has expanded its monitoring and advocacy efforts nationwide.

**Eşitlik İçin Kadın Platformu (EŞİK)/Equality for Women Platform: Eşitlik İçin Kadın Platformu (EŞİK)/Women’s Platform for Equality:**

**EŞİK** is a broad-based coalition established in 2020 to collectively respond to legal and policy initiatives that risk undermining women’s and children’s rights. Bringing together over 300 women’s and LGBTQ+ organisations alongside more than 150 professional bodies, unions, bar associations, and political actors, the platform operates as a large-scale civic network confronting measures that may enable or reinforce impunity. Emerging from the mobilisation against proposed amnesty provisions for perpetrators of child sexual abuse (TCK 103), EŞİK engages in coordinated advocacy on issues such as violence against women, child abuse, and the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, while closely monitoring legislative processes. Through regular collective coordination and a horizontal, volunteer-based structure, the platform not only tracks but actively intervenes in law-making processes, aiming to strengthen accountability and prevent the rollback of fundamental rights.

**Fişek Enstitüsü Çalışan Çocuklar Vakfı/ Fişek Institute – Science & Action Foundation for Child Labor:**

The foundation was officially established in 1997 in Ankara, building upon social medicine roots dating back to 1986. The Institute focuses on working children—particularly their health, safety, rights, and dignity—and engages in awareness-raising, advocacy, and research. It publishes reports and periodicals addressing child labor, workplace safety, and systemic risks, and develops tools like a child labor bibliography and educational materials to strengthen policy and

legal accountability around child labor in Türkiye. It is also recognized as a CRIN (Child Rights International Network) member, situating it within a broader international network of child-rights organizations actively engaged in global advocacy and information-sharing on child labour issues.

**Genç LGBTİ+ Derneği/The Young LGBTİ+ Association:** The Young LGBTİ+ Association was established in İzmir in 2016 to research the challenges faced by LGBTİ+ youth, bring these issues into public debate, and create spaces for self-expression and collective support. The association's core areas of work include access to basic rights such as housing, education, and healthcare; youth and sexual rights; peer support; social and cultural activities; advocacy; and the fight against hate crimes. The association was subsequently closed by a court decision in December 2025 on the grounds of "obscenity," reflecting the increasing use of vague moral concepts to restrict LGBTİ+ organizing and civic space.

**Gola Kültür Sanat ve Ekoloji Derneği/Gola Culture Art and Ecology Association:** Founded in İstanbul in 2006 and relocated to Fındıklı (Rize) in 2021, Gola promotes ecological and cultural preservation in Türkiye's Eastern Black Sea region, with a focus on Laz language and heritage. Through festivals, oral history projects, and community-based arts, it fosters public engagement in cultural and environmental governance. Gola is also a member of UN Women's *Equal City* initiative in Europe and Central Asia.

**Gökova Ekolojik Yaşam Derneği/Gökova Ecologic Life Association:** founded in Muğla in 2016, works to protect biodiversity, natural resources, and shared habitats in and around the Gökova region. It promotes accountability in local governance by advocating for transparent management plans, public participation in decision-making, and decentralization. GEY-DER actively challenges harmful practices by organizing public actions, filing lawsuits, and pursuing administrative remedies against environmentally destructive projects in both the public and private sectors. In a notable case, it secured a prison sentence for a hotel owner whose activities damaged the Kadın Azmağı Stream ecosystem, marking a rare example of criminal accountability for environmental harm in Türkiye.

**Hukuk, Doğa ve Toplum Vakfı (HUDOTO)/Law, Nature and Society Foundation:** HUDOTO was founded in 2022 in Izmir, integrates human rights, gender equality, nature conservation, and climate change in its work to promote environmental justice. The association engages in strategic litigation, submits reports to UN mechanisms, and advocates for accountability in cases of environmental rights violations.

**İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği (İFÖD)/Freedom of Expression Association:** Founded in 2017 in Istanbul, İFÖD works to protect and promote freedom of opinion and expression in Türkiye, with a focus on transparency and accountability. It engages in strategic litigation, provides legal assistance, intervenes before the European Court of

Human Rights, submits Rule 9.2 communications to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, and monitors internet censorship. IFÖD is a member organization of IFEX, the global network dedicated to defending and promoting freedom of expression around the world. In May 2025, IFÖD won a landmark Council of State case annulling provisions of the Associations Regulation introducing a "risk classification" system for CSOs. The Court held that the lack of clear, fixed criteria violated legal certainty and foreseeability, enabling arbitrary inspections. The ruling is seen as a key step in safeguarding civic space, protecting freedom of association, and reinforcing rule of law.

**İkizdere Çevre Derneği (İÇDER)/Ikizdere Environment Association:** Founded in 2022 in Rize, İÇDER actively resists environmentally harmful hydropower (HES) and quarrying projects in the Eskencidere Valley. It documents ecological damage, mobilizes public demonstrations, provides legal support, and files complaints and lawsuits to challenge exemptions from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements and other permissive administrative decisions that jeopardize local ecosystems. By monitoring court proceedings and engaging with public authorities, İÇDER plays a crucial role in reinforcing local accountability, ensuring that developers and decision-makers are held responsible for environmentally and socially harmful actions.

**İklim Adaleti Koalisyonu/ Climate Justice Coalition:** A civil society coalition bringing together environmental, labour, feminist, youth and community-based movements to advance climate justice in Türkiye. It frames the climate crisis not merely as a question of carbon emissions, but as rooted in broader socio-economic and political structures driving ecological destruction and inequality. The coalition focuses on strengthening coordination among movements, amplifying the voices of those most affected, and building national and transnational alliances. Its work includes movement-based learning, advocacy and lobbying, international solidarity, and the organization of collective actions and alternative civic spaces. Operating through thematic working groups, it develops rights-based policy frameworks linking climate governance with broader questions of social, economic and environmental accountability.

**İklim Ağı/Climate Network:** A coalition of civil society organisations in Türkiye working to address the climate crisis through a climate justice framework. It focuses on supporting the development of science-based and realistic national climate policies aligned with the 1.5°C target, while promoting emissions reduction and climate resilience. The network's work includes policy development, advocacy and communication on key areas such as national climate legislation, energy transition, international climate processes, just transition, and adaptation. It operates with a non-

partisan, rights-based and public interest-oriented approach, emphasising transparency, participation and accountability.

**İnsan Hakları Gündemi Derneği (İHGD)/Human Rights Agenda Association (Rights Agenda):** Founded in 2003 in İzmir, İHGD works to promote human rights, democratic accountability, and rule of law across a broad spectrum—covering issues like fair trial, prohibition of torture, minority rights, refugee and migration protection, freedom of expression, and women’s and children’s rights. It produces research, handbooks, press releases, and public statements, and organizes seminars, trainings, and legislative reform campaigns. Through sustained monitoring and advocacy, Rights Agenda contributes to exposing impunity, reinforcing institutional accountability, and elevating marginalized voices in Türkiye’s human rights landscape.

**İnsan Hakları Okulu Derneği (İHO)/The School of Human Rights Association (SHR):** Established in Ankara in 2021, İHO works to promote and protect universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster an egalitarian, democratic, and critical public sphere grounded in human rights, academic freedom, and equality. Its core activities include training, research, and monitoring, with a focus on strengthening the knowledge and capacity of human rights defenders, especially young people. İHO delivers both in-person and online education programs, produces rights-based content through its blog and YouTube channel, and monitors rights violations to inform the public and encourage accountability.

**İş Dünyası ve İnsan Hakları Derneği (Minerva)/Business and Human Rights Association:** Minerva was founded in Istanbul in 2021 to strengthen corporate accountability for human rights and environmental violations. It works to ensure that businesses and public institutions are held responsible for their actions by advocating for robust legal frameworks, conducting independent monitoring, and promoting compliance with international human rights standards. Minerva provides capacity-building and human rights training, produces research on corporate accountability, and facilitates dialogue among public institutions, the private sector, and civil society to advance transparency, responsibility, and remedy for rights violations.

**Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı (KDV)/The Foundation for Women's Solidarity:** Founded in 1991 in Ankara, the Foundation works to enhance women’s rights and access to justice through legal empowerment, advocacy, and solidarity networks. It operates women’s counselling centers, provides legal support and safe shelter, conducts advocacy campaigns on issues like child justice and alimony reform, and organizes capacity-building workshops for volunteer lawyers and mental health professionals. Through its survivor-centered services and awareness work, the Foundation promotes institutional accountability and strives to dismantle structural barriers in the justice system. It is a member of the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network, sits on the Executive Board of the European Women’s Lobby

(EWL) Türkiye Coordination, and participates in the NGO Forum Executive Committee on CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention Monitoring Platform, embedding it firmly within European and international women's rights structures.

**Kadının İnsan Hakları Derneği (KİH)/ Women for Women's Human Rights Association (WWHR):** Founded in İstanbul in 1993, WWHR has pioneered women's rights and gender equality in Türkiye through advocacy, feminist research, and legal empowerment programs. Its flagship *Human Rights Education Program for Women* (since 1995) is among the most comprehensive non-formal rights education initiatives worldwide, enabling women to assert their rights and challenge impunity. WWHR has spearheaded legal reforms on domestic violence, civil code, and sexual violence, directly contributing to accountability frameworks. Internationally, it is part of major feminist and human rights networks—including the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR), EuroMed Rights' Women's Rights & Gender Equality Working Group, the Global Coalition for Human Rights Education (HRE2020), the Observatory on the Universality of Rights (OURs), and the Women's Major Group (WMG)—and has held consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2005, underscoring its global advocacy role.

**Kadın Koalisyonu/Women's Coalition:** Founded in 2002, the Women's Coalition brings together over one hundred women's rights organizations from across Türkiye to strengthen women's political participation and advance gender equality. It conducts joint advocacy, policy monitoring, and strategic litigation to challenge impunity in cases of gender-based violence and discrimination, and to hold public authorities accountable for protecting and promoting women's rights. The Coalition engages with local, national, and international mechanisms, develops policy recommendations, and works to establish and strengthen equality institutions and frameworks. It is closely linked to the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Coordination for Türkiye, situating it within the broader European feminist advocacy network.

**Kadın Merkezi Eğitim, Üretim, Danışma ve Dayanışma Vakfı (KAMER)/ Women Center Education, Production, Consultation and Solidarity Foundation:** Founded in Diyarbakır in 1997, KAMER combats gender-based violence, promotes women's empowerment, and strengthens accountability in cases of rights violations. It provides legal, social, and psychological support, while also monitoring cases and advocating against impunity. KAMER cooperates with international partners such as UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, the EU Delegation to Türkiye, Civil Rights Defenders, OAK Foundation and several European embassies. These collaborations amplify its advocacy and reinforce accountability in the protection of women's rights.

**Kazdağı Doğal ve Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği/Kazdağı Association for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Assets:** A local environmental association

founded in 2012 by activists working to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Kazdağı (Mount Ida) region. Building on earlier grassroots mobilisations (2007–2012), the association brings together local communities and environmental defenders to address ecological destruction linked to mining, industrialisation and urbanisation. Its work focuses on biodiversity protection, safeguarding ecological balance, preventing environmental degradation, and promoting nature conservation awareness. The association also supports sustainable local practices, including ecological production and eco-agro tourism, while advocating against the commodification of nature and resource extraction projects in the region.

**Kırmızı Şemsiye Cinsel Sağlık ve İnsan Hakları Derneği/Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association:** Based in Ankara and founded in 2013, Kırmızı Şemsiye is the first association in Türkiye established by and for sex workers to defend their rights and combat discrimination, violence, and exclusion. The association operates through three main programs: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Access to Justice, and Humanitarian Aid. Within these, it provides legal counselling, health services, psychosocial support, and humanitarian relief, while also documenting rights violations and conducting monitoring and advocacy. By exposing patterns of abuse and pushing for systemic reform, Kırmızı Şemsiye addresses impunity in cases of violence against sex workers and strengthens accountability mechanisms to protect fundamental rights. It is a member of ILGA-Europe.

**Kurye Hakları Derneği/Delivery Workers Right Association:** Founded in November 2022 by motorbike couriers, the association documents courier fatalities, exposes systemic negligence, and advocates for legal recognition of courier work as “highly hazardous.” Through reports, policy proposals, and training, it challenges impunity and pushes for accountability in labor rights and workplace safety.

**Medya ve Göç Derneği (MGD)/Media and Migration Association:** Founded in 2020 in İzmir, MGD works to counter disinformation, discrimination, and hate speech targeting refugees and migrants while fostering an objective, pluralistic, inclusive, and rights-based media perspective on migration. It conducts monitoring and data collection (research/analysis and monitoring bulletins), produces and supports media content, runs awareness, training, and advocacy initiatives, and builds interdisciplinary networks among media, civil society, public bodies, and research and cultural institutions. Grounded in transparency and accountability—including formal anti-corruption and financial transparency policies—MGD promotes ethical, evidence-based communication and direct representation of refugees and migrants in media, strengthening accountability in public discourse and challenging impunity for hate speech.

**Medya ve Hukuk Çalışmaları Derneği/Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA):** Founded in 2017 in İstanbul, MLSA defends freedom of expression, press

freedom, the right to assembly, and access to information in Türkiye. It provides legal assistance to journalists, activists, and civil society actors, and monitors trials to promote fairness and transparency. MLSA also engages in international advocacy as a member of the European Implementation Network (EIN) and the Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe (CURE), submitting applications to human rights mechanisms, filing cases before high courts, and contributing to the implementation of European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgments through regular Rule 9.2 submissions to the Council of Europe.

**Mekanda Adalet Derneği (MAD)/Center for Spatial Justice:** Founded in Istanbul in 2016, MAD develops participatory urban planning practices that integrate social, environmental, and human rights perspectives. With corporate accountability as one of its main focus areas, MAD conducts research, advocacy, and awareness-raising activities to highlight and enforce the responsibility of companies and public institutions in cases of rights violations. It also supports grassroots struggles against spatial injustice by creating innovative tools, documenting local resistance, and amplifying communities' demands for accountability. Through initiatives such as the *Hope Archive* and collaborative fieldwork, MAD contributes to challenging impunity in urban and rural contexts and promotes rights-based, transparent, and inclusive spatial governance. It is a member of CAN Europe, integrating it into a prominent European environmental and climate justice network.

**Muğla Çevre Platformu (MUÇEP)/Muğla Environment Platform:** MUÇEP was established in 2017 by 28 organizations in response to government plans to open natural protection areas to construction. Today, MUÇEP brings together 32 member organizations, local initiatives, and individual activists across the Muğla province. The platform monitors environmental policy changes, organizes public demonstrations, and engages in legal action to prevent harmful projects, holding both public institutions and private companies accountable for environmentally damaging practices.

**Polen Ekoloji Kolektifi/Polen Ecology Collective:** A Marxist ecology collective in Türkiye that approaches the ecological crisis as inseparable from broader structures of capitalism, social inequality and political domination. It promotes a systemic critique of environmental destruction and frames ecological struggles as part of wider struggles for social justice and emancipation. Since 2021 through its publication *Polen Dergi* and other outputs, the collective contributes to critical debate, knowledge production and movement-building within the ecology field. Its work combines theoretical production, political advocacy and grassroots engagement, often linking ecological issues with labour, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian struggles. Members of the collective have also been among those arrested in broader crackdowns targeting civil society, including environmental and leftist movements in February 2026.

**Romani Godi Derneđi/ Roma Memory Studies Association:** Founded in early 2022 by young Roma activists in Türkiye, Romani Godi works to preserve Roma memory, culture, language, and history while addressing structural discrimination and rights violations against Roma communities. Its activities include hate speech monitoring, access to justice, advocacy on anti-Gypsyism, and youth empowerment. By documenting violations and promoting public scrutiny, the association contributes to strengthening accountability mechanisms in issues affecting Roma communities and beyond.

**Rosa Kadın Derneđi/Rosa Women Association:** Founded in Diyarbakır in late 2018, Rosa Kadın Derneđi combats all forms of violence and discrimination against women—social, political, economic, cultural, sexual, and psychological. The association provides legal and psychological support to survivors, monitors court cases of gender-based violence, advocates for positive legal reforms, and campaigns publicly to ensure that institutions honor their legal responsibilities. In recent years, Rosa has operated under increasing pressure and political scrutiny—yet continues to prioritize accountability and challenge gendered impunity.

**Saadet Öğretmen Çocuk İstismarı ile Mücadele Derneđi (UCİM)/Teacher Saadet’s Fight Against Child Abuse Association:** Founded in Mersin on 2017, UCİM is a nationwide civil society organization with its headquarters in Mersin, prevention offices in İzmir, İstanbul, Antalya, Konya, Ankara, Erzurum, Van, Niğde, Giresun, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Trabzon, and Tekirdađ, and a volunteer network in 55 provinces. It advocates for the establishment of effective child protection mechanisms within public institutions and the judiciary, provides legal and psychological assistance to children and their families, and participates in court cases to ensure rights-based adjudication. UCİM also issues monitoring reports, makes policy recommendations, and organizes training for institutions and schools. Through these efforts, UCİM works to strengthen accountability and combat impunity in cases of child abuse and neglect.

**Sivil Düşler Derneđi/Civil Dreams Association:** Founded in Antakya in June 2022, the association works to combat social exclusion and discrimination against Romani, Dom, and Abdal communities, with a particular focus on gender equality. Its activities span culture, art, and justice-oriented advocacy. In partnership with the World Health Organization, it has provided reproductive health training for refugee Dom women in Hatay. Following the 2023 earthquake, Sivil Düşler has supported Romani communities’ access to humanitarian aid and monitored incidents of discrimination, contributing to accountability efforts.

**Sivil Toplum Geliştirme Merkezi (STGM)/Civil Society Development Centre:** Founded in Ankara in 2004, STGM strengthens civil society organizations (CSOs) to become more effective, sustainable agents of change. It champions freedom of

association and participatory rights—essential foundations for accountability—through policy advocacy, lobbying, and regular monitoring reports on the civic-sector enabling environment. STGM also facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue and provides technical assistance and capacity development to CSOs across Türkiye, boosting transparency and a participatory public sphere. Additionally, STGM co-runs the Turkish Local Humanitarian Forum (LHF)—alongside Support to Life—to amplify local and national CSO engagement in UN-led earthquake coordination, reinforcing civil society’s accountability role in humanitarian response.

**Sosyal Haklar Derneği/Social Rights Association:** Established in 2016 in Istanbul, the association defends core social rights such as housing, healthcare, education, and labor. It documents rights violations, engages in advocacy, supports legal remedies, and collaborates with unions and grassroots movements to promote state accountability.

**Sosyal Politika,Cinsiyet Kimliği ve Cinsel Yönelim Çalışmaları Derneği (SPoD)/ Social Policy, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association:** Founded in Istanbul in 2011, SPoD works to empower LGBTQ+ individuals by providing legal, social, and psychological counselling, while promoting equality and combating discrimination. It engages in trial monitoring and strategic litigation, runs campaigns, and offers trainings for institutions, municipalities, mental health professionals, and lawyers. SPoD also conducts academic research, organizes panels and political engagement events, and facilitates advocacy meetings and support groups. By fostering alliances and advocating for inclusive social policies, SPoD promotes transparent and accountable governance and actively challenges impunity for violations of LGBTQ+ rights. The SPoD is member of key regional and global networks including ILGA-Europe, and IGLYO (International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organisation).

**Temiz Giysi Derneği/Clean Clothes Campaign-Türkiye:** Founded in 2008 as the Sandblasting Workers Solidarity Committee and renamed in 2013, this Istanbul-based association became formally registered in 2017. It fights for workers’ rights in the textile and garment sectors—particularly standing up for safe, healthy, and fair working conditions. When violations occur, the association responds with advocacy strategies that include campaigns, lobbying, field research, street actions, and consumer mobilization. It also facilitates dialogue among workers, employers, and consumers to drive change. As Türkiye’s link to the global Clean Clothes Campaign (a network of 230+ organizations worldwide), it uniquely connects local labor struggles with international solidarity efforts.

**Temiz Hava Hakkı Platformu/Right to Clean Air Platform:** Right to Clean Air Platform Türkiye, founded in 2015, is a coalition of professional health and environmental organizations advocating for clean air as a fundamental right. It

monitors air quality, publishes annual “Dark Reports,” and promotes a 10-point roadmap for reform, including WHO-aligned standards, transparent monitoring, and a shift to clean energy, holding institutions accountable for air pollution and related health impacts.

**Türkiye Ekonomik ve Sosyal Etüsler Vakfı (TESEV)/ Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation:** TESEV established in Istanbul in 1994, works to advance democratization, promote good governance, and develop inclusive policies to address inequalities and support sustainable development. TESEV advocates for strong civil society participation in decision-making processes and produces research-based policy recommendations to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs and resources. It also contributes local expertise to global and regional accountability reports, reinforcing international efforts to uphold democratic governance and the rule of law.

**Türkiye Engelliler Konfederasyonu/Turkish Confederation of Disabled Persons:** Founded in 2011, the Confederation advocates for the rights of people with disabilities in Türkiye through policy monitoring, shadow reporting, and public campaigns. It works to hold authorities accountable on accessibility, anti-discrimination, and participation in decision-making. It is a member organization of the European Disability Forum (EDF), embedding it within a leading Europe-wide network of disability rights advocates and national associations.

**Türkiye Erozyonla Mücadele, Ağaçlandırma ve Doğal Varlıkları Koruma Vakfı (TEMA)/Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats:** Established in İstanbul in 1992 following the Rio Conference, TEMA works to combat erosion, desertification, and the destruction of natural resources in Türkiye. In addition to reforestation and environmental education, it pursues legal action and advocacy to hold public and private actors accountable for environmental harm. Through campaigns, policy recommendations, and strategic litigation, TEMA promotes ecosystem protection and sustainable resource use. Internationally, it is a member of the European Environmental Bureau, the Climate Action Network, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature; a partner in the Drylands Network (DRYnet) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE); and holds accreditation to both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), actively contributing to global environmental policy and climate negotiations.

**Türkiye Üçüncü Sektör Vakfı (TÜSEV)/Third Sector Foundation of Türkiye:** Established in Istanbul in 1993, TÜSEV works to build a legally, fiscally, and operationally enabling environment for civil society. The foundation conducts independent policy research, advocates for non-profit law reform, analyzes and

promotes strategic philanthropy, and facilitates cooperation among public institutions, private sector actors, and CSOs. In 2025, TÜSEV published the *Monitoring Matrix on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society in Türkiye* (2022–2023 report)—highlighting increased restrictions on civic freedoms, arbitrary audits, and financial constraints faced by NGOs—thereby reinforcing the case for accountability and legal clarity in the sector. TÜSEV is a member of prominent global networks—including the CIVICUS and the International Society for Third-Sector Research, and WINGS (Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support)—and serves as the Head of Network for Türkiye in the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, embedding it within influential transnational civil society capacity-building platforms.

**Uluslararası Çocuk Merkezi (UÇM)/International Children’s Center (ICC):** ICC was established in Ankara in 1999, works to promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of children of all ages in Türkiye. Under its Child Rights Program, ICC carries out monitoring, lobbying, and capacity-building activities at national and international levels to ensure the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments. It leads key child rights networks, develops monitoring tools, and promotes children’s participation in decision-making, while holding public institutions accountable to their human rights commitments.

**Uluslararası Şeffaflık Derneği/Transparency International Türkiye (TI-Türkiye):** TI-Türkiye was founded in 2008 in Istanbul to promote the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability across all sectors of society for the democratic, social, and economic development of the country. As the national chapter of Transparency International, it contributes to key global indices and reports, such as the *Corruption Perceptions Index* and the *Global Corruption Barometer*, and disseminates findings in Türkiye. In 2024, Türkiye ranked 107th out of 180 countries with a score of 34/100, marking one of the steepest declines in recent years. TI-Türkiye also led the completion of the “*Ending Impunity for Grand Corruption in Western Balkans and Türkiye*” project, producing significant analyses and reform proposals on judicial independence and institutional accountability.

**Üniversiteli Kuir Araştırmaları ve LGBTİ+ Araştırmaları Derneği (UniKuir)/University Queer Studies and LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association:** Founded in 2020 by young LGBTQ+ activists following their involvement in METU's Pride March, UniKuir is the only officially registered university-based LGBTQ+ organization in Türkiye. It works to build safe, inclusive university environments and systematically monitors LGBTQ+ rights violations, focusing on combating hate speech, discrimination, and campus-based violence. UniKuir develops programs on equal rights access, media advocacy, student mobilization, and political participation, producing monitoring reports and policy recommendations. By exposing campus-level

abuses and engaging with decision-makers, it advances accountability in higher education governance and the protection of student rights. It is a member of ILGA-Europe and IGLYO.

**Van Çevre Tarihi Eserleri Koruma ve Araştırma Derneği (Van ÇEVDER)/ Van Environmental Historical Monuments Protection Research and Development Association:** Founded in 2005 in Van, Van ÇEVDER is a regional CSO working to protect the environment and promote ecological awareness. The association engages in monitoring, public awareness, and advocacy activities concerning local environmental challenges, such as urban development, wildlife protection, and ecological sustainability. It also issues public statements and collaborates with other environmental platforms and networks in Türkiye to strengthen accountability on environmental rights.

**Yeşil Artvin Derneği/ Green Artvin Association:** The association was established in 1995 in response to the threat of gold and copper mining in Cerattepe, Artvin. Dedicated to safeguarding the region's forests, water resources, and biodiversity, the association organizes public demonstrations, engages in strategic litigation, and takes legal and administrative action against environmentally harmful projects carried out by both public institutions and private companies. Through persistent legal advocacy and public mobilization, it plays a key role in holding authorities and corporations accountable for environmental degradation, defending the public's right to participate in decision-making, and ensuring transparency in environmental governance.

**Yeşil Barış Akdeniz Derneği/Greenpeace Mediterranean Türkiye:** Greenpeace Akdeniz — operating since 1995 — is part of the global environmental movement in Türkiye. The organization conducts scientifically grounded campaigns and produces reports documenting environmental crimes, supports local grassroots movements defending their land and ecosystems, and advocates at both national and international levels for mechanisms that hold damaging and polluting corporations accountable.

**Yurttaşlar Derneği (HYD)/Citizens Assembly:** Originally founded as Helsinki Citizens' Assembly – Türkiye in 1993, the association adopted the name Yurttaşlık Derneği following a 2016 general assembly decision. It champions core values like dignity, rule of law, democratic accountability, equality, and participatory governance. Its work spans key thematic domains such as democratization, freedom of expression, peace, pluralism, and the intersection of citizenship and migration. The Association engages in capacity-building, research, public advocacy, and cross-border dialogue (covering regions such as the Balkans, Caucasus, and the Mediterranean), organizes seminars, workshops, and multidisciplinary publications via its field magazine, saha Dergisi. Although it does not exclusively work on refugee or detention issues, its “Migration & Citizenship” program integrates migration into its core identities and civic governance framework, raising accountability for exclusionary practices,

contributing to public awareness, and fostering civil society dialogue around citizenship in diversity.

Organization	Headquarters
17 Mayıs Derneği / May 17 Association	Ankara
Adalet Sistemini İzleme Derneği / Association for Monitoring Justice System	İzmir
Aramızda Toplumsal Cinsiyet Araştırmaları Derneği / Among Us Gender Studies Association	Ankara
BAYETAV / We Live Together – Education and Social Research Foundation	İzmir
CEİD / Association for Monitoring Gender Equality	Ankara
Cumartesi Anneleri / Saturday Mothers	Nationwide

Çocuğa Karşı Şiddeti Önlemek İçin Ortaklık Ağı / Partnership Network for Preventing Violence Against Children	Nationwide
Çukurova Ekoloji Hafıza Derneği / Çukurova Ecological Memory Association	Adana
Denge Denetleme Ağı (DDA) / Checks and Balances Network	Ankara
Doğa Derneği / Nature Association	Nationwide
Doğa İçin Sanat Derneği (DİSDER) / Art for Nature Association	İstanbul
Doğal Hayatı Koruma Vakfı / WWF-Türkiye	İstanbul
Doğanın Çocukları / The Children of the Nature	Nationwide
EŞHİD / Association for Monitoring	Ankara

Equal Rights	
EŐİK / Equality for Women Platform	Network / nationwide
Fişek Enstitüsü – Çalışan Çocuklar Vakfı	Ankara
Genç LGBTİ+ Derneđi / The Young LGBTİ+ Association	İzmir
Gola Kùltür Sanat ve Ekoloji Derneđi / Gola Culture Art and Ecology Association	Rize
Gökova Ekolojik Yaşam Derneđi / Gökova Ecologic Life Association	Muđla
Greenpeace Mediterranean Türkiye (Yeşil Barış Akdeniz)	İstanbul
HUDOTO / Law, Nature and Society Foundation	İzmir

İfade Özgürlüğü Derneđi (İFÖD) / Freedom of Expression Association	İstanbul
İkizdere Çevre Derneđi (İÇDER) / Ikizdere Environment Association	Muđla
İklim Adaleti Koalisyonu / Climate Justice Coalition	Nationwide
İklim Ađı / Climate Network	Nationwide
İnsan Hakları Gündemi Derneđi (İHGD) / Human Rights Agenda Association (Rights Agenda)	İzmir
İnsan Hakları Okulu Derneđi (İHO) / The School of Human Rights Association (SHR)	Ankara
İş Dünyası ve İnsan Hakları Derneđi (Minerva) / Business and Human Rights Association	İstanbul

KAMER Vakfı/ Women Center Education, Production, Consultation, and Solidarity Foundation	Diyarbakır
Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı (KDV) / Foundation for Women's Solidarity	Ankara
Kadın Koalisyonu / Women's Coalition	Coalition / nationwide
Kadının İnsan Hakları Derneği (KİH) / Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR)	İstanbul
Kazdağı Doğal ve Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği/Kazdağı Association for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Assets	Balıkesir
Kırmızı Şemsiye Cinsel Sağlık ve İnsan Hakları Derneği	Ankara
Kurye Hakları Derneği / Delivery Workers Rights Association	İstanbul

Medya ve Göç Derneđi (MGD) / Media and Migration Association	İzmir
Medya ve Hukuk alıřmaları Derneđi (MLSA) / Media and Law Studies Association	İstanbul
Mekanda Adalet Derneđi (MAD) / Center for Spatial Justice	İstanbul
Muđla evre Platformu (MUEP)	Muđla
Polen Ekoloji Kolektifi / Polen Ecology Collective	Nationwide
Romani Godi Derneđi / Roma Memory Studies Association	İstanbul
Rosa Kadın Derneđi	Diyarbakır
SPoD – Sosyal Politika, Cinsiyet Kimliđi ve Cinsel Yönelim alıřmaları Derneđi	İstanbul

Sivil Düşler Derneği	Hatay (Antakya)
Sivil Toplum Geliştirme Merkezi (STGM) / Civil Society Development Centre	Ankara
Sosyal Haklar Derneği	İstanbul
TEMA – Türkiye Erozyonla Mücadele, Ağaçlandırma ve Doğal Varlıkları Koruma Vakfı	İstanbul
TESEV – Türkiye Ekonomik ve Sosyal Etüdler Vakfı	İstanbul
Temiz Giysi Derneği / Clean Clothes Campaign – Türkiye	İstanbul
Temiz Hava Hakkı Platformu / Right to Clean Air Platform	İstanbul
TÜSEV – Türkiye Üçüncü Sektör Vakfı	İstanbul

Türkiye Engelliler Konfederasyonu	İstanbul
UCİM – Saadet Öğretmen Çocuk İstismarı ile Mücadele Derneği	Mersin
Uluslararası Çocuk Merkezi (UÇM) / International Children’s Center (ICC)	Ankara
Uluslararası Şeffaflık Derneği (TI-Türkiye) / Transparency International Türkiye	İstanbul
UniKuir – Üniversiteli Kuir Araştırmaları ve LGBTİ+ Dayanışma Derneği	Ankara
<u>Van ÇEVDER/Van Environmental Historical Monuments Protection Research and Development Association</u>	Van
Yeşil Artvin Derneği	Artvin
Yurttaşlar Derneği (HYD) / Citizens Assembly	İstanbul

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### 2.3 International CSOs Working on Accountability in Türkiye

**ARTICLE 19:** Founded in London in 1987, ARTICLE 19 works globally to protect and promote freedom of expression and the right to information. Its mandate also covers related accountability issues, including the rights to participation, association, and protest, as well as business and human rights. The organization runs advocacy campaigns, monitors threats to free expression, provides legal analysis of national laws, submits amicus briefs to courts, and lobbies for legislation that meets international human rights standards.

**Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN):** Established in 2003, BCSDN is a network of 14 civil society organizations from 10 countries in Southeast Europe, including Türkiye. It works to strengthen civic space by monitoring the enabling environment for civil society and advocating for its protection and expansion. Türkiye is represented by TÜSEV.

**Child Rights International Network (CRIN):** Founded formally in 1995, CRIN emerged as a global, rights-based advocacy organization focused on transforming how societies perceive and treat children. Grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it challenges the status quo by promoting rights, not charity, and campaigns for a radical shift in how under-18s are viewed and protected. Through research, legal advocacy, strategic communications, and creative expression, CRIN empowers critical thinking, demands accountability, and defends access to justice for children worldwide.

**CIVICUS:** Headquartered in Johannesburg, CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organizations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society worldwide. It monitors civic space, focusing on freedoms of association, assembly, and expression, and advocates for open and participatory societies. Since 2011, it has published the annual *State of Civil Society* reports on key trends and challenges affecting civil society and citizen movements. In its Civic Space Monitor, CIVICUS rates Türkiye's civic space as "obstructed," citing restrictions on CSOs, protests, and free expression.

**Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe):** Founded in 1989, CAN Europe is the leading NGO coalition for climate action across Europe. Headquartered in Brussels, it connects over 200 member organizations across 40 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and the voices of more than 40 million citizens. CAN Europe empowers civil society to shape climate, energy, and development policies through coordinated advocacy, strategic exchanges, and policy guidance. Its work

spans key thematic areas such as energy transition, just transitions, financing the shift away from fossil fuels, and regional initiatives—including outreach in Türkiye and the Western Balkans.

**Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EUROMED Rights):** EUROMED Rights is a regional network of over 65 human rights organisations from Europe and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, founded in 1997 and headquartered in Copenhagen, with regional offices in Tunis and Brussels. It works to promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law through advocacy, capacity building, and coordination among its members. Focus areas include freedom of expression, gender equality, migrants’ and refugees’ rights, access to justice, and the protection of human rights defenders. The network engages with EU institutions, UN mechanisms, and regional bodies. In Türkiye, EUROMED members are the İHD and the Citizens’ Assembly.

**European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA):** Headquartered in Strasbourg, ALDA is a membership-based alliance of over 300 local governments and civil society organizations across 45+ countries. It promotes good governance, local participation, and accountability through training, joint projects, and advocacy. ALDA has a strong presence in Türkiye, implementing programs such as the “School on Participatory Democracy,” the “WE ACT” training initiative, and support for municipalities earning the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE).

**European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL):** Based in The Hague, ECNL works to create enabling legal and policy environments that protect and promote civic freedoms for individuals, movements, and organizations. Originally a branch of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, it is now an independent organization. ECNL focuses on issues such as the right to participation, freedom of assembly, and association, implementing capacity development programs, monitoring, and policy advocacy.

**European Disability Forum (EDF):** *Founded in 1996*, EDF is an independent, pan-European umbrella organization that represents the interests of over 80–100 million persons with disabilities. Run by persons with disabilities and their families, EDF ensures that decisions affecting disabled individuals are made with their direct involvement and under the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In Türkiye, EDF’s full member is the Confederation of the Disabled of Türkiye.

**European Implementation Network (EIN):** Established as an independent NGO in 2017 and headquartered in Strasbourg, EIN supports, monitors, and promotes the implementation of European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgments. It also builds the capacity of civil society organizations to engage effectively in implementation processes at both the Council of Europe and national levels. As of

April 2024, EIN has 41 members and 9 partners from 25 countries, including five from Türkiye. Organization members from Türkiye are İFÖD and IHD, with Kerem Altıparmak as an individual member. Organization partners include the Alevi Philosophy Centre (ADO) and Hafıza Merkezi (Truth Justice Memory Centre), the latter collaborating with EIN on advocacy and capacity-building to advance the implementation of ECtHR judgments.

**European Women's Lobby (EWL):** European Women's Lobby (EWL), founded in 1990 in Brussels, is the largest umbrella network of women's NGOs in Europe, representing over 2,000 member organisations across EU countries, candidate states (including Türkiye), and pan-European groups. It advocates for gender equality and women's rights by influencing EU policymaking, coordinating campaigns, and supporting cooperation among women's organisations.

**International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX):** Established in 1992 in Montréal, IFEX is a global network of over 100 organisations in 70+ countries committed to defending and promoting freedom of expression as a fundamental human right. Through advocacy, strategic campaigns, and coordinated action, IFEX highlights violations, supports members under threat, and brings free expression issues to international policymaking bodies. It is best known for leading the campaign that resulted in the UN declaring 2 November as the *International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists*, and today continues to run the global No Impunity campaign.

**International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association -Europe (ILGA-Europe):** ILGA-Europe: ILGA-Europe is the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, advocating for LGBTQ+ rights across more than 54 countries in Europe and Central Asia. It works through strategic litigation, policy advocacy, research, and capacity-building to advance equality and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. ILGA-Europe also coordinates annual Rainbow Map and Index assessments, monitors legal and policy developments, and provides support to member organisations. In Türkiye, its members and associate members include organisations such as Kaos GL, Pink Life LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association, May 17 Association, Üniversiteli Kuir (UNIKuir), SPOD and Red Umbrella among others.

**International Budget Partnership (IBP):** Founded in 1997 in Washington, DC, IBP works to make government budgets transparent, accountable, and inclusive. It partners with civil society to analyze public finance systems, policies, and processes, and engages governments and international institutions to improve budget practices. IBP produces the *Open Budget Survey*, which assesses countries' budget transparency,

public participation, and oversight. Türkiye has been included in the survey, providing data on its budget openness and accountability.

**International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL):** Founded in 1992, ICNL promotes and strengthens civic freedoms, public participation, and philanthropy worldwide. Through research, technical assistance, and advocacy, it works with civil society, governments, and international institutions to improve legal frameworks for freedoms of association, expression, and peaceful assembly. Its *Civic Freedom Monitor* provides up-to-date analysis of laws and policies affecting civil society in over 50 countries, including Türkiye, where civic space is assessed as “highly restrictive” due to legal barriers, administrative harassment, and limits on funding for CSOs.

**International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organization (IGLYO):** Founded in 1984 and headquartered in Brussels, IGLYO is the largest global membership-based network dedicated to LGBTQI youth rights, representing over 125 organisations in 40+ countries. It works to protect, empower, and amplify the voices of LGBTQI young people under 30 through advocacy, capacity building, and engagement. IGLYO’s members from Türkiye include SPoD and UniKuir.

**Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC):** Founded in 1987 in The Hague, NHC works to promote human rights, the rule of law, and justice across wider Europe, including Türkiye. Its two main pillars—Rights-Based Justice and Integrity and Accountability—guide capacity development, monitoring, policy advocacy, networking, and awareness-raising activities. In Türkiye, NHC has collaborated with the Ministry of Justice on legislative alignment with the EU acquis and, with the European Implementation Network, trained civil society on implementing ECtHR judgments.

**Sherpa:** Founded in 2001 and based in Paris, Sherpa uses strategic litigation, advocacy, legal research, and capacity building to hold multinational corporations accountable for serious human rights and environmental abuses, as well as involvement in international corruption. It focuses on improving legal frameworks to better protect communities, the environment, and human rights, often targeting abuses in global supply chains.

**Transparency International (TI):** Founded in 1993 in Berlin, TI works globally to stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability, and integrity across all sectors of society. Through advocacy, campaigning, and research, it exposes the systems and networks that enable corruption and holds the powerful to account. Its flagship *Corruption Perceptions Index* scores 180 countries annually, serving as a leading global indicator of public sector corruption. In Türkiye, TI is represented by Transparency International Türkiye (TI Türkiye), which conducts research, advocacy, and awareness-raising on anti-corruption.

**Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE):** Founded in 1994 in Vienna, WAVE is the only European network exclusively dedicated to ending violence against women and children, with over 150 member organisations across 46 countries. In Türkiye, WAVE includes key member organisations such as Foundation for Women’s Solidarity (Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı), Mor Çatı Women’s Shelter Foundation, and Uluslararası Göçmen Kadınlar Dayanışma Derneği (UGKDD), which actively collaborate on advocacy, capacity building, and monitoring efforts aligned with the Istanbul Convention and broader gender-based violence prevention strategies.

Organization	Headquarters
ARTICLE 19	London
Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)	Network
Child Rights International Network (CRIN)	London
CIVICUS	Johannesburg
Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe)	Brussels
Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EUROMED Rights)	Copenhagen

European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)	Strasbourg
European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)	The Hague
European Disability Forum (EDF)	Brussels
European Implementation Network (EIN)	Strasbourg
European Women's Lobby (EWL)	Brussels
ILGA-Europe	Brussels
International Budget Partnership (IBP)	Washington, DC
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)	Washington, DC
International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)	Montréal
International LGBTQI Youth and Student	Brussels

Organization (IGLYO)	
Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC)	The Hague
Sherpa	Paris
Transparency International (TI)	Berlin
Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE)	Vienna

### 3. Places of Deprivation of Liberty

Deprivation of liberty refers to situations where individuals are held under continuous supervision and control, without the ability to leave and often without meaningful consent. This can occur in a wide range of closed institutions, including detention centers, prisons, hospitals, care homes, shelters, and removal centers.

However, in this mapping, as in previous editions, the scope is primarily limited to prisons and removal centers to maintain continuity and strengthen its contribution to ongoing monitoring efforts, particularly those of the Human Rights Association.

While a formal legal framework regulating these institutions exists, in practice they remain key sites where accountability deficits are both visible and entrenched. Oversight mechanisms are often limited in effectiveness, and access to legal safeguards can be inconsistent. These conditions reflect broader structural constraints, including restricted transparency and a shrinking operational space for independent monitoring actors.

These spaces also serve as sites where accountability is not only obstructed but actively reshaped through administrative, legal, and institutional practices.

This section is organized into two subsections. The first examines prisons, focusing on persistent structural problems and recent developments. The second addresses removal

centers, highlighting key patterns, emerging concerns, and relevant actors at both national and international levels. The analysis draws on recent data and documented cases to illustrate how these institutions intersect with broader patterns of impunity, producing not only violations but also systemic barriers to accountability.

## **3.1 Prisons in Türkiye**

### **3.1.1 Overview**

Prisons in Türkiye have long constituted one of the primary sites where systemic human rights violations become most visible. Under the AKP government—and particularly in the aftermath of the 2016 coup attempt and the prolonged state of emergency—pre-trial detention has increasingly been normalised as a routine measure rather than an exceptional one. This shift, coupled with documented patterns of torture and ill-treatment, has exacerbated overcrowding and further undermined the fundamental rights of detainees.

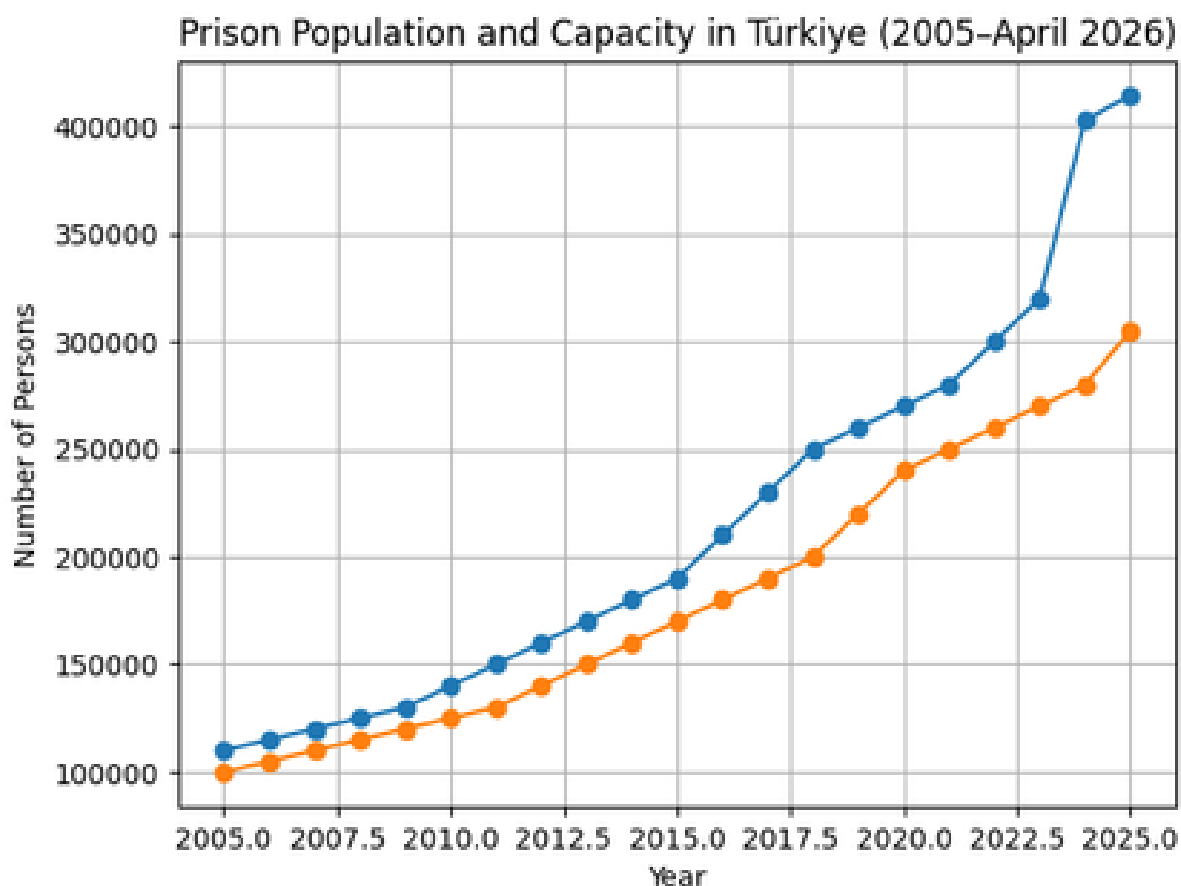
These dynamics have become even more pronounced since 19 March 2025, as the use of detention has increasingly functioned as part of broader judicial pressure against the main opposition, particularly targeting actors associated with the Republican People’s Party (CHP), as well as journalists, youth activists, and human rights defenders. As also reflected in earlier sections on impunity and accountability, this pattern points to the selective and strategic deployment of legal mechanisms across different social and political groups. This has brought renewed scrutiny to the conditions under which remand prisoners are held, as well as to the procedural safeguards available to them. At the same time, the situation of seriously ill detainees—long documented by the İHD through systematic monitoring and reporting—has gained increased public visibility in this context. Cases such as those of Murat Çalık and Tayfun Kahraman, have further underscored persistent failures in access to healthcare and the effective implementation of release mechanisms. Rather than isolated incidents, these cases point to broader structural deficiencies within the prison system, where legal safeguards are applied inconsistently and oversight remains limited. This is further illustrated by the decision of the 13th Criminal Court of Istanbul on 7 November 2025, which explicitly stated that it did not consider itself bound by a ruling of the Constitutional Court ordering Kahraman’s release. In this context, civil society organisations have long documented how such structural patterns transform incarceration from a measure of last resort into an instrument of political and social control.

*Scale and Overcrowding:* According to the most recent official data, 414,401 prisoners are currently held in 403 prisons in Türkiye with a total capacity of 304,956, corresponding to an occupancy rate of approximately 136%. Of this population,

298,335 are held in closed prisons and 116,066 in open institutions. The prison population consists of 351,887 sentenced prisoners and 62,514 remand detainees, indicating the continued and systematic reliance on pre-trial detention. Disaggregated data further reveal structural vulnerabilities within the prison system: at least 200 prisoners identify as LGBTQ+, while 14,276 are foreign nationals. A total of 476 prisoners live with disabilities, including visual, hearing, speech and orthopaedic impairments, pointing to persistent accessibility and care challenges. The ageing prison population is also notable, with 6,638 prisoners aged over 65. The system continues to hold particularly vulnerable groups, including 4,524 children aged between 12 and 18 (207 of them girls), as well as 891 children aged 0–6 living with their imprisoned mothers alongside 19,809 women prisoners. While 77,014 prisoners are reported to have access to education and 58,500 are engaged in insured vocational activities, these figures coexist with structural deficiencies in living conditions. As of 2025, the daily food allowance remains limited to TRY 144 per person (TRY 275 for children and specific vulnerable groups), raising ongoing concerns regarding minimum standards of detention and adequate nutrition.

Overcrowding remains particularly acute in closed prisons, where structural deficiencies—such as insufficient bed capacity—continue to be reported. Internal monitoring findings from the Ministry of Justice also acknowledge the adverse impact of overcrowding on fundamental rights. These structural deficiencies are also reflected in recurring incidents affecting basic living conditions. For instance, according to media reports, on November 2025, 131 prisoners in Ferizli Prison (Sakarya) were hospitalised due to food poisoning, pointing to serious concerns regarding nutrition, hygiene, and oversight in places of detention.

Taken together, these conditions point to a systemic deterioration in detention standards. Civil society organisations consistently warn that such conditions may amount to violations of the absolute prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment, particularly in a context of chronic overcrowding and insufficient safeguards.



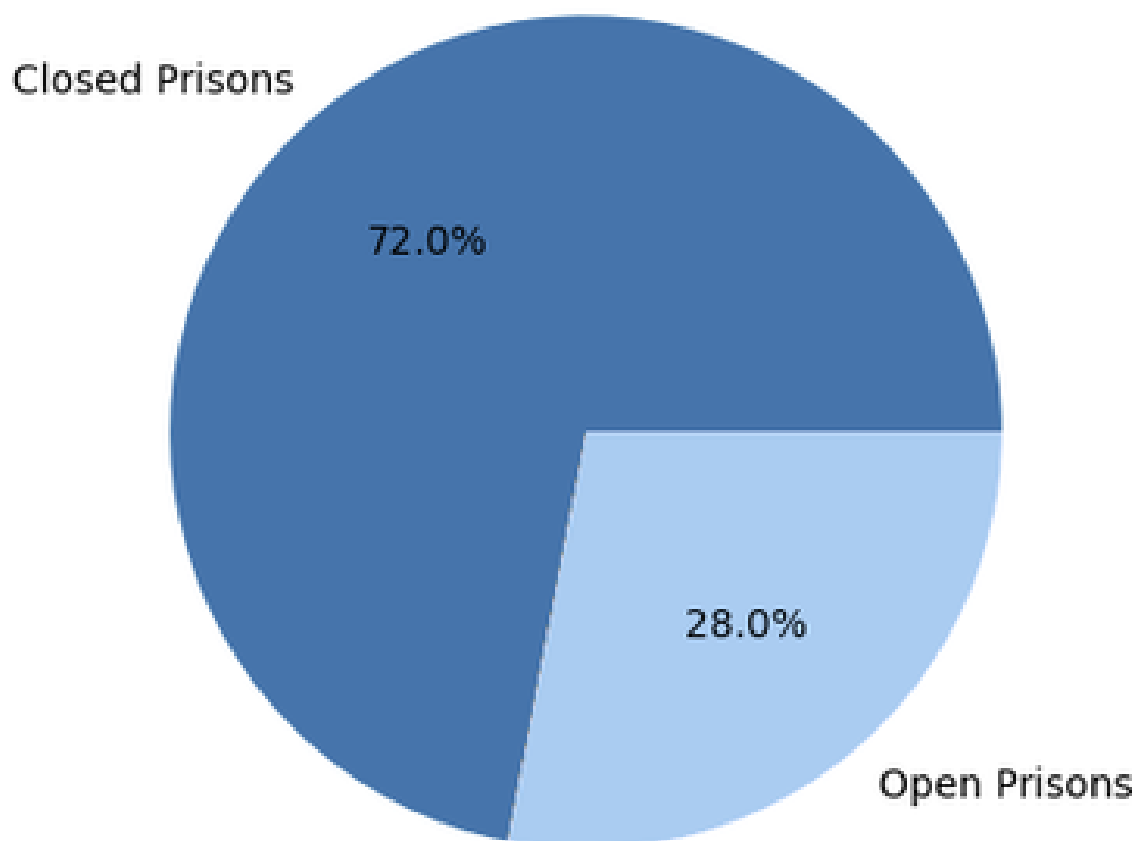
*Expansion of Infrastructure and Isolation-Based Designs:* In response to the deepening capacity crisis in the prison system, the government has embarked on an unprecedented prison construction programme. Allocations from the Ministry of Justice’s 2025 budget—amounting to approximately TRY 1.2 billion—have been directed toward the construction of new facilities across at least 11 provinces, including Uşak, Bartın, Siirt, and Niğde, with total projected costs expected to reach TRY 23.5 billion by the end of 2027.

This phase of physical expansion has been accompanied by the growing prevalence of high-security institutions—particularly S-Type and Y-Type prisons—widely criticised for their extreme isolation regimes and commonly referred to by prisoners as “well-type” (kuyu tipi) facilities. According to official data, there are currently 13 Y-Type and 7 S-Type prisons operating across the country.

Testimonies from recently released prisoners point to a regime of near-total isolation. Detainees report being held for approximately 22.5 hours per day in single-occupancy cells—often described as “blind cells”—measuring only a few steps in length, with the remaining time spent in high-walled concrete yards. Windows are reportedly covered with dense metal mesh that severely restricts access to natural light and fresh air. The multi-storey architectural design, in which cells are vertically arranged around narrow shafts, reinforces the sense of enclosure that has led to the designation “well-type” prisons.

Taken together, these facilities represent not merely an expansion of capacity but a shift toward an architecture of isolation, where prolonged and near-permanent solitary confinement becomes a central feature of the penitentiary system. Human rights organisations and monitoring bodies have consistently warned that such conditions may amount to systematic violations of the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

## Prison Types – Distribution in Türkiye (April 2026)



*Legal Volatility and Barriers to Rights:* Law No. 5275 on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures has become a key driver of volatility within Türkiye’s prison system, with successive legislative packages reshaping how sentences are executed rather than how they are adjudicated. These changes do not form a coherent reform trajectory; instead, they produce a fragmented and frequently shifting framework that directly affects prisoners’ access to release, transfer, and basic procedural rights.

Recent amendments—particularly Law No. 7550 (June 2025) and the 11th Judicial Package (Law No. 7571, December 2025)—have tightened access to open prisons and supervised release by redefining eligibility criteria and limiting early release mechanisms. These interventions have been applied selectively across different categories of prisoners, resulting in differentiated execution regimes and prolonged detention in closed institutions for certain groups. Transitional provisions have further restricted the applicability of earlier concessions, effectively narrowing pathways to release for newly admitted detainees. The anticipated 12th Judicial Package is expected to further reshape execution practices through revised probation frameworks and procedural acceleration measures, while explicitly excluding any form of amnesty. This reinforces a policy orientation centred on managing and controlling the prison population rather than reducing it. A key structural feature underpinning these changes is the expanding role of Prison Administration and Observation Boards. These administrative bodies exercise decisive authority over conditional release decisions based on vague and highly discretionary criteria such as “good behaviour” and “remorse.” In practice, this creates a second layer of decision-making beyond the courts, where release can be delayed or denied irrespective of formal sentence completion criteria.

The interaction between continuous legal change and administrative discretion produces a system in which prisoners’ access to rights—particularly release, transfer, and legal safeguards—is not only limited but also unpredictable. This structural configuration reinforces arbitrariness within the execution regime and weakens effective protections against rights violations.

*Documented Violations and Affected Groups:* Recent monitoring reports indicate that rights violations in prisons remain widespread and systemic, with no sign of decline in 2025–2026. Regional data alone points to the scale of the problem: over 5,000 violations were documented in prisons in the Marmara region in 2025, reflecting persistent structural deficiencies across the system.

International assessments continue to classify Türkiye as a high-risk context for torture and ill-treatment, particularly in detention settings. Practices of prolonged isolation remain widespread in high-security facilities, including S-Type and Y-Type prisons, where detainees report being held in near-total confinement for up to 22.5 hours per day, often in conditions with severely limited access to natural light and fresh air. These conditions, often described as “well-type prisons” (kuyu tipi), indicate a normalization of isolation practices as part of the prison regime.

Access to healthcare remains one of the most critical and life-threatening issues. Persistent failures in medical referral, treatment, and release mechanisms continue to result in preventable deaths. The death of seriously ill prisoners in custody—including cases documented in April 2026 such as Mehmet Edip Taşar, who died despite

suffering from multiple chronic illnesses and dropping to 40kg—highlights the structural inadequacy of existing safeguards.

As of April 2026, the prison population includes 19,809 women and 4,524 children. Monitoring reports highlight that children in detention face heightened risks of ill-treatment, including verbal abuse being addressed as “terrorists,” inappropriate detention conditions in Hatay Juvenile Prison, and placement in units that fail to ensure their safety from adult or high-risk detainees.

LGBTQ+ prisoners, and particularly transgender detainees, face intersecting and aggravated forms of rights violations. Reports point to systematic discrimination, including placement in facilities inconsistent with gender identity, exposure to violence and harassment, and barriers in accessing healthcare, including gender-affirming treatment. Trans prisoners are often subjected to isolation measures under the justification of “protection,” which in practice function as de facto solitary confinement and result in further restrictions on basic rights.

Recent cases further illustrate the escalation of these practices. Following the suspicious death of a trans male prisoner, Poyraz, in Sincan Prison, trans detainees were reportedly placed under a “controlled prisoner” regime, involving intensified isolation, denial of basic hygiene materials, and severe restrictions on daily life. Reports also indicate coercive practices such as forcing detainees to sign statements declaring they would not attempt suicide, sleep deprivation through hourly monitoring, and the removal of access to activities, including sports and social interaction. In addition, gender expression has been directly targeted, with trans men reportedly told to grow their hair as a condition for accessing certain rights or work opportunities. These measures collectively point to the use of disciplinary and “protective” frameworks as tools of coercion, punishment, and identity-based control.

### **3.1.2 Local CSOs Working on Prisoners’ Rights**

**Adil Yargılanma Hakkına Erişim Derneği (AYHED)/Association for Access to Right to Fair Trial:** Founded in Adana in 2019 by a group of lawyers, AYHED works across Türkiye to strengthen fair trial standards and uphold the rights of marginalized groups including prisoners, journalists, and vulnerable individuals. Through strategic legal support, trial and rights monitoring, and documentation, it supports sick detainees, develops rights-awareness materials, and submits applications to relevant authorities. It conducts capacity-building, advocacy, and joint campaigns with local actors—including bar associations, journalists, and CSOs—to promote accountability and challenge impunity in justice processes.

**Ceza İnfaz Sisteminde Sivil Toplum Derneği (CISST)/Civil Society in the Penal System Association:** CISST founded in Istanbul in 2006, is Türkiye’s leading human rights organization focused exclusively on prison and prisoner rights. It works to

ensure that detention conditions meet human rights and dignity standards, defining prisoners as rights-holding individuals. CİSST conducts prison monitoring, publishes thematic reports and prison statistics, runs a hotline for detainees and their families, and provides legal documentation. Its programs address the needs of diverse detained groups—including children, women, LGBTQ+, elderly, foreign nationals, sick prisoners, and those serving aggravated life sentences. It engages robustly in international advocacy through partnerships and projects with global bodies—such as Penal Reform International (PRI) via an EU-funded four-year initiative to enhance accountability and human rights in Türkiye’s penal system—and is recognized by international networks like the OMCT, contributing reports, capacity building, strategic litigation, and monitoring for prison standards aligned with global norms. In 2025, CİSST submitted over 2,800 human rights appeals to 16 institutions on behalf of prisoners and released an interactive national prison map to enhance public access and oversight.

**Cağdaş Hukukçular Derneği (ÇHD)/Progressive Lawyers Association:** Founded in 1974 and headquartered in Ankara, the ÇHD works to combat impunity by providing legal support to individuals and groups subjected to rights violations, particularly the right to life, torture, and ill-treatment. It engages in trial monitoring, advocacy, and legal defence to ensure accountability. ÇHD has branches in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Alanya, Mersin, Adana, Antalya, and Hatay, and representatives in Bursa and Eskişehir. It is closely tied to the international legal community, with its detained lawyers condemned in joint statements by global bar associations and membership in the European Democratic Lawyers network.

**İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD)/Human Rights Association:** Founded in 1986 in the aftermath of Türkiye’s 1980 military coup, the Human Rights Association (İHD) is one of the oldest and largest human rights organizations in the country. Headquartered in Ankara, it has 27 branches and 7 representatives across different regions. İHD conducts extensive monitoring and legal advocacy on the right to life, access to justice, prisons, torture, and impunity, and has played a central role in documenting past and ongoing human rights violations. Actively engaged with international human rights mechanisms and networks, İHD uses its reports, case monitoring, and public campaigns to combat impunity, strengthen accountability, and promote the protection of fundamental rights throughout Türkiye. İHD’s international institutional collaborations include membership in FIDH since 1995 and in EuroMed Rights (formerly EMHRN) since 1997. It is also member of the OMCT.

Since the onset of the current peace process in October 2024, İHD has been actively engaged in advocacy for a durable and rights-based resolution of the Kurdish question, consistently calling for the process to be grounded in legal and democratic reform rather than framed solely as a security matter. In this context, İHD has issued

joint civil society declarations and organizational statements demanding inclusive negotiations, transitional justice mechanisms, the release of political prisoners, and the repeal of anti-terrorism legislation as indispensable steps toward lasting peace.

**İnsan Hakları ve Mazlumlar İçin Dayanışma Derneği (MAZLUMDER)/Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for the Oppressed:** Founded in 1991 in Ankara, with branches across the country, MAZLUMDER defends rights across multiple dimensions—including religious liberty, freedom of expression, prisoners’ rights, and refugee protection. It monitors and documents violations in prisons—such as overcrowding, torture, and denial of fair trial standards—and advocates for reform and institutional accountability. Simultaneously, it addresses refugee and asylum seeker issues, including detention center abuses and barriers to basic services, through detailed reports and public advocacy.

**Özgür Hukukçular Derneği (ÖHD)/Association of Lawyers for Freedom:** Based in Diyarbakır and officially established in November 2019, the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) is a human rights organization dedicated to preventing impunity by supporting individuals and groups subjected especially to violations of the right to life, torture, and ill-treatment. With branches in Istanbul, Diyarbakır, Van, Şanlıurfa, Hakkari, İzmir, Mersin, Ankara, Mardin, Bursa, Gaziantep, and Batman, ÖHD is actively engaged in protecting access to justice, strengthening accountability, and serving as a key partner in the broader human rights ecosystem through legal advocacy, solidarity actions, and institutional cooperation.

Since the onset of the current peace process in October 2024, ÖHD has been actively engaged in legal advocacy for a rights-based resolution of the Kurdish question, calling for transitional legislation, the implementation of ECtHR rulings on the right to hope, and the release of political prisoners as indispensable conditions for lasting peace. Through systematic prison monitoring and regional rights violation reports, ÖHD has consistently documented the gap between the political process and conditions on the ground, arguing that the peace process cannot yield durable results without concrete legal reform.

**Pembe Hayat LGBTİ+ Dayanışma Derneği/Pink Life LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association:** Founded in Ankara in 2006 as Türkiye’s first transgender rights association, Pink Life addresses systemic discrimination, hate crimes, violence, and social exclusion of LGBTQ+’s. It operates the *Dilek İnce Clothing Bank*, regularly sending clothing to LGBTQ+ prisoners—maintaining essential contact and documenting rights violations within detention. The association also provides free legal, health, and psychological counseling, and leads cultural advocacy via initiatives like the *Pink Life QueerFest*—the country’s first queer film festival—and the Trans Camp. In 2025, despite intensified censorship and media bans, Pink Life continues to

enforce accountability in the prison system and promote visibility through arts and advocacy. It is a member of ILGA-Europe.

**Toplum ve Hukuk Arařtırmaları Vakfı (TOHAV)/Foundation for Society and Legal Studies:** Founded in Istanbul in 1994 by lawyers, the Foundation for Society and Legal Studies (TOHAV) has long worked to address impunity and strengthen accountability in cases of human rights violations. It has provided legal assistance, conducted research and investigations, and prepared reports—particularly on violations of the right to life, the prevention and punishment of torture, and conditions in prisons. While its public visibility has been more limited in recent years, TOHAV’s past work and expertise remain a reference point in the field, and it continues to maintain its institutional presence.

**Tutuklu ve Hükümlü Aileleri Dayanışma Derneđi (TAYAD)/Assistance and Solidarity Association of Families of Detainees and Convicts:** TAYAD was founded in 1986 in Istanbul by a group of torture survivors, their relatives, friends, and other critics of the post-12 September 1980 military regime, to combat unlawful detentions and systematic human rights violations in prisons. The association draws attention to political prisoners—particularly those on hunger strikes and death fasts—through advocacy, public campaigns, and solidarity actions. It documents rights violations in detention facilities, supports families during legal processes, and challenges impunity by demanding accountability from state authorities in line with international human rights standards.

**Türkiye Çocuklara Yeniden Özgürlük Vakfı (TCYOV)/Youth Re-Autonomy Foundation of Türkiye:** Founded in 1992, TCYOV aims to ensure that no child is deprived of their freedom and that the best interests of children at risk and those within the judicial system are protected. Operating from its headquarters in Istanbul and branch in Izmir, the foundation develops preventive models to keep children at risk from entering the judicial system, as well as protective models for children who are already within it. TCYOV works to strengthen institutions providing services to these children, promotes a rights-based approach to juvenile justice, and conducts advocacy to align Türkiye’s juvenile justice system with international child rights standards. In recent years, the foundation has intensified its monitoring and reporting on violations of the rights of children in detention, engaged in strategic litigation, and collaborated with national and international bodies to address impunity for abuses within the juvenile justice system.

**Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı (TİHV)/Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye:** Established in 1990 by İHD for the treatment and rehabilitation of torture survivors, TİHV works to eliminate torture and combat impunity through treatment, rehabilitation, documentation, and advocacy. Headquartered in Ankara, with representative offices in Diyarbakır, Istanbul, Izmir, and Van, and a reference center in

Cizre, TİHV provides comprehensive medical, psychological, and social support to victims, while systematically documenting cases of torture and other ill-treatment. It played a pioneering role in the preparation and global dissemination of the UN-endorsed *Istanbul Protocol*, a key international standard for the investigation and documentation of torture. Through its rigorous documentation, monitoring, and international advocacy, TİHV contributes to holding perpetrators accountable, strengthening prevention mechanisms, and challenging the culture of impunity in Türkiye. TİHV is also a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

**Van Tutukulu ve Hükümlü Aileleri Dayanışma Derneği (Van TUHAY-DER)/Wan Association for Assistance to Families of Detainees and Convicts:** TUHAY-DER raises awareness on the conditions of prisoners and documents rights violations in prisons. It collaborates with organizations such as İHD and ÖHD to prepare reports, conduct advocacy, and promote accountability for prison conditions. With branches or representation in Diyarbakır, Mersin, İzmir, Van, Siirt, and İstanbul, the association supports prisoners' families and campaigns for the protection of detainees' and convicts' rights.

Organization	Headquarters
Adil Yargılanma Hakkına Erişim Derneği (AYHED) / Association for Access to Right to Fair Trial	Adana
Ceza İnfaz Sisteminde Sivil Toplum Derneği (CISST) / Civil Society in the Penal System Association	İstanbul
Çağdaş Hukukçular Derneği (ÇHD) / Progressive Lawyers Association	Ankara

İnsan Hakları Derneđi (İHD) / Human Rights Association	Ankara
İnsan Hakları ve Mazlumlar İin Dayanıřma Derneđi (MAZLUMDER)	Ankara
Özgür Hukukular Derneđi (ÖHD) / Association of Lawyers for Freedom	Diyarbakır
Pembe Hayat LGBTİ+ Dayanıřma Derneđi / Pink Life LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association	Ankara
Toplum ve Hukuk Arařtırmaları Vakfı (TOHAV)	İstanbul
Tutuklu ve Hükümlü Aileleri Dayanıřma Derneđi (TAYAD)	İstanbul
Türkiye ocuklara Yeniden Özgürlük Vakfı (TCYOV) / Youth Re-Autonomy Foundation of Türkiye	İstanbul
Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı (TİHV) / Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye	Ankara

Van TUHAY-DER / Wan Association for Assistance to Families of Detainees and Convicts	Van
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### 3.1.3 International CSOs Working on Prison Issues in Türkiye

**Amnesty International (AI):** Founded in 1961, AI monitors prison conditions worldwide, documenting torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention, and campaigns for humane treatment of prisoners. In Türkiye, it reports on detention conditions and, through Amnesty International Türkiye Branch, provides training for lawyers on detainees' rights in cooperation with bar associations.

**International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger (The Observatory - OIAD):** Established in 2010 in Paris and re-launched in 2015, OIAD is an initiative of bar associations from France, Spain, and Italy to protect legal representation and denounce violations of the right to counsel. Acting as an umbrella for 47 bar associations and 16 civil society organizations worldwide, it provides emergency assistance, including legal aid, to lawyers facing persecution or imprisonment. OIAD identifies at-risk lawyers through member alerts and advocates for their protection before public authorities and international human rights mechanisms.

**Penal Reform International (PRI):** Founded in 1989 and based in the Netherlands, PRI works globally to promote criminal justice systems that uphold human rights and avoid harm. It monitors developments and challenges in prison policy and practice through its annual *Global Prison Trends* report. In Türkiye, PRI is partnering with CISST on a four-year project to improve human rights in the penitentiary system.

**Prison Insider:** Founded in 2015 in Lyon, Prison Insider is an information platform dedicated to raising awareness about detention conditions and promoting the rights and dignity of people deprived of liberty worldwide. It works with local civil society organizations in various countries, including Türkiye through CISST to collect and share data on prison conditions. This information is made accessible to individuals, journalists, lawyers, public officials, researchers, NGOs, and relatives of detainees.

**The Arrested Lawyers Initiative (TALI):** Founded in 2016 in Brussels, TALI is a rights group composed of lawyers advocating for the protection of legal professionals and human rights defenders against intimidation, reprisals, and judicial harassment. It produces monitoring reports, documents cases of persecution, and makes submissions to international mechanisms to raise awareness and promote accountability. Many of

its members are from Türkiye, and the organization has extensively documented violations against Turkish lawyers since 2016.

**World Organization against Torture (OMCT):** Established in 1985 in Geneva, OMCT is the world’s largest coalition of over 200 civil society organizations working to eradicate torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. It advocates for reform of laws and policies, provides direct assistance to victims, and works to hold perpetrators accountable through national, regional, and international mechanisms. OMCT also coordinates the SOS-Torture TİHV and İHD.

Organization	Headquarters
Amnesty International (AI)	London
International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger (OIAD)	Paris
Penal Reform International (PRI)	The Hague
Prison Insider	Lyon
The Arrested Lawyers Initiative (TALI)	Brussels
World Organization against Torture (OMCT)	Geneva

## 3.2 Removal Centres in Türkiye

### 3.2.1 Overview

Türkiye continues to host the largest refugee and migrant population worldwide, encompassing multiple legal status categories. According to the most recent data available in the sources:

*Syrians under Temporary Protection:* As of April 9, 2026, the number of Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye is 2,293,592. This represents a gradual decrease compared to earlier figures in 2025, including 2,347,756 at the end of that year. The temporary protection regime in Türkiye continues to apply mainly to Syrian nationals, who make up approximately 64% of the total foreign population in the country.

*Residence Permit Holders:* As of April 9, 2026, a total of 1,211,142 foreign nationals reside in Türkiye under various types of residence permits, accounting for approximately 31% of the total foreign population. The distribution by permit type is as follows: 432,841 hold short-term residence permits, 227,118 hold student permits, 173,681 hold family residence permits, and 377,502 fall under other categories, including humanitarian permits. The largest groups of residence permit holders by nationality are from Turkmenistan, the Russian Federation, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan.

*International Protection:* As of 2025, there are 6,340 individuals registered under international protection in Türkiye.

Overall, Türkiye hosts more than 3.6 million foreign nationals, of whom approximately 2.5 million need protection, including those under temporary and international protection regimes. In addition, around 160,253 irregular migrants were apprehended during 2025, reflecting the ongoing scale and complexity of migration management in the country.

Individuals without a legal basis to remain in Türkiye who are subject to administrative detention orders are held in removal centers (*geri gönderme merkezleri*). As of September 2025, official data from the Ministry of Interior indicate that there are 32 removal centers across 25 provinces, with a total capacity of 18,780 places. This figure is also confirmed in the Directorate's 2025 performance program.

While authorities often present these figures as indicators of effective migration governance, a growing body of international reports and civil society monitoring highlights a widening gap between official narratives and lived realities. The Ministry of Interior presents this decline and the figure of over 1.3 million total voluntary returns as a success of its "voluntary, safe, and dignified" return policies. However, international organizations and civil society organizations challenge the "voluntary" nature of these movements, reporting that individuals in removal centers and

temporary accommodation centers are often pressured, subjected to physical violence, or held in indefinite administrative detention to coerce them into signing return forms. The European Commission, while acknowledging Türkiye's efforts to host refugees, has emphasized serious backsliding in the rule of law and fundamental rights, noting that the judiciary's lack of independence hinders migrants' access to legal safeguards. Civil society field reports describe conditions in Removal Centers – contrary to official claims of dignity – as marked by overcrowding, poor hygiene, lack of medical care, and ill-treatment.

While the government highlights the expansion of Mobile Migration Points (now numbering 375) as a model of technological efficiency in identifying irregular migrants, civil society organizations and experts warn that these checks have created a climate of "invisibility" and fear. Technical issues and strict address verification procedures have led to the deactivation of identity registrations, pushing many individuals into irregular status and effectively blocking access to basic services. Consequently, while the official discourse presents an exemplary model of migration management, international and domestic observers describe a reality of systematic rights violations, where large segments of the migrant population live in a state of permanent temporariness, facing ongoing uncertainty and the constant risk of deportation.

### **3.2.2 Local CSOs Working on Refugee and Migrant Rights**

**Göç Araştırmaları Derneği (GAR)/Association for Migration Research:** Founded in Istanbul in 2017 by migration-focused academics, GAR produces critical, rights-based research to highlight violations endured by migrants and refugees, and to inform evidence-based policymaking. Its core activities include conducting research projects, organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences; delivering training through GAR Academy, including summer schools and GarEP programs; and publishing via the GAR Blog, podcasts, videos, and statements. In 2025, GAR continues to spotlight violations, including those affecting individuals under temporary protection, through public advocacy, knowledge dissemination, and partnerships aimed at strengthening visibility and accountability in response to migration-related injustices.

**Göçmen Dayanışma Derneği (GDD)/Migrant Solidarity Association:** Founded in 2016 in İstanbul by human rights defenders from diverse professional backgrounds, GDD is a rights-based CSO working against all forms of discrimination. It provides legal, social, and psychosocial support to refugees and migrants, facilitates access to health care, education, and justice, and documents rights violations. GDD operates the Refugee Consultation and Support Centre with Şişli Municipality and Expertise France, while running community initiatives and capacity-building programs. It also collaborates with international partners—including Welthungerhilfe (Germany), UN Women, the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, and

the Swiss Confederation—embedding its work within broader transnational refugee rights networks.

**Halkların Köprüsü Derneği/Association of Bridging Peoples:** Established in İzmir around 2015, the association operates entirely on a volunteer basis to promote solidarity rather than charity with refugees and migrants. It conducts fieldwork to address urgent needs such as health screenings, housing support, and interpretation, while also engaging in advocacy by filing petitions with public authorities to ensure accountability. The association organizes public events, including the İzmir International Refugee Film Festival, to foster cultural dialogue and counter discrimination.

**Hayata Destek Derneği/Support to Life Association:** Founded in Istanbul in 2005, Support to Life is an independent humanitarian organization delivering emergency relief, refugee support, child protection in agriculture, and capacity-building services across Türkiye. Through its Refugee Support Program—active since 2012—it ensures access to basic rights for refugee communities, especially under temporary protection. The organization provides holistic assistance including cash aid, shelter, psycho-social services, and legal guidance. In times of crisis, such as during the 2023 earthquakes, Support to Life mounted coordinated emergency responses. It also prioritizes civil society empowerment, maintaining budgeting transparency and conducting awareness-raising advocacy to strengthen accountability in humanitarian and migration contexts. At the international level, it is well integrated into global humanitarian networks. It acts as the Regional Office for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in West and Central Asia, serves as the secretariat of the Turkish Local Humanitarian Forum that convenes UN agencies and international NGOs, and implements projects with partners such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and the European Union’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

**Hayvan Yaşam Özgürlük İnisyatifi/Animal Life Freedom Initiative:** An Ankara-based grassroots initiative working on animal rights, ecological justice, and advocacy against violence toward animals. The initiative engages in awareness-raising, documentation, and public campaigns to promote the right to life, challenge species-based discrimination, and support ethical and rights-based approaches to human–animal relations.

**Hevi LGBTİ+ Derneği/Hevi LGBTI+ Association:** Founded in Istanbul in 2015 by minority LGBTQ+ activists, HEVI works to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and actively combats impunity in hate crime killings. It provides legal counselling, monitors cases, and runs advocacy campaigns—such as *Justice for Ahmet Yıldız*—to hold perpetrators accountable. HEVI also focuses on the rights of LGBTQ+ refugees, offering support and advocacy to address their specific vulnerabilities.

Committed to fighting LGBTQ+ phobia, it envisions a society free from discrimination, where equal rights, including the right to life, are fully respected.

**İltica ve Göç Araştırmaları Merkezi Derneği(IGAM)/Research Centre on Asylum and Migration:** Founded in 2013 by academics, researchers, journalists, and humanitarian workers, IGAM conducts academic studies, supports research, develops databases, raises public awareness, delivers trainings, and builds networks on asylum and migration. Through its Refugee Information and Support Centre, IGAM provides legal and psychosocial support, and informs and guides refugees on accessing rights and services. The association also engages in advocacy to improve Türkiye's migration and asylum framework in line with international standards, and coordinates the Refugee Council of Türkiye, a national civil society platform.

**İnsan Kaynağını Geliştirme Vakfı (IKGV)/Human Resource Development Foundation:** Established in Istanbul in 1988, IKGV initially focused on health, education, and employment. From 1999 onward, in collaboration with UNHCR, it expanded to provide legal, psychosocial, and social counseling to asylum seekers and refugees. As of today, IKGV operates refugee support services across seven provinces, including Istanbul, Ankara, Ağrı, Bilecik, Eskişehir, Kütahya, and Van. Its Istanbul-based Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Center, operating since 2014, delivers comprehensive protection, community programming, and integration initiatives for Syrian refugees. IKGV continues to implement training, policy advocacy, and capacity-building projects to strengthen accountability and uphold the rights and dignity of refugees across Türkiye. It is a founding member of the Refugee Council of Türkiye and internationally accredited CSO by the UNFPA, and is a special consultant at UN ECOSOC.

**İzmir Mültecilerle Dayanışma Platformu (İMDP)/ Izmir Platform for Solidarity with Refugees:** Established in March 2022 in İzmir by an initial group of 11 civil society organizations and now comprising 26 member groups, including refugee-led, human rights, and solidarity organizations, iMDP responds to racialized violence and policy-driven threats targeting refugees. It issues joint statements, organizes protests and commemorative events, monitors trials, and challenges xenophobic narratives through public advocacy. While iMDP remains organizationally active, its operational visibility in recent years is more episodic and campaign-based rather than continuous.

**Kaos Gey ve Lezbiyen Kültürel Araştırmalar ve Dayanışma Derneği (KAOS GL)/ Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Studies and Solidarity Association:** KAOS GL began in Ankara in 1994 as a grassroots magazine and community initiative, and in 2005 became the first LGBTQ+ association in Türkiye to gain legal status. It is dedicated to promoting equality, combating discrimination, and protecting the rights of LGBTQ+'s. KAOS GL documents rights violations through annual human rights reports, monitors court cases involving hate crimes and discrimination, and publishes

judicial monitoring reports that expose patterns of impunity. Through its Refugee Rights Program, active since 2008, the association also provides legal and psychosocial support to LGBTQ+ refugees, monitors rights violations in immigration contexts, and advocates for accountability in asylum and migration policies.

**Medya ve Göç Derneği (MGD)/Media and Migration Association:** Founded in 2020 in İzmir, MGD works to counter disinformation, discrimination, and hate speech targeting refugees and migrants while fostering an objective, pluralistic, inclusive, and rights-based media perspective on migration. It conducts monitoring and data collection (research/analysis and monitoring bulletins), produces and supports media content, runs awareness, training, and advocacy initiatives, and builds interdisciplinary networks among media, civil society, public bodies, and research and cultural institutions. Grounded in transparency and accountability—including formal anti-corruption and financial transparency policies—MGD promotes ethical, evidence-based communication and direct representation of refugees and migrants in media, strengthening accountability in public discourse and challenging impunity for hate speech.

**Mülteci Hakları Koordinasyonu (MHK)/Coordination for Refugee Rights:** Established in 2010 with the facilitation of the Human Rights Joint Platform (İHOP), MHK serves as a collaborative framework for five CSOs working to promote and uphold the legal protection of people fleeing war and persecution and seeking asylum in Türkiye. The Coordination has engaged in joint advocacy, public awareness campaigns, and policy interventions on asylum and migration from a human rights perspective. While it continues to exist, its public activities have been limited in recent years.

**Mülteci Hakları Merkezi/Refugee Rights Türkiye (RRT):** The RRT was established in Istanbul in 2014 (building on earlier refugee legal aid programs dating back to 2003). It provides specialized legal information, counselling, and representation to asylum seekers, refugees, and persons in immigration detention across Türkiye. RRT also delivers training and expertise support to lawyers on refugee law and asylum procedures, and runs advocacy to align Türkiye’s migration and asylum framework with international human rights standards. With its headquarters in Istanbul and field offices in İzmir, Edirne, and Van, the organization combines nationwide legal aid with policy work. At the international level, RRT is an active member of several advocacy and legal networks, including the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA), the International Detention Coalition (IDC), and the European Network on Statelessness (ENS).

**Mülteciler ve Sığınmacılar Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği (Mülteciler Derneği)/Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association**

**(RASAS):** Founded in 2014 in Istanbul, RASAS addresses the needs and rights of individuals requiring international protection by providing legal counselling, guidance, and case follow-up—including for those in administrative detention—through its Legal Consultancy Unit. It also facilitates access to services, community-based support, and rights advocacy with a focus on accountability in refugee protection. RASAS collaborates with international partners such as the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Welthungerhilfe, Refugee Girls Worldwide, and Relief International to deliver integrated programmes in protection, rehabilitation, education, social cohesion, and psychosocial support in line with global humanitarian standards.

**Mültecilerle Dayanışma Derneği (Mülteci-Der)/Association for Solidarity with Refugees:** Established in 2008 in İzmir, Mülteci-Der delivers legal and social support to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants—especially those in immigration detention or underrepresented in broader society. Operating from its İzmir headquarters with additional outreach in cities like Edirne, Hatay, Ağrı, Isparta, Mardin, and Tokat, the association offers protection counseling, capacity-building training for lawyers and relevant professionals, and conducts field-based monitoring and focus-group research. Through thematic reporting and public advocacy—including weekly “Migration News” bulletins and statements against xenophobic attacks—Mülteci-Der continues to uphold accountability and challenge impunity in migration governance. It is a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

**Mülteci Destek Derneği (MUDEM)/Refugee Support Association:** Founded in 2014 in Ankara, MUDEM champions the access to rights and services for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, survivors of human trafficking, and stateless individuals. It operates outreach offices in Ankara, Yalova, Eskişehir, Kırıkkale, and Malatya, ensuring legal counselling for vulnerable populations and delivering training on migration legislation to bar associations and lawyers. With a focus on fairness and accountability, MUDEM also coordinates community projects, advocacy campaigns, and partnerships to challenge impunity in conditions affecting refugees and marginalized groups. It is a recognized partner of UNHCR, is accredited under the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and is a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

**Sığınmacılarla ve Göçmenlerle Dayanışma Derneği (SGDD-ASAM)/Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization:** Founded in 1995 in Ankara as a solidarity platform for refugees and asylum seekers, SGDD-ASAM updated its name in 2023 to reflect an expanded mandate in sustainable development and disaster response. Today, with nearly 2,000 staff across 29 offices in 21 provinces and representative branches in Athens and Brussels, it provides legal counselling,

psychosocial support, livelihood assistance, and protection services while advocating for accountability in migration governance. Internationally, SGDD-ASAM holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), participates in the UN Global Compact, and is a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Mediterranean Children's Movement (MCM), and the International Step by Step Association (ISSA), in addition to partnering with UN agencies and the European Union on protection and inclusion programmes.

**Sığınmacılar ve Mülteciler Dayanışma ve Yardımlaşma Derneği (ARSA)/ Asylum seekers and refugees Solidarity Association:** Originating in Kayseri in 2009 as a coordinating body led by volunteer refugees and officially registered in 2014, ARSA supports refugees and asylum seekers across Türkiye. With operations in Kayseri, Van, Konya, and offices reaching 52 provinces, it provides legal assistance, psychosocial support, education, protection, and integration services. ARSA fosters social cohesion through workshops, cultural programs, livelihoods support, and community initiatives. As a founding member of the Turkish Refugee Council, it advocates for refugee rights, informs policy, and promotes accountability in migration governance.

**Türkiye Mülteci Konseyi (TMK)/Refugee Council of Türkiye:** Founded in 2016, the TMK is a platform that brings together more than 20 civil society organizations from eight cities in Türkiye to advocate for the rights and well-being of refugees and host communities. Facilitated by the Research Centre on Asylum and Migration (IGAM), TMK conducts research on refugee issues, monitors rights violations, and prepares reports and policy recommendations. It engages in dialogue with public institutions, international organizations, and other stakeholders to influence national and international policymaking. TMK also organizes capacity-building activities for its members and coordinates joint advocacy efforts to strengthen the protection of refugees in line with international human rights standards.

**Uluslararası Göçmen Kadınlar Dayanışma Derneği (UGKDD)/International Migrant Women's Solidarity Association:** Founded in 2018 in Istanbul by feminist women, UGKDD works to strengthen the capacities of immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women. In addition to carrying out economic and social empowerment programmes and providing legal support, it advocates for gender-sensitive, rights-based policies. As of 2025, while the association remains in existence and participates in relevant networks, its visibility and publicly accessible activities appear limited. It is member of WAVE network.

**Uluslararası Mülteci Hakları Derneği (UMHD)/International Refugee Rights Association:** Founded in Istanbul in 2013 by legal professionals dedicated to safeguarding refugee rights, UMHD provides legal assistance, advocates against deportation and detention violations, and promotes the prohibition of torture under

international human rights law. UMHD remains highly active—publishing a peer-reviewed academic journal (*MEJRS*), conducting cross-border projects, and continuing to document refugee conditions, organize legal clinics, and hold public events, reflecting sustained advocacy and grassroots engagement within Türkiye’s asylum context. It collaborates with global research and monitoring initiatives such as the Global Detention Project (GDP).

**Yurttaşlar Derneği (HYD)/Citizens Assembly:** Originally founded as Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly – Türkiye in 1993, the association adopted the name Yurttaşlık Derneği following a 2016 general assembly decision. It champions core values like dignity, rule of law, democratic accountability, equality, and participatory governance. Its work spans key thematic domains such as democratization, freedom of expression, peace, pluralism, and the intersection of citizenship and migration. The Association engages in capacity-building, research, public advocacy, and cross-border dialogue (covering regions such as the Balkans, Caucasus, and the Mediterranean), organizes seminars, workshops, and multidisciplinary publications via its field magazine, saha Dergisi. Although it does not exclusively work on refugee or detention issues, its “Migration & Citizenship” program integrates migration into its core identities and civic governance framework, raising accountability for exclusionary practices, contributing to public awareness, and fostering civil society dialogue around citizenship in diversity.

Organization	Headquarters
Göç Araştırmaları Derneği (GAR) / Association for Migration Research	İstanbul
Göçmen Dayanışma Derneği (GDD) / Migrant Solidarity Association	İstanbul
Halkların Köprüsü Derneği / Association of Bridging Peoples	İzmir

Hayata Destek Derneđi / Support to Life Association	İstanbul
Hayvan Yařam Özgürlük İniyatifi/Animal Life Freedom Iniative	
Hevi LGBTİ+ Derneđi / Hevi LGBTI+ Association	İstanbul
İltica ve Göç Arařtırmaları Merkezi Derneđi (IGAM) / Research Centre on Asylum and Migration	Ankara
İnsan Kaynađını Geliřtirme Vakfı (IKGV) / Human Resource Development Foundation	İstanbul
İzmir Mültecilerle Dayanıřma Platformu (İMDP) / Izmir Platform for Solidarity with Refugees	İzmir
Kaos Gey ve Lezbiyen Kültürel Arařtırmalar ve Dayanıřma Derneđi (KAOS GL) / Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Studies and Solidarity Association	Ankara

Medya ve Göç Derneđi (MGD) / Media and Migration Association	İzmir
Mülteci Hakları Koordinasyonu (MHK) / Coordination for Refugee Rights	Network / nationwide
Mülteci Hakları Merkezi / Refugee Rights Türkiye (RRT)	İstanbul
Mülteciler ve Sığınmacılar Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneđi (Mülteciler Derneđi) / Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association (RASAS)	İstanbul
Mültecilerle Dayanışma Derneđi (Mülteci-Der) / Association for Solidarity with Refugees	İzmir
Mülteci Destek Derneđi (MUDEM) / Refugee Support Association	Ankara
Sığınmacılarla ve Göçmenlerle Dayanışma Derneđi (SGDD-ASAM) / Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization	Ankara

Sığınmacılar ve Mülteciler Dayanışma ve Yardımlaşma Derneği (ARSA) / Asylum Seekers and Refugees Solidarity Association	Kayseri
Türkiye Mülteci Konseyi (TMK) / Refugee Council of Türkiye	Platform/ nationwide
Uluslararası Göçmen Kadınlar Dayanışma Derneği (UGKDD) / International Migrant Women's Solidarity Association	İstanbul
Uluslararası Mülteci Hakları Derneği (UMHD) / International Refugee Rights Association	İstanbul
Yurttaşlar Derneği (HYD) / Citizens Assembly	İstanbul

### 3.2.3 International CSOs Working on Refugee Rights and Removal Centres in Türkiye

**Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN):** The Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) is an independent, horizontal network of NGOs and collectives that monitors, documents, and advocates against human rights violations at European borders. Established in 2017 in response to increasing pushbacks along the Balkan route, BVMN collects testimonies through a standardized methodology and publishes them, along with supporting evidence, in an open-access database. Its work combines

field monitoring, research, legal advocacy, and reporting to expose border violence and support accountability efforts.

**European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE):** Founded in 1974, ECRE is a pan-European alliance of around 128–125 NGOs across 40 countries. Türkiye is represented by four confirmed members: Refugee Rights Türkiye, Mülteci-Der, SGDD-ASAM, and MUDEM. ECRE works through strategic litigation, policy advocacy, and communication, and manages the Asylum Information Database (AIDA), which provides detailed data on detention conditions, reception, and asylum procedures across 23 countries—including Türkiye—through country and comparative reports, legal briefings, and fact-finding updates.

**Global Detention Project (GDP):** Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Geneva, GDP is a leading global research center analyzing immigration detention policies and practices. It advocates against arbitrary or harmful detention, promotes transparency, and supports local CSOs in building evidence and advocacy capacity. In Türkiye, GDP collaborates with local partners—including CISST—to publish comprehensive **country profiles** detailing the immigration detention system, legal framework, and practices, such as its report *Immigration Detention in Türkiye: Trapped at the Crossroad Between Asia and Europe*.

**Human Rights Watch (HRW):** Through its Refugee and Migrant Rights Division, HRW investigates and documents violations against refugees, asylum seekers, displaced people, and migrants worldwide, advocating for governments to respect their rights and limit immigration detention to an exceptional measure of last resort. In Türkiye, HRW’s work on refugee rights is a consistent focus, with frequent reporting on violations in removal centres—both in annual *World Reports* and in special investigations—highlighting unlawful detention, inadequate conditions, and abuses against vulnerable groups.

**International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH):** A longstanding global network founded in 1922 and headquartered in Paris, FIDH focuses on protecting migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeker rights through documentation, strategic litigation, and advocacy. In Türkiye, FIDH works with its member organizations—İHD and TİHV- to expose violations, challenge harmful policies like the EU-Türkiye deal and the “safe country” designation, and push for legal and policy reforms aimed at ensuring protection and accountability.

Organization	Headquarters

<b><u>Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN)</u></b>	Europe
European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	Brussels
Global Detention Project (GDP)	Geneva
Human Rights Watch (HRW)	New York
International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)	Paris

#### 4. Civil Society Organizations: Thematic Mapping

##### 4.1. Civil Society Organizations – Thematic Index

Organization Name	Thematic Focus	City
10 Ekim Barış Derneği / 10 October Peace Association	#accountability #impunity #memory #righttolife	Ankara
17 Mayıs Derneği / May 17 Association	#accountability #LGBTQ+rights #migrantrights	Ankara

	#refugeerights#antidiscrimination #equality #gender	
Adalet Peşinde Aileleri Platformu/Families Pursuing Justice Platform	#impunity #accountability #righttolife #ruleoflaw #memory	Nationwide
Adalet Sistemini İzleme Derneği / Association for Monitoring Justice System	#accountability #ruleoflaw #judicialreform #fairtrial #antidiscrimination	İzmir
Adil Yargılanma Hakkına Erişim Derneği (AYHED) / Association for Access to Right to Fair Trial	#accountability #impunity #fairtrial #prisonersrights #ruleoflaw	Adana
Adli Tıp Uzmanları Derneği (ATUD) / Association of Forensic Medicine Specialists	#impunity #accountability #righttolife #fairtrial #ruleoflaw #impunity #fairtrial #ruleoflaw #againsttorture	İstanbul
Aramızda Toplumsal Cinsiyet Araştırmaları Derneği / Among Us Gender Studies Association	#accountability #gender #womenrights #LGBTQ+rights #antidiscrimination #equality #culturalrights	İstanbul

Baran Tursun Vakfi / Baran Tursun Foundation	#impunity #accountability #righttolife #fairtrial #ruleoflaw	İzmir
BAYETAV/We Live Together - Education and Social Research Foundation	#accountability #equality #childrenrights #ecology #culturalrights #gender	İstanbul
Ceza İnfaz Sisteminde Sivil Toplum Derneği (CİSST) / Civil Society in the Penal System Association	#prisonersrights #accountability #impunity #againsttorture #fairtrial #LGBTQ+rights #childrenrights #womenrights #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Cinsiyet Eşitliği İzleme Derneği (CEİD) / Association for Monitoring Gender Equality	#accountability #gender #womenrights #equality #antidiscrimination	Ankara
Cumartesi Anneleri/Saturday Mothers	#impunity#enforceddisappearances#accounta bility	Nationwid e
Çağdaş Hukukçular Derneği (ÇHD) / Progressive Lawyers Association	#impunity #accountability #prisonersrights #fairtrial #againsttorture #righttolife #ruleoflaw	Ankara

Çocuğa Karşı Şiddeti Önlemek İçin Ortaklık Ağı/Partnership Network for Preventing Violence Against Children	#accountability #childrenrights #antidiscrimination #equality	Nationwide
Çukurova Ekoloji Hafıza Derneği/ Çukurova Ecological Memory Association	#ecology #accountability#memory	Adana
DEMOS Araştırma Kolektifi / DEMOS Research Collective	#impunity #accountability #memory #culturalrights #ruleoflaw	Ankara
Denge ve Denetleme Ağı (DDA) / Checks and Balances Network	#accountability #ruleoflaw #freedomofexpression #equality	Ankara
<u>Doğa Derneği/Nature Association</u>	#accountability #ecology #biodiversity #culturalrights #ruleoflaw	Nationwide
Doğal Hayatı Koruma Vakfı / WWF Türkiye	#accountability #ecology #culturalrights #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Doğa İçin Sanat Derneği (DİSDER)/Art for Nature Association	#accountability #ecology #culturalrights #artandadvocacy	İstanbul

Doğanın Çocukları/The Children of the Nature	#ecology #culturalrights	Nationwide
Eşit Haklar İçin İzleme Derneği (ESHİD) / Association for Monitoring Equal Rights	#accountability #antidiscrimination #equality #freedomofexpression #ruleoflaw	Ankara
Eşitlik İçin Kadın Platformu (EŞİK)/Equality for Women Platform	#accountability #womenrights #gender #LGBTQ+rights #equality #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	Nationwide
Fişek Enstitüsü Çalışan Çocuklar Vakfı / Fişek Institute – Science & Action Foundation for Child Labor	#accountability #childrenrights #labourrights #workplacesafety #equality	Ankara
FISA Çocuk Hakları Merkezi/Children Rights' Center of Idea and Art Workshop Association	#impunity #accountability #childrenrights #righttolife #fairtrial	Ankara
Genç LGBTİ+ Derneği/The Young LGBTİ+ Association	#LGBTQ+rights #youthrights #antidiscrimination #equality #freedomofexpression	İzmir

Gola Kltr Sanat ve Ekoloji Derneęi / Gola Culture Art and Ecology Association	#accountability #ecology #culturalrights #memory #equality	Rize
Gç Arařtırmaları Derneęi (GAR) / Association for Migration Research	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Gçmen dayanıřma Derneęi(GDD)/Migrant Solidarity Association	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality #gender	İstanbul
Gkova Ekolojik Yařam Derneęi / Gkova Ecologic Life Association	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights	Muęla
Hafıza Merkezi / Truth Justice Memory Center	#impunity #accountability #memory #righttolife #againsttorture #ruleoflaw #culturalrights	İstanbul
Hak İniyatifi Derneęi / Rights Initiative Association	#accountability #prisonersrights #refugeerights #freedomofexpression #fairtrial #impunity #ruleoflaw	Ankara

Halkların Köprüsü Derneği/Bridging Peoples Association	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality #culturalrights	İzmir
Hayata Destek Derneği/Support to Life Asscoation	#refugeerights #accountability #childrenrights #labourrights #equality #antidiscrimination	İstanbul
Hayvan Yaşam Özgürlük İnisiyatifi/Animal Life Freedom Iniatative	#animalrights #ecology #equality #antidiscrimination #righttolife	Ankara
Hevi LGBTİ+ Derneği / Hevi LGBTI+ Association	#impunity #accountability#LGBTQ+rights #refugeerights #antidiscrimination #equality #righttolife	İstanbul
Hukuk, Doğa ve Toplum Vakfı (HUDOTO)/Law, Nature and Society Foundation	#accountability #ecology #gender #ruleoflaw #culturalrights	İzmir
İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği (İFÖD) / Freedom of Expression Association	#accountability #freedomofexpression #freedomofpress #ruleoflaw #judicialreform	İstanbul
İkizdere Çevre Derneği (İÇDER) / İkizdere Environment Association	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights	Rize

<u>İklim Adaleti Koalisyonu/ Climate Justice Coalition</u>	#ecology #climatejustice #accountability #equality #ruleoflaw	Nationwide
<u>İklim Ağı/Climate Network</u>	#ecology #climatejustice #accountability #equality #ruleoflaw	Nationwide
İltica ve Göç Araştırmaları Merkezi Derneği (IGAM) / Research Centre on Asylum and Migration	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality #ruleoflaw	Ankara
İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD)/ Human Rights Association	#impunity #accountability #prisonersrights #refugeerights #righttolife #againsttorture #fairtrial #freedomofexpression #ruleoflaw #antidiscrimination	Ankara
İnsan Hakları Gündemi Derneği (İHGD) / Human Rights Agenda Association (Rights Agenda)	#accountability #refugeerights #prisonersrights #impunity #fairtrial #againsttorture #womenrights #childrenrights #freedomofexpression #ruleoflaw #antidiscrimination	İzmir
İnsan Hakları Okulu Derneği (İHO) The School of Human Rights Association (SHR)	#accountability #freedomofexpression #equality #gender #ruleoflaw #memory	Ankara

İnsan Hakları Ortak Platformu (İHOP)/Human Rights Joint Platform	#impunity #accountability #fairtrial #ruleoflaw #freedomofexpression #antidiscrimination #refugeerights	Ankara
İnsan Kaynağını Geliştirme Vakfı (IKGV)/Human Resource Development Foundation	#refugeerights #accountability #womenrights #gender #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality	İstanbul
İş Dünyası ve İnsan Hakları Derneği (Minerva)/Business and Human Rights Association	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #equality	İstanbul
İşçi Sağlığı ve İş Güvenliği Meclisi (İSİG Meclisi)/Jealth and Safety Labour Watch	#impunity #accountability #labourrights #workplacesafety #righttolife #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
İzmir Mültecilerle Dayanışma Platformu (İMDP)/ Izmir Platform for Solidarity with Refugees	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality	İzmir
Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu	#impunity #accountability #womenrights #gender #righttolife #LGBTQ+rights #fairtrial	İstanbul

(KCDP)/We Will Stop Femicide Platform	#equality	
Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı (KDV)/ The Foundation for Women's Solidarity	#accountability #womenrights #gender #fairtrial #equality #antidiscrimination	Ankara
Kadının İnsan Hakları Derneği (KİH) / Women for Women's Human Rights Association(WWHR)	#accountability #womenrights #gender #equality #fairtrial #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Kadın Koalisyonu / Women's Coalition	#accountability #womenrights #gender #LGBTQ+rights #equality #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	Ankara
KAMER Vakfı/ Women Center Education, Production, Consultation, and Solidarity Foundation	#accountability #womenrights #gender	Diyarbakır
KAOS GL / Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Studies and Solidarity Association	#impunity #accountability #LGBTQ+rights #freedomofexpression #antidiscrimination #equality #fairtrial #ruleoflaw	Ankara
<u>Kazdağı Doğal ve</u>	#ecology #climatejustice #accountability	Balıkesir

<u>Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği/Kazdağı Association for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Assets</u>	#equality #ruleoflaw	
<u>Kırmızı Şemsiye Cinsel Sağlık ve İnsan Hakları Derneği/Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association</u>	#accountability #impunity #LGBTQ+rights #antidiscrimination #equality #prisonersrights	Ankara
Kurye Hakları Derneği / Delivery Workers Rights Association	#accountability #impunity #labourrights #workplacesafety #righttolife #equality	İstanbul
MAZLUMDER/Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for the Oppressed	#prisonersrights #refugeerights #accountability #impunity #fairtrial #againststorture #freedomofexpression #ruleoflaw #antidiscrimination	Ankara
Medya ve Göç Derneği (MGD) / Media and Migration Association	#accountability #refugeerights #migrantrights #freedomofexpression #freedomofpress #equality #antidiscrimination	İzmir
Medya ve Hukuk Çalışmaları Derneği (MLSA) / Media and Law Studies Association	#accountability #freedomofexpression #freedomofpress #fairtrial #ruleoflaw	İstanbul

Mekanda Adalet Derneđi (MAD) / Center for Spatial Justice	#accountability #ecology #culturalrights #equality #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Mor atı Kadın Sıđınađı Vakfı (Mor atı)/The Mor atı Women's Shelter Foundation	#accountability #womenrights #gender #equality #antidiscrimination #righttolife #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Muđla evre Platformu (MUEP) / Muđla Environment Platform	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights #equality	Muđla
Mülteci Hakları Koordinasyonu (MHK)/Coordination for Refugee Rights	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality #ruleoflaw	Nationwide
Mülteci Hakları Merkezi/Refugee Rights Türkiye (RRT)	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #fairtrial #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Mülteciler Derneđi/Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association (RASAS)	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #childrenrights #womenrights #antidiscrimination #equality	İstanbul

Mültecilerle Dayanışma Derneği (Mülteci-Der)/Association for Solidarity with Refugees	#refugeerights #accountability #impunity #migrantrights #fairtrial #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	İzmir
Mülteci Destek Derneği (MUDEM)/Refugee Support Association	#refugeerights #accountability #childrenrights #womenrights #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality	Ankara
<u>Özgür Hukukçular Derneği (ÖHD)/Association of Lawyers for Freedom</u>	#impunity #accountability #prisonersrights #againsttorture #fairtrial #righttolife #ruleoflaw	Diyarbakır
Pembe Hayat LGBTİ+ Dayanışma Derneği/Pink Life LGBTİ+ Solidarity Association	#prisonersrights #accountability #impunity #LGBTQ+rights #antidiscrimination #equality #freedomofexpression #culturalrights #righttolife	Ankara
<u>Polen Ekoloji Kolektifi/Polen Ecology Collective</u>	#ecology #climatejustice #grassroots #equality #culturalrights	
Roboski İçin Adalet Girişimi/Justice for Roboski Initiative	#impunity #accountability #righttolife #memory #ruleoflaw	Şırnak
Romani Godi Derneği/Roma Memory	#accountability #antidiscrimination #equality #culturalrights #memory #childrenrights	İstanbul

Studies Association		
Rosa Kadın Derneği/Rosa Women Association	#accountability #womenrights #gender #antidiscrimination #equality #righttolife #fairtrial	Diyarbakır
Saadet Öğretmen Çocuk İstismarı ile Mücadele Derneği (UCİM)/Teacher Saadet's Fight Against Child Abuse Association	#accountability #childrenrights #impunity #fairtrial #equality #antidiscrimination	Mersin
Sığınmacılarla ve Göçmenlerle Dayanışma Derneği(SDDD-ASAM)/Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #childrenrights #womenrights #antidiscrimination #equality	Ankara
Sığınmacılar ve Mülteciler Dayanışma ve Yardımlaşma Derneği / Asylum seekers and refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA)	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #childrenrights #womenrights #antidiscrimination #equality	Kayseri
Sivil Düşler Derneği / Civil Dreams Association	#accountability #gender #antidiscrimination #equality #culturalrights #refugeerights	Hatay

Sivil Toplum Geliştirme Merkezi (STGM) / Civil Society Development Centre	#accountability #freedomofexpression #ruleoflaw #equality #antidiscrimination	Ankara
Soma 301 Madenciler Sosyal ve Yardımlaşma Derneği (Soma 301)/Soma 301 Families Association	#impunity #accountability #labourrights #workplacesafety #righttolife #ruleoflaw	Manisa
Sosyal Haklar Derneği / Social Rights Association	#accountability #labourrights #equality #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Sosyal Politika, Cinsiyet Kimliği ve Cinsel Yönelim Çalışmaları Derneği (SPoD)/ Social Policy, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association	#accountability #LGBTQ+rights #antidiscrimination #equality #gender #freedomofexpression #fairtrial	İstanbul
<u>Sosyal Yardımlaşma Rehabilitasyon ve Adaptasyon Merkezi (SOHRAM-CASRA)/Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment for the Victims of Torture</u>	#prisonersrights #accountability #impunity #againsttorture #fairtrial #ruleoflaw #righttolife	Diyarbakır

Suruç Aileleri İnisiyatifi/Surç Families Initiative	#impunity #accountability #righttolife #memory #ruleoflaw	Şanlıurfa
Tahir Elçi İnsan Hakları Vakfı/Tahir Elçi Human Rights Foundation	#impunity #accountability #prisonersrights #righttolife #againsttorture #fairtrial #ruleoflaw #memory	Diyarbakır
TEMA/Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights #equality	İstanbul
Temiz Giysi Derneği / Clean Clothes Campaign Türkiye	#accountability #impunity #labourrights #workplacesafety #womenrights #equality #antidiscrimination	İstanbul
Temiz Hava Hakkı Platformu / Right to Clean Air Platform	#accountability #ecology #righttolife #ruleoflaw #equality	İstanbul
Toplum ve Hukuk Araştırmaları Vakfı (TOHAV) / Foundation for Society and Legal Studies	#accountability #impunity #prisonersrights #againsttorture #fairtrial #refugeerights #ruleoflaw #righttolife	İstanbul

<u>Tutuklu ve Hükümlü Aileleri Dayanışma Derneği</u> (TAYAD)/Assistance and Solidarity Association of Families of Detainees and Convicts	#prisonersrights #accountability #impunity #againsttorture #fairtrial #righttolife #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Türkiye Çocuklara Yeniden Özgürlük Vakfı (TCYOV )	#prisonersrights #accountability #childrenrights #fairtrial #equality #antidiscrimination	İstanbul
Türkiye Ekonomik ve Sosyal Etüdler Vakfı TESEV/Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation	#accountability #ruleoflaw #judicialreform #freedomofexpression #equality	İstanbul
Türkiye Engelliler Konfederasyonu / Turkish Confederation of Disabled Persons	#accountability #antidiscrimination #equality #labourrights #childrenrights #culturalrights #ruleoflaw	Ankara
Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı (TİHV) / Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye (HRFT)	#accountability #impunity #prisonersrights #againsttorture #fairtrial #righttolife #ruleoflaw	Ankara
Türkiye Mülteci Konseyi	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights	Nationwid

(TMK)/Refugee Council of Türkiye	#antidiscrimination #equality #ruleoflaw	e
Türkiye Üçüncü Sektör Vakfı (TÜSEV)/Third Section Foundation of Türkiye	#accountability #ruleoflaw #freedomofexpression #equality #antidiscrimination	İstanbul
<u>Türkiye Vegan Derneği/The Vegan Association of Türkiye</u>	#animalrights #ecology #equality #antidiscrimination #righttolife	İstanbul
Uluslararası Af Örgütü Türkiye/Amnesty International Türkiye Branch	#impunity #accountability #prisonersrights #refugeerights #fairtrial #freedomofexpression #againsttorture #righttolife #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Uluslararası Çocuk Merkezi (UÇM) / International Children's Center (ICC)	#accountability #refugeerights #childrenrights #womenrights #gender #equality #antidiscrimination	Ankara
Uluslararası Göçmen Kadınlar Dayanışma Derneği (UGKDD)/International Migrant Women's Solidarity Association	#refugeerights #accountability #womenrights #gender #migrantrights #antidiscrimination #equality	İstanbul

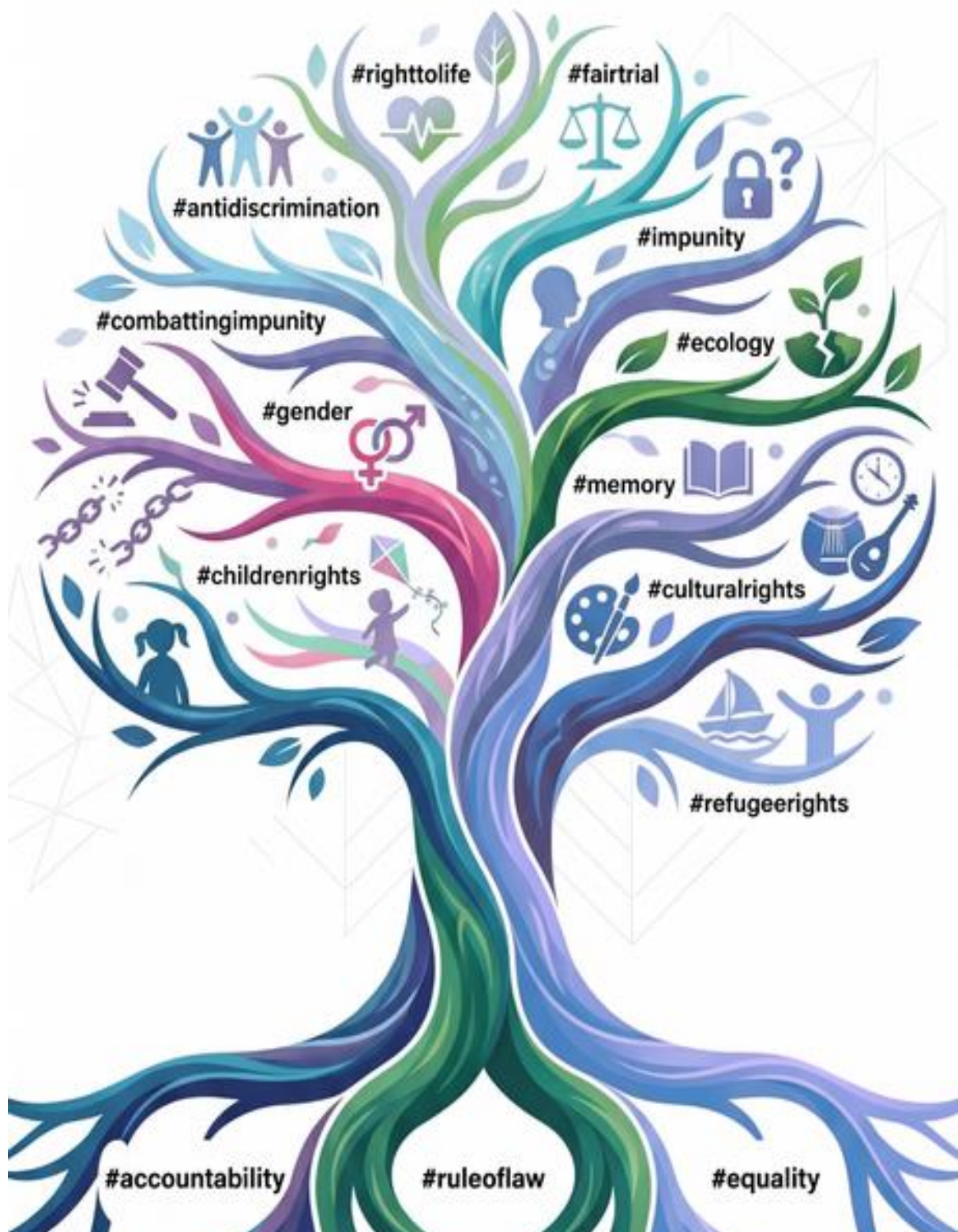
Uluslararası Mülteci Hakları Derneği (UMHD)/International Refugee Rights Association	#refugeerights #accountability #migrantrights #fairtrial #antidiscrimination #ruleoflaw	İstanbul
Uluslararası Şeffaflık Derneği / Transparency International Türkiye	#accountability #impunity #ruleoflaw #equality #antidiscrimination #freedomofpress	İstanbul
Üniversiteli Kuir Araştırmaları ve LGBTİ+ Araştırmaları Derneği (UniKuir)/ University Queer Studies and LGBTI+ Solidarity Association	#accountability #LGBTQ+rights #antidiscrimination #equality #freedomofexpression #culturalrights	Ankara
Van ÇEVDER/Van Environmental Historical Monuments Protection Research and Development Association	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights #equality	Van
Van Tutuklu ve Hükümlü Aileleri Dayanışma Derneği (Van TUHAY-DER)/Wan Association for Assistance to Families of Detainees and Convicts	#prisonersrights #accountability #impunity #againtstorture #fairtrial #righttolife #ruleoflaw	Van

Yaşam Bellek Özgürlük Derneği/Life Memory Freedom Association	#impunity #accountability #memory #righttolife #againsttorture #ruleoflaw #culturalrights	Eskişehir
Yeşil Artvin Derneği / Green Artvin Association	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights #equality	Artvin
Yeşil Barış Akdeniz Derneği / Greenpeace Mediterranean Türkiye	#accountability #ecology #ruleoflaw #culturalrights #equality	İstanbul
Yurttaşlar Derneği (HYD)/Citizens Assembly	#accountability #refugeerights #antidiscrimination #equality #ruleoflaw #memory	İstanbul

#### 4.2. Civil Society Organizations – Thematic Infographic

# Roots of Rights: The Thematic Landscape of Civil Society in Türkiye

Based on a 2026 mapping study of CSOs in Türkiye, this visual represents the "thematic tagging system" used to categorize rights-based work, establishing a structural link between legal principles and specialized human rights fields.



*\* This infographic is based on the mapping findings and thematic index presented in this report and was visually generated with the support of NotebookLM (AI).*

## **5. Conclusion**

Since this mapping was first undertaken in 2024, the human rights landscape in Türkiye has moved not toward progress but toward deeper regression. The culture of impunity has expanded well beyond the legacy of past grave violations: it has now assumed a systemic character, defined by the selective deployment of judicial mechanisms against political actors, lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders. The continued detention of individuals such as Demirtaş and Kavala — in defiance of binding ECtHR judgments — illustrates the widening gap between international legal obligations and domestic practice. At the same time, pre-trial detention has been weaponized against political opponents, new legislative instruments including the so-called disinformation law (Article 217/A) have further criminalized monitoring, documentation, and advocacy, and the peace process that began in late 2024, while representing a rare opening, has yet to translate into the legal and democratic reforms that would give it genuine substance. A negative peace — defined by the mere absence of armed conflict — cannot substitute for the structural transformation that accountability requires.

Civil society has responded to this environment not by retreating, but by still challenging — often at considerable cost. Organizations face mounting administrative oversight, arbitrary risk classification practices, closure proceedings, and the financial pressures of a deepening economic crisis. Yet the rights-based organizations that make up only a small fraction of Türkiye's 102,508 registered associations — just 1,534 — continue to document violations and create alternative spaces for accountability with remarkable determination.

The thematic landscape visualized in the infographic "Roots of Rights" that closes this report reflects the depth and intersectionality of these efforts. Accountability, rule of law, and equality form the root system from which all advocacy in this field grows, cutting across every thematic cluster mapped here. From this common foundation, distinct branches extend — combating impunity and protecting the right to life; anti-discrimination work linking LGBTQ+ rights, minority rights, and gender equality; fair trial advocacy; refugee rights; memory and cultural rights; and a growing ecology of environmental justice organizations that connect ecological protection to the rule of

law. This last branch faces its own intensifying wave of repression: activists challenging ecological destruction have increasingly become targets of prosecution in the lead-up to COP31, which Türkiye will host while Australia presides over the intergovernmental negotiations, even as civil society mobilizes an alternative People's Climate Summit to amplify the voices excluded from official negotiations.