

"SESİNİ YÜKSELT!"

"RAISE YOUR VOICE!"

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EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF TURKISH WOMAN
MIGRANTS



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FORE WORD

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It all started with a dream as old as our migratory process.

The preparations for the Nairobi Conference were in full swing. We were doing our best to contribute to them hoping that our problems and efforts to solve them would get some attention in Nairobi.

Yet, we had an uneasy feeling. One more of those conferences where we would be subject of the discussions of experts who had try to find formulas to ease the problems that we were facing or causing!

This has always created some bitterness in us.

We were convinced that we were the ones to tell the world who we were, how we felt, what we did, what our dreams and struggles were about. We were convinced that we should raise our voice in Nairobi. But how? We wondered how our sisters in other countries were doing it. Would it not be possible to come all together to discuss our position in all the countries where we lived as migrant women, from Turkey? Could we do it?

We have started investigating.

Government representatives wanted to see some proof that we could undertake such a project.

When we first visited the university where we should held the conference, they showed us the way to the Turkish woman who was cleaning the floors, without even asking what we came to do.

Which women groups existed in other countries, how could we reach them, would they be interested, would they be able to pay their travel expenses, little did we know.

We worked hard.

Soon, letters began to flow in, regional meetings were organised everywhere, delegates chosen, information gathered, plans made..We prepared our homes to welcome our guests, women groups in various countries sold their

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handwork to bring the travel costs of their delegation together. One delegate found it worthwhile to use up her savings of the last four years to come all the way from Australia. Why was it so special to us, this conference? It can only be understood when one gets to know our countless difficulties which we are trying to overcome. On the 6th of June, when we gathered in the Conference hall with 200 women, it had all worked out, we were no longer only a subject of discussions. We raised our voice!

A short reflection of our conclusions and demands is given in this little booklet. It was at this stage not possible however, to share all the information we have collected during our conference activities, from various countries on various subjects.

It is our next assignment to bundle them all in a book when we come back from Nairobi.

With our sincere thanks to those who made it possible for us.

Amsterdam, June 1985
Initiative Committee
of the
European Conference of Turkish
Women Migrants

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON LEGAL
RIGHTS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES
by Annethe Grooth

The policy on aliens and immigration of the West European countries often comes into conflict with the assumptions of values underlying the general idea on human rights. Two main motives play a role here:

The first is the orientation towards considerations of economic utility which leads to the migrant worker being kept in the status of a factor to be manoeuvred according to labour market policy considerations. Most of the cases of violation of the dignity of man and his basic rights to freedom and equality, as committed by the policy on aliens at the present time, have their basis in this very reduction of the migrant worker to his working properties alone for which there exists either demand or no demand. This is illustrated by the increasing restrictions on the following on of family members into the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Great Britain and Holland. This is illustrated particularly clearly by the industrial legal stipulations for aliens. The work permit systems are usually (i.e. in the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Holland and also in France for the time being) so designed that they offer the possibility of either granting or refusing work permits according to the economic situation. Simultaneously, they act as an instrument to check the

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legal residential status of the migrants. The granting of a resident's permit is (except in Belgium) made dependent on the work permit. The extension of a resident's permit can be refused if an alien becomes unemployed (this is the case in Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Holland). Unemployment can indirectly become the reason for expulsion.

The dependancy of law on economic considerations is also illustrated with, for example, the re-defining of the phrase 'illegal immigration' in Great Britain in 1978 whereby many immigrants suddenly became 'illegal immigrants' and the grounds were created to expel them according to economic opportunity of the country. A further example is offered by the regulation in the Federal Republic of Germany according to which the receiving of social security is reason for expulsion.

An increasing fear of, and hostility towards foreigners, besides the mentioned considerations of economic utility, may have contributed to the restrictive trend in the legislation on aliens in the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Great Britain and Holland. This hostility towards foreigners is reflected most clearly for the aliens in the administrative practises of all countries discussed here. The fact that this is at all possible rests first of all with the far too extensive discretionary scope granted to the authorities dealing with legal stipulations and which clears the way for arbitrariness. But this also partly rests with the obvious deviations

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of administrative practise from the legal stipulations. This becomes particularly apparant, for example, in the case of the granting of social benefits. Whilst, according to the social legislation of all countries - with a few exceptions in Great Britain - aliens enjoy equal rights to the national population, there is considerable discrimination exhibited in practise. In a comparison of legislation on aliens in the main countries of reception of the European Community and Sweden, the restrictions in the Federal Republic of Germany are particularly striking. In no other country must aliens wait so long until they receive anything nearing an assured residential status. In no other country is the percentual proportion of aliens with right of residence (or right of establishment) so small; nowhere else are there so few naturalisations; nowhere else similar restrictive regulations of the subsequent immigration of family members (as far as the age of the children who are entitled to subsequently immigrate or the subsequent immigration of the spouse of the '2nd generation' is concerned); nowhere else a similarly extensive catalogue of reasons for expulsion.

Great Britain is also not shown in a favourable light by the comparison. Here, the social rights of aliens are guaranteed the least. Strikingly restrictive are also the regulations concerning the subsequent immigration of family members. Sexist elements are also to be found here (cf. Volume 1, Section IV and Volume 2, Section

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A.IV) as well as the regulations concerning the industrial legal aspect. The most liberal laws for aliens or immigrants are without doubt to be found in Sweden. Upon legal immigration, migrants immediately receive the right of establishment. Those persons possessing this right do not require a work permit so that this problem does not even arise. Even the subsequent immigration of family member is regulated in the most generous manner in Sweden. After a three year period of residence the immigrants receive the right to vote on a local government level. The right to vote for aliens on a local government level will also come into force in Holland in 1986. In Great Britain members of the Commonwealth have the general right to vote and are equal to the nationals in this matter.

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REPORT OF THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND GOVERN- MENT POLICIES WORKSHOP

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the right to be electors or candidates at a national level. This regulation, which obviously leaves the migrants out of the political life in the country of residence, is contradictory to the most basic principle of democracy. The governments treat the migrant workers not as human beings but as objects which bring them economical benefits. Still more restrictive regulations are being introduced to the immigration laws parallel to the growth of the economical crisis in a country. On the other hand, these laws and the enactments which are continuously being added to them are far from being clear and thus open to comments. This brings an arbitrariness in their applications, and the destiny of a migrant is determined by the mood of a policeman or an official of the immigration bureau at a given instant. These laws and enactments are not translated into the mother-language of the migrants and they are so complicated that even the jurists can hardly follow them. Further, such widely accepted documents as the European Declaration of Human Rights, the European Migrant Rights Convention and the Program of Action are not taken into consideration by the national governments.

Despite the fact that Turkey is a member country in many West European associations, the application of visa's to Turkish citizens is a great problem to the Turkish migrant. This affects the family members coming from Turkey for the family reunion and those who want to travel in Europe for various reasons. For example, there are Turkish migrant women who couldn't participate in our conference due to the application of visa's.

The policy of the Turkish government for the migrant workers does not only remain at a level of disinterest, but it also works counter to them. In the Turkish consulates the migrant workers are being mistreated and they meet a lot of hinderances in the administration of their needs. The present oppressive regime in Turkey has resulted in an even

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The workgroup consisted of 37 delegates and guests. The majority of the participants contributed actively to the conversation, as a result of which a vivid and productive discussion took place and solid proposals were developed.

In the workgroup, primarily the discrimination of the migrants, especially the woman migrants in the West-European countries were discussed. Today, there exist two different legal statutes for the migrant women:

- The women who has come as a migrant woman herself is subjected to the general immigration laws.
- The legal position of the women and children who have come on the basis of family reunion is connected to the statute of the husband. This causes a lot of trouble to the Turkish migrant women, who mostly immigrated in order to live together with their partners. During 1 to 5 years they are completely dependent on their husbands as regards to their staying and working permits. The woman whose husband is put out of the country is automatically forced to leave the country. On the other hand, during this period of dependence, if she is treated badly, if she is beaten, if it becomes unbearable to live together, she still cannot leave her husband. In the workgroup many examples of such cases were given from various countries. Also, if the husband decides to leave the host country for good, then his wife and children are forced to yield to his decision. This affects especially the lives of young girls. Another regulation which is in effect in the Federal Republic of Germany is that the immigrant married to somebody from Turkey should wait at least a year before he or she can bring over the partner. To live separately during this period - which is accepted as a sufficient reason for divorce in Germany - results into numerous problems between many young couples.

Although in some countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Holland the migrants have the right to participate in local elections, in none of the countries the migrant workers have

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further inclination of these policies. For example, the Turkish migrants working in various democratical organisations are being threatened to lose their passports. This is a serious obstacle for the organisation of migrant women in order to claim their rights. Also, the Turkish government signs mutual agreements with the governments of the countries in which the migrants live, which causes harm to the rights of the migrants, such as the pension premium etc.

DEMANDS :

- The migrants should be given equal rights as the citizens of the countries in which they reside without any distinctions between women and men and they should be provided with the facilities necessary for the exploitation of these rights.
- The government policies forcing the migrants to remigration should immediately be brought to an end.
- The migrants should be given the right to participate in the elections in their country of residence. They should have a say in the matters concerning themselves.
- The women who have immigrated on the basis of family reunion should immediately be given living and working permits; the legal statutes making the women dependent of their husbands should be abolished.
- The migrant women should obtain social benefits under equal conditions as the native women. The deportation of the migrant women due to the social benefits they receive should be terminated.

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- The married persons should be allowed to live together without an initial waiting period.
- The policy of the reactionary politicians blaming the immigrants of the economical crisis and stimulating racism should come to an end.
- National immigration laws should be changed in favor of the immigrants in accordance with the existing international documents. The uncertainties in the laws concerning the immigrants should be removed and the arbitrary application of the regulations should be terminated.
- A European jurists commission should be constituted which will investigate the statute of the migrant women and which will develop proposals for its refinement.
- The residence should be secured and the deportation should be stopped, except possibly in extraordinary situations.
- The Turkish government should defend the rights of the immigrants and make mutual agreements in favor of the rights of the immigrants. In such mutual agreements the problems of the migrant women should be given special attention.
- The Turkish government should give up treating the immigrants as a machine of foreign currency. In this respect, the exploitation of the young immigrants under the regulation of the 'short-term military service against payment' should be brought to an end, since this situation also affects Turkish migrant women. The young immigrants should be exempted from their military service duty.
- The Turkish consulates should be administrated with an understanding serving the interests of the migrant workers.

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- The threatening and oppression of the Turkish government of the migrants who get organised to defend their rights should immediately be brought to an end.
- The migrant women should be sufficiently informed about their legal rights in their mother-languages.
- The application of visa's to the Turkish migrants, regardless of their being women or men, should be terminated.
- The migrant women should be sufficiently represented in all kinds of existing organisations affecting the immigration policies.

In order to achieve these demands, the migrant women should be more informed in all subjects, they should learn the language of the country in which they reside, and, most important of all, they should struggle for their rights through organising themselves. In this struggle they should cooperate with the women organisations, labour unions, peace movements and democratical forces in their countries of residence.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM by Vera Ebels-Dolanova

We reserve the term fascism for those movements and regimes, which point back to the ideology of the fascist movements which emerged in the 20th and 30th in different countries throughout Europe.

Movements and regimes, such as Mussolini's fasci, Salazar's Portugal, Franco's Spain and the all-annihilating national socialism of Hitler, are subtypes of fascism.

Fascism did not vanish with the defeat of fascist regimes. The ideology the aims and the practises of fascism have survived with individuals and groups, and have expanded it further by propaganda dissemination and by the socialization of younger adherents, while searching for the possibilities to let it gain wider influence and power again.

Often, these movements, which have re-emerged from their decades long-obscure, are termed 'neo-fascist' and 'neo-nazi'.

These ideologies should not only be understood as sets of ideas, but also as action programs, striving to 'make the predictions come true', as political and social projects.

Existing often for many years as clandestine secret societies, tiny closed groups or networks of likeminded, fascist groups transform themselves into pressure

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groups, activist leagues, paramilitary or terrorist gangs, and into political parties and mass movements.

The following endeavours form the fabric of fascist movements:

- fusing racism and nationalism
- introducing and disseminating the myth of threatening, world-wide conspiracy and getting this myth accepted as explanation of political reality
- obstruction and destruction of liberties, constitutional democracy and civilization
- striving to institute totalitarian control
- exercise of violence and intimidation.

These endeavours, taken separately and isolated, are not in themselves specific to fascism. It is the joint pattern that these strivings produce, embedded in the specific dynamics of the movement, that provides the criterium for labelling a group or a party fascist. We shall now treat each of these endeavours successively.

Not every racist or extreme nationalist is a fascist, but fascism is unthinkable without nationalism and/or racism. Everything that seems to divide the unity of a nation or race is seen as threatening and subversive, and accordingly treated as inimical, as something to be excluded or destroyed.

In their internal party publications or texts, meant for the inner-core cadre, the fascist and racist parties use to

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be more explicit. Sometimes outright racism, hate propaganda against minorities, and a violent program are partially concealed in mass propaganda.

Slogans like 'Britain for the British', 'France for the French', 'Holland for the Dutch', 'Europe for the European', 'the unity and integrity of Christian nations', and all the other instances of such apartheid doctrines are dangerous not only for the more recently immigrated minorities, but for any ethnic or religious minority living in countries under discussion.

The racial hatred propaganda, inciting to murder, has been systematically preceded and accompanied by campaigns of insinuations: false allegations holding immigrant communities responsible for all the social, economic, cultural and moral problems of our society, or holding entire communities responsible for the behaviour of individuals. These insinuations and incitements to racial hatred are aimed at isolating minorities, in order to make it easier to attack them without extensive social and political disapproval.

The rights of minorities must be protected not out of sympathy for a particular minority-sympathy cannot and should not be imposed, but out of regard for universality of equal rights and civil liberties. Not only because of the general necessity to defend democracy, the constitutional state and human rights, but more specifically because the rights of minorities are strategically the wea-

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kest point in the fabric of democracy, it is essential for parliamentary democracies to protect the rights and the security of minorities.

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REPORT OF THE DISCRIMINATION, XENO- PHOBIA AND RACISM WORKSHOP

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The meeting of the discussion group has started its work with the speech of Mrs Vera Ebels Donavola. 53 delegates and guests have taken part at this session. The opening speech has not touched upon the origins of facism and the forces who are behind xenophobia, therefore this speech has been criticised. It has been pointed out that there was a connection between the increasing unemployment and xenophobia in Europe; the phenomenon of xenophobia is being institutionalised and spreaded over and as a result of that, it also has been pointed out that the reasons of unemployment are being subjected to the immigrant workers.

The delegates have presented the evidence to the panel that the local governments do not take counter measures against the neo-fascists who commit crimes against the foreign workers and instead keep silence; it has been said also that as a consequence these aggressive persons are walking on the streets freely now and are attempting to arson activities against the houses and the organisation buildings of the Turkish workers, attacking people at these places also psychologically by sending threatening letters to the organisations. It has been told by the delegates that the Turkish immigrant workers together with all the anti-fascist democratic persons and organisations are conducting protest actions against this aggression.

It has been said that there were structural reasons behind the daily outlook of racism. These reasons are found in the laws which separate the immigrant communities from the native population and the exercising of the (law) articles against the immigrant communities. Also the attitudes of politicians and the broadcast of the mass media have been insiting the incidents against the immigrant workers. All these reasons can be classified as structural reasons.

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concerning laws are not being exercised against the fascist ideology and crimes. The delegates have emphasized the importance of a new statute law or penal-code banning the phenomenon of racism and xenophobia.

One other demand which was put forward by the delegates was that all the concerned laws should be reviewed again on the basis of the principal of equality in the West European countries in which the immigrant communities live.

Apart from the discriminating and oppressing practises in the West European countries in which we live and work; the reactionary forces of Turkey is provoking the Turkish chauvinism; especially by the instruments of the media and the religious publications. Mostly the young girls and women of our country are being affected by the situation. The circumstances separate them from the society, isolate them and especially destroy the chances of education of the young girls.

Our struggle against xenophobia does take different forms in each country in regard with the different conditions in each country, however this struggle should not be considered separately from the peace struggle, from the struggle for women's rights and from the struggle for democracy of all the anti-fascist democratic forces.

Our discussion group has specified its demands in terms of racism and xenophobia as follows:

- The declarations and attitudes of politicians and publications, which create a convenient climate for racism and xenophobia should end and government policies which are discriminatory should be stopped.

- Clear and detailed laws must be established against

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racism and racial discrimination.

- An end must be put on the explanations and claims of the politicians and the broadcasting policies of the mass media which point out the migrant workers communities as responsible for rising unemployment and the deepening social crisis, and also attempt to show the Turkish women members of the immigrant communities as backward persons incapable to achieve something. It must be emphasized that the immigrant communities in the West European countries do make contributions to the development of those countries and apart from this mutual effects or the mutual exchange of the different ethnic communities have some positive aspects or impacts on the cultural developments of those countries again.

- The governments of the West European countries should recognise the right to have an access to the mass media for the Turkish immigrant communities with the aim of presenting their cultural specialities to the public of their own countries; especially for the aim of lifting the prejudices towards the Turkish women migrants.

- The governments must create the possibilities for their own native children to have informed more on Turkey on the schools. An end should also be put on the parts of the existing education system which contains chauvinist racist aspects and also aims at creating hostilities between the peoples.

- Finally with the contribution of women migrants a European platform must be set up in order to develop the strategies. Strategies which will aim at combatting racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON EDUCATION

by Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and
Pirkko Leporanta-Morley

When migrant women (and migrant children) experience difficulties in the receiving country, the difficulties are often defined in terms of problems caused by deficits in the migrants themselves. The migrant woman (and child) is said to lack something, that is needed in the receiving society. The measures offered or suggested by the receiving society to alleviate the difficulties are geared towards compensating for the supposed deficits in the migrant, and the panacea, the means suggested, is often education. The migrant woman (and child) is to receive compensatory education, to remedy the deficits, and to be able to fit the receiving society.

In our introductory report we will propose an analysis of different stages in conceptualising migrant women's (and children's) difficulties, and the educational measures proposed for each phase. We will show in which ways different educational measures are based on theories locating the problems in the migrants themselves, as deficits. We will show that most of the educational measures serve the dual purpose of reproducing the powerless position of migrants, and making them believe that they are deficient. Alternative ways of ana-

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lysing migrant women's difficulties are suggested, and some consequences for educational measures for migrant women are drawn. Finally, an example of a migrant women's action will be presented, an action which functioned as true education for the participating Finnish migrant women, at the same time as this action, a 7-week school strike, also achieved goals set by the migrant parents for their children's education.

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REPORT OF THE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

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There are also views, on the other hand, which support the education of the migrant women and children to be given at all conditions and solely in their own language. Whereas the education of the migrant women and their children, more than the issue of in which language they should be educated in, the form content of the education must be based on the issue of how it should be taught in order to elevate them in the society they live in and to promote them in the fields of education and to create equal working fields for them.

The main problems in the fields of education were listed within the workshop group as the following:

- The lack of mother-tongue education of the children in the nurseries and kindergartens, and in general, the educational system being insufficient in giving the essence of both cultures and both languages.
- The governments of Western European countries do not provide sufficient educational facilities to migrant men and women at the same time, as in the example of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the other hand they do not give jobs to the migrants for the same reason, and as in the case of the Federal Republic of Germany, residence permits, as a result of their lack of knowledge of the language of that country.
- Housework and childcare hinder the migrant women from apprehending the language of the country of immigration. There are an absence of language schools around their close neighbourhoods and no courses as such are given to these women at their places of work or employment.

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49 delegates and guests participated in the workshop. The multi-facetness of all the issues, and their each being a topic in its own for a single seminar, hindered us from dealing with the issue of the preliminary researches done on the subjects in the countries in concern. For instance the issue of 'mother and child health-care' could not even be discussed.

It was observed that different delegates coming from different countries with different educational policies concerning the resident migrant workers from Turkey, had separate attitudes in approaching the issue.

For instance, while the right to obtain a residence permit is determined by the apprehension of the native tongue in Federal Republic of Germany; the same problem does not hold true for other countries. On the other hand, the steps and measures taken in the education of the immigrant Finnish children in Sweden cannot be wholly adapted for the education of the Turkish children in other countries.

Within the main introductory report submitted to the workshop, it was stated that the problems women and children faced in the countries of immigration was misinterpreted. In all these countries, with varying degrees in their attributions, all attentions were focused on 'the given' that migrants were 'mal-formed' beings. In most cases the governments of the immigration countries while dealing with the educational issue of the migrants fall into racist traps like regarding the migrant children's and women's own cultures and mother-tongues as hindrances. Whereas it is a known fact that the better the migrants from Turkey are acquainted with their own cultures and languages, the more successful they are in education, in getting acquainted with the culture of the country of migration and acquiring its language. The Western European governments carry the responsibility of setting up special funds to provide equal educational facilities for the migrants and their children as their own citizen.

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- The approach to education of the language schools and foundations do not fulfil the expectations of the migrant women. There is a lack of bilingual specially trained tutors conducting the courses and a lack of necessary tools and materials.

- The right to language education is not being revealed to the migrants and they are not encouraged and enlightened sufficiently about the issue in a methodical or organized way.

- The lack of vocational trainings available to the migrants force them to be left unemployed, to stay unemployed, or to find jobs as non-qualified workers in places with very bad working conditions.

- The children of the migrant workers, especially the young girls are faced with obstacles in their basic, and vocational educations. They are especially met with problems as they wish to academic educations. Their conditions are worsened by parents, who are not enlightened about the necessity and the possibilities of education.

The young girls are encouraged or even forced to take up the so called 'traditional women's careers', such as tailoring and hair-dressing.

- There is a lack of sufficient funds reserved for the education of the migrant workers, in spite of their considerable donation to the country's economy and the amount of taxes they pay. The already existent insufficient funds are cut down to make way for expenditures on armaments in the budgets of these countries.

- There is not sufficient dialog and co-operation between the progressive forces of the countries of immigration and the scientists and labour unions and educational authorities, about the language- and vocational educations

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of the migrant girls and women.

The Workshop made the following demands starting from the problems above:

- All facilities of education provided for the natives of the migration countries should be available to us migrants on equal scales as well. Special educational possibilities must be created for migrant women and their children, considering their problems in language and other problems, to provide actual possibilities for them to benefit from the right to have equal educational probabilities and possibilities. All economical facilities, trained tutors and personnel, and necessary tools and elements should be made available for the migrants in their apprehension of especially their own mother-tongues and of the country of immigration. The programs of such trainings should be controlled by the migrants themselves as well.
- Starting from the pre-school period, educational facilities should be provided for the apprehension of both languages and cultures; and bilingual tutors should be educated for this purpose.
- All migrant women should be given language and vocational courses in order to solve their educational and vocational problems. These courses should be conducted at the places of work within working hours for the employed; by the unemployment offices for the unemployed at suitable quarters; places within their closer neighbourhoods for housewives. During these courses the children of the migrants should be taken care of by special trained personnel.
- The content of the education of the migrant women should be based on modern-technological approaches and necessary funds should be set aside for the actualization of the above.

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- In all countries, women coming from different nations and national backgrounds should be trained separately, and not all together.

- The young girls and their families should be enlightened in their mother-tongues, orally or in written form about the importance of vocational educational trainings in keeping step with the modern technological developments. The governments of immigration countries should be encouraged to found the necessary economical basis for the issue. Special scholarships and personnel should be made available at schools for the purpose.
- The educational programmes should be cleaned of all discriminative, racist, chauvenistic, pro-war elements stimulating the hostility among different nations. An educational policy, which introduces the progressive, humanistic, and the democratic side of the national cultures of the immigrants should be implanted. The necessary co-operation and solidarity should be sought with the native progressive organizations of the country of immigration, with the scientists, labour unions and educational institutes for the accomplishment of the purpose. And, again, the tie between the democratic organizations of different migrant groups from different countries having the same problems, should be strengthened.
- The economical funds spent on armements in the Western European countries should be cut down; and these funds should go to the education of the natives and the migrants of those countries.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT

by Suzanne Stiver Lie

'Turkish migrant women and wage labour': a comparative study of Turkish Migrant women's employment in West-Germany, The Netherlands, Great-Britain, Sweden and Norway.

Turkish migrant women's situation is illustrative of many migrant women's groups from the European periphery and the Third World which have migrated to the advanced industrial nations of Western Europe.

Turkish immigrant's relationship to work was examined in West-Germany, the Netherlands, Great-Britain, Sweden and Norway. Their situation was compared to that of other migrant women groups and the female population in these countries.

There is a wide-spread stereotyped image of the 'isolated immigrant woman', a passive companion to her husband, seen most often as part of the family rather than as an independently active individual. This image is not supported by the data. On the contrary, Turkish immigrant women are extremely active in terms of their ties to the labour market. Their employment rates are considerably higher than those of their Turkish sisters. The circumstances of migration, as such, rather than immigrant women's early socialisation regarding norms for women and wage work seem to determine their labour force participation.

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Employment rates for Turkish immigrant women, like most Mediterranean and Third World immigrant groups, are similar to and indeed often higher than corresponding rates for the total female population of the countries examined.

Their employment profile differs markedly from that of the female working population in the countries within which they reside. With limited educational qualifications and language skills. Turkish women together with their spouses and other migrants from less industrialised countries, have become part of the urban proletariat. They are disproportionately concentrated within the manual sectors of 'women's work'. Their jobs are typically unskilled, physically demanding and uncomfortable, with low wages and little job security. Their concentration within the manual sectors of 'women's work' represents a new layer of segmentation within these labour markets.

The employed Turkish woman, like other immigrant women, shares with other women of the indigenous population the 'double burden' of combining productive and reproductive tasks, but this burden is exaggerated by being an outsider.

Well-qualified Turkish women experience special problems and often extreme frustration in finding jobs suited to their training. Many experience discrimination in the job market and encounter structural barriers in getting their educational credentials recognized. Often they are found in jobs for which they are over-qualified.

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this because of the following:

- The majority of them are classified as unqualified workers;
- Because of the economical crisis, they are rendering services in places that are rapidly going bankrupt;
- The role of racism and discrimination within the society that they live.

Because of tax-swindlings, false bankruptcies are staged, for portraying a profile of a higher than the true economic crisis in existence, and justifying the firing of the workers. As a result, the immigrant workers especially the women are the first to lose their jobs. They are pointed out as the main reasons for the economical crisis and so policies are being developed to ship them back to their own countries. Such 're-immigration proposals' take, by no means, into account the situation of the migrant women. They are treated as legally dependent subjects to their husbands. Within the discussion which brought up the matter of the early retirement age for migrant women, if they demand so. However, some participants think that this might bring a discrimination among male and female workers, which could be used to the benefit of the employers. But the majority of the participants seem to favour such a regulation, which could be designed preventing such abuses. It is a frequent reality that young migrant girls between the age of 15-16 quit their education and start working illegally, in all European countries. This is both due to choice of the family and because of the hardships faced in climbing the higher steps of education. The necessity of basic education is 'feighed to be seen' with reasons such as religion, cultural differences etc. and so they are not required to get the necessary education which the natives of the country do.

THE DEMANDS:

- A reduction in the weekly employment hours, so as to create more employment opportunities.

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The workshop group gathered with the participation of 23 delegates and guests. The ratio of migrant women from Turkey who are workers, are higher compared to Turkey, but lower compared to the ratio of working women in host countries.

It was also stated that in most of the European countries the migrant women workers have been working on heavy and boring menial jobs which require no skill or education. The migrant women from Turkey, were used unskilled working branches considered to be 'women's work' in general and/or at desk jobs and the like. As for the others, they were given menial hand labour and they had no employment securities. Most of the women worked as unregistered workers and do work overtime. These women don't have the slightest right to complaints. The ratio of unionized migrant women - with different ratios in different European countries - is still pretty low. The unions are pretty insensitive to this issue. Also, the employers are intent on preventing the workers from getting unionized.

Nurseries and kindergardens in all countries where working women exist, are scarce, and require long waiting periods after applications. In addition to this, in acceptance to the nurseries and kindergardens, children of migrant families are discriminated.

Low education level of migrant women, is another reason why the working women are employed in jobs with heavy working conditions. No effort is shown in West European countries to educate these women in their work-places, for new profession and skills, to create them new job opportunities. In general, the women from Turkey accept the heaviest of all conditions not to be fired. Besides the ratio of unemployed among migrant women from Turkey is very high. They get to be first ones to lose their jobs among the rest. They also get to be the last ones to be employed. The reasons for the women from Turkey to find jobs with difficulty, and their unemployment percentage being higher than the natives of the countries they have migrated into

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- The money spent on armament should not spent on creating new working fields and on the professional education of migrant women workers.
- The technological developments should not serve to create unemployment, but on the contrary they should serve people.
- The second generations should not be regarded as cheap labour, as their parents, but a solution should be found to their educational and working problems so as to provide an equality of employment for them.
- Language courses, and professional educational courses should be provided for the workers at their workplaces, within their working hours.
- There should be an end to discrimination in employing workers.
- Health conditions should be improved in factories and work-places; and long working hours should be reduced.
- The attitudes concerning the prevention of the free will of the workers to become union members should be stopped. The unions should be encouraged to give an active fight in the unionization of migrant women workers, and to enlighten the women workers about 'the issue of the unions', itself.
- The rules and regulations of the unions which inhibit and prohibit women workers from taking responsible posts within the unions should be changed.
- Special opportunities should be provided for migrant women from Turkey to make up their deliberately caused underdevelopment, so they can acquire equal jobs under equal conditions with others.

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- Equal pay for equal jobs: an end to the 'double exploitation' of women, especially of the migrant women around this issue.
- Social security should be working for everyone on the same and equal basis.
Throwing people out of their jobs as a result of pregnancy and illness should be stopped.
Pregnancy rest periods should be given as stated under the law. Laws drawn differently concerning pregnancy, in different European countries, should be regulated to the benefit of the working women. It should be made sure that these laws are not practiced on a discriminative basis against migrant working women.
- The discriminating approaches in the education of the second generation young girls should be abolished. Courses in different careers should be given to them to provide them with the possibility of jobs, thus enabling them to equal positions with equal status and equal jobs, like the others.
- The migrant women from Turkey should be provided with the right to travel around the E.E.C. countries, with the equal rights provided to the citizens of those countries themselves.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON HEALTH by Gretty M. Mirdal

It is thought that the rate of mental illness is very high among migrants. Some studies on the psychiatric problems of migrant workers show that nostalgia was the main psychological problem among these workers. Because of migrants are composed of people from different nationalities, different ethnic groups, who have left their countries for different motives and belong to different socio-economic classes, the psychiatric literature on migration is full of studies which have found contradictory results. In the introductory report, G.M. Mirdal proposed in the discussion to take up two questions. First question is: can one say that migrants have a higher rate of physical and psychological diseases than other groups of society? Psychological conflicts and problems can create physical disturbances, and on the contrary physical diseases can create mental disturbances. In her study which G. Mirdal conducted with 75 Turkish women living in Denmark, found that 92% of the women regarded themselves as being ill. And she added that if this study has been conducted by a physician, the rate of illness would be probably have been lower. This shows the difficulty to give a very clear picture of the rate of illness in the group of people that they are working with.

Second question is: what are the factors

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which are influencing the health of migrant women? These factors can be classified as physical, psychological and societal. The main physical problems of migrant Turkish women of the first generation are the same as those of Turkish women in rural areas of their home country. These problems are: a high number of pregnancies, birth deliveries, abortions, lack of medical service and malnutrition. This is not similar problem for the second generation migrant women who delivering in Europa. For instance, birth rate is lower among younger migrant women, and medical services are more adequate in Europe. On the other hand, these women are experiencing psychological difficulties, isolation, and alienation in the hospitals and clinics, where they are delivering, and there seems to be a higher rate of postpartum depressions. Among the physical factors it is necessary to mention the work accidents, such as back and shoulder aches and skin diseases which were due to working conditions. There are also differences between first and second generation women in the area of psychological problems. One of the main psychological difficulties of the first generation women is that interpersonal relations that they have learned in their home countries do not seem to be valid in the host country. This difficulty cause stress and one is under stress, pulse rate and blood pressure becomes higher, the secretion of adrenalin and cortisone increases. All these have adverse effect

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on health, such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardio-vascular diseases. The problems of second generation result from identity problems. They have to deal with two different cultures, but also they have to live with a migrant identity, which often is a negative identity. One of the greatest dangers that the younger migrant generation is facing now in terms of psychological problems is the development of such a negative identity. There are many societal and cultural factors which are related to illness. Some of the most serious factors should be mentioned as: re-establishing family relations with a man who is virtually a stranger to his wife and children, discrimination and racism in the host country, language difficulties, isolation, and oppressive sex roles. Some of the main characteristics of the sex roles of Turkish women are segregation among sexes, patrilocally extended households, restricted mobility of women, subordination of females to males. When psychological problems are expressed in terms of somatic diseases, oppressive sex role is highly related with the illness of the women.

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REPORT OF THE HEALTH WORKSHOP

Report on the physical and psychological problems of Turkish immigrant workers.

42 delegates and guests attended the workshop. After the introductory speech by the chairperson, Mrs. Gretty Mirdal from the psychology department of Copenhagen University presented her paper. She concentrated on the results of her study on Turkish women immigrants, 92% of whom were found to feel sick. She explained the causes of this by three factors, namely physical, psychological and social.

- Among the physical factors: the difference between the 1st and the 2nd generation is that women of the 2nd generation experience less complications during childbirth. Physical health problems of the first generation migrant women could be compared with the problem of the women living in rural areas of Turkey. Among them frequent pregnancies; miscarriages, births, lack of health care and undernourishment, come first. Birth and pregnancy complications of migrants who give birth in Europe are less compared to the women living in Turkey but more in comparison to European women. Besides due to loneliness isolation and feeling of estrangement migrant women may have depression following giving birth.
- Among the psychological factors stress, depression, mental disorder are prominent among the members of the 1st generation, which are the result of the incompatibility of the old traditions of the native countries in the receiving country. In the 2nd generation, however, identity crises become more acute.
- According to Mrs. Mirdal social factors are the alienation between wives and husbands after a long period of separation, racism, policies of discrimination and sex roles.

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49 At the end of the discussion, which was held after the

presentation of Mrs. Mirdal's report, the delegates reached the conclusion that immigrant Turkish women have immense health problems and a lot of disorders. About the causes for this, the workshop reached the following conclusions:

- The legal rights of immigrant women are severely restricted in the countries where they live.
- They have no job security and they are subjected to increasing repression.
- The health conditions at their workplaces are very bad, they are employed in heavy jobs. As a result of this, high occurrence of chronic sicknesses and occupational accidents are common.
- Housing problems (like insufficient and unhealthy housing) are having negative effects on immigrant women.
- Immigrant workers, who have mainly a rural background and who have a low education, are having difficulties in adapting to the new society.
- Immigrant women are negatively being affected by the insufficient and decreasing level of social services.
- The young women who belong to that section of society with restricted social and legal rights and with no right political participation, are being pushed to depression, suicide and psychological breakdown, by the emergency of conflict with their families when they attempt to adapt to the society they live in.

At the end of the discussion on proposals, in which many delegates and guests participated, it was stressed that the nature of the problems are related to class positions and that the proposals should also cover the problems of working women in Turkey.

DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS:

- The social position of immigrant women in the country

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they live in is affecting their health. For this reason, more special funds must be created to improve the social position of immigrants. Even a small reduction in military expenditure will provide huge opportunities in this field.

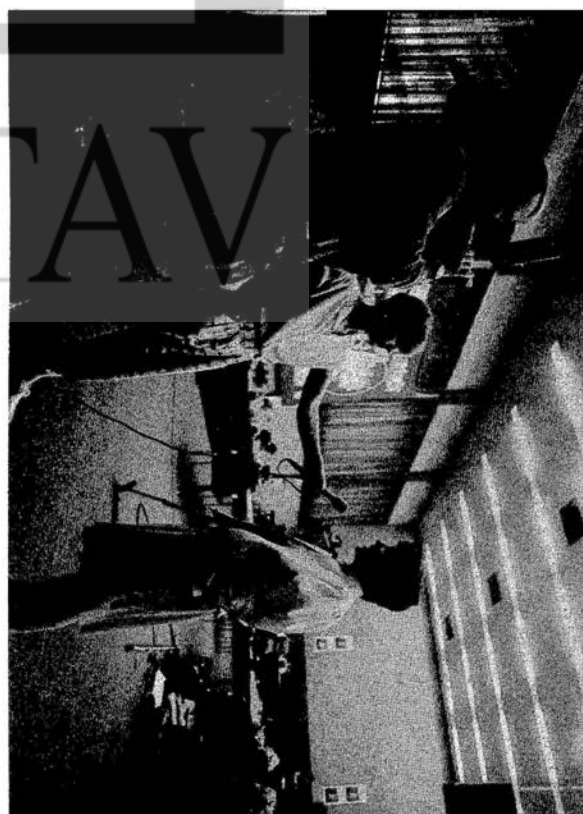
- Discrimination against immigrants in the allocation of social housing must be lifted, the rents must be reduced, its availability must be increased, low quality and unhealthy houses must be improved.
- Health education facilities should be provided to Turkish immigrant women and girls.
- Immigrant women may prefer to be in close relation and live near to their own people for a better psychological environment. This requirement, which may end up for immigrants living in certain quarters, should be met, but necessary steps should be taken to prevent the impoverishment and deterioration of these districts.
- Necessary measures should be taken to increase the number of medical staff with Turkish origin, and medical staff of the host country should be given special education about immigrant women.
- Immigrant women should be given detailed information about their illnesses and the treatment they are having at medical institutions. The practices of sterilisation and similar operations and treatments without their consent and information should be strictly prevented.
- Information and publications in Turkish should be provided to women on birth control, breast and uterus cancers. Turkish translation of medicine prospectuses should also be provided.
- Women immigrants should be provided with women

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translators at medical institutions.

- Opportunities and facilities should be provided to women to enable them to perform effective social activities among themselves.
- Sufficient broadcasting and mass communication should be made to immigrants in their own language and the number of programmes prepared by Turkish women for themselves should be increased.
- Immigrant women should be given information in their own language about occupational, health and safety matters at their workplaces.
- Employment of migrant women in jobs with bad conditions should be strictly prevented.
- By calling attention to the fact that employers do not apply necessary health rules in work places sufficiently, special control mechanisms should be provided.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON ORGANISATION

by Nur Erkiş

The question of organisation can be dealt with in two sections:

The first one and the one that really needs elaboration, is to clearly identify our circumstances, our aims and our duties and the principles of handling them. The second section comprises of the ways and methods of implementing these principles which may take different forms according to the circumstances in our respective towns or countries.

The points I would like to stress in section I are as follows:

- Turkish migrant women and young girls in West European countries, whose numbers amount to 600.000 are part of the social life of the countries they live and work in. Events in the host country directly affects them.
- Migrant women from Turkey, living and working in West Europe, are a part of the peoples of Turkey, of Turkey's working class and of the forces of peace and democracy who are forced to continue their existence outside their home country. They have warm and living links with Turkey. Therefore, they cannot remain indifferent to the events and the developments in Turkey which affect them directly.

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- Turkish migrant women also have specific problems arising from their being workers, migrants and women.

The question of organisation can achieve its aim only if these above mentioned three phenomena are handled in a complementary manner. It is not possible to exclude anyone of these points.

Migrant women can only overcome their three-sided problems by raising their voices; by participating actively in the political and social life and by taking part in the decision making processes. How will this aim be reached? From which starting points should one move towards the achievement of the goal?

Migrant women from Turkey show a potential for organisation. And this potential has gradually been increased in the recent years. The women's movement in Turkey is full of rich experiences. These experiences have accumulated as a result of a long and hard struggle both inside and outside the country.

The main politics on the basis of each and all progressive women's movements is to keep the Universal Peace and appose the arms race and war. The existing treaties of war, and funds of billions which are wasted on armament, are affecting the migrant women on a specific level as well. The tightening up of the housing, child-care, pregnancy

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and other social welfare aids; and racist shovenist pressures which are closely tied with warmongering politics make the migrant women's situations even more difficult. Naturally, none of these can be evaluated on an independent platform than the war-mongering politics practiced by the Turkish government today. This situation increases the active joining in of the migrant women in the struggle for Peace and Peace demonstrations. The only way for women to get equal rights in the society is through the struggle of opposing all discriminations and oppressions in all parts of that society. I would like to emphasize the necessity of the organisation of our women in labour unions, in Peace organisations, social set-ups, in anti-fascist associations and political parties. This is their only security against the dangerous discriminating, nationalistic racist policies at practice.

All activities to be carried out in this field will open up wider possibilities for us to be able to create a stronger women's movement. Migrant women and young girls, who are in close and warm contact with the women of the same; and who have developed better conscious awarenesses of the specific issues and who are more experienced; can, within their above established network of ties, bring and propose structural set-ups for the organisations and solve it through these means.

The rapid development for the organisation within the migrant women workers,

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housewives and young girls can only occur through efforts shown in dealing with the problems on practical bases. This is a hard and difficult duty. It requires patience and creativity; it demands respect for traditions, customs and habits; it requires sensitivity and understanding towards political views and religious believes. If we don't work this way, nobody is going to provide us with a potential women and young girls base which would immediately be ready to get organised; who would be ready take us at the face value of our few words and bright speeches.

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REPORT OF THE ORGANISATION WORKSHOP

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26 delegates representing migrant Turkish women from various towns in the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Denmark, France, Sweden, Holland, Great Britain and Switzerland as well as guests attended the workshop. Furthermore, an article titled 'Our women and Australia', prepared and sent by the Organisation of Progressive Women from Turkey in Australia, was read to the workshop.

The main speech of the workshop was made by Nur Erkiç from Munich, FRG. She defined the main task of the workshop as follows: 'The task of the workshop concerning the organisation of migrant women from Turkey in the West European countries is a multi-sided one and includes the spreading and raising to a higher level of the struggle to bring solutions to the many problems facing us.'

Migrant women from Turkey are an inseparable part of the society both in Turkey and in the respective host countries. They share common problems and interests with the working people of the host countries. But they also have specific problems arising from their being workers, migrants and women.

The experiences of the various delegates have shown that the above mentioned points are important points not to be neglected in the organisation of migrant women.

The outcome of the discussions was as follows:

- The first step in the organisation of migrant women are home visits. This creates close and warm personal links and it is very important to maintain these visits on a continuous and regular basis.
- An important factor in establishing a warm relationship with migrant women and gaining their confidence is to help them solve their concrete problems.

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- Activities concerning the children of migrant families are met with interest and contribute to establishing closer links with the families.

- A healthy relationship with the husbands of migrant women also helps to draw the women into organisational activities.

All the above mentioned activities make it possible for migrant women to work in an organised structure. These organisations show differences according to countries and regions. Migrant women are organised in workers' associations, in women's sections of workers' associations in working groups and women's unions. The form of these organisations is determined by the conditions of the country or the region concerned. Migrant women who come to work in these organisations gradually join the struggle for peace and equal social rights and take active part in the activities of the trade unions and peace initiatives. Thus, migrant women become more consciously involved in the struggle of the working people and peace forces of the countries they live in.

DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS:

- To create every possible opportunity and give utmost support for drawing more women into the organised struggle and to increase their organisational level.
- To create the necessary mechanisms which will enable migrant women to participate more actively and effectively in the decision making processes of the countries

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they live in, and to this end, to make every effort to increase the number and effectiveness of women members in the democratic organisations.

- To conduct activities in collaboration with and uniting all workers' associations, women's sections of workers' associations, women's sections of trade unions, women's unions and other women's groups, other existing organisations of migrants from Turkey and women's organisations of the host country.

- To enable migrant women to take more active part in the peace movement and to this end, collaborate closely with other migrant and native organisations.

- To spend every effort to create special women's sections in trade unions to deal with the specific problems of migrant woman workers and to conduct activities in order to increase the number and effectiveness of migrant women in the trade unions.

- To end all inter-governmental agreements which constitute a hindrance to the organisation of migrant women and which affect the socio-economic rights of migrants in an adverse way; to put an end to all propaganda and activities which are aimed to deprive them of their organisations; to get the Turkish Government and the governments of the host countries to work towards the realisation of our demands.

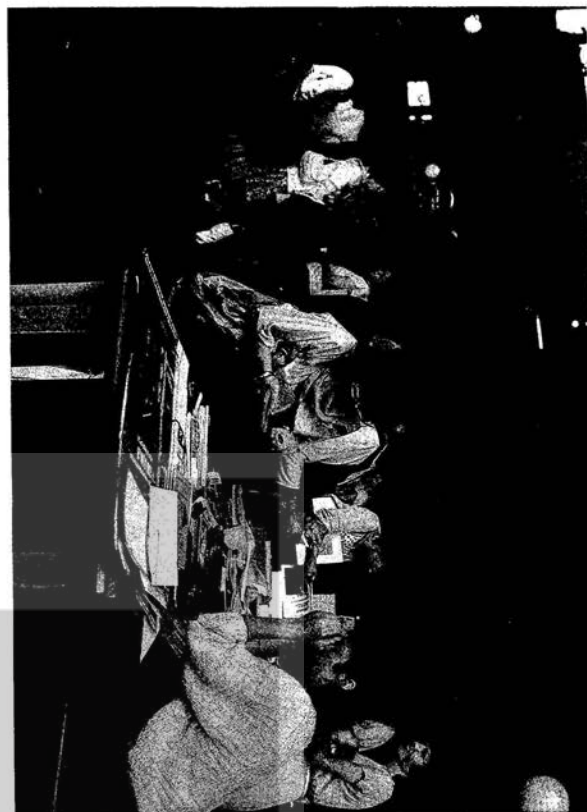
- To conduct activities among migrant women to raise their awareness towards the problems of young people concerning the 'short term military service against payment' and to get them to work towards the reduction of this payment.

- Governments must provide financial support for migrant women organisations and their activities.

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- To create the communication net-work for the exchange of information and experience regarding the organisation of migrant women.
- It was further established that the Conference has been extremely beneficial for all the parties concerned and the wish was expressed to prepare a brochure of the Conference documents and to repeat the Conference at regular intervals.

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INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON CULTURE by Deniz Kandiyoti

The opening presentation drew attention to the contradictory manner in which cultures of origin are treated in studies on migration. Seen in pejorative ways as 'backward' or 'traditional' by some, they are elevated to unchanging repositories of identity and as items for preservation' by others. Similarly, migrant women are treated either as 'modernizers' who are making significant progress towards emancipation or as passive victims. It seems important to go beyond stereotyped and simplified depictions of migrant women's life and experience. One step in this direction would be to recognize the dynamic nature of culture change and stop dismissing migrants' attempts for adjustment as the production of second class culture, depicting the changes in total, pejorative terms as being caught 'in between'. Instead, changes should be taken seriously as conflictful but potentially creative attempts to reconcile different sets cultural pressures. Recognition should be given to the contradictory nature of migrant women's experiences and to the ambiguity and created by the active interference of social welfare and other extra-familial agencies in migrant family life, mediating in conflicts between generations and the sexes. The 'cultural' gap between generations, and the problems of education

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and specially language in the second generation should receive special attention.

Finally, the empowering, solidarity-promoting aspects of women's culture in Turkey should be explored and cliché depictions of Turkish women as helpless should be moderated without any attempt at denying the very real patriarchal pleasures they are subjected to.

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REPORT OF THE CULTURE WORKSHOP

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The attendance was 40. These views were brought forward during the discussions, which followed the introduction by Deniz Kandiyoti.

Culture is one of the fundamental aspects of social life. In other words, it is a collective consciousness of the society. This consciousness has historical and social content. Common values-thought and behaviour forms, norms are important elements of cultural unity.

Apart from national and regional aspects of culture, it has also class character. These characters gain importance as means of self identification for people of a nation, people of a region and for an individual. Many speakers spoke about the existence of two different cultures in class society, namely culture of ruling class and elements of working class culture. Some speakers did not share this view.

Language as a mean of intellectual communication is the most important means of transferring and gaining knowledge, for mutual understanding and exchange of ideas. In short, it is most important mean for intellectual and cultural life and intellectual and cultural development. It is again the essential factor of cultural interaction and the most important building block for the development of formation of personality. It is the most important necessity and natural right for everybody to know his mother-tongue and to be able to express his thought and feelings with it. As with language, culture too, is not static and homogeneous. Process of change and development of culture depends on socio-economic changes and developments, and interaction of different cultures. Culture of immigrant women from Turkey living in West-Europe besides sharing common features show national, regional and ethnic peculiarities.

When we look at the cultural question of immigrant women we face with a two-sided problem. Their own cultural problems and problems they face in relation to the culture

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of society they now live in.

Studies on the cultural problems of immigrant workers have started much later than the studies on their problems in other fields. The reason behind this is both related to the complicated nature of cultural problems and to the approaches which saw the migration as a temporary phenomena. Studies on the cultural change of immigrant workers have shortcomings since they only focus on migrant culture without taking into consideration the cultural changes and developments which are taking place in the host and native country. In this sense they have deficiencies. Since the West European researches consider immigration from Turkey as a temporary phenomena, they fail to see the positive influence of the national cultures of the migrants from Turkey on the culture of the host country. This approach is wrong. Immigrant workers constitute sub-culture groups in the receiving country under the influence and interaction of both cultures.

Ruling classes in both receiving and sending countries are making use of many opportunities to bring the migrants under the influence of a culture, which serves their own selfish interests. They treat and propagate the culture of the migrants as an exotic, folkloric, touristic phenomena. They promote individualistic, fatalistic, pessimist attitudes against the lively, colourful, humanist and optimistic culture of immigrant women from Turkey, which promotes solidarity between people. Religion and chauvenistic motives are used frequently for this purpose. They are trying to make us forget our folk songs, which are upheld solidarity, collective action, production, our songs, which emphasize love and express the feelings of longing, our stories which are influenced by resistance, hope self-sacrifice, our sayings, based on collectivist understanding. In place of all these values they are marketing and pushing consumptive hopeless love songs, 'poor girl meets rich boy' films and photoserials, stories promoting consumptive psychology of miraculous enrichments, violence and hopes of solo salvations. With a cock-eyed understanding of culture woven with reactionary

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religious, chauvenistic and cosmopolit elements, they don't see the real causes and solutions to their problems. In literature, music and most of the branches of the fine arts, whatever is progressive, humanist and democratic are kept away from the migrants in a degree that is much worse than in Turkey. This is especially true for women with agricultural backgrounds. Her life which was going on within big family and village collective, by actively participating in family production is walled into the flat in a ghetto surrounding in the European countries where we have migrated into. Ghetto living, besides hindering a positive cultural development and interaction gives to a phenomena called the 'gettho culture'. Our women feel estranged in a country where the traditions and customs are absolutely different than their from own, and where the human relationships are arranged according to that country's own cultural structure. The immigrants coming from a closed-up society - which is a relative evaluation - and moving into a society where they are forced to live in ghetto's; just as can be seen upon the confrontations of all unknowns, develop a defence mechanism as a result of a certain timidity. They choose to withdraw, and not to lose their cultural identity as a solution to the matter. Specially, under the pressure of husbands and fathers they are forced to lead a life which is defined by the most introverted sides of their cultural values. The pornography, alcoholism or drug addiction in the countries where they have migrated into, creates blind reactions in them instead of healthy conscious evolutions. They keep the young girls away from any kind of cultural activities in which they can benefit from the humanist, democratic, progressive values and elements of both culture in order to save them from losing their religious behaves, moral norms and cultural values. It is not infrequent that young girls show a blind adoration to the degenerated values of the host country in a desperate reaction to their own life and own culture as a whole. Today, the Koran courses, which are used as religious exploitations replace scientific education in

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various places of West-Europe. Today, most of our women have a negative attitude towards the newly met culture of the host country, which also covers more progressive and democratic relations between the sexes and within the family. This prevents them benefiting from such more progressive and democratic relations and values. Universality and the positive influence of cultural interaction on both cultures are the features of cultural field.

A great responsibility falls on the shoulders of the migrant democratic organizations and other democratic organizations on the issue of the migrant women, especially of the ones of the second generation for helping them to know both cultures in depth and to be the active creators and bearers of a sub-culture, which combines the humanistic, democratic and progressive elements of both cultures. With a conscious cultural policy, the culture activities within the migrant women's organizations should be developed and authorized.

DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS

Proposals for research:

- In mass media, there should be cultural programs with sufficient quantity and quality and in their native language of migrant women.
Number of such programs should be increased.
- There should be opportunities in mass media to introduce the national culture of the migrants and specially to break the influence at the prejudices against migrant women from Turkey.

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- The 'new' cultural forms developed by the migrant workers, within the migrated countries should seriously be researched into:
 - a. the changes in languages;
 - b. structure of the family, family relations;
 - c. the changes in the relationship of neighbours;
 - d. consumption norms and tastes.

- Migrant women should not be the 'objects' of the researches, but the active in researches. They and their organizations should participate in decision making for drawing the policy of the research and its implementation.

- In researches new participation methods should be developed, and they should be implemented to serve raising the consciousness of migrant women.

- Progressive and humanist books, other publications and films from Turkey should be available for migrant women in host countries. Similar publications and films in host countries should be translated to their mother-tongues.

- Migrant women and their organizations, should have the right to participate in the decision making process, in drawing the policies and allocating the funds for all mass media programs and educational and cultural project related to migrant women.

- There should be cultural centers with bilingual, qualified personnel to provide opportunities and counselling to young migrant girls to enable them to get acquainted and to adopt to both cultures and benefit from their best sides.

- Migrant organizations and other related organizations should do their best to introduce the progressive, humanist and democratic elements of both the culture of the host country and Turkish and Kurdish cultures.

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FINAL REPORT DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS

FINAL REPORT/PROPOSALS AND DEMANDS

Upon the initiative of migrant women from Turkey living and working in Holland and with the participation of migrant women from Turkey living in other West European countries the first international Conference of Turkish Migrant Women was held between 6-8 June 1985 in Amsterdam.

97 delegates, 15 experts, 38 guests and a number of observers, i.e. about 200 participants from the FRG, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Great Britain, Norway and Turkey attended the Conference. The participants represented organisations and working groups of Turkish migrant women, trade-unions, political parties and other national and international organisations. The problems of migrant Turkish women and some proposals towards their solution were dealt with in seven work shops with the following titles:

- LEGAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES
- DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM
- EDUCATION
- EMPLOYMENT
- HEALTH
- ORGANISATION
- CULTURE

At the workshops problems of young girls were also discussed.

Apart from the workshops, a special meeting was organised during the Conference dealing with the problems of young migrant girls. During the workshops the situation of migrant women in various countries were compared, and their problems and experiences were discussed. The following conclusions were reached:

Today women constitute almost half of Turkish migrants living and working in European countries. In the last ten to fifteen years women have joined their husbands already in Europe; their number together with the number of 2nd and

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3rd generation young girls has increased considerably during this period. Not only their numbers, but also their problems have increased many fold.

- A considerable part of migrant Turkish womens' problems is common with the problems of all migrants, with the problems of the working people and women in the host country and with the problems of the peoples of Turkey. But the Turkish migrant women experience these problems even more severely and are subject to a three-fold exploitation as migrants, as workers and as women. They have a dependent legal status, they have language problems, their training and education are insufficient and they cannot make use of information flow and services. Furthermore, they are oppressed within their patriarchal family system, they are discriminated both in individual life and society and they lead a lonely and isolated life.
- What is even more important, most of their problems are not included in national or international laws and agreements, due to their marginal situation in society. Even those rights which are secured by laws are not implemented fully.
- These problems have become, and are still becoming, heavier as a result of the recent economic crisis in West European countries and in Turkey, and as a result of the mounting arms race and increased arms expenditures. It is of vital importance to the solution of the problems of Turkish migrant women to end the arms race, to promote detente and to stop placing the burden of the economic crises upon the shoulders of working people.
- Responsibility of the three-fold oppression and exploitation of the Turkish women lies in the unjust economic and social structure of the societies they live both in their home and host countries and in the unjust and anti-democratic world economic order which makes possible the

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other of their activities, to conduct joint or parallel activities whenever applicable and to organise such conferences regularly.

The Conference, showing that the achievement of the demands that follow depends first and foremost on the organisation of migrant women on every level, as workers, as migrants and as women, and on their organised struggle, calls on all migrant women from Turkey to raise their voices in an organised way.

DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS

- The immigrants, regardless of their sex, should benefit from the legal rights of the country they have migrated into, on an equal basis of the citizens of that country. The articles concerning the migrant workers should be lifted from the laws of these countries, and the practise of such articles at random should be abolished.
- The immigrants should be given the right to vote and be elected not only local but on national scales. The immigrants should have their own say within the decisions made concerning themselves. The migrant women should, by a sufficient number of organized representatives, be represented in all institutions and their branches which deal with migrant policies or which determine policies as such.
- Government policies enforcing remigration should be stopped immediately. The voluntary remigrates should have the right to get health and social security premiums

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plunder of the cheap labour force of the developing countries.

- The governments of both their host and home country paid and pay very little attention to the problems of the migrant women. This is more or less true for most of the political parties and trade-union movement of the host countries.
- Turkish women migrants, although live under three-fold oppression, have a big capacity to organise and fight for solving their problems. They can also add strength to and enrich the democratic women, trade-union and peace movement of the host countries, in their struggle for equal rights, for a just and democratic society and for peace.
- Since the situation, problem and struggle of the women of Turkey have strong influence on the problems and struggle of the Turkish migrant women in West-Europe, they cannot be indifferent to the economic, social and political developments in Turkey.

Considering the above mentioned points, our Conference has set the following demands to be forwarded to the governments of West-European countries, to the Turkish government and to international institutions and organisations. Our Conference has also decided to present these demands to the Conference and the Forum in Nairobi marking the end of the U.N. Women's Decade and to organise a workshop in Nairobi to this end. We believe that the migrant women's problems should be dealt with extensively in Nairobi.

The participants at our Conference were of the common opinion that such an exchange of information was extremely useful. They stressed the fact that in the different countries in which they live, the policies of the governments are in essence the same and therefore must be fought against together. With this in mind they decided to inform each

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deducted both from themselves and employers, and to benefit from all returns of such deductions. Corresponding payments must be in person, not to be subject to payment between governments. The right to come back should be in fact for the ones who chose to remigrate to Turkey. The time limits allowed concerning this issue should be lifted.

- Residence permits should be gratified legally. Deportations besides exceptional cases, should be stopped.
- The women arriving on the basis of family reunion should immediately be gratified residence permit and employment rights. The legal status which tie the young migrant women to the residence permits of their fathers or their husbands should be stopped. Upon marriage, the two partners should be unified immediately without the requirement of a certain waiting period. It would be advisable for a law commission on an European scale to be started where migrant workers reside, for the legal status of the migrant women worker's to be researched into and develop new proposals as to the matter itself.
- Migrant women should benefit from all social payments and services on an equal scale as the natives of the countries they live in, and deportation as a result of getting social payment should be stopped.
- The visa requirement for travel for men and Turkish workers alike should be lifted. They should benefit from the same rights of work, travel and residence as the other inhabitants of the Scandinavian, Benelux and E.E.C.-countries. Changes must be made in law around these articles concerning the above issue.
- National laws and regulations should be translated into the migrant womens' mother-tongues, and sufficient free advisory help should be provided for them around this matter in their mother-tongues.

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- The declarations and attitudes of politicians and publications which create a convenient climate for racism and xenophobia should end and government policies which are discriminatory should be stopped.
- Racism and discrimination in the European countries where migrant workers reside, should be prohibited and made punishable by clear and detailed laws. In these laws vague expressions which give way to abuses should be avoided and all present laws and regulations should accordingly be corrected.
- Employees of all government and municipal offices, health institutions, employment bureaus and professional organisations must be educated, under special programs, in order to end the discriminatory attitudes, toward migrants.
- Political speeches by politicians and by the mass media that display the migrant workers as the responsible persons of unemployment should be stopped. There should be an end to the continuous display of the Turkish migrant women, by the above; as pathetic, helpless and underdeveloped beings.
- The contributions of migrants to the economic development of the host countries, and the positive effects of mutual cultural exchanges, should be propagated.
- With the contributions of the migrant women as well, an Europe-scaled platform should be started in order to develop a strategy against racism, discrimination and hostility towards foreigners.
- All aspects within the educational systems promoting racism, chauvenism, xenophobia and hostility among nations must be eliminated. For this purpose unity of action must be developed with the democratic and peace-loving forces,

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scientists, and the trade-unions of the countries of immigration.

- Keeping in view the under-educating level of the migrant women workers, special educational possibilities should be developed for them; so that they can really benefit from the possibility of the equality in education.
- Language and vocational free courses should be provided for all migrant workers. These trainings should be conducted within working hours for the employed women, and by the unemployment offices for the ones unemployed, at proper places. Housewives should have provided courses that would 'help them help' solve their own 'childcare and education' problems.
- Special educational means should be devised, suitable to the needs of migrant women. And courses as such should be conducted by specially trained bi-lingual teachers and with the help of modern technical facilities.
- Vocational training adjusted to modern technology should be provided for migrant women. Young girls and their parents should be informed in their mother-tongues, about the importance of education and should be encouraged towards professions adjusted to modern technology. Special funds, scholarships and quotas should be set up for this aim.
- The educational systems should be regulated so to give the possibility to the migrant children to apprehend both languages and cultures within one educational system.
- From the pre-school age to maturity, on all levels, professional bi-lingual teachers should be trained to train the migrants. Special attention should be paid that these trainings are conducted with the help of special materials serving the requirements. In the carrying of these trainings

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migrant men and women should have the right to say and control these trainings as an organized body.

- Facilities should be given to the migrant women in the milieu of the mass media to introduce their own culture to the populace of the immigration countries and especially to break the preconceived prejudices formed against them.
- There should be a periodic and continuous number of broadcasts in the mass media in the migrant women's mother-tongues. The broadcasting hours and quality of them already in existence should be increased.
- The new cultural norms developed by the migrant workers in the countries of immigration should seriously be looked into. Within this research, changes in the language, family structure and interfamily relations changes in the neighbourly concepts, tastes and consumptive norms should be taken up. The possibility to gather together these data that have been accumulated in the different European countries in one single place should be found.
- Migrant women should have the possibility to benefit from the most qualified literature of both cultures. Humanist and progressive and scientific books, other publications and films of Turkey should be available in the countries of immigration. Similar publications and films of the host countries should be translated into the migrants' mother-tongues.
- The migrant women should get out of the situation of being the 'objects' of research. Researches should be conducted to raise their conscious.
- The migrant women, together with their own organizations should have the right to participate in the control, in the implementation and drawing the policies and deciding con-

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tends of all cultural, educational and research, and projects, and mass media programs concerning themselves.

- The religious education should be conducted not in mosques, but within the school system on voluntary basis, in humanistic contents and with modern methods, by teachers.
- Discrimination laws and regulations in the employment and promotion of the migrant women should be abolished. Their employment, especially in unsafe jobs should be hindered. They should get equal pays for equal jobs. Concerning all these, higher union mechanisms should be set up at the places of employment and the active participations of migrant women in these mechanisms should be provided.
- Social security should be practiced on an equal basis on everyone. Firing as a result of illness and pregnancy must be stopped. The laws and regulations of the immigration countries should not be practiced discriminatively upon migrant women.
- Keeping in mind the high unemployment ratio among migrant women, new workplaces must be created, by applying the modern technology not for profitseeking aims but for the benefit of people. And above all new workplaces must be created by reducing the funds spend on armament and using them for new investments.
- The vocational qualifications which the migrant women have acquired in their own countries, should be validated in the countries of immigration.
- The informations about employment probabilities and employment facilities should be passed on to the migrant women in their own mother-tongues and such informations should be prepared and distributed with the collaboration

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of the institutes concerned, and the organizations of the migrant women themselves.

- Migrant women who have been forced to work illegally should not be penalized, but legal work permits must be issued to them, thus preventing their exploitation as illegal workers, with no social securities what so ever.
- At their work places migrant women should be enlightened about work security and workers' health in their own mother-tongues. Special mechanisms should be set up at factories etc. to check on this considering that employers are not very peculiar about this issue where migrant women are employed.
- Migrant women should be informed educated and counseled on health problems, contraceptive methods about breast and vaginal cancer, in their own mother-tongues by people who can do that and through material written in their own languages. Prospectuses published in mother-tongues especially necessary concerning widely used medicines.
- Bilingual health supervision hands should be educated, who have had special training about the problems of migrant women and health personelle from Turkey should be increased in number. A sufficient number of translators in the mother-tongue should be available at the health centers.
- In health centers migrant women should be informed in detail in their own mother-tongues about their illnesses and about their treatment. No sterilization operations should be performed on them without their consent and knowledge.
- For their own psychological health, the migrant women should be provided with the opportunity to get together

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among themselves and conduct collective activities.

- All discriminations in the distribution of social housing against the migrants should be eliminated. The number of social housings should be increased, the rents lowered and dilapidated houses repaired. The impoverishment of the heavily inhabitant migrant neighbourhoods should not be allowed, and special funds should be set up for the handling of this matter.
- All opportunities and support should be given to migrant working women to attract more of them into organised struggle. The support that's already for this purpose given to migrant women and their organisations should be highlighted.
- In the countries where migrant women reside, more mechanisms should be created that would involve the migrant women in the decision making processes. In the actualisation of this, in order to increase the activity and number of migrant woman at all levels of the social organisations, special provisions should be taken, such as sparing special quotas for them.
- In the organization of migrant women: trade unions and women's branches of the unions, migrant women organizations and other migrant women work groups, other migrant organizations from Turkey and their women branches, women organizations of the host countries should join forces in a solidarity based activity.
- A more active policy should be followed in encouraging the migrant women to take a more active part in the Peace Struggle in the world; and a joint effort must be shown by the native-foreign organizations respectively.
- More effort should be shown in the formation of migrant

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women's disks within the unions to deal with their special problems. Within the unions and within the structure of all the existant organizations where migrant women are and could be organised, more effort should be shown in the organization of migrant women and in their taking more active parts in the different levels of such organisations.

- The regulations and implementations that hinder migrant women from taking active parts in different fields of life should be abolished. Especially such regulations concerning the unions activities must be changed.
- The demands and desires of the migrant women listed above can and should be actualized through new funds set up, and specially by deductions from the arms race of the countries in which they reside.

DEMANDS FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT:

- The Turkish government should defend the rights of the migrants from Turkey, and for this purpose bilateral treaties should be signed. Within such treaties, the problems of the migrant women should get special attention. On signing of such treaties or on the preperation of them, the views and demands of the organizations of migrant workers of Turkey and of the women's organizations must be taken as the focal point.
- The Turkish government should stop seeing the migrant men and women as currency flowing machines. Within this frame, the so called 'paid military service', which concerns the women as well; and which is only one of the

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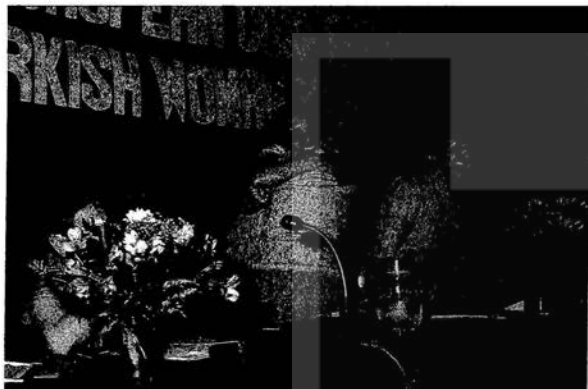
means of squandering money out of the migrant young men, must be stopped.

The plunder of the firms owned by migrants by the holdings in Turkey must be prevented, and the migrant workers' firms must be supported by the state itself.

- The Turkish consulates must be working with the aim and intention of serving and supporting the rights of the migrant workers from Turkey.
- The pressures and threats enforced by the Turkish government upon the migrant workers from Turkey, who get organized to defend their own rights; and the propaganda spreaded within the migrant workers to leave them unorganized must be stopped.
- Migrant men and women have provided Turkey with many billions of foreign currency, which is more than any of the merchants and contractors put together. Without forgetting this fact, the Turkish government should take the necessary precautions for the remigrating of women, children and young girls in order to solve the hardships they face and providing their active participation at cultural, educational and socio-economical fields. Sufficient funds should be set aside for this. The years of the remigrated women spent in migration should be counted into their old age pensions without having them repay it to the Turkish government again.
- In the implementation of the right to double citizenship for migrants, all abuses and irregularities should be abolished.
A migrant woman from Turkey, upon marriage to a man of foreign nationality, should be able to preserve her Turkish citizenship as well.
- The problems and the situation of the migrant women of Turkey is closely connected with the ones living in Turkey.

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The barriers set in front of the women in Turkey preventing them from taking active parts in the social, economic and political life in Turkey and the bans and barriers put on their way getting organized must be lifted. On the contrary, such activities must be encouraged on all levels. Arms spendings must be decreased, and the funds saved from such expenditures should be spent, on the education of women, on solutions of their health matters, and on the creation of new workplaces. The policy of throwing the burden of unemployment on the backs of the labourers, men and women alike, must be abandoned.



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CON- CLUSIVE REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP YOUNG GIRLS

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The Conclusive Report of the Workshop Group titled: 'YOUNG GIRLS'

We, coming from different countries, have prepared a workshop with the participation of 20 of our friends. We have discussed our problems have exchanged experiences; and have come up with proposals for the solution of such, our problems.

Even though the problems concerning the immigrant workers and immigrant women in general are similar, we, as young girls, also have problems, connected with our specific situations and demands. We consider, that this year being the 'International Youth Year', carried an even stronger accent on this issue, and thus we expect it to provide a further and positive step taken towards the solution of our problems.

The family structures within which the young girls are brought up enforces the young girls to adopt certain traditions. Whereas these young girls have not been brought up within the natural environment of such traditions as the first generations were, in their own native countries. Having been brought up in their natural surroundings, within a certain harmony with their own surroundings, have given the first generations a rooted strength of personality.

The migrant youth, especially the ones born abroad and/or the migrants of very early age, have in fact been deprived of such a development of personality. Besides being deprived of this, they have been brought up in an environment of conflicting values as to their family lives and to the surroundings where they live now. As a result, they have developed schizophrenic personalities. Especially the young girls who have to portray a picture of obedience at home, and who try to live up to the expectations and the values of the society that they live in outside of home when with friends. These girls have problems in developing a healthy constant personality. The situation brings up problems of

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integration for young girls at school and around their neighbourhoods; and it gives birth to continuous disturbances at home. This double conflict which exist both at home and outside drives the young girls to depressions, psychological breakdowns; causes them run away from home, or even pushes them towards suicide.

The solution to the problems of the youth should be handled with extreme care. They should be helped to take their place in the society where they live without being pushed to make black and white choices between their backgrounds and the society they are living in now.

We have, as the young participants of this conference, listed our problems as follows:

- In order to reach a solution to the mother-tongue problems of the second generation; classes should be given systematically in their own mother-tongues. The educational policy of mother-tongue courses given as electives and at random, should be stopped. Mother-tongue courses should be credited on the same basis as the other classes and there should be extra supporting mother-tongue classes on other subjects.
- For young girls of school age, there should be authorities who could help them in their own mother-tongue, at the municipalities and schools on matters concerning health, psychological issues; and the like...
- The local educational policies and programs should be re-evaluated, and that they should be renewed with the problems of the immigrants in view; and that the subjects dealing with us and with our own cultural backgrounds should be placed on the educational schedules of the schools.

- 89 - A school should be helpful in the sexual problems of the

young girls. Besides this, we would like our families to be enlightened about the importance and necessity of the sexual education of the youth.

- We do not want to have religious education to be gives as 'Koran courses' at mosques, but with modern methods at schools.
- We want equality of education, and the abolishment of any rules and regulations that prohibit us from being able to make a choice of a profession to our own liking.
- Certain preconceptions in the deciding of professions for young girls should be broken down. Young girls should be given the choice to any profession they wish, and not just careers as seamstresses or coiffures, which are considered as womens' careers.
- Young girls and their families should be enlightened in spoken or written means, in their mother-tongues, about the professional or academical education of the young girls; and local governments should be demanded to support them financially in their educations.
- We want a solution to be found to the issue of 'paid military service'. This problem which concerns most of us engaged or newly-married girls, should be looked into once again. We want the matters of problems concerning our lives around the issues of marriage and family reunion to be solved as immediately as possible.
- We want the young girls to be able to make their own independant decision concerning the matter of a definite return, to their own homelands.
- Young girls take certain moves, in order to intermingle with the society they live in: such as, running away from home.. Later, as a result of feelings of shame they

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cannot return. And since they cannot wholly integrate with the life outside either they are pushed to the wrong ends. Youth should be educated on these issues. There should be centers of information and responsible helpers who know about the cultural values of these girls and will be helpful to them.

- When a psychological research is conducted among the migrant women from Turkey, there are differences between the problems of the first and second generation. The main problem of the second generation is that of 'the search of identity'. Young girls should be helped with this problem. Conditions should be created where they can find a medium to integrate into the society where they exist today while retaining their own cultural values as means to develop their personalities.
- On behalve of the young migrant girls residing in different countries of Europe; we who have come together, as a result of this Conference state that, meetings such as this is very important for the youth. The youth will only be able find solutions to their problems as long as they can get together and dispute over them.

This year being the 'International Youth Year', we desire, our demands to be heard by bigger masses. Within 'The International Year', we expect concrete steps to be taken towards the solution of our problems. For this reason we call upon governments and to all work groups and organizations dealing with the problems of the youth.

We support all activities for the the 'International Youth Year' and we send our solidarity greetings to the youth which will meet in the month of July at Moscow, at 'The International Youth Festival 1985, Moscow'.

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TÜSTAV

