



Prevention of Human Trafficking and Victim Protection in Turkey: Experiences and Projects of Association of Family Consultants (AILEDER)

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AILEDER

GONCA POLAT

TURKISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Association of Family Consultants (AILEDER)

- Established in Antalya, in 2008.
- Has a branch in İzmir since 2011
- **Two aims of AILEDER**
 - 1. Training of family counsellors
 - 2. Provide support to solution of familial problems

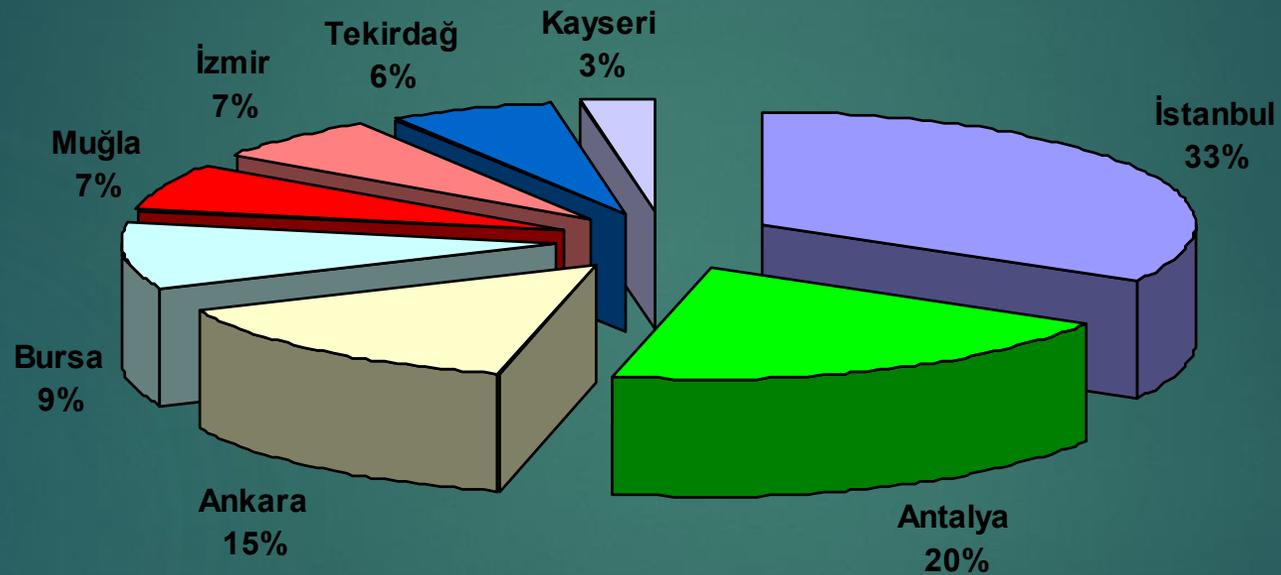
Members of AILEDER (80 members)

- 24 Social workers
- 20 Psychologists,
- 6 Pedagogist
- 13 Psychological Counsellor
- 5 Nurses
- 8 Medical Doctors (3 psychiatrists)
- 1 Sociologist
- 3 Other Professions

Why work on HT in Antalya?

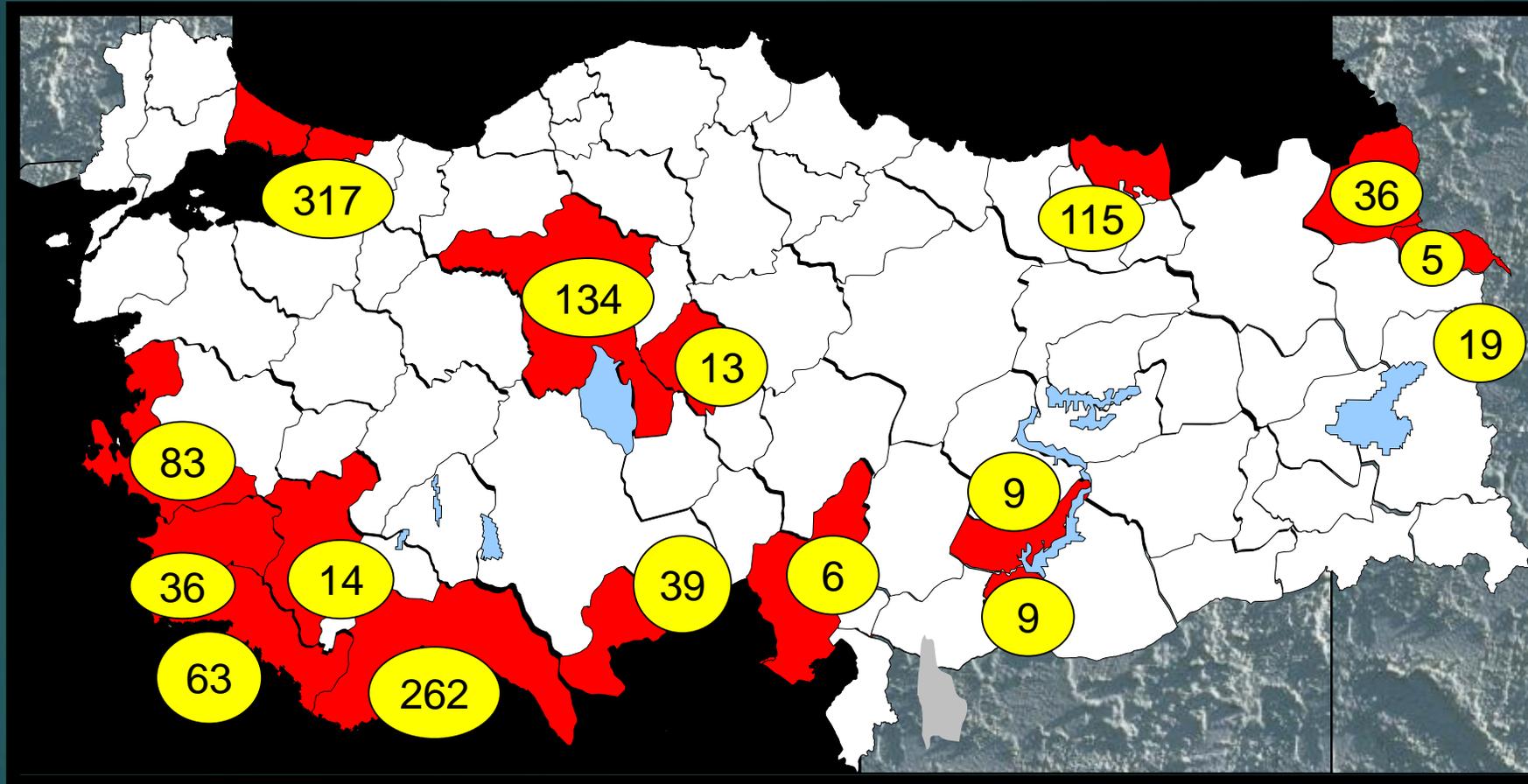
- ▶ Antalya is an attractive touristic city in the southern part of Turkey.
- ▶ Receives many tourists
- ▶ 2nd largest city that HT is observed

Foreigners living in Turkey according to cities(2011)



* TÜİK (www.tuik.gov.tr – 2011)

Most common cities that HT is observed (2005-2013)



Why work on HT as AILEDER?

Considering high number of victims of HT in Antalya, AILEDER decided to open a shelter and start taking place in struggle against HT.

The shelter was established on 1st Nov. 2009 and started to provide support to HT victims.

Work of AILEDER on Human Trafficking

- 1. Identification of the victim
- 2. Shelter
- 3. Project work
- 4. Informing and advocacy

Project Work

- ▶ Informing the foreigners, staying at foreigners' guesthouse in Antalya Police Department
- ▶ Informing the society on Human Trafficking by training the journalists
- ▶ Supporting Professionals working with Human Trafficking victims.
 - ▶ In 21 cities, 32 seminars were organized
 - ▶ 329 social workers,
 - ▶ 1326 social work students
 - ▶ 81 academicians
 - ▶ 37 psychologist, pedagogist, teachers
 - ▶ At total 1772 people were involved in the Project
 - ▶ 2 publications were published by the end of the Project

Work Done by AILEDER within the Prevention of HT and Victim Support Programme

- ▶ A total of 550 Women were interviewed (All of whom are sex workers).
- ▶ 46 of them were defined as victims.
- ▶ 40 of the victims stayed in the shelter, 1 of them was referred to medical treatment due to mental health problems.
- ▶ 4 of the victims were children and 2 of them were referred to institutions of Ministry of Family and Social Policies.
- ▶
- ▶ (01 November 2009- 10 July 2015)

General Profile of the Victims



- Woman, Child or Man
- Mostly Single Mothers
- Coming from poor or extremely poor families
- Mostly under-educated or non-educated
- Some have families, while some don't
- Exposed to family violence
- Problem families- parents in need of medical and psychological help
- Have limited access to educational and health services

General Profile of the Victims

- Vulnerable
- Subject to violation of human rights
- Have been maltreated and repeatedly sold during transition process and/or at the target country
- May lack passport and/or visa therefore be afraid of authorities
- Maltreated physically, psychologically and/or sexually
- HIV/AIDS and other STD
- Afraid of retaliation for themselves/families
- lack of trust to authorities and police
- attached to their abusers

Services given to the Victim during the stay at Station Shelter

- Providing information at all stages,
- Security,
- Health,
- Legal information
- Social activities,
- Psychological support,
- Psychiatric support,
- Accompaniment at all activities,
- Integration counselling

Experiences during Victim Determination

**“Each interview with victim is a new road
map for us”**

**“Each victim is unique and different from
others”**

Experiences during Victim Determination

- Some victims introduce themselves as non-victim, because of the fear from the trafficker.
- Lower IQ Scores (4 of 10 victims)
- Drug use without awareness (6 of 10 victims)

Experiences during Victim Determination

- - First shock: As soon as being kidnapped and brought to Turkey, the victims are told that there is no other work opportunity than sex labor and sent to jobs in a few hours.
- - Sex labor of victims make the traffickers earn a huge amount of money.
- Victims are forced to have sexual relationship 8 to 10 times a day at average.
- Victims' help requests from the clients are usually learned by the traffickers and they are punished with physical and psychological violence.

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Experiences during Victim Determination

- Various forms of torture:
 - - Keeping the victims hungry to loose weight since the clients like this ways (loosing 25 kilos in 3 months)
- When they have periods, being forced to sexual relationship. Put sponge or cotton into the vagina not to be noticed.

Experiences during Victim Determination- The traffickers

- The traffickers know the law and legal issues better than a lawyer and therefore they can hide the crime very well.
- They may send Money to the victims' families in order not to be noticed.

The nuance between being forced or volunteer

- One of the women was determined as a victim and sent back to her country. Later she came back to Turkey to work in sex labor, voluntarily.
- During the interview she shared her story:
- After going back to her country, the poverty continued and she lost one of her two kids, because of hunger and sickness. This loss made her question her values again...and she contacted with her traffickers and started earning money with their help.

Follow-Up



- Only 13 victims, of 27, were contacted for follow-up, after returning back to their home country
- Lower follow up rates may be related with security issues, fear of victims for further contact with Turkish authorities, to be anonymous

Ways of oppressing the woman



Showing dead, naked women bodies and threaten them

When the victim is sick, they don't receive any medical help, instead traffickers give them medicines.

Buying clothes, paying for hairdressers, etc.

Shelter experiences

Post-Traumatic responses (anxiety, over-sensibility, etc)

Changed biological ritm

Long sleeping hours after feeling secure
(sometimes up to 52 hours)

Thank you very much for your
interest!



PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT **AILEDER** FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

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