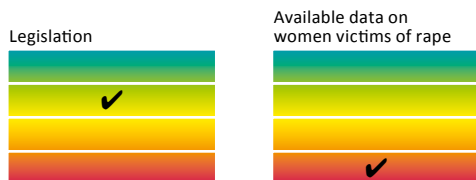


NATIONAL ANALYSIS

Turkey



Expert

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Legislation

The new Turkish Penal Code which was enacted on 26 September 2004 has become more inclusive in terms of the sexual crimes it covers. Crimes of sexual violence including rape are defined as “crimes against sexual inviolability”. Defining sexual violence under “crimes against individuals” rather than “crimes against the society” reflects a transformation to regarding women as individuals.

Marital rape is regarded as a crime in the new Code. Still, it is considered as an offence prosecuted on complaint.

Additional comments

In practice, victims of sexual assault experience many problems when they apply to the police and prosecution office. They face prejudice resulting from society’s patriarchal perspectives. The tendency to question womens behaviour might discourage them from filing a complaint and increase the trauma they experience. Therefore, it is vital to establish a Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and appoint experts in the field of gender equality and sexual violence to overcome these problems.

Available data on women victims of rape

Although we do not have any official data on rape victims in Turkey, there is an independent media institution called Bianet (bianet.org) producing data by gathering news from local and national newspapers, websites and agencies. Since 2009, Bianet has been publishing quantitative information on violence against women and rape on a monthly and annual basis.

According to the latest data produced by Bianet in January 2013, there were 150 rapes of women by men in 2012. Of these, 61% were raped by acquaintances and 39% were raped by unknown men. Acquaintances were comprised of friends, husbands, boyfriends, relatives, colleagues and neighbours, respectively.

Bianet separated the data according to the places where rape incidents occurred. Please see the numbers below:

63 women – at home

37 women – in the street

29 women – at places where they were detained

6 women – at their workplace

7 women – in hotels, bars and restaurants

Also, 8 women were forced into prostitution.



It is important to note that these **are unofficial statistics** gathered by the cases covered in local and national media.

Useful Contact

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