



II: NARRATIVE "SEE US" Project - SI TURKEY

Please provide **no more than four pages** of narrative about the project. The proposal should contain seven parts and correspond to the parts listed below.

1. Goals of the project. What are the overall goals that the project will accomplish?

The project of "See us" are planned in order to take attention to the problem "early marriage of girls" is a social awareness project in Turkey. The goals are to attract attention to the abuse suffered by the girls with this project, creating awareness and sensitivity in the community and in lawmakers and informing families about it. With the more consciousness created, it is the ultimate goal of the project to reduce/to end the abuse experienced by children.

2. Objectives of the project. It is important that your objectives are Specific, Measurable, Attainable/Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART).

Objectives of the project; To reduce the number/ratio of girls that are married under 17 years old within three years in Turkey (in 2022).

It is aimed to take attention to the abuse experienced by the child girls, to raise awareness in community and the lawmakers about this issue and to create solutions for the problem by raising awareness level.

When the first phase of the project is completed, it is aimed to reach 10,000 people that are girls and their parents with impressive target groups (members of the media, public administrators, civil society organizations, guidance teachers, preachers, health workers, etc.). The expectation is to affected remote target groups through PR Media Communication by this project. We aim to reach 10 million people through social media and traditional media communication.

3. Need project is addressing: State the specific problem the project is addressing. What led your Union / Club / Single Club to initiate this project? How will this project benefit women and/or girls?

According to the UNICEF report that is published in June 2016, 15 million girls are married every year in the world as child brides. In 2030, the number of children brides in the world is estimated to be around 950 million. When we look at Turkey, according to TÜİK 2016 datas, 111.241 people that's ages are between 16-19 years old were married.

While the number of early marriage men is 11.008 in this figure, the number of girls are 100.233 that is attractive data. This suggests that the rate of early marriage among girls is an 9-times more compared to men. According to TÜİK data; In 2016, the number of children officially married was 28.956.

Turkish Union investigates the forced marriage of the people that are under 18 years old in three main aspects.

The first aspect is psychology

It has been reported that the rates of diagnosing mental illness and seeking psychiatric support for women who are bride at childhood are more frequent than the those married at an adult age (Le Strat et al. 2011). In a study conducted in our country, 14.6% of early married girls are exposure to physical violence / abuse by the husbands 27.1% of them are subjected to emotional violence / abuse by people.

Psychological evaluation revealed that 45.8% of the cases are diagnosed with at least one psychological disorder and 16.7% of them are comorbid (two and more). The most common diagnoses are major depressive disorder (MDD) and adjustment disorder. Post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression are the other diagnostic groups. In addition to this, 29.2% of these patients have had suicidal ideation after marriage and 20.8% have had suicide attempts. The right to speak about her own life take away by her husband and/or husband's family with her marriage. These women can not be decisive about their children and their future.

The second aspect is legal.

When looking at the legal aspects; the regulations were prepared by the government in 2016 related with marriage with younger than 18 years old to eliminate the problems in the community and the government announced that this intervention was indicated by a one time arrangement; it showed that the NGOs in Turkey emphasized the need to be sensitive to this issue.

In the progress of negotiotation about the draft legal regulation, known as " Law on Sexual Abuse" in the Commision of the Parliamentary; the problem of "child brides" has been created the one of the main item on the agenda for a while in politics and NGO's in Turkey. The draft law withdrew from the commission especially after the sensitivity and opposition of the majority of NGO'ss and society to it.

Therefore,"See us" project that will be initiated and managed by Turkish Union will provide important support for steps to be taken in to prevent child abuse. T. C. In accordance with Article 41/2 of the Constitution; the state is obliged to take the necessary measures for the protection of children and establish the necessary organization for this purpose. Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; the offense of sexual activity by using a child's defenseless situation (such as mental, physical disability or addiction) has been charged as a liability to the States parties. Age of Marriage and Marry; According to Article 124/1 of the Turkish Civil Code (TCC) No. 4721, the age of marriage is 17 years old.

The third aspect is physical.

When viewed physically, it is understood that how dangerous this issue will be. According to the studies, pregnancies occurring in Adolescent age are more risky than pregnancies after 19 years of age. Many negative symptoms such as abortion, dead baby in the womb, premature birth, intrauterine growth retardation and anemia occur.

The struggle against this multidimensional social problem has to be carried out in a multifaceted manner. The priority is to provide a coordination between the relevant government departments, local governments and NGOs. As Turkish Union with the project of "See us", the our main goals will be create awareness " early marriage of girls in Turkey" draw attention to the problem on this issue in both the government and community.

4. Methods of implementing the project: Describe the specific activities the Union / Club / Single Club will undertake to achieve the goals of the project. Who is responsible for the activities? Where will the project be implemented?

"See Us" project will be realized the activities that are followed a specific order by Turkish Union.

In the pre-preparation phase of the project, project's logo, project's poster, project's brochure, billboard and badge designs were completed to be used in media and social media communication. The "See Us" Manifesto was written for project communication.

The manifesto that is prepared specifically to draw attention to child abuse will be read by the Soroptimists in each program and share with the public. Besides, in order to emphasize the captivity and helplessness of children to community, the bridal veils with the project logo, which is the distinctive sign of the project, were produced and made ready for use famous people and Soroptimists during reading of the manifesto. In addition, It is targeted to bring the issue to the agenda of the media by preparing press releases and press kits on the cities.

Before World Girls' Day, the first step of the "See Us" Project was launched on 10th October 2019 under the auspices of the Governorship of Kocaeli, in the partnership of Kocaeli Bar Association and Kocaeli Provincial Directorate of Family, Labor and Social Services with a special panel that is organized in Kocaeli.

Kocaeli Governor's Hüseyin Aksoy participated in the first program, the panel that was subjected in theme of "Children and Marriage", "Children and Bride" should not be side by side, was realized by keynote speakers of lawyers, pedagogues, social workers and women's health experts. The famous artist Göksel was supported the project by attending the panel and speaking about the issue. "See Us" Manifesto were read by Soroptimists who were wear bride veils with the printed project's logo.

Provincial Protocol, Press Members, Non-Governmental Organizations, Guidance Teachers, Preachers, 300 people consisting of risky groups and taken service by Social Service Centers were attended to the launch, the project was received wide press coverage.

Information Training within the scope of the awareness-raising activities to be carried out are planned on December-January-February in the Kocaeli branch of the Project and the trainings will be given by Kocaeli Provincial Directorate of Family, Labor and Social Services.



The project will continue with Panels and Information Trainings in new cities of Turkey. During the project, we aim at the practice in other cities as Adana, Ankara, Antakya, Istanbul, Izmir, Mersin and Samsun in Turkey in 2019-2020. By the support of famous names, the participation of the community is increased.

The project aims to support the education of girls who are rescued from marrying with the funds obtained from sales of "See Us" themed posters, t-shirts, badge and with member donations.

With the fund to be created, a research about the abuse of girls in Turkey will be conducted and shared the results with the public at a press conference and thus we aim that to bring out the current figures and to get support from the authorities.

- 5. Expected outcomes:** Describe specific, measurable outcomes(s) of the project. Describe the outcome or impact of the project on women and/or girls, including how many people will benefit? Describe how the project can contribute to the well-being of the local community? What is or will be the involvement of women and/or girls in the execution and the follow-up of the project?

Families, parents, public and private organizations, NGOs and Associations and, thousands of girls who will change their lives by affecting these individuals and institutions are included in the target group of our project. In the first phase of the project, the number of people we will be in contact face to face with is targeted at 10,000. We aim to reach 10 million people through social media and traditional media communication.

- 6. Partners:** Will the Union / Club / Single Club be cooperating with other organizations? Please list all other organizations involved in the project and explain the role they will play. Who will ensure communication?

The project is determined as the roof project of Turkish Union and it will be expanded to all 35 clubs will be provided with the support of Turkey . In the cities where the project is implemented, Governorships, Bar Associations, Municipalities, Provincial Directorates of Family, Labor and Social Services will be as project stakeholders.

- 7. Evaluation:** How will the success of the project be evaluated? Please describe when, how and what will be evaluated. How will the project be sustained? What role will the Union / Club / Single Club play in on-going support and monitoring of the project? Will the Union / Club / Single



In every city where the project is implemented, 800 to 1000 people are targeted to face-to-face and 1 million people are targeted to access through the media. The research study will be realized about the abuse of girls by early marriage in Turkey and outputs and detailed data will be reached.