

## Bariř ve Hakikat Hakkımızı Savunuyoruz!

Çok Őey yařandı bu topraklarda. Temmuz'dan beri yine savařın iindeyiz ve savařın Őiddeti de, bedelleri de zellikle Aralık ayından beri yoęunlařan operasyon ve sokaęa ıkma yasaklarıyla gittike artıyor. Her yanımızda bombalar patlıyor. Bu lkede insanların lmne, hepimizin gvensizlik ve dehřet iinde yařamasına sebep olan bu savař neden srdrlyor? Bizim buna rızamız yok.

Her gn artan lmler, patlamalar, yerlerinden g edenler, Őiddet ve tehdit olayları ierisinde yařamaēa mecburuz. Buna rızamız yok.

Çocuklar ldrlyor. Çocukların ldrldēi gelecekte ne olacak? Bizim buna rızamız yok.



**WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF LIFE,  
NOT DEATH!**

**We Defend Our Right to  
Peace and Truth!**

[www.yasamdanyanayiz.com](http://www.yasamdanyanayiz.com)

Bariri ve EĞİTİMİNE umudumuz ve haklarımızın peşine dřmeye aęırıyoruz.

Savař hibir zm getirmezken, her gn acıları bytrken sorunların bombalarla deęil mzakereyle zlmesine, hakikatleri konuřmaya ve barıřa ihtiyacımız var. Buna hakkımız var.

lmlerin, ablukaların, sokaęa ıkma yasaklarının son bulması, bebeklerin ve çocukların hedef olmaması iin bu lkeyi ynetenleri, Meclisi ve hkmeti asli grevlerini yerine getirmeye barıř iinde yařama hakkımızın tesisi iin greve aęırıyoruz: Bu savařın bir an evvel sonlandırılmasını, mzakerelerin yeniden bařlatılmasını ve kalıcı bir barıř iin zm yolları oluřturulmasını istiyoruz!

## **A CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE FROM WOMEN AND LGBTI GROUPS IN TURKEY:**

**“WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF LIFE, NOT DEATH!  
We Defend Our Right to Peace and Truth.”**

You may remember our international call for support and solidarity for this campaign in mid-January, when we asked women’s and LGBTI groups and individuals across the world to sign onto our petition in the midst of an intensifying war in Turkey. As we stated back then, the resolution process that was started in 2012 for a political solution to the Kurdish issue in Turkey has come to a halt. For the past seven months, we have turned back to war – with an ever-increasing level of violence. As of the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016, 20 districts of seven different provinces have suffered 57 curfews altogether, remaining under curfew for a total of 376 days. Currently the sieges on Cizre and Silopi have reached 59 days, while the Sur neighbourhood of Diyarbakır has been under siege for 71 days already. In these seven months hundreds of people – civilians, guerilla fighters, soldiers, police forces – have been killed or wounded.

In areas where clashes are intense and curfews have been declared due to military operations, tens of thousands of people have been forced or left no choice but to leave their homes, becoming migrants, i.e. internally displaced persons. Those who have been unable to leave, or who have chosen to remain in their homes, in their neighbourhoods despite intense attacks by security forces have been declared ‘illegal’. Their lives are under dire threat, and all their possessions suffer serious damage. Dozens of families have been forced to take refuge in crowded basements due to military bombings, with nothing to eat but a loaf of dry bread which they share. Pregnant women have either given birth early or miscarried. Many people have lost their lives, unable to reach hospitals due to sniper fire. The bodies of those who are killed remain in the streets for days, as people are not allowed by the state to claim their dead. Families are not given the right to bury their loved ones. Only this week, the naked bodies of women who have been killed in Cizre by state security forces have been displayed. Only this week, more than 60 people have been massacred in three separate basements in Cizre. Those wounded in one of these basements have been there for weeks, calling for an ambulance. Although independent committees, Members of Parliament, medical practitioners working for the municipality, etc. have all tried to reach this basement, they have been stopped by special operation teams. These are forms of torture that do not have any place even within the laws of war.

In these past seven months more than a hundred have been killed by ISIS attacks in Suruç, Diyarbakır, Ankara, and in Istanbul.

The country is riddled with hate, polarization, a sense of insecurity, and violence. The freedom of expression is almost non-existent, as those who call for peace are criminalized. Indeed, the number of those who are taken under custody, arrested, fired from their jobs because they have raised their voices against this war increases every day – as made apparent after a petition by thousands of academics in Turkey. It is under these dire conditions that we, as women’s and LGBTI organizations and individuals from

Turkey, came together upon the call of the Women's Initiative for Peace. We opened our petition to signatures on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, through a press statement. Throughout our campaign we came together numerous times to insist upon our right to peace and truth, and to declare that we do not consent to this war. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January we met as "1000 Women for Peace" in a square in Istanbul despite police pressure to end our protest. We gathered hundreds of messages for peace on our website. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February we embarked upon a journey to Diyarbakır – the center of the Kurdish area, of which the Sur neighbourhood is under heavy siege – in order to demonstrate our solidarity as women against this war and these sieges. Dozens of buses, full of more than 600 women from various cities across Turkey – Istanbul, Bursa, Rize, Ankara, Mersin, Izmir, Antalya, Kocaeli, Bolu, Eskişehir, Foça, Antakya, Adana, Muğla, Artvin, Iskenderun, Soma – arrived in Diyarbakır this sit-in. These women visited the Democratic Society Congress, the Diyarbakır Municipality and the Human Rights Foundation, and held a massive forum on the Truths of the Sur Neighbourhood and Self-Government, to the sounds of bombs falling upon Sur close by.

Our campaign has received support from groups and parties from countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Colombia, Croatia, the Basque Country, USA, Sweden, Tajikistan, Armenia, Holland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our signatories include feminist academics, writers and activists such as **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**, Saskia Sassen, **Frigga Haug**, Cynthia Cockburn, **Shirin Rai**, Shahrzad Mojab, **Zillah Eisenstein**, Nora Räthzel, **Ann Ferguson**, Ariane Brunet, **Sabine Scherbaum**, Rada Boric, **Gabriele Dietrich**, and Carmen Rodríguez; as well as, **Leila Khaled** from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, **Nuna Zvizdić** from Žene Ženama (Women to Women BiH), Nigerian human rights defender **Allamin Hamsatu**, **Shadi Sadr** from Justice for Iran, and **Soraya Sough** from the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylia.

Currently, as massacres rage on under sieges and curfews, as no trust is left for any promise or any law, as we are made witness to all kinds of brutality, to the naked bodies of women killed by state security forces, we present our petition to the Parliament of Turkey. **On Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of February**, we repeat our defence of our right to peace and truth with the signatures of 165 organizations and more than 10,000 women, and we demand that the Parliament carry out its duty to create the conditions for true negotiations. We are witness to Cizre, to Sur, to Silopi, to all these sieges, to forced migration, to being left without place, without home. We are witness to those who have refused to leave, to the prices they have been made to pay, to how they have been declared 'traitors' to be cleansed out. We are witness to war. We are trans and non-trans women who know quite well the results of this violence intensified by war. We are aware that we shall only be able to live safely and freely if a true peace is established. For this, the state is under the obligation to create viable conditions for negotiations; and negotiations require facing and speaking of the truths of war. We – as women who can no longer stand being made to live in a country based and built on lies and massacres – declare that we shall never abandon our struggle for the establishment of peace and truth.

**For more information:** [www.yasamdanyanayiz.com](http://www.yasamdanyanayiz.com)

## **OUR PETITION:**

### **WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF LIFE, NOT DEATH! We Defend Our Right to Peace and Truth!**

A lot has happened in these lands. As of July, we are again in the midst of war – with ever heavier costs as military operations and curfews are raging on in Kurdish provinces since December. Bombs are exploding all around us. Why, we ask, is this insistence on a war that kills people, and that forces us all to live in a state of insecurity and horror? We do not consent to this.

We are left no choice but to live in the midst of an ever increasing death toll, explosions, the displacement of people, escalating violence and constant threats. We repeat, we do not consent to this.

Children are being killed. How can we build a future in a country where children are murdered? We do not consent to this.

Furthermore, we cannot even speak out or speak about any of this. Rather than working on solving and removing the causes of this long-lasting war, we are becoming a society full of people unable to look each other in the face, unable to live without hating and lynching. Along with all this, there is the media, responsible for informing people, which swings between silence and warmongering. Why, we ask, is our right to truth violated each and every day, over and over again?

We women claim our right to peace and truth. We know that it is our basic right to live in peace, and to learn and know the truth. We repeat, we do not consent to this war!

The elimination of discrimination, inequality, violence against women and the LGBTI community, as well as the establishment of true justice, of a life that is equal and free for all of us is only possible in a state of peace. We need an actual peace in order to change a history that is comprised of being annihilated and overlooked, and to claim our right to life.

For this reason, we call all women and LGBTI persons to pursue their right to peace and truth, before we lose our hope.

As war has not brought and does not bring any solutions, as all it does is amplify our sorrows and pain every day, what we actually need is that problems be solved through negotiations, not bombs. What we need is to talk about the truths of war, about the truths of what is happening today. What we need is peace. This is our right.

We call onto the people who govern this country, the Parliament and the government to fulfill their primary duty to guarantee our right to live in peace, so that these deaths, blockades, curfews can end, so that babies and children are no longer targets of bullets. We demand this war be ended immediately, that negotiations begin, and that the way for a solution be paved for a truly sustainable peace!

## **SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS**

1. Women's Initiative for Peace
2. The Women's Council of the Federation of 78'ers
3. Adana Women's Solidarity Center and Shelter Association (AKDAM)
4. Adana Women's Platform
5. Adana Purple Association for Women's Solidarity
6. Anatolian Culture and Research Association (AKA-DER) Women's Branch
7. Anarchist Women
8. Women from the Ankara 78'ers Initiative
9. Ankara Feminist Collective
10. Ankara Women's Solidarity Foundation
11. Ankara Women's Platform
12. Antakya Women's Solidarity
13. Antakya Purple Association for Women's Solidarity
14. Antalya Women's Consultation Center and Solidarity Association
15. Women from the Antalya Student Parent Association
16. Independent Women's Initiative – Izmir
17. Peace Mothers
18. Women from Basel-Van (Switzerland)
19. Women from the Basque Sortu Party
20. Beşiktaş LGBTI
21. Bodrum Women's Solidarity Association
22. Bundesverband der Migratinnen – Migrant Women's Union (Germany)
23. Women from the Diyarbakır Branch of the Bureau Workers' Union
24. Centre for Women's Studies, Zagreb (Croatia)
25. Association to Combat Sexual Violence
26. Çekmeköy Women's Council
27. Çorlu Bread and Roses Women's Group
28. The Democratic Alevi Women's Movement
29. Democratic Islam Congress Women's Council
30. Dêrsim Roştîya Asmê LGBTI Group
31. Dersim Yenigün Women's Solidarity Association
32. Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK) General Service Workers (Genel-iş) Istanbul Women's Committee
33. Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK) Women's Committee
34. Women from the Resist! Bakırköy Çamlık Park Forum
35. Diyarbakır Women's Academy Association
36. Diyarbakır Selis Women's Association
37. Dûlsinya Women's Community
38. Women from the Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim Sen)
39. Bread and Roses
40. Elvan Women's Aid and Solidarity Association (Elvander)
41. Women from the Labour Party (EMEP)
42. Women from the Labour Movement Party (EHP)
43. Erktolia
44. Erzincan Katre Women's Group
45. Esenyalı Women's Solidarity Association
46. Home-based Workers Union

47. Fatih Women's Initiative for Peace
48. FeminAmfi
49. Feminist Women's Circle
50. Feministische Partei DIE FRAUEN (Germany)
51. Fethiye Free Women and Life Association
52. Filmmor Women's Cooperative
53. Women from the Migrants' Association for Social Solidarity and Culture (Göç-der)
54. Migrant Women's Association Göppingen / Migrantinnenverein Göppingen (Germany)
55. Rainbow Women's Association
56. Women from the Göteborg Alevi Culture Association (Germany)
57. Guerrilla Girls (A.B.D.)
58. Gülsuyu-Gülensu Women's Solidarity House
59. Women from the Gündem Children's Rights Association
60. The Women's Secretariat of the Media Communication and Postal Employees Union (Haber-Sen) Central Office
61. Hacettepe University Women's Studies Group
62. Women from the Art for Rights Initiative
63. Women from the People's Houses (Halkevleri)
64. The People's Democratic Congress (HDK) Women's Council
65. People's Bridge Association – İzmir
66. Women from Harfvolver
67. Hebûn LGBT Diyarbakır
68. Imece Domestic Workers Union
69. The Women's Committee of the Ankara Branch of the Human Rights Foundation (İHD)
70. Human Rights Foundation (İHD) – Women's Rights Committee
71. Islahiye Women's Initiative
72. Istanbul Education and Science Workers' Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Branch LGBTI Committee
73. Istanbul Kemerburgaz University Democracy and Human Rights Club/ Women's Council
74. Women from the Istanbul Kurdish Institute
75. Istanbul LGBTI
76. Izmir Amargi
77. Izmir Women's Initiative for Peace
78. Women from the Izmir Human Rights Foundation (İHD)
79. Izmir Women's Solidarity Association
80. Izmir LGBTI Initiative
81. Association for Support of Women Candidates (KA-DER) – Ankara Branch
82. Women's Peace Initiative – Stockholm (Sweden)
83. We Will Stop the Murders of Women Platform
84. Women's Education and Labour Association
85. Women's Labour Collective
86. Women's Labour and Employment Initiative Platform
87. Women's Freedom Assembly
88. Women's Life Association – Adıyaman (AKAYDER)
89. Women Writers Association
90. Initiative of Muslims Opposing Violence Against Women
91. Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) – New Ways Association

92. The Women's Stage
93. Women's Solidarity Foundation (KADAV)
94. KAMER Foundation
95. Campus Witches
96. Women from the Confederation of Public Workers' Unions (KESK)
97. KAOS-GL Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association
98. Kaws Kuzah LGBTI Community of Antakya
99. Keskesor LGBTI Diyarbakır Group
100. Women from the Cyprus Pir Sultan Abdal Culture Association
101. Red Pepper Association
102. Kocaeli Women's Platform
103. Kocaeli LGBTI Initiative
104. Free Women's Congress (KJA)
105. KOSKA – Women from the Northern Forest Defence
106. Köln Migrant Women's Association / Migrantinnenverein Köln (Germany)
107. LambdaIstanbul Trans and Non-trans Women
108. League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan
109. LeGeBIT Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity Research Solidarity Association
110. Lesbian Bisexual Feminists
111. Lesbenberatung E.V. (Germany)
112. The Women of Maltepe
113. Mersin Women's Platform
114. Mersin LGBT 7 Colours Education and Research Association
115. Women from the Mesopotamia Culture Center
116. Moira Sakarya Women's Solidarity Association
117. Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation (Mor Çatı)
118. Purple Campus
119. MorEl LGBTI
120. Women from the Movement for the Self-determination of Kabylia (Algeria)
121. Muğla Women's "It's My Labour" Association
122. Muğla Women's Solidarity Group
123. Muğla Karya Women's Association
124. Women from the Muğla Medical Chamber
125. Muş Women's Association
126. Women from Nor Zartonk
127. Middle East Technical University Bread and Roses Women's Studies Workshop
128. Freedom and Solidarity Party (ÖDP) Istanbul Women's Coordination
129. Women from the Association of Lawyers for Freedom
130. Peace Dialogue (Armenia)
131. Pink Life LGBTTT Solidarity Association
132. Pendik Women's Solidarity Association
133. Queer Eskişehir LGBTI Community
134. Women from the RedPhotograph Group
135. Rojbin Kurdish Women's Association – Amsterdam (Holland)
136. Sakarya Women's Platform
137. Sakarya LGBTI Initiative
138. Women Without Borders
139. Social Rights Association Women's Group
140. Socialist Women's Council (SKM)

141. Socialist Party of Refoundation (SYKP) Women's Council
142. Women from Talle Bau GmbH (Germany)
143. Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) Ankara Coordination Council Women's Commission
144. Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) Istanbul Coordination Council Women's Commission
145. Psychologists Association for Social Solidarity (TODAP) Women's Committee
146. Turkish Medical Association Women Physicians and Women's Health Branch
147. Women from Türkei Zentrum Düsseldorf (Germany)
148. Turkey Homenet/ Home-based Women Workers Solidarity Network
149. Women from the Federation of Families of Prisoners Assistance Associations
150. Association of International Workers' Solidarity (UID-DER) Women's Committee
151. Women from Unión Patriótica (Colombia)
152. Ümraniye Women and Youth House
153. University Women's Collective
154. Üvercinka Women's Association
155. WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform (Holland)
156. Women from the Association of Solidarity and Assistance for the Families of Missing Persons (Yakayder)
157. New Democrat Women (YDK)
158. Women of Earth
159. Urfa Living Space Women's Solidarity Association
160. Green Left Women
161. Women from the Greens and Left Party of the Future
162. Yoğurtçu Women's Forum
163. Yürümek Women's Fanzine
164. Women from Zenezenama (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
165. The Platform for Struggle for Women Held Captive by Force