

# THE ROLE OF POLICE IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN TURKEY

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## Abstract

Actions and implementations continue increasingly in Turkey to stop domestic violence, while the issue preserves its place in public agenda. The Turkish National Police, who has a major role in the fight to stop domestic violence, organizes within its organization as well as with other institutions training seminars to increase awareness for its employees and for other stakeholders.

The aim of this paper is to study the behavior, attitude and believes of police personnel against those who have been victim of domestic violence, identify mistakes and offer solutions. With this purpose interviews have been conducted with the administrators of Mor Catı Kadın Sığınagı Vakfı [Purple Roof Woman Shelter Foundation] and Kadın Adayları Destekleme Derneği-KA.DER [Women Candidates Support Association] to identify the mistakes of police in their responses to domestic violence issues. Additionally an analysis is provided of a survey conducted at Elmadag Vocational Police School with police officers that receive training to become Second Lieutenants in order to see the view of police towards domestic violence.

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**Keywords:** Violence, Domestic Violence, Police, Turkey

## Introduction

Domestic violence which is a social as well as a human rights problem occurs in all countries and Turkey is no exception to this, unfortunately it takes place in high numbers in Turkey. (Aile İci Sıddetin Sebep ve Sonucları, [The reasons and results of domestic violence] 1995; İlkkaracan, Gulcur, Arın 1996; Yıldırım, A. 1998; Altınay et al. 2008;

Turkiye’de Kadına Yonelik Aile ici Siddet, [Domestic violence against women in Turkey] 2009). The fight against domestic violence on efforts to prevent it are not just the responsibility of police but covers a wide range of institutions, many institutions have some form of responsibility before, during or after domestic violence. In Turkey some of the institutions can be counted as; law enforcement, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Directorate of Child Protection en Social Services, Ministry Of Justice, Family Court, Ministry of Health, Municipalities, Non-Governmental Institutions. The issue was first brought on legal ground in Turkey in 1998 with de acceptance of the Family Protection Law with number 4320 which made it possible to have the party that resorts to violence be moved out of the home.

Family is the base of the society. The Turkish Constitution in article 41 states *“the family is the base of the society on rests upon equality among the spouses, the government has the role to protect the family’s peace and prosperity, specifically which of the mother and child on to teach family planning on practice”*. Nowadays the change in society has greatest impact on the classic family. In Turkey the traditional family structure for the last 40 years has been in erosion (Yavuz and Yucesahin, 2012:104). The Turkish family structure, as a result of social change, has been facing problems of migration, economy, value changes, education, and health problems. *“When these problems are looked in depth it can be seen that “the problems of Turkish family has a wide range of problems from generation conflict, women issues, youth issues, mass media created and fueled problems, cultural and anomie related problems”*(Dogan, 2009: 177).

Related with above mentioned problems, the greatest issue that the family faces is the issue of domestic violence. Violence is described as: *“use of force or acting rudely to someone of opposite view or opposite behavior”*(Puskulluoglu, 2003:921), *“actions towards hurting or killing people”* (Collins, 1987: 1626), *“Use of force and pressure by individual or mass that may cause to physical or emotional damage”* (Handbook for combating violence against women, 2008: 12). While domestic violence is described as; use of force against the other family members, children and elderly, usually when we talk about domestic violence the use of force against women comes in mind because of the high number of occurrences. That is why in the efforts to prevent violence against women all members are covered. In 1993 accepted declaration of United Nations about the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as; *“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”*

Due to 4320 numbered Law for the Protection of Family in the general reasoning defines domestic violence as “any physical, verbal, or emotional harmful act by any family member against another family member.” Within de family, types of violence against women are identified as physical, verbal, sexual and economic violence (The Grand National Assembly of Turkey Research Commission Report, 2006: 91).

In the declaration of Council of Europe Convention On Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2011), violence against women is described as “violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Parallel to this definition in the 6284 numbered law for the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Woman, defines violence against women as any form of behavior or act that is defined as violence used against women on discriminative form, based on them solely because of they are women and which effects them and leads to deprivation of human rights. (6284 Numbered Law for the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Woman article 2c).

When domestic violence takes place, the law enforcement has to respond first. The law enforcement first makes sure that the victim receives medical assistance, after that takes a statement or complaint and informs the judicial authorities. After that the law enforcement acknowledges the victim about his social and legal rights while also making a risk analysis. After that the officer gets in contact with social worker or the Child Protection Institution. On the other side the legal investigation continues. If the family court decides for a restraining order the law enforcement ensures it is done. The views, perceptions, thoughts, and actions of law enforcement while performing these duties plays a significant role in how these duties are carried out.

In this study firstly the practices of domestic violence in Turkey presented. In order to study the role and practices of police in responding domestic violence, interviews have been conducted with representatives of Purple Roof Woman Shelter Foundation and Women Candidates Support Association-KA.DER. In addition to understand the view of police in fighting domestic violence a survey has been conducted at Elmadag Vocational Police School with 186 officers that were receiving first level management course and are to be deployed as second lieutenant after the course. The outcomes of the survey are presented and evaluated in this study.

## **Combating Domestic Violence in Turkey**

Although considerable amount of progress is achieved in combating domestic violence the desired level is not reached yet. Between the years 2000-2005 within police jurisdiction 1091 women have been killed in honor and custom killings (TBMM Arastırma Komisyonu Raporu, 2006: 112). Only in 2011 in Turkey, in 35.528 domestic violence incidents 33.869 women have been reported to be injured, this number increased to 55.528 incidents and 54.564 injured women in 2012. While in 2011 the number of women killed in custom and honor killings or as a result of domestic violence was 99 the number rose to 102 in 2012 (KA.DER, 2013).

Since the creation of the Turkish Republic a series of steps have been taken to involve women in to the social life. Turkey has been one of the pioneering countries that gave women suffrage in 1934. In addition Turkey ratified many international treaties and agreements condemning or targeting violence against women and put them in action. Within this frame The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ratified in 1949 and in 1985 the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was signed by Turkey and the declaration took effect in 1986.

During 1990s there have been tremendous efforts to combat domestic violence. In 1990 article 159 of the civil code that required women to have permission of their husbands in order to work, was annulled by the constitutional court. The 422 Legislative decree about creating Department for Conditions of Women and their Problems is announced, local municipalities for the first time built women's shelters in 1993 by Bakırköy Municipality, in Social Services and Child Protection Directorate shelters for women is opened as well. Later on in 1995 during the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, Turkey made all assurances and accepted all articles proposed. According to these assurances Turkey would start campaigns to increase awareness about domestic violence and specifically violence against child and women, start training courses for police, social services personnel, health personnel, parents, child development experts, etc. to increase awareness against domestic violence, to open and increase the numbers of shelters, legal advising offices, psychological support offices for domestic violence victims (Dogan, 2009: 196; TBMM Arastırma Komisyonu Raporu, 2006: 95). In 1998 in order to take measures for the protection of the victims of domestic violence 4320 numbered Law for the Protection of Family was enacted. The Bar Associations also increased their effort in the fight against domestic violence, for this purpose the Bar Association of Ankara created Women Consultation Board, followed by the creation of Istanbul Bar Association Women Law Commission Women Rights Implementation Center in 1999. The same year the network system that

would coordinate the Women Rights Commissions within bar associations. In 2001 the Civil Law was changed that covered many articles about men and women equalities. In 2002 the Optional Protocol for CEDAW was signed by Turkey (Dogan, 2009: 198). Turkey accepted and signed the Council of Europe agreement on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in 2011 that has legal power in international law. The agreement has been ratified in 2012. Turkey has been the first country to sign this document. The agreement first focuses on duties of the government in order to put in action policies that would eliminate the inequalities between men and women. As next it requires states to provide enough funding and support for protection, rehabilitation, legal assistance, shelters, and emergency hotline for victims of domestic violence. There is also focus on cooperation with non-governmental organizations, media, law enforcement to take preventive measures and to increase public awareness. (Declaration of Council of Europe, 2011).

With the circular of Prime Minister numbering 2006/17 it is ordered that law enforcement in their training programs must have subjects about approaches in incidents where women or children have been victim of violence, that law enforcement should have more females in these departments and that they should receive extra training about the subject. For this purpose a protocol has been signed by the Ministry of interior and Deputy prime Minister responsible of Women, Family and Children on 26/12/2006 to provide training called “*the role of police in preventing violence against women and procedures to be applied*” to 40.000 officers that work in police stations as first responders to domestic case incidents. This training focused on gender equality, violence against women, the Law for the Protection of Family and approaching victims of violence (National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence Against Women 2007-2010, 2009: 15).

In 2006 the Ministry of Justice sent out a circular to all prosecutors stating that, within constitutional law and all other related laws, whenever they learn about a family violence incident, they should start an investigation immediately, inform the family court to have restriction and protection order, once an order is given, ensure and coordinate that it is carried out by law enforcement.

In 2010 within the headquarters of Turkish National Police and Directorate of Public Order the “Department for Combating Domestic Violence” is created. Also in Directorate of Gendarmerie “women and child units” are created to fight domestic violence. In provinces this duty was carried out by police centers. The 4320 numbered Law for the Protection of Family was enacted in 1998 and in 2012 it was changed to 6284 numbered Law for the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against

Women (National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence Against Women 2012-2015). Regulations in the new law have significant steps for combating domestic violence. The law in articles 1/a,b,c, requires that in all actions have to be within the constitution and international agreements that Turkey has signed, while helping the victims of domestic violence human rights are to put in priority, respect for gender equality, and if there is restriction order for the perpetrator should be carried out with protection of dignity of the individual. According to article 2/f violence prevention and observation and centers are to be created and operated 24/7.

In addition to the protective order and restriction order that can be given by the court, the civilian authority and governor are given responsibilities and duties as well. In case of urgency the civilian authority can provide accommodation, social, legal or psychological advising services (Articles 3 and 4 of same law ). But when delay is detrimental the head of the law enforcement can decide for protective order, provide shelter and have under temporary protection. (Article 3/f). With the request of the person in protection and in presence of article 194 of the Civil Law the house can be registered as “family home” (Article 4/f and 1/c).

Allowing the civilian authority or even the head of law enforcement to make decisions for preventive and protective measures to be taken, in case of there is life threatening conditions to change identification information with written permission and request of victim, and not requiring for proof of violence in order to decide about protective measures are all important steps in the combat of domestic violence. According to article 13 of same law if the restriction order violated the family court can give three to ten days of prison to the perpetrator. The law in further articles states that the domestic violence victim will receive monetary support from ministry budget, that when the person under protection receives alimony, will also receive health benefits, and that in court the Ministry will be intervener as well. Regulation for the above mentioned law came in effect on January 2013.

The 5237 numbered Turkish Criminal law enacted in 2004 states that any criminal offense committed to spouse, children or any other family members will receive increased sentences. The law enacted in 2012 with number 6360 requires metropolitan municipalities and municipalities with more than 100.000 inhabitants to have guest houses and shelters for women and children.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) since 1990's have opened many foundations and associations, some to help on legal matters, others to support the victims of violence or to provide shelter. Some of these are Mor Catı Kadın Sığınacı Vakfı (Purple Roof Women Shelter Foundation), Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı (Women Solidarity Foundation) (KADAV), Kadın Sorunları Danışma Merkezleri (Women Problems Consultation Centers),

Toplum Sağlığı Merkezleri (Society Health Centers), Kadınlarla Dayanışma Vakfı, Kadın Merkezi Vakfı (Women Center Foundation) (KAMER), Kadın Adayları Destekleme Derneği (Woman Candidates Support Foundation-KA.DER) etc. (Altınay and Arat, 2008).

With the voluntary working NGO's that combat domestic violence interviews are conducted to ask their opinions about law enforcement practices towards victims of domestic violence. According to the representatives of *Purple Roof Women Shelter Foundation* and *Women Candidates Support Association-KA.DER* the police in their combat of domestic violence lack in the following areas:

### **Lack Of Training In The Field Of Domestic Violence:**

The victims of domestic violence when they apply to the police station their application and statement is not taken by officers that had training on family violence and gender equality. Sometimes police is insisting to have the parties make peace. The police do not see domestic violence cases as a crime that police should take care. The police are not aware that when a woman comes to the police center to complain that she is a victim of violence and not a perpetrator. The police are not persistent and determined in their decisions to prevent domestic violence and victims do not receive enough information about their rights.

### **Shortcomings in Communication with Victims**

The Police take the statement of the victim from behind a counter while the victim has to stand. When the victim is a woman usually there is no woman officer present. More than one victim statement is taken at the same time in areas that are not suitable. The police can't create empathy with the victim. Although it is forbidden the police can smoke in the room.

### **Lack of Cooperation with Other Institutions**

The police do not cooperate enough with other governmental or non-governmental institutions that are combating domestic violence as well. The police do not get enough support from these organizations. Because of this the police in many cases cannot help the victim direct to a shelter after their initial complaint. Because of the victim of violence cannot be put in a temporary shelter, most of the shelters are full now. The police cannot work in cooperation with the shelters and because of this cannot provide shelter to victims and this in many instances forces the victim to give up their complaint or have to return to the place where they faced the domestic violence act.

## **Studies Conducted in Turkey About Domestic Violence**

The first in field studies in Turkey about domestic violence started in mid 1980's. The study conducted in 1985 with 140 women that applied to the Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, Psychiatry Clinic showed that in %62 of the cases violence began in the first year of marriage. Another study conducted by same institution identified that women viewed being beaten in home as a family matter, that if they would share this secret with others the beating would be repeated (Yıldırım, 1998).

Between December 1993 and December 1994 by the Family Research Center of the Office of Prime Minister in 5 regions with 4,287 households a field study is conducted about the Reasons and Results of Domestic violence. The study showed that in urban areas domestic violence more common than in rural areas, that %57,7 of domestic violence started in the first years of marriage, that domestic violence decreased when income increased and that when both of the spouses worked the rate of violence decreased (Aile İçi Sıddetin Sebep ve Sonuçları, 1995).

According to the 1988 study of Population Studies Institute of Hacettepe University, in Turkey %44,9 of men when their wife does not obey their husband, believe that the husband has the right to beat his wife, %66,2 of men believe that at home men must have full authority and that the wife must obey the husband. The study conducted by Women Research Center- KAMAR in 1990 in 23 provinces with 2007 households indicates that %27 approve that men can beat their wife (Yıldırım, 1998: 39).

The field study conducted in 1995-1996 showed that women who have been subject to violence usually choose to leave home for a while, not to speak with their husband for a while or seek help from their relatives. Only %1 choose to leave home permanently, seek help from social services or government organizations, call the police, go to a health center or go to a shelter and there was no one that applied to judicial authorities to have their spouse stand trial (İlkkaracan, et al., 1996: 51).

On the other hand the study conducted by Yıldırım in 1998 indicated that %58,9 of those subject to domestic violence apply to the police. Around half of those (%46,9) going to the police as last resort to stop domestic violence indicate that police tried to make peace between parties, %25,8 indicated that police was concerned, did not care about their condition, %7,6 indicated that police viewed them as offender, while %18,2 indicated that police approached them very understanding and professionally (Yıldırım, 1998: 86).

In 2006 and 2007 through TÜBİTAK Social Research Group throughout all Turkey a study was conducted that looked in to violence against women, which showed that %5 of women indicated that when they faced violence ask police for help, the percentage increased to %13 when the

subject that faced violence was the neighbor to seek police help. These numbers indicate that the willingness to call police for help is still low. Again those that believe that police is fulfilling their duty in preventing domestic violence is only %20. On the other hand %33 believe that the state through training the police, %60-74 that the state through training men, opening shelters, supporting institutions that work for the cause, and implementing higher sentences the state can prevent men from using violence to their spouses (Altınay and Arat, 2008: 93-101).

Between December 2007 and February 2009 the most extensive study throughout the whole country was conducted about domestic violence and in this study only %4,5 of the respondents indicated that they would apply to police or gendarmerie when they faced violence. Of the women that had sought help from police after facing violence %41 indicated they were pleased with behavior and approach of police. The same study indicates that when asked to victims of violence what they would do if they today would face domestic violence, only %10 indicated that they would apply to official authorities or non-governmental organizations (Turkiye’de Kadına Yonelik Aile ici Siddet, 2009: 235).

By Bağlı and Ozensel in the study conducted in 2007 with 190 inmates that were sentenced because of honor and custom killings, it was indicated by %48,4 of respondents that increasing sentence time in honor killings would not have deterrent effect, %47,9 of participants indicated that they did not regret what they did, %27 indicated that their families responded positive to the killing %42,2 responded that their environment responded positive to the killing, and %53,7 indicated that they were appreciated by other inmates (Bağlı and Ozensel, 2011: 209-211).

Unfortunately there is not enough field studies about police behavior towards prevention of domestic violence. In the province of Malatya in 2011 the study conducted by Unal and others indicated that %38 of respondents expected security, %11 expected assistance from police, while %46 indicated that police was not responsive to victims, %37 indicated that police did not inform victims about victim rights and social rights, %23 indicated that police tried to handle the case through non legal methods, %32 indicated that police processes were incomplete, %20 indicated that police responded late and %40 indicated that police did not show empathy to the victim. In the same study a survey was handed out to Malatya Police Vocational School cadets and the results of the survey showed that %82 of cadets believed that the woman needed to get permission from her husband in order to work somewhere, %44 believed that women have to respond positively to their husbands wish to intercourse, %24 believed that intercourse without woman’s consent is not rape, %20 believed that it is O.K. for men to beat their wife when she does a mistake, %19 believe that the husband has right

to beat his wife when she does not cook, and %72 believe that when her husband does not allow to work that she has to leave work (Unal, Kirlangic Simsek, Azcan,Ozdemir, 2011: 185-200).

### **Introduction of the study**

This study is prepared to look in to believes, attitudes, and behavior of police personnel in context of *“The role of police in preventing and combating domestic violence.”*

### **Purpose of the Study**

The general purpose of this study is to try to define the believes, attitudes, behavior perspective, perception and thoughts as well as their expectations from other institutions, of police, who are one of the main actors in preventing and combating domestic violence, in domestic violence cases.

Answers to the following questions are sought:

- ✓ *Do the police think that combating domestic violence is one of their main duties?*
- ✓ *Do the police believe that men and women are equal?*
- ✓ *Do police believe that some women deserve violence?*
- ✓ *Do police think that the enacted law rules and regulations are enough to prevent domestic violence?*
- ✓ *Do police think that they have enough qualified personnel to fight domestic violence?*
- ✓ *According to police does economic status or education level of women effect being subject to violence?*
- ✓ *Do police think that the personnel of institutions which are given responsibility to combat domestic violence do their jobs willingly and with awareness?*

### **Methodology of the Study**

In this study data is acquired through a survey. The conducted survey has 24 questions except the ones about demographics. The survey is conducted with 186 police officers at Elmadag Vocational police School who were receiving their first level command course and will graduate as second lieutenants. Out of 550 trainees 200 were selected randomly, and out of 200 surveys 186 contained enough data for processing.

The police officers that filled out the survey have come from various provinces of Turkey and from different departments. They used to work as police officers and after passing the nationwide test they were chosen to attend the first level command course. Those answering the survey have an experience working in the Turkish National Police between 5-20 years.

Because of the respondents come from different provinces and different departments, it can be deduced that their responses will be representing the Turkish National Police. One of the limitations of the study is that the number of respondents are not that high and respondents had to have at least five years of experience and be university graduate in order to take the exam for first level command training. This leaves out the less experienced and non-university graduates. The first part of the survey covers questions about demographics, while the second part is related to the views and believes about domestic violence. The survey questions for second part are derived from field related readings, in field expert views, and police administrator views. The survey is conducted in November 2013 and a 3 level Likert Scale is used. After collection of the surveys they have been numbered and the data is entered in to SPSS program for analysis. For analysis methods like mode, median, percentage and frequency, and in group comparisons independent variables are used.

## Analysis and Results

**Table 1: Demographic Profile**

	F	%
<b>Age</b>		
26-31	98	52,7
32-37	82	44
38-43	6	3,3
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	180	96,7
Female	6	3,3
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	176	94,7
Single	10	5,3
<b>Educational Background</b>		
Associate Degree	10	5,3
Bachelors Degree	168	90,3
Masters Degree	8	4,4
<b>Years in Profession</b>		
1-5	2	1
6-10	153	82,3
11-15	26	14
16-20	5	2,7
<b>Branch Distribution</b>		
Judicial	70	37,6
Administrative	56	30,1
Political	46	24,8
Traffic	14	7,5
TOTAL	186	100

As table 1 shows, around %53 respondents are between the age of 26-31, %44 are 32-37 years old and only %3 are 38 old or older. The majority almost %97 are males, and %3 are females, this percentage is a little lower than the general population. From the respondents %95 are married and only %5 are single, only %5 have associate degree, while %90 have associate degree and more than %4 have masters or higher degree. Only % 1 has an professional experience of 5 year, while around %82 have 6 to 10 year experience and %14 have 11 to 15 year experience and only around %3 have 16 to 20 year experience. The respondents before joining the course almost %38 used to work in judicial work related departments, %30 used to work in administrative branch, around %25 used to work in political branch and more than %7 used to work in traffic branch.

**Table 2:** Do You Think That it is one of the Main Duties of Police to Combat Domestic Violence?

	f	%
Yes	54	30
No	128	68
No Idea	4	2
TOTAL	186	100

Of the respondents %30 indicated that it is one of the main duties of police to combat domestic violence, while %68 indicated that that is not one of their main duty and %2 indicated that they did not know. The results show that almost %70 percent of police do not view combating domestic violence as a primary duty. One reason for this might be the past police sub-culture which stated that police should not be involved in family matters. The families also did not want anyone else to get involved. Of course that is now changed. The results show as indicated by representative of Women Solidarity Foundation that police need to be trained about domestic violence, the role of police, and why it is their principle duty to respond in professional matter to domestic violence incidents. If the police don't change their perception and belief than their approach and behavior won't change either.

**Table 3:** Do You Believe that Some Women Deserve Violence?

	f	%
Yes	32	18
No	141	75
No Idea	13	7
TOTAL	186	100

Table 3 shows that %75 of respondents believe that no women deserves violence while %18 believe that some women deserve violence and %7 indicate that they have no idea about subject matter. The results are surprising, because it is expected from police to show zero tolerance to any kind of violence, and protect people of any kind violence.

**Table 4:** Do You Believe that Men and Women are Equal?

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	114	61
No	70	38
No Idea	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

While %61 of respondents believe that men and women are equal %38 believe that they are not equal and %1 indicated they don't have any idea. %38 that believe men and women are not equal is very high in this age. One explanation of this high percentage is what police understands of equality; equal pay, equal work or equal treatment? In police profession in Turkey some department heads tend to have women officers work on desk jobs, they don't want them to face the crimes of the streets. This in turn leads that male officers come to believe they do all dirty and heavy work but receive same payment, and regard this as unfair. Also the government makes laws that can be regarded as positive discrimination, for example quote to hire a certain percentage female officers (in Turkey this is %10 of total to be hired), child leaves and early retirement are regarded by many men as inequality because women still receive the same payment. There is also the conservative view that women ought to be mothers, responsible of taking care of home and children, they are delicate and gentle and need to be treated accordingly. It can be argued that because of police has a conservative background; such a response might be the outcome.

**Table 5:** Do You Believe That the Law for the Protection of Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women is Sufficient?

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	53	28
No	95	51
No Idea	38	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 shows that; %51 of respondents don't believe that the "Law for the Protection of Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women is Sufficient." %28 indicated they believe it is sufficient and a high rate of %21 has no idea about it. Especially the no idea rate is very high, which indicates that the police is not much aware of the regulations, and do not want to elaborate whether there is need for change in laws in domestic violence. One reason for this is because laws are made by parliament and usually practitioners, on field officers don't have much to say about it.

**Table 6:** Would Reminding That According to Law, Violence Against Women is Crime, Reduce the Crime Against Women?

	F	%
Yes	106	57
No	74	40
No Idea	6	3
TOTAL	186	100

It can be argued that there is not much difference, those who believe that it will reduce violence is %57 while those that believe it will reduce is %40.

**Table 7:** Do you Believe that Making Peace Between Parties who Come to the Police Station is a way of Combating Domestic Violence?

	f	%
Yes	44	24
No	121	66
No Idea	18	10
TOTAL	186	100

In table 7, for the majority %66 believe that trying to make peace among parties that come to police station after violence won't change anything. On the other hand %24 believes it can solve the problem and can be used as a method to combat domestic violence. It is not the duty of police to deal a truce among the parties and in addition the police do not have the necessary training to negotiate truce among family members. The police in 1990's used to say "he is your husband; he can either love or beat you", "if you get killed we will punish him" or "when he loves you don't come but when he beats you come" (Terror at home: Violence Against Women, 1996). This understanding has to be totally eliminated from police minds. In every domestic case the police have to make a risk assessment and direct the victim towards related institute.

**Table 8:** Do you Think that the Police Have Enough Qualified Personnel to Reduce Domestic Violence?

	f	%
Yes	30	16
No	146	79
No Idea	10	5
TOTAL	186	100

Not surprisingly %79 of the respondents believes that the Turkish National Police does not have enough qualified personnel. Although around 40.000 personnel have received training about the subject because of reassignments and redeployments those who received the training may not be working in the needed departments and this creates the gap for qualified personnel.

**Table 9:** Do you Believe that Police have the Education to Reduce Domestic Violence?

	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	20	10
No	148	80
No Idea	18	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

In table 9, %80 of respondents have indicated that the police do not have required education to reduce domestic violence. These results are parallel to the results on table 8 as qualifications and education and training are viewed similar. In the last 7-8 years almost all police that has judicial responsibility have received training but as stated above there is a constant reassignment and change of post which makes it impossible to train every new coming officer. The responses for above to tables could be considered for a separate study.

**Table 10:** Do you Believe that Women Exaggerate the Domestic Violence?

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	82	44
No	84	45
No Idea	20	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 10 shows that; half of the respondents %44 indicated that they do while the other half %45 state that they don't. Considering both of the answer it can be argued that if police has any of these thoughts they cannot perform their duty impartially.

**Table 11:** Do you think that when a police officer performs duty next to a victim of domestic violence in her home or in her workplace, would this create a problem for the family of the officer?

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	132	71
No	38	20
No Idea	16	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

In table 11, %71 of respondents state that performing duty next to, in her home, or workplace of the women needing protecting will lead to problems with his family. Because of the majority of officers are male assigning them for protecting women will cause for jealousy in his own wife, thus create a problem. This also indicates non-professionalism in duty.

**Table 12:** Do You Think That the Husband of Women Under Protection will be More Furious When he Sees an Officer Next to His Wife?

	f	%
Yes	140	75
No	28	15
No Idea	18	10
TOTAL	186	100

%75 of respondents thinks that the husband will be angrier when he sees an officer next to his wife. This thought has to do also with the culture. In Turkish culture especially in Eastern parts spouses envy each other from other genders.

**Table 13:** Do You Believe That Educated Women Won't Face Domestic Violence?

	f	%
Yes	24	13
No	155	84
No Idea	7	3
TOTAL	186	100

%84 of respondents believe that education level will not have an effect on women being victim of domestic violence. Because of examples shown in media this conception might have been created.

**Table 14:** Keeping in Mind the Education Level of Society Do You Believe That Domestic Violence is More Common in Less Educated Families?

	F	%
Yes	68	37
No	110	59
No Idea	8	4
TOTAL	186	100

Table 14 shows that, %59 of respondents don't agree that domestic violence is more common in less educated families.

**Table 15:** Do You Believe That Economically Free Women Will Not Face Domestic Violence?

	n	%
Yes	30	16
No	150	81
No Idea	6	3
TOTAL	186	100

The majority of respondents %81 indicate that there is no relationship with economic status and domestic violence cases. Field studies also show that domestic violence is seen in all economic levels.

**Table 16:** Do you believe that increased media coverage will reduce Domestic violence?

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	70	38
No	108	58
No Idea	8	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

%58 of respondents don't believe that increased media coverage will reduce domestic violence. There are even arguments that because of media may distort the incident it may cause for follow up violence in family and even between families.

**Table 17:** Do You Think That the Personnel of Institutions Which Are Given Responsibility to Combat Domestic Violence Do Their Jobs Willingly and With Awareness?

	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	20	11
No	134	72
No Idea	32	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

The police who believe they don't have enough qualified personnel combating domestic violence also for the majority (%72) believe that the personnel of institutions which are given responsibility to combat domestic violence don't do their jobs willingly and with awareness?

**Table 18:** Do You Believe That Practices and Implementations in Order to Eliminate Violence

	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	24	13
No	146	78
No Idea	16	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

In table 18, %78 of respondents stated that practices and implementations in order to eliminate violence towards women are not enough.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

Based on the answers of the 186 Second Lieutenant candidates results of importance and areas that need further studies can be summarized as follows:

Although in all over the world police plays the main role in combating domestic violence, the survey results indicate that only %30 of respondents believe that police actually has a role in combating domestic

violence. Those who have been victim of a domestic violence look for a safe heaven, a place where they will be protected; their body and their life. A place where they can tell their story, get legal assistance, counseling, and proper steps taken to ensure it not happening again. The %30 rate believe needs to be increased at least triple fold through subject courses and trainings and strengthened with rules and regulations.

%18 respondents responded that some women deserve violence and another %7 stated that they don't have any idea. The total sums up to %21 and this is an unacceptable percentage to think that 1 of every 5 officer believes that some women deserve violence. The police organization again through training should reduce this. In addition through interviews and screening officers that have such believes should be identified and assigned in areas where they won't have to decide about domestic violence issues.

Regarding whether the Turkish National Police has enough qualified personnel and enough training to respond and prevent domestic violence; the answers were around %80 no. The 40.000 officers that received training based on service of years in certain area and province, based on new trainings they receive, or request of needs from other departments or provinces are usually reassigned or transferred, and replaced by officers who did not receive d the training before. The needs of departments and wishes of officers to get posts in different departments cannot be disregarded. But it also needs to be understood that if the Turkish National Police wants to be successful in preventing and combating domestic violence, well trained, well equipped, experienced personnel need to respond to domestic violence cases and serve the victims of domestic violence. With advanced planning and mandatory service time for those who received training, this can be reached.

%72 of respondents indicated that the personnel of institutions which are given responsibility to combat domestic violence don't do their jobs willingly and with awareness. In order to investigate domestic violence cases, follow the judicial cases, provide counseling about social and legal rights to victims, follow the psychological treatments of victims as well as offenders, special "Domestic Violence Prevention and Combat" centers should be created where willing, trained personnel will work. These centers can have personnel from various institutions that serve the same purpose and not only police personnel. If personnel from other departments also take place in center, this will ease the cooperation and coordination, planning of shelters and counselors, collection of data and making analyses, providing policy recommendations that cover all stakeholders.

The victims of domestic violence are mainly women, since the first place the victims look for safe heaven is the police, the police need to deploy more female officers at local police stations so that victims can express themselves more easily. The female officers need to be trained to be

supportive while getting the statement. The officer needs to be discreet, because the victim may be telling things she won't or has not told her relatives or closest or show body parts where she has been hurt, beaten or abused. The officer needs to be able to create empathy with the victim, tell the victim that she did not deserve this behavior, if precautions are not taken that the behavior will probably continue that government institutions will protect and assist her in all possible ways.

In order to ensure the safety and security of the victim and the children the police needs to do a Risk Analysis, based on the analysis related institutions will be informed, assistance requested and personnel deployed. On the other hand the police officers in most instances lack necessary skills to do the analysis. In order to minimize the errors in the analysis, personnel from social services should be present from the point police gets the call.

A restraining order or protection order given by court is one of the most used and effective tools in protecting the victims and children. Unfortunately in Turkey this tool cannot be used that much because of the families usually lack the income (Turkiye'de Kadına Yonelik Aile İci Siddet, 2009: 47) to stay away, and they stay with other relatives who then step in to negotiate peace. The law enforcement is responsible for enforcing the restraining order (6284 Sayılı Kanun article. 10) but again because of insufficient manpower, patrol cars and equipment the necessary controls cannot be done.

The institutions that also play a role in preventing and combating domestic violence in cooperation and coordination with law enforcement should organize workshops, seminars, meetings where each will have the chance to share their views, suggestions, experiences and expectations. The policy and implementations methods will be known and shared by all. People may believe that the other institution has more resources, manpower or actual responsibility and hold back from taking action, while in fact that might not be the case. For law enforcement people think that they have endless resources, manpower, and legal power to do or make things happen. Of course this is not the case; they have budget issues, lack manpower and are not expert in all matters and subjects. That is why experience and information sharing among members of institutions will empower the coordination and cooperation of institutions that are required to prevent and combat domestic violence.

The role of police begins with the call of domestic violence and end when the batterer receives sentence or the case is ended by court. It is not possible to keep the batterer always under control or police observation. The victims cannot be kept always in shelter or under protection. That is why the batterers must be treated with, psychological individual or group therapies.

The number of studies looking into the behaviors, perceptions, beliefs and attitudes of law enforcement domestic cases are very few. These studies need to be increased and the results shared with public and other institutions. Based on the results new courses and trainings should be developed that will fill the identified gaps. Drama training technics, like the one applied in Malatya Police Vocational school where cadets play the roles of batterer, victim and law enforcement, can be applied.

Domestic violence cannot be prevented and eliminated just with law enforcement tactics and applications. There is a role for all parts of the society; the parliament, the courts, media, the non-governmental institutions and all individuals.

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