



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On International Women's Day, March 8th, 2024, TWLA joins the United Nations in celebrating under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress."

The world is grappling with numerous crises, including geopolitical conflicts, rising poverty levels, and the escalating impacts of climate change. These challenges require solutions that empower women. By investing in women, we can ignite change and accelerate the transition towards a healthier, safer, and more equitable world for all.

As TWLA, we have organized events for today. Below, we are sharing details of the second-day panel titled "Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse." During this panel, we discussed the following topics:

- Financial, psychological, physical, and sexual violence. Remember, considering your safety, you can take legal action. In these processes, everything is your decision, and laws are in place to protect you and your choices.
- Self-blame: If you have experienced sexual violence, partner violence, or child abuse, it is crucial to understand that it is not your fault.
- Not leaving the violent offender: Leaving a violent partner can be extremely challenging. However, it's important to recognize how

violence can escalate over time, leading to femicide. Please prioritize your safety.

- How to seek help when facing a language barrier.
- Dealing with institutions that do not take gender-based violence seriously.

We also provided contact information for civil society organizations and helplines. Our aim is to empower women with knowledge and provide information and assistance within both local and wider communities.



**TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE
OF
AMERICA**



ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

In Support of International Women's Day (8th March)

**TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA (TWLA) Present a in person Meeting at
NY Atatürk School Auditorium**

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse



Speakers

Arzu Gürcan

Lawyer

Dr. Burçin Öğrenir

Psychologist

Burcu Sağiroğlu

Joyful Heart Foundation

Moderator

Burçin Rutherford

"Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women"
Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK

Saturday, March 9th, 2024

Time:1 pm (EST)

PROGRAM

09 MARCH 2024

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Organized by Turkish Women's League-America

Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications

411 E. 76 St. New York 10021 **Eleanor Roosevelt High School Auditorium**

Welcome Turkish Women's League of America President Berna Gurdal	
PhD Burcin Ogrenir	Women – Psychologist
Arzu Gurcan	Women - Lawyer
Burcu Sagiroglu	Women - MPP, Policy and Advocacy Associate

Speakers

Berna Gurdal- President of Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA)

Berna Gurdal graduated from Hacettepe University Faculty of Nutrition and Dietetics in 1997 and worked as a corporate dietitian at Panorama Food Company between 1997-1999. Between 1998-2005, she worked as a clinical dietitian at Internal Medicine Department of Uludağ University and made presentations at various congresses. Her work on the treatment of diabetes was published in the book Diabetes Mellitus in 2006. Berna Gurdal who has been living in New York since 2005, received the Child Nutrition and Cooking Program Certificate from Stanford University. She is married and has two children. Her son graduated from New York Atatürk School in 2017. She has been serving on the Board of Directors of TWLA since 2017.

PhD.Burcin Ogrenir- Psychologist

Dr. Burcin Ogrenir is an expert in child and family development and education with a PHD in Early Childhood Education from Penn State University. With additional degrees in Early Childhood and Psychology, she has taught at multiple universities and presented her work on emotional intelligence, teacher education and Multiculturalism at international conferences. Dr. Ogrenir has worked with Turkish American families through their struggles about child raising and has been involved in various educational projects for more than 20 years, including working with children with special needs and consulting schools on behavior management and teacher education. In 2017, she founded April Institute, through which she provides family coaching and various educational programs.

Arzu Gurcan, Lawyer

Arzu is a graduate of Ankara Law Faculty and has been living in New York since 2001. After practicing law for four years in Istanbul, she moved to New York. Here, after obtaining a master's degree in American Law, she began practicing law at a law firm in 2005. She worked on personal injury cases, immigration law, corporate law, and commercial law. Additionally, she volunteered for various organizations from time to time. Some of these include Safe Passage (representation in immigration and family courts and green card applications for unaccompanied and undocumented children entering the US), CUNY Citizenship Now! (assisting with free citizenship applications), New York Cares (English language education, preparation for citizenship exams, assistance in food kitchens), and volunteering as a Turkish interpreter for several immigration-related organizations when needed. Her involvement in domestic violence issues began when several clients and friends reached out to her for help and guidance, leading her to refer them to relevant organizations and shelters and providing translation when necessary. These experiences showed her both the diverse services provided by many civil society organizations in NY and NJ in this regard and the fact that Turkish citizens living in these areas often either do not know about these services or have difficulty accessing them, and struggle to express themselves due to inadequate English proficiency.

Burcu Sağıroğlu, MPP, Policy and Advocacy Associate

Burcu Sağıroğlu completed her undergraduate education at Colby College and her graduate education in public policy at the University of Maryland College Park. Since 2019, she has been working as a Public Policy and Advocacy Analyst at the Joyful Heart Foundation. In this role, she conducts legal analysis and advocacy to ensure timely testing of forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence across all states in the US. She has received 40 hours of victim advocacy training from the Crime Victims Treatment Center, the oldest rape crisis center in New York. In her free time, she volunteers at a reproductive rights center, serves on the board of a high school alumni association, and engages in volunteer work with local environmental groups.



ATATURK SCHOOL

Founded and sponsored by Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) since 1971, New York Atatürk School has hundreds of alumni and is the oldest established weekend Turkish educational institution in New York. As a forerunner Institution promoting the educational ideals of Atatürk, New York Atatürk School was founded in 1971 with President Ayla Erdamar's diligent work and endeavor and with the support of Consul General Sait Sahipoğlu. At the time, the classes were held at the Turkish Consulate at Rockefeller Center in New York and the school had only 30 students. With the increase in number of students the following year, the classes were held at the leased classrooms in New York Theological Seminary Building. Between 1974-1977, the education continued at the United Nations International School. With the support of Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations İlter Türkmen and Consul General Sıtkı Coşkun, Atatürk School moved to New York Turkish Center after its acquisition in 1977. During the renovation of the Turkish Consulate Building in New York, Atatürk School continued to provide education by leasing classrooms from public schools in the Manhattan area. Since 2022, we accept students from all the United States and Canada through online and in person education. Our program beginning of October and including the second week of June is implemented for a total of 37 weeks. Every Saturday between 11:00-14:00, education-training, cultural and social activities continue successfully without interruption. Our in person educational address is Eleanor Roosevelt High School 411 East 76th Street New York 10021.



TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA (TWLA)

Established on September 17, 1958 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in New York, Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) aims to preserve and teach Turkish language and culture to the future generations. The organization is one of the oldest active Turkish American organizations in the USA and is the sole supporter of the NY Atatürk School which has been a pride since 1971. The Turkish Women's League of America's Board of Directors is comprised entirely of volunteer members. The organization and its members adhere to the principles of modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the values of the Republic and adopt the national, moral, human, spiritual and cultural values of the Turkish Nation. Our Mission is to unite the Turkish women living in America under one roof, to provide solidarity and strength among them. We organize cultural and recreational activities to foster a better understanding between the people of Turkey and the United States. With this awareness, Turkish Women's League of America works devotedly with institutions and nongovernmental organization to achieve and preserve the deserved respected place of women in the society.

The Turkish Women's League of America is proud to announce our association with the United Nations Department of Global Communications as of December 10,2021.



Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications

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