



CISST
CEZA İNFAZ SİSTEMİNDE SİVİL TOPLUM DERNEĞİ
CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PENAL SYSTEM ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITY REPORT '24



About Us

The Civil Society in the Penal System Association (CISST) was established in 2006 to protect the rights and freedoms of prisoners in prisons, which are one of the most risky places in terms of human rights violations, and to ensure that prisons are tailored in accordance with international human rights standards and human dignity in the context of rights, conditions and practices.

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Project Supporters

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CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PENAL SYSTEM ASSOCIATION (CISST)

Hello

As is the case since our establishment, we have continued our efforts to ensure that basic human rights in prisons are guaranteed in 2024 too. We continued to monitor and report on prison conditions, provided counseling for prisoners and their families, informed the press and international institutions, and pushed public institutions to be accountable. After a long period of quarantine, it was gratifying to meet and communicate face-to-face with both our team and partners at many events throughout 2024. 2024 has been a year in which, in spite of all its challenges, we have enlarged our solidarity, become more involved with the civil sphere and produced more with our partners together.

As the Civil Society in the Penal System Association(CISST), we started our new project funded by the European Union (EU) in 2024, which will last for four years. This project, which we carry out in partnership with Penal Reform International (PRI), mainly aims to improve prison conditions and treatment of prisoners. With our project, we plan to empower non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for the rights of prisoners, to raise public awareness and to provide more support to prisoners and their relatives. In addition to continue the support activities for prisoners and their kin. We see all these efforts as an important step to increase accountability in the penal system in Turkey and to achieve a more fair, humane and transparent structure.

In the new period, we will continue to strengthen the monitoring and advocacy activities in prisons, as well as social solidarity with non-governmental organizations, professional organizations and all other segments of society.



Our Vision

Our vision is to make Türkiye a country where all human rights, especially prisoners' rights, are implemented and guaranteed, and prison conditions and prisoner rights become compatible with human rights and universal values.

Our Principles

CISST is a rights-based non-governmental organization that organizes all its institutional processes and activities around the following values:

- **It relies on human rights and human dignity in all its works** and aims to contribute to the rights-based struggle.
- **It claims that human rights are holistic and** does not establish a hierarchy between rights.
- **It accepts that the problems related to the penal system are the problems of the society** and believes that the society should take responsibility in this regard.
- **It rejects the labeling and objectification of prisoners only as "criminals"** and sees them as subjects of rights.
- **It rejects all kinds of violence and discrimination.** It rejects all discriminatory approaches, discourses, policies and practices in the context of gender, religion, language, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity .
- **It is impartial and inclusive.** It does not take a side when determining its partners in its work and when dealing with prisoner groups or during its work.

Our Mission

Our mission is to carry out monitoring, evaluation and advocacy activities in order to establish the rights of prisoners in Turkey, to define prisoners as subjects of rights and to improve prison conditions.

- **It adopts an approach appropriate to the solidarity inside and outside the organization.** It respects different groups, organizations and individuals in terms of diversity, labor, experience, knowledge and ideas. In this context, it shows an attitude open to change and cooperation.
- **It is transparent.** It shares its work with the public through reports and outputs.
- **It is internationalist.** It believes that international studies are needed and it carries out international studies and supports them.
- **It believes in collectivity and democracy.** It supports the democratic and transparent execution of studies within the team and implements democratic discussion and decision-making processes.
- **It adopts the responsibility principles of non-harm and confidentiality.** It makes sure that the works it conducts does not have negative consequences on the prisoners. While it shares its findings with the public, it does not disclose the privacy of the prisoners.
- **It is independent.** It does not develop a relationship with the state or any funder that damages its independence . It refuses interruption to content of the studies and its outputs by the organizations that support its studies.
- **It is environmentalist.** CISST is aware of the environmental context of the activities it carries out, although it does not carry out.

1. <https://cisst.org.tr/faaliyetlerimiz/sozluk/>

CISST Theory of Change

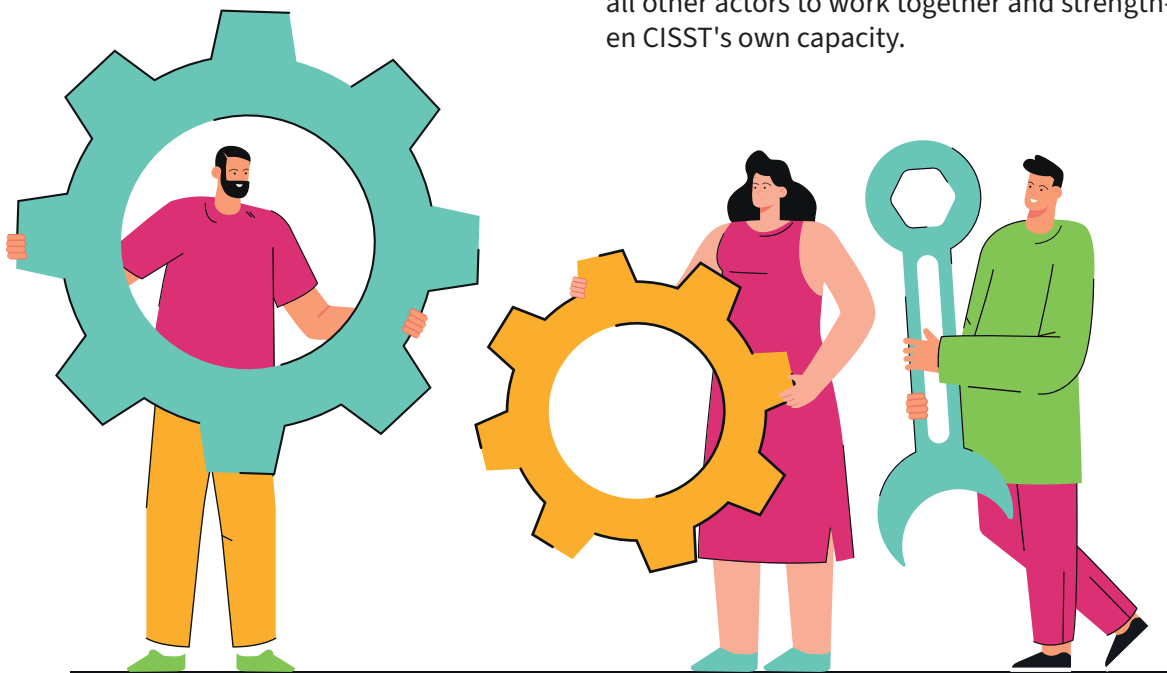
While CISST creates a long-term change process for the improvement of prisoner rights, it recognizes that this process depends on many global, national and regional traditions. In this context, the effective work of the Ministry of Justice is one of the most important prerequisites for the improvement of prison conditions. However, CISST emphasizes that the change depends not only on the attitude of the Ministry of Justice, but also on the behavior of other important actors in the field. Public opinion, press, MPs, academic circles, non-governmental organizations and international organizations are among these actors. Increasing the awareness of these actors about rights can create a positive pressure on the Ministry of the Justice and may lead to a more sensitive approach to the rights of prisoners.

CISST considers that the demands of prisoners about their rights are the basic elements that determine the direction and scope of the struggle for prisoners' rights. Many prisoners in Turkey do not know their rights and the ways in which s/he can claim them. This shortness causes them to either remain silent in the face of violations of rights or to fail to reach the necessary mechanisms to make their voices heard. Both the prisoners and their relatives must be informed about the rights so that prisoners can defend their rights .

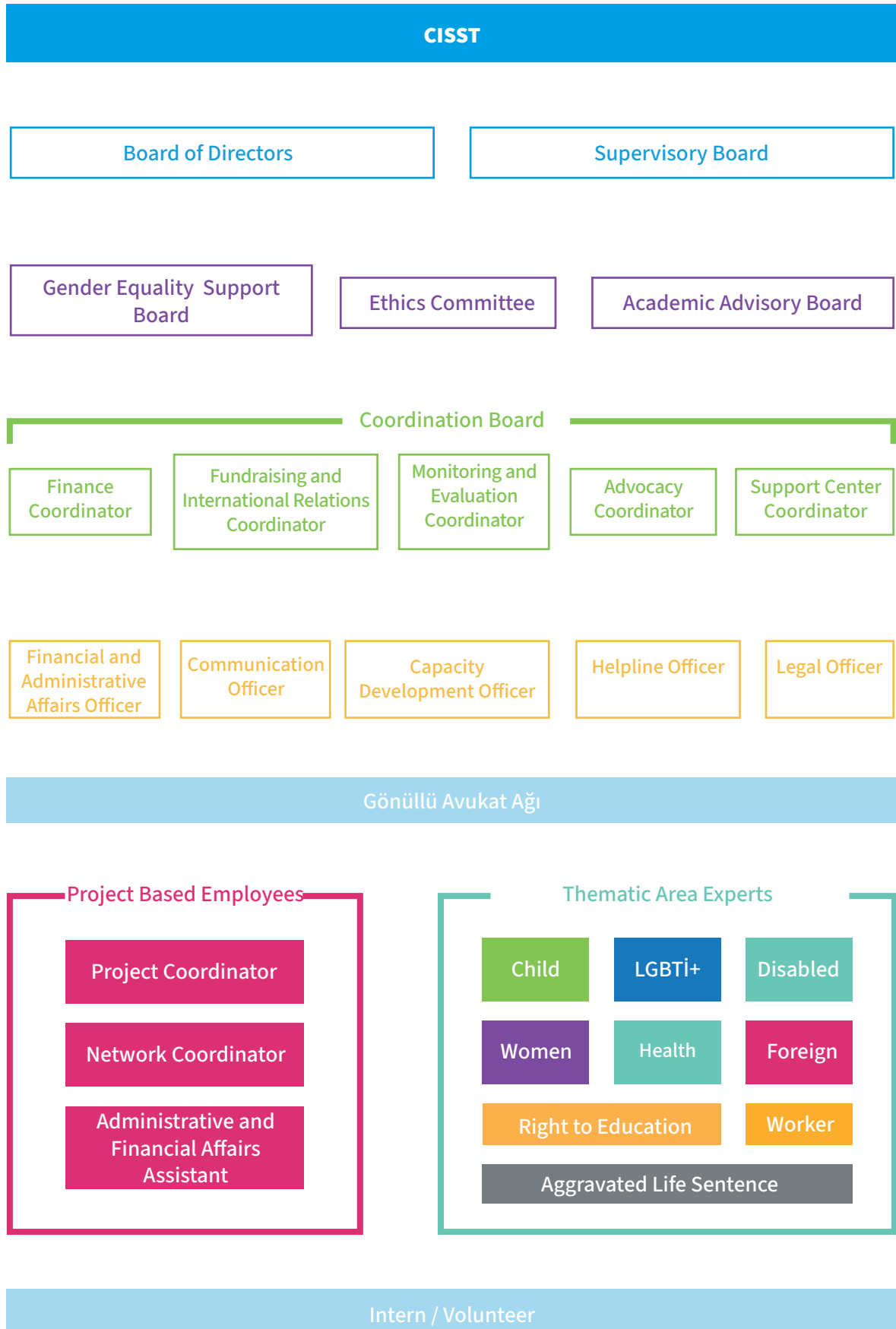
The change process recognizes that CISST requires a very specific expertise and experience for its work in the field of prisoner rights. CISST advocates capacity building of other civil society actors in this field should be increased and partnerships should be strengthened. By this means, more effective advocacy can be carried out about prison conditions and prisoner rights. Improving the approach of the Ministry of Justice depends not only its attitude but also on the interaction of other actors in the field. The fact that the public, press and other actors become more sensitive in this regard contributes to the reduction of rights violations.

It is also important for CISST to strengthen its institutional capacity in order to achieve its change goals. Strengthening the communication capacity, financial and administrative processes of the organization, increasing its organizational resilience and improving its relations with stakeholders will ensure the sustainability of the change process. In addition, strengthening the use of human capacity of CISST will contribute to make it more effective in the process of change.

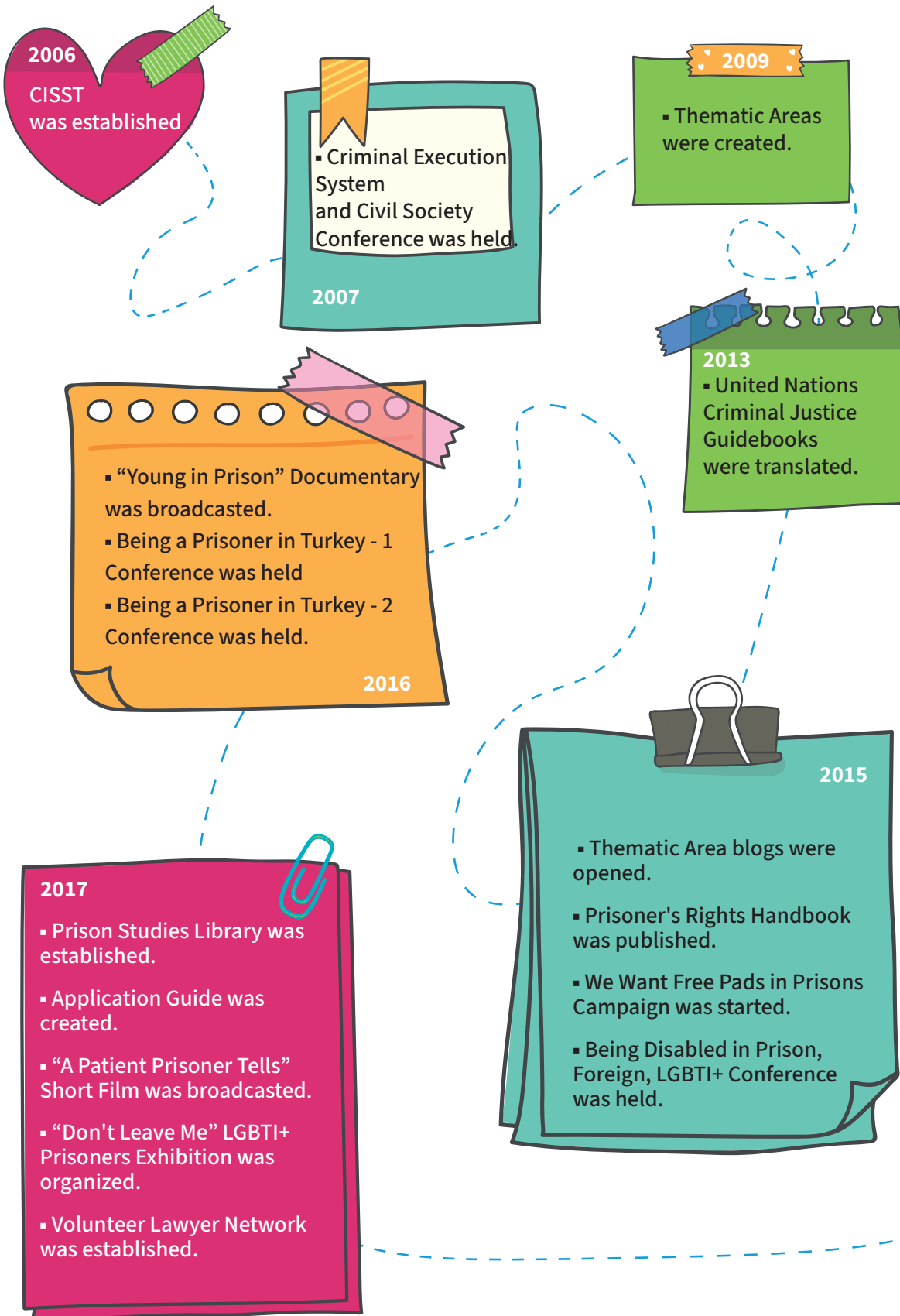
In summary, CISST's change theory refers to an approach for long-term and sustainable change in the field of prisoners' rights that requires not only the Ministry of Justice, but also all other actors to work together and strengthen CISST's own capacity.



Organization Chart



CISST From Past to Present



2018

- Prisoner helpline was opened.
- International Conference on Alternatives to Imprisonment was organized.
- “What We Don't Know About Prisons” Short was released.

2020

- Pandemic Report was published.
- The Handbook for Foreign Prisoners was published in 5 languages.
- CISST Monitoring Boards Report was published.
- Free Cleaning Kit in Prisons Campaign was started.
- CISST 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was published.

2019

- CISST Annual Prisons Report was published.
- Annual Penalty Statistics of the Council of Europe was started to be translated.

2021

- The Handbook on Being a Disabled Prisoner in Turkey was published.
- Being Student Prisoner in Turkey Handbook was published.

2023

- We prepared the Earthquake and Prisons Report.
- We held the International Pandemic and Prisons Conference.
- CISST Prison Map website was opened.
- We held a Strategic Plan camp.
- We have updated the Prisoner and Prisoner Relatives Application Guide.
- We have published Comparison of Changes in Execution Legislation (2018-2023).
- We updated Being a Foreign Prisoner in Turkey book.
- We translated the Natural Hazards and Prisons publication prepared by Penal Reform International into Turkish.

2022

- The Report on The Health Status of Prisoners and Access to Health Services was published.
- Juvenile Prisoners: Conditions of Imprisonment and Execution Procedures Report was submitted to United Nations Children's Rights Committee.

Panoramic 2024

We published the second edition Six-Year Comparison Analysis of Execution Legislation

2023 Activity Report was published.

We participated to Europris Innovative Penal Execution Institutions Infrastructure

We published 2023 Report of Monitoring Boards.

We supported Prison Insider Turkey Country profile report .

We supported EPI Fourth Cycle (2025-2030) report.

We visited The Council of Europe Conference Boards.

We started "Increasing Accountability in Turkey's Penal Execution System and Improving Human Rights" Project.

We organized visits to the Parliament and held meetings with members of parliament.

We organized an "International Human Rights Mechanisms Workshop" for human rights defenders.

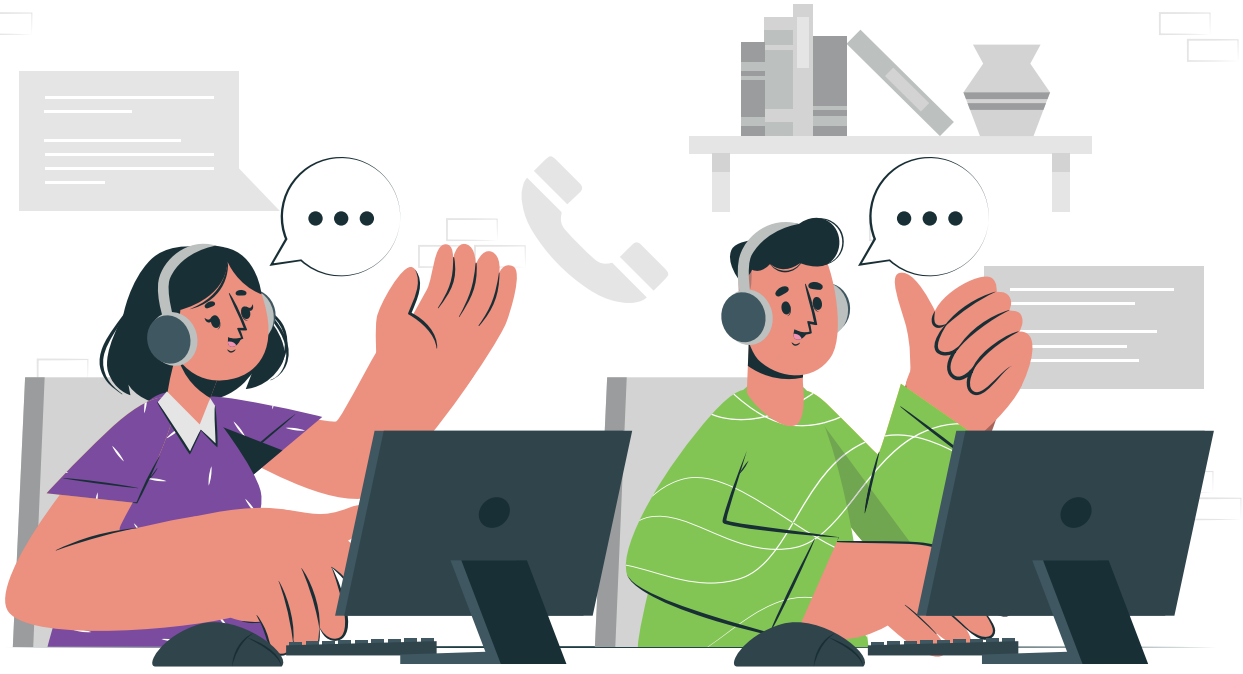
We participated in For a Strong and Organized Feminism Konca Kuriş: Konca Kuriş International Conference on Organization and Activism.

We organized workshop for our volunteer lawyers on monitoring.

We published Application Guide on The Special Procedures of The United Nations Human Rights Council.

We organized thematic workshops for civil actors engaged in advocacy activities in the prison area.

CISST SUPPORT CENTER



The purpose of the CISST Support Center is to inform the prisoners and their relatives about their rights and the mechanisms for claiming their rights.

The CISST Support Center informs the prisoners and their relatives in order to strengthen the rights struggles of the prisoners and their relatives in this context, makes applications with them/ on their behalf and supports them in accessing the application mechanisms.

Activities carried out under the Support Center: Prisoner helpline, correspondence activities, providing counseling through face-to-face interviews or e-mail with relatives of prisoners, application facilitation, providing access to the Prisoner Rights Handbook and My Rights Application Guide, lawyer visits and Prisoner and Prisoner Relatives Application Guide.

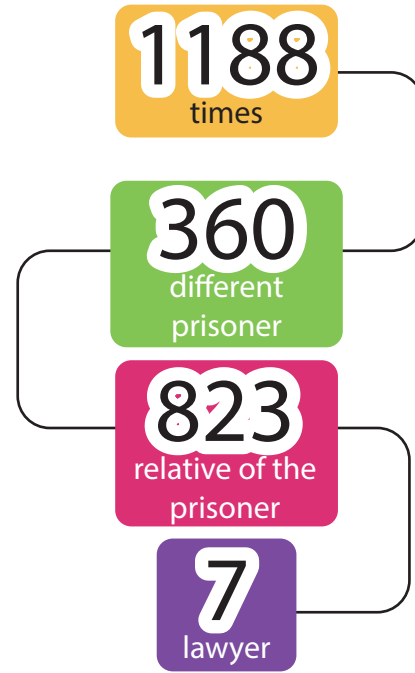
There are 102 prisoners who reached the CISST Support Center through another prisoner 289 whom we reached, 290 who reached through their families, 29 who reached through another NGO, and 61 who reached through their lawyers in 2024. 51 prisoners stated that they were aware of the CISST through the newspaper advertisement.

Prisoner Helpline

CISST Prisoner helpline is a telephone line for prisoners and relatives of prisoners who want to receive information about their rights, who think that rights of them or their relatives in prison are violated, who have problems or questions related to the penal system to receive information and support. CISST Prison helpline serves in 3 languages, Turkish, Kurdish and English, between 10.30 and 18.00 on weekdays.

Claims of rights violations submitted by prisoners and relatives of prisoners who reach the CISST helpline by phone are transferred to the relevant institutions within the framework of their requests, and if necessary, they are followed up by the relevant CISST Thematic Area expert and the Support Center Coordinator. Prisoners, relatives of prisoners, lawyers, academicians and representatives of institutions working in the field who reach the helpline are provided with consultancy

In 2024, CISST provided support and/or guidance to 360 different prisoners, 823 prisoner relatives and 7 lawyers who called the Prisoner helpline a total of 1188 times regarding their rights and problems.



Positive Case Examples from the helpline;

A relative of the prisoner called our helpline and stated that although the prisoner was in a good behavior, he could not be transferred to the Open Penal Institution, he wrote petitions to object to the decision, but the petitions of objection were not answered.

The application regarding the subject transferred by the applicant was prepared. Five different institutions, namely CIMER, CTE, IIHK, CIK and MIHK were applied.

The prisoner, who was transferred from the Closed Penal Institution to the Open Penal Institution, contacted us through the helpline and said "I am very good thanks to you" and stated that he was transferred to the Open Penal Institution.

Relative of the prisoner called our helpline; told the prisoner was subjected to psychological pressure, that he/she wanted to stay in the non-smoking ward, that he/she could not comfortably perform his/her religious belief in the institution where he/she was located, that he/she was constantly given disciplinary punishment and that he/she wanted to transfer to another institution or ward, and they were worried that he/she would harm himself/herself.

Based on the problems conveyed by the relative of the prisoner, an application was prepared to eliminate the violation of rights. Five different institutions, namely CIMER, CTE, İHK, CIK and MIHK, were applied.

The relative of the prisoner called our helpline and stated that the transfer of the prisoner to another institution was made, that he/she was very happy in the institution he/she went to, and that this situation occurred as a result of our applications.

A relative of the prisoner told our helpline that he/she said that he/she did not feel psychologically well, that his/her medications were not given to him/her, that his/her petitions were not sent, and that they were worried that he/she would harm himself/herself.

The application was prepared regarding the subject the applicant mentioned. Five different institutions, namely CIMER, CTE, İHK, CIK and MIHK were applied.

The prisoner, who reached us through a letter, stated that all his victimization was eliminated.

Positive Feedback from the helpline;



"Hello. I called you earlier and applied.

A delegation came to visit me. They took my statement. They took the guard we had problems with from our block. Thank you so much".



"Hello. I have registered to apply to you before. You made the application. They called me to meet. My petitions are sent. I called to thank you. Thank you so much for taking care of it. "



"Hello. We talked to you before. After your application, they came to see me.

They asked for a petition for a meeting with a religious representative. I submitted my petition. A day later, the director of the institution called me. For petition transactions. I called to thank you. Thank you very much.

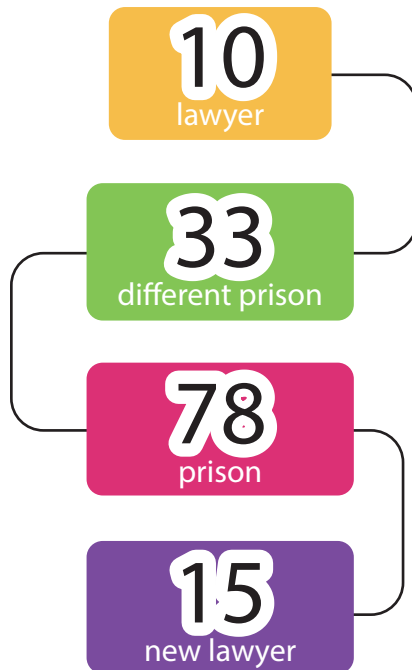


"Hello, they sent the decision to do what is necessary after your application. They called me. It is solved. Thank you very much. I mean, in a real sense so glad that I have you. God bless you. We are all praying for you. "

Correspondence Activities

Almost the only way they can communicate with people other than the relatives of the prisoners held in closed prisons in Turkey is through letters. In this context, CISST also writes letters to prisoners in order to communicate with all prisoners held in open and closed prisons in Turkey and to monitor prison conditions.

In 2024, we corresponded with 1577 prisoners held in 267 different prisons from 71 different provinces of Turkey. We received 1057 letters from the prisoners during the year and sent 1791 letters to them.



Lawyer Visits

Lawyer visits constitute one of the monitoring tools of CISST as well as the opportunity for prisoners to convey their complaints that they cannot convey through letters and helplines. The Volunteer Lawyer Network within the body of CISST takes part in meeting the lawyer visits need transmitted through letters to CISST and the Prisoner helpline, reports these visits and shares them with CISST.

In 2024, 10 lawyers from the CISST Lawyer Network met with 78 prisoners in 33 different prison visits. In 2024, 15 new lawyers from 5 cities joined our network of volunteer lawyers.

Applications and Consultancy Support for Applications

CISST records reported problems or violations of rights conveyed by prisoners and their relatives through letters helpline and lawyer visits when necessary in the database.

In this process, in order to eliminate the violation of rights and improve the conditions of the prisoner, one-to-one communication is maintained with prisoners and the relatives of the prisoners and the case is followed till the violation subject to the application is eliminated,

applications made to. In addition, CISST shares its human rights applications to the relevant institutions and the answers given to these applications with the public in the Monitoring Committees Report published every year.

We made 4452 human rights applications to 232 different institutions for 664 prisoners we were in contact with.

The Institution Type	Number of Applications
Presidential Communication Center	783
Prison Monitoring Board	780
General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses	776
Provincial/ District Human Rights Board	773
Parliamentary Human Rights Inquiry Commission	742
Ministry of Justice	518
Ministry of Health	22
Chamber of Medicine	6
Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey	2
Turkish Medical Association	1
Other	49
Total	4.452

Sending Resource and Information Note

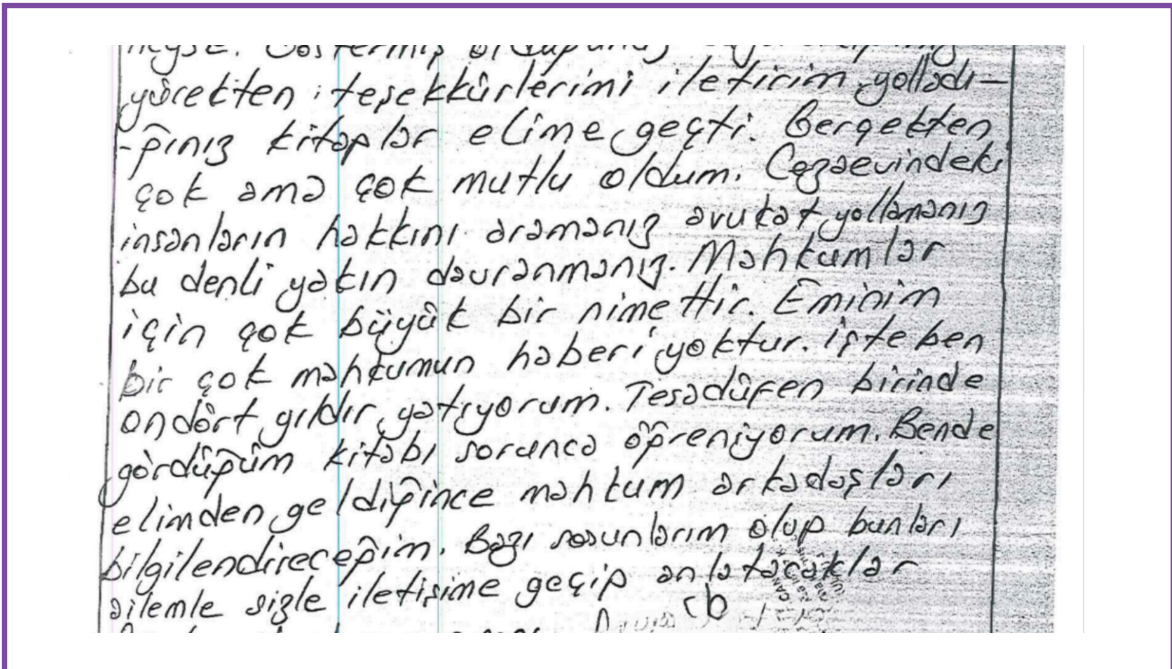
CISST experts convey informative resources about their rights and complaints to the prisoners they are in contact with. These sources include practical information about prisoner rights, access to rights seeking mechanisms and the process of execution which is thought to be beneficial for the knowledge of the prisoner. CISST publications prepared for prisoners with special needs, information notes, petition samples and precedent decisions are shared with the relevant prisoners, as well as publications such as the Prisoner Rights Handbook and My Rights Application Guide and the Rights Handbook for Foreign Prisoners, which aim to increase the knowledge and awareness of prisoners about their rights.

In 2024, 49 prisoners we communicated with asked us to send our publications to them, 5 prisoners asked us to send our publications to their friends, and 10 prisoners said that they shared our publications with their ward mates



For access to our Prisoner Rights Handbook, you can visit www.cisst.org.tr or scan QR code

In addition, 29 prisoners stated that they learned their rights from CISST publications in 2024 and 19 prisoners stated that they learned the application mechanisms from CISST publications. In 2024, 20 prisoners, whose feedback we recorded, stated that they directed their friends to CISST, 140 prisoners stated they did not feel alone thanks to CISST, and 87 prisoners stated that CISST was the only institution that supported them. 248 prisoners shared their prayers for the CISST and 1349 prisoners thanked us.



Positive feedback on CISST publications

"I received the books. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to those who sent them. I was truly very happy. In prison, defending one's rights, having a lawyer sent, and knowing that someone is standing close to you is a great blessing for prisoners. I am sure many prisoners are not even aware of this. Here, I am grateful every day. Later, when I learn that a book I read was sent, I become even happier. When the books reach my hands, I share them with my fellow prisoners. I try to be a voice for some of them and inform them. I have some problems so my family will call you and tell you."

Prisoner and Prisoner Relatives Application Guide²

Prisoner and Prisoner Relatives Application Guide is created to facilitate access to contact information such as address, telephone and fax of Public Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Professional Chambers where prisoners and their relatives who have been released and/or are currently in the execution process can apply when they want to forward their complaints to the relevant institutions.

In the application guide in 2023, the Information Note on 22 different subjects, 18 Petition Samples and 75 Frequently Asked Questions section, where prisoners, relatives of prisoners, lawyers and employees of civil society organizations requested the most information, viewed by 19,679 people for 38,238 times.³

WHAT IS THE PRISONER AND PRISONER RELATIVES APPLICATION GUIDE?

Application guide; a guide prepared to facilitate access for prisoners, former prisoners, and their relatives to apply to Public Institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Professional Associations.

What's in the Application Guide?

In the guide prepared by CİSST for prisoners and their relatives, you can find contact numbers for NGOs and public institutions, information notes on prisoners' rights, and sample petitions.

How can I get there?

You can easily find answers to frequently asked questions by prisoners and their relatives. For questions you cannot find answers to, you can contact CİSST.

2. basvurehberi.cisst.org.tr

3. It was obtained using AWStats data for the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

Thematic Areas

Thematic areas are at the center of CISST's advocacy and monitoring activities. It provides counseling to groups of prisoners with special needs and mobilizes non-governmental organizations working in different fields in the prison area in order to make the problems and needs of prisoners visible. Thematic area experts inform the relevant non-governmental

organizations about the issues and campaigns that the prisoners want to be put on the agenda, and shares information and experience in order to ensure the active participation of the civil area in the process and to increase the impact of the planned campaigns, programs and activities.

Child in Prison⁴



In 2024, as Children in Prison Thematic Area we continued advocacy for children between 12-18 years old imprisoned for their trial, and children held because their mothers are on trial between 0-6 years and young people who entered the judicial system as children but reached the age of 18 while the judicial process was continuing to make their detention conditions visible.

Within the framework of awareness on detention of children and youth imprisonment, student clubs and meetings within various universities and explained the current situation, we have listened to and conveyed the studies done so far, making a storm of ideas about how universities and student clubs can work in prisons.

Again, within the scope of these aware-



From the Cufflinks project within the Boğaziçi University Social Services Club

Child in Prison ⁴	2024
Number of Prisoners	30
Letter Sent	33
Letter Received	20
Human Rights	22
Applications Cases	31
Positive Feedback	3

ness-raising activities, on the occasion of November 20 World Children's Day, we published a series of articles on Bianet about childhood perception and children in prison.⁵

By participating in the "KDK Child Trainer Training" organized by UNICEF and the KDK, we both ensured that our thematic area representative received the trainer training certificate and we had the opportunity to discuss with other participants and KDK representatives about what should be done about for children in prison to have safe access to the KDK and to evaluate the work of CISST on child prisoners until now during the training. Based on this trainer training, we determined the subject of Children in Prison thematic workshop in 2024 as "Child Prisoners and KDK" as an output of our KDK studies. In Istanbul, we met representatives of non-governmental organizations and professional chambers working/having the opportunity to work in the field of juvenile prisoners and discussed KDK Child, how juvenile prisoners can reach the KDK reliably, and the current decisions of the KDK regarding prisons.

4. Data for the Children in Prison Thematic Area includes data on child and young adult prisoners who we contacted for the first time while they were in prison due to being in conflict with the law when they were under the age of 18.

5. You can access the series titled "Being a Child Prisoner", which consists of 4 articles, from the link: <https://bianet.org/yazar/can-su-sekerci-8139> Access Date: 10.02.2024

In 2024, we continued to work to improve our international advocacy activities. We contributed to the general commentary call of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the access of children to justice and effective mechanisms with the information note "Access of Child Prisoners to Justice: The Case of Turkey". In addition, we contributed to the report on children's access to education in terms of "juvenile prisoners" in order to contribute to Türkiye's universal periodic review in front of the UN.

Positive Feedback:

As of 07.02.2024, the number of foreign children held in prisons in Turkey, the number of detainees/convicts of these children and their number distribution by country have been requested to be disclosed.

The Ministry of Justice has rejected our request for information as it considers the information request in question as "information or document that does not concern the public and only about the regulations regarding its internal practices with its own personnel".

The process was carried to the Ombudsman Institution and it was requested to advise the Ministry of Justice and to explain the said statistics by the Ministry. KDK advised re-evaluation of the request for information to the Ministry of Justice after seeing our application in place.

Positive feedback

Bu arada bence yaptığınız başvuru çok güzel olmuş teşekkürler herşey için ama tabii başvuru ne kadar sürede sonuç verir bilmiyorum ama umarım en yakın zamanda sonuç alabilirsiniz belki de o zamana kadar bir-iki burdan çıkmış oluruz.

"By the way, I think the application you made is very good. Thank you for everything. Of course, I don't know how long it will take for the application to receive a result, but I hope we can get a result as soon as possible. Maybe by then we will have been freed from this burden a bit."



We held our thematic workshop titled "Child Prisoners and KDK" in our association.

Haberler:

Being a juvenile prisoner article series:
https://bianet.org/yazar/cansu-sekerci-8139#google_vignette

Child is a Child Everywhere: Children should not be closed down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2plmd-uLzU&t=604s>

Long Live Children: Children in Prisons:
https://ankahaber.net/haber/detay/avukat_cansu_sekerci_cocugun_yeri_cezaevi_degil_okuldur_170452

Lawyer Şekerci: The number of juveniles dragged into crime in Turkey has doubled in the last decade: <https://t24.com.tr/haber/avukat-sekerci-turkiye-de-suca-suruklenen-cocuk-sayisi-son-10-yilda-iki-katina-cikti,1154280>

Execution system does not protect, it leads to crime: <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/535157/infaz-sistemi-korumuyor-suca-surukluyor>

Children dragged into crime | How does the state approach the child, how does the juvenile justice system work?: <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/516665/suca-suruklenen-cocuklar-devlet-cocuga-nasil-yaklasiyor-cocuk-adalet-sistemi-nasil-isliyor>

Women in Prison



Throughout the year 2024 we have conducted monitoring and advocacy studies on access to gender-specific needs and rights violations women prisoners have experienced.

We have established collaborations with other non-governmental organizations, universities and civil actors working in this field. We participated in workshops, seminars and events organized to raise awareness of the rights violations and gender-specific needs of women prisoners. We organized press releases, interviews, and news shares regarding the problems encountered by women prisoners and the changes in the legal regulations.

In Diyarbakır Women's Closed Prison, a 1-month restriction was imposed by the administration on the exit of children with the permission from the administration who were being held with their mothers. According to this restriction, if a child went out of prison, he/she could not return to their mother before a month. As a result of our application to the Ombudsman's Office, the KDK decided in favor by stating that the best interests of the child were not taken into account with the decision of the said administrative and observation board and that the objection mechanisms were not specified in the decision.

We have made applications to obtain information about the conditions of pregnant prisoners, mother-child living spaces, mother-child units, I am with my mother project, the right to education of female prisoners, female prisoner deaths, the conditions of women held in mixed prisons, receiving food expenses from women with children, taking preventive health measures, and access to free hygienic pads. We objected to the Ombudsman's Office regarding the applications for which we could not receive a response or received a rejection.⁶

Women in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	223
Letter Sent	266
Letter Received	129
Human Rights	346
Applications Cases	393
Positive Feedback	125

We participated in the live broadcast about the problems experienced by female prisoners in prisons as speakers.⁶ We published a press briefing on the situation of female prisoners with intersectional and original needs such as health, old age, being a woman.⁷ We have news made about the claims of women prisoners applied to the association with the allegation of gender discrimination, and demanding their problems to be put in the agenda.⁸ We participated as speakers in the Children are Children Everywhere video documentary series and contributed to how restorative justice for children can be achieved.⁹



At the Yoğurtçu Women's Forum, we participated in the event titled "Being a Female Prisoner in Turkey: Problems, Needs, Solution Suggestions" as a speaker.

6. <https://x.com/medyahabertv4/status/1802680089777512611>

7. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_duyurulari/yasli-ve-agir-hasta-mahpuslar-makbule-ozel-ve-hatice-yildizin-infazina-ara-verilmesi-ve-te-davilerinin-disarida-gerceklemesi-icin-ilgili-tum-kurumlari-sorumlu-davranmaya-cagiriyoruz/

8. <https://bianet.org/yazi/bayburt-hapishanesindeki-kadin-mahpuslar-cinsiyet-ayrimciligindan-sikayetci-299888>

9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-KpCLSDSfE>



Women in Prison Thematic Area Workshop

We tried to improve our stakeholder relations by organizing face-to-face and online meetings with women's institutions. In this context, we met Women's Human Rights New Solutions Association, Mor Çatı Foundation, We Need to Talk Association, Havle Women's Association. We have shared our work on our field of study, we listened to their current work and talked about what we could do together. After this meeting, we sent the information note published on the website of the Mor Çatı Foundation titled "What is violence against women" to women prisoners.

We participated as a speaker in the session "Penalty and Social Gender: Women's Place in Law" at the Konca Kuriş Conference organized by Havle Women's Association. We made a presentation on the conditions of female prisoners with the title of "Female Prisoners : Gender-Specific Needs and Current Problems" and answered the questions of the audience and shared their experiences.

We participated in the 27th Congress on World without Shelter, hosted by the Women's Solidarity Foundation. At the congress held with the title of "Rethinking the Place of Local Governments in the Fight Against Violence Against Women" and attended by representatives of institutions, activists and MPs from all over the country, we discussed the conditions of female prisoners and talked about what local governments can do in this field.

We conducted a closed interview to contribute to the research titled "Problems of Children Staying with Their Mothers in the Execution Institution in Turkey from the Perspective of Children's Rights and Solution Suggestions" conducted by Özyeğin University Faculty Members and independent researchers from Harvard University and provided consultancy on our experience and knowledge in the field.

This year's theme of our thematic workshop, which we organize every year, was Women in Prison Staying with Their Children. 21 people from civil actors working in the field/interested in the field participated in our workshop, which we held face-to-face in Istanbul with participation across the country. Psychologist Elif Yörükoğlu, who works under the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, discussed the developmental stages of children between 0 to 6, their needs at these stages, the importance of meeting these needs in development, the negativities that may occur by not meeting these needs, the importance of the mother-child relationship in this age range, the psychological reflections of parenting and the needs of women, her studies on this subject, and we talked about how we can advocate together in the workshop where we share the experiences of other participants, and local and international legislation and current problems are explained. Feminist writer Ayşe Düzkan, one of the workshop participants, published a column in which she also evaluated the workshop on the conditions of women held with their children in prison.¹⁰

10. <https://www.kadinisci.org/kose-yazilari/kadin-emegi/hapiste-anne-olmak/>

Case Examples with Positive Results

The applicant stated that his relative was imprisoned, had a cyst in the uterus and needed to have a biopsy, but that she could not continue the treatment procedures because the gendarmerie did not leave the examination room, and that the two letters sent to our association describing the complaints about the violations of rights she experienced were not sent to the institution by the administration because they were found inconvenient.

We prepared an application draft regarding the violation allegations detected in the application and submitted human rights applications to CIMER, CTE, IIHK and MIHK. We shared the application mechanisms with the prisoner.

After the applications we made to the relevant institutions, the prisoner's relative called our association and stated that she could access the right to treatment and had a biopsy. Two letters, which were considered objectionable, were then sent to the association.

As female prisoners kept in X Prison, the applicant applied by stating that the prison was old, that it was a prison built for men, that they could not meet their gender-specific needs for this reason, that because it is a prison very far from their families, the families only had the opportunity to visit half of the year due to the climatic conditions in which the prison was located, and that their referral applications were rejected for years.

We have submitted a draft application regarding the violation allegations identified in the application and made human rights applications to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IIHK and MIHK.

12 female prisoners held in X Prison were transferred to prisons in different cities.

The applicant applied by stating that the prisoner, who is a ward mate and an oncology patient, should be referred to the hospital for regular checks and that the hospital referrals were not performed.

We prepared a draft application regarding the alleged violations identified in the application and submitted human rights applications to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IIHK, and MIHK.

The prisoner, who is an oncology patient, had hospital referrals performed on a regular basis.

Bu konuya girmişken aklımda pitireyim. Neşeli [REDACTED] öncelikle teşekkür
fahm teşekkürler. Bir kadın olarak, dertlerim bana sorma ihtiyacı olmayan da beni
umutlu etti. Her zaman böyle dikkatli olmanı diliyorum. Özellikle kadınlar sıkıca
su olukları... // Sincerely [REDACTED] bir dertime teşekkürler. Her şeyden önce Özgür'le

Positive feedback

"While touching on this subject, I want to write briefly. First of all, thank you very much to ... for your sensitivity. As a woman, knowing that you think about me and care about my situation truly makes me feel stronger. I want you to always be this careful. Especially women face many difficulties... // I sincerely thank ... for their humane attitude. Before everything else, with respect and ..."

12'de 12-12- inşallah buvefer çıkarız bürdan sizi çok sevdiğim
kurum ailem sizlersiniz beni yalnız bırakmadığınız için
size teşekkür ederim. Sizi çok seviyorum [REDACTED] hanım
Allahıma emanet olun beni unutmayın cevabınız
bekliyorum. Sevgilerimle.
YOLKEMER - İSEN T TÜR KANALAY

Positive feedback

"God willing, these days will pass as well. Thank you very much for not leaving me alone. You are my family olacak. I am very grateful to you. ... Madam, please do not forget me, whom you have entrusted to God. I await your reply. With my respects."

inşallah, öncelikle size teşekkür ederim. Ben teşekkür ederim size ve
Allahınız beni çok sağlasın. Sizden saygıda kendim daha yavaş hissetmeye
başladım. Çok teşekkürler. Teşekkürler için çalışmalarınızda başarılar.

Positive feedback

"What matters to me is that you show sensitivity. I thank you very much for your interest and care. Thanks to you, I feel a little stronger inside. Thank you very much. I wish you success in your work that deserves appreciation."



LGBTI+ in Prison



In 2024, we realized studies on rights violation of LGBTI+ prisoners such as detention in de facto isolation though execution regime does not require it, access to hormone during body affirmation process and access to hospitals and discrimination. We made applications regarding the violations of rights due to lack of legal regulations covering LGBTI+ prisoners.

We participated in various panels, workshops and meetings held specifically for LGBTI+ people and prisoners in order to present opinions on the violations of rights experienced by LGBTI+ prisoners and to create partnerships.

Thanks to the partnerships, we exchanged views on the various perspectives of civil society actors and the violations of rights encountered in the intersectional field. We carried out studies to mainstream LGBTI+ prisoners in the civil area.

We organized lawyer visits in prisons in order to meet directly with prisoners who could not communicate by letter and to detect other necessary situations. In these visits, we made human rights applications regarding the detected violations of rights in the light of the reports prepared by the lawyers who visited the prisoners and performed monitoring. As a result

LGBTI+ in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	97
Letter Sent	203
Letter Received	217
Human Rights	388
Applications Cases	279
Positive Feedbacks	87

of our applications, we provided positive developments such as the visit of the monitoring delegations to the prisoners, the realization of hospital referrals and the placement of LGBTI+ prisoners in appropriate wards.

We organized the LGBTI+ prisoners workshop, which takes place regularly every year, in Izmir, prioritizing participation from different provinces. At the ninth LGBTI + prisoners workshop, we conveyed the status of LGBTI + prisoners with statistical numbers. We discussed the issues of de facto isolation, compulsory referral, hospital referrals and access to medicine, and discrimination through observations in the workshop. In the LGBTI+ workshop, where 15 people participated, we had the opportunity to cooperate with various provincial bar associations and non-governmental organizations.



LGBTI+ in Prison Thematic Area Workshop

News:

“There is a need for legal regulations to eliminate the rights violations of LGBTI+ people in prison”
<https://kaosgl.org/haber/hapisteki-lgbti-larin-hak-ihlallerini-giderecek-yasal-duzenlemelere-ih-tiyac-var>

Case Examples with Positive Results

The prisoner, who was in gender confirmation process and who did not have access to medicine and a doctor with hospital referral, applied to our association. They stated that the gender confirmation process should continue and that access to medicine is necessary.

We made application stating that the gender affirmation process of the prisoner should not be interrupted, continue under the supervision of a doctor with the hospital referral and that this situation is a violation of health rights.

Following our applications, the prisoner was referred to the hospital and the gender affirmation process was continued.

The LGBTI+ prisoner, who was kept in a single cell though execution regime does not require it, and who could not meet with the family for this reason, reached us by letter. They stated that they could not see the family and that they had difficulty in accessing the medicine.

After the statement of LGBTI+ prisoners, we made applications and included in our application that keeping them in a single cell though execution regime does not necessitate is a violation of rights.

After the application, prisoner contacted us again and informed us that they did not stay in the single cell anymore and that access to the medicine was easier.

The trans prisoner, who reached us through a letter, stated that they were housed in a ward which is not compatible with their gender identity, that they were subjected to discrimination and that they could not initiate the gender affirmation process.

We stated in our applications that these people should be accommodated in wards compatible with their gender identity, the person is obliged to perform the process themselves.

After our applications, the prisoner was moved to a ward compatible with the gender identity and discrimination was ended.



Merhaba [REDACTED] Zorlu ve kalbi güzel şu cezaevinde işimi beklendiğim bir nebrede olsa yaşamaya sebep olan güzel insan. Sen nasılsın iyimisin umarım bütün güzellikler ve iyilikler üzerine yağmur gibi yağmasın dilerim. Matiden emekliliğim için hastaneye gitmeye başladım küçük bir aksilik çıktı sadece o da evrakların esti tarıllıtmış şuan yarı bekliyorum o da 1 ay içerisinde olur sanırım Senden ALLAH rzu olsun senin yanında oluyor bütün bunlar ailem ile görüşe biliyorum aralık koğuşa verdiler çünkü beni her ay düzenli [REDACTED] gdp geliyorum ilaçlarımı itti geliyor. Aynı zamanda hormon tedavisine başladım dönüşüm için fakat [REDACTED] an bu yana televizyonum

Positive feedback

"Hello ... my dear and kind-hearted friend, the beautiful person who, even for a moment, gave me a reason to hold on to life in this beautiful water prison where I am imprisoned. How are you, my dear? I hope you are well. I wish that all beauties and goodness rain down upon you like rain. Because of my retirement, I started going to the hospital; a small setback came up, but it is only that. I am waiting for my old, worn-out ID card files; I think they will arrive in a month. God bless you, I love you very much. I can now meet with my lawyer regarding all these matters. I go regularly every month ... The medications are helping. At the same time, I have started hormone treatment for my transition, but ..."

Öncelikle mektubim cevap yazdın için, çok teşekkür ederim ve Ayırcılık verdiğiniz bilgileri için de çok sağol, Evet ben iyim çok şükür. Umarım sizler de iyisiniz İnşallah Astında ben teşekkür ederim beni cevapsız hiç Breakmediniz! Allah Rzu olsun, [REDACTED]

Positive feedback

"First of all, thank you very much for writing back to my letter. I am also very grateful for the information you provided in detail and clearly. I am very glad to have met you. I hope you are doing well too. Actually, I thank you sincerely for not leaving me without a reply. God bless you ..."



Health in Prison



Health in Prison during 2024 Thematic Area, we conducted intense advocacy efforts to minimize the factors preventing the prisoners' access to health. In this process, we came together with non-governmental organizations, professional chambers and civil actors operating in the field and developed common strategies. We have prepared various news and press texts to draw attention to the health rights of prisoners and to raise public awareness. In addition, we took part in health themed panels, seminars, in the relevant courses of university as speakers and carried the subject to different platforms. We organized trainings, provided and received consultancies based on knowledge and experience sharing with universities and stakeholder non-governmental organizations. With all these studies, we continued to take concrete steps to protect and strengthen the right to health in prison.

Prisoners who applied to the Thematic Area of Health in Prison in 2024 had demands overlapping with the previous years, such as discrimination, referral to another prison and hospital due to health, access to treatment, medicine, food and postponement of execution. There was a noticeable increase in the number of letters from the health field compared to last year, so there was a dramatic increase in the number of applications. However, considering the positive feedback we received in 2024, we observed that requests for referrals to hospitals or other prisons, treatment and access to food were also more frequently realized as a result of the applications we made.

This year, we held meetings with professors from many universities in order to strengthen our ties with the academy. In this context, at the end of the meeting we held in our association with Seçil Doğuç Ergin from Galatasaray University about possible collaborations, we were the guests of Prisons and the Sociology of Imprisonment Experience course, where we both introduced CISST and talked about the access of prisoners to health. Furthermore, we attended the invitation of Ankara University, Faculty of Law's Disability Rights Clinic and touched upon the current situation and legal rights of sick and disabled prisoners. In addition, we participated in the "Right to Health in Prisons Seminar" organized by Bilgi University

Health in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	217
Letter Sent	383
Letter Received	442
Human Rights	898
Applications Cases	802
Positive Feedback	497

Law Graduates Association as a speaker.

As the Health in Prison Thematic Area, in 2024, we participated in the Equality Data Training organized by the Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (ESHİD) and the "Artificial Intelligence and the Health Workforce (Perspectives from medical associations on AI in health)" training organized by the OECD and gained information about the development of artificial intelligence in the field of health.

We gathered together in two separate meetings to evaluate the ability of prisoners to be examined visually in prison without going to the hospital through the Tele-Medicine Program and held the "E-Doctor Practice in Prison Workshop Series". Human Rights Association (İHD), Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Monitoring Association for Equal Rights (ESHİD), Lawyers Association for Freedom (ÖHD), Chamber of Computer Engineers (BMO) participated in these meetings. In 2024, a visit was made to the prisons where this practice started, and information synchronization was made by sharing the information obtained during these visits throughout the workshop series, the answers to the information requests we made through CIMER, and all the data we collected from other institutions, and a study group was formed on this subject. At the end of the workshops, it was decided to organize a large workshop on this subject.

We actively participated in the Network Against Discrimination established by the EDM (Equality Monitoring Center) as the Health Thematic Area in Prison. On the anniversary of the February 6 Earthquake, we applied to TIHEK in the form of an open call and asked what measu-

res were taken after the earthquake in closed spaces such as prisons.¹¹ In addition, we talked to this group of election studies established within the scope of the network, we conveyed where the motives stand in the project on hate speech and ignored groups in the election pro-

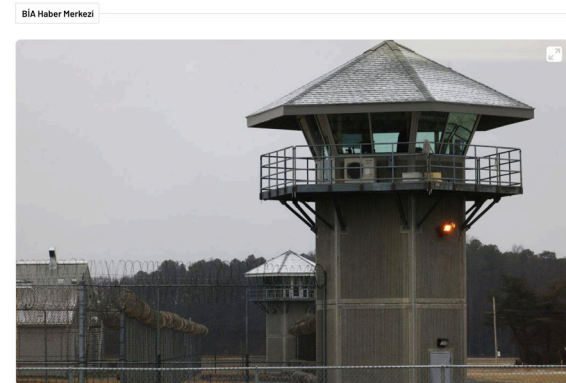
cesses. We took part in the video prepared by the Association for Access to the Right to a Fair Trial (AYHED), a member of the network, for Access to the Right to a Fair Trial.



"Prisoner Özge Özbek with brain tumor should be released"

CİSST'ten açlık grevindeki Ecevit Piroğlu için Sırbistan yetkililerine çağrı

CİSST, ilk açlık grevinde 78 kilodan 47 kiloya düşen ve şu anki açlık grevinde de sadece su içen ve B vitamini kullanan Piroğlu için geç kalınmadan adım atılmasını istedi.



Call by CİSST to the Serbian authorities for Ecevit Piroğlu on hunger strike

Case Examples with Positive Results

A prisoner asked us to make the necessary applications for the improvement of the prisoner's health conditions, who was sent to the prison without surgery despite experiencing severe injuries and who was not provided access to treatment, ignoring the urgency of the health condition and not sustaining his daily life in the institution where he was kept.

Upon the request of the prisoner, we made human rights applications to the institutions for his referral to a prison where he could access regular treatment and performing his surgery as soon as possible.

As a result of our applications, the prisoner was sent to a prison where he/she could access full-fledged health services suitable for his/her specific type of sickness, and all patient referrals and access to treatment were carried out in the institution he/she went to.

11. <https://www.esitlikizlememerkezi.org/tiheke-acikca-soruyoruz/>

A prisoner contacted our association to reach regular treatment, stating that he has chronic diseases such as cardiac diseases, blood pressure, prostate and back pain, waiting for dental prosthesis for a few years and having wounds in the mouth and therefore not having access to adequate nutrition, not referred to the relevant departments.

Thereupon, in order to have dental prostheses and to have access to regular treatment related to chronic diseases, we made human rights applications. In addition, publications and information notes of our association were sent so that he could make applications on these issues.

After our applications, hospital referrals were made to more than one department for the chronic diseases of the prisoner, operation date was defined, the drug treatment process was started for the wounds formed in his mouth and dental prosthesis was made.

A severely ill prisoner who is forced to work in Open Pen Pen Institution, having diseases such as hypertension, tachycardia, and bicuspid aortic valve in his heart, told us he could not get sick reports because he was not taken to the hospital, so he did not receive regular treatment and was employed in heavy work.

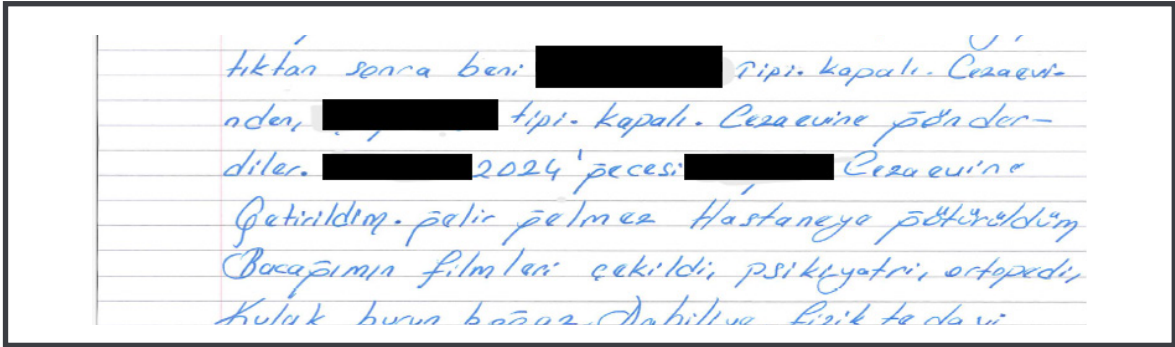
With his approval, we made human rights applications to many institutions and made attempts to report his diseases as soon as possible, to keep them under regular control and treatment, and not to be forced to work.

After our applications, the prisoner was immediately taken to hospital and all his checks and examinations were carried out, his treatment was started, the diagnosis of his diseases was reported and it was stated in the report that he would not be employed in heavy work.

Yeni raptra ariem cimere de bar verodu. Mehtupta bahsettiginiz heyet sizin basvurunuz sonucu gezen hafta yani [REDACTED] ayinin ikinci haftasi geldi. Beni gorusme odasına aldılar. Heyete yaşadığım sorunları ve size yazılan mektubu sonrası çözüldüğünü anlattım. Sorunlarım çözülmese bile mektuplarımda benim için yaptığınız yazışmalar ve harcadığınız emekle yeter, Rabbim

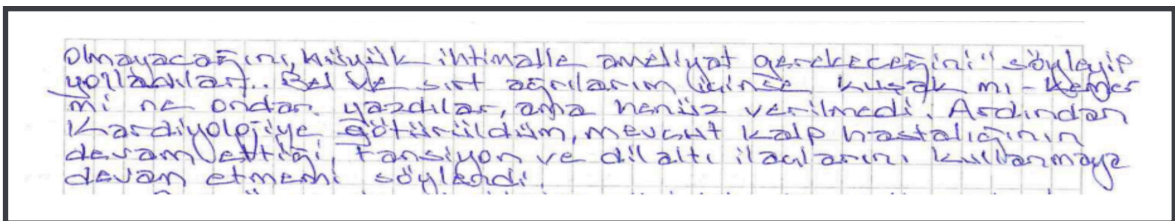
Positive feedback

"My dear, as I mentioned in my previous letter, the committee meeting related to your application took place last week, that is, in the second week of They took me into the interview room. I told the committee about the problems I experienced and explained that after the letter written to you, these problems were resolved. Even if my problems had not been resolved, the correspondence you made for me through your letters and the effort you put in would have been enough for me. May God ..."



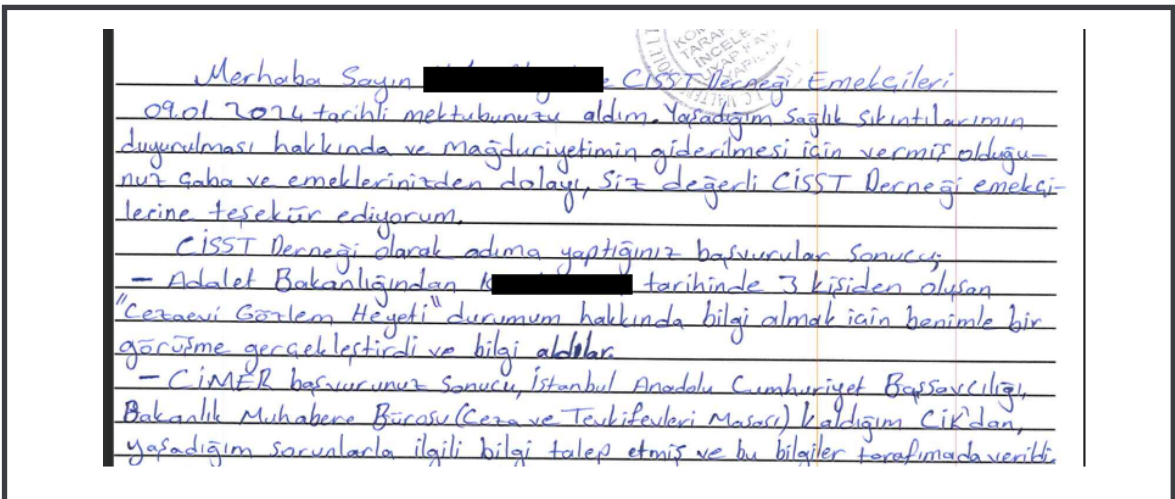
Positive feedback

"After that, they transferred me to a ... type closed prison. From ... they sent me to a ... type closed prison. In ... 2024, I was brought to ... Prison. As soon as I arrived, I was taken to the hospital. X-rays of my leg were taken; psychiatry, orthopedics, ear-nose-throat, internal medicine, and physical therapy..."



Positive feedback

"They said that surgery would most likely necessary. They wrote painkillers and muscle relaxants for my lower back and back pain, but no report was issued. Afterwards, I was referred to cardiology; it was said that my existing heart condition continues and that I should continue using blood pressure"



Positive feedback

"Hello Dear ... CISST Association workers,
 I received your letter dated 09.01.2024. Regarding the announcement of the health problems I have experienced and the efforts you have made to remedy my victimization, I would like to thank you, the valuable workers of the CISST Association, for your efforts and labor.
 As a result of the applications you made on my behalf as the CISST Association:
 - Following a request from the Ministry of Justice, on ... , a three-person 'Prison Observation Board' held a meeting with me in order to obtain information about my situation, and they received information."
 - As a result of your CİMER application, the Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry Correspondence Office (Prison and Detention Facilities Desk), requested information regarding the problems I experienced from the prison where I am held, and this information was provided by me ..."

... İkinci hastaneye sevk talebi... Nisan ilgisini / hatırlıyor
madım. Ve ardından herhangi bir talebin olmamasına
rağmen, yeni yıla birlikte banlı [redacted]
hastaneye sevk ettiler. Önce iki yıldır tıbbi tedavilerin
[redacted] taktiler, ardından ağızındaki yara-
ların tedavisi için ilaçları verdiler. "Havuzda kaymak
değil suyun değil" misali, bunlar niyet böyle illemler-
[redacted] derken, Meclis'in. Hakları Kom. [redacted]
imzalı bir yazı-mektup geldi. Hem sizin, hem de benim
başvurumu illeme abaklarını ilgilil sorunların ağız
konusunda takibi olduklarını belirtiyordu.
Sonrım iki yada üç ay sonra gene talep etmemişken
gene hastaneye götürüldüm. Ki, bu gelişmeyi de faxla
size aktarmaya çalışmışım ama ulaşamadım sanırım.
Kimi misyonerler ve ilaçlar verildi, [redacted] içinde yeni
tedaviler yapacaklarını, mevcut ilaçlarının artık " faydası"

Positive feedback

... Second, the referral request. I couldn't remember the other two, and then, even though I had no request, they referred me to the hospital along with the new patient. First, they put in the ... that they hadn't put in for two years, then they gave me medication to treat the sores in my mouth. I was wondering why they were taking such an interest, as if it were a holiday or something, when a letter signed by the Parliament's Human Rights Committee arrived. It stated that they had taken both your and my applications into consideration and were following up on the resolution of the relevant issues. I think two or three months later, even though I hadn't requested it, I was taken to the hospital again. I tried to tell you about this development, but I don't think it reached you. Whoever examined me and gave me medication said they would do new tests because my current medication was no longer effective...

Tavil sizin mektubunuzun hemen ardından hastaneye
götürüldüm. Hemde talebin olmamasına rağmen. Önce
Kulak-Burun-Böğaz servisine. Ardından da iç Hastalık-
ları servisine. Ertesi haftada Diş Hastanesine. Yanlız
şöyle bir durum yaşandı; 0 gün 30-40 mahpusa has-
taneye götürülmesine rağmen, ki benim Ağız içi
aramam yapılmadı. Sonuç olarak Diş protezlerimin
altı yenilendi, üst tarafı ise Nisan ayında yapılacakmış.
Bu vesileyle ilgi-alaka ve yardımlarınız için teşekkür
etmek isterim

Positive feedback

"Immediately after your letter, I was taken to the hospital. Even though I had not made a request, first to the ear-nose-throat department, then to internal medicine, orthopedics, and psychiatry. Later, I was taken to the dental department; however, although it was said that I should be taken to the hospital urgently for my teeth, this was not done. Finally, the lower part of my dental prosthesis was renewed, and it was said that the upper part would be done in April. For all this interest, care, and assistance, I would like to thank you."

Right to Education in Prison



As Right to Education in Prison Thematic Area, we conducted monitoring, assessment and reporting studies on rights violations the prisoners face in the field of right to education throughout the year 2024. We have found that the issue that most affected the prisoners who tried to continue their education in 2024 was the prisoners cannot cover the fees related to registration for the university exam, registration for the university, participation in the exams, access to the materials because of deep economic crisis.

Another heading of this year's agenda was the participation of prisoners in open prison to the lessons in formal education was not allowed. We made human rights applications and information requests to various institutions related to the allegations communicated to our association by letters and helpline, and we visited the prisons and interviewed the prisoners. In general, we provided consultancy to the MPs on the violations faced by the prisoners in the field of the right to education and the inability of the prisoners in closed prisons to benefit from formal education due to the obligation of

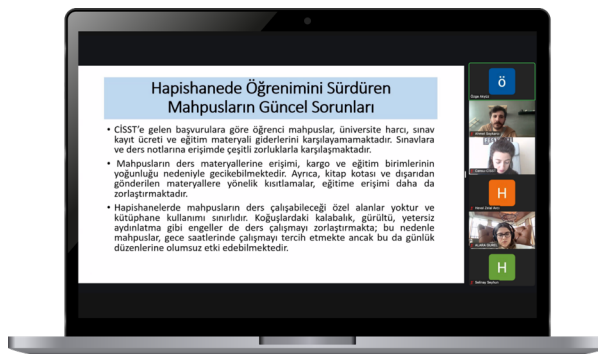
Right to Education in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	55
Letter Sent	55
Letter Received	60
Human Rights	129
Applications Cases	81
Positive Feedbacks	53

compulsory attendance.

We visited the Council of Higher Education and held a meeting with the Strategy Development Department in line with our Free Access to Course Materials of Prisoners who are students of the Faculty of Open Education and who are trying to continue their education in the prison, which we started in 2023 and of which 22 institutions are signatories¹². As a result of this meeting, we notified our campaign text to the Council of Higher Education, and we were informed by the Council of Higher Education that the relevant texts were forwarded to the Faculties of Open and Distance Education of Anadolu University and Atatürk University.

We published an information note on University Choice and Registration Periods for relatives of prisoners.¹³ We published an evaluation letter on the amendments to the right to education of the prisoners in the draft of Ninth Judicial Package.¹⁴ We published an evaluation letter on the amendments to the right to education of prisoners in the Law on the Amendment of the Notary Law and Some Laws.¹⁵

By participating in the Intergenerational Equality Workshop organized by the Community Volunteers Foundation within the scope of the



Right to Education in Prison
Thematic Area Workshop

12. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_duyurulari/mahpuslara-ders-materyalleri-ucretsiz-ve-basili-olarak-saglanmalidir/

13. https://cisst.org.tr/2024/08/23/mahpuslarin-universitelere-kayit-sureclerine-dair-bilgi-notu/?fbclid=PAY2xjawISz6dleHRuA2FI-bQixMAABpmJUvJHTNYz-MQhbq4dGavH-TNwqlz1WMeFNAiA0YZOyIBne-1n6M43q-w_aem_qau43R5bjtEzNlq7wiV1kw

14. <https://cisst.org.tr/yazilar/9-yargi-paketinde-bulunan-mahpuslarin-ogrenim-hakki-konusundaki-degerlendirmemiz/>

15. <https://cisst.org.tr/2024/12/04/noterlik-kanunu-ile-bazi-kanunlarda-degisiklik-yapilmasina-dair-kanunda-bulunan-mahpuslarin-ogrenim-hakina-iliskin-degisiklikler-hakkinda/>

Project on Increasing Gender Equality Awareness of Young People, we contributed to the topics about young prisoners, access to the right to education and gender intersectionality.

Case Examples with Positive Results

The prisoner's relative applied to our association claiming that the prisoner demanded access to a computer while choosing a university in order to learn the information about which universities accept the participation of prisoners to education and which of them do not accept it, and their geographical location, and he was not allowed.

We have prepared a draft application regarding the violation allegations identified in the application and made human rights applications to CIK, CIMER, CTE, İHK and MİHK.

The relative of the prisoner called and told us that the prisoner accessed the computer, made a university choice and started to study.

The prisoner applied to our association claiming that he continued to be kept as a dangerous convict despite being in good condition, that for this reason he was not transferred to an open prison, that execution court decided in favor of him in this regard, but that this decision was not implemented by the prison administration, and that he had to suspend his formal education despite having entered the university due to not being sent to an open prison.

We have prepared a draft application regarding the violation allegations identified in the application and made human rights applications to CIK, CIMER, CTE, İHK and MİHK.

The prisoner called our association, stated that the title of dangerous convict was abolished and that the transfer to the open prison was carried out in accordance with the court decision.

The prisoner applied to our association claiming that he has an associate degree of the faculty of open education, and demanded his diploma to be sent to him but no action was taken.

We have prepared a draft application regarding the violation allegations identified in the application and made human rights applications to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IHHK and MIHK.

The prisoner stated that his diploma was notified to him through the letter he sent.

The prisoner stated that he was sent to the Closed Penal Institution with a disciplinary penalty, that he did not continue his formal education for this reason, that his objection to disciplinary penalties was accepted, that he went back to an open prison, that he could not start formal education yet, and that he had a violation of the right to education during his time in closed prison and could not take his courses and exams.

By providing consultancy on the complaints and allegations of the prisoners, we informed him that he should apply for referral to the city the university he is enrolled is located in order to continue the formal education, apply to the university for the compensation for the exams that were not taken during the period when he was sent to the closed prison, if the university does not accept his request, he should get an objection letter, and may apply to the administrative court for cancellation regarding his refusal.

The prisoner called our association through a relative and said that he was sent to the city to continue his formal education where the university is located and that he could continue his education, that he applied to the university for compensation for the exams he could not take and that he carried out his legal processes in line with the consultancy we provided.

ayrıca teşekkür ederim. Umarım; özgürlüğüme kavuştuğumda elimde çiçeğimle ofisinizi ziyaret edip minnettarlığımı yüz yüze ifade edip, derneğinizi biz dezavantajlı mahkûmlara ne derecede katkılarınız olduğunu ve topluma katıldığımızda bu seferde biz derneğimize ne gibi katkılar yapabiliriz bunun üzerine konuşuruz. Öğrenim sürecimde yar-

Positive feedback

"I would also like to thank you. I hope that when I regain my freedom, I can visit your office with a flower in my hand, express my gratitude to you face to face, and talk about how much your association contributes to disadvantaged prisoners, and when we rejoin society, what kind of contributions we can make to your association in return. We can discuss this further during my education process."

Diplomam sizin başvurularınız sonucunda aldım. Şimdiki öğrenim sürecimde yar-

Positive feedback

"As a result of your applications, I was able to receive my diploma. I thank you. ..."

İlgünüz, alakanız ve yaptıklarınız için minnettarım. Lütfen teşekkürlerinizi kabul edin. İşkanınızda kolaylıklar ve başarılar dilerim. TANM İzzet beğenim --

Positive feedback

"I am grateful for your interest, relevance, and what you have done. Please accept my thanks. I wish you ease and success in your work. May God protect you."

İgri alakia ve yardimlariniz için, Çok ama çok teşekkür ederim. Size ve arkadaşlarınıza çalışmalarınızda başarılar dilerim. Lütfen için, tekrar teşekkür ederim.

Positive feedback

"I thank you very much for your interest and assistance. I send my respects and greetings to you and your colleagues. I would like to thank you once again for your efforts."

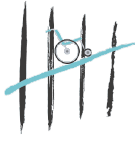
im sizin gibi kurumunuzun verdiği Türkiye'de S.T.K'larına ve kab' ekem ve bretili olduğun bir kez daha ortaya koyulmaktadır. Şahsim ve bütün Mahpus Kardeşlerim adına sizlere tekrar çok teşekkür ederim. Sağlıklarla Kalın. Saygılarımla.

Positive feedback

"Your presence and your institution once again highlight how necessary and important civil society organizations are in Turkey. On behalf of myself and all my fellow prisoners, I thank you very much once again. Stay safe. With my respects."



Disabled in Prison



We found that the disabled prisoners mostly had problems about access to health and disability poverty in 2024. We found that disabled prisoners even have difficulty in accessing a basic report such as the "disability health board report for adults" and accordingly, they did not have access to the disability pension, so their poverty is deepened. We received positive feedback as a result of our applications after the prisoners' request to be referred to the hospital to receive or renew the relevant report, which normally takes for almost a year following our applications, the prisoners told us they were referred to hospital for the report. In addition, we provided support to many prisoners we corresponded with in this year, and we provided consultancy on application mechanisms and objections to prisoners regarding the disability pension. With this support, we learned that 17 prisoners had access to the disability report, and at least 5 of the 19 prisoners who applied for the disability pension had access to the disability pension. Throughout 2024, as the Thematic Area for the Disabled in Prison, we carried out monitoring and advocacy activities regarding the accessibility of prisons for the disabled and the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of disabled prisoners, and we have developed dialogues with other non-governmental organizations, professional chambers and civil actors conducting activities in this area.

In 2024, we also provided consultancy on the accessibility of prisons for the disabled and

Disabled in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	97
Letter Sent	86
Letter Received	175
Human Rights	170
Applications Cases	113
Positive Feedbacks	96

collaborated with many organizations working in the field of disability rights. We have also strengthened our communication with self-organizations and bar associations that carry out needs- or aid-based studies, in addition to non-governmental organizations that carry out rights-based studies.

We had dialogues with various organizations working in the field of disability or prison such as Disabled Women's Association, Hearing Impaired and Their Families Association, Components without Barriers Association, Struggle Against Discrimination and Equality Association, Disabled Children's Network, Disabled People's Confederation, Van Hearing Impaired People and Their Families Association, Istanbul Bar Association Disability Rights Center, Human Rights Initiative in Mental Health Association provided consultations and shared experiences about disabled prisoners in various activities.

Olumlu Sonuçlanan Vaka Örnekleri

Disabled prisoner applied to us for the transfer to the disabled ward in the Closed Penal Institution.

Upon the complaints and requests of the prisoner, we made applications to the Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Centers, Provincial Human Rights Committee, Prisons Monitoring Board, TGNA Human Rights Review Commission for the prisoner's ward change request.

In July, the prisoner's relative called helpline of our association's helpline and stated that the ward was changed and that he did not have any problems.

The prisoner submitted his complaints and requests for transfer to another prison due to the fact that he was in the same prison with his foe in the Closed Penal Institution.

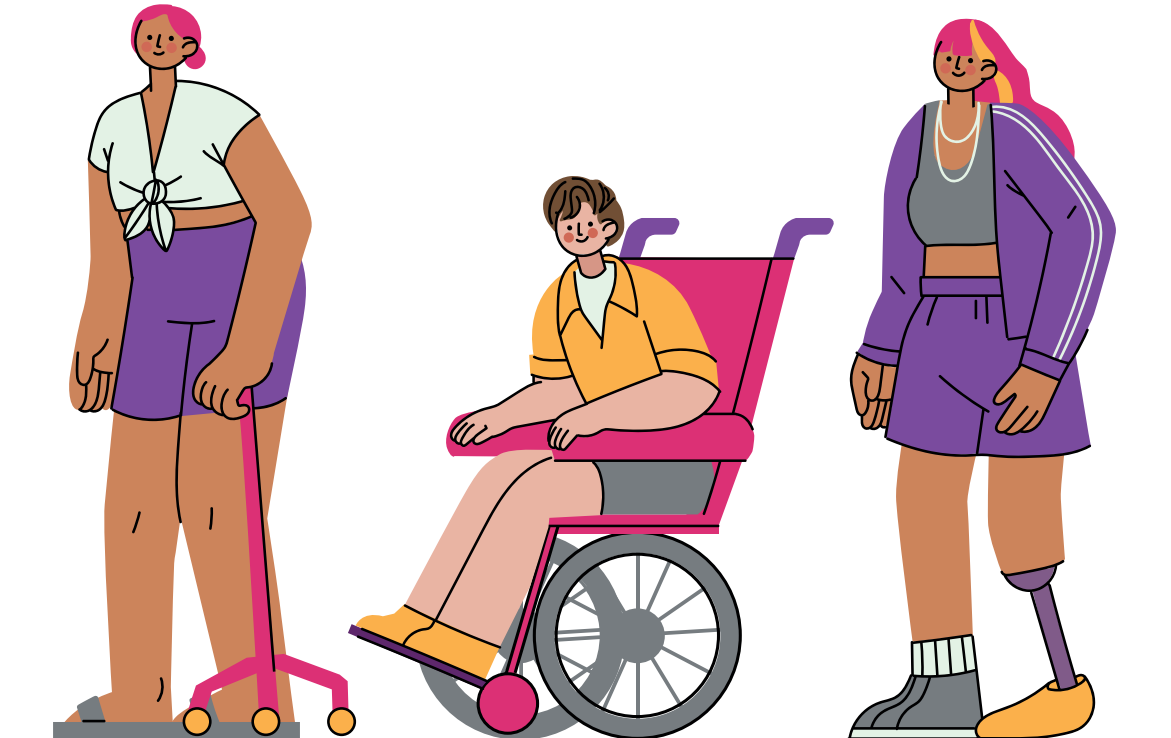
We made an application for transfer due to life safety to the Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, Provincial Human Rights Board, Prisons Monitoring Board, TGNA Human Rights Investigation Commission.

In August, the prisoner communicated that the transfer request was accepted and that he had been transferred to another prison. He expressed his gratitude to CISST stating that it supported a lot in this process, was very interested, and always responded to his letters.

The prisoner, who has a 58% disability and kept in the High Security Closed Penal Institution, stated in his letter dated June 2024 to our association that he has applied for a disability pension for 2 years and has requested our application support in this regard.

We applied to necessary institutions in order to meet the prisoner's request for disability.

In the letter he wrote to our association in October, the prisoner stated that he could receive the disability pension, which he had not received for 2 years, as a result of the applications made by CISST.



Aggravated Life Sentence in Prison



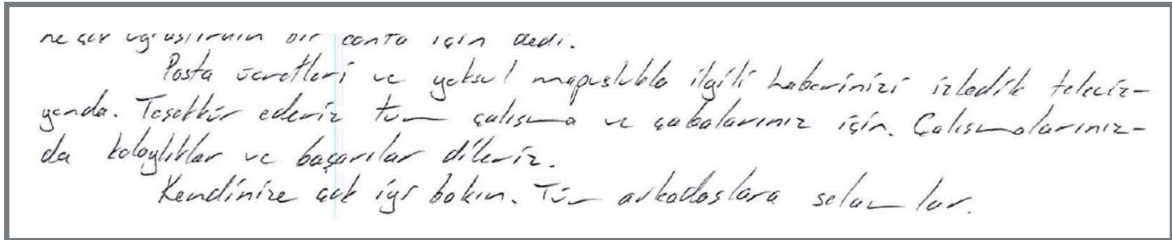
As Aggravated Life Sentence Thematic Area we conducted various monitoring and advocacy activities to draw attention to the conditions of isolation on prisoners, economic problems, other violations they have experienced and discrimination they suffer due to the aggravated life sentence regime.

We also engaged in monitoring and advocacy activities regarding the priciness of letter sending fees, which affected all prisoners but further affected aggravated life prisoners. As in the last year, we made applications for information and news about PTT fees.

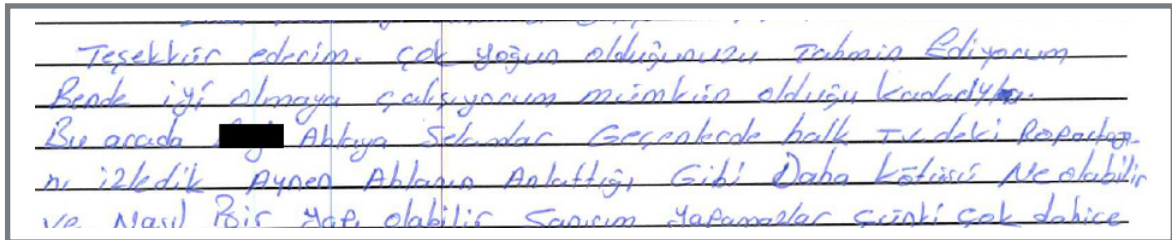
Aggravated Life Sentence	2024
Number of Prisoners	109
Letter Sent	194
Letter Received	219
Human Rights	618
Applications Cases	689
Positive Feedbacks	235

We conducted activities about the complaints we received from S, Y and High Security prisons, to draw attention to severe isolation conditions in such prisons and their physical and architectural structure. and increased visibility of these studies in the international arena.¹⁶ We have prepared articles to address the impact of aggravated life imprisonment on prisoners' health and the evaluation of punishment in terms of social policies.¹⁷

We made applications to obtain information in order to reach statistical data on the number of aggravated life prisoners. Since we could not get a response to the information requests we made, we chose to apply to administrative court for strategic litigation.



"I would like to make one small request as well. If possible, could you follow up on the postage fees and the letter related to the high cost. Thank you for all your work and efforts. I wish you ease and success in your work. Take very good care of yourselves. Greetings to all colleagues."



"Thank you. I understand that you are very busy. I am trying to be okay as much as possible. By the way, we watched the report on Halk TV the other night about ... Ahlatya Selamlar. As Ahlatya also described, how much worse can it get, and what kind of structure can it turn into? I think it has become even more alarming."

16. <https://bianet.org/haber/bodrum-cezaevinde-musluk-suyu-camasir-suyu-kokuyor-299801>

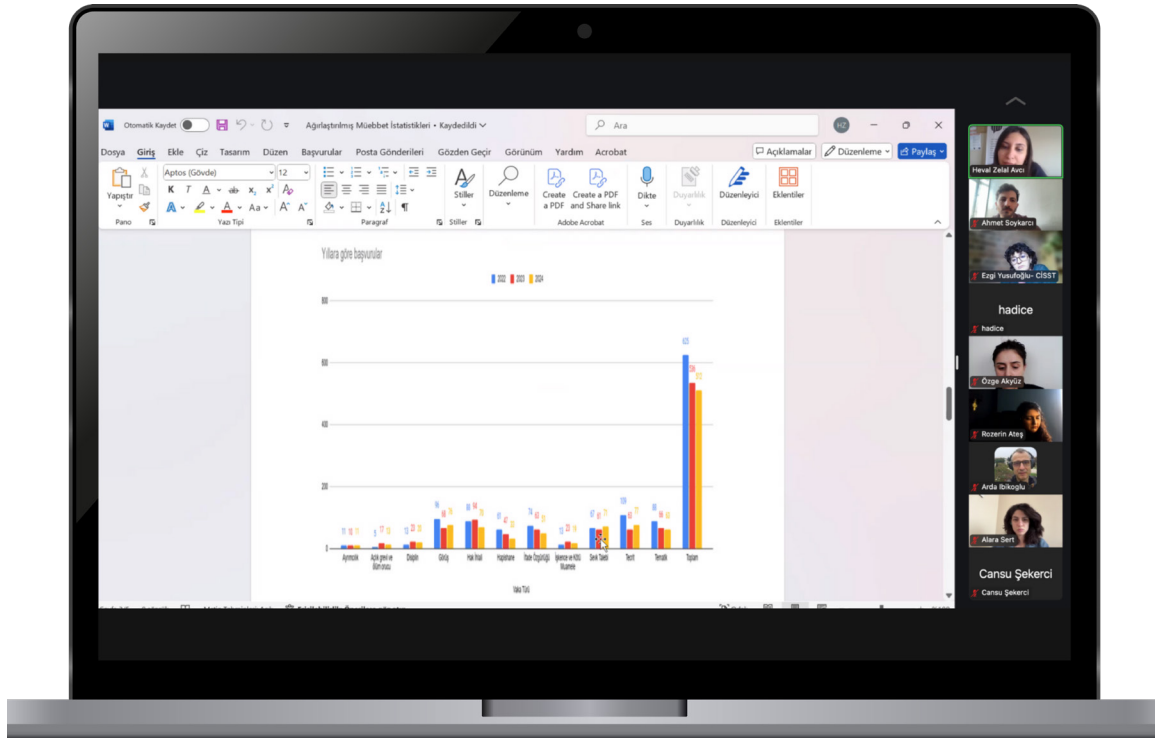
Specific to *Gurban v. Turkey* case, we notified the Committee of Ministers on 9.2 in order for the relevant authorities to comply with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the recommendations of the United Nations Committee Against Torture together with Contemporary Lawyers Association (CHD), Human Rights Association (IHD), Society and Law Research Foundation (TOHAV), Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV), Lawyers for Freedom Association (OHD).

We prepared an information note on the right to hope in the light of national and international legislation and published it on our website.¹⁸

In addition, we worked together with different non-governmental organizations, bar associations and consultants of MPs for the prisoners who applied with claims of torture and ill-treatment. We exchanged ideas with different non-governmental organizations about what activities we can carry out jointly for sick and aggravated life prisoners. We provided consultancy on the proposal of "the law on the

amendment of the law on the implementation of penalties and security measures in order to abolish the provision that the execution of the aggravated life imprisonment will not be interrupted under any circumstances".

We have determined the subject of the thematic field "Aggravated Life in Prison Workshop" workshops we hold every year as the "Aggravated Life Execution Regime and the Right to Hope" this year. 18 people from different professions such as lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, social workers and human rights defenders attended the workshop we organized. In the workshop, the violations experienced by aggravated life prisoners due to the aggravated life sentence regime, the distinction between imprisonment with and without the right to hope, and the cases in the European Court of Human Rights regarding the right to hope were mentioned.



17. <https://bianet.org/yazi/agirlastirilmis-muebbet-mahpusun-sagligini-nasil-etkiliyor-290184>

18. <https://cisst.org.tr/yazilar/ulusal-ve-uluslararası-mevzuat-isiginda-umut-hakki/>

Case Examples with Positive Results

The aggravated life prisoner wrote a letter to our association stating that they were taken out for air in the yard for only 1 hour in a day and demanded that we take the necessary actions.

Thereupon, an application draft containing the decisions and opinions of the ECHR and the CPT was prepared and human rights applications were made to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IIHK and MIHK.

As a result of our application, it was stated that the airing time of the prisoner, who was sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment, was increased to 4 hours.

The aggravated life prisoner wrote a letter stating that there was a uniform haircut imposition in the prison and demanded that we take the necessary actions.

Thereupon, a draft of the application was prepared and human rights applications were made to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IIHK and MIHK and the prisoner was informed.

As a result of our application, the imposition of a uniform haircut in the prison was removed.

The prisoner, who is an aggravated life prisoner, wrote a letter stating that he has not been able to be referred to the hospital for a long time and that his health problems are increasing, and requested us to take the necessary actions.

Thereupon, a draft application regarding access to health rights was prepared and human rights applications were made to CIK, CIMER, CTE, IIHK and MIHK and application mechanisms were explained to the prisoner.

The prisoner, who applied to the application mechanism we explained, was referred to the hospital in a week and underwent surgery.

nasılsınız, iyimisiniz? İNŞALLAH iyi, Sağlıklı, Huzurlu ve Hıyettesinizdir.
Öncelikle Size Çok çok ama Çok Teşekkür Ederim ıııı
Sizin benim için yaptığınız Sağlık şikâyetimin ardından, bana
yolladığınız KDK başvuru formunda Ameliyatımla ilgili lütufluk senedir
malzeme yok diye bekletiliyorum şikâyetimin ardından geçen hafta
KDK cezaevinde, Başhekimliği de yazı göndermiş. 1 Hafta içinde
3 kere hastaya gittim tetkiklerim yapıldı ve Salı günü ameliyata
alındım, Ama varya Ameliyata kaç tane doktor geldi sayamadım ıı
Ortopedi doktoru ayrı, fizik Tedavi doktoru ayrı, nöroloji doktoru ayrı
daha görevlerini bilmediğim başka doktorlar her biri ayrı ayrı ilgileni
birbuçuk senedir olmayan malzeme bir anda geliverdi ıı

Positive feedback

"How are you, are you well? God willing, you are well, healthy, peaceful, and full of life. First of all, I would like to thank you very, very much. Following the health complaint application you made on my behalf, and the KDK application form you sent me regarding my surgery, after a year and a half of being told that there were no materials and being kept waiting, last week KDK sent letter to prison and the hospital chief physician. Within one week, I went to the hospital three times, my examinations were carried out, and on Tuesday I was taken into surgery. But honestly, I couldn't even count how many doctors came in during the surgery. One for orthopedics, one for physical therapy, one for neurology, and other doctors whose duties I do not know—each of them took care of me separately. The material that had not been available for a year and a half suddenly arrived all at once."

Worker in Prison



As Worker in Prison Thematic Area, we applied to relevant institutions in line with the worker prisoners' problems explained to us by our helpline and letters in 2024. We informed the public by following the studies carried out within the Penal Institutions and Prison Workers' Dormitories Institution and the changes in the wages received by worker prisoners during the year. We have conveyed the requests of prisoners who want to work in work dormitories to the relevant institutions and we have been involved in initiatives to improve the working conditions and wages of worker prisoners.

Cemre Yıldırım, a student at Hacettepe University, Department of Social Work, wrote her thesis on "The Right to Work in Prisons in Turkey" by benefiting from CISST publications and articles.

Worker in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	9
Letter Sent	5
Letter Received	41
Human Rights	54
Applications Cases	40
Positive Feedbacks	33



Foreigner in Prison



In 2024, in parallel with previous years foreign prisoners are one of the prisoner groups who has been heavily affected by economic crisis conditions. The fact that their families cannot provide financial support due to distance and poverty, that there is no social aid mechanism specific to foreign prisoners and that they cannot benefit from the right to work with a language barrier makes the financial conditions of this group in prisons even more difficult.

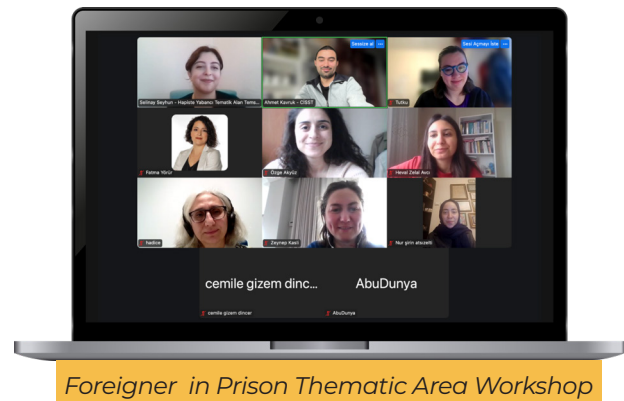
Among the other problems, frequently mentioned in the applications throughout the year made through the helpline and letters included; failure to meet the requests for referral to family location, inability to use the right of visit due to bureaucratic and financial obstacles, discrimination, obstruction of freedom of expression and the right to petition, and complaints about the decisions of the administration and observation board. In this context, we made applications for human rights and information in order to eliminate the violations of rights experienced by foreign prisoners and to improve the conditions of detention. We conveyed questions to the MPs, contacted the embassies and consulates when necessary, and tried to raise public awareness.

Foreign prisoners also face the risk of deportation and ill-treatment in the country where they will be sent back after their release. The prisoners in this situation reached out to our association and reported that their life safety was in danger. We provided consultancy for prisoners so that they can apply for international protection and request transfer to another country and directed them to the institutions where they could receive support.

On December 21, 2024, we met experts working in the field of refugee rights in the Foreign in Prison Thematic Area 10. Workshop. In the workshop, up-to-date data on foreign prisoners and their problems were shared with participants. We have developed solution suggestions by examining the cases of the prisoners who were at risk of deportation.

Foreigner in Prison	2024
Number of Prisoners	9
Letter Sent	5
Letter Received	41
Human Rights	54
Applications Cases	40
Positive Feedbacks	33

Detailed data on foreign prisoners, especially the distribution of nationalities, has not been disclosed by the Ministry of Justice and the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses in Turkey since 2017. In order to eliminate this absence, we applied for information through the Directorate of Communication of the Presidency on August 5, 2024. In the response given by the Ministry of Justice on September 17, 2024, not only the current data of foreign prisoners, but also the information about the distribution of nationalities that has not been disclosed for 7 years was shared with the public. We announced this data to the public with our statement on December 18 International Migrants Day.



In the last two years, foreign prisoners in Turkey are transferred directly to the security forces after their release and face risk of deportation without any deportation decision. In order to raise awareness about this problem, we forwarded the information note we prepared to DEM Party Mus MP Sezai Temelli, who frequently brings the problems experienced by foreign prisoners to the agenda of the Parliament, on December 10, 2024.

during the budget negotiations of the Ministry of Justice. Temelli asked the Minister of Justice Yılmaz Tunç about the official procedure and current statistics regarding the deportation of foreign prisoners by using the question and answer right at the General Assembly of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in line with the information note we forwarded. We continue to follow the developments related to the process.

Case Examples with Positive Results

As of April 1, 2024, the allegations that a foreign prisoner named Ali Veli was deported to Syria after he was released on March 12, 2024, and that he was tortured and his family were threatened were revealed to the public opinion through the press.

In order to understand the process, we contacted the Human Rights Association, which follows the legal process of the prisoner, obtained preliminary information and we made human rights applications to the relevant institutions and the issue came to the agenda both in the Parliament and the public more.

As a result of our applications, we learned that Ali Veli was transferred to the gendarmerie and taken to the Gaziantep Repatriation Center with the response received by our association on June 6, 2024, and we forwarded this information to his lawyer and family. As a result of public pressure and the family's initiative. Ali Veli was released on August 7, 2024.

Tesekkür ederim mektubunuz elime geçti Avukatınız
[REDACTED] ile görüştüm bana yardımcı oldu, ben şuan
kapalı Cezamı bitirdim, [REDACTED] Bölge Açık Ceza İnfaz kurumuna
sevdim yapıldı, şuan buradayım. Bana göndermiş olduğunuz El
kitabı ve mektubunuzu aldım, Teşekkür ederim.

Positive feedback

"Thank you, I received your letter. I spoke with your lawyer ... who helped me. I have completed my closed sentence; I have been transferred to the ... Region Open Penal Enforcement Institution, and I am here now. I received the book and your letter that you sent me. Thank you."

MONITORING AND REPORTING

CISST carries out monitoring, assessment and advocacy studies in order to recognize prisoners as subjects of rights, to raise their living standards and to provide appropriate conditions in line with human dignity. For this purpose, it regularly monitors the situation of prisons in Türkiye, documents violations of rights and shares its findings with the public with reports.

In 2024, we continued to monitor prisons through all the activities of the Support Center, and we documented and reported violations by evaluating applications from prisoners' relatives.

Database

CISST collects the claims, complaints and allegations of violations of rights received from prisoners through the correspondence activity carried out in accordance with the monitoring principles of CISST and records them in the database system under certain categories. The database, which is designed according to the monitoring indicators of CISST, is the most important data source of CISST's monitoring-reporting study.

We have designed our system, where we can keep data over 266 different information areas, in a way that is suitable for opening new areas if necessary. In 2024, we updated our monitoring indicators according to the need.

CISST Prison Map

CISST "Prison Map" was created to ensure that the public has access to data on prisons. It is available in two languages, Turkish and English. The Prison map is basically based on information obtained from the CISST database. CISST database is a system developed to classify the information received from prisons to our association and to create reports of this data. Data and reports sustain their up-to-date status thanks to regular data entry into this system by CISST.

CISST Prison Map is created on the basis of information sent via letter, helpline and lawyer visits and classified in the database, and offers instant access to this information. In CISST Prison Map, contact information of all penal institutions in Türkiye, and the list of all institutions that can be applied

thanks to CISST application guide link can be accessed.

In addition, it is possible to reach the number of applications, their categories and from which prison the applications are made throughout Turkey or specific to a prison and region since 2014. It also provides the data of the correspondence information that our association has carried out with prisoners to this day.



CISST Reports

The purpose of the CISST reports is to strengthen information and policy development in terms of human rights by identifying the current situation, developments, needs and problems in the field of prisons and prisoner rights in Turkey.

For this purpose, we have published the CISST 2023 Prisons Report, 2023 Activity Report, 2023 Monitoring Boards Report within the framework of the activities carried out in 2024.

2023 Activity Report¹⁹

CISST publishes Activity Report every year to share activities it carries out and the changes it contributes to the public.



2023 Monitoring Boards Report²⁰

The third of Monitoring Boards Report, first of which was published in 2019, which evaluates applications on the complaints and allegations of violation of rights to the relevant official institutions .

19. <https://cisst.org.tr/raporlar/faaliyet-raporu-2023/>

20. <https://cisst.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Izleme-Kurullari-Raporu-2023.pdf>

INFORMING THE PUBLIC AND ADVOCACY

As CISST, we aim to raise awareness of prisoner rights through this advocacy program. Our advocacy activities, aim at a quantitative and qualitative increase in prison rights and prison conditions in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other civil actors. In this context, the trainings to be organized especially for bar associations focus on the detection of prisoner rights violations, case follow-up and the effective use of rights seeking mechanisms. Thanks to these trainings, it is aimed to make a more conscious and effective advocacy on the rights of prisoners, and at the same time, the capacities of prisoners and lawyers are strengthened in this regard.

Our program is designed to both strengthen the individual right claims of prisoners and prepare the ground for changes at the public and legal level to improve prison conditions in general.

The realization of our program aims to expand the advocacy capacity of civil society while at the same time increasing the awareness and knowledge level of prisoners and society on this issue. These efforts will increase the effectiveness of advocacy activities of civil society and contribute to the taking of concrete steps towards the protection of human rights in the prison.

CISST Publications



Application Guide

Prisoner's Rights Handbook and Application Guideline

With this study, it is aimed to make prisoners learn their rights, where they can apply legally when their rights are violated, how to apply, some names and addresses of NGOs that he/she can correspond about violation of rights. In 2024, our Prisoner's Rights Handbook was updated upon the requests of prisoners²¹ and added the methods of applying to non-judicial institutions, application guide with the necessary documents and contact information and shared it with both prisoners and the public. We re-published our book on Comparison of Amendment to Execution Legislation upon requests from the bar associations and lawyers.

21. To access the 21st Prisoners' Rights Handbook, please refer to the section titled "Submission of Source and Information Notes."

CISST and Prisons in the Press

As CISST, we worked in cooperation with press workers to keep the problems experienced in Turkey's prisons and the rights violations suffered by prisoners on the agenda throughout 2024. This cooperation enabled bringing the current problems such as the rights of children prisoners, the problems experienced by disabled prisoners to the agenda; sharing the situation of payment of electricity bills in the status of commercial premises, the problems of handcuffed examination and access to the right to health, prisoners exposed to women's poverty and systematic violation of rights in prisons with the public, and the dissemination of the campaign we launched for prisoners who cannot access educational materials.

Thanks to a wide range of press interaction, CISST's work has reached a wide audience and helped us to create a significant impact for the public in terms of improving the conditions of imprisonment and bringing the rights of prisoners to the agenda.

CISST's activities to defend the living conditions in prisons and the rights of prisoners have made it more visible on the social agenda by extending to wider masses thanks to our cooperation with press and media workers.

CISST News

You can scan the QR Code to see our prominent news in the press.



How did CISST Contribute	
Statement/Interview	33
Our Publications	13
Our Events/Announcements	23
Press release	63
CISST is cited	40
Repetition of the news	106
CISST's name is mentioned	102
Total	380

News Type	
Written/Internet	300
Social Media	24
Online Video	8
Printed Media	26
Other	22
Total	380

RIGHTS

Date Published: 18 September 2024 15:46 ~ Modified On: 18 September 2024 15:48 Read: 3 minute

Tap water 'smells of bleach' in Muğla prison

Prisoners serving aggravated life sentences have shared rights violations they experience.



Ayça Söylemez

Türkçesini Oku

Bayburt Hapishanesindeki kadın mahpuslar cinsiyet ayrımcılığından şikayetçi

CİSST'e başvuran kadın mahpuslar, alanın mimarisi ve kantin gibi ihtiyaçların erkeklerin ihtiyaçlarına göre düzenlendiğini, kadın mahpusların ihtiyaçlarının ise görmezden geldiğini dile getirdi.



Özge Akyüz

"Ağırlaştırılmış müebbet" mahpusun sağlığını nasıl etkiliyor?

Kişinin tüm sosyal ilişkilerinin kısıtlanıp, tecrit altına alınması ve bunun yıllarca süreceğini bilmesi ya da hapisneden tahliye umudunun olmaması, mahpusta stres ve travma yaratabilir.

Heval Zetali Avcı



Çizimler: Ezgi Yusufoglu'nun "Ceza içinde Ceza: Türkiye'de Ağırlaştırılmış Müebbet Hükümlüsü Mahpusların Yaşam Deneyimleri" tezinden.

AVUKAT CANSU ŞEKERCİ: "ÇOCUĞUN YERİ CEZAEVİ DEĞİL, OKULDUR"



Suçta sürüklenen çocuklar | Devlet çocuğa nasıl yaklaşıyor, çocuk adalet sistemi nasıl işliyor?

23 Nisan vesilesiyle Türkiye'de suçta sürüklenen çocuklar sorununu Emrah Kırımsoy, Avukat Cansu Şekerci, Adile Doğan ve Prof. Dr. Serdar Değirmencioğlu'yla konuştuk.

Translations

We translated the SPACE I - 2023 Report and the Report Main Findings²² reports prepared by the University of Lausanne, in which the prison statistics of the European Council member countries are shared.

You can scan the QR code to view the translations on our website.



22. <https://cisst.org.tr/ceviriler/avrupa-konseyi-yillik-ceza-istatistikleri-space-i-2022/>
<https://cisst.org.tr/ceviriler/avrupa-konseyi-yillik-ceza-istatistikleri-space-i-2022-temel-bulgular/>

Campaigns

Free Cleaning Kit in Prison Campaign

The physical and hygiene conditions of prisons contain many negativities for human health. When increasing prisoner poverty is added to the economic crisis, the problem of prisoners' inability to access basic hygiene products free of charge has turned into a fundamental human rights problem. Based on this bitter problem, CISST launched the "Free Cleaning Kit in Prisons" campaign in December 2020 as a further step of the "Free Pad in Prison" campaign. Contemporary Lawyers Association, Rights Initiative, Istanbul Dentists Chamber,

Istanbul Medical Chamber, Human Rights Association, Association of Lawyers for Freedom, Health and Social Workers Union, Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye and Society and Law Research Foundation took part in coordination of this campaign and 39 non-governmental organizations were signatories.

The fact that the economic crisis, which deepened in 2024, also affected the prisoners negatively, made it more urgent for prisoners to access their basic needs free of charge. We continued to popularize the Free Cleaning Kit Campaign and its demands.

Free Pad in Prisoners Campaign

The access of people having menstruation to adequate pads is directly related to the right to health. Prisoners shall easily access all hygiene materials, especially pads in prisons, which are collectively inhabited and a confinement area. Economic inadequacies can be a hindering factor for almost every prisoner, and difficulties may arise in accessing pads. Especially in 2023, the increasing economic crisis increased menstrual poverty.

Menstrual poverty discussed outside of prison, the reduction of taxes on pads and free pad campaigns were hot topics last year. The demands of the Free Pad in Prisons Campaign, which was signed by 79 women and LGBTI+ organizations from different cities of Turkey in 2017, still remain important in 2024. In 2024, we continued dissemination activities through our thematic workshops and public information activities. We have launched a study to include prisoners in the free pad campaign, which is on the agenda of the women's movement in Turkey.²³



Free Pad in Prisons Campaign image

CTE General Manager Enes Yavuz Yıldırım announced that "hygiene goods for women have been legalized and included in the legislation" at the meeting of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee on June 12, 2024, which was an achievement of our Free Pad in Prison Campaign. The right to free pads campaign also continues with the request of eliminating the problems of access to pads and other menstrual products and securing this right with regulations.

23. <https://cisst.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ucretsizpedbrosur.pdf>

Campaign to Provide Free and Printed Course Materials to Prisoners

In the light of the demands of the prisoners, we launched a campaign on 23 September 2023 with 2 trade unions, 2 bar associations and 22 non-governmental organizations and professional organizations as signatories in order to provide free and printed course materials to the prisoners.

The goal of the campaign is to draw the attention of the Higher Education Council and Anadolu University and Atatürk University Open Education Faculty officials to the prisoners

who continue their education in prison to ensure that the course materials of the prisoners enrolled in the faculty are provided to them in print and free of charge together with the registration. This campaign gained more importance due to the fact that the economic crisis, which deepened in 2024, also affected the prisoners negatively, so that the prisoners could access the course materials printed and free of charge. The campaign continues with the request to eliminate the problems of access to course materials.

Press Releases

CISST prepared 10 press releases in 2024 and took part in the dissemination of these press releases. Five of the press releases were published by CISST. Five press releases were opened for signature or we became signatories to the press releases opened for signature. A total of 91 institutions, including NGOs, professional organizations, chambers, trade unions and bar associations that carry out rights-based work, have signed the press release.

1. Our Press Release on Our Visits to Kocaeli Type F Prison on 29.11.2024²⁴
2. The excessive broad and ambiguous new legislative proposal, which envisages amendments to the Turkish Penal Code and threatens civil society, should be rejected²⁵
3. Press Release about Abdulalim Kaya²⁶
4. Where has the foreign prisoner Ali Veli been

for 100 days?²⁷

5. We Defend Life and Human Dignity Our Press Release on Nurettin Kaya and Death Fast²⁸
6. We call All Relevant Institutions to Act Responsibly for the Interruption of the Execution of Elderly and Severely Sick Prisoners Makbule Özer and Hatice Yıldız and for Their Treatment to Take Place Outside!²⁹
7. 8. About the 'the Amendment of Law No. 7449 on the Code of Criminal Procedure and Certain Laws', known as the Judicial Package³⁰
8. PRESS RELEASE ON HIGH SECURITY PRISONERS³¹
9. We Defend Life and Human Dignity Ecevit Piroğlu³²
10. Hunger Strike Monitoring Report³³

24. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/29-11-2024-tarihinde-kocaeli-f-tipi-hapishanelerine-yaptigimiz-ziyaretlerle-igili-basin-uyurumuz/

25. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/turk-ceza-kanununda-degisiklik-ongoren-ve-sivil-toplumu-tehdit-eden-asiri-genis-ve-muglak-yeni-yasa-teklifi-reddedilmelidir/

26. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/abdulalim-kaya-hakkinda-basin-uyurusu/

27. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/yabanci-mahpus-ali-veli-100-gundur-nerede/

28. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/yasami-ve-insan-onurunu-savunuyoruz-nurettin-kaya-ve-olum-oruclari-hakkindaki-basin-uyurumuz/

29. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/yasli-ve-agir-hasta-mahpuslar-makbule-ozer-ve-hatice-yildizin-inafina-ara-verilmesi-ve-te-davilerinin-disarida-gerceklemesi-icin-igili-tum-kurumlari-sorumlu-davranmaya-cagiriyoruz/

30. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/8-yargi-paketi-olarak-bilinen-7449-sayili-ceza-muhakemesi-kanunu-ile-bazi-kanunlarda-degisiklik-yapilmasina-dair-kanun-hakkinda/

31. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/yuksek-guvenlikli-cezaevlerine-dair-basin-aciklamasi/

32. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/yasami-ve-insan-onurunu-savunuyoruz-ecevit-piroglu/

33. https://cisst.org.tr/basin_uyurulari/aclik-grevi-izleme-raporu-ortak-basin-aciklamasi/

Articles Informing Public

In order to accurately inform the public, CISST publishes informative content on issues that are heavily requested or to express an opinion about prisons. The informative articles we shared with the public in 2024;

9. Our Evaluation on Right to Education of Prisoners in 9. judicial Package³⁴

The Right to Hope in the Light of National and International Legislation³⁵

Strategic Litigation

CISST aims to raise awareness about the rights of prisoners in every step of strategic litigation processes and to create a precedent for other prisoners.

We continued our strategic litigation studies, which we started in 2023, in 2024. In 2024, the application of us for information, in accordance with the Right to Information Law No. 4982 on the "sharing of statistical data of persons who have received aggravated life sentences in penal institutions in Türkiye", was rejected. Upon our rejected request, we initiated the strategic litigation process with the reasons that the right to information is guaranteed by the Constitution and that the non-sharing of such information is in violation of the rule of law, freedom of expression and the right to information.

In addition, after our participation in the delegation visit to Bandırma T Type Prison in 2024, we initiated a strategic litigation process on behalf of the prisoner who received cell disciplinary punishment with epilepsy to object to the punishment of him.

We provided legal support for the lawsuit process to be carried out by the prisoner due to the damage caused by the actions and procedures of the administration to his/her belongings during the transfer aggravated life prisoner.



34. <https://cisst.org.tr/yazilar/9-yargi-paketinde-bulunan-mahpuslarin-ogrenim-hakki-konusundaki-degerlendirmemiz/>

35. <https://cisst.org.tr/yazilar/ulusal-ve-uluslararası-mevzuat-isiginda-umut-hakki/>

COOPERATION PROGRAM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRISONS

In addition to its activities to increase its own capacity, CISST also carries out studies to increase the knowledge and experience of experts, expert candidates and institutions that work in the field or have the potential to carry out work in the field.

In this context, we came together with civil actors and decision makers at 97 different events organized by 50 different NGOs and official institutions during 2024 and shared our experiences, knowledge and ideas. Though we mostly participated to the events as participants, we worked to increase learning and solidarity among civil society in the activities we also organized together.

How did CISST participate	
As a participant	76
As trainer	4
As Speaker	17
Total	97



Memory Center Restorative Justice Seminar



University Presentation



EPI Reporting Meeting



Presentation to Human Rights and International Criminal Justice course students at Florence University of Arts, Florence



IPI Meeting



Avrupa Günü Etkinliği



KDK Child Etkiniz Forum



Patient Prisoners Conference

Thematic Workshops

CISST organizes workshops specific to the thematic areas it works in every year. Participants can participate in the workshops as individuals as well as civil society, bar associations, professional associations, universities, press organizations and networks.³⁵ A total of 110 people, 121 of them on behalf of an institution, participated in 11 thematic workshops held by CISST in 2024.



PRI Launch

We organized the launch of our project we conduct with the support of European Union Delegation to Türkiye, "Increasing Accountability in Penal System of Türkiye and Improving Human Rights" in Ankara on October 24, 2024.

We gathered together with with 35 people representing 17 different institutions such as public representatives, local human rights mechanisms, local and international non-governmental organizations.

In the launch, following a brief presentation on international standards on prisons we shared the content of the project to be carried out over the next 4 years and planned activities

Consultancy and Information Support

It aims to to establish a dialogue between thematic area representatives, prisoners, prisoners' relatives, lawyers and other civil society organizations and actors and develops this dialogue. In 2024, CISST provided consultancy to researchers, NGO representatives, political party representatives, representative of the bar association/lawyer and civil actors via email and phone or in person, for 116 times.



36. See "Thematic Areas" for details of Thematic Workshops.

International Relations and Networking

CISST shares information and cooperates with foreign institutions working in various fields focused on human rights and prison in the international arena; carries out networking activities to increase visibility and advocacy in the international arena. In addition, it actively carries out activities in various international human rights platforms.

As CISST, we held 10 meetings with 8 different institutions and diplomatic missions in 2024. In these meetings, we contributed to the visibility of the area by sharing up-to-date and accurate information about prisons.

In the scope of STGM Support Together, we participated in two different trips to Ireland and Italy focusing on capacity development. During the trip to Ireland, we talked with the member organizations of The Wheel on the development of the civil society in the two countries, human resource management, multidimensional leadership and good governance. During the visit to Italy, we were a guest of the Rome-based Antigone Association, which works in the field of prisons within the scope of the on-the-job learning program. In addition, we visited the Council of Europe during the trip to Strasbourg organized under the leadership of Etkiniz.



A photo from a visit to Ireland

In the field of international advocacy in 2024, we presented the alternative country report we wrote with the Human Rights Association, the Lawyers Association for Freedom and the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye for the upcoming United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Turkey. We also forwarded our recommendations on the current situation of prisons and prisoners under Rule 9.2. regarding the supervision of the execution of decisions and the terms of amicable settlement of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for two separate files. Thanks to the long-term support provided by Etkiniz, we continued to develop our capacity in the field of international advocacy.

CISST CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

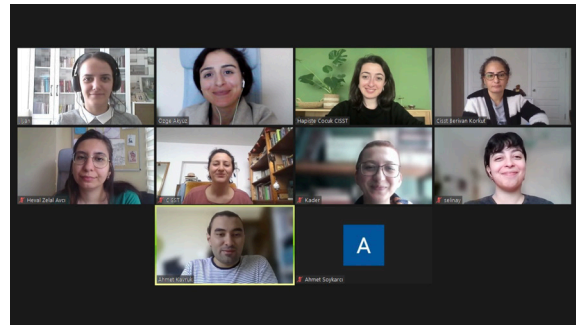
Trainings and Consultations

Throughout 2024, we participated in the meetings and trainings organized by civil society on the fields we work in as listeners, and in these trainings, we achieved efficiency in keeping the field up-to-date and continuing its development, and establishing new collaborations. In 2024, CISST employees participated in 29 trainings organized by various institutions. We participated in trainings such as Ombudsman Institution (KDK) and children's rights, training on human rights mechanisms and human rights application processes, training on international human rights mechanisms, medical evaluation of torture and Istanbul Protocol, training on interviewing trauma survivors, training on open source research in the field of human rights, training on equality data, training on the principle of equality and the legal basis of non-discrimination, training on technology in penal institutions and artificial intelligence providing capacity development of expertise, trainings on gender equality also participated by the Board of Directors, trainings on resource development methods, training on the fundraising process for civil society, trainings on tax regulations etc. We have participated in educational civil sphere conversations that include working relations in the civil field, financial sustainability and employee relations in times of crisis, taking care of organizational and employee well-being together, employee rights, responsibilities and well-being, and human resources management. External KDK training was also shared with the team by the expert. The trainings directly affected our institutionalization processes, our advocacy strategy, our communication strategy and our work on the well-being of the team.

In addition, the CISST team received internal training as a team in line with the demands and needs in 2024. Internal trainings such as Occupational Health and Safety training, 9.2 Information Notes and Application Training, Artificial Intelligence Training, Introduction to



KDK Training



Digital Security Training

Digital Security Training United Nations Application Mechanisms Training, KDK Training, Introduction to Labor Rights and Trade Union Rights Training were organized. In addition, team meetings were held with workers' unions about being a union member.

In addition to the trainings, consultancy was received 27 times from both other non-governmental organizations and experts in the field on various issues in order to develop institutionally throughout the year. These consultancies were received from experts on project monitoring tools, business monitoring tools, monitoring and evaluation plan, policy documents, institutional processes, intranet, wikipedia page, training planning, European Union projects and RASCI as human resources analysis. Thematic areas continued to get consultancies related to their own fields and the work of non-governmental organizations in the field from civil society.

Supervision Works

In 2024, CISST continued individual therapies and group therapies within the scope of supervision activities. Individual therapies were applied to employees with secondary trauma as an intervention tool at the individual level. Group therapies provided an open space for solidarity and communication for the whole team, as well as a structured space for employees who regularly work in the field and are frequently exposed to secondary trauma. Counselors conducting group therapy administered scale tests to the team before and after the therapies and prepared reports with test results. Scale tests provided CISST a roadmap for the needs of the team, and all these analyzes were taken into account when constructing strategies.

Strategic Plan Camp

In 2024, we carried out a number of studies to present the Strategic Plan updated in the previous period and to introduce the Monitoring Plan to the team. For this reason, the entire team came together in the strategic plan camp, where we held the second one. The team participated in workshops and discussions on budget, monitoring plan, strategic plan, theory of change for three days.

Volunteering Program

In 2024, 6 volunteers and interns supported CISST activities. During the year, 18 people from different fields applied to CISST to be interns and volunteers. Volunteer Management Policy Document has been prepared within the scope of the program.



COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Within the scope of the visibility and communication activities carried out for the mainstreaming of prisoner rights, CISST implemented the communication strategy it created in 2023 together with the feedback it received from its members and employees.

In line with the communication strategy carried out by CISST to announce its mission, activities and long-term goals to the public more effectively, blogs and social media accounts belonging to previously separately managed thematic areas were combined with CISST's main accounts. In addition to the ongoing monthly bulletin studies, it started to regularly share activities such as prison statistics published by the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, Consultation Line applications and events attended with the public.

Advertisement choices were used to reach wider audiences on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as newspapers advertisements in order to reach prisoners.

In addition to the implementation of data protection procedures, digital crisis management and digital security procedures, CISST brand package was prepared in line with the communication strategy in 2024.

Thanks to the communication strategy it has developed, CISST has reached a wide audience by using digital tools and social media platforms more effectively, and has continued to communicate effectively with traditional media.

Social media posts

	f	📷	in	▶
Reach	646.88K	373.71K	57.33K	1.731
Interaction	6.069K	5.402K	7.610K	9
Follower	5.717	2.375	2.776	173
Post	226	188	152	6

During the year 2024, with our LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook pages, we posted 937 posts covering the latest news about prisons, activities we participate in, special days and weeks, as well as informative content about our activities.

The year 2024 came to the fore as a year in which we increased our interaction by reaching a wider audience through our social media platforms. In the process, our Facebook page had 5,717 followers, our Instagram account had 2,375 followers, our LinkedIn page had 2,766 followers, our Twitter account had 2,776 followers, and our YouTube channel had 173 followers, a total increase of 11.58% compared to last year.³⁷

Website

In 2024, we continued our efforts to make our website more secure and accessible by increasing our security measures and improving the user experience, as well as correcting the deficiencies and improving on our website. Our website received a **total of 137.07K views** last year.

37. The data were generated through metricool for 1 January 2024-31 December 2024.

OUR SUPPORTERS

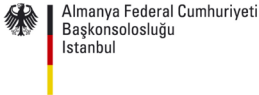
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CİSST is solely responsible for the content provided. The information, opinions, and assessments contained herein do not reflect the official positions of the supporting institutions. The supporting institutions cannot be held responsible for the content or its possible consequences.

As CİSST, we would like to thank all the institutions and organizations that trust us and make our work possible.



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