



Report on International Conference on Knowledge and Politics in Gender and Women's Studies on 9-11<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Ankara

The international conference on Knowledge and Politics in Gender and Women's Studies was organized as celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Gender and Women's Studies Program at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Turkish Social Science Organization.

The conference was one part of the project Building Bridges within the Gender and Women's Studies Community in Turkey. In this sense its aim was to bring together scholars, researchers and activists from various disciplines and generations to exchange their experiences and ideas.

As it was an international conference with contributions from almost 30 countries, ties could not only be strengthened within the Turkish community, but also internationally. Scheduled were speakers from Turkey as well as from Bangladesh, India, USA, Jemen, Chile, Russia, Kamerun, Japan, Nigeria, Kanada, Taiwan and Pakistan and 16 European countries.

About 60 sessions with almost 400 speakers were planned, covering a wide range of theoretical and practical issues, including e.g. feminist politics, women's labour, education and legal status, gender representations in media and literature, gendered violence, gender discrimination and resistance against it, women's history, migration and gender, civil society organisations and the state, body politics, religion, research and methodology as well as masculinities.

The conference started on Friday 9th of October 2015 with great enthusiasm by the participants and fruitful discussions. On Saturday though, the conference had to be cancelled, as is explained in a statement by the participants:

"Due to the vicious bomb attacks on the Peace Rally [in Ankara] that resulted in many deaths and casualties, we have regretfully decided to cancel the remainder of the conference program. We reject and resist those accelerated forces of lawlessness, impunity and provocation that attempt to repress our struggle for peace, equality and dialogue in our troubled geography. Our hearts go out to those who have lost their lives and who have been wounded as well as their families in this hour of grief. Although we have abruptly cancelled our conference that we organised with great dedication, we will continue to resolutely stand for democracy, peace, justice and equality for all."

For more information:

[http://www.gws2.metu.edu.tr/conference2015/cf\\_static\\_pages.php?page\\_id=36](http://www.gws2.metu.edu.tr/conference2015/cf_static_pages.php?page_id=36)