

WHY IS THERE  
NO WOMAN'S NAME  
IN LOCAL POLITICS?



Kadın Adayları  
Destekleme Derneği

# WHY IS THERE NO WOMAN'S NAME IN LOCAL POLITICS?

2021

ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN  
CANDIDATES  
(KA.DER)



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## CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	7
1. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION.....	9
2. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.....	12
3. THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	13
4. REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN.....	16
5. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL LIFE.....	19
6. FACTORS THAT PREVENT WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION.....	28
7. WHY IS THERE NO WOMAN'S NAME IN LOCAL POLITICS? FIELD STUDIES INTRODUCTION.....	32
7.1. RESEARCH METHOD.....	34
GENERAL ASSESSMENT.....	34
7.2 INTERVIEWS MADE FOR THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT.....	34
7.3 FIELD RESEARCH.....	36
DILARA TAMBOVA - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF ESKISEHIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY.....	29
FATIMA TUZZEHRA KIRAC - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY .....	32
BERRIN BASOL - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR CANDIDATE.....	35
FERAY KARAGOZ - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR CANDIDATE.....	37
GUNAY MORKAN - CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.....	39
ESRA ERDURUR - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY NOMINATION .....	43
MUKADDES AKDENİZ - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.....	46
ESIN ERKOC - MAYORAL CANDIDATE .....	49

ILAY AKSOY - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.....	53
DR. ZEYNEP BANU DALAMAN - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.....	58
DIREN CEVAHIR SEN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY .....	62
OZGE AKMAN - MAYORAL CANDIDATE.....	68
TUBA TORUN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY.....	72
SENIYE NAZIK ISIK - MAYORAL CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION .....	80
NILAY KOKKILINC - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR CANDIDATE .....	77
SERAP OZOKTEM - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY.....	81
ULKU DOGAN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY .....	83
BIRSEN FIRINCIOGLU- CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY.....	87
CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION .....	89
REFERENCES .....	91

## PREFACE

All citizens living in the city should be able to benefit equally from the economic, social and political opportunities offered by the city. The way to ensure this is that the most important indicator of a democratic society is the balanced participation of men and women in decision-making mechanisms. Women should be able to actively participate in decision-making mechanisms, defend their rights and make decisions for themselves with their own rights and needs. Local governments are important mechanisms by which the urban stone can make its voice heard and solutions are formed. It is also critical for local governments to be involved in the local decision-making processes in the city on the basis of participation.

Although women in Turkey obtained the right to vote and be elected in local governments in 1930, they have not Tuesday reached a high level of political representation. Before the March 31, 2019 General Elections of Local Administrations; 652 of the 8,257 mayoral candidates, 34 of the 316 metropolitan mayoral candidates in 30 major cities, 38 of the 452 provincial mayoral candidates and 174 of the 2,297 district mayoral candidates are women. When we compare the number of female candidates to the total number of candidates; 7.89% of the mayoral candidates, 10.8% of the metropolitan mayoral candidates, 8.4% of the provincial mayoral candidates and 7.6% of the district mayoral candidates consist of female candidates. of the 1,389 mayors, only 42 are women. Thus, only 3.09% of all leadership presidencies were able to include women.

Including 30,005 neighborhoods and 18,152 villages, there are 50,292 headmens. As a result of the 2014 local elections, only 674 (2.14%) of the 50,292 headmen throughout Turkey are women. In order to contribute to increasing the representation of women in the councils of headmen and elders, which constitute the neighborhood and village units that are the cradle of local leaders, to increase the visibility of women's problems in the city and to create solution proposals **'Equality Starts in the Neighborhood'** we have said and before the 2019 local elections. The number of female headmen increased to 1071 (45.37%) with the addition of the educational activities carried out by KA.DER.

However, local governments are an important way for participatory democracy by gaining experience in politics.

Many women face various obstacles while struggling to exist in decision-making mechanisms. To date, there are almost no studies for women who have been candidates or have been candidates but have not been elected for various reasons. This is the most important awareness that distinguishes this publication from other studies. The studies carried out so far have been carried out on women who have been elected as deputies or mayors. In our study, we conducted one-to-one interviews with women who were nominated but not elected in Istanbul, Bartın, Izmir, Mersin, Tekirdag, and Eskisehir provinces about their experiences and made video shoots.

We aim to empower women as political actors and to make their existence in these mechanisms sustainable under the unjust conditions created by inequalities. Thus, by supporting women on the basis of gender equality in local governments, local democracy and the economy will strengthen and create a positive domino effect in all strata of society.

As KA.DER, the formation of local governments that can make more transparent, accountable, consistent and effective decisions and that are responsible for this, ensure the participation of those living in the city, and guide women with gender-sensitive budgets is one of our important goals.

We hope and wish that this study will encourage more women to run in the upcoming elections and will contribute to the increase of women's representation in all areas, especially in local politics. We must not forget that it is clear that municipalism, which adopts the understanding of equal distance and service to everyone, will create consequences for women. Evaluation according to needs in the distribution of resources will play an important role in eliminating inequality.

Best regards,

**Nuray KARAOGU,**  
**KA.DER'S GENERAL**  
**PRESIDENT**

## 1. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Local governments are public organizations that are outside the central governments and are the units of public administration that serve citizens most closely. The participation of citizens in the political process is an important part of democracy. Proximity is important in terms of the roles of local governments as planners and servers of urban services. Strategies developed to increase citizen participation in local governance can be seen all over the world. In other words, the civil and political rights, including freedom of expression and access to information, which underlie political participation, are human rights in themselves. Citizen participation requires trust, faith, and integrity. For the successful development of a country, it is important that public institutions - local and central- and various sectors are in business cooperation. Decentralization is one of the tools adopted to promote cooperation (Tekeli İ., 1983: 20). Local governments are considered the cornerstone of democracy.

Involve citizens in local governance, promote accountability, and local governance improves the problem-solving skills of administrations, creates more inclusive and harmonious communities, and increases the number and quality of initiatives carried out by communities (Keles, 1992:39). One way to raise awareness and empower citizens to have their say is through increased access to technology and especially social media.

## 2. CITIZENS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATION

The history of the concept of local government dates back to the beginning of history. Some authors argue that the concept is as old as the history of the individual. Although there are different definitions of exactly where and when to attribute, local governments are even in the management of ancient nations and community groups. The concept of local government is used together with the concepts of democracy, decentralization and governance. The issue of substitution of powers is most often highlighted. Municipal Law No. 5393 on the participation of citizens in the decisions taken locally and the implementation of these decisions, the following article

### **Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Headmen (Article 9)**

*The neighborhood is governed by the headman and the old council. The mayor joint with the voluntary participation of the residents determines the needs, improves the quality of life of the neighborhood, municipal and conducts its relations with other public institutions and organizations, issues related to the neighborhood, provides feedback, and works with other agencies responsible for performing other tasks given by the laws. The municipality provides assistance, which is necessary in the budget budgets, for help and assistance of the neighborhood and the headman; trying to provide the appropriate form of the neighborhood that prefers communal living.*

### **Citizen Law (Article 13)**

*Everyone is a citizen of the town where they resided. Fellow countrymen have the right*

*to participate in decision-making and service procurement processes, to be informed about municipal activities, and to benefit from the assistance of the municipal administration. It is imperative that aid be provided under conditions that undermine human dignity. The municipality carries out the necessary works on the development of social and cultural relations between citizens and the protection of cultural values. In these studies, measures are taken to ensure the participation of universities, professional organizations qualified as public institutions, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and experts. Every person who lives, resides or has a relationship within the municipal borders is obliged to comply with the decisions, orders and announcements of the municipality based on the laws and to pay taxes, fees, fees, contributions and participation shares to the municipality.*

### **Duties and Responsibilities of the Municipality (Article 14)**

*Municipal services are provided to citizens in the closest places and with the most convenient methods. Methods appropriate to the situation of disabled, elderly, needy and low-income people are applied in the provision of services.*

### **Powers and Privileges of the Municipality (Article 15)**

*The municipality may conduct public opinion polls and surveys in order to determine the opinions and opinions of citizens about municipal services.*

### **City Council Meetings (Articles 20, 21, and 23)**

*The place and time of the city council meetings are announced to the speakers with the usual procedures. Council Meetings are open. Upon the reasoned proposal of the speaker of the Assembly or any of the members, it may be decided to hold a closed session with the absolute majority of the participants in the meeting. The agenda of the municipal council on the first day of each month is determined by the mayor and notified to the members at least three days in advance and announced to the public by various methods. The summaries of the finalized assembly decisions are announced to the public by appropriate means within seven days.*

### **Specialized Commissions (Article 24)**

*The managers of public institutions and the public institution in the province and professional institutions, universities, trade unions, and representatives of civil society organizations on the issues on the agenda, tasks, and activities on their own, without the right to vote gorusulduđu commission meetings of topics within the areas of solid - usable and can give an opinion. Specialist in the work of the Commission can be taken advantage*

*of. The reports of the commission are public, announced to the public in various ways and given to those who request it at a price to be determined by the parliament in order to exceed their costs.*

#### **Strategic Plan and Performance Program (Article 41)**

*Within six months from the general elections of the local administrations, the mayor prepares a strategic plan and an annual performance program in accordance with the development plan and program, as well as the regional plan, if any, and submits it to the municipal council before the beginning of the relevant year. The strategic plan is prepared by taking the opinions of universities and professional chambers, if any, and non-governmental organizations on the subject and enters into force after it is adopted by the municipal council.*

#### **City Council (Article 76)**

*City Council, City Life; city's vision and awareness of the development of the townsmen, the city rights and the protection of the law, sustainable development, environmental awareness, social assistance and solidarity, transparency and accountability, participation and works to implement the principles of decentralization. Municipalities, act like public institutions, professional organizations, trade unions, public notaries, if any, universities, nongovernmental organizations, political parties, public institutions and organizations, and other concerned parties with the participation of representatives of the mayor, city council provide assistance and support in the effective and efficient execution of activities. The opinions formed in the city council are taken to the agenda and evaluated at the first meeting of the city council. The working procedures and principles of the city council are determined by a regulation to be prepared by the Ministry of Interior.*

#### **Voluntary Participation in Municipal Services (Article 77)**

*Municipal; health, education, sports, environment, social services and aid, Library, park, and cultural services with the elderly, women, and children, the handicapped, services for the poor and needy of the comment that is made of solidarity and participation to resort, service efficiency, in order to increase savings and implements programs for the voluntary participation of person's productivity. In total, local government can be viewed as a domestic owned government. Deciding the desired choice, approach and guidelines very well locally can be defined as minimal or no control of the central government by any*

*legislative body or influence.*

### **3. THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

#### **3.1. Why should women be equally represented in local government?**

In Turkey, women are still far from equal representation in senior management, especially in politics. It is critically important to eliminate this inequality, to ensure the participation of all citizens in decisions, to bring women's experience and the ability to produce solutions to social and political spheres. Because the field of politics has a determining feature on social life. Equal representation in the field of politics will facilitate the realization of equality between men and women in all areas. Equality of men and women is a requirement of democracy in all decision-making bodies formed by election and appointment, where decisions concerning society and individuals are taken. At the same time, it is an indispensable element of sustainable development.

Ensuring equality between men and women is a constitutional right. It is a legal obligation for municipalities to ensure this equality on a city scale. In this context, local governments are responsible for meeting and solving the local customer needs of people living in a city. For these reasons, municipalities have very big tasks in this regard.

Local governments are one of the key actors in the fight against violence against women and are in an important position. Violence against women is one of the different experiences of women than men and, unfortunately, it is also an important problem in our country. Local governments have a responsibility to protect women from violence. Municipal Law No. 5393



According to article 14, metropolitan municipalities and municipalities with a population of more than 100,000 are obliged to open shelters for women and children. Other municipalities can also open shelters for women and children by evaluating their financial situation and service priorities. In other words, 36 municipalities in Istanbul should have a shelter. However, there are shelters only in Kucukcekmece, Kadıkoy, Kagithane, Pendik and Eyup districts. Although there are 237 municipalities with a population over 100,000, there are only 32 municipalities that fulfill this responsibility! As can be understood from the data, municipalities are not willing to open shelters because they do not have a legal sanction.

However, local government becomes more egalitarian and inclusive with women. The concept of inclusive municipalism is the realization of the common needs and demands of different segments of society in the maximum possible way. The needs of girls and women vary according to periods such as infancy, childhood, youth, adulthood, and old age. Municipalities can ensure inclusivity both by ensuring representation and participation in their decision-making mechanisms and by demonstrating gender sensitivity in their local policies, plans, and services. At the same time, with the increasing number of women politicians in the local area, the needs and expectations of women citizens can be better understood and analyzed (Gucuk, 2006: 42).

### **3.2. What does equal representation of women change in the city?**

The policies and practices of municipalities are directly related to every aspect of the daily lives of all citizens, men and women. Cities and their living spaces, which are managed with a perspective sensitive to gender equality with policies that support democratic and social development, improve the quality of life of women citizens.

Municipalities are the closest institutions where solutions can be produced to the problems, difficulties and obstacles that women face in everyday local life. Women and men use the city, the district, the neighborhood, the village as spatial space in accordance with different needs. The vast majority of women continue to live in an area bounded by the home and the immediate surroundings of the

home. The opportunities offered by urban life, such as security, housing, transportation, participation in local government, infrastructure services, are shaped through gender relations. These inequalities are often against women.

Urban policy and urban planning that will take into account the specific needs of women can only be possible with the equal representation of women in local governments and their balanced participation in local decision-making processes. Local governments have important tasks to do in order to create space for women's voices, needs and capacities, and to build better cities and regions. Especially when we accept the existence of different local conditions, the importance of municipalities becomes even more obvious. However, when we look at women's participation in local politics at the level of different cities, we see that gender inequality prevails here as well. For this reason, the representation and participation of women in municipalities stands out as a priority area for gender equality in society.

## 4. REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### 4. 1. Women's Representation in Politics in Turkey

Shortly before the tenth-anniversary celebrations of the Republic, on October 26, 1933, Turkish women obtained the right to elect and be elected to village councils of elders and headmen with Law No. 2349. After women were granted the right to vote in the elections of elders, as in all of Turkey, women participated in the elections of village elders committees in Aydın at the end of 1933. For the first time in Aydın Province, women who have the right to be elected in Karaagacılı Village of Germencik District have cast their votes in the elections of the board of elders. As Ercument Koybası stated, after the law was passed, the first woman in Turkey was officially elected by the headmen of Aydın with the elections of headmen dated November 12, 1933. The elections were held in Demircidere Village, which is the center of Karpuzlu District, on November 6, 1933 and about 500 people gathered at the Village Association Cumhuriyet Square with the participation of all men and women who have the right to elect and be elected in the village and cast their votes. Given the demographic data of Turkey, Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), address based Population Registration System of 2019 according to the results, the percentage of the male population was 50.2% (41 721 million 136 thousand people), the percentage of the female population % 49,8 (41 861 433 million thousand people) consists of.

Table 1: Representation of Women in Local Governments in Turkey

	Total	Number of	Ratio Of
<b>1999 Elections</b>			
Mayorship	3.216	20	0.6
Provincial General Assembly		44	1.4
City Council Membership	34.084	541	1.6
<b>2004 Elections</b>			
Mayorship	3.225	18	0.56
Provincial General Assembly		56	1.75
City Council Membership	34.477	799	2.32
<b>2009 Elections</b>			
Mayorship	2.948	44	0.9
Provincial General Assembly		110	3.25
City Council Membership	31.790	1.340	4.21
<b>2014 Elections</b>			
Mayorship	1.398	40	2.9
Provincial General Assembly		60	4.8
City Council Membership	20.498	2.198	10.7
<b>2019 Elections</b>			
Mayorship	1.389	42	3.0
Provincial General Assembly		48	3.77
City Council Membership	19.546	2.283	11.68

Source: YSK, 2020.

## Women's Representation in Decision-Making Mechanisms in Turkey (8 March Report Card.)

According to the data of the KA.DER'S 8 March Report Card, which traditionally publishes every year;

The distance of the Parliament to equality is very far! 0 In terms of female presence, there are plenty of tables.

The number of women in other areas also does not give much hope:

- There is only 1 female president in 7 supreme judicial organs.
- Despite the fact that the proportion of women in the academic staff at all levels is 45.05%, only 17 out of 197 rectors are women, and the number of men in the professorship is twice that of women.
- There are 1389 mayoral seats, but only 42 are held by women (3.02%). This rate is 2.37% in municipal council memberships and 1.77% in provincial general council memberships.
- Only 1071 out of 50 thousand 157 headmens are women (2.14%).
- Of the 11,385 MPs who have entered parliament in the 23 general elections since 1934, only 598 are women.
- Turkey, throughout the history of the Republic, we have exactly 20 cities that have not produced even one female national assembly. (Adiyaman, Ardahan, Artvin, Bayburt, Burdur, Erzincan, Giresun, Gumushane, Karabuk, Karaman, Kilis, Kırıkkale, Kırklareli, Kırsehir, Nevsehir, Nigde, Osmaniye, Rize, Sinop, Yozgat)
- The proportion of women in sports other than ice skating, gymnastics, dance sports and horse riding is very low: 71.4% men, 28.6% women. 75% of the trainers are men and 25% are women.
- The distribution of discussion programs broadcast in “primetime” on 14 channels by gender is also very serious: there are 89% men and 11% women (KA.DER, 2020).

As can be seen from the data above, the participation rates of women in local governments are not at an adequate level. Another factor is related to the use of women as political tools.

## 5. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

There are a total of 50,292 headmen in Turkey, including 30,005 neighborhoods and 18,152 villages. When the number of headmen in Turkey is examined, it is seen that there are few female headmen; headmens are only

constitute 2.14%. When the period of 2014-2019 is examined, it is seen that the number of women headmen has increased to 1071. In other words, the number of women headmen increased by 45.37% in the 2019 elections (KA.DER, 2020). Also

There are provinces that have never produced a female headman throughout T.R. history.



Although the progress made regarding the political equality, participation, and representation of women is driven by the fact that women have gained their independence, in fact, this is not the case. The fact that women have acquired rights in society does not mean that they are independent in terms of social and equal opportunities. For the first time in the history of the Republic in 1930

women in Turkey, who started to gain their political rights, were able to exercise their rights that they had in the general elections of 1935 (Gokcimen; 2008: 1).



The role of women in decision-making has been addressed by various international agreements and conventions, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). in 2009, she organized an e-talk on women in local governance. During this e-discussion, the participants agreed that the inclusion of women in local governments is a key factor in creating gender-sensitive policies and services. Participants, women, politicians, advocates among his colleagues in local government could be active in women's issues and gender perspectives in policies, believes that it is vital to promote, but argued that more research should be done to document it. More encouraging examples from all over the world should be included, highlighting the impact that women leaders have in changing the way of doing business in local governance, such as district, provincial and regional councils, as well as local (rural and urban) councils.

Table 2: Distribution of the Turkish Grand National Assembly by Gender

Name of	Wom		Men		Party Total
	Num ber	Ratio	Num ber	Ratio	
Adalet ve Kalkınma Party	54	18,56%	237	81,44%	291
Cumhuriyet Halk Party	17	12,32%	237	87,68%	138
Halkların Demokratik Party	23	41,07%	121	58,93%	56
Milliyetçi Hareket Party	4	8,33%	33	91,67%	48
İYİ Parti	2	5,41%	44	94,59%	37
Türkiye İci Partisi	0	0%	35	100%	2
Buyuk Birlik Partisi	0	0%	2	100%	1
Demokrasi ve Atılım Party	0	0%	1	100%	1
Demokrat Party Demokratik	0	0%	1	100%	1
Bolgeler Party Saadet Party	0	100%	1	0%	1
Yenilik Party	1	0%	0	100%	1
Bagimsız Milletvekili	0	0%	1	100%	1
Total	0	0%	1	100%	8
	0	17,24%	8	82,76%	586

Source: [https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/milletvekilllerimiz\\_sd.dagilim](https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/milletvekilllerimiz_sd.dagilim).

All kinds of public policies, including local ones, exert different influences on women and men. For example, the effect of opening a market and laying a carpet field on the women and men living in that neighborhood is not the same. A technique developed to measure the effects of public policies on women and men is the gender impact assessment.

Table: 3 Proportions of Women in Representation

Number of female deputies not the	20(24,7%)
number of Female Ministers of	43(3,09%)
Municipality Number of Female	2283(11%)
Municipal Council or number of	48(3,77%)
female Members of the General	1071(2,14%)
Public	
Number of Women Headmen	

Source:(KA.DER, 2020)

## WOMEN AS POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS

Other women leaders who have served as founder, chairman or co-chairman are as follows:

1. Mubeccel Guktuna (1915-1999), Chairman of the National Women's Party of Turkey (Turkiye Ulusal Kadınlar Partisi, 1972-1981)
2. Rahsan Ecevit (1923-2020), Founder and Chairman of the Democratic Left Party (Demokratik Sol Partisi, 1985-1987), Chairman of the Democratic Left People's Party (Demokratik Sol Halk Partisi, 2010)
3. Tansu Ciller (b. 1946), The True Path Party (Dogru Yol Partisi, 1993-2002), the General Leader (Prime Minister 1993-1996)
4. Nasrin Nas (b. 1958), the General Head of the Anavatan Party (2003-2004)
5. Filiz Kocali (b. 1958), Chairman of the Socialist Democracy Party (Sosyalist Demokrasi Partisi, 2004-2009)
6. Gultan Kisanak (b. 1961), Co-Chairman of the Peace and Democracy Party (Baris ve DemokrasiPartisi, 2011-2014)
7. Figen Yuksekdog (d. 1971), Co-Chairman of the Peoples' Democratic Party (Halkların Demokratik Partisi, 2012— 2017)
8. Emine Ulker Tarhan (b. 1963), Founder and Chairman of the Anatolian Party (Anadolu Partisi, 2014-2015)
9. Fatma Benal Yazgan (b. 1947), Leader of the Women's Party (Kadın Partisi, 2014—present)
10. Meral Aksener (b. 1956), Founder and Chairman of the İyi Party (2017—present)

### Elections 1935-1999

In all elections held after 1935, the proportion of women in parliament began to decline. Especially in **1950 and 1961**, only 3 women were able to enter the parliament in the elections, which made history as the election in which the fewest women entered the parliament since women were given the right to vote and be elected.

Table: 4 Ratio of Deputies 1935-1999

Election	Number of Deputies	Number of women deputies	Female Deputy
<u>1935</u>	395	18	<b>4,6%</b>
<u>1939</u>	429	15	<b>3,7%</b>
<u>1943</u>	435	16	<b>3,7%</b>
<u>1946</u>	465	9	<b>1,9%</b>
<u>1950</u>	487	3	<b>%0,6</b>
<u>1954</u>	541	4	<b>%</b>
<u>1957</u>	610	8	<b>0,70 %</b>
<u>1961</u>	450	3	<b>1,3%</b>
<u>1965</u>	450	8	<b>0,70 %</b>
<u>1969</u>	450	5	<b>%</b>
<u>1973</u>	450	6	<b>1,8%</b>
<u>1977</u>	450	4	<b>1,1%</b>
<u>1983</u>	399	12	<b>1,3%</b>
<u>1987</u>	450	6	<b>0,9%</b>
<u>1991</u>	450	8	<b>3,0%</b>
<u>1995</u>	550	13	<b>1,3%</b>
<u>1999</u>	550	22	<b>1,8%</b>

Source: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002\\_1%C3%BCrkiye\\_genel\\_se%C3%A7imleri](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_1%C3%BCrkiye_genel_se%C3%A7imleri)

### 2002-2018 Elections

Although the number of women in the parliament has been increasing continuously since the 1995 elections, the proportion of women deputies in any elections held until 2002 could not catch up with the results of 1935. However, after the 2007 elections, the female representation rate did not fall below 10 percent.



Table 5: Proportion of Deputies 2002-2018

Election Year	Number of deputies	Number of Women Deputies	Women Deputies Ratio
2002	550	24	4,4%
2007	550	50	9,1%
2011	550	79	14,3%
JUNE 2015	550	97	17,6%
NOVEMBER 2015	550	81	14,7%
2018	600	103	17,1%

Source: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002\\_T%C3%BCrkiye\\_genel\\_se%C3%A7imleri](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_T%C3%BCrkiye_genel_se%C3%A7imleri)

Table 6: Distribution by Gender

Name of the Party	Women		Men		Total of Parties
	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio	
AKP	54	18,56 %	237	81,44 %	291
Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi	17	12,32 %	121	87,68 %	138
Cumhuriyet Demokratik Partisi	23	41,07 %	33	58,93 %	56
Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi	4	8,33 %	44	91,67 %	48
IYI Party	2	5,41 %	35	94,59 %	37
Türkiye İscı Partisi	0	0 %	2	100 %	2
Buyuk Birlik Partisi	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
Demokrasi ve Atılım Party	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
Demokrat Party	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
Demokratik Regions Party Saadet	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
Party	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
Yenilik Partisi	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
Independent Deputy	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>17,24 %</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>82,76 %</b>	<b>586</b>

Source: [https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/milletvekillerimiz\\_sd.dagilim](https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/milletvekillerimiz_sd.dagilim)

Table 7: Change in the Number of Female Mayors Over the Years

Political Party Distribution																
Local Elections	Women		AK	AP	Bağımsız	SHP	DP	YANAP	HADEP	DSP	MHP	DTP	PDP	TDP	BDP	Toplam
	Mayors	CHP														
1930	502	1	1													1
1946	2600	?													0	
1950	21045	1													1	
1955	1243	?														1
1963	1620	?														0
1968	1710	4														0
1973	1692	5														4
1977	1976	5														5
1984	2695	3	1													5
1989	3200	1	1													0
1994	3225	1	3													2
1999	2903															9
2004	1396															14
2009	1397	2														17
2014		9					2									26
2019		14				2	2		3	2						40
		17	3						5			3	2	1		24
		26	4				1	1						2	9	
		40	6											15	3	
		43	7											8	2	
			10										1		6	23
						2							1			
TOTAL OF WOMEN MAYOR																167

According to the Elections of March 31, 2019;

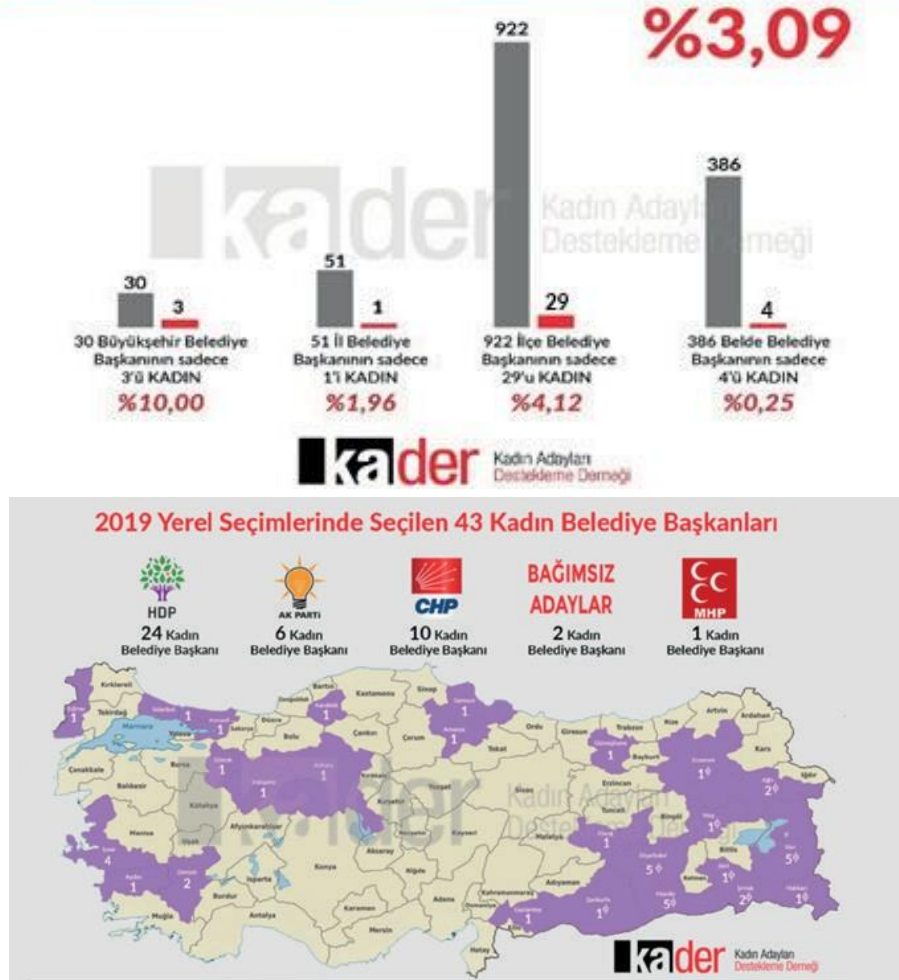
All of 8.257 Mayor Candidates, there are just 652 women



4 OUT OF 386 TOWN MAYORS ARE WOMEN

All of 1.389 Mayors, there are just 43 women.

Women headmen increased to 45.37% in Turkey.



The most important success of the 2019 Local Elections in terms of women is that the number of female headmen, which was 674 (1.30%) in the 2014 Local Elections, increased by 58.9% in the 2019 Local Elections, and scaled up 2.14%.

Despite the fact that the percentage is very low.

The special education programs and awareness campaign organized by KA.DER for women headmen candidates with the slogan “Equality Starts in the Neighborhood” in the March 31 Elections significantly influenced the interest of women in the headmen candidacy. As KA.DER, we are rightly proud of this success.

In our country, women entered the parliament in 1935. The number of women deputies in the Parliament with a representation rate of 4.6% was a remarkable beginning among many countries at that time. Unfortunately, however, by 1950, the rate in question was far behind. The proportion of female deputies in the parliament went down 0.6%.

In terms of women's political representation in Turkey, in 1997, among them, academics, journalists, lawyers, employers, and private sector employees from various professions, including 19 women with a dream and founded the joint determination of KA.DER (Association for Supporting Women Candidates) has created an important turning point in this regard. Indeed, in the period following the establishment of the KA.DER, just two years later, the proportion of women deputies increased to 4.2% when 23 women deputies entered the parliament in the elections held in 1999. The increase in the number of female representatives entering the parliament was positive compared to the rate of 2.4% in the previous election period, 1995. In the last general elections, in 2018, the number of seats belonging to women remained at 102 in the Parliament, which was formed by 600 deputies. In other words, when the number of women deputies is compared to the parliament, it corresponds to 17.2%. However, considering the local elections in particular, only 3 out of 30 metropolitan municipalities have a female mayor. The number of representatives held by women among the headmen, whose number was 50 thousand 157 throughout Turkey, was 674. In fact, the fact is that all the unequal and discriminatory obstacles that women face in all processes throughout their lives also prevent their participation in general and local politics.

## 6. PREVENTING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION FACTORS

### 6.1. Gender Inequality (Patriarchal system, caring labor, cultural codes, etc.)

In order to achieve gender equality, two strategies can be applied: **Positive Action (Positive Discrimination)** and **Mainstreaming**. The positive discrimination strategy is important in terms of changing the perceptions of this inequality by providing results in a short period of time in examining the existing gender inequality. Gender inequality is entrenched not only in a certain area but in the entire segment of society. For this reason, social gender equality policies need to be extended to all areas. According to this perspective, primarily by international organizations, senior strategy, and policy documentation, then the gender equality perspective in all areas for the placement of “gender equality policy has been developed mainstreaming. (Kasıkırık & Izci, 2019:21). The largest in the equal participation of women in economic and political life is gender inequality. Gender inequality is entrenched not only in a certain area but in the entire segment of society. For this reason, gender equality policies need to be extended to all areas.

### 6.2. Economic Factors (Insufficient access of women to financial resource)

According to the World Bank Group's 2020 Global Findex report,<sup>1</sup> more than 1 billion women still use the financial system. Without access to resources, women face difficulties in collecting and accumulating income, growing their businesses, and lifting their families out of poverty. As a result, women are largely excluded from the registered economy. It recognizes that its goals of Decimating extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of men and women. Investing in women's economic participation not only has a profound impact on development, it makes good commercial sense for companies and economies. Women's participation in employment needs to be strengthened.

### 6.3. Inability to Participate Equally in Education and the Workforce

Women constitute more than half of the world's population and half of the world's potential. Despite this, women and girls often lack access to vocational education and skills training. Many also lack basic functional skills, such as literacy and numeracy, to participate meaningfully in the work force. The effective participation of women in education and training is a particularly powerful tool for reducing poverty and promoting economic and social empowerment. Employment skills not only equip women with the competencies they need for certain jobs but also allow them to increase their employability and improve their social skills. They also learn to actively participate in civil society and politics.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, among others, provide a roadmap for accelerating gender equality and empowering all women and girls. By ensuring equal access to quality technical education and the development of skills, and ensuring full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, as well as equal value

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1. <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org/>



It aims to end discrimination against women by promoting equal pay for work.

#### **6.4. Lack of Mechanisms to Promote Women's Participation in Politics**

According to the IPU January 2018 report, women are underrepresented in parliaments around the world. The global participation rate of women in national-level parliaments as of December 2018

it is 24.1%. In 2013, women made up 8% of all national leaders and 2% of presidential posts. In addition, 75% of all female prime ministers and presidents have taken office in the last two decades, and in 32 countries, women make up less than 10% of the parliament. Turkey ranks 117th out of 192 countries in the world in the ratio of female deputies. Many African countries are at the top of the list. Rwanda, Cuba, Bolivia and Mexico are at the top. Turkey ranks behind many African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries in the ratio of female deputies. According to the data of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, it was seen that the number of women deputies was 102 out of 589 deputies in 2019, and the number of er-kek deputies was 487. The proportion of female deputies entering the parliament increased from 9.1 percent in 2007 to 17.3 percent in 2019.

In Turkey, current women make up 13.78% of the parliament (IPU, 2018; TGNA, 2018). When the low rate of this ratio is examined, political obstacles, the historical and political view of leadership and policy-making as a man's job, social pressure are among the most important reasons.

#### **7. WHY IS THERE NO WOMAN'S NAME IN LOCAL POLITICS? FIELD STUDIES**

The overall objective of the project is to empower women as political actors and to make their existence in these mechanisms sustainable under the unjust conditions created by these inequalities.

##### ***Project Activities***

- The project is planned to be implemented in 7 different geographical regions. However, it was applied in 6 regions due to the pandemic.
- The project provinces are Istanbul, Bartın, Izmir, Mersin, Tekirdag and Eskisehir. In the selected project provinces, one-to-one interviews were conducted with women who were nominated but could not be selected for various reasons.
- The reasons for the non-selection of candidate women have been questioned in detail. A total of 35 female candidates were planned to be interviewed within the scope of the project. However, due to the pandemic, 21 female candidates were interviewed.
- At the same time, this report, which you have read, and prepared at the end of the research, has been presented to all relevant stakeholders. Because these points are decision-making mechanisms and will be the trigger for change and transformation.
- At the end of the project, it is planned to organize a national conference and invite all relevant stakeholders and the press. However, it was cancelled due to pandemic.

### ***Project Presents***

- A research report consisting of the experiences of female candidates
- A video series in which female candidates share their experiences

### ***Project's Expectations***

- Increasing women's participation in politics
- Contributing to the increase in the number of role models of women in politics

## **INTRODUCTION**

Starting of the project Field Research in different 7 geographical regions in Istanbul, Bartın, Izmir, Mersin, Tunceli, Turkey and Eskisehir provinces or one on one interviews with candidates nominated in a total of 35 non-woman but in order to do the project into the arms of cities and districts of the region that describes the content of the party sent an official letter. The provincial and district women's branches of different political parties in 7 regions were contacted and the list and contact information of women who had previously been candidates but were not elected were requested. As the second stage, appointments were made from the women's departments in Eskisehir, Tekirdag, Izmir, Istanbul, Bartın, Izmir, Mersin, Tunceli and Tekirdag provinces. As a result of our negotiations, a shooting schedule was determined with women who have become candidates for deputy candidates. The women who are candidates or candidates that we want to interview in Tunceli stated that they will continue in politics and that they have some reservations and that they cannot support us within the scope of the project.

While the number of interviews we foresee to be held within the scope of the project is 35

due to unforeseen pandemic conditions, we were able to conduct interviews with 21 female candidates. The female candidates we interviewed earlier did not want to shoot due to the pandemic. For this reason, we have recreated our shooting plan in 6 provinces. The figures above were the highest numbers we could reach. Due to the KVKK (General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) regulations, we have obtained legal permission to access the contact information of the people in the focus groups. As a result of the impossibility of a face-to-face meeting due to the decision-making conditions, we were able to conduct interviews with 21 people.

We completed the project by interviewing a total of 20 people because one person we filmed in Eskisehir did not want to sign the KVKK text. We carried out the planned shooting in Mersin and Bartın provinces via the online system.

## **7.1. RESEARCH METHOD**

Different methods have been determined for the theoretical and applied parts of the research. First, in the theoretical part, the scope of the research problem literature review primary and secondary sources in relation to women's civil society organizations and publications in various magazines and newspapers their comments to the party leaders in women's studies in the field of the basic written artifacts are examined.

Secondly, as emphasized above, the 'in-depth interview technique', which is one of the qualitative research methods, was used. For this purpose, a semi-structured interview form has been prepared and during the interview, it has been tried to enable the participant to open their answers with different sub-questions according to the flow of the interview. In addition, the data were collected and analyzed by using the observation technique in this process.

in-depth interviews were conducted with 21 women in 6 regions with semi-structured questions. For the in-depth interviews planned within the scope of the research, first of all, permission from the officials working within the Women's Branches of the Party in the Provinces and a list of people to be interviewed were issued. The interviews were completed between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours. All the meetings were recorded on a voice recorder with the consent of the participants.

## **GENERAL EVALUATION**

Women in Turkey have had the right to vote and be elected in local and general elections with a series of laws enacted since 1930. In the time that has passed since then, women have been very underrepresented in local and general government. During the history of the Republic, while 31 thousand male belediye presidents were elected, the number of female mayors remained at 119. Starting from villages and neighborhoods, the representation of women in headman's offices and local governments is one of the most important steps in the creation of real democracy. According to the results of the local elections in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014, women in Turkey are the highest in municipal council membership at 10.72%, in the mayor's office at 2.86% and in the provincial general assembly membership

was able to take place at a rate of 4.79%. At the same time, there are a total of 50,292 headmen in Turkey, including 31,963 neighborhoods and 18,329 villages. While the number of female headmen is only 674, according to the results of the 2019 local elections, only 43 female mayors and 1071 female headmens were elected. Thus, only 3.09% of all mayorships and only 2.14% of all headmans included women.

7.2 INTERVIEWS MADE FOR THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The following table shows the list of provinces and women candidates for whom we conducted interviews.

Table 8: List of Provinces Where We Conducted Interviews and Female Candidates

INTERVIEWED MAYORS AND CANDIDATES			
TEKIRDAG			
No	NameSurna	Title	Party
1	MUKADDES AKDENIZ	Mayor of Tekirdag	HDP
2	BERRIN BAOL	HAYRABOLU MUNICIPALITY CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION	CHP
3	FERAY KARAGOZ	CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION FOR CORLU MUNICIPALITY	CHP
4	GUNAYMORKAN	CANDIDATE FOR CORLU MUNICIPALITY	IYIPARTY
5	ESRA ERDURUR	AKPDEPUTYCANDIDATE	AKP
ESKISEHIR			
No	NAMESURNA	TITLE	PARTY
1	DILARATAMBOVA	MAYORCANDIDATEFORES KISEHIRMUNICIPALITY	DSP
2	AYTENYILDIZ	DEPUTYCANDIDATEFORNOMI	CHP
3	FATIMATUZZEHRAKIRAC	DEPUTYCANDIDATE	MHP

ISTANBUL			
No	NAMESURN	TITLE	PART
1	ILAYAKSOY	FATIH MUNICIPALITY MINISTER CANDIDATE	IYIPARTY
2	TUBA TORUN	27. TERM DEPUTY CANDIDATE	CHP
3	ZEYNEP BANU DALAMAN	MAYOROFEYOGLUMUNICIP ALITY	DSP
4	DIRENCEVAHIREN	MINISTER CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION MUNICIPALITY OF KIRKLARELI	HDP
5	OZGE AKMAN	MINISTERCANDIDATEOFIS TANBULMUNICIPALITY	INDEPEN
IZMIR			
No	NAMESURN	TITLE	PARTY
1	SENIYENAZIKIK	MINISTERCANDIDATEFORN OMINATIONOFIZMIR M I N I C I P A L I T Y	CHP
2	NILAYKOKKILIC	27. TERM DEPUTY CANDIDATE	CHP
3	SERAP OZEKTEM	26. TERM DEPUTY CANDIDATE	IYIPARTY
4	ULKUDOGAN	27. TERM DEPUTY CANDIDATE	IYIPARTY
MERSIN			
No	NAMESURNAME	TITLE	
1	ESIN ERKOC	MAYOR CANDIDATE FOR MERSIN TARSUS MUNICIPALITY	IYIPARTY
2	ILKSEN DINCER	DEPLIITYCANDIDATEFFORNO	IYIPARTY
BARTIN			
No	NAMESURN	TITLE	
1	HATICEBIRGULFIRINCIUGLUBIRSOZ		CHP

## 7.3 FIELD RESEARCH

In this section, the results of the field research and interviews carried out within the scope of the project will be given.

### ESKISEHIR

#### AYTEN YILDIZ - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY CANDIDATE

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“I saw shortcomings and mistakes in the production of the country, and I decided to become a candidate because I thought that these mistakes would have a huge impact on our future, on the future of our children. I see that in all parties, including CHP. Although we are social democrats, unfortunately, we are experiencing that women are in the second place, or that the wives of women who have come to places have come to the forefront of power. The presence, activities or respectability of their spouses in the party affects their position in the party, their candidacy. There is also another problem in Eskisehir. Here is the municipality, all municipalities have been in the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi), so the preferences of the direct mayors have been going like this for 3- 4 terms. He's been in the preselection before, but he hasn't been very successful. In other words, even if it is different, unfortunately, women still have to fight very hard to get to a place.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*"My mother congratulated me. She is an 80-year-old lady and said that they weren't different from you, you will do better than them, my daughter. She was also very supportive. My friends and everyone believed that I would perform that task properly, so I didn't have any problems from my close circle and family about it. However, as I said within the party, there are a number of such parceled areas, parceled positions, in all parties.*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“We had the same formation as the male candidates, because when we looked at the women in the Assembly, we saw that the women elected knew several languages, graduated from several universities, and were much ahead of other male candidates in terms of quality and quantity. I noticed the same thing during my own candidacy. Although I consider myself more adequate and qualified than many in terms of formation, they are ahead of me in terms of being elected, they are one step ahead of the party and they can reach social circles and important communication points of the city more easily as a woman candidate, you are experiencing all kinds of things.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“I have. Because they had an attitude that was more supportive of male candidates.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) why do you think you were not elected?**

*“We are going through a process in which democracy has been destroyed. In this process, the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi) had to be a founding party that transformed the country back into Ataturk's republic and democracy, so it will of course want us women to compete on equal terms and even rise in numerical value. However, the most votes or candidates of the party to choose the maximum financial contribution or environmental factors, or the mayor took responsibility of candidates to choose the most useful in this regard my party's right I see. Maybe I had to introduce myself and take active duty in the party much earlier, but as you know, state officials cannot run until they retire. We were civil servants so of course, we were late in this process.”*

**DILARA TAMBOVA - ESKISEHIR METROPOLITAN  
MUNICIPALITY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“Thank you very much, first of all, I would like to thank ka.DER on behalf of myself and my fellow human beings for the important mission it has undertaken to support women candidates. I am very happy to see you here. Why did I want to be a candidate? I thought that we could change and beautify the world, our country and our city with a more positive approach with women's feelings and thoughts. I have taken on such a great responsibility because of my self-belief. My decision-making process actually developed very quickly because I was someone who had served with my party at various levels for a long time. I didn't have a hard time deciding. Of course, everything did not go so easily. The selection process had its difficulties, but we were able to overcome them. We were able to come with female power. Thank you.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*“My close circle, my family supported me a lot, and so did my party, because when I became the first candidate in 2014, I was the metropolitan candidate of the party, I was already the supreme council manager at that time. I have also held district/provincial presidencies before. Dear Chairman and our dear friends in the Supreme Council trusted me very much, and with their support and motivation, I accepted my candidacy without thinking at all, and we had a good selection process in both periods. But of course we would like to be successful. I hope, I think, in the periods ahead of us.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“Of course, it was more advantageous to us, as is the current mayor of both age and experience before us, but as a woman I don't defend this separation, but I think woman can not explore themselves and can*

*not perform their potential. I think I have had the opportunity to do this, so I am one of the lucky women. Apart from that, I cannot say that we are competing on equal terms, but I think that female candidates or our female*

*friends who will represent the municipality in Eskisehir will be viewed positively in terms of the difference in the social life of Eskisehir. In that sense, I did not have much trouble, but I think that the possibility of inequality in different parts of our country can be high.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“I haven't. Even if there is such an approach, believe me, it was positive, this is definitely not in the sense of positive discrimination. But he just said that you- like me, he has brought out the strength that you have accumulated inside of you, and men can also see it. In fact, the issue is that we can solve ourselves, that is, solve that different effect that exists inside of us as a woman and reflect it to the outside- we know. When you can do that, men already respect that and they support you.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“Elections are cyclical, you know. Each election period has its own unique structure. In other words, it is not something separate from political integrity, and so are local elections and general elections. This is even related to the developments taking place in the world. Due to the economic climate of that period experienced in our country, our party because of the importance of public acceptance, of course, some of Ecevit's Democratic Left party and the ruling party because of being the founding president of the woman due to a very exclusive party in power, even though it's a long time away from a party for a little bit, of course, behold, on the left, locating a certain party, I'm thinking about him. Otherwise, I don't think it was because of our personal inadequacy, because the feedback during the election process was very positive towards us, both personally and to my party. I hope that we will be successful in the next elections, I think.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Enough or continue?**

*“We said yes, because I am currently the head of the high-level board of my party again, and in the next process, there was a question of my candidacy again,*



*This is a job that requires continuity. If you give up in such an immediate defeat, politics is not an easy action to do anyway. As you know, politicians before us, especially our presidents, they also experienced electoral defeat, this policy is not an action that goes in a certain routine. Therefore, we will not give up because we were defeated, especially because we thought we had a mission against women, we did not think to give up, I don't think at all."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"In fact, this is a very deep topic, I think it should be discussed very deeply, analyzes should be made about it. As women, we are not preparing ourselves for equal conditions, as I have just said. In other words, because we have positioned ourselves in a slightly more passive position, therefore, in a male-dominated political place, they are also positioning us in a passive point. Therefore, if we realize our own strength and fight in this way, we will reach equal conditions only in this way. A male-dominated world will never provide us with these equal conditions. I think we need to make more efforts. In other words, instead of waiting for us to be given a certain place in the lists through quotas or by making more effective struggles, I think that if we acquire these rights ourselves, we will reach equal conditions only in this way. We are very happy to welcome you here. I would like to thank KA.DER and you for your effort, for your efforts, be very GRATEFUL for myself and the Turkish woman. I wish you a good day."*

**FATIMA TUZZEHRA KIRAC - MEMBER OF DEPUTY CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"I am definitely in favor of women taking part in political life.*

*This is my mission. Politics can be everywhere, but the absence of a woman's name in our decision-making bodies, and the absence of the number of women, is an event that hurts me. I have such a mission. I started by being a candidate in politics because I was in favor of women taking part in politics. When a woman becomes a candidate, there is such a thing; it's about doing your own private affairs as well.*

*You are going through a lot of troubles, your head is getting dirty, your hair is deteriorating, you are working late at night with this nomination process, the election process, it is very difficult for you to find someone to follow these things, it is very difficult for you to find someone to pick you up or someone to pick you up with everything, it is very difficult. But for a male candidate, his wife does these things very well, men are missing out on this. This was a very tiring process for me. It was very tiring for me to return from the election field at three o'clock at night and tidy up on my own, rest, prepare my speeches, and start working at very early hours the next day, but I was not discouraged."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"I got great help from the party. In other words, the party helped me become a candidate, insisted on me, they wanted me to become a candidate. My husband did not object. Whether he was able to be with me everywhere or not, it didn't get in the way too much. I did not receive financial support from other places, I just continued my candidacy from my own resources. I continued my nomination by myself."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"Male candidates are more experienced than women because they have started politics before, and they are more experienced in terms of their experiences. However, women are a little less likely to take part in politics due to both their lack of self-confidence and lower financial resources. It is also very difficult to find a place for women because of the fact that women involved in politics are more likely to be the daughter of someone and the wife of someone, and the parties are also trying to put them as a showcase. If you have a certain closure, if you can demonstrate this capacity, then everyone in the nomination is your opponent. Of course, you have shortcomings. You can*

*eliminate these shortcomings in some way, but apart from being this showcase at parties, making yourself accepted does not consist of trusting someone to start on the road. For one thing, you need to raise yourself well, you need to trust yourself, you just need to trust yourself, politics is like that. Relying on a November- muscle, there will be no politics, you will revise yourself first.”*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently than male candidates, did you get a feeling about that?**

*“I haven't. I didn't come up disconnections from time to time due to men's dialogues among themselves, sitting together, solving some of their problems, and not being able to have these dialogues with the female candidates, but I have not come across any attitude about my gender. I have had male colleagues who have supported me in the party, there have also been managers on the basis. Only when they accept your knowledge, accumulation, equipment and competence, they already respect and come after you.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“There were two reasons why I was not selected. One of them is a situation arising from the percentage of the party I have become a candidate for in Turkey, and the second is the budget issue. In other words, my own resources were not enough. I wish I had more budget, I wish I could have provided more budget resources- if I had known, then it could have been different. Of course, these are things that will be solved over time, not things that will not be solved.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“Of course, continue. Of course, want to continue, there was never a loss in politics. Many of my friends had told me this before I became a candidate. So you lose, you get upset, your*

*psychology deteriorates. No, there is nothing to spoil, there is no loser in politics for me. You are definitely learning something, you are learning something in every election, during every candidacy, and as these experiences accumulate in you, you can continue the road map in front of you with stronger steps.”*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*“In the first place, there is something here; The fact that he can provide on equal terms can actually be considered together with this issue of men and women, but I think it is due to the fact that the law on parties in Turkey has not changed. The nomination process takes place between the two lips of the current presidents. You are also not nominated from a place where you can be elected - you already have no chance of being elected. It's something to do with the fact that this is not a woman or a man, but a one-to-one dialogue of the president. It's something to do with you reaching out to him or being able to show yourself. Actually, I'm talk about Eskisehir, even though I am accepted and seen as the right candidate for all parties, I came up with injustice. I am appealing to our young women, you are here and it is really very important to me. Do not be intimidated, do not be destroyed, constantly continue your struggle. There may be shortcomings, it is possible to collect some things, everything is going through training, going through the budget, if you do the procurement of this from the beginning, it is not possible to get ahead of it, you will definitely succeed.”*

**TEKIRDAG**

**BERRIN BASOL - CANDIDATE NOMINATION FOR MAYOR**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“The decision-making process was very easy for me. I decided very easily and quickly. I had already served actively in the current provincial administration, I was also serving. At that moment suddenly, when a lot of issues came up, such as mayoral elections, local governments will also work, and municipal council memberships, I turned to the Mayor, “I want to be a candidate, I will resign in the next period, president, and I will be a candidate for mayor,” I said. “God helps you,” she said. all our friends in the team of 22 people were very happy and I received very nice support from them. This process was educational, instructive, exhausting for me, but it was a pleasure. I broke my foot, but I couldn't get it in a plaster and walk with a bandage, and I worked for selection, but worth it.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*“They have always made me feel that I have achieved the right job with a very warm interest and that I have set out on the right path. I was received very positively, everything was fine when I was talking to aunts in the village, and in the market, It was very important to them that our daughter became one of us. Their warm embrace would go for everything. They wanted to see him as mayor, they wanted to see women as headmen, “Include us and we will go with you, let's all be together,” the answers always came. The reviews were very positive. My parents have been supportive from the very beginning. Over the past few years, everyone has already been following my active work in non-governmental organizations and the party. It was an expected thing for me. When I was still one of the first women headmen of the republic, I said why can't I do this job and I set out on this path. Everything went very well.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men?**

**(Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“We competed on equal terms. Whatever legal rights were*

*granted to me, the same applied to them. In terms of experience, I was a little behind them, I started 1- 0 behind, because all of them, my two competing friends, were past mayors. Another friend of ours was also active in the City Council before. I emerged as a candidate for mayor directly without taking a position in this kind of green administration. I handled what the process could bring me, what difficulties I might have, we were able to collect them all, I was able to close my deficiencies very quickly. It was an advantage for me that I acted quickly, we acted quickly and completed the shortfall in this Decency, and the process continued on equal terms from then on."*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"I didn't want to be shown as a mayoral candidate just because I was a female candidate. I wanted to put this out with my qualities and quantities and show that I really deserved this job, that I deserved this seat. This is how the process proceeded."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"It was a decision taken by the Headquarters. After all, we did not enter the pre-election in that region. Conducted by the Centre, the survey was made, the results of this survey being nominated me in fact I had a situation like sour or very, very troublesome in terms of numeric data, however, the headquarters in this process, the AKP's candidate for the friend who was chosen as the face of the current mayor as a candidate by running into him a little more experienced they wanted to guarantee the selection. That's why I was not nominated as a candidate during this process."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"When I was a child, we all had heroes, and I also had memories in my life. I had a grandmother who was 27 years old, motherless, and fatherless, she was a widow with 4 children, she was my hero. She taught me to be a woman, a strong woman, who stayed alone in the village and fought for her life. When I*

*was sick as a child, when I went half unconscious, I had a doctor who help me a lot, healed me, and he was a hero. I should have spread health to everyone around me, I succeeded, pharmacist, I was helping people for them being healthy. The only woman left was the hero. That female hero in me has not been defeated in the feeling of not being chosen, I will continue again."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"For this, it is necessary to encourage women first, in my opinion. A little more, they need to say, "Come on, you do it, we trust you. Some of our women are waiting for this. Otherwise, in all of us, in all women, that talent, skill, that desire for success, there is all of them, there is also that power. I think that all women who have fought shoulder-to-shoulder alongside men in the War of Independence and in all the other wars that have been given up to now should not take part in the administration, why they cannot take part, men should ask themselves first and then pave the way for women. I say to such women that not only the performance we have put forward in our family is not enough, we also need to fight a little more outside. This was a war, even though we are fifty percent of the population, we have to fight a little more to have a say in representation, in local governments, in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, in the workplaces where we work and to be able to come to these authorities, seats, to sit as managers. We need to be an example for our daughters, our daughters, our own daughters, never lose the struggling woman in you."*

**FERAY KARAGOZ - Candidate for Mayor**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**



*"I have been a woman who has been actively working in non-governmental organizations for 8 years. The experiences I have gained in this association process and my field studies have shown me that it is now necessary for women to take a step forward in politics as well. That's why I became a candidate nomination in terms of being able to say that I am also in politics in order to support the women we have become role models for, the women we have given education to, the women we have worked with in the field, to give them strength, to be an example."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"When I wanted to be in politics, I shared it with my family first of course. My inspiration has always been my wife and daughter. In this process in other news, my parents became like two iron power they support me, and how we manage this process we can cope with these challenges, we thought we could overcome all the negativity in this process, and they also, they believed me when I'm working in the field in previous social life, in the next process, can be successful in politics. They gave me strength with faith and supported us in the next process because we are with you and we are proud of you."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"In my mayoral candidate nomination process, we were 6 candidate candidates. In this process, I know that only one candidate is actually ahead of me as a formation, but I think that we are competing with other candidate candidates at an equal distance, on equal terms. Men do politics earlier in terms of age compared to women. Unfortunately, due to the problems that we women have faced, economic problems, cultural problems, and education-related problems that we have experienced due to our society, we can get involved in politics later than men. That's why we didn't see this equality, unfortunately, because one of our*

*friends who were candidates for the nomination was also experientially more than me.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“I am proud to do politics in the party of the Republic, the People's party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), and I would like to state this first.*

*When we women are doing politics, we are facing some problems, first of all, in our family structure, as education, or how to maintain a strong locomotive power that is gripping in the field, or economically, of course, in politics. But actually, doing politics in the Republican People's Party is a different matter. I can say that I have experienced these difficulties minimally in my candidate nomination process, my party has never confronted me with these problems in this regard, at an equal distance from the candidate nomination came close, which I think shows that we women have been a little luckier.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“Our party decided to work with the current mayors in the decision-making process. Today, there was a process of continuing the policies that would win our party plus 1 vote on the way to power and would not lose even one vote. We also continued our work in order to support our mayor president, who is a candidate with a management approach that can gather other candidate candidates under one roof by ensuring harmony in this process.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“Politics is a long-term process. I think that it is necessary to manage this process correctly, to be able to manage quality is a separate virtue. In this process, we are already doing politics in every aspect of our lifestyle, in fact, whether we want to or not. But the more we internalize this, the more we integrate this with our lifestyle, I think that doing politics will always be of better quality, even more natural. As long as we are sincere, I think*

*there is no way we cannot be successful in politics. That's why I say, of course, continue."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"The law on political parties should be amended and I think there are some articles in the party statutes that need to be revised. Because the biggest of the problems that we women face are economic problems, in particular. Unfortunately, the processes of women's existence in politics, those who do not have an economy or the opportunity to stand on their own two feet, are becoming more difficult. Therefore, I think that political parties should also support women who make decisions in this process, especially because they do not experience economic difficulties in the nomination process. After Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who laid the foundations of a friendly, democratic and secular country, and the governments of that period gave Turkish women the right to choose and be elected, we will still continue to work actively as women who struggle, work, make one two and two four in this field, and we will do our best so that no one doubts this."*

## **GUNAY MORKAN - CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"Turkey's only female president to be with Meral Akşener, women have the power in this country, he thinks that I want to take responsibility. Mr. Erkan, our president made me an offer, "You appear to be a candidate for Councilman," he said. I am happy to volunteer, I'm the 4. line candidate. We worked hard, but we didn't see any support from our district. We could do better so we were not afraid. We will all come to more beautiful places together from now on, I believe that."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and**

**party's opinion about this?**

*"They were very supportive. Everyone thought we would be very successful, anyway, my environment is very good in Corlu. I am a business woman, I am in the food industry, I have a catering company. We have been able to reach a lot of places because our progress has been a lot, but I hope that we will show ourselves more after this, I believe."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"I think there was because we women can go everywhere as we want, we can talk, we can express ourselves."*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"Of course, we are more respectful as respect, we are more priority, but we have all had very good work shoulder to shoulder."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"We didn't see support. We worked hard, believe me, we did not knock on the door, we did not enter, we did not leave the factory. We met with the people one by one as a team with Mr. Erkan one by one. We got very good, positive results, but there was a fear here. He was afraid whether it would be good or not, we couldn't beat him. We believe we will win at the next election."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"I'm ambitious, I want to work harder."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"Women need to show themselves more, we need to be together."*

*We need to be educated together, women need to be educated, we are waiting for support in the party. We also expect support from our own party. We want women to be given priority.”*

## **ESRA ERDURUR – CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“I was a person who worked at an institution at a certain point and this offer came to me. They said, “Mrs. Esra, there is such a situation, what do you think about it?” Let me be clear at first, I didn't think of it as a plus because I worked very hard, but then I decided to try because I thought why not, I could take many jobs together. The beginning of this period was, of course, difficult, because I was forced like everyone else in everything that happened. But when I think about it, I haven't really had a bad time right now. Yes, I stayed away from home, there were periods when I couldn't keep up with my work. But then I was able to turn it around and handle it very comfortably. When you decide to do a job, I actually think that the person who made it difficult was ourselves, and I overcame this process very comfortably.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*“Because I had a social democratic environment, I actually felt a little crestfallen at first. I get a lot of “why” questions. But the important thing is that he managed the difficult, and I think I managed the difficult in that sense. I could have moved much more comfortably here than other parties, but I walked on the path that I saw and felt was in accordance with my own opinion and was not wrong for me either. My family was also supportive about this, in no way did they ask me the question of why. Whatever you decide, we will support you.*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"No, there were no big differences, but of course, we had friends who had entered politics before and were more involved in politics during that period. But I don't think there's a huge difference between us. We were all treated the same way and correctly, I didn't feel the difference too much."*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"I don't think my party has approached it as discriminatory in this sense.*

*They treated us all equally and I didn't have a problem with that process."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"We had friends who were more experienced politically than us. For him, it's not like discrimination, but I think they left because they thought they needed more experienced, more suitable candidates during that time. There was no discrimination and they did not enter the male or female event. Our more experienced friends were selected."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"Politics is a very beautiful thing, being together with people, doing decency to people, seeing that you have benefits really makes people very happy. But it's probably not in my nature to say it didn't happen and step aside. I'm going straight to what's not happening, and for him, it's never affected me in a negative way.*

*On the contrary, there were many times when I thought about what I could do, how I could do it, or where I could get in in what way, and I never gave up."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to**

**ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"I think the woman had to trust herself first. We can add many things to this, from our education to our family life. I think that it was necessary not to give up or run away in the face of an event that we experienced negatively for him in any way, but to go on top of it."*

## **MUKADDES AKDENİZ – MAYORAL CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"When I was actually working as a lecturer at Namık Kemal University, I was also a member of the Labor Party, that is, I was also involved in politics, I was a trade union representative at the same time. Although the HDK was born with a ray of hope in the face of antidemocratic practices in this country, you know, the fifty-two organizations were formed as a unity of struggle, but with the arrival of local elections, the HDP was founded and created in the style of an electoral party. That period, I also received a direct offer from the metropolitan municipality, to see if you would be our candidate. After all, here the Trakya region is a division where workers are very busy. Naturally, there are a lot of women workers, poor workers in the region, and that there is liberation for them, that there is hope, the electoral environment is a comfortable environment because to tell them. That's kind of why our goal was, I found the candidacy as a way to reach women, workers. I hear in many parties that a lot of difficulties have been made against women, I won't name names, but we have heard that the election declarations of women candidates have been destroyed and similar things like that. It didn't happen to us like that, because the HDP already has a zipper system, one woman and one man. Although I didn't have a co-chairman, I was a candidate alone during this process."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*"The HDP has already been consulting the public during the election processes, and they have held serious meetings about who will be eligible and who will be. In fact, I was not even at the meeting, but my decision came out, when the offer came to me, I actually accepted it, but then I was a member of the Labor Party, the Labor Party actually did not accept my candidacy. This is because already in the university, with the parishioners grabbing the power and rectorship, grabbing the cadres, very serious pressures were being put on me. That meant it was going to get even more intense. The fact that one of the components of the HDP is the BDP, naturally, the impact of the hostility to the Kurds created in this country for years was reflected in my family. They reacted very much to the fact that I acted jointly with the Kurds, many times my relatives called and told me that I had to give up this job, but besides that, for example, my uncle said "Mukaddes supports victims, women, children, and the poor. Naturally, he also thought so - he spoke to a very large community because he was next to them, and of course, he made me so proud. The fact that even a very small part of the shock was effective on them, that they recognized me..."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"You know that HDP has a zipper system, a co-presidential system. In this sense, I was a little lucky, so I also know that the HDP has really carried out serious work on women's equality. Since my party has already waged a class struggle, inequality between men and women is not the end, whoever is oppressed is naturally on their side. In this sense, the common movement was acting together with the sections of the left-socialist section, for which we also fought a lot. Naturally, I found myself very lucky in this sense too, because I fought on a very equal track. But of*



*course I was in a more disadvantaged position due to gender inequality. It was as if politics was the work of men, why women were here, I received reactions from other fronts, from different parties, from different organizations. In other words, there was a "How are you going to do it, shame on you" style or even pity."*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently than male candidates, did you get a feeling about that?**

*"No, I didn't participate, but I felt the thing from time to time, I'm telling you from the point of view of the Labor Party, not from the point of view of the HDP: I mean, I sometimes got the impression that it would be better if there were workers here.*

*You know, like why is this petty bourgeois representing us? I admit this here for the first time, well, I really felt it from time to time, it was felt."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"The reason I was not elected is the Labor Party (Emek Partisi), this is the working class struggle, although it has become a working-class basin, unfortunately, the oppressed are the workers, the workers, not the parties that can produce a better policy for themselves, think about their interests, on the contrary impose upon them, served rent, that is, they served corruption, they voted for the policies to which many illegalities, corruption, and rent turned for profit, that is, they voted for the policies of capital, not for their own policy. Because of a sexist approach to women, because they do not trust women, because they do not trust women's policies, because they looked at them in an ungovernable manner. However, running a huge house is actually not something to underestimate, but all women."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"Of course, everyone aspires to power, naturally, if I am producing policies now, it is not important for me to have come to power, it is not important to have come to power, but I prefer my party's policies to be in the administrations, to be in power.*

*Therefore, it is not very important that I am not selected. I am continuing the importance of the process and the achievements of this process. In fact, the fact that I settled in Corlu and became another member of the Labor Party (Emek Partisi) already brings this continuity. it has been very difficult for 6 years, let me say it clearly, I have been producing policy despite all the suffering caused by the fascist dictatorship.”*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*“Although we have not adopted the zipper system in the HDP very much, I actually think it is important for me, that is, in terms of converting inequality into equality. Such a thing can be done. For this reason, when we look at the ratio of men and women, the largest number of women in the Parliament is currently in the HDP, as you know. This is very important, but I think the fact that a woman was elected is not necessarily an advantage, so it does not mean that women's policies will be reflected there. You also know prime minister Ciller who affects women's future in this. Unfortunately, he did not carry out any work for the emancipation of women, just as on the contrary, he turned their lives into hell in factories, on the street, at home, in the fields, with his poverty policies... Because it was a capital party, capital was now in the hands of men, and he was now a prime minister who entered the role of a man. I think that she has ceased to be a woman, and it is not so important that she is a woman there. A man can also produce women's policies on the contrary, a policy that fights for women on the contrary. As long as policies are developed that will destroy this gender inequality. So being elected in our country does not solve the problems either. We have seen that in a country where antidemocratic policies like ours are produced, the elected ones can be dismissed at any moment, they can be put in prisons at any moment, trustees can be appointed at any moment. The anti-democratic struggle, which also exists naturally, must be carried out correctly. In other words, as long as we have not produced a policy on all inequalities, it is not very important to carry out only a women's*

*struggle. Nature is being slaughtered, our children are being slaughtered, women are being slaughtered, these are an ongoing process, each in proportion to each other. I think it had to be fought all-out."*

## **MERSIN**

### **ESIN ERKOC – MAYORAL CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"The first reason I became a candidate or candidate was the insistence of the district organization of our party. First of all, it was an issue that I didn't think about, but I was a city councilor, the district organization of our party came to me, people I knew very well before told me very insistently. Because their insistence was that I am an architect, I have 15 years of municipal experience, I also have 12 years of architectural experience, and because they know me very well, they say that they consider me suitable to lead Tarsus from their own party, to represent Tarsus, and I started with their rhetoric. I also shared this with my family first of all because it was a topic that I had never really thought about. I have worked in many non-governmental organizations before, I have tried to serve the community, I have been a senior manager in Tarsus Municipality for many years. I mean, my problem was to serve, and I did it. But there was no reason to get into politics as if I should become a mayor. But I knew that when I became mayor, I could do better things for myself, and after they said that, I set out on such a path. I didn't face difficulties because I was the only prospective candidate in my party after I had already come out as a prospective candidate and they didn't nominate another candidate, they chose me as a candidate, I didn't face difficulties."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and**

**party's  
thoughts?**

*"My close circle, my family and my party supported me to the end."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"I think that I was ahead of other candidates in terms of experience, and in general, the support of my environment was already in this direction. As I said, I am an architect, I have been a municipality employee for 15 years and I am a high-level municipality-I was an architect for 12 years. You know, on the basis of municipalism, technical professions are actually more important. In other words, it is a job that people with technical professions can understand and do more. Municipalism is actually a school, and I finished school working in the municipality, but there is definitely a difference between us and male candidates, despite the egalitarian approach of my party, society may have different approaches. People in society who want to criticize you directly criticize your femininity. "Go make borek at your house, what are you doing at the mayor's office," they say. It can be viewed with a simple male mentality that makes it so simple. But this can never be an obstacle because we women can both make pies, raise children, and run the municipality and our city. Making borek is a plus, although I wish men could do it too, right? But women, whether they are mothers or not, are already the ones who can really think about everything in society because of their maternal characteristics, and they have to plan for the future, because we all have to. Men don't plan so much, but women have to do a lot of things together, so they have to go, and I think the problem is, of course, from a social point of view, there still haven't been too many women in politics, unfortunately, our society is still not very ready for this."*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently**

**than male candidates,  
did you get a feeling about that?**

*"No, there is never such a feeling in my party, because my leader is an egalitarian person. I mean, because he looked at every candidate with the same eye, he was looked at like that at the highest level, I never felt that."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"Of course, I was not selected for local reasons belonging to my region, but let me say this, as a matter of fact, I got into this arena too late. So in March- which was in the election on December 16, I had a very short period of time to decide on the candidacy of a candidate, frankly, I had a short period of time to explain myself, to introduce myself. But I think even that short period of time was very good and very beautiful. But of course, there were some local things here, there were reasons, so I wasn't selected. If I had a longer period of time, I could have broken some things, but I didn't get selected because I had to fight in a short period of time."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you?  
Enough or continue?**

*"Not being selected had a completely positive effect on me instead of a negative one. Because I have gained very important experiences. It allowed me to draw positive results from these experiences and continue on my way."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"For one thing, women need to be a little more enthusiastic about this. In our society, politics is seen as a man's job. It seems that male politicians have put this in their hands. In order to make women look more warmly at politics, people like us need to be more visible. I want to tell you a small example; I go to the villages during the election campaign, the children follow me. One little girl came up to me and she was very sweet, her hands were dirty, but she came from the game, she said to me, "I will be*

*just like you.” This is a very important thing. Here we need to increase our visibility, we need to explain ourselves very well as women candidates, as women candidates. As we enter politics, if we can be an example for girls a little, if we can be a role model for them a little, it will open the way for them, more women want to enter the profession, so I think this problem will be solved. All women, whether they have children or not, naturally want to leave a beautiful world in the future because of their motherhood. Therefore, I think that the more women participate in politics, the more beautiful political life and our world will become. Thank you.”*

## **ILKSEN SORGUC DINCER – CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY NOMINATION**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“Women voters had an expectation that I would be the candidate. I mean, when I didn't run, it was as if the party would nominate me, but I wasn't running. Especially our women headmens said, nominate Ilksen to the Deputy General Heads of the party, we want to see him, we do not accept the bottom of the third rank. Therefore, I made my last da- kika application on the last day. In other words, I was in Ankara on the date I had to resign from the Istanbul Mersin provincial organization. I write my resignation on whatsapp and delivered it with my wet sign on it. So I became a candidate nomination. I am one of the founding members of the provincial organization of the Good Party (İyi Parti) in Mersin, and there are many members, let's not say members. I am one of the founders. The task I have taken is the one I have taken in the party, and this is the election. In other words, you are not necessarily a deputy or mayor, you come to the office by taking votes from the parties there. I have already served as an elected deputy provincial chairman responsible for*

women's policies and social policies. I resigned from there and applied to be a candidate for deputy."

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"I have been in politics for 20 years already. I have been active since 1999. When I see your attitude, your determination, someone's voice doesn't sound very loud either. The main thing is determination."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"I am speaking for myself; there are too many women who are equipped and can come to the top of this business, even though it exists, it cannot be, this is already our problem and problem. If he doesn't get a vote in the election, I don't think we have a shortage of voters for myself, nor for many very good women who can handle this job. I don't feel such a weakness. If you are a strong woman in the party, they are doing everything they can to destroy your visibility, your work, infrastructure service, they offer the support they have given them as if they had done it themselves. Unfortunately, we are facing such a reality, and I tell them this: men who are afraid of their shadow."*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"It is more or less certain how many deputies a party, a Good Party (İyi Parti) or other parties will bring out. Of course, the outcome may be affected by who these candidates are, related to the campaign process and unexpected events, but it is more or less certain. There are men, not women in the fight for being the 1., 2. or 3. This is the problem. For being there, they do whatever they can, this is the same in every party."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"Not only was I not elected, I wasn't even on the candidate list."*

*When I said I wasn't even on the candidate list, if we are going to get votes from the voter to get elected, we have no problem there, because we weren't in the written place when we made that list. And look, all the political parties have candidate selection commissions, a lot of data is collected, what is your strength in public opinion, how many votes there are, and so on. How much these are respected when preparing a list, why do the lists work after 12 o'clock at night. These are the troubles. Women, look, there is a quota, they comply with that quota when putting it on the list, they have to comply with it, because it exists in the charter, but you are applying the quota, so the woman does not move to the parliament or to the local council."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"There is no giving up on my own behalf or on behalf of all women. And I'm a member of the KA.DER Advisory Board. We have carried out very serious studies in Mersin in order to increase the number of women headmens, KA.DER General Center has strongly transferred it to education seminars in these elections. We did this again in Mersin. Those who cannot participate in Mersin we sent them to education in Antalya. And in the campaigns, in our discourses, we said this: don't wait for a party to put you in line, you are the one who goes house to house, be the candidate of your own neighborhood, ask for the vote for yourself, and it was very successful. Women headmens increased to 21 from 8 in the last election in Mersin. Continue to work on behalf of myself or other women in politics."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"In the Nordic countries, political parties allocate a budget to candidate women, the cost of billing for this is refunded after using it. They know but they don't talk about what doesn't come to their business, unfortunately, it's not said. Anyway, I want to convey this; women have never produced a place of work, they have done nothing, but they have the right to an inheritance. 82 per cent are still above men in property acquisition in terms of*



*income from inheritances. Where are the rights that women have acquired with that inheritance? Above either husbands or those. Women are not on equal economic terms. Equality is the application of the zipper system, which must necessarily be done to ensure equality in representation. Let's come to the nation- we started as killiğ i, or let's say the local councils, a ranking is being done here, a ranking of 15 people in the councils. When you put it below 15, it means that you will not make a female representation in the ranking anyway, it means that you will not carry it. In practice, a zipper system is absolutely necessary. First, I want to convey this; our current laws*

*10. have the principle of equality. It also says that the state is obliged to ensure this equality here. He has to fulfill what he has to do based on his obligation. It is talked about decently, it is always talked about and it is not applied. The Electoral Law, the Law on Political Parties, the women's quota that exists in their statutes or the gender quota have not been applied, there is no sanctioning power to tell them why you didn't do it. Ha, they did it, did he do it when he placed it on the list of 15 people, but is it in the top 3 or not. So it is also be included in the Election Law of the time-honored parties, that is, I am talking about the zipper system. Otherwise, the representation of women in parliament is impossibly difficult. Women need to be in solidarity. For example, the legal rights that have been obtained are trying to be taken away from them right now, as you know, the Istanbul Convention is trying to be abolished. Unfortunately, they are trying to give up the contracts they have signed under themselves, while we are saying that it will get better. And I will say this, why should women be represented, there is no such problem, but why are these women saying this, we women live in this country, men make decisions on our behalf, men make decisions made in the city where we live. Therefore, if half of the inhabitants of this city and this country are women, you know, they say justice in representation, the zipper system is essential for justice in representation.”*

**ISTANBUL**

## **ILAY AKSOY – MAYORAL CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“There was no candidate candidacy that I planned for the March 31 elections. There was an alliance with the Republican People's Party in the elections, but unfortunately, we were left out of the alliance as a result of a dispute. On top of that, our headquarters, we had to have a candidate candidate there- they thought about it and assigned me there. Therefore, this was not a long-term planned and prepared candidacy on my behalf, unfortunately. However, after I became a candidate in Fatih, I saw that a woman candidate could really be suitable for Fatih by breaking down the concepts, and there is a lot of work to be done, and we hope to work if it happens.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*“I really received very serious support during the nomination period. Especially in a region like Fatih, people were very surprised that I was not a candidate and supported me a lot. There is a very big prejudice about Fatih. However, Fatih is a district that attracts 12 million tourists a year and is the face of Turkey. Therefore, in such a district, I received very great support, especially for representing my party, my family, and my environment.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“We didn't compete on equal terms. Why didn't we compete? While the other candidates had 3 months, 4 months, maybe a year to prepare, I was only able to work on the field for 28 days.*

*Therefore, there was no equal preparation time, and obviously, we did not have a declaration time. Because at first, we advertised ourselves in an alliance, then we had to introduce ourselves separately. However, when I compared them with male candidates, I saw that women were really much more detailed. In other words, those who are personally interested in sociological problems, are more sensitive, can see details and when evaluate the district we have tried to make very focused approaches to development. However, male candidates made much more general promises, and those general promises would not actually cause social development, we saw that they approached with much more populist statements. As a matter of fact, there are very serious sociological problems in our district, Fatih district. First of all, there is the problem of migration. when I was thinking about what was the clearest message for 28 days, I focused entirely on it because the Syrian issue was a very serious issue, because I saw that we could not solve the course of the district without solving it, so I focused there.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"In the Good Party (İyi Parti), after all, our leader is a woman, but we had nine men and 10 women candidates, we had 10 mayoral candidates in the March 31 elections. I've never really seen a distinction. So here was a woman- no privileges were made for us, that is, they were already taken care of equally, everyone was driven to the field, and everyone tried to do something with all their might. Therefore, obviously, the distinction there arises in individual capacities and ways of working, obviously. In other words, no matter how much you have improved yourself individually, no matter how hardworking you are, no matter how much you want to push a little more, the difference turns out to be there. Otherwise, our party is really women like this, there is no position for us to give more space to men.”*

**5. Question: In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both non-elected candidates) why do you think you were not elected?**

*"When review the process, it was very obvious that we could not win in 28 days of working time. We didn't do the infrastructure. I have done very serious studies on this subject, I have also done research, and we have also gone to many regions of Fatih again and personally met with people and conducted studies. There is no way to win without grass infrastructure. Therefore, just by going out on the field and representing a party, not only the party brings votes, especially in local politics. One-to-one contact is very important in local politics. When you know people, gives quite a vote of confidence. Only the party logo, of course, may open a door for you, but after that door opens, it is your individual effort and your relationships to go further. It requires long-term work in local government, you need to have confidence, people need to have confidence in you, and you need to have a healthy and stable relationship people living in that district. That's why we didn't win at Fatih."*

**6. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"Women need to believe that once they are equal, they are equal. When criticizing our women or trying to pave the way for them, women need to see this demand first. In fact, we see this in the elections; our women come to the district building in the morning very comfortably, again like a subcontractor, then they meet somewhere at work, a minibus comes, picks them up, gives them leaflets, then they take them somewhere and work from morning to night. Here's a bagel, a meal, or something, and then they come back, they don't question it, in the name of patriotism. But women are not a subcontractor, women need to request this change first. We need to provide a healthy organization within ourselves, and perhaps women's organizations should set the conditions while lists are being formed. They should tell the district presidents, then the headquarters, that is, "If there are not as many women, then we will not work". So they need to show resistance themselves. Nothing is easy, it is very difficult, it is difficult and it really needs to be paid for the changes."*

## **DR. ZEYNEP BANU DALAMAN - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“It is rare that women in Turkey can consciously see themselves as deputies or mayors in local or general politics by making a political career plan. The main reason for this is that the law on political parties has not been changed in Turkey and there is no “intra-party democracy”. This situation causes a lot of people; men, women, or young people to stay away. Especially for women, I will be a candidate according to merit after working and working in a board of a political party, in women's branches, the table does not work very well in Turkey. The candidates are determined by the headquarters, so women can only be candidates for the quotas and places reserved for women. You are equal with a man, you have made equal efforts for the party and you are a candidate for the same position, then at the end of the day you usually see that the male candidate has won the race. What is the reason for this situation to deteriorate? If there is a more active man behind a woman who has been given equal labor than a man who is a candidate, then a woman can be a candidate. If a second stylish woman's quota is not filled and the party headquarters says let's put a woman here, you may have a chance. In this case, active men in the party step in and immediately put a woman from their circle into the nomination race. In other words, it is not enough for you to be a successful, hardworking and willing female politician to be a candidate. Since there was no democratic race, you can only run when the headquarters, which is led by men, sees fit. My nomination process is a similar situation. I'm a political scientist. When I became the Mayor of DSP Beyoglu in 2009, I was working as an advisor to the Mayor of Sisli, Mustafa Sarigul, at that time. Mr. Sarigul was the DSP Sisli Mayor candidate again in the 2009*

elections, and he came up with my candidacy while he was working on his campaign. During that period Beyoglu was a district that was very difficult and did not have many suitors on behalf of DSP. After all, The President's district was a municipality that the AKP attached great importance to. Of course, the process of becoming a candidate has a very long story, but I can briefly describe it as follows. Although my roots are Trakya, I was born and raised in Sarıyer. During a conversation with the DSP Provincial Chairman, it was mentioned that I could be the Mayor of Sarıyer. I wonder if it could be me, and suddenly the press started to come out with news that I would be a candidate in Sarıyer. But when it came to my candidacy, a number of male candidates, whose candidacies had been discussed earlier, suddenly began to put pressure on the provincial president with the claim that they had been promised. On this, the DSP provincial managers said that you are a good candidate, but there are many candidates in Sarıyer, we will make you a candidate in Beyoglu. At that moment I reacted very strongly, indeed, my only interest in Beyoglu is Istiklal Street and it's around because I studied at Galatasaray High School. I'm looking at the map, there are districts I've never known Beyoglu such as Sutluce, Kasimpasa, Halıcıoglu, and Okmeydanı. They said "Don't worry. you could do it by working in partnership with President Sarigul." and that's how I became a candidate nomination for the Beyoglu district of the Democratic Left Party (Demokratik Sol Parti). But when I became a candidate, a lot of people suddenly became candidates for the nomination, they said that if Sarigul is behind him, let's be candidates and support us. Here, my challenge started. There were 9 candidates in Beyoglu who had no candidate nomination at one time, so the DSP Province also stepped aside. So I persevered and made a team in the DSP Beyoglu district and went to the headquarters in Ankara. And what did I see? My application for candidacy has been blown away. I convinced the headquarters somehow, and at the last hour on the last day, my candidacy was announced."

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"In this process, the party usually does not support you financially. The biggest task of the mayoral candidate is to find financing. That period, DSP's votes have fallen to 3% in Turkey, you are in a region like Beyoglu and you are not a political force like Sarigul. Therefore, it is very difficult to find support. The biggest challenge of this job is to try to run a campaign with your own means, taking the help of a number of friends at work, opening elections ... I have no family interested in politics, my parents have passed away, and I have no wife, I am a single mother who has to take care of 2 little children. I am on my own and I know that I have fallen a lot at night during this process. Of course, the spouses, friends, relatives who hear are proud, so after all, your name is hanging all over Beyoglu, there are your pictures, you are on TV, of course, this is the nice part of the job. There is also a small Turkey with Beyoglu, there are people from all regions and everyone is doing politics through citizenship. But the event that I am most proud of is that I have paved the way for the most politically difficult region in Turkey in terms of women. One term after me, many women candidates ran for the CHP in the 2014 elections, and Aylin Kotil became the CHP's candidate."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there big differences when you compared the men candidates or the candidate nominations? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"In fact, the election process is an equal process for women and men, as a result - both are candidates. You have a campaign process in front of you, whoever campaigns more successfully gets it. In other words, there is actually no disadvantage to being a female candidate in front of the voters. There is one drawback; you have a chance of finding more budget when you are a male candidate. Especially gift giving, hosting an invitation, joining weddings, and how much you donate to the associations*

*is important for local elections. When you are a male candidate, you can talk about money more easily. When a woman is a candidate, sometimes they don't want money from women but the fact that they see women as weak. There are such problems. In other words, being a woman requires one more struggle, for sure, but during the campaign period, you can enter places and houses that men cannot enter. This is very important. You are able to have more contact with women, which is important, but again, when you become a female candidate in some way, we are not supported by women either. In places where there is a culture of fellow countrymen, such as Beyoglu, the father, who is the head of the family, that is, the man, decides most of the time. Also prefers the candidate supported by the joint decision of the affiliated citizen's association. So you have to homes and coffeehouses to meet and talk with people. After all, when you are a candidate, especially women say that they support you, and you are happy. But if you are not the candidate supported by that citizen's association in the ballot box, it does not give you the game."*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently than male candidates, did you get a feeling about that?**

*"Since there are so few women candidates to be shown manually throughout Turkey, the public considers women candidates as a showcase. In 39 districts of Istanbul, there was a female candidate from the Democratic Left Party (Demokratik Sol Parti), me, and Kagithane. I don't think there were any candidates in the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi-CHP). We had 3-5 female candidates from all parties in all Istanbul. The media pays attention to you. Here you are speaking on women's day, and you are invited to TV programs because you are a woman, so they use it as a showcase, but I also find this wrong. As a result, everyone should be able to take part in the field of expertise in a way that they deserve, on common platforms with projects that they will do related to that region."*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why**



### **do you think you were not elected?**

*“When you enter the electoral area, you talk to people, they say that we will vote for you, so no one is saying that I will not vote for you to your face, it is very few who say that I will not vote for you to your face. So I guess you're getting into the mood that I'm winning. But I see that: there is something called a collective vote in Turkey. As I mentioned earlier, the citizens' associations decide in Beyoglu. So, for example, I don't know what the Association of Boyabatlılar decides, they say we will vote for this candidate this year, 5000 people vote for him/her. There is such a system that they determine their choices based on two criteria: the number of donations or citizenship. Therefore, in fact, you can be very little decisive as a candidate. I did a nice campaign in Beyoglu according to my budget, I contacted a lot of people with the advantage of being a woman. The president also noticed at that time that he invited me to join the AKP after this election. I made a difference, my awareness increased, but I knew that I could not create a miracle when the DSP's vote in general in Turkey was 3%. Although I was one of the few districts of DSP that received the most votes in Istanbul, I did not win.”*

### **6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“When I am not selected, the first reaction is that I will never enter this process again. You get very tired, especially if you are a candidate for mayor, you get very tired, you act jointly with other candidates and bear less responsibility because you are like a regional candidate in the candidacy for deputy. But when there is a candidate for the mayor of be-lediye, although the candidates for the municipal council have a better chance of being elected, all the responsibility falls on the candidate for mayor. I didn't see my children for 3 months during the campaign period. My daughter was 10 and son was 7. They haven't seen me for 3 months. It was really hard to endure such a thing, but I had to do it so that my concentration would not be disturbed. I was staying in a hotel in Taksim, I could not go to my house. It is very difficult to want to experience this process again, after the experience of having lost it. As Demirel said, “you can not be*

*offended by ballot box" but frankly, I will not be a candidate from a region where it has been difficult for me to be elected again. My experience has taught me to be more planned and cautious about issues such as relations with the party, the selection of councilors, supporters."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done for women can attend elections with equal to men?**

*"The biggest problem that needs to be overcome here is the lack of mechanisms to strengthen women's support for women. Since I am also a sociologist, when I look at the polls, I see that women generally do not trust women and do not vote for a female candidate. An urgent solution needs to be found to overcome this issue.*

*I think it is important that when there are women candidates, as is the case in advanced democracies, other women candidates, women members of parliament, or women in the party unite around that woman candidate. If we want to equality of men and women in the nomination-we should ensure the implementation of intra-party democracy, the abolition of women's branches working as a mechanism for collecting votes for men in parties, the establishment of a female presidency in their place, and the implementation of the zipper system. I'm sure we'll see more female candidates this way."*

## **DIREN CEVAHIR SEN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"I am an activist, I come from an activist family anyway. I am the child of a trade unionist parents. The candidacy was actually offered to me, I already represent a form of politics that I have put my hand under, I have become a candidate from a party that I have been a part of from somewhere. It was offered*

*because they said that you are young, you are a woman, you are green, you are a feminist, and I am an ecological activist at the same time. They said would you run, because there is a 40-year anti-thermal power plant struggle where I ran, and I was part of the struggle. I am interested enough in politics to know that many things will not be easy politically in Turkey. During that period, maybe the conditions were a little more positive, but the party I ran for was exposed to the People's Democratic Party, the systematic thing, I was also exposed to it by the government and of course, I was attacked. Once I could walk as a woman in the streets where I was born; I know every inch of it, every shadow of trees, every stone; now I couldn't walk the same way at night. It is already very difficult to exist as a woman on the streets, regardless of what you have done. But when I became a candidate from the HDP, I actually got into danger, and unfortunately, I had to go in and out of the house at certain hours and I had to act accompanied. I experienced such difficulties, and during that period there were attacks on our party, I also had my share of attacks, and a fire was started in the party in front of everyone's eyes. The responsible persons were tried, but they did not receive a satisfactory punishment."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*"My mother, my father, my nuclear family, which are my top priorities, are already people with trade unionist and socialist identities. So they owned it, and I think they were happy, actually, but they were nervous, of course, because I'm their child. They were always there for me, they were there in every sense, in this sense I didn't see anything, I didn't see anything against, for example, people I could call other relatives turned away, they turned away because of the party I ran for, but despite everything, even though we were in different views, I had relatives, aunts, aunts who called me every moment and asked me to pay attention. However, I received such great support that I never expected, and there were also those who called and congratulated my friends, my childhood friends. I have seen only one approach that broke my heart concretely, because the things that came from my immediate environment,*

*from my distant environment, did not break me so much.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there big differences when you compared the men candidates or the candidate nominations? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“We live in a male-dominated world, we live in a world where men are comfortable, comfortable, used in every sense. This is the case in all circumstances, and it is the same in politics. Almost all of the candidates in front of me were men, there were also female candidates, and one of them is now a deputy. We didn't come together for a shock, but we had a meeting, a good rapprochement, of course. We have had a women's solidarity, a small example, a tiny little association. But I have seen how far men can actually make politics away from ethics and ethical values in this way. Coming from activism works on certain issues. In other words, I am a person who studies politics and feeds his theory in this way, on the one hand, I also have practice, I am scientifically versed in many things. But really, in Turkey, in this country, it is very difficult to conduct politics with men in a man's world. Because when they are building different kinds of relationships, creating different kinds of spaces, or making head-to-head relationships and cultivating secluded dialogues, you cannot do it or it is not allowed. What do you need to do, you need to fight as a woman. My nomination was part of a fighting. Like all women did. In other words, in fact, wherever the candidate is in the local government or in the general elections, or the headman is not important, the professional organization is scratching all the women, so I fought. It was a very nice experience for me and I think I have matured.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“The party I became a candidate for, both programmatically and verbally, introduce itself as a women's party touts itself as such and has a lot of effort and effort about it. For one thing, there is a co-presidential system. However, including the party I am a candidate for, it is not free from that male-dominated way of*

*thinking and habits in this country. Yes, there were more feminists, he sent the more feminist deputy to the parliament. I am a party of deputies from feminist activism, a few of whom are currently in parliament, a party whose name has become. But really, sometimes men are a little more careful or not paying attention to some things, I've had moments when we said. For example, they asked, "Do you come to the coffeehouse or should the other candidate come"; I asked why I couldn't go to the coffeehouse, but they could not say anything. They just said, "Okay," because I didn't wait to answer. I mean, I'm doing politics, I'm going to do propaganda, and I can also go for coffeehouse. A male candidate can also go to a field where there are women, because we are a candidate for deputy. So if we are going to get votes from everyone, we can get into everyone, of course it's better if we get in together."*

**5. Question: (What does it mean to be elected as a candidate or to leave the ballot box- why do you think you were not elected?**

*A party with claims in Turkey-HDP, I can say a dubious election, 13% of the votes surprised everyone, even I was surprised in June 2015-November 2015. I knew that my need to actually not be elected as a candidate from Bartın was much greater, and the possibility of being elected was a miracle. I am an activism defender. I am fighting for the right, for the nature, for animals, for women, and I am fighting for the right, you know, even before people. I took an initiative, I actually put my hand under the stone. Because I had to explain something. I had to tell my own people in the Black Sea, in the west of the country, about things that have been happening for 40 years in one part of the country, for 50 years, even in the totality of the country, but we have fallen far from understanding each other. I had to tell my neighbors, my countrymen."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? continue?**

*"I don't see politics as a profession, politics is not a profession, there is no such profession as politics. I'm a citizen. I'm a woman. I am an individual and I want to take the initiative in my own life. I think all women should do this too, I'm fighting for it, I'm striving for it. I am a politician; that is, I have lived and believed throughout everything. Because I really want to make life and the world work, I want to do it with women and I want to do it for nature, these are really my priorities. I'm a rights defender, go ahead, of course."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"It is a very meaningful thing for political parties, non-governmental organizations, democratic mass organizations to implement a women's quota and a women's quota in the context of positive discrimination. But I think at a time when women are pushed back from politics, women's gains through the common struggle of women and women's rights struggle are wanted to be cut one by one, even the positive discrimination or women's quota is low, it may not be enough, and I think that women should be paved the way and men will withdraw a little, sometimes they can say let's not be in this time. But for this, women's organizations really need to fight together with common solidarity. I think that these rights, the result of this effort, will be achieved through women's own struggle. All of our rights, all of our accidents, are a product of the decades-long struggle for women's rights. So women can achieve this together, women are strong together. Women's solidarity is the only thing that will open the way for women in politics, allow them to breathe freely and have a say."*

## **OZGE AKMAN - MAYORAL CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are**

**these?)**

*“First of all, it was not only my own decision to be a candidate. We actually decided to enter the elections in our party councils, and in order to enter the elections, we decided to make a task among ourselves in decisions to enter the*

*elections. In this respect, as a result of the evaluations we have made in all our party councils, I have already become the general secretary and spokesman of the party at that time, and my friends suggested that I be a candidate, and we took decisions in our councils, we held our general meetings, on this occasion, our nomination process has begun. There may be different approaches in other parties or among other candidates. You know, what was known in other parties was about which of the candidates would actually be with each other. Because there is a consensus, we had a socialist worldview from this point of view so there was no such process.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*“It is already the only name nominated by my party, that is, it is the only name in our own councils, so there is a very positive trend going on here. I was already the spokesman of my party, and from this point of view, this was not a very coincidence. From the point of view of my close circle and my family, I can say that they were actually very happy that we were going to the elections because they saw us as more activists, protesters and objectors. From this point of view, it was met with more interest than I expected to see as a candidate. It was a process that they liked very much. And when something like that happened, it affected them a lot, too. In other words, it went one step further, and even those close to us who do maybe not have the same perspective, even those close to me who do not have the same political opinion, had very positive reactions because it made them think, “They are very serious in this” about this. I can even say that I have never seen my relatives for a long time, maybe I haven't seen them.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there big differences when you compared the candidate to the candidate or the candidate to the men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“Firstly, I will have to answer this question as a socialist. Of course, no terms and conditions are ever equal. It is also unlikely to happen at the current rate, and I don't think there will be*



*equality in that sense in the future. Our political understanding is different. For example, when I meet myself from this point of view, maybe you know, the following may come up, that is, to be involved in politics for more years. I even find this controversial, this I don't think anything that positive happened either. For example, I do not think that a discussion of experience at this moment is such a positive thing, how positive it should be to discuss the results that will come out of such an experience, provided that the same system is maintained. People don't talk enough about politics. It is very common even in our country, some form requirements are talked about more, and even the approach to women candidates is generally formulaic. In other words, the presentation of a female candidate, that is, she is not even a female candidate, the issue is addressed from a place such as being shown by someone. From this point of view, beyond the issue of such conditions, this is a political difference, that is, from this point of view, I am advocating a completely different worldview with other candidates who were already my opponents politically at that time."*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently than male candidates, did you get a feeling about that?**

*"I know this is a big challenge for women friends whose own parties are led by men, I see it, but unfortunately we see it, we can wish, but such a situation cannot happen in our party. We also come from a place where the woman policy has become very strong and the women's movement in Turkey is based on very strong roots. This is one of the main ingredients of the party. We have created this, we have carried it out and we are maintaining it. And while we're at it, don't let anything like this happen to male candidates in the party is very far from us now"*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*"The answer to this question is actually a bigger problem than the balances of Turkish politics. In fact, that is, our current*

*proposed policy today is more related to the state of the struggle that we have been conducting since the past years. Unfortunately unfortunately I'm saying, at least that part I can tell you this, the last generation thought of as one of the representatives, until today, the average age in politics, based on a more recent one since the socialist worldview presented generation by us as representatives, in the political sense, yet society doesn't trust. Unfortunately, the defeats experienced in these past years, that is, unfortunately, I am saying defeats, have lost a serious power after the defeats experienced by the generations before us. In the intellectual sense, neo-liberalism was thought to be the savior, but*

*frankly, I would like to say how happy I am that we are also seeing what a disgrace they are dealing with right now. At least, I can only say this; the policies that we put forward during the election period were confirmed in just one year. For example, what public institutions meant, even what it means to have public hospitals, in particular, from this point of view, this is a situation related to the basic view that we have put forward politically. But from our point of view, this is also not the case for the left, for example, in a situation where the elections are approaching so close. In other words, there is a tendency in the historical approach of our view that avoids this very much, and we can actually say that this is the first election we have entered by breaking it. It was just the beginning. For example, we consider a situation in which we joined, the Independent List, Turkey should be a very polarized single man and his preference came at a time when the opposition forces tried to make the choice, it would be more important to continue the elections, to try to get the voters to succeed. one may not immediately be involved in an "opinion" from within this dichotomy. In any case, we did not immediately enter this in the form of such an acceptance, these can also be called training."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you?  
Enough or  
continue?**

*"I am still the party spokesman. Well, not being elected, if something is being asked in a bad sense, it did not have such an effect. We completed this election process by having a very positive election experience and by telling the society about ourselves and being very pleased that the society responded to this and brought us together with their votes. This shows very well that it is an issue that goes much beyond the next time, that is, the issue of who will be the first in these elections."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"Women's politics should be left out of the politics of approaching women only in the form of friends who will be given*

*certain small rights. The women's movement is very strong in Turkey, moreover, the women's movement has become very widespread and very powerful in the world. It is not possible for men to continue with an approach that values women only as something to be shown at election times, and in party policies, we will only recognize some rights for women, which are already rights that come from the family. Women will not allow it, that is, he will not allow it in his own parties, and this is impossible, not only from the point of view of democrats, and leftists but also from the point of view of people with right-wing views. The current political parties think that only men have addressed this issue to men. This is a very big mistake. I would also like to say, for example; there is an false belief that women cannot speak out to men in society, but men will definitely speak out to women. It's just a superstition of men. This is not real, in a real sense, women's politics means that women have real rights as half of society in this world and their equality is accepted. This is the basic idea. This is a part that requires women to strengthen women's policy very much with their own hands because, in such a competitive situation, nothing has happened that men have given with their own hands. Let me say this as a basic approach. Based on the basis of this, there are a lot of decisions to be made, and a lot of applications to be made. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, let me not just say the left in terms of the Turkish left and Turkish politics. In terms of Turkey's general politics, the women's movement still has a lot to achieve and gain in order to develop them.”*

## **TUBA TORUN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“The reason I became a candidate in 2018 is that I have already had a desire to become a deputy for a long time. But I*

*can say that I found the appropriate ground in 2018 to take action. I think the part of why I wanted to be a deputy, especially the first one, was a form of professional activism of the deputy. In other words, to work among the people, communicate with them, and do the best you can, I can say simply these. I wanted to be a candidate because I knew I could do it well. In addition, as someone who advocates human society and gives a long discussion in this field in civil society, I decided to join the candidate who thinks about it as a whole, thinking that being in the political arena will also contribute to the discussion of civil society in this direction.*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*“People close to me were supportive, but of course, deep down, you can see that they think, “I wonder if there will be a setback, if not, will he be discouraged or upset?” It's not a problem, after all, they support you and they are proud because it is seen as a matter of courage in Turkey, especially from the point of view of women. So this is also a proud thing, they are proud of this courage. From the point of view of our party or friends, we have discussed this issue. “Are you sure, how come, have you thought about the negative possibility?” we argued, and eventually I remember one of our older fellows saying this: “This nomination is a start, if you don't win today, it helps you win another time.” gave me the courage obviously. So, thinking that this would be a start, we started on this path at worst. I am glad that I did it, because when you enter that path, you already see that you have come a long way, you have learned a lot, and you already feel that you will meet much better results in the next experience, you know.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there big differences when you compared the men candidates or the candidate nominations? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“I did not think that there were big differences between me and male candidates, I never thought about it, I even thought*

*that I had advantages on the contrary. It can be both education, culture, posture, even life experience, I have seen many advantages in myself. I looked at it objectively, without favoring myself, but we were definitely at a disadvantage in practice. Even this struggle itself has been mentioned psychologically, and even overcoming that barrier, the barrier to becoming a candidate is much more difficult for women. Because they look you in a different way. This is actually what we call mansplaining, someone gives you a reason, "This is not the right way to do it, if you do it like this, it would be better if you entered 'that' time, I wish you would do it like this..." there are many people who give a reason, and most of them are men. In fact, they seem to support you, but basically you already understand it from the inside, it's a feeling, So, that form of violence was not very distinguishable in a situation where women. You feel it, and it is not an easy thing to overcome it and move on with every step, every word, every look. Of course, this is a disadvantage. In this electoral practice, it is especially important for someone to allow, to give passage, to support you, for example, a man for female candidates. One important issue is that there is a prejudice that you can't get anywhere if a president doesn't support you. This is not true. You need to think first that you can do this. Someone, everyone can help each other, not just because they have become women. This is very normal, and it should be. Of course, it should help the people I trust in anyway, work, idea, mind, knowledge, but if someone doesn't help these women, they can't come anywhere, the thought that we ourselves should be dismissed from our minds first. In practice, they also had disadvantages. For example, the lack of being taken seriously, the obscene look, to be honest, the fact that they see you as a child, especially if you are young, is definitely a big disadvantage. It's kind of like your turn has to come and you're waiting for it, actually, so that's the concrete part of the job, there's such a perception. But we are overcoming this by saying that I can do it with struggle, we will overcome it, we will see that it has exceeded it."*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently**

**than male candidates,  
did you get a feeling about that?**

*“In a concrete sense, this is already visible, because male candidates are written in the front rows of the lists, and women are usually written in the back rows, we already see. However, in terms of behavior, for example, when you went to work somewhere as a candidate, they always meet the male candidate more enthusiastically, with joy or with more interest. Frankly, the candidacy of women is always doubted, because they are also less numerous in the real world, “I wonder if it can be?” unfortunately, the point of view also exists in the public. However, the candidacy of men in the party is, of course, being taken more seriously. Their plans and programs are asked in much more detail. Ours can be perceived a little bit as if this is something we did as a hobby, you feel it.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“Of course I was nominated very far back from the ordinary. For example, it was a list of 35 people in Istanbul in the year 2018. district candidate quota. I was nominated on the 26. If you are on 26., you can not selected in 1. region. Because the average 10-11 deputy comes out, at least it was so for the year 2018. Therefore, it was not possible to be elected anyway. “Why they could have written you as 26?” I mentioned the answer just now, there may be a perception that our turn had not yet come. Unfortunately, there is also an age in politics, and gerontology here. It's not his turn yet, he's still got time, we've been working for years, we're like this, we're like this, there's a perception that we've done these things. Therefore, we hope that our turn will also come.”*

**6. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*“In order for women to be elected, once again, the mentality that you have always advocated in the first place needs to change. It is necessary to internalize the belief that women and*

*men are equal, can compete on equal terms, can provide equal service, can serve the public at an equal distance. For this reason, it is necessary to give an education first. I think gender equality education is the basic one. This is same in every area. It applies to employment, it applies to health, it applies to violence, and it certainly applies to politics. Therefore, first of all, gender equality education and doing everything necessary to establish them in the mind. As you know, in accordance with the holistic policies of the Istanbul Convention, in fact, whatever needs to be done in this direction needs to be done. Both the state and the local, all kinds of management that has the possibility. However, some changes can be made in the technical sense of the system. For example, we are constantly talking about quotas in parties. For example, there is a quota of 33 percent in my party, this quota should be increased, there has been a demand in this direction for a long time, we are arguing that it should be equal to 50 percent. This is referred to as gender equality, a system that protects men when the number of women increases one day. On the other hand, we defend the zipper system. So, as I just said as the reason I wasn't selected, the current system is available to write women from the back row. Therefore, if we introduce a zipper system, women will be in the front row as well as men.”*

**IZMIR**

**SENIYE NAZIK ISIK - MAYORAL CANDIDATE  
CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*“When I was a person working as a Planning Specialist of the Prime Minister's Office at the State Planning Organization, I said that I wanted to quit my job and return to politics. I have been involved in active politics since a very early age, in fact, this*



*situation is also related to my family. Politics is something we've always done, so it's not a new situation with that side of it. I have been interested in politics in the sense of producing policies and policy solutions for many years, both in the sense of the women's movement, and as part of the work I have done at the State Planning Organization, I have also been a person who has been producing policies for a very long time. I discussed it with my trusted friends, I talked to them, I talked to my friends who I attach great importance to the women's movement, of course, I talked to my family about how they would behave in meeting the upcoming workload, I asked, but as a result, I made the decision. The Republican People's Party (CHP), as you know, is a party that takes application fees from women. Whether it is true or not, I can pay the application fee. The paperwork is also not very difficult. I gave it, applied, if you look at it in this sense, it is easy to talk about the operations of this business, but it is worth mentioning that the next stages, of course, have a very exclusionary style for women as a method."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*"I wanted to be a deputy, and their usual reaction was; "It would suit you very well". For many years, I was already one of the women in an advocacy movement. Much effort has been made and worked on legislation related to violence against Women, the Gender Action Plan in preparation for the removal of women's reports from the State Planning Organization, also many very large work areas in legislation related to working life. They consensus on I could be a very effective deputy in Parliament because of that. Apart from my close friends, there were those who said, "She asked us and he got naked to run for deputy." In other words, whether the women's movement has such power is something that can be discussed, but I personally experienced that the support of our friends, the civil society movement that we walked the road together, was also very important at that time. It has been a long time since my husband's ability to intervene in such matters has disappeared, because I am a strict feminist for*

*a very long time, I am someone who has taken the path of making my own decisions. Of course I will consult and talk, ask him things about whether he can handle the burden that will come, but it is also my responsibility to bear the consequences.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"I decided to be a candidate candidate when I applied for candidacy for Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality in fact, but I have no idea about being a candidate, there was nothing positive. Today's Mayor Tunc Soyer has been preparing for this job for a very long time, he has municipal experience on another level, he has experience as the Mayor of Seferihisar, and I was seeing that the hand has shifted in favor of him in the party, I thought. If you want my candidacy right, it was because I saw the problem with the fact that there was no female candidate for Izmir Metropolitan Mayor in the Republican People's Party (CHP), and I thought that I could get along with Mr. Tunc and take the presidency in a district mayor's office. For this reason, I don't think there is a problem here, but I mean, when I compared it with male candidates, we also had another friend in the women's Republican People's Party. Canan Aritman, our former deputy. Mrs. Canan is also an experienced friend of ours, she has been a member of parliament for two terms as a woman deputy. He is a friend of ours who has served in the Honor-Honor Crimes Investigation Commission. She is a well-known and well-known deputy in Izmir. Of course, when we look at male friends in terms of education and exchange of experience, when we look at them in terms of work habits, there are good ones and bad ones. So the measure of this is not my personal capacity. As you know, I am also in politics, nomination is not a thing about my capacity. Therefore, I do not think that such questions as whether they are more efficient than me, higher or lower, less educated, more mercenary, scaly, more experienced, have a counterpart in politics.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"Yes, for example, let me tell you a little story about the deputy; in the 2015 elections, the Republican People's Party decided to put women in the first place for 7 electoral districts in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, and you know, it also received the authority to show them from the Center from the general center. I am one of the people who have lived this discussion very closely. I objected with the MYK members when they said, "Let's do it like this", but this was not the right method. Yes, it guarantees the admission of 7 women to the parliament, but it does not answer the question of who these 7 women are, besides, because of these 7 women, perhaps 27 women who could actually take part in the list will be cut off. The party's approach is not a favorable approach from this point of view. It is very likely that you will encounter all male candidates and provincial governments turning to you and saying, "But we have already given it to you." As a matter of fact, it has been so. The only experience I have with the mayoral candidates this time has been this last one. And in 2014, as a party councillor, I was on the evaluation side, I was not a candidate, I was not an applicant, I was on the evaluation side. The two are different experiences for me, so maybe I should talk about it. This time, that is, the party did not hold any meetings with the prospective candidates. I don't know how the evaluation criteria happened. We only made our applications on paper, there was no idea at the headquarters about how the process worked after that."*

**5. Question: (What does it mean to be elected as a candidate or to leave the ballot box- why do you think you were not elected?**

*"Something that Onder Sav said many years ago is also a very critical issue for me. "She is very knowledgeable, very talented, but he goes straight up his nose, he doesn't do what he doesn't think is right in his own head," he said. Politics is teamwork, as long as what is understood from this teamwork is not teamwork, people like me will come second. You will have such a feature, because where the small team policy is at the forefront, there is*

*rarely such a feature as the definition of the job and the appreciation of those who will do that job rarely found, wouldn't be more. That's the truth for women like me."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you?  
Stop or continue?**

*"My past already shows that it's okay. So you know, it's not okay in the sense of cutting, we're saying, "This is also done, continue." I have been active in politics since 2002, and today we have come to 2020. I have been in active politics for 18 years, I have taken part in active party work and I continue to do so. In other words, politics is a very long-term thing and I have never thought about staying out of politics."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"I think we need to talk about this in a few titles. Did I just say- how should the party be in terms of women becoming more equal? In other words, for one thing, even if your understanding is not equal, it must develop in an equalizing direction. This is extremely important. Come on, the quotas that you have included in the party charter and so on, of course, as long as they are not used against, you know, sometimes they can also be used as a male quota because it has passed as a gender quota. For women, for example, only a reduced application fee. I am not saying that there should be no application fee, but it can be taken, features such as the use of the application fees received, especially for women's campaigns, can be introduced, for example. The party can train women specifically for campaigns and provide them with free programs, paying for them personally. Of course, not every party that has to train should be chosen over having women and competition benefits. Party should take precautions for this. There are also women who have money in politics. For example, I never forget, they asked Vuslat Sabancı years ago, when she was asked to become a deputy, especially when the work of Hurriyet on domestic violence had become very important, and while Mrs. Vuslat managed them very well, to become deputy, "Oh, now is not the time, one day the*

*time will come for it.” she said. I mean, she had no doubt that she would be elected, but I always doubted that I would be elected, because I am not a Vuslat, there is no huge fortune behind me. My only capital is my knowledge, my manners, my experience, my ability to do business. Working with women, creating a female-friendly party environment, making it a habit to work in a female-friendly environment, and various precautions need to be thought out and done.”*

## **NILAY KOKKILINC - CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"I can honestly say that I am a lawyer. I entered politics in 2011. In fact, my desire to become a candidate is identical to my desire to start politics. The reason I took a step into politics was to be in the governing class, to contribute to the gaps and problems arising from the implementation of the written laws as a lawyer. This was also the way through parliament. My first nomination was as a candidate for deputy nomination. I was not shown, but at that time I became a candidate for a party for the first time, the party to which I gave my heart, the party with which my worldview coincided, and then my candidacies continued. I have been nominated as a deputy candidate twice in Izmir 1. Since there are 14 districts in the Region, and I am a local government lawyer in the last one, and I also worked as a legal consultant in local governments, I am a candidate for mayor because I have a political background in this field, I have a good command of the legislation, I love people and I have a creative personality. So the idea of nomination rised up.”*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*“I can say that I have been quite lucky, my close circle has always supported me. In fact, politics is not very easy to do, it requires huge sacrifices for women. There are sacrifices in terms of both material and time, both in terms of profession and in terms of your family. I am grateful to all of them on this issue, without their support, it is not possible for a woman to be in the political arena so easily.”*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“I think I have been on equal terms with men all my life. Due to my family, my close environment, and my professional activities, I am a little lucky in this respect to other women living in my country. We have female candidates. When we competed with men, I made sure to keep in touch a little more slowly, I took care of my photos. Of course, in some political studies, I was uncomfortable expressing myself at dinners and drinking parties. There are a lot of civil society organizations that we have participated in, there are a lot of communities, and these are not things that happen in meeting rooms. Sometimes in marketplaces, you are in very different environments in the meeting places of community organizations. Therefore, I took great care to protect my own identity as a woman and not to be misunderstood or abused. In the races in the political field, your thoughts are not always competing, your dirt is not always competing. That's why you have to protect yourself as a woman against a number of different methods.”*

**4. Question: Does your party approach you differently than male candidates, did you get a feeling about that?**

*“I don't have a feeling that my party has approached me differently than male candidates. But there is one thing I found wrong. I am a politician in the People's Party of the Republic (CHP). And I have had experience in many different areas within the party as well. I also know the Law on Political*

*Parties, I know the Constitution, I know the party statutes. No matter how much men want to work with you, unfortunately, you can see that this path has been closed in the rules they have introduced. In 2012, the Republican People's Party introduced the gender quota for the first time. But because there was no zipper system, when you became a candidate for a place, for example, if 13 deputies are shown in the first district in Izmir, you are the last 13, 12, 11. if you are ranked next, the quota of 33% is realized, but you are not selected. Men go to Parliament.”*

**5. Question: (What does it mean to be elected as a candidate or to leave the ballot box- why do you think you were not elected?**

*“I don't know exactly the reasons why I wasn't elected, but here's the thing; In the district where I became a candidate in Izmir, there was already a bele-dene chairman of the Republican People's Party serving. It was a district where the Republican People's Party also received a very high vote, up to 70%. It was decided to continue with some of our mayors, so maybe this may have been the biggest obstacle in front of me. I don't see any other reason other than that, because my name has been announced, withdrawn, considered. I was an important candidate, I was told everywhere. But as I said, I mean, I made an assessment myself- the studies carried out by the current mayor were found to be successful and it was decided to continue with the same mayor.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“I'm actually a person who has been nominated a lot, they were saying to me a little bit, what are you running from? Are there so many candidates? I say to women "Be a candidate“, it means to have a claim, it means "I will do this job". And half the work begins with this. When he's not nominated, yes, there are vulnerabilities. Unfortunately, when I had nomination processes before, I believed in myself a lot and my vulnerabilities were very high. But somehow you tolerate it, you listen to yourself a little, you do a little self-criticism. You are saying that the system is also very open to this, so this is not the only way to be useful. In*

*many areas of society, you can still do good work and be useful. They didn't let me go, I don't know if I would have given up, but they didn't. In other words, they were always drawn into politics, so I constantly took on duties."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done for women can attend elections with equal to men?**

*"First of all, the Law on Political Parties must be changed. As you know, we are a country that has signed the international Istanbul Convention. We defend this contract. This convention also says that if a woman and a man cannot be elected on an equal basis, if this does not happen, women have the right to choose and be elected, then there is another duty that falls on the states. We should apply legal legislation about it. What is this legal legislation? It is the necessary amendment to the Law on Political Parties to ensure that men and women can be elected with the zipper system. If you look at France today, we see that men and women are elected equally in local councils thanks to this zipper system by half. Again, when we look at the Canadian Council of Ministers, we see that half of them are women and half are men, and we can show other countries as an example. We are the women of a country that has obtained the right to vote and be elected before many other countries, and today we are very far behind in terms of money. So, regardless of his party, no matter which party she is from, we all have to be together in this field of women. We have to walk together. We have to pass our word together, we have to ensure that this legal change is made. Izmir has thirty mayors and four mayors are women. Of course, I was shown as a member of the assembly in Izmir Metropolitan Municipality during this process. The Republican People's Party has appointed me as the Group Spokesman. We have 22 commissions, I take care that there is a woman in each commission, I care. But when you look at it, we have only seventeen female members of parliament, and each of them has a lot of tasks. I hope this will change in time. And women receive at least half of the views in the decision-making bodies, the way for them to receive is opened."*



## SERAP OZOKTEM - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"I have always tried to be a woman's voice both in my own professional sector and on other platforms I have worked on, so I was already doing politics. I was at the party founded by Mr. Meral Aksener, before the party was founded, I was traveling with her. I was one of his representatives in Izmir, I was on the call committee and I was organizing the organization when he came to Izmir. After that, as soon as the party was founded, Mrs. Meral, our Chairman, as a woman chairman, I heard from her own language that women should always be in decision-making mechanisms, and on this occasion I became the founding district chairman, I was given the task of establishing an organization. After I founded my organization, with a dominant general election, I also wanted to try my luck as a woman. We were already getting our strength from our chairman, working with a female chairman added even more strength to us, and I became a candidate for deputy after being nominated as a candidate for deputy. Did we have difficulties? I am a person who comes from inside politics, I like to resist, we have faced all kinds of difficulties. Of course, my family was always with me. I had no great difficulty."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's thoughts?**

*"I've always had support from my family. My husband has always been the biggest support- grass anyway, and so have my children. We never saw any shackles in our party. A little bit of support is from the respect you feel for yourself and the steps you have taken. Our party has always supported the people who need to be supported, had no problems at my party or with my*

family.”

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*“As a woman politician, I have served for many years in a political party whose leader is a man. After that, working in a political party whose leader is a woman, of course, adds more self-confidence to the self-confidence of a female politician. Working with female president is very different. She is already your role model. Therefore, it adds strength to your strength. Of course, there is a difference between us and the male candidates in the parliamentary. I mean, it's not possible that it's not. However, as women who keep their feet on the ground as much as possible, as women who can be an example for generations after you, we have tried to see the difference to a minimum degree.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“Although we do not have a feeling, of course, as a woman from Izmir in the ranking, we would have liked to take a place in the front rows. If we can make a difference, Izmir is an attractive city by all political circles, especially in the nomination of deputies in the general elections, and different provinces want to come out of Izmir as deputies. I think that's the most important thing, I think, the woman rather than the man.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“We performed all our duties in full, but we were not elected due to our rankings and the percentage of votes our party received. This was not because of our personal shortcomings, we did our duties incompletely, but it was proportional to the votes our party received.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“I am a person who likes to resist. I was 6 and a half months*

*old yesterday when I was born- I came on foot and stayed in the oxygen tent for three and a half months. That's when I resisted and clung to life. My second step is to resist. There is no giving up, maybe there is nothing that every person who takes a position in politics will necessarily be a deputy, but of course, my dream is to represent Izmir in Ankara. Even if not, even if I am not a member of parliament, with the decision mechanism- by continuing to be a woman, I am acting as a role model for my sisters after me and I will continue to do so."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*"There is a little more time for this, but he wishes that it was not too long, and I personally am doing my best for this. The social order needs to change a little, the perception that politics is a man's job, we need to correct this perception by joining hands with more women in politics. As a woman, when I do something in politics, I don't do it alone, but I try to hold hands with my female friends who are with me and do it together. I am both setting an example and not keeping my experiences to myself, just as acting together is a power for me from my general president and it is a power for other women friends from me, I can see that. Because, hand in hand, arm in arm, maybe we will multiply not only in our own parties, but together with our female friends from other parties, we will encourage reproduction and one day we will get what we want as women."*

## **ULKU DOGAN - CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"Of course, first of all, I complained about the current situation, more precisely, the country's administration, the prevailing understanding of politics throughout the country, and*

*the complaints I heard about it are my reason for being the first candidate, or rather, my first reason for entering politics. After that, I was already working with politics, and when the local-general election periods came, I obviously wanted to try something different in my walk in this political field with a candidacy now. So he thought that I had to experience it in my life - it was an area that I was a candidate for deputy, so I became a candidate. Have I encountered difficulties? Of course, I am facing many difficulties in my political life, the main one of which is the responsibilities that society or the family has placed on a woman in the first place. I have two small children, children on the one hand, work on the one hand, family and home on the other, it is quite difficult for him to take them together. Apart from this, of course, the perspective on women in Turkish politics is still not very developed, women in this field new, we are still at the stage of making progress, and therefore it is quite difficult to introduce a woman into the field of politics, perhaps to take her to advanced stages. I've had these difficulties myself. But if you say that you have experienced a greater difficulty, no, I have not."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"I have been in different areas of politics, I have been the district chairman, I am the deputy chief-blood, all of these are difficult jobs. In fact- you're just like a candidate, and you can't do these things if you don't have family support. I have received a lot of support from my family in this area. First of all, my wife, my own family, my wife's family, especially my responsibilities at home, they showed me great support in taking my obligations off me. I also received great support in my party about being a female candidate, because our leader is a woman, so being a woman, in fact, in the Good Party (İyi Parti), it also provides such positive discrimination. The feedback and support I have received about this in my party has always been positive. "*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate**

**nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"When I compared with the other candidates, were there any differences between us and the men? We certainly had differences in terms of experience, experience, and time spent in political life. For example, Mr. Musavat Devisoglu is a politician who is a doyen of politics, so we have differences, but did we compete on equal terms? Yes, I think we competed on equal terms because the perspective of the party in terms of men and women is the same. Unfortunately, in Turkish political life, women are still at the stage of making their way, as I have said, it has happened all over the world. Therefore, we may not be on equal terms in a very general sense, but on a macro level. At the micro level, I think we were on equal terms in our party."*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*"Yes, of course, they approached it differently because we are women, our president is a woman, so we are more fortunate."*

**5. Question: (What does it mean to be elected as a candidate or to leave the ballot box- why do you think you were not elected?**

*"It's not just about us or my party, as a matter of fact. It was also related to the conjuncture in which Turkey was located or the political environment. We would want to be able to do much more successful things, but we were able to remove two deputies. It wasn't enough for my turn. In other words, I don't think it was about the vote that our party got, it was about me personally."*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*"As I said, I saw these elections as a step that I had to take, that I had to overcome in my life. It was a process that I had to experience in my political life. I have lived, I have accumulated many wonderful things, I have accumulated memories, I have gained very important experiences and experiences. But it ended there, the next day I was at the beginning of my task, I continue the same way. So I see ourselves as a pioneer in this matter,*

*actually. Women are just starting to exist in politics, and there are very important names in the history that opens our way. Of course, I'm not comparing myself, but we have pioneering political women, we have a general president who introduces women to the world of politics and advances them, who is a blessing to us. Showing where and how women should stand in politics, showing that they can achieve their achievements. Our young girls who may come after me humble myself actually interested in politics, who want to do politics who is interested in doing this in order to be an example to our women, actually. Therefore, of course, we will not stop, in the same way, with the same enthusiasm, I continue with the excitement of the first day."*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done for women can attend elections with equal to men?**

*"This is a very difficult question. Many things can be done. For example, perhaps the women's quota can be supported by law, leaving only the party initiative. Perhaps legal arrangements can be made that can support women candidates a little more in terms of positive discrimination. Most importantly, not only the state, perhaps, but the parties need to take more initiative in this regard. For example, Non-governmental organizations that will support and guide women who want to progress in politics, such as the KA.DER (Association for Supporting Women Candidates), may develop. But I think this; The policy takes its source from the ancient Greek, who is the origin of the name. We are talking about this B.C. For centuries this area it only belonged to men, women are just starting to get into it, we are in a process that is developing with it. I think the thing that should have happened in the first place is that we need a little more time. Today, what we can call modern society has just reached this level, including European countries whose equality between men and women is slightly better in our opinion. Maybe in another 20-30 years, we won't be discussing these things anymore either."*

## ARTVIN

**BIRSEN                      FIRINCIOGLU-                      PARLIAMENTARY  
CANDIDATE**

**1. Question: Why did you want to be a candidate? How did the process of deciding whether to become a candidate or a candidate nomination; did everything go smoothly, did you experience difficulties? (What are these?)**

*"You can't be a candidate, you are born as a candidate. My grandfather and grandmother were also members of the municipal council here at the time of Inonu in the CHP, my grandfather was the headman of the neighborhood, the headman of the largest neighborhood. My father was the Mayor of Bartın for 30 odd years, CHP. I also became a pharmacist willingly, purposefully. I wanted to be like my father, I wanted to be like my mother. I wanted to work for the good like them and die in the way of Allah, obviously this is it. I wanted to be buried with this love."*

**2. Question: What are your close friends, family, and party's opinion about this?**

*"Of course, it's a good thing, but there have been a lot of people who didn't realize that I was a candidate, for example. When picture of me hung in the elections, my next-door neighbor was looking at the picture and 'I guess I know that woman' she said."*

**3. Question: In terms of experience and formation, were there any big differences when you compared yourself with other prospective candidates or candidate nomination men? (Or do you think you are competing on equal terms?)**

*"One of my opponents is Koksall Toptan, Bartın deputy candidate Koksall Toptan. The ones I'm competing with from the Dogru Yol Party. The other is the Zeki Sakan, from the Ana Vatan Party. When the offer came from the CHP, I went to there. The CHP is my main party, I told before. I went to the CHP. By*

*the way, I still meet with Mr. Koksall and Mr. Zeki. They ask for me. If I have a problem, if there is something to be done from anywhere, with both hands, they are my brothers, my dears. I have never seen the slightest lack of love, disrespect. We had a perfect, perfect choice in respect and love.”*

**4. Question: Have you had a feeling that your party is approaching you differently than the male candidates?**

*“No, I haven't seen anything like that. Adnan Keskin came to support me.*

*He was the Minister of Industry at that time. Hasan Akyol came, so when the CHP came, whoever was in the past passed through here.”*

**5. Question: (In the sense of being elected as a candidate or leaving the ballot box, both unelected) Why do you think you were not elected?**

*“We lived together, they chose us, they didn't choose us, Bartın doesn't let go of his love, master.”*

**6. Question: How did not being elected affect you? Stop or continue?**

*“If I say ok, where are you going to restrain me? Okay? I don't want anyone get in politics. They vote and the other one vote. What we do...This new generation is not like the old generation. They put it with the party, if it gets it, if not, it goes away. It's nothing like that. It's nothing like that. This is the fight. If I say okay, who can hear me.”*

**7. Question: What do you think should be done to ensure that women participate in all elections on equal terms with men?**

*“The objectives of the policy are different, it determines its purpose well, if I say I will do this job, there is no reason not to succeed. In other words, the intention is good, the outcome is good, according to the purpose, according to the purpose, someone who educates himself, I will be this, I will be me, someone who says he will eventually succeed.”*



## CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

Women, who constitute half of the population, are underrepresented in politics due to a large number of economic, social and cultural factors, especially gender equality. However, the equal representation of women in all decision-making mechanisms related to elections and appointments is one of the critical indicators of sustainable development and reaching the level of contemporary civilizations.

The March 31st Local Elections have never been off the agenda with the objections and discussions made to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality election. However, the issue of women's political representation, which is far from equality since the nomination, could not be the subject of the agenda.

In the 2019 Local Elections, while only 45 women were eligible to sit in a total of 389 belediye presidium seats throughout Turkey, this number fell to 43 with the decision of the YSK's KHK not to give immunity to those who were expelled by decree. These numbers have once again shown that we are facing a situation that is far from equal representation in local governments. In fact, the situation of injustice and inequality arising from the candidate nomination process of women was also reflected in the election results.

Contrary to what is known, women have a high interest in politics. However, institutional mechanisms to facilitate the entry of women into politics and to strengthen women who are active politicians in their positions are very insufficient or non-existent. In order to increase the participation of women in politics, some special measures (gender quota, zipper or parity system) should be taken and women should be nominated from electable ranks. At the same time, it is critical acting together with woman that men in the party should also gain a perspective on gender equality and women politicians in the struggle for equality. With this study, we aimed to transfer the valuable experiences of women who were candidates for local or

general elections but could not be elected for various reasons to women who will be candidates in the upcoming elections.

As with all our works, with this project, we wanted to change the representation ratios, which have been very far from equality for many years.

We know that change and transformation begin locally. Local politics, on the other hand, gains a more inclusive and egalitarian ground with women.

As KA.DER, we hope that more women will nominate, candidates and elected in the next elections. At the same time, we always continue to ask parties to create their candidate lists with the zipper system and nominate women from electable ranks and provinces. As we have been doing for 23 years, we will continue our work until we reach the equal representation that women deserve to join in all decision-making mechanisms that come with elections and appointments.

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