Since the March 8, 2002 International Women’s Day events co-organized by faculty and students on campus, we have been working to raise awareness about gender both within and beyond the university. Our activities are geared towards eliminating all forms of discrimination including gender identity, sexual orientation, language, ethnic background, class or faith; creating discussion and sharing environments that support pluralism, creativity, equality and solidarity; making academic knowledge available and accessible for all, and strengthening the flow and exchange of knowledge between the worlds of academia, civil society, art, politics, and everyday life.

In 2006-2007, we came together from various faculties as students, faculty members, and administrative staff at the intersection of two transformative projects: the constitution of the Sabancı University Principle Document for Preventing and Providing Support against Sexual Harassment and the establishment of the Purple Certificate Program as a part of the United Nations Joint Program for the Development of Women and Children’s Human Rights (BMOP).

The synergy created by these collective projects led to the founding of the Gender Forum in 2010. The Gender Forum was designated a Center of Excellence by the Sabancı University Board of Trustees in 2015 and a Research and Application Center by the Turkish Council of Higher Education in 2016. Since 2017, we have continued our journey as SU Gender with projects, events and initiatives that transform, educate, empower and inspire us all.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Conferences: Every year we organize at least one international conference that brings together researchers and participants from the domains of academia, civil society, art and politics. Recent conferences have focused on gender equality in academia, gender and peace, aesthetics and literature, and women photographers.

Panels: With the objective of raising awareness about gender and gender equality, and creating spaces for free and creative debate, we organize public panels that are open to all.

Conversations and Discussions: We organize conversations and discussions following film screenings or book launch events, with the participation of their directors, producers or authors.

Education and Awareness Projects: We organize adult education and awareness trainings and events on topics such as art, literature, and philosophy. We offer educational programs in gender and sexuality to businesses, foundations, and associations.

Research: We develop joint research projects with researchers and universities both in Turkey and internationally on various topics, including education, memory, space, gendered violence, militarism, peace, women’s political participation and literature.
WHAT PRINCIPLES DO WE EMBRACE?

- Gender equality
- Struggle against all forms of discrimination
- Pluralism
- Creativity
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Collective work
- Transparency
- Multivocality
- Open communication
- Making academic knowledge available and accessible for all

Sabancı University Academic Principles

- Academic Freedom
- Non-Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment Policy Statement
- Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Statement
THE PURPLE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Since 2006, we have been leading the Purple Certificate Program with the support of Sabanci Foundation with high school teachers from various provinces within Turkey with the goal of presenting ways to contribute to the elimination of gender-based discrimination in education. Our goal is to increase awareness of gender among students and teachers, and to enable the implementation of this awareness in the classroom. As part of the Purple Certificate Program, we also conduct education and awareness programs with Faculty of Education students, primary school teachers and students, in partnership with İstanbul Bilgi University’s SEÇBİR (Center for Sociology and Education Studies) and ÇOÇA (Child Studies Unit).

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CURIOUS STEPS
Gender and Memory Walks

Working together with young people, the Curious Steps: Gender and Memory Walks program seeks to present alternative gender-informed perspectives on the historical, social and political relations that shape the city in which we live. How are silences in memory reflected in the city’s streets, parks and spaces? How does gender shape our perception and experience of the city, as well as collective memory? Through the walks, workshops, and talks organized as part of Curious Steps since 2014, with the support of Chrest Foundation and Istanbul Policy Center, we seek to better understand the connections between gender, memory and place, and to open new windows to the city and to ourselves.

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DICLE KOĞACIOĞLU ARTICLE AWARD

Dicle Koğacioğlu Article Award was created in memory of our colleague and friend, sociologist Dicle Koğacioğlu, who we lost in 2009. Since 2010, with the support of Sabancı University’s Arts and Social Sciences Faculty, grants have been awarded to support gender research in Turkey and to encourage young researchers. The application is due in September of each year, and in December we organize a conference in order to present the winners of the award.

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