FOR US, THE PROCESS OF MAKING A NEW CONSTITUTION IS NOT FINISHED!

PRESS RELEASE

27 November 2013

The Constitutional Reconciliation Committee which has conducted its activities within the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) for two years now has been unable to obtain any results and the process has come near a halt. The point reached in spite of the public demand for a new Constitution and particularly of our country’s need for democratization is worrying in terms of politics and democracy. The consequences of the failure to reach agreement in the Committee because of political concerns will unfortunately have a negative impact on the future for all of us.

As members of the Checks and Balances Network, gathering around the demand to create a strong and effective system of checks and balances, we will maintain our efforts and in particular continue our journey through activities to make the public demand felt more strongly and to carry it into political decision-making processes.

We are faced with the inevitable result of the failure to operate the process of drafting a new Constitution in a sufficiently transparent and participatory manner. The participation of civil society in the process of making a new Constitution should not consist simply in submitting proposals; civil society should take an active part in every stage of the process. As the 107 organizations of civil society forming the Checks and Balances Network, we will continue to express our determination regarding a new Constitution much more strongly from now on.

Instead of wasting time with political parties blaming one another for the failure to draft a new Constitution, it is necessary to start a debate, as quickly as possible, on different methods of making a new Constitution, which in itself is a reconciliation skill. A pluralistic and democratic Constitution may only be produced again through pluralistic and participatory methods.

The most important gain in the process of preparing to make a new Constitution is the debates conducted by civil society in this context. We appeal to political parties for this process, which is full of valuable lessons for all of us, to continue without interruption and even more intensively and efficiently. Putting back on the new Constitution website of the GNAT the opinions received from civil society and later removed from the website and publishing the minutes of the Constitutional Reconciliation Committee on the website are essential for accountability and civil inspection.

We must act with the awareness that we can solve Turkey’s fundamental problems only by making a new Constitution, and we must spend efforts to extend the preparation of a new Constitution across social platforms. We are here for a new, civil and democratic Constitution. We are together for a democratic Turkey with a strong system of checks and balances.
THE CHECKS AND BALANCES NETWORK

Federation of Abkhaz Associations
Adana Women’s Counselling Centre and Shelter Association
Mediterranean Migration Association
Federation of Alevi Foundations
Anatolia Women’s Education, Culture, Arts and Solidarity Association
ANGİKAD/Association for Supporting Women Entrepreneurs
Crescent and Star Platform Association
“Başak” Culture and Art Foundation
Capital City Women’s Platform
ÇÖYDER/Association for Modern Life for Disabled Association for Supporting Modern Life
Ceyhan Journalists Association
Association of Civil Society in the Penal Execution System
ÇİAT/Pursuers of Justice for Children
DİTAM/Dicle Centre for Social Studies
World “Ehl-i Beyt” Foundation
Initiative Against Thought Crime
EDROM/Edirne Association for Roma Culture Research, Development, Mutual Assistance and Solidarity
Initiative for an Ecological Constitution
Association for the Human Rights of the Disabled
Disabled Women’s Association
Association for Disability-Free Life
ERG/Education Reform Initiative
Association of Monitoring for Equal Rights
EUROSOLAR Turkish/European Renewable Energy Association Turkish Section
Working Group of Home-Based Working Women
Journalists and Writers Foundation
Young Life Foundation
GSM/Youth Services Centre
Agenda Children Association
Sunflower Women Association
Habitat Development and Governance Association
“Hak-İş” Confederation of Trade Unions
Association for Support to Life
Association for Protecting the Right of Animals to Life
IKGV/Human Resources Development Foundation
IRIS Equality Monitoring Group
“My Osmaniye” Newspaper, Adıyaman
Human Rights Association
Human Rights Agenda Association
Internet, Media and Informatics Federation
Istanbul Policy Centre
Izmir Roma Association
KADOS/Association of Kadıköy Friends of Science, Culture and Art
KA-DER/Association for Supporting Female Candidates
Women’s Solidarity Association
Women’s Solidarity Foundation
Initiative for a Women’s Party
Federation of Caucasian Associations
KAGİDER/Association of Turkish Female Entrepreneurs
“My Andı” Newspaper
Channel 2000 TV
Chaos GL Association
KARDOĞA/Black Sea Nature Conservation Federation
Association of Karaman Local Radios and Televisions
Kastamonu Disabled Persons Education, Culture and Youth Association
K-GEM/Female and Youth Enterprise Centre Association
Red Pepper Association
Kommagene Journalists Association
KÜYEREL/Global and Local Thinking Association
LİSTAG/Istanbul Group of LGBTT Families
MAG/Neighbourhood Disaster Volunteers Foundation
Marmara Group Foundation
Mesopotamia Peace Academy
Mihallemi Association
Ordu Association for Empowering Women
“My Osmaniye” Radio and Television
ÖZEV/Turkish Foundation for Disabled Persons Education and Solidarity
Öz-Ge Der/Association for Solidarity with Young People Deprived of Their Freedom
Foundation for the Disabled
Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association
Federation of Rize Associations
Şahkulu Sultan Foundation
Şemikan Work and Solidarity Union
Association for Zero Discrimination
Civil Solidarity Platform
SOGEP/Social Development and Gender Equality Policies Centre Association
Association of Social Workers
Social Policy Collective
SPoD/Social Policies, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association
STGM/Civil Society Development Centre
Tarlabası Community Centre
TESEV/Turkish Foundation for Economic and Social Studies
TOG/Community Volunteers Foundation
Tokat Liaison Association
Social Rights and Studies Association
Trauma Studies Institute Association
All Communication and Media Federation
Turkish Women’s Union
TÜÇEP/Turkish Environmental Platform
Turkish Foundation for Children’s Freedom
Adıyaman Branch of the Turkish Association of Active Football Referees and Observers
Turkish Youth Federation
Turkish Association for the Disabled
Turkish Confederation for the Disabled
TÜSEV/Turkish Foundation for the Third Sector
Flying Broom (Women’s Communication and Research Association)
International Centre for Children
Ünye-Ordu Liaison Association
VAKAD/Women’s Association of Van
Youth Assembly of Van
Long Live Youth Association
YBGB/Union of Local and Regional Newspapers
YBTB/Union of Local and Regional Televisions
New Constitution Initiative
New Constitution Platform
Association for Supporting Local Participation

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