

MEMBER PROFILE

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

How did you become interested for the field of gender equality?

Half of our population in the country is women, yet we can rarely see empowered women in political decision making, employment and other economic spheres. I see gender equality first from the perspective of women's human rights, secondly as a requirement of 21st century. In order to be economically, politically and socially developed we need to put our efforts to improve our standing for gender equality. That is why I am interested in empowering women.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

As a women entrepreneur and an NGO leader, I see myself struggling in a long journey. My past performance assures success so I am sure we will achieve much in gender equality.

Which personal qualities/skills help you as a woman entrepreneur?

I have a strong background of corporate leadership. Facilitating big teams and delegating skills are crucial for women entrepreneurs for growth and institutionalization. The corporate posture brings higher revenues; respect for people brings better organization. As a women entrepreneur we must be able to form a cooperation.

What advice would you give to future women entrepreneurs?

They have to be committed to success and to work. and risk taker. Because entrepreneurship is not a conformist choice and can be very demanding. They should develop wider networks, because professional linkages and partnerships are very crucial. Cooperations are living mechanisms and need to be pampered at all times. Women entrepreneurs have to continuously innovate and be creative for their firms and products.

THE ASSOCIATION

Which are the most important achievements of the association?

Since its foundation, KAGIDER has become a strong and viable civil society actor which provides alternative solutions to women's empowerment and socio-economic development issues in Turkey and in the region. Today KAGİDER with the impact of its activities has become an international NGO. KAGIDER, moreover, has become a reference point for the government in terms of expressing its views to different government bodies about women issues. KAGIDER made active lobbying and is an active part of the National Female Employment Steering and Coordination Commission. KAGIDER promoted the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission of the Turkish Parliament. Could you please tell us what are your association's projects and activities for the upcoming years?

KAGIDER Works on a Gender Equality Model for Turkish private sector. In this programme we are exporting to the companies a model where woman and man work together peacefully to achieve a company target. Together with the Mother Child Education Foundation we have developed a child care model for working mothers. Currently we are pushing the government and related actors to implement this support system for women to increase female employment rates in Turkey. We expect to establish a women entrepreneurs database.



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