

December 29th, 2015

Dear friends of the Women in Foreign Policy Initiative,

We wanted to send along this letter as an appreciation of your support and wanted to let you know about our activities in 2015.

December was hectic! We celebrated the 15th year anniversary of the United Nations Security Resolution 1325 with two different events where we discussed the possibilities of raising awareness on the Resolution and preparing a National Action Plan for Turkey. In cooperation with the Sweden based **Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law** and the **Operation 1325**, we organized a planning meeting on December 10th to discuss how the UNSCR 1325 can be adopted in Turkey. We then participated in a similar meeting with the **UN Women's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office**, which brought together civil society, peace activists and scholars on December 17th.

In May, we kicked off our partnership with the **Hollings Center for International Dialogue** with a roundtable focused on encouraging women's participation in civic engagement, politics and foreign policy. Christina spoke about her experience in civic engagement in the U.S., Rana about her participation in the women's movement and civil society in Turkey and Zeynep talked about the importance of including women in peacebuilding activities. We also hosted two great speakers as part of our **Women in Foreign Policy (Istanbul) Speaker Series**. **Asma Khader, former Minister of Culture of Jordan and President of the Sisterhood Is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J)**, shared her insights on the threats and challenges facing women in the Middle East with a specific focus on women refugees on September 17th. We welcomed **Ferhan Salman, Senior Economist at the Middle East and Central Asia and Member of the Gender Advisory Group of the IMF**, who delivered a presentation on "Macro Economic Impacts of Gender Equality" on November 16th.

We were also very proud to be represented at the **C20, W20 and G20** meetings, which were held in Turkey. Our co-founder Rana Birden Çorbacıoğlu was a member of the National Executive Committee of the Civil 20 in Turkey, and represented our Initiative in all three meetings that took place in September, October and November.

Thanks to our co-founder of Christina Bache Fidan, we were also represented at the **G20, Girls 20 Summit**.

Our **Meet the Role Models** meetings attracted the attention of young college students. Özlem Yüzak from the daily **Cumhuriyet** and Barçın Yınanç **Hürriyet Daily News** were nice enough to host us at their workplace and share their insights on being a woman journalist in November and March.

We also made it to the press with our Initiative's name! Zeynep Alemdar and Rana Birden Çorbacıođlu's comments were included in the respected **JudyAsks** section of the **Carnegie Brussels**.

We were also included in various peace initiatives rights based activities of different women's groups in Turkey. We were proud to sign the **Women and LGBTI Groups' Call to Peace** on September 1st, the Peace Day.

Lastly, the three of us, Christina, Rana, and Zeynep presented our respective research areas at a variety of academic conferences and policy institutions in Brussels, Chicago, Istanbul, and Washington, DC, as well as South Africa, Romania, and Sarajevo.

With your support, we wish to improve women's voices in the diverse foreign policy field in Turkey and the region next year. We hope 2016 will bring **PEACE** and **EQUALITY** to every corner of the world.

