

**CIRCULAR**

From Presidency of the Republic:

**Subject:** The Action Plan on Human Rights (2021-2023)

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The Action Plan on Human Rights prepared to raise human rights standards in line with the vision of “*Free Individual, Strong Society: More Democratic Turkey*” was announced to the public on 2 March 2021.

The Action Plan includes the activities of all the ministries and public institutions and organizations as a continuation of the reformative spirit based on the 11th Development Plan and the Judicial Reform Strategy Paper. In the Action Plan, it is targeted to increase the standards of public services to be served in an accessible, accountable, equal, transparent and fair manner by detailed review of the legislation in addition to the amendments that expand the scope of the rights and freedoms. Moreover, it has been envisaged to create a high level awareness and a stronger human rights protection system oriented at resolving the problems in practice. By raising the standards on human rights and freedoms, a new momentum will be gained in the process of strengthening democracy with a focus on citizen satisfaction.

In the Action Plan, the implementation period of which is foreseen as two years, the aims, goals and activities have been tangibly drawn up; “Short” (1-3 months), “medium” (6 months-1 year), and “long” (2 years) terms are set for every activity envisaged. These

are maximum terms. Besides, a “permanent” timetable has been set in terms of certain activities due to their nature.

In order to ensure the fulfilment of each activity under the Action Plan within the set period of time, they are placed under the responsibility on the Ministries or public institutions and organisations concerned. The responsible ministry or institutions or organizations will determine the ministries, institutions and organizations with which they will cooperate within the scope of relevant activities. Possible controversies that may arise in determining the institutions with which they will cooperate will be resolved by the Presidency.

“The Action Plan on Human Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Board” has been formed to coordinate and monitor the working of ministries and public institutions and organizations with the aim of implementing the Action Plan effectively and monitoring it in a transparent manner. The Board, under the chairmanship of the President, is composed of the Vice-President, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Family and Social Services, the Minister of Labor and Social Security, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Treasury and Finance, the Minister of Interior and the Vice President of the Legal Policies Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice President chairs the Board.

The Board convenes every six months, the working procedures and principles are determined by the Board. When necessary, representatives of relevant institutions may be invited to the meetings of the Board to benefit from their opinions. The secretarial services of the Board are performed by the Ministry of Justice.

The institutions and organisations responsible for the activities prescribed by the Action Plan will send their reports on implementation to the Ministry of Justice at intervals

of four months. The Ministry of Justice will draft the “Annual Implementation Report” of the Action Plan and submit it to the Monitoring and Evaluation Board for approval. The Annual Implementation Report will also be submitted to the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey and the Ombudsman Institution and these institutions will submit their assessment on the report to the Presidency and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The Annual Implementation Report will be disclosed to the public by the Presidency.

The Action Plan on Human Rights Implementation Schedule will be published on the official website of the Ministry of Justice.

I kindly request all the ministries and public institutions and organizations to fulfill their duties and responsibilities within the framework of the Implementation Schedule and with due diligence during the implementation of the Action Plan on Human Rights.

29 April 2021

**Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN**  
THE PRESIDENT