

## REPORT

**Submitted to:** TACSO Turkey Resident Advisor

**Submitted by:**

Capacity Building Association

**Activity and subject:**

Coordination of Refugee Rights (CRR) in Turkey, Capacity Development Workshops on Asylum and Migration Law Draft - 1

**Place and date of performed activity/training/event:**

Ankara, 22-23 October 2011

**Data on participants (Total number of participants, Age and gender distribution, Working areas, Region/ province etc):**

Nine participants representing the CRR member organizations:

Veysel Eşsiz & Oktay Durukan (Helsinki Citizens Association, İstanbul)

Ayşe Bilgen & Selvet Çetin (Human Rights Research Association, Ankara-İzmir)

Pırl Erçoban, Taner Kılıç & İsmail Alacadağ (Association for Solidarity with Refugees, İzmir)

Volkan Görendağ (Amnesty International Turkey, Ankara)

Nevzat Kırac (Human Rights Joint Platform, Ankara)

Travel and accommodation expenses of seven participants are covered by the project.

**Objectives of performed activity/training/event:**

Turkey has been lacking a functioning asylum system and relevant legislation. The Ministry of Interior has prepared a draft asylum law in an effort to define Turkey's asylum system in line with the European Union policies. This draft law is on the agenda of the Ministry, and it is expected that the final draft will be submitted to the Parliament after being reviewed by the Prime Ministry. The CRR member organizations aim at producing an opinion on the draft prepared by the MoI from the standpoint of rights-based organizations. Three workshops have been planned on this ground. The meeting on 22-23 October 2011 is the first workshop held with the participation of the CRR members. The participants revised the draft before discussing it with a wider participation of lawyers and academicians.

**Short description of agenda / flow of the performed activity:**

On the first day of the event the participants discussed various articles of the draft, especially those which are related to the rights and personal security and liberty of the asylum seekers. On the second day the participants held the regular CRR Board meeting.

**Evaluation of the activity (the results of the evaluation survey if distributed):**

The group discussed articles of the draft relating to the status and protection of the asylum seekers. Prior to the workshop, one of the participants, Oktay Durukan prepared a list of relevant articles in the draft law, and the group reviewed this list. It came out that procedural provisions of the draft law should be reviewed in detail before developing an evaluation of the draft law and forming a policy upon this evaluation. These aspects of the law will be discussed in detail during the second workshop of the CRR to be held with the participation of lawyers and academics.

**List of materials/ handouts delivered to participants:**

The participants received a copy of the pre-evaluation of the relevant articles.

**Recommendations for the future:**

The English version of the draft law should be produced if it is not possible to get a copy of the translation from the UNHCR Office in Ankara.

The third workshop, which had been planned for December 2011, should be postponed to February 2012 in order to develop a discussion in English. This would require preparations for providing the foreign lawyers and/or activities with full-scale information on Turkey's asylum system and the draft law before the workshop is held.

**Annexes:**

Annex1: Agenda and list of participants

Annex2: Discussion on the draft law

Annex3: Invoices

**The CRR** was established on 15 March 2010 by seven leading human rights organizations\* as a new framework for cooperation and joint advocacy efforts to promote and uphold the legal protection of individuals escaping war and persecution and seeking asylum in Turkey. The initiative represents a shared commitment to working together to promote public awareness and ownership of asylum issues in Turkey and to intervene in the Government's policy agenda on asylum and migration management from a human rights perspective. Capacity Building Association (on behalf of the Human Rights Joint Platform) provides secretariat support for CRR activities.

*\* Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Human Rights Research Association, Human Rights Association, Human Rights Agenda Association, Association for Human Rights and Solidarity with the Oppressed, Association for Solidarity with Refugees, Amnesty International Turkey*