

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-16 PEACE, JUSTICE and STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

**20
21**



SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

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Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law - we cannot hope for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's

development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

49
COUNTRIES

lack laws protecting women from domestic violence

603
MILLION

women live in countries where domestic violence is not considered a crime



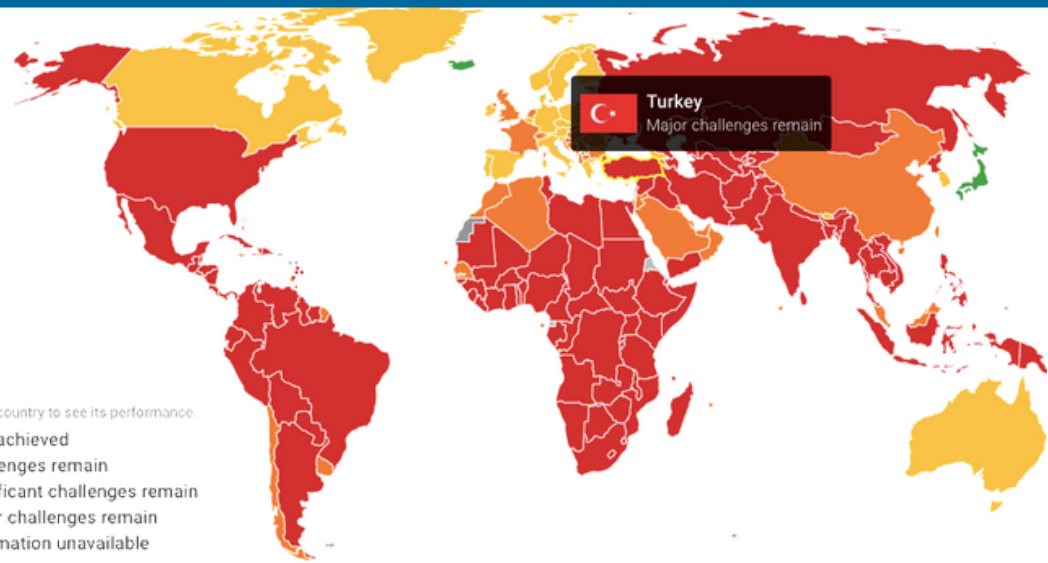
of countries have prison overcrowding, risking the spread of Covid-19

1.26
TRILLION \$

annual cost of corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion to developing countries

1
BILLION

people are legally 'invisible' because they can not prove who they are



Turkey
Major challenges remain



independent students' union



financial data shared publicly

191
STUDENTS
who are graduates in law



identifying and engagement with local, national and international stakeholders



providing expert advice to governments at local, national and international levels



Students' Union

IMU has an independent student council. The aims of [IMU Students' Council](#) are to ensure that the students registered in our university contribute to the development of the university; to convey the students' views and suggestions to the necessary units on meeting and developing their education, health, sports and cultural needs and to be a solution partner in these matters; to ensure that the students participate in the management in education issues; and to ensure that students are sensitive to national interests and are represented at non-university institutions when necessary. The Council consists of the student representatives **elected by the student community**. Student representative elections are held in November every year.

Identifying and Engagement with Local Stakeholders

Istanbul Medeniyet University has written policies and procedures to engage with its internal and external stakeholders. Our stakeholder groups have been clearly defined in our [Institutional Strategic Plan for 2020-2024](#). We plan our services and activities by identifying the expectations of our internal and external stakeholders through stakeholder satisfaction surveys and meetings, brainstorming, satisfaction surveys for the staff and students, and our system for submitting suggestions and expressing satisfaction. We inform our external stakeholders about the University's activities and applications through the "Announcements" menu on our website. And we send our [external stakeholder surveys](#) online to receive the opinions and expectations of our large groups of external stakeholders in order to better analyze the University's current standing and projections for the future. IMU's procedures for managing stakeholder engagement are clearly explained in our [Internal Evaluation Report](#) published annually.

IMU's local stakeholders include regional directorates of central government agencies, the Governorship of Istanbul, local schools and universities, local government agencies, local industrial firms, trade union and civil government representatives, and local residents among others. Our stakeholders are regularly invited to have meetings with our governing bodies to participate in our decision making processes. For instance, our university management held a [meeting with authorized education union representatives](#) on April 22, 2021. Among the decisions taken at the meeting were evaluating the subject of Promotion and Change of Title Exam with the relevant units of the University; providing in-service training in the areas needed by our staff members after the pandemic; and discussing with the University Senior Management the issue of putting into practice the system for the timely payment of the additional course progress payments of the academic staff teaching at the Graduate Education Institute.



University Principles on Corruption and Bribery

As a public institution, IMU is completely against corruption and bribery and complies with the [Law No 3628 on Declaration of Property and Fight against Bribery and Anti corruption](#), which lays down rules for fighting with bribe and corruption, regulates the declaration of property by civil servants, renewal of declarations, supervision of acquisition of property, provisions applicable in case of unjust acquisition of property and false declaration, and follow up and trial procedure for public officials and accomplices due to crimes specified in this law. As civil servants, all our staff members are obligated to comply with the provisions of the above law and the [Regulation on the Declaration of Property](#) and are to declare any property they have acquired at the start of their public service and renew their declarations whenever they acquire a new valuable property. The declarations are made to our Personnel Department using the [relevant form](#) on the web page.

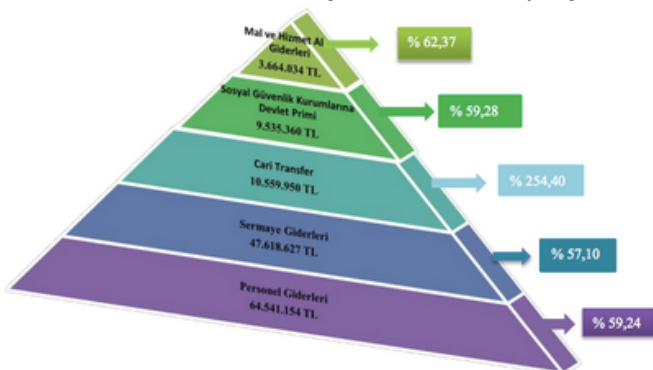
Academic Freedom Policy

In [Article 27](#) of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, it is stated that everyone has the right to study and teach, express, and disseminate science and the arts, and to carry out research in these fields freely. Istanbul Medeniyet University supports this freedom in all aspects.

In addition, Turkey is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. According to [Article 15](#) of this Covenant, The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone: to take part in cultural life; to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he/she is the author. Our university also supports this Covenant.

Publishing Financial Data

The University's [Institutional Financial Status and Expectations Report](#), which is annually published by IMU Strategy Development Department, contains the realization data on the University's budget for the first six months of the relevant year and the expectations and predictions for the second half of the year. The report also contains the data on the University's financing and budget revenues and expenditures for the two periods, as well as detailed information about its major investment projects.



IMU Financial Status and Expectations Report- Budget Expenses of January - June 2021

Istanbul Medeniyet University collaborates with numerous public institutions, research institutions, universities, local schools, and NGOs toward numerous goals that would help us achieve the objective of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; making our university more sustainable with our practices and support arts and heritage both in and out of our campus areas.

Providing Expert Advice to Government

Many of our faculty members contribute to decision- and policy-making at local, national, and international levels by providing expert advice to government agencies and organizations through policy guidance and membership or chairmanship of various boards, commissions, and committees. Listed below are only a small part of our faculty members' contributions.

Two of our professors, [Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ](#) from IMU Department of Art History and [Prof.Dr.Ahmet KAVAS](#) from IMU Department of International Relations are members of **UNESCO Turkey National Commission**.

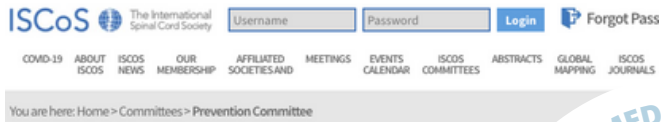


UNESCO Türkiye Web Page- National Commission

Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ is also a member of the **Istanbul Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Board No 1**, member of the **Superior Council for the Conservation of Cultural Property**, **Director of Archaeological Fieldwork for Beçin Castle**, and member of the **Scientific Commissions for Akköprü and İlsu Dams**.

Prof.Dr. Erkan ŞAHİNKAYA, a faculty member of IMU Bioengineering Department, was appointed by Dr. Bekir PAKDEMİRLİ, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, as a permanent **member of the “Water Efficiency” group of the 1st Water Council**. As part of his duties in the Water Council, our faculty member has carried out studies aiming to identify the Ministry’s short-term, medium-term, and long-term water strategies and light the way for the future in accordance with the Agricultural Council Regulation.

Prof.Dr. Belgin ERHAN, a faculty member of IMU Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, serves as the **chair of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOs) Prevention Committee**.



Prevention Committee

Prevention Chair:



Prof Belgin Erhan, MD
PMR and Pain specialist Professor
Istanbul Medeniyet University
School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Istanbul, Turkey

ISCOs Web Page - Prevention Committee

Prof.Dr. Işıl MARAL of IMU Faculty of Medicine has been actively serving in the **“COVID-19 Pandemic Coordination Committee”** established under Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Health and in the Pandemic Committee of the Governorship of Istanbul since March 2020. She is also a member of the **National Immunization Scientific Advisory Board, the Post-Vaccination Adverse Effects Commission, and the Measles Verification Commission of the Ministry of Health of Turkey**.

Prof.Dr. Hamza ATEŞ of IMU Department of Political Science and Public Administration is currently serving as a **member of the Civil Society Advisory Council of the Ministry of Interior**.

Prof.Dr. Sertaç ARSLANOĞLU of IMU Faculty of Medicine is serving as the **Vice President of European Milk Bank Association (EMBA)** and Scientific Director for the **Italian Association of Milk Banks (AIBLUD)**. She also serves as an advisor for the Neonatology Commission for Curriculum Development and Standard Assignment System of the Medical Specialty Training Board (TUKMOS) and for the World Association of Perinatal Medicine Working Group on Nutrition.

About EMBA

The European Milk Bank Association (EMBA) was officially launched on Friday 15th October 2010. The Association has its seat in Milan, Italy and welcomes membership from milk banks, milk bank associations and individuals who support the aims of the Association. The European Milk Bank Association is a non profit organisation which has been established to promote milk banking in Europe and to encourage international co-operation between the human milk banks of the countries of Europe. The current President of EMBA (2018 - 2021) is Professor Enrico Bertino (Italy). Vice President is Professor Sertaç Arslanoğlu (Turkey), Secretary Anne Groslien (Norway) and Treasurer Professor Guido Moro (Italy). Former Presidents were Professor Jean-Charles Picaud (France; 2015 - 2018), Gillian Weaver (UK; 2012 - 2015) and Professor Guido Moro (Italy; 2010 - 2012).



European Milk Bank Association Web Page - About

Turkish Historical Society Web Page - Scientific Board Members



PROF. DR. İHSAN FAZLIOĞLU

Prof. Dr. İhsan FAZLIOĞLU, İstanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Felsefe Bölümünden 1989 yılında mezun oldu. İstanbul Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsünde Bilim Tarihi anabilim dalında yüksek lisansını (1993), ve Felsefe anabilim dalında doktorasını tamamladı (1998). İstanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Bilim Tarihi Bölümü'nde araştırma görevlisi ve Felsefe Bölümü'nde araştırma görevlisi ve doçent olarak görev yaptı. 2011'den bu yana İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi Felsefe-Bilim Tarihi Bölümü'nde öğretim üyesi olarak çalışmaktadır. İRCICA Yazmalarında (İstanbul) çalıştı. Ürdün Üniversitesi (Amman), Arap Bilim Tarihi Üniversitesi (Halep) ve İstanbul Üniversitesi'nde sahasıyla ilgili araştırmalarda bulundu. Oklahoma Üniversitesi'nde "Rational Sciences in Islam" adlı projeye danışmanlık yaptı ve "Rational Sciences in Islam" adlı kitabı yazdı. Pek çok ülkede alanıyla ilgili toplantılara iştirak etti, konferanslara katıldı ve seminerlere katıldı. Felsefe-Bilim Tarihi ile matematik tarihi ve felsefeye ilişkin yazma eserlere dayanarak incelemekte ve yayınlar yapmaktadır. Bu konularla ilgili çok sayıda makale, kitap bölümü, ansiklopedi maddesi ve kitap yayınladı. Bunlardan "Halka, Derin Yapı, Nazari Utuk, Uygulamalı Geometri'nin Tarihine Giriş, Aded ile İhtisap Demek İstediği" (2021) kitabı en son yayınladığı eserdir.

Our faculty member **Prof.Dr. İhsan FAZLIOĞLU** of IMU Philosophy Department was elected as **permanent members of the Scientific Board of the Turkish Historical Society** in 2021.

Our faculty member Prof.Dr. Saliha OKUR GÜMRÜKÇÜOĞLU of IMU Law Faculty serves as the **president of the Women and Democracy Association (KADEM)**, which is a non-governmental and non-profit organization working for the empowerment of women in Turkey and around the world.

KADEM ABOUT US OUR ACTIVITIES PUBLICATIONS NEWS CONTACT TR Q



KADEM Web Page- President of KADEM



Policy and Lawmakers Outreach and Education

Havran Municipality and IMU signed a collaboration protocol for ensuring that the municipality staff processes and transfers personal data in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, raising awareness about the confidentiality of personal information and related security measures.

Sultanbeyli Municipality and IMU signed a collaboration protocol in education, application, and research aiming to use our university's academic expertise to enhance the municipality's service quality.

Üsküdar Provincial Directorate of National Education and IMU signed a protocol for collaboration in education concerning improving the quality of education services in the educational institutions run by the Directorate, developing programs to enhance student success, and conducting services to increase teachers' competencies.

Ümraniye Type-T Closed Penitentiary Institution run by the Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses signed a collaboration protocol with IMU concerning the performance of various activities including vocational training courses, health screening tests for the convicts in the institution, and organizing educational, social, cultural, and sports activities aiming to increase the motivation and productivity among the institution's staff and to ensure that the convicts can make the best use of their time in the institution by acquiring the knowledge and skills required for their social rehabilitation.



Collaboration with Ümraniye Type-T Closed Penitentiary Institution

A collaboration protocol on fighting against cyberbullying was signed between İstanbul Medeniyet University and **Güngören District Governorship, Güngören District National Education Directorate** within the scope of the TUBITAK 2209-A project titled "The Effect of Cyberbullying Awareness Program on Secondary School Students' Cyberbullying Awareness", which will be carried out by our nursing students Zehra ERGÜL and İlknur EKICI, under the supervision of Lect.Dr. Özlem AKARSU from the Faculty of Health Sciences. Rector Prof.Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK, Güngören District Governor Zeyit ŞENER, and Güngören District National Education Director Ferhat ÖZTÜRK signed the protocol at the ceremony held on June 25, 2021 at the Rectorate of İstanbul Medeniyet University. The project was designed to raise awareness about cyberbullying, which can cause serious physical and psychological harm to children; to determine students' awareness levels about cyber crimes, their negative experiences and behaviors in the online environment; and to organize a cyberbullying awareness training program consisting of eight sessions for students to raise awareness and bring behavior change. It also aims to increase the knowledge and awareness of students about cyberbullying, cyber victimization, cyberbullying awareness, types of cyberbullying, feelings of cyber victim, what to do when faced with cyberbullying, legal crimes of cyberbullying, safe internet use, peer support in cyberbullying, prevention of cyberbullying and cyber-victimization; and to prevent child abuse and torture by organizing a panel on cyberbullying and solution suggestions for teachers and parents.



Collaboration Protocol on Fighting Against Cyberbullying

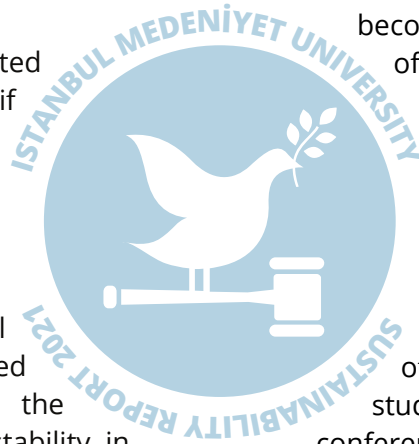
Learning processes are key in achieving SDGs. Thus, universities play a critical role both by training professionals who will prioritize SDGs in their future practices and by increasing local, national, and global capacity to successfully achieve SDGs. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are fully aware of our critical role and thus aim to empower and motivate for SDGs not only our students through course contents, co-curricular activities, and student club activities, but also the community at large at a much wider scale. Therefore, we organize university-wide life-long learning activities, online courses, certificate programs, seminars, workshops, congresses, symposia, and panels that are open to all segments of society for participation. In 2021, we held a wide range of learning activities to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Ideal Medeniyet Law Club hosted Palestinian activist Atty.Dr. Abdullatif KHADER and Atty. Mehmet Akif CAN at the online panel titled **"The Crimes Committed in Jerusalem and Human Rights Issues"** on May 15, 2021. KHADER started his speech by touching upon the general discriminatory policies implemented in the Palestinian territories and the problems created by the political instability in the region. He stated that in an environment of armed conflict arising from the desire to dominate Jerusalem, human rights violations like the arbitrary arrests and other crimes occur frequently. CAN agreed with Khader and expressed his opinion that despite the current state of affairs, the transparency and independence of the judiciary required for the punishment of the criminals and the establishment of justice could not be achieved and there is no legal security yet.



Seminar on the Crimes Committed in Jerusalem and Human Rights Issues

The International Law and Human Rights Law Panel was held on May 23, 2021 by the Ideal Medeniyet Law Student Club. The event, which brought distinguished scholars together with students, consisted of six sessions including topics such as immigration, immigrant rights, socio-economic equality, discriminatory policies, state intervention on human rights, and female prisoners rights. Assoc.Prof.Dr. Murat TÜMAY explained the evolution of main human rights documents and the emergence of human rights in international law. Prof.Dr. Bekir Berat ÖZİPEK mentioned that refugees have the right to benefit from basic human rights protection without being subject to discrimination, as required by universal law, until they receive state protection. Prof.Dr. Nuray EKŞİ criticized the unlawful policies of European States against asylum seekers who want to reach Europe via the Aegean Sea. Prof.Dr. Nezir AKYEŞİLMEN touched on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy, which has become a hot topic through the processing of personal data and social media interactions.



On March 14, 2021, **"1st Faculty of Law Students Conference on Child Law and Education Law"** was held with the cooperation of Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Law and Ideal Medeniyet Law Club, a student club of our university. At the conference, various topics such as mandatory vaccinations for children, children in the street environment, a child's right to participate in the family and school environment, sexual health education in children, child abuse, social protection policies about children were discussed by the students.



The 14th seminar of the “**Istanbul Urban Studies**” seminar series organized by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning was held online on July 12, 2021. At the seminar, Res.Asst. Araf Öykü TÜRKEN presented her research titled “**Mekansal Kararlara Yönelik E-Katılımcı Yaklaşımların İncelenmesi: İstanbul Örneği**” (Analyzing E-Participatory Approaches About Spatial Decisions: The Case of Istanbul). Aiming to offer suggestions to improve e-participation methods in Istanbul by viewing local and global digital participation platforms, TÜRKEN discussed the benefits of digital participation in urban design, current situation of Istanbul and approaches supporting e-participation processes. Referring to the importance of using project-based, socio-technical and democratic criteria to evaluate e-participation, criteria mentioned that digital forms of participation have both advantages and disadvantages.



The 22nd seminar of the “**Istanbul Urban Studies**” seminar series organized by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning was held online on October 27, 2021. At the seminar, Özge Müberra AKYÜZ (Msc.) presented her study titled “**Koruma Amaçlı İmar Planı Yapımında Yeni Bir Yöntem: Adalar’da Katılımcı Planlama**” (A New Method to Make Conservation Development Plan: Participatory Planning in Adalar). AKYÜZ provided information about the context and mentioned that citizens, planning experts, and policy makers should be considered carefully to apply participatory planning principles. She claimed that participatory planning concept is superior in terms of caring for different perspectives, common needs, and healthier solutions. Participatory methods were also said to be better at providing public trust, transparency in governance, sense of belonging for citizens and enabling application of plans by public contribution.

The second meeting of the “**Turkey & Ukraine Law Seminars**”, organized within the framework of the 5-year Memorandum of Understanding agreement signed between our university and Ukraine Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, was held online on November 26, 2021. The meeting started with the presentation of Res.Asst.Dr. Feyzan OLGUNSOY of our Constitutional Law Department titled “**Challenges of Envoking Environmental Rights before Turkish Constitutional Court**” on the suability of environmental rights within the framework of human rights before the Constitutional Court. She was followed by Lect.Rinata KAZAK, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University Legal History Department member, who delivered her presentation on sustainable development goals, climate change and environmental protection in Ukraine, titled “**Concept of Sustainable Development and Environmental. Protection: Case Study of Ukraine**”.

Law Workshop Student Club of IMU Law Faculty organized a panel titled “**Unchanging Human Rights in a Changing World**” on December 9, 2021. As a participant to the conference, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Sabahattin NAL discussed the historical development of human rights. Stating that human rights have developed within different institutions in different geographies, NAL emphasized that cultural differences also play an important role. On the other hand, he criticized the ineffectiveness of this consensus, pointing out that in many geographies today there are people who do not have access to fundamental rights and freedoms and who are persecuted



The academic staff members of our university carry out research on reducing violence everywhere; protecting children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and violence; promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all; combating organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows; substantially reducing corruption and bribery; developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions; creating responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making mechanisms; strengthening participation in global governance; providing legal identity for all; ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms; strengthening national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime; and promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies, publish the results of their research and share them with other researchers, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public as a foundation for policies toward achieving SDGs.

The project titled ["The Political Rights and Behaviors of Non-Muslim Minorities in Turkey under Rising Political Polarity"](#) on non-Muslim minorities in Turkey, carried out by Burcu TAŞKIN, PhD. of our Department of Political Science and Public Administration and Utku ÖZER from Panteion University, is entitled to receive a research grant from the Research Center for Humanities. In the project, Taşkın focused on how new ways could be developed to protect and exercise the rights of non-Muslim minorities in Turkey. In the study, minority communities' perceptions of political polarization, which targets them twice and limits political inclusion that allows them to express their rights and demands, were also discussed by the authors in the context of political democratization.

Our Urban and Regional Planning Department member Left. Ayşegül CaN, PhD. and colleagues published a book chapter named ["Resilience Informed Urban Planning and Development in The Global South: A Critical Commentary"](#) in a book (Special Issue: Planning Practices and Theories from the Global South) published by AESOP. Like sustainability, resilience has become a buzzword that has been used by a variety of experts, institutions, policymakers, governments and academicians. In this book chapter, the authors provide a critical insight to the recent developments in the Global South in terms of resilience planning and development. The researchers noted that the unprecedented level of urban growth in the global south has become one of the biggest challenges in urban management, and the strong top-down hierarchical order here has led to a lack of transparent governance that fosters the regeneration of facilities for sustainable urban growth and development.

The dissertation of Lect. Zeynep ARDIÇ, PhD. from the Law Faculty has been published as a book titled ["Transitional Justice Mechanisms in East Timor, Peru and Turkey: Addressing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Violations"](#). In her study, ARDIÇ examines the concept of transitional justice and judicial systems by comparing the cases of Turkey, Peru, and East Timor. She argues that although the implementation of the concept is relative, it is an indispensable paradigm in terms of human rights commonly applied around the world and has great importance in peacekeeping, in confronting the widespread and systematic human rights violations committed in the past after democratization and armed conflicts, and in providing social reconciliation. In terms of economic, social, and cultural rights violations committed by the political decision-making mechanisms that played a role in the transitional justice processes in East Timor and Peru, ARDIÇ analyzes what lessons can be drawn from the experiences of these countries.



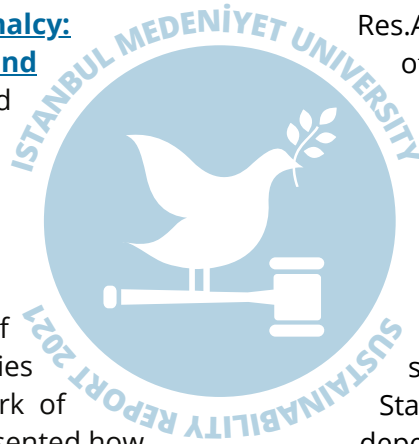
A book chapter titled **"İslam ve Demokrasi"** (Islam and Democracy) authored by Assoc.Prof.Dr. Murat TÜMAY from the Law Faculty of our university was published in the book "Dijital Çağda İslam Dünyası Politika, Güvenlik, Hukuk, Ekonomi; İslam ve Demokrasi". In his study, TÜMAY explains that the claim that Islamic values are incompatible with and contradictory to democratic institutions and human rights values stems from a lack of sufficient knowledge and awareness about the original Islamic sources and continues with a general and basic examination of the original sources to refute these claims. He concludes that the religion of Islam is in harmony with human rights and democratic values and underlined that western liberal democracies and the Islamic world should cooperate in order to understand each other.

Lect. Sevcan ERCAN GRAHAM, , PhD. from the Department of Architecture published a book chapter titled **"The Politics of Normalcy: Examining the festival on the island of Imbros/ Gökçeada"** in the edited volume Architectures of Emergency: Heritage, Displacement and Catastrophe on November 26,2021. In the book chapter, the author examines a prominent ethno-religious festival on the island of Imbros/ Gökçeada, using the theories on normalcy within the framework of spatial research. The researcher presented how intangible cultural heritage can integrate with city, space, and society in more sustainable ways. ERCAN GRAHAM had the opportunity to closely observe the community habits and relations of the local people and the ethnic groups who migrated and returned to the island, through one-on-one interviews, revealing the intertwining of space and human elements.

Dr. Özlem YÜCEL of IMU International Law Department took part as a speaker in the program titled **"Water in terms of National and International Law"** and talked about water use in national and international law. At the seminar, YÜCEL said that making clean water accessible to everyone and using it in an ideal way will be for the benefit of all humanity. In this respect, he emphasized that it should be re-evaluated not as a potential cause of conflict and war, but as an issue where cooperation and peace can be established between countries.

The human rights report titled **"Armenian Operations in Karabakh: Human Rights Violations and Monitoring of Violations"** drafted by the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT) Karabakh Observation Group, of which Constitutional Law department head Assoc.Prof.Dr. Murat TÜMAY is a member, has been published. The Report focuses on the violations originating from Armenia and their consequences, which were heavily reflected on the public agenda during the occupation and conflicts. It discusses the violations that occurred during the Second Karabakh War both within the framework of the international legislation on armed conflicts and the rights and fundamental freedoms protected under the European Convention on Human Rights. The report concludes that the acts committed by Armenia in the region are at the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Res.Asst. Abdulkadir KESKİN from Faculty of Political Sciences, co-authored an article titled **"Barriers to Formal Help-Seeking Behavior by Battered Turkish Women According to Sociodemographic Factors"** in "Sustainability" Journal. KESKİN obtained data from domestic violence against women surveys conducted by the Turkish Statistical Institute in 2008 and 2014. The dependent variable was whether women exposed to violence received help from official institutions. He stated that the official help-seeking behavior of women who were exposed to violence in 2014 increased significantly compared to 2008, but this development is not sufficient. Finally, it was emphasized that reducing domestic or intimate partner violence is vital for gender equality. It was underlined that women who are not under pressure would be more likely to add value to productive areas in developing countries, and this will also increase women's overall happiness, which is associated with overall economic productivity. It was stated that all kinds of inequality between genders should be resolved in the long term in order to ensure sustainable development.



An article titled ["Digital Political Parties as a New Type of Political Party"](#) co-authored by Asst.Prof.Dr. Sezen KAMA IŞIK, from the Law Faculty at our university, was published in the Istanbul University Faculty of Law Journal. The study focuses on the transformation of political parties due to technology and the internet and discusses the distinctive features of the new 'electronic political party' concept, its definition, and examples from the world together with relevant legislation. The study concluded that these parties are a positive factor in people's political participation and reduce socio-economic inequalities in the context of political rights and contribute to democratization of the decision-making processes. The authors also provided examples to point out that electronic political parties are more politically inclusive.

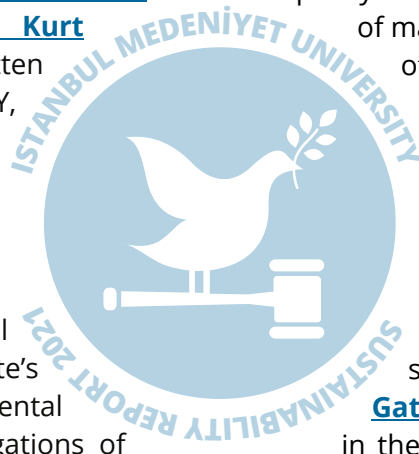
The article ["Challenges of Invoking Environmental Rights Before The Turkish Constitutional Court: Mehmet Kurt Case"](#) on environmental rights written by Asst.Prof.Dr. Feyzan OLGUNSOY, from the Faculty of Law has been published in the Journal of Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Law. The study results revealed the problematic aspects of individual application to protect environmental rights in Turkey, highlighting the state's positive obligations in environmental issues. Based on the positive obligations of public authorities, the results also demonstrated that procedural rights such as right to access to court, right to an effective remedy and right to access information in environmental matters are used effectively to weigh competing interests; yet, all the assurances result from anthropocentric approach that places human being at the center.

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Tülay YILDIRIM MAT delivered a speech in the Migration and National Security Conference held on December 10, 2020. In her presentation titled ["Frontex: A Threat to Fundamental Human Rights at the Borders?"](#) YILDIRIM MAT provided information about the massive influx of Syrian asylum seekers and the recent situation in the Aegean Sea regarding the human rights violations of the Frontex Authority, which was established to protect the EU borders.

She criticized the fact that the operation of the Frontex system does not comply with fundamental rights and freedoms such as the principle of non-refoulement, the right to life, personal freedom and security.

Asst.Prof.Dr. Derya TEKIN from IMU Faculty of Law, presented her paper titled ["Feminist Criminology"](#) in the "Women's Day Conference" series organized online in coordination of different student clubs on March 6, 2021. TEKIN began by stating that feminism is an ideology that seeks to create a socially just society. She stated that the main point emphasized by feminist writers in ensuring justice in the criminal justice system is the need to consider race and class, as well as gender, because feminist criminology's main purpose is to criticize one-sided views on female criminality that constitute gender discrimination in violation of the principle of equality. Finally, TEKIN emphasized the necessity of making legal reforms for the purposes of protecting women's rights and ending gender-based violence and suggested that the criminal justice system be reviewed in this direction.

Res.Asst. H. Aysun ÖZKAN YAZAR from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented her study titled ["Governance Relations in Gated Communities: Istanbul Example"](#) in the Istanbul Housing Summit as a guest speaker on December 3, 2021. She evaluated good governance practices in gated communities in Istanbul. She remarked that gated communities do not solely have the housing function anymore and they are a shining example of good governance. Rather, they constitute a new form of governance and organization structure integrated in the current urban dynamics including different actors (either private or public sector), management tools, processes, and self-management skills. On the other hand, she said that although gated communities are a physical and spatial part of the city, they are not fully integrated in planning policies and urban management in Istanbul, and they have created institutional conflicts since their numbers have increased drastically over the last three decades.



Lect.Dr. Zeynep ARDIÇ from the Law Faculty presented her paper titled **“An Outlook on Social Media from a Human Rights Perspective: Restrictions on Freedom of Expression”** at the Information and Technology Law Symposium on December 3-4-5, 2021. ARDIÇ started her presentation by saying that she aimed to analyze the human rights violations related to use of social media by examining the literature and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) jurisprudence with a critical and analytical approach. In this context, she first argued that the use of the internet has become a critical tool for producing information, disseminating news, mobilizing people and creating political content, and accordingly, it has a critical importance in terms of freedom of expression and freedom of information. However, she concluded that social media platforms not only promote freedom of expression by providing individuals and other actors with an important space to express their opinions, but also serve as a tool to pressure people by censoring their content.

