

**Organized Better, Getting Stronger:  
International Konca Kuriş Conference on Mobilization and Activism  
(December 14th - 15th 2024)**

**Why Konca Kuriş Conference on Mobilization and Activism?**

Konca Kuriş (1961-1998) was an influential Muslim feminist symbol in Turkey with her courageous activism that questioned social, political and Islamic norms. The questions she raised made the feminist interpretations around questions of nation, religion and state much more understandable for everyone today.

Konca Kuriş's struggle and life showed women with religious identities in Turkey the importance of participating in the feminist movement and gave them courage to do so. Even though 26 years have passed since her murder, she still continues to guide us as a feminist pioneer for those of us who define ourselves as Muslim feminists. As Havle Women's Association, we believe in the power of coming together, finding each other and organizing as feminists who have gone through similar experiences and share common affiliations. Thus, we are organizing a conference to follow Konca's legacy and discuss the grounds for organizing and taking action with the motto of being "brave" Muslim feminists.

This conference primarily aims to establish connections with various feminist struggles from different localities and political grounds. By localities we mean not only physical locations but also specificities of time and context. We would like to re-discuss the current rise of anti-feminist movements, the dominance of traditional Islam and other authoritarian discourses, grassroots movements of women and LGBTIQ+ people, and the different forms of identity politics embraced by non-governmental organizations. Drawing on this broad understanding of locality, we ultimately aim to bring together the "strange encounters" (Sara Ahmed, 2000) we have had throughout our organizing experiences and to encourage dialogue among various local feminisms. With this dialogue, we want to find the opportunity to open up the limitations and possibilities of the claim of being "both Muslim and feminist" in today's Turkey and in the international context. Along with institutions, regimes, rising movements and feminist mobilization dynamics; we intend to talk about different experiences, motivations and alliances.

In addition to Kuriş's activism and life as a "religious" feminist fighting with dogmatism; the circumstances surrounding her death once again demonstrate the importance of challenging the dominant religious interest groups in Turkey. For this very reason, it is not a Muslim-feminism debate that focuses only on theological deadlocks. We find it much more appropriate to dedicate a conference centered on organization, activism and struggle to the memory of Konca.

Including researchers, activists, academics, artists and feminists working in local governments; we welcome abstracts from applicants with all local experiences and different organizational/political backgrounds.

**Who can apply?**

We especially invite contributions addressing mobilization, activism, building a community and an organization around different feminisms. Applicants from diverse regional and

organizational backgrounds who might be researchers, activists, scholars, artists, and local government servants are welcome to apply to the conference.

Presentations might include but are not limited to:

- Islam, Women and LGBTIQ+ Studies
- Anti-gender studies
- Theology of Islam and Islamic Studies
- Everyday/Lived Religion
- Critical Secularism Studies
- Subjectivity and Agency
- Resistance and Resilience
- Spirituality, Piety, and Belief
- Queer Feminism and Trans Feminism
- Feminist Movement and Women's Movement
- Organization, Mobilization and Formation of Political Identity
- Building Coalition, Alliance and Community
- Digital Public Space and Social Media
- Migration, Diaspora and Displacement
- Memory, History and Historiography
- Affect and Emotions
- Care, Intimacy and Solidarity
- Reproduction, Body Politics and Sexual Health
- Ethnicity, Race and Nationality
- Diversity, Inclusivity and Equity

### **Important Dates**

Abstracts must be limited to 300 words and should only include text (no pictures, tables, or graphics). Please include 3-5 keywords at the end and a short biography of the speaker/s. The deadline of submissions for abstracts is **September 20, 2024**. Applications will be received through the application form on our profile.

Accepted abstracts will be notified no later than **September 30, 2024**.

All presentation papers will be published in a digital conference booklet. For this reason, all speakers are required to send the final version of their presentation papers by email no later than **December 10, 2024**.