



**THE ÖZGEÇAN ASLAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
**“Education for all: The leap to equality”**

Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) is deeply saddened by the tragic murder of a young university student Özgecan Aslan (20) in Tarsus, Turkey and condemns all forms of violence against women and girls. This tragic event reminds us of the importance of providing access to contemporary education to both boys and girls.

**HE & SHE TOGETHER**  
**THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND WE CAN HELP**

There is a significant body of research showing how gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment can have a catalytic effect on the achievement of sustained peace, development, human rights and sound relationships between the environment and human populations. It has become clear that a strategic shift needs to occur that brings men and boys side by side with women and girls, in order to break through the barriers preventing women and girls from achieving their full potential and contributing this potential to our global community.

**YOU CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE!**

**Donate at [www.bridgetoturkiye.org/he-and-she-together](http://www.bridgetoturkiye.org/he-and-she-together)**



**Who is Özgecan Aslan?**

Özgecan Aslan was a 20-year old, first-year psychology student who was murdered by a minibus driver as she was returning home from her school in Tarsus, in southern Turkey. The murder of this young woman sparked outrage in Turkey and the international communities and drew attention to the increasing number of violent incidents against women.

## **Program Overview:**

Inspired by the demonstrated belief that “**education is the best investment we can make for social change**” Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) has established a memorial fund to honor Özgecan Aslan’s memory and to provide scholarships for young deserving men and women from her native region Tarsus, Turkey.

The intent of this special fund is to keep her name alive, continually serve as a reminder of the terrible cost of ignorance, and provide educational opportunities for young men and women who need financial support to pursue a path to education. BTF believes that providing scholarships to low income students are effective means to reduce gender disparity and discrimination.

BTF Board of Directors have provided initial seeding of \$3,000 to the Fund and hopes to raise more through private donations. BTF’s current empowerment scholarship program will be expanded to include scholarships to honor Özgecan’s memory. Our history of supporting low income students with the gift of education dates back to 2004. During the 2014-2015 academic year BTF continued to provide 259 (217 girls and young women) scholarships to low income students. Scholarships for the Özgecan Aslan Memorial Fund will be awarded on the basis of academic merit to students from low-income families. Donations contributed to the **Özgecan Aslan Memorial Fund** will support students with financial need and will be coordinated through our local trusted NGOs in the region.

## **What is the issue, problem, or challenge?**

Turkey is one of the countries where violence against women occurs with alarming frequency. There is a strong correlation between violence against women and literacy. The achievement of gender equality requires an inclusive approach - a solidarity movement that recognizes the crucial role of men and boys as partners for women’s and girls’ rights.

## **Potential Long Term Impact:**

The scholarships will provide economic assistance to underprivileged university students in creating better futures for themselves, their families and communities. These scholarships are vital to keeping the youth in school.

Ultimately, these scholarships will help a new generation of men and women leaders serving as positive change makers in a society where every young girl and boy would have the same opportunity to succeed, and the chance to live out their dreams.

**By contributing to *Özgecan Aslan Memorial Fund*, you will help make a difference in the lives of needy young women and young men.**

**\$80** provides scholarship for one university student in Turkey for 1 month

**\$960** provides scholarship for one university student in Turkey for 1 year

We invite you to make a one-time contribution or become a monthly sponsor of a university student at [www.bridgetoturkiye.org/he-and-she-together](http://www.bridgetoturkiye.org/he-and-she-together)

## **Resources:**

[Bridge to Türkiye Web site](#)

[Bridge to Türkiye Facebook page](#)

[Bridge to Türkiye Girls’ Empowerment](#)

[HeforShe – A Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality](#)

**Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF)** is a charitable non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions made to BTF are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by IRS. BTF’s tax identification number is **58-2678580**.