

BTF is calling all Sponsors to support and empower young women and girls in Turkey on International Day of the Girl Child



Source: www.milliyet.com.tr

“Empowerment of and investment in girls are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights” - United Nations Resolution 66/170

The UN has dedicated October 11 as the **International Day of the Girl Child** to shine a light on the issues concerning gender inequality around the world. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the important work Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) is doing to address gender inequality and advancing rights and opportunities for young women and girls in Turkey. We need your continued support to reach out to more underprivileged young women and help them realize their dreams.

Secondary and higher education paves the way to social and economic empowerment. Access to this level of education is, however, still a distant dream for 62 million girls and women around the world. This is especially true for thousands of young women from rural provinces of Turkey who don't receive the same quality education as boys, are unable to attend school regularly, and face unsafe conditions as they travel to and from school.

BTF's **Girls' Empowerment Scholarships Program** focuses on educating girls because cycles of poverty and illiteracy can be broken in just one generation. These scholarships can make a substantial difference in encouraging families to send and keep their daughters in school. This year alone, BTF directly supported **259 students** through scholarships promoting literacy with a special focus on disadvantaged girls who are not encouraged to go to school. Thanks to generous donations from supporters like you, these young women are staying in school, graduating, and becoming productive members of their communities. Our scholarship recipients have gone into fields of law, education, healthcare, and business. Since 2003, BTF has supported hundreds of projects in Turkey, worth over **\$1,800,000**, all benefiting children and changing their lives forever. It is a record of which we are extremely proud.

In an interview with Hürriyet, Dr. Aziz Sancar, the recent Nobel Prize recipient in Chemistry and BTF's Advisory Board Member, emphasized the importance of educating girls in southern and southeastern Turkey. He further stated that we need to promote girls getting into the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). If not, we will lose half of our human capital. He spoke out directly to the people from his birthplace in southeastern Turkey, and asked them to send their girls to school. Dr. Sancar is the first Turkish-American scientist to win this prestigious prize. We hope that the scholarships and financial aid we provide these girls will help educate more future Nobel Prize winners in the STEM fields.



"Türkiye'nin Mardin'den Kars'a, Edirne'ye kadar bütün çocuklarımıza bilim alanında eğitim öğretim vermemiz lazım. Özellikle kızlarımızı okutmak lazım. Kızlarımızı okutmazsak insan gücümüzün yarısını kaybetmiş oluyoruz. Özellikle Doğu ve Güneydoğu'daki kardeşlerimizden kız çocuklarını okula göndermelerini tekrar tekrar rica ediyorum"

Aziz Sancar

This year, BTF plans to reach out to **300** aspiring, but economically disadvantaged young women from rural Turkey. However, we can't do it without you. Please continue to support **Scholarships4Girls** to make the impossible possible for these young women and provide them with the life-changing gift of education. To become a sponsor or to make a donation to the **Scholarships4Girls** program, please visit: <https://www.bridgetoturkiye.org/light-the-path/>

Best wishes and thanks for your support!

BTF Team