



BY GIULIA STELLA MARINELLI AND FILIPPO
ROMANO 5SB

*WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE IN
TURKEY*

“Equality is turning the victim into an oppressor by force or vice versa. What women need is to be able to be equivalent, rather than equal.”

“You cannot bring women and men into equal positions; that is against nature because their nature is different.”

*-Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
current President of Turkey*

CURRENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN TURKEY

- On August 13, 2019, Turkish President Erdoğan stated the government's plans to **withdraw from the Istanbul Convention altogether**
- His decision has sparked outrage among women's rights supporters in Turkey as this convention was **a major milestone for women's equality** not only in Europe but across the world
- Some media reports that the authorities are carrying out a campaign to **crack down on women's rights defenders** in the country.
- Erdogan said publicly women are not equal to men and that women who reject motherhood are "deficient" and "incomplete."

ATATÜRK AND TURKISH WOMEN'S RIGHTS



- Mustafa Kemal **Atatürk** led a secularist cultural and legal transformation supporting women's rights
- Atatürk said that a nation where women do not have the same rights as men is like a sick body that works halfway
- Women won the right to vote in municipal elections on March 20, **1930**
- Women's suffrage was achieved for parliamentary elections on December 5, **1934**
- Turkish women gained the right to vote a decade or more **before women in such Western European** countries as France, Italy and Belgium

“Our religion has never required women to lag behind men. What God orders is that woman and man become a science and a culture together. The woman and the man must seek this science and this culture and go wherever they are and be full of them. [...] In Turkish social life, compared to men, women have by no means lagged behind in science, culture and other aspects. Maybe they went further.”

-Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

“Our religion has defined a position for women: Motherhood. Some people can understand this, while others can't. You cannot explain this to feminists because they don't accept the concept of motherhood.”

-Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

