

Chapter 20

The Dark Face and Hidden Atrocity of Honor Killing Cases in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Several key research questions will be addressed in this chapter: 1. What is the Prevalence of Honor Killing in Turkey? 2. What are the cultural and societal factors that contribute to the prevalence of honor killings in Turkey? 3. What are the Prejudices and Misconceptions Associated with Honor Killing? 4. Exploring Gender Roles in Honor Killing Incidents in Turkey. 5. Laws and Punishments for Honor Killing in Turkey. 6. What is the Role of Community in Propagating Honor Killings? 7. Understanding the Impact of Honor Killings on Turkish Society. 8. Recommendations for Eradicating Honor Killings in Turkey. In order to address these research questions, the chapter will utilize a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and analysis of existing literature on honor killings in Turkey. The findings from this research chapter will contribute to a deeper understanding of the social prejudice surrounding honor killings in Turkey and provide insights for developing targeted interventions and strategies to combat and eradicate this form of violence.

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Honor killings, also known as honor-based abuse, are a complex and deeply entrenched issue that transcends cultural, ethnic, and religious boundaries. The term “Honor Killing” is often used to describe the violent acts committed against individuals, typically women, who are perceived to have brought shame or dishonor to their family or community. These acts of violence are often rooted in the traditional concept of honor, where the family or community's reputation is closely tied to the behaviour of its members, particularly its female members. In some instances, honor-based abuse escalates to the point of domestic homicides, commonly referred to as “Honor Killings”. This grim phenomenon is not confined to a specific geographical location or cultural group, as it occurs worldwide.

Turkey, as a country with a diverse population and complex social dynamics, faces significant challenges in addressing honor killings. These challenges include deeply rooted cultural and religious beliefs, societal prejudice, and a lack of adequate legal measures and enforcement. To effectively address honor killings in Turkey, it is essential to recognize and understand the cultural and religious factors that contribute to their prevalence. It is important to approach the issue with cultural sensitivity and engage with community leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to promote dialogue, education, and awareness. Moreover, efforts to combat honor killings in Turkey should also focus on providing support and resources for victims and their families. This can include safe shelters, counselling services, and financial assistance to help survivors rebuild their lives. Furthermore, it is crucial to involve men and boys in the efforts to address honor killings. This can be done through education programs that promote gender equality, challenge patriarchal norms, and encourage men to become allies in the fight against honor-based violence. In order to create lasting change, it is imperative to address the underlying social norms and attitudes that perpetuate honor killings in Turkey.

This chapter aims to explore the social prejudice that surrounds honor killings in Turkey. It will examine the intersection of patriarchal norms, colonial history, sectarian and ethnonational violence, and toxic masculinities that contribute to an environment conducive to honor killings in Turkey. Specifically, this chapter will draw from the aforementioned sources to analyse the attitudes and justifications for honor killings in Turkey. Building on the arguments made in the sources, the chapter will argue that honor killings in Turkey are unique and distinct from other honor-related homicides, both in terms of the concept of honor and the nature of the relationships between the perpetrators and victims.(Doğan, 2014). Furthermore, this chapter will discuss the role of cultural norms in perpetuating prejudices against women in Turkey, particularly in rural areas where traditional beliefs and values are deeply entrenched. Given the cultural and religious factors involved in honor killings, it is crucial to approach this issue with cultural sensitivity and engage

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