



The
American
Turkish
Society

60TH ANNIVERSARY

The American Turkish Society is pleased to support the following event in celebration of International Women's Day.

You may RSVP to info@americanturkishsociety.org by noon, Thursday, February 25. Space is limited; RSVPs will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

We hope that you will be able to attend.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

INVITES YOU TO A PARALLEL EVENT WITHIN THE SIDELINES OF THE 54TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**A PANEL MEETING ON
A SUCCESS STORY FROM TURKEY: SNOWDROPS**
"Providing Equal Opportunities For Underprivileged Girls Since 2000"

ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

FROM 1:15 TO 2:30 P.M.

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS NEW BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM 7 / TNLB**

FOLLOWED BY A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION ON "SNOWDROPS"

AND A RECEPTION

ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010 AT 6:15 PM

AT THE TURKISH CENTER

821 UN Plaza, 10017 NY
(Corner of 1st Avenue and 46th street)

R.S.V.P (212) 949 01 50
Mustafa.yildirim@mfa.gov.tr
burcu.erdogdu@mfa.gov.tr

For NGO and Civil Society representatives, entry passes to the panel venue at the UN, will be provided by the Turkish Mission. For further information please contact Ms. Burcu Erdogdu or Mr. Mustafa Yıldırım at Turkish Mission to UN, 212-949 01 50



**A success story from Turkey: SNOWDROPS
“ Providing equal opportunities in education for underprivileged girls
since 2000”**

The "Snowdrops", developed by Turkcell, the leading communications and technology company in Turkey, is a scholarship project aimed at providing equal opportunities in education for underprivileged girls mainly in rural areas in Turkey.

Over the past decade, the program has developed from a scholarship project to a mentoring and career-building program; providing social, financial and moral support to more than 10,000 young Turkish women each year, and thereby creating equal opportunities for them to become well-educated and qualified professionals, such as doctors, lawyers and teachers. They became the “snowdrops” of their communities, defying the difficult conditions that they were born in and becoming shining members of their communities via the power of education.

The success of the program has been acknowledged by a serious of international institutions and got 4 international, 12 national awards. Yet, the most added value of the program has been that it set an example of success for other initiatives to be launched by the civil society and the private sector conjointly.

“Turkcell”, in line with its commitment to wider corporate and social responsibilities as well as to the Turkish Society, has turned the “Snowdrops” program into Turkey's most recognized social responsibility project.

During the panel, you will have the opportunity to hear the story of “Snowdrops” from its creators and to discuss the importance of projects devoted on education in changing lives of women and girls for the better.



PROGRAM / March 1, 2010

Panel Meeting

(Venue: Conference Room 7, Temporary North Lawn Building, United Nations)

13:15 Welcoming remarks by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan

Remarks by Assistant Secretary-General of United Nations, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, H.E. Ms. Rachel N. Mayanja

13:25 Speech delivered by H.E. Mrs. Selma Aliye Kavaf, Turkish Minister of State for Women and Family Issues

13:30 SNOWDROPS Documentary Film by National Geographic Channel

13:45-14:15 Panel Meeting: A success story from Turkey: SNOWDROPS “Providing equal opportunities in education for underprivileged girls since 2000”

Panelists:

Koray Öztürkler, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Turkcell

Güleser Çelik, Snowdrops Scholar

Elif Şafak, Columnist / Author

14:15-14:30 Question and Answers

14:30 End of meeting

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18:15 – 20:30 Reception and Photo Exhibition

(Snowdrops photographed by Tino Soriano)

(Venue: Turkish Center, 821 UN Plaza, 10017 NY, 46th st. and 1st avenue)