

## **Women in the Turkish Labour Unions: A Field Study with a Gender Lens**

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### **Abstract**

This study will focus on women's participation and leadership in labour unions in Turkey. Union democracy is one of the important issues of labour movement; however, little research has been done on union democracy, in particular in gender equality. While some research, especially those related to union democracy, neglected women's participation and leadership in decision-making, many others considered labour unions as "male clubs". This research aimed to find out how labour unions in Turkey were formed as "male clubs", how they kept women away from decision-making process and leaderships, and how women in unions struggle against prejudices? To answer these questions, this research will be conducted through in dept-interviews with women members of labour unions in Turkey.

**Key words:** Union Democracy in Turkey, women participation in labour unions, gender equality in labour unions, leadership in labour unions.