

## Virtual Gender Lecture

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND HURDLES TOWARDS BEIJING+20: WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER DEMOCRATIC REGRESSION

5 May 2021, 12:30-13:30

### Abstract

In 2020, the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CWS) celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that serves as the roadmap of the women's human rights for realizing gender equality in full terms. 189 States supported the Beijing roadmap in the strongest political terms for concerted actions. Despite achievements towards gender equality under active oversight of women's organizations, the blueprint of the Beijing Platform of Action needs still to be recommitted after 25 years. The CWS reiterates the "mutually reinforcing relationship" between achieving gender equality and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The women's NGOs recall substantial action before 2030 by drawing attention to a regime of gender inequality and the slow progress towards empowerment of women and girls. While the gender equality gaps in education, political, economic participation, and health are priorities of concern at the global level, the COVID-19 has increased the violence against women and women's unemployment due to isolations and occupational clustering worldwide. Against such a backdrop, the global regression and/or stagnation in democracy create a new contestation area focusing on gender equality having commonalities in different countries.

This lecture will elaborate on the future of women's human rights as promised by the States in the Beijing Platform of Action in the light of diffusion of gender backlash strategies and democratic regression. In this respect, the current discussions in Turkey, Poland, and Hungary will be a matter of interest for predictions.

### Biography of the speaker



**Bertil Emrah Oder** is the Dean and Professor of Constitutional Law at Koç University Law School, received her Ph.D. from University of Cologne (Germany). She holds the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development. Professor Oder's research focuses on human rights, comparative constitutional law, gender studies, European Union law. She is a full member of the Science Academy Turkey and All European Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), Science and Ethics WG. She has served as an international consultant of UN Women and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and published five books, dozens of articles, editorials and book chapters on various subjects in public law with a focus on constitutionalism, gender equality, human rights, and judicial review.

She has been selected as Henry Morris Lecturer of international and comparative law in 2012 (Chicago-Kent School of Law). She holds various scholarly awards including the Outstanding Research Award (Koç University, 2011) and the Defender of Constitutional Democracy (Global Summit on Constitutionalism, 2020). She was an academic consultant of the Constitutional Conciliation Committee (Turkey), 2011-2013. She served as the co-president of the Law Schools Global League, 2015-2018. Fluent in English, German and Turkish. She holds also LLB and MA/LLM degrees from the University of Istanbul and Marmara University (Turkey).

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