

NURSING HOME AND GERIATRIC CARE CENTER PROJECT

1. SITUATION:

a) In the 1960s, Turkey began facing a growing issue: the care of elderly people living alone. To address this emerging problem, the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes was founded—the first of its kind in Turkey. The term “Huzurevi” (Nursing Home) was introduced to Turkish society for the first time, and a care facility independent of Darülaceze was established. The Istanbul Nursing Home, which began operating in 1964 in a building purchased in Bahçelievler, has been providing uninterrupted service since then.

Following the developments in social state policies post-1960, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, along with other public institutions, built several nursing homes across the country to serve those in need.

The disintegration of the traditional family structure, especially after 1930 with the onset of industrialization in Turkey, created new social needs. Families faced severe difficulties caring for elderly relatives who were still mentally alert but physically dependent.

Furthermore, elderly individuals residing in nursing homes who later became incapacitated were either returned to their families or left to the care of underqualified personnel. This highlighted the urgent need for a new phase in elderly care—specifically, the establishment of geriatric care units.

b) In industrialized societies, there are dedicated facilities for geriatric care. Although some Turkish universities have established geriatric medicine departments, competent and widespread care institutions remain insufficient. The “End-of-Life Ward” in Darülaceze is inadequate both in quality and capacity.

While it is ideal for governments to fill this gap, considering the bureaucratic pace of public institutions, we believe it is essential for civil society to take the initiative and establish a care unit aligned with modern and humane standards.

c) Our association has been preparing for such a facility for several years. Realizing such a project involves overcoming various challenges. Strengthening our organizational capacity and collaborating with other associations was crucial. In this search, Şişli Mothers Association showed interest and agreed to assist us.

d) Establishing a geriatric care unit and nursing home requires a sufficiently large plot of land. Locating nursing homes in remote suburbs is no longer in line with current perspectives. The land occupied by the İstanbul Nursing Home, its annexed plots, and neighboring parcels could collectively offer a suitable space for such a facility.

e) Architectural work is necessary to determine whether the required facilities can fit in the available area and to estimate the cost. However, this depends on resolving the land allocation and consolidation issues.

f) Knowledgeable architects and technical experts are needed to ensure the building meets all service and equipment standards. Contacts should be made with medical faculties, and if necessary, with similar institutions abroad.

g) Foreign assistance may be needed for technical medical equipment used in geriatric care.

h) During research, we will collaborate with relevant associations, municipalities, and the Ministry of Social Services.

2. DUTY:

Our association must prioritize resolving the land issue as soon as possible, reach out to related associations and institutions, and exert every effort to realize the Nursing Home and Geriatric Care Center Project.

3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

a) Project Overview:

To construct a modern, Western-standard Nursing Home and Geriatric Care Center on plots 4, 5, and 6 of parcel 603 in Bahçelievler, under the leadership of our association, in cooperation with public, private, and international organizations.

b) The project's realization requires the legal allocation of adjoining plots (previously assigned plot 6 and plot 4, marked for a police station) to the association for 50 years. Efforts to secure this allocation are ongoing with municipal and governmental bodies.

c) To estimate costs, we will determine:

Building plan and design;

Furnishing requirements;

Technical equipment needs;

Necessary tools and materials.

This preparation, to be completed by November 1989, will be handled by Adnan Çelikoğlu voluntarily, without any financial compensation.

d) A scale model and presentation document of the preliminary architectural plan will be prepared.

e) After completion, outreach will begin to individuals and institutions listed in Appendix 2. This phase requires broad and effective public relations campaigns in collaboration with media and institutions.

f) Critical support from the Mayor of Bakırköy, Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and Minister of Social Welfare is necessary. Our association will engage in direct lobbying to gain their support.

g) To ensure scientific legitimacy and momentum, medical faculty members heading geriatric departments in Istanbul will be consulted and involved once the project and presentation documents are ready.

4. COORDINATION:

A Steering Committee will be formed from the representatives of institutions, organizations, and individuals involved. Until then, coordination will be managed by the Association's Executive Board or a designated representative. The primary objective is to secure financial resources promptly and begin construction.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPLY:

- a) Initial design expenses will be covered by the Association.
- b) Once donations start, all expenditures and revenues will be tracked transparently, with donor oversight.
- c) A separate account will be maintained for the project within the association's bookkeeping system.
- d) Construction tenders and procurements will be managed by the Implementation Committee. Donations may be in cash or kind, but construction cannot be executed by donors.
- e) Qualified personnel will be hired for the new facility, and existing nursing home staff may be transferred.
- f) The future of the current nursing home and its residents will be decided by the Association.

6. PROJECT EXECUTION:

Until the Implementation Committee is formed, the Association's Executive Board will oversee the project. The headquarters will remain in the current building unless relocation is required.