

Brief History of the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes*

I believe it is not possible to develop a sound understanding of the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (HEKYAD) without knowing its origins and the reasons behind its establishment. Therefore, I find it beneficial to briefly explain here the causes and formation of HEKYAD. Naturally, it would be impossible to define how and why HEKYAD came into existence without first mentioning the The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze, which served as the cradle—or rather the mother—of its birth.

Shortly after May 27, 1960, I was appointed as the director of Darülaceze. I must state that I found Darülaceze devastated by a completely arbitrary administration. As a natural consequence, The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze had also suffered from this devastation. The Association, founded in 1938, had lost its members, and its resources had been plundered.

While trying to fulfill my duties and struggling with numerous problems, my classmate and comrade from the Academy, Staff Major Rauf Gökçen, visited me. He promised that he could send three friends who could help rehabilitate the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze - and he kept his promise. A few days later, Mr. Ali Topuz, Mr. Ruhi Erman, and Mr. Zekeriya Salıcı started working to reorganize the Association.

During those days, a retired colonel, having read the news about the improvements at Darülaceze, came to visit me. He explained that his two sons were assigned abroad, that both he and his wife were paralyzed, and that he wished to reside at Darülaceze. In exchange, he offered to donate three apartment buildings he owned. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate individuals like him at Darülaceze at that time.

Around the same time, Mrs. İffet Halim Oruz and Mrs. Nazlı Gaspıralı, leaders of the Turkish Women's Association, also visited me. The topic, again, centered around the Association and the retired colonel's request. They explained that in countries like Sweden, where social issues had been well resolved, needs like these were addressed through institutions called "Nursing Homes." It was during this conversation that I first learned of such an establishment.

The Beylerbeyi Group (Ali Topuz, Ruhi Erman, Zekeriya Salıcı) and the İffet Halim Oruz Group joined forces and quickly achieved great success. They held a congress and properly reorganized The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze.

The collaboration between the dynamic young team and the experienced women from the association yielded excellent results. Thanks to their efforts, HEKYAD was founded in 1962. The building we are currently using was purchased, and in early July 1963, it began accepting its first residents.

As far as I recall, the first Director of the Nursing Home was Mrs. Hasene Ilgaz, and the Deputy Director was Mr. Zekeriya Salıcı.

The establishment and continued existence of the Nursing Home have been largely made possible thanks to Mr. Zekeriya Salıcı, who has been actively involved since its inception. To put it more clearly, Mr. Salıcı became the “father” of the institution, playing the most significant role in leading it through its difficult years to the present day.

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* Summarized from Adnan Çelikoğlu's report to the board, dated 23.03.1996.