

OBJECTIVE 02

To promote human rights and democracy, involving citizens in policy dialogue, design and monitoring

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH

CYPRUS TURKISH PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

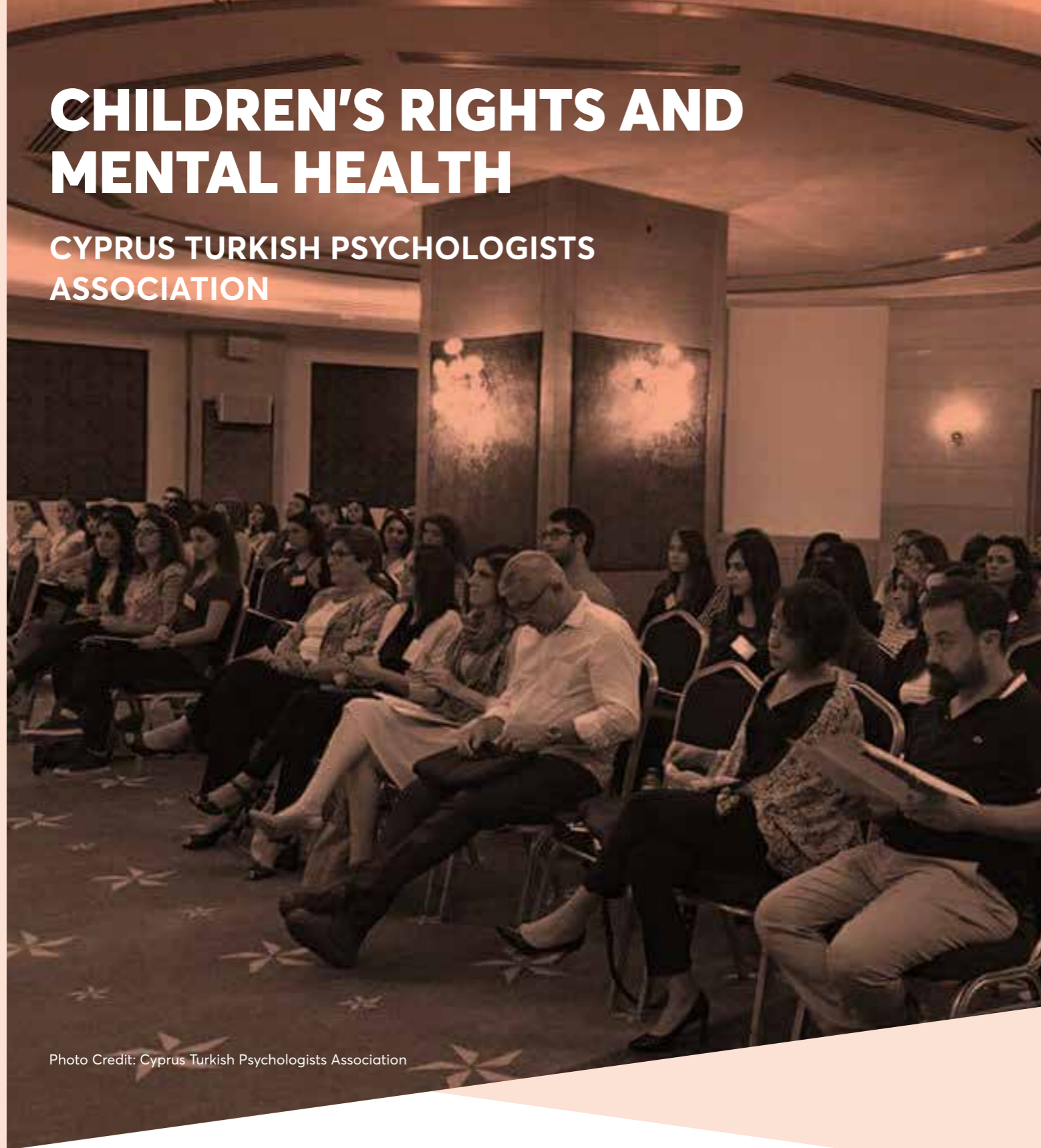


Photo Credit: Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association

STORY OF THE ACTION

Prior to their Grow Civic action, the Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association was implementing a project to increase awareness on children's rights through a psychological lens.

The Grow Civic action aimed at raising public awareness and increasing knowledge of fellow practicing professionals on mental health, human rights and children's fundamental freedoms. The goal was to empower the aforementioned groups to better understand mental health issues and their impact on the fundamental rights of children (e.g. bullying, violence, repression, etc.), as well as equip them with the capacity and tools to become active and allied agents of defending the rights of children.

The seminars, covered a variety of topics, including children's mental health, child abuse and violation of children's rights. Interactive discussions on critical and controversial topics also gave local experts the opportunity to gain knowledge and share their expertise on the issues. The seminars have been promoted on social media and various stakeholders took part in the action.

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The seminars themselves constituted the advocacy scope of the action. They helped highlight issues on family dynamics, children's rights, and the way they affect the mental health of a child. Schools, psychology students and various civil society organizations, particularly the ones that work with children, participated in the action to develop their professional capacity.



Photo Credit: Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association

"The first seminar consisted of approximately one hundred people participating in various sessions and round-table discussions on children and family dynamics. The keynote speakers were from the İstanbul Psychoanalytical Association, the İstanbul Child Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association and the Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association. The seminar attracted many mental health professionals from across the island, again proving the importance of the topic."
Bengü Berkmen

"The activities targeted various key stakeholders who now have the potential to develop further actions to enhance human rights and the mental health of children."
Bengü Berkmen

The action involved and engaged different societal actors in promoting the rights of children and targeted the duty bearers who could sustain the results by taking necessary precautions and adopting necessary changes in the legal framework.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association continues to focus its attention on children's rights. They will be running similar actions, targeting both the professionals in the field and society in general, to raise awareness on the issue and encourage their counterparts to continue advocating for the necessary changes in the legal framework.



THIS ACTION INVOLVED

A seminar entitled "Children and Family" on 21-22 October 2017, in Nicosia.

A seminar entitled "Children and Psychoanalytic Reflection on Children and Society" on 5 November 2017, in Nicosia.

A seminar entitled "Structural Modal" on 23 December 2017, in Nicosia.

ABOUT THE CYPRUS TURKISH PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

The Cyprus Turkish Psychologists Association was created in 2008 to unite psychologists and psychology students to improve psychology as a profession in the northern part of Cyprus. Since then, the association has organized several trainings, studies, and seminars for its members and various community members.



TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION

[f](#) KPSIKOLOGLARDERNEGI
www.ktpder.org



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