

**Prof. Dr. Ayse Akin** is a Medical Doctor, Public Health and Gynecology & Obstetrics specialist. She worked as a faculty member at Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine - Department of Public Health for 43 years. Following her retirement and still, she has been the Director of Başkent University Woman - Child Health and Family Planning Research and Implementation Center (BÜKÇAM) and also a faculty member at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health Department at the same university. In addition to being a founding member of HÜKSAM, she still carries out studies in collaboration with HÜKSAM on a voluntary basis and supports HÜKSAM activities.

Starting from Erzurum – Çat (a small town in the eastern part of Turkey) Primary Health Care Center, Prof. Akin worked at all levels of Turkey's health system and served as; Health Center Physician for 4 years, head of the district hospital for 15 years, Director of the health district for 3 years and General Director of Mother Child Health and Family Planning at the Ministry of Health for 5 years.

Prof. Akin gained a further 4 years of education and experience at Southampton University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK. She is currently a consultant for a number of international health organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Prof. Akin has chaired various advisory boards and management committees of the WHO for many years. Prof. Akin was also a member of the Standing Committee of the WHO EURO Region for 5 years and one year Chair of the Committee and Executive President of the 51st Regional Committee. In addition, she was a member of the Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) of the WHO and one year Chair of the PCC. Last but not least, Prof. Akin was a member of the Gender Advisory Panel (GAP) of the WHO for 7 years, during the last 3 years she was the Chair of the GAP.

Prof. Akin's main interests and fields of study are women's health, reproductive health and gender issues. She has various publications on these issues. In addition to these, Prof. Akin played a very important role in the planning and implementation of many policy documents and laws, especially with regard to reproductive and sexual health and gender issues in Turkey.

She has received many “science and service awards” in the aforementioned fields. However, in her own words the most important achievements and awards of Prof. Akin in her career, are the labor force she supported through training and tried to be a role model for the young generations as well as her contribution to the health of the people.

Some of the awards she has received:

- 1994, Turkish Medical Association (TTB) - Honor Award
- 1995, Prof. Dr. Nusret Fişek - Public Health Science Award
- 2012, İhsan Doğramacı Family Health Award with the decision of the World Health Organization - Geneva Executive Board
- 2019, Turkish University Women's Association Science Award
- 2019 United Nations - World Nairobi Summit, “Service Award” for her contribution to human rights and women's rights in the last 25 years. This award is given to 12 people at the global level and Dr. Akin was one of them.