PROGRES FOUNDATION

Promoting analytical thinking and evidence-based policy making

In a country where silence dominates public space, obtaining the facts becomes an act of courage.

In Turkmenistan, reliable and trustworthy information is scarce, and space for open dialogue is almost nonexistent. This vacuum breeds misinformation, fear, and distrust — leaving citizens with little voice in shaping decisions that affect their lives.

Corruption erodes public services, the rule of law, and trust. Turkmenistan ranks **165 of 180** countries on the Corruption Perception Index 2024 — among the world's most corrupt.

Independent journalism has been silenced. The country ranks **174 of 180** in the World Press Freedom Index 2025, as journalists face censorship and harassment.

Internet access remains severely limited. Only about **34.9%** of Turkmenistan's population was online as of January 2025 — among the lowest rates in the world.

Amid this **information blackout, Progres Foundation** emerged — to make data, information, and open dialogue accessible to all. Born out of frustration and hope, it brings together Turkmen nationals determined to imagine an alternative future for their country — one built on **progress and collaboration, not fear and isolation**.

WHO WE ARE

Progres Foundation is an independent think tank dedicated to fostering critical thinking, informed decision-making, and civic participation in Turkmenistan. We work to promote progressive, inclusive, and evidence-based policy solutions for the country's future. We envision a Turkmenistan where people have access to high-quality information, think critically, act collectively, and shape policies that reflect their needs and rights.

Progress, for us, is built on active hope, thoughtful action, and caring. It is people standing together to imagine and build a free, human-centered Turkmenistan. It begins when truth replaces fear, when citizens claim their rights and shape their shared future, and when the government leads with accountability, openness, and respect for different views.

OUR WORK AND IMPACT

PROGRES.ONLINE

An independent analytical journal providing research, data-driven analysis, and policy insights on Turkmenistan's social, economic, and political trends. **Since 2020** it connects local realities with global understanding.

PALAW INDEX

A creative proxy for measuring inflation in Turkmenistan, based on the cost of ingredients in the country's national dish, **Palaw**. It's an accessible tool helping citizens understand real economic trends and price changes.

SAGLYK.ORG

Turkmenistan's first and most trusted public health platform. **Since 2009**, it has been working to improve health literacy, sexual and reproductive health, and became the leading source of COVID-19 information in Turkmen.

BILIM MOBILE APP

Turkmenistan's only period tracker app, offering young women access to accurate, confidential sexual and reproductive health information in the Turkmen language. BILIM app has around **2000 active users** a month.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Help keep facts and open dialogue alive in Turkmenistan. Your support empowers Turkmen analysts and writers to produce factual, constructive, and progressive content that informs and engages society. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, **Progres Foundation relies on YOU**! Become a monthly supporter or make a one-time donation. Every contribution fuels **knowledge, courage and progress for all**.

> **"Without education no one advances. One stays behind, blind."**
>
> Muhammetguly Atabay Ogly, an early Turkmen educational reformer and public intellectual

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