



OUR ACTIVITIES

Would you like to be a partner in our work?

Our activities include trainings, exhibitions, workshops, talks, and conferences in the field. To participate in the work of our foundation, consider becoming a partner.

PROJECTS

Innovative, Transformative and Visionary Steps

We have a vision that nourishes both our aspiration for social transformation and healing in the cultural, artistic, and scientific realms. This vision encompasses activities and projects that we support and produce.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Add us to your calendar!

You can access our ongoing and future programs, activities, and studies that we regularly plan to carry out each month by following our event calendar on our website and social.

BE VOLUNTEER

Would you be interested in supporting our work?

If you wish to play an active role in the foundation's activities, contribute your ideas, and offer support with your visionary projects, please reach out to us by completing the volunteer form provided below.

sysv.org/gonullu-ol

ABOUT US

Founded in 2020 with the aim of preserving and honoring the cherished memory of Şule Yüksel Şenler, telling her exemplary life story, and passing on her sensitive and pioneering stance on human rights and freedoms, her understanding of equality, and her approach to combating discrimination to future generations, our foundation is committed to fostering a sensitivity that values social benefit, peace, and solidarity.

In this regard, Şule Yüksel Şenler Foundation has initiated activities to create inclusive works for both young people and all segments of society through cultural, artistic, and educational activities, scientific research, and platforms where various issues can be discussed comprehensively and in detail, with a focus on promoting a vision that is open to the innovations of the age, capable of developing and transforming itself using these innovations, and generating societal values.

As a non-governmental organization, we aim to create platforms where young people have more voice and to increase the significance of the experience and accumulation represented by the name Şule Yüksel Şenler. We strive to produce participatory solutions to societal problems.



Şule Yüksel Şenler Sensible Mind, Tranquil Heart, Refined Taste

Our foundation's fundamental aim is to honor and preserve the cherished memory of Şule Yüksel Şenler, a symbol of enlightened intellect, pure heart, and refined sensibility, whose life was devoted to struggle. We are committed to diligently transmitting Şule Yüksel Şenler's principled and dignified stance against all forms of discrimination, her commitment to upholding human dignity and freedoms, to future generations.



OUR VISION:

Our vision is to bring together the conscious and dignified stance we have learned from Şule Yüksel Şenler with the new generations, to introduce and promote Şule Yüksel Şenler's name as an exemplary figure in the struggle for freedom, as one of the distinguished values nurtured by these lands, and to ensure the preservation of the cherished memory of Şule Yüksel Şenler.

OUR MISSION:

Inspired by the instructive life of Şule Yüksel Şenler and her impactful advocacy for her beliefs and causes in recent history, our mission is to conduct various educational activities, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, and conferences targeting young people and all segments of society. These endeavors aim to foster enduring values and serve as guiding principles across all subjects.

From the moment a human being is born, they are deserving of reverence and respect. It is our utmost duty to uphold their basic human rights and religious freedoms with equality.



With bold steps, believing in the value of what we possess, and by placing our trust in the legacy of faith exemplified by Şule Yüksel Şenler and others like her, we will build the future by following in their footsteps.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Stay informed by following our foundation's social media accounts.



ŞULE YÜKSEL
ŞENLER VAKFI



WHO IS ŞULE YÜKSEL ŞENLER?

To Overcome Difficulties with Grace

Şule Yüksel Şenler, originally from Cyprus, was born in Kayseri in 1938 as the third of six siblings due to her father's job. When Şule Yüksel was six years old, they moved to İstanbul. She had to leave her education at Girls' Training Institute's Middle School School, secons grade due to her mother's illness. At the age of fourteen, her stories were published in Yelpaze Magazine, of which Safa Önal was the editor, and in the weekly Yeni İstanbul Newspaper, where writers like Peyami Safa and Gökhan Evliyaoğlu contributed, when she was fifteen and sixteen years old. At the age of twenty, she became a columnist for the "Kadın Gazetesi" (Women's Newspaper), where İffet Halim Oruz was the editor-in-chief.

Being three years younger than his brother Özer (Üzeyir) Şenler, who was one of Said Nursi's disciples, Şule Yüksel Şenler resisted and opposed his brother's exhortations and advice to wear the headscarf for a long time. However, upon his brother's earnest request during his severe illness, she reluctantly attended the reading sessions of the Risale-i Nur (Treatise of Light) at the house where she went. She continued to participate in these sessions for two years. During this period, certain events that occurred at home and her brother's departure from the house prompted her to embark on a journey of introspection. She began to perform prayers and eventually decided to wear the headscarf.

Her leadership was evident from the very beginning. When her article titled "Address to the Islamic Woman," sent to weekly Yeni İstiklal Newspaper on January 25, 1967, caught the attention of its owner, M. Şevket Eygi, he featured it on the front page. Immediately after its publication, the Turkish Women's Union filed a criminal complaint against Şule Yüksel Şenler and the newspaper management for alleged violations of secularism. Thus, as she sowed the first seeds of her new world, she found herself facing her first investigation and trial. This first trial, which would be followed by numerous denunciations, inquiries, and hearings throughout her life, was closely followed by hundreds of people, both men and women. Following an acquittal in the second trial, Şenler received an offer to become a columnist for the Bugün Newspaper, a daily publication launched by M. Şevket Eygi to replace the closed weekly Yeni İstiklal Newspaper. This marked the beginning of her prolific career as a columnist for a daily newspaper, which garnered widespread attention.

Inspired by her newspaper columns, a group of imam hatip school teachers from Samsun invited Şule Yüksel Şenler to a conference. This marked the beginning of a series of conferences that would see her travel the length and breadth of the country three and a half times, stirring up storms throughout Turkey. These conferences would lead to numerous lawsuits, hearings, and even arrest warrants, and they would serve as a catalyst for the movement she initiated regarding the wearing of the headscarf.

When Şule Yüksel Şenler integrated her headscarf model, designed by herself with the slogan "Stylish, elegant, modern," with the European fashion coats of the 1960s, it represented a Muslim woman's profile, a stance, an identity assertion. However, in the mainstream media of the time, this style of head covering pioneered by Şule Yüksel Şenler was

Ş Şule Yüksel Şenler Foundation Museum

"The Şule Yüksel Şenler Foundation Museum" will exhibit documents, letters, personal memorabilia, and belongings inherited from Şule Yüksel Şenler, consisting of her life story, newspaper articles, books, and traces of her struggle. Additionally, there will be unique arrangements featuring audio recordings and video/installations specific to the space. While Şule Yüksel Şenler's writings and speeches have continued to influence broad

labeled as "chador," aimed at marginalizing its wearer. In their articles and news reports, they referred to Şule Yüksel Şenler as the "chador-wearing conference speaker" or "chador-wearing writer." Despite these reactions, among the people, it became a trend known as "Sulebaş," and a frenzy of "Sulebaş" head covering began among young girls and women across Turkey.

Şule Yüksel Şenler, giving conferences in three different cities a day, found her audience overflowing from the halls. As a result of the intense demand from the public, her speeches were broadcasted from the minarets of mosques. In Çorum, for example, her speech was broadcasted through the speakers of 27 mosque minarets, turning the city square into a rally ground, much like in many other cities she visited.

After giving a conference at the Faculty of Language, History, and Geography at Ankara University on November 17, 1967, Şule Yüksel Şenler attracted attention to a significant change in the streets of Ankara, much like in other cities. This incurred the wrath of the then-President Cevdet Sunay. Six months after the conference, she was sentenced to 13 months and 10 days in prison for a letter she wrote to the president shortly after her marriage, addressing him. Two months into her imprisonment, the president granted her a pardon. However, Şule Yüksel Şenler refused to accept the pardon, stating, "Where is it ever seen that the guilty pardons the innocent?" She completed her sentence in Bursa Prison.

When her bestselling novel "Huzur Sokağı" was adapted into a film titled "Birleşen Yollar" (Intersecting Paths) by Yücel Çakmaklı, it also broke box office records, continuing its success from the literary world to the silver screen.

After her release from prison, Şule Yüksel Şenler and a group of young women and female friends established the Idealist Women's Association, which was active in various fields until the September 12 Military Coup.

Countless criminal complaints, numerous court hearings and defenses... Despite bomb threats to her conferences, protest marches, her house being set on fire, and being placed on death lists, none of these could deter her. However, after two marriages, facing many difficulties in her personal life, and retreating into seclusion due to various illnesses for many years, Şule Yüksel Şenler entered a period of recovery. She passed away on August 28, 2019. Şule Yüksel Şenler, who was sent to prison by a President for her actions for the people of her country, was bid farewell on the shoulders of another President for her deeds and contributions to the people of Türkiye.

Şule Yüksel Şenler, who did not have children from either of her marriages, left behind numerous spiritual children, whose lives she touched profoundly with her teachings, activism, and example.

audiences over the years, her societal impact has persisted to this day. The exhibition aims to illustrate the evolution of women's roles and positions in Turkish modernization from the Ottoman era to the Republic, alongside Şule Yüksel Şenler's iconic persona as a societal phenomenon.



WORKS

- ◆ Peace Street
- ◆ Women and Marriage
- ◆ What Happened to Us?
- ◆ Girl and Flower
- ◆ The True Path
- ◆ Tears of Civilization
- ◆ The Suffering of Youth
- ◆ Women in Islam and Today
- ◆ Feelings
- ◆ Everything for Islam



ŞULE YÜKSEL
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