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ABSTRACT BOOK

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PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH IN ARMED CONFLICTS: CHALLENGES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Andelija Stevanović

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Women in armed conflict circumstances face unique and multifaceted challenges, with severe implications for their physical, psychological, and social well-being. The protection, health, and assistance needs of these women are urgent and complex, as they often experience widespread violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), displacement, and deprivation of basic rights and services. These challenges are compounded by the breakdown of social structures, loss of livelihoods, and increased exposure to health risks, such as maternal and reproductive health complications, malnutrition, and limited access to healthcare services. International humanitarian law recognizes the specific vulnerabilities of women in conflict, emphasizing the need for targeted protection and assistance, especially in healthcare. However, despite existing frameworks, women continue to face significant barriers in accessing justice, healthcare, and support. Furthermore, the stigma surrounding SGBV often prevents women from seeking help, leaving them isolated and without recourse for recovery. Effective responses to these needs require a comprehensive and gender-sensitive approach, integrating health services with protection and legal assistance. The provision of healthcare, including mental health services, reproductive care, and trauma support, is essential for restoring the dignity and autonomy of women. Equally important is the creation of safe spaces and legal frameworks that ensure accountability for crimes against women, provide reparations, and promote their active participation in peace-building and post-conflict recovery processes. The author will try to explain the varied needs of women's healthcare affected by armed conflict, analyze the effectiveness of current legal and humanitarian responses, and propose strategies for improving protection, health, and assistance. By addressing these issues, we can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable approach to humanitarian aid, ensuring that women's voices and rights are central to conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery.

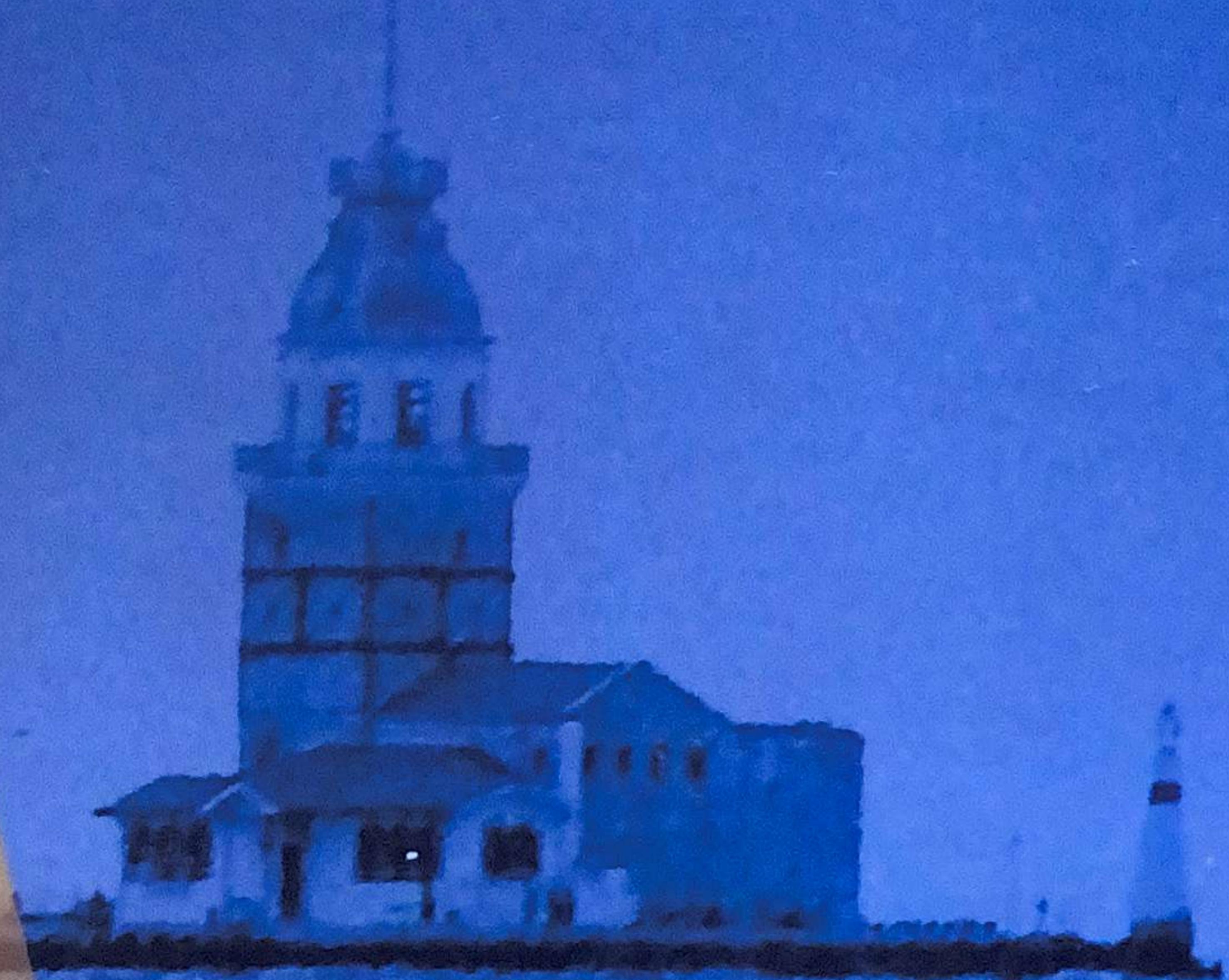


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