Women also championed the building of ribats (religious fortifications) and khanqahs, (dervish convents), first as a refuge for religious warriors but later used as places of worship and accommodation for the poor. Education was another sphere where women were active as patrons, exemplified by the elaborate educational complex in Cairo, Madrasa of Umm Sultan Sha'ban, built by the mother of the Mamluk Sultan Sha'ban. Others provided schools (kuttabs, madrasas) to further the education of girls. Yet other charitable work included the patronage of hospitals (bimaristans) such as that adjoining the Great Mosque of Divriği, commissioned by Turan Melik who lived in the 7th / 13th century, and that constructed by order of Aziza Othmana, who lived in the 11th / 17th century.

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**Name:** Madrasa al-Shamiyya  
**Dynasty:** Hegira 576–616 / AD 1180–1220 Ayyubid  
**Details:** Damascus, Syria  
**Justification:** The madrasa was endowed by Sitt al-Sham, sister of the famous Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (Saladin, r. 564–89 / 1169–93).

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**Name:** Madrasa al-Sahiba  
**Dynasty:** Hegira 630 / AD 1233 Ayyubid  
**Details:** Damascus, Syria  
**Justification:** A magnificent school complex, the patron of which was Rabi' Khatun, sister of Saladin.

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**Name:** Ribat and Mosque of the Sayyida  
**Dynasty:** Hegira mid-3rd century / AD 9th century Aghlabid and Zirid  
**Details:** Monastir, Tunisia  
**Justification:** The complex is associated with an unknown Aghlabid princess remembered only as 'al-Sayyida', 'the Lady'.

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**Name:** 'Imara al-‘Amira (Flourishing Edifice)  
**Dynasty:** Built in around hegira 964 / AD 1557 Ottoman
This charitable complex is attributed to Haseki Hürrem Sultan, the wife of the famous Ottoman Sultan, Suleyman the Magnificent (r. 926–74 / 1520–66).

**Name:**
Endowment Charter (Waqfiyya) of Haseki Hürrem Sultan

**Dynasty:**
AH 964 / AD 1556–7 Ottoman

**Details:**
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

**Justification:**
A document that relates to the financial matters of the Al-'Imara al-'Amira (The Flourishing Edifice) commissioned by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent's wife, Haseki Hürrem Sultan.

A cauldron that was used to cook food in Al-'Imara al-'Amira (The Flourishing Edifice) to be delivered to the poor.

A structure that probably provided shelter for itinerant dervishes, may also have served other charitable purposes.

Turan Melik built the bimaristan in collaboration with her husband Ahmed Shah, who constructed the adjoining mosque.