



Comparative Compendium of Women-Friendly Laws & Institutions

OIC Ombudsman Association – Sub Committee on Women's Rights

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comparative Compendium of Women Friendly Laws & Institutions



This compendium documents women-friendly laws and institutional frameworks across eight jurisdictions: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo and, Türkiye, across eight thematic areas: gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, reproductive health, economic empowerment, education, political participation, digital rights, and intersectional discrimination.

Overall Assessment

While Pakistan demonstrates comprehensive legislative coverage across all eight themes. Türkiye exhibits the strongest institutional infrastructure (ŞÖNİM Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers operating across provinces, KADES emergency app, issuance of emergency protective measures and most liberal reproductive framework (abortion permitted up to 10 weeks unrestricted). Senegal and Togo lead in political participation with gender parity mandates.

Key Findings

Legislative Coverage

All the documented States possess constitutional gender equality guarantees and sector-specific legislation addressing violence, discrimination, and women's rights. Legislative frameworks span criminal law reforms, family law provisions, workplace harassment protections, reproductive healthcare provisions, political participation provisions including statutory quota systems in Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso, Benin, and Pakistan, digital rights protections, and disability inclusion measures.

Progressive Legal Innovations

Türkiye's 2001 Civil Code abolished "head of family" doctrine, established joint marital decision-making, and guaranteed equal inheritance and property division. Pakistan's 2020 Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act provides a dedicated Ombudsperson based remedy for unlawful deprivation of property, with a 90 day disposal timeline. Senegal, Togo, and Burkina Faso mandate candidate list parity (50%, 50%, 30% respectively) with financial penalties for non-compliance. Türkiye permits abortion up to 10 weeks unrestricted, the most liberal framework reviewed.

Thematic Findings

Harmful Traditional Practices: FGM criminalized in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo with imprisonment penalties supported by national committees and UNFPA-UNICEF programmes. Child marriage minimum ages vary: Pakistan establishes 18 years across ICT, Punjab, and Sindh; Togo mandates 18 years; Türkiye sets 18 years with limited judicial exceptions at 16 to 17. Senegal sets minimum age at 16 for girls and 18 for boys with exceptions. Azerbaijan criminalizes forced marriage and bride kidnapping (5 to 10 years imprisonment). Pakistan uniquely criminalizes culturally specific practices including Swara, Vani, Watta Satta under 2011 Act. Honour killings treated as aggravated homicide without mitigation in Pakistan and Türkiye.

Political Participation: Senegal and Togo mandate gender parity on candidate lists. Burkina Faso requires 30% with alternation plus 20% public funding incentive. Benin mandates one woman per constituency. Pakistan reserves 60 National Assembly and 17 Senate seats. Azerbaijan, Bahrain, and Türkiye guarantee constitutional participation rights without statutory quotas.

Reproductive Health: Maternity leave ranges from 60 days (Bahrain) to 126 days (Azerbaijan) and 14 to 16 weeks across Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Türkiye. In Pakistan, the Maternity and Paternity Act of 2023 (applicable to federal employees and ICT) provides 180, 120, and 90 days of paid maternity leave for the first, second, and third child, plus 30 days of paternity leave. Provincial entitlements vary: 16 weeks in Sindh (with 10 days paternity leave for male government employees), 14 weeks in Balochistan, and 12 weeks each in Punjab and KP. Abortion frameworks vary significantly: Türkiye permits abortion up to 10 weeks unrestricted and 20 weeks for criminal pregnancy or fetal anomaly. Azerbaijan allows abortion up to 12 weeks on request and 22 weeks for social reasons. Pakistan's Sindh and KP Reproductive Healthcare Rights Acts (2019, 2020) recognize reproductive healthcare as fundamental right. Senegal and Burkina Faso restrict abortion to therapeutic necessity. Togo's Law 2007-005 guarantees reproductive health access and women's autonomy in reproductive decisions. All states provide free or subsidized antenatal and postnatal care through public health systems.

Economic Empowerment: Equal pay constitutionally guaranteed or legislated in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Türkiye. Türkiye's 2001 Civil Code achieved comprehensive property equality including default equal asset division and equal inheritance rights. Pakistan's 2020 Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act protects women from being deprived of their rightful property and inheritance. Bahrain equalized retirement age at 60 and removed night shift restrictions for women. Entrepreneurship support operates via KOSGEB (Türkiye), Tamkeen (Bahrain), BISP (Pakistan), and microfinance schemes in Benin and economic empowerment programs in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo.

Education: Compulsory education guaranteed across all jurisdictions: 9 years (Bahrain), 12 years (Türkiye 4+4+4 system), Grades 8 to 10 (Pakistan provincial acts). Azerbaijan's Support for Young Girls' Education Campaign (2021) targets low-income and rural girls. Türkiye's "Haydi Kızlar Okula" campaign and conditional cash transfers specifically support rural girls' attendance. Benin, Burkina Faso, and Senegal implement national strategies for girls' education. Togo's Law 2022-020 criminalizes school sexual violence establishing National Observatory.

Digital Rights: Azerbaijan addresses digital violence through Criminal Code provisions on defamation, insult, privacy violations, and personal data protection laws. Bahrain enforces via Laws 60/2014 and 30/2018 with Cybercrime Directorate and Personal Data Protection Authority. Benin enacted Digital Code (Law 2017-20 of 2018) and ratified AU Malabo Convention in 2024. Burkina Faso addresses cybercrime through Penal Code provisions and Law No. 010/2004/AN on Personal Data Protection. Pakistan's PECA (2016) criminalizes cyberstalking, non-consensual image sharing, electronic harassment (3 to 5 years). Senegal enacted Cybercrime Law No. 2008-11 punishing unauthorized access and online sexual harassment. Togo's Law 2018-026 criminalizes illegal access, data interference, privacy breaches, and cyber harassment. Türkiye's Law 5651 enables 24 to 48 hour content removal; KADES app provides GPS emergency dispatch.

Intersectional Discrimination: All constitutions prohibit discrimination on grounds including sex, race, ethnicity, disability, religion. Disability-specific legislation exists across all jurisdictions: Azerbaijan (constitutional guarantees and equality law provisions), Bahrain (Law 74/2006), Benin (Law 2017-06), Burkina Faso (integrated provisions), Pakistan (federal 2020; provincial Punjab 2022, Sindh 2018, KP 2018, Balochistan 2017), Senegal (Social Orientation Law 2010-15), Togo (Law 2004-005), Türkiye (Law 5378). Employment quotas for persons with disabilities include 2% (Pakistan ICT and Punjab), 3% (Pakistan Sindh and Türkiye for employers with 50+ employees), and 5% (Pakistan Balochistan). Pakistan's Sindh Act (2018) uniquely extends special protections to women, children, transgender, elderly with disabilities.

Institutional Architecture

Türkiye operates specialized institutional model: ŞÖNİM Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers operating across provinces providing integrated services, KADES emergency app, Family Courts in all provinces, Law 6284 coordination units. Pakistan maintains a federal provincial institutional division: FOSPAH and provincial ombudspersons exercising original and appellate jurisdiction under the 2010 Act, alongside Women Development Departments and district level committees. Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo operate ministerial directorates and gender units. Bahrain and Azerbaijan integrate gender functions within existing ministries alongside Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain and State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in Azerbaijan.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Category 1 – International Legal Instruments & Frameworks

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

An international human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 to promote gender equality by obligating States Parties to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of life. CEDAW is cited as a normative reference point across all eight countries in this Compendium, and its monitoring body — the CEDAW Committee — periodically reviews State compliance through a reporting cycle.

CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

An international human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2006 to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities. It is referenced in the context of intersectional discrimination in this Compendium, particularly in relation to disabled women's access to employment and services.

Istanbul Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, adopted in 2011. It establishes legally binding standards for States on preventing gender-based violence, protecting victims, prosecuting perpetrators, and implementing coordinated national policies. Türkiye is the primary reference country for this instrument in the Compendium.

Maputo Protocol

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in 2003. It establishes legally binding obligations on African Union member states to protect and promote women's rights, including eliminating harmful traditional practices, ensuring reproductive health rights, enabling political participation, and addressing violence against women. Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Togo are Maputo Protocol States Parties referenced in this Compendium.

Palermo Protocol

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, adopted in 2000 as a supplement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It provides the internationally agreed definition of trafficking in persons and obligates states to criminalize trafficking and protect victims. The Protocol is referenced in relation to human trafficking provisions in several countries in this Compendium.

Category 2 – Forms of Violence & Harmful Practices

Child Marriage / Early Marriage

The formal or informal marriage of a person below the legally established minimum age, typically defined as below 18 years of age. Child marriage is recognised as a violation of human rights and is linked to adverse health, educational, and economic outcomes, particularly for girls. Minimum marriage ages and enforcement mechanisms vary across the countries in this Compendium.

Domestic Violence

A pattern of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse occurring within the family or household, typically between intimate partners or close family members, used to exercise power and control over a victim. All eight countries in this Compendium have legal provisions addressing domestic violence, though the scope, definitions, and enforcement mechanisms differ across jurisdictions.

Dowry-Related Violence

Physical, psychological, or economic abuse inflicted on a woman in connection with demands for dowry or dissatisfaction with the dowry provided at the time of marriage. The Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act 1976 in Pakistan is the primary legal reference for this practice in this Compendium.

Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGM/C)

A harmful practice involving partial or total removal of female external genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is recognised as a violation of women's and girls' rights and is criminalised in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Togo. FGM is not documented as a practice in Türkiye or Azerbaijan.

Femicide / Honour Killing

The intentional killing of women or girls based on gender-related motives, often linked to perceived violations of family or community honour. In this Compendium, honour killings are treated as aggravated homicide in Türkiye and Pakistan, with no formal recognition of honour as a mitigating factor or legal defence.

Forced Marriage

A marriage conducted without the free and full consent of one or both parties, through coercion, threats, physical force, economic pressure, or psychological manipulation. Forced marriage is criminalised or addressed through general penal provisions in all eight countries in this Compendium, with Pakistan's Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act 2011 providing an explicit statutory prohibition.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Violence directed at individuals on the basis of their gender, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm as well as threats and coercion. GBV encompasses acts occurring in public and private spaces, and is recognised under international law as a form of discrimination against women. It is the primary theme of Theme 1 in this Compendium.

Ghag (KPK, Pakistan)

A coercive traditional practice prevalent in some tribal and rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, in which a man publicly claims a woman or girl for marriage without her consent, effectively prohibiting her from marrying anyone else. Ghag is criminalised under the KPK Elimination of Custom of Ghag Act 2013, with imprisonment from 7 to 14 years.

Non-Consensual Intimate Image Sharing

The distribution, publication, or transmission of private or intimate images of a person without their consent, commonly referred to as 'revenge porn.' It is a form of technology-facilitated gender-based violence that violates privacy, dignity, and security, and is criminalised under Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 and Türkiye's Penal Code Article 134.

Sexual Violence

Any sexual act, unwanted sexual comment or advance, or act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim. It includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and coercion into sexual acts, and is criminalised across all eight countries in this Compendium, with penalties varying by jurisdiction.

Swara / Vani / Watta Satta

Customary practices in Pakistan involving forced or exchange marriages, typically to settle disputes or blood feuds between families or tribes. Swara and Vani refer to the practice of giving a girl as compensation or reconciliation; Watta Satta refers to the exchange of brides between families. All three practices are criminalised under the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act 2011, with imprisonment of up to three years.

Technology-Facilitated Violence / Cyber Harassment

Acts of harassment, abuse, threats, stalking, or non-consensual sharing of information or images carried out through digital platforms, including social media, messaging applications, and other online spaces. While all countries in this Compendium have some legal framework addressing cyber conduct, only Pakistan and Türkiye have developed gender-responsive digital protection mechanisms.

Trafficking in Persons

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons through means such as force, coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, servitude, and organ removal, as defined in the Palermo Protocol.

Category 3 – Legal & Procedural Terms

Cognisable Offence

A criminal offence in which law enforcement authorities have the power to arrest without a warrant and begin an investigation without prior court approval. Several serious GBV-related offences in Pakistan — including honour

crimes and violations under PECA 2016 — are designated cognisable offences to enable faster law enforcement response.

Emergency Protective Measure

Immediate legal or administrative action taken by authorities to protect a victim of violence from imminent harm, pending a full court hearing. These measures include removal of the perpetrator from the shared residence, communication bans, emergency shelters, and urgent protection orders. Under Türkiye's Law No. 6284, emergency measures may be issued by law enforcement chiefs and must be judicially reviewed within 48 hours.

Gender Quota / Reserved Seats

A system allocating a specified proportion of seats or positions for women in political bodies, public institutions, or employment to increase their representation. In this Compendium, quota mechanisms range from Senegal's mandatory parity requirement (50%) and Togo's 50% electoral list parity to Pakistan's constitutionally mandated reserved seats (60 in the National Assembly) and Burkina Faso's 30% candidate list requirement.

In Camera Trial

A trial conducted privately, excluding the general public and press, to protect the identity and dignity of parties involved. It is commonly applied in sensitive cases involving sexual offences, minors, or matters of personal privacy. In Camera proceedings are provided for under Pakistan's Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021.

Intersectional Discrimination

Discrimination experienced by a person on the basis of multiple, overlapping grounds — such as gender combined with race, ethnicity, disability, or socio-economic status — which interact to create compounded and distinct forms of disadvantage that cannot be addressed by examining each ground separately.

Non-Bailable Offence

A criminal offence in which bail is not available as a matter of right and is subject to the discretion of the court. These offences are generally serious in nature, including rape, honour crimes, and offences under PECA 2016 in Pakistan. Designation as non-bailable is intended to reduce the risk of interference with victims or obstruction of justice.

Parity Law

A law requiring equal or near-equal representation of men and women in political, public, or institutional decision-making bodies. Senegal's Law on Parity 2010-11, which mandates absolute gender parity on all electoral candidate lists, is the strongest parity mechanism referenced in this Compendium.

Protection Order / Restraining Order

A legally enforceable court order that restricts a person who has committed or threatened violence from contacting, approaching, or harassing the victim, and may require their removal from a shared residence. Protection orders are referenced across all eight countries in this Compendium and may be issued on a short-term emergency basis or for a longer fixed period depending on national law.

Redressal Mechanism / Forum

A formal process or institution through which victims may seek remedies for violations of their rights. These include courts, tribunals, commissions, ombudspersons, and administrative authorities empowered to investigate grievances and issue binding decisions or recommendations.

Category 4 – Institutions & Bodies

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

A regional human rights body of the African Union that monitors State compliance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. It addresses women's rights issues across African member states through examination of state reports, individual complaints, and interpretation of the Charter. The Commission is a reference institution for Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Togo in this Compendium.

CEDAW Committee

The United Nations body — formally the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women — that monitors implementation of CEDAW by States Parties. It reviews periodic state reports, issues concluding observations, and publishes General Recommendations that elaborate on treaty obligations. The CEDAW Committee is referenced in relation to all eight countries in this Compendium.

FOSPAH (Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace)

An independent government institution in Pakistan established under the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010. FOSPAH receives, investigates, and decides complaints of workplace harassment and serves as an alternative redressal forum outside the courts, with authority to issue binding decisions and impose penalties.

NCRC (National Commission on the Rights of the Child, Pakistan)

An independent statutory body established under the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act 2017 in Pakistan. It is mandated to protect, promote, and monitor children's rights in accordance with national laws and international standards, and investigates complaints regarding child rights violations, including child marriage.

Supreme Council for Women (Bahrain)

A governmental body in the Kingdom of Bahrain responsible for advancing the status of women and promoting gender equality across all sectors. It serves as the primary institutional mechanism for implementing Bahrain's national plans for women's advancement and is referenced across multiple themes in this Compendium.

Category 5 – Thematic Concepts

Digital Rights

Human rights that apply in digital environments, including the right to access information online, express opinions freely, protect personal data, and be free from online harassment or surveillance. In the context of this Compendium, digital rights are most relevant to Theme 7, which examines legal protections against technology-facilitated violence against women.

Economic Empowerment

The process of enabling individuals, particularly women and marginalised groups, to gain meaningful access to financial resources, skills, employment, and control over economic decisions. In this Compendium, economic empowerment is addressed through labour protections, equal pay provisions, property rights, and entrepreneurship support programmes.

Gender Mainstreaming

The process of integrating the different needs, experiences, and priorities of women and men into the design, implementation, and evaluation of all laws, policies, programmes, and decision-making processes, so that both women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)

Customs and cultural practices that negatively affect the health, dignity, safety, and rights of individuals, particularly women and children. These practices are typically rooted in entrenched social norms and cause physical, psychological, and social harm, and are contrary to international human rights standards. HTPs are the focus of Theme 2 in this Compendium.

Maternity / Paternity Leave

Legally mandated paid or unpaid leave granted to parents around the time of childbirth or adoption. Maternity leave allows mothers to recover from childbirth and care for a newborn, while paternity leave enables fathers to support the mother and participate in early childcare. Entitlements across this Compendium range from three days' paternity leave (Benin) to 10 days (Türkiye) and 15 days (Pakistan), and from 60 days' maternity leave (Bahrain) to 16 weeks (Türkiye).

Reproductive Health Rights

Rights ensuring that individuals can make free and informed decisions concerning their sexuality and reproduction, and have access to healthcare services for pregnancy, childbirth, contraception, and family planning. The degree of legal recognition of reproductive health as a rights-based concept varies considerably across the eight countries in this Compendium.

THEME 1: GBV (Gender Based Violence)

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Legislation	Key Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutional / Relevant Forums
Azerbaijan	<p>Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995) Articles 25, 27, 31, 34, 46¹;</p> <p>Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence (2010) Articles 1–6, 10–13²;</p>	<p>Guarantees equality, dignity, right to life, personal security, privacy, and family protection;</p> <p>Defines domestic violence (physical, psychological, sexual, economic); applies to spouses, former spouses, and cohabitants; establishes short-term and long-term protection orders; ensures victim rights to legal aid, shelters, and medical/psychological support; mandates state responsibility for prevention, protection, and rehabilitation; assigns</p>	<p>National Action Plan on Gender Equality⁷; Social protection and victim assistance programs; crisis centers, shelters, rehabilitation.</p> <p>National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence (2020–2023);⁸</p>	<p>Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman);</p> <p>State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs⁹;</p> <p>Courts (including criminal courts and family-related jurisdiction);</p> <p>Police authorities and investigation units;</p> <p>Prosecutor’s Office;</p> <p>Local executive authorities;</p> <p>Social service centers;</p> <p>Shelters and crisis centers;</p> <p>Forensic medical services;</p> <p>United Nations Committee</p>

¹ https://www.stat.gov.az/menu/3/Legislation/constitution_en.pdf;

² <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/86667/AZE-86667.pdf>

⁷ <https://monitoring.gov.az/en/page/data/232>

⁸ <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Azerbaijan-Report.pdf>

⁹ <https://family.gov.az/en>

	<p>Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999, as amended) Articles 12, 126–128, 133, 144.2.2, 149–151, 176-1³;</p> <p>Family Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2000)⁴;</p>	<p>duties to police, courts, and social services;</p> <p>Criminalizes bodily harm (Arts. 126–128), Torture (Art. 133), Kidnapping of pregnant woman (Art. 144.2.2), Rape (Art. 149), Sexual violence (Art. 150), and Coercion to sexual acts (Art. 151); Provides the core penal framework for GBV-related offences.</p> <p>Regulates marriage, divorce, and family relations; provides legal grounds for dissolution of marriage including harm to spouses; governs child custody, maintenance, and parental responsibilities; enables protection of the rights and welfare of women and children within the family context;</p>		<p>on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.¹⁰</p>
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³ https://bwcimplementation.org/sites/default/files/resource/AZERBAIJAN_Criminal_Code.pdf

⁴ <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/92610/AZE-92610.pdf>

¹⁰

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw#:~:text=The%20CEDAW%20treaty%20is%20a%20tool%20that%20made%20in%20upholding%20the%20rights%20of%20women>

	<p>Law on Gender Equality (2006)⁵;</p> <p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (Ratified 1999 Art. 1, 2; General Recommendations 19 & 35)⁶</p>	<p>Criminalization of domestic violence, sexual violence, and harassment;</p> <p>Recognizes GBV as discrimination; obligates the State to prevent, investigate, punish, and provide remedies for violence against women</p>		
Bahrain	<p>Constitution Art. 18, 19¹¹;</p> <p>Law No. 17 of 2015 on Protection from Domestic Violence¹²;</p>	<p>Guarantees equality before the law, personal liberty, and protection of individual rights and dignity;</p> <p>Provides protection against domestic violence, including physical,</p>	<p>National Strategy for Protection of Bahraini Women¹⁶</p> <p>National Strategy to Protect Women from Domestic Violence (SCW, 2015)¹⁷</p> <p>Takatuf, National Database & Statistics System for Domestic Violence (SCW, 2017)¹⁸</p>	<p>Supreme Council for Women¹⁹</p> <p>Family Guidance Department (Ministry of Social Development)²⁰</p> <p>National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons²¹</p>

⁵ https://reports.nhc.no/gender-based-violence-in-Azerbaijan-2020/sec/5/1#navto_10000011

⁶ <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/6>

¹¹ <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/5711fc2a-e02d-4e8e-8b38-11320876866c/Constitution+Kingdom+of+Bahrain.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=o8-mL.G>

¹² [Law No. \(17\) of 2015 On Protection Against Domestic Violence](#)

¹⁶ <https://nwm.unescwa.org/resources/164>

¹⁷ [Women's Right to Legal Protection from Domestic Violence in Light of Bahraini Legislation | Springer Nature Link](#)

¹⁸ <https://www.scw.bh/en/WomenNeeds/National-model/Pages/takatuf2017.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/GSX-UI-AllEntities/GSX-UI-EntityDetails?entityID=45>

²⁰ [Established under Law No. 17 of 2015 to provide protection orders, counselling and victim referral services.](#)

²¹ [Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. 1 of 2008, Art. 8](#)

	<p>Penal Code¹³;</p> <p>Family Law No. 19 of 2017¹⁴</p> <p>Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. 1 of 2008¹⁵</p>	<p>psychological, sexual, and economic abuse; establishes protection orders, shelters, complaint mechanisms, and legal aid for victims;</p> <p>Criminalises acts affecting personal safety and liberty, including assault, coercion, threats, and related offences that may arise in cases of violence and abuse;</p> <p>Regulates family matters including marriage, divorce, custody, and maintenance; provides legal framework for family rights and obligations;</p> <p>Prohibits all forms of human trafficking and protects from forced labour and sexual exploitation.</p>		
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¹³ https://menarights.org/sites/default/files/2016-12/BHR_PenalCode_1976.EN_.pdf

¹⁴ <https://legalaffairs.gov.bh/Publications/Download/049.pdf>

¹⁵ [Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. 1 of 2008, Kingdom of Bahrain](#)

Benin	Law No. 2011-26 on Prevention & Punishment of Violence Against Women ²² ;	The whole law criminalizes domestic violence, sexual, marital rape, psychological & economic violence; provides for protection orders, victim support.	National Gender Promotion Policy (PNPG) ²⁶ ; National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women implemented by the Supreme Council for Women. ²⁷	Police/Gendarmerie ; Courts; Social services; NGOs
	Law No. 2018-16 Enacting the Penal Code ²³	Art. 578 specifically criminalizes forced marriage and abuse of authority over minors, prescribing imprisonment of 3 to 10 years, with enhanced penalties where violence, confinement, or death is involved. Sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault, is covered under the provisions in the sexual offences section	CEDAW reporting cycle (last reviewed by CEDAW Committee, 89th session, October 2024) ²⁸ Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030 ²⁹	CEDAW Committee (UN) African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of Women ³⁰

²² [loi n°2011-26 du 09 janvier 2012](https://www.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res/document/code-penal-2018_html/Code_penal_2018.pdf)

²³ https://www.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res/document/code-penal-2018_html/Code_penal_2018.pdf

²⁶ https://soawr.org/protocol_watch/benin/#:~:text=Benin%20signed%20the%20Maputo%20Protocol,Ministries%20on%20gender%20sensitive%20budgeting;

²⁷ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/374156535_National_Plan_for_the_Advancement_of_Women_Bahrain

²⁸ [CEDAW 89th Session concluding observations on Benin \(October 2024\);](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-womens-rights-committee-publishes-findings-benin-canada-chile-cuba-japan)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-womens-rights-committee-publishes-findings-benin-canada-chile-cuba-japan>

²⁹ [Full document \(PDF\): https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/24099-poa_5_revised_clean.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/24099-poa_5_revised_clean.pdf)

³⁰ [AU ratification record for Togo: https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa](https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa)

	<p>CEDAW (ratified 12 March 1992)²⁴</p> <p>Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (ratified 2005)²⁵</p>	<p>(Articles 550 onwards), which define rape as sexual intercourse obtained through violence, coercion, threat, or surprise and provides corresponding criminal sanctions. In addition, Articles 499–504 deal with trafficking in persons for purposes such as sexual exploitation and forced labour,</p> <p>CEDAW obligates the state to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including GBV; requires legal, institutional and programmatic measures.</p> <p>Maputo Protocol specifically addresses women's rights to dignity, equality, and freedom from violence in the African context.</p>		
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²⁴ [CEDAW — Benin ratification: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW&Lang=en) (ratified 12 March 1992)

²⁵ [Maputo Protocol ratification by Benin \(2005\): https://soawr.org/protocol_watch/benin/](https://soawr.org/protocol_watch/benin/)

<p>Burkina Faso</p>	<p>Constitution of Burkina Faso (Art. 2)³¹;</p> <p>Law No. 061-2015/CNT [Prevention, Punishment & Reparation of Violence Against Women & Girls] (Art. 11, 16–20, 36–37)³²;</p> <p>Penal Code of Burkina Faso³³;</p> <p>Labour Code of Burkina Faso (Art. 37)³⁴</p>	<p>Guarantees protection of life, physical integrity, dignity, and security of the person;</p> <p>Art. 11 recognizes forms of violence; Arts. 16–20 provide for victim protection, assistance, and reporting mechanisms; Arts. 36–37 establish civil liability, remedies, compensation, and sanctions;</p> <p>Criminalizes rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, forced marriage, and harmful traditional practices;</p> <p>Prohibits workplace sexual harassment, including conduct by</p>	<p>National Gender Policy 2020 - 2024³⁵;</p> <p>National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence³⁶;</p> <p>Awareness and prevention programs;</p> <p>-</p>	<p>Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action; Police and Gendarmerie; Criminal courts; NGOs</p>
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³¹ [Burkina Faso's Constitution of 1991 with Amendments through 2015](#)

³² <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/142971575938025836/pdf/Countries-A-G.pdf>

³³ <https://sgbv-ihrda.uwazi.io/en/entity/wcsguq52azs>

³⁴ <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2008/fr/150619>

³⁵ <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/burkina-faso-country-gender-profile-2020>

³⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/combating-gender-based-violence-burkina-faso>

		colleagues and third parties, and defines it as obtaining sexual favors through coercion or abuse of authority.		
Senegal	<p>Constitution of Senegal (2001)³⁷;</p> <p>Law No. 2020-05 Criminalizing</p>	<p>Any act of discrimination on the basis of racial, ethnic & religious is prohibited, Wives shall have the same right to worldly goods and property as their husbands. They shall have the personal right to manage their goods and property. No one may be impeded in his work by reason of his or her origins, sex, opinions, political choices, or beliefs.</p> <p>Criminalizes rape, sexual violence, domestic</p>	<p>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women³⁹</p> <p>National Caravans Against Gender-Based Violence⁴⁰</p> <p>National Strategy for Gender Equality & Equity; National Action Plan to Combat GBV⁴¹</p>	<p>The Constitutional Council⁴², Office of the Ombudsman of Senegal, Supreme Court of Senegal⁴³.</p> <p>Police/ Gendarmerie ; Criminal courts; Ministry of Women, NGOs. National director of equity & Gender Equality⁴⁴; Senegal ministry of family affairs⁴⁵</p>

³⁷ [Senegal's Constitution of 2001 with Amendments through 2016](#)

³⁹ [https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8#:~:text=178\);,\)%2C%20on%2018%20April%202017](https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8#:~:text=178);,)%2C%20on%2018%20April%202017)

⁴⁰ <https://stop-desigualtats.org/en/resistance-to-gender-violence-in-senegal/>

⁴¹ [https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8#:~:text=178\);,\)%2C%20on%2018%20April%202017](https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8#:~:text=178);,)%2C%20on%2018%20April%202017).

⁴² <https://www.conseilconstitutionnel.sn>

⁴³ <https://www.aihja.org/en/membre/senegal-supreme->

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https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=web&rct=j&url=https://ecowasgender.org/focal-points/&ved=2ahUKEwiVxsTh6ISUAxUxVKOEHcc7G4IOy_kOegOIAxAB&opj=89978449&cd&psig=AOvVaw1TakSi8g1D7GxRgqVtwuoA&ust=1777062751273000

⁴⁵ <https://share.google/JEyPgSDntj6lwju02>

	rape & Pedophilia ³⁸	<p>violence, workplace harassment; stronger penalties.</p> <p>With imprisonment of 10 to 12 years or up to life imprisonment.</p>		
Togo	Penal Code (2015) (Art. 212–215, 317–320) ⁴⁶	<p>Art. 212–215 criminalize rape, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual violence, with aggravated penalties where the victim is a minor or in a vulnerable situation. Physical and domestic violence are covered under general provisions on assault and bodily harm, which punish acts causing injury or abuse within both public and private spheres.</p> <p>The Code also includes offences relating to trafficking in persons, Art. 317–320, which cover exploitation for sexual or forced labour purposes, and provisions on harmful</p>	<p>National Strategy to Combat GBV⁵⁰</p> <p>CEDAW reporting cycle⁵¹</p>	<p>Police/ Gendarmerie ; Criminal courts; Social services; NGOs,</p> <p>National Anti-Trafficking Commission (in establishment); Ministry of Social Action; Police / Gendarmerie; UNICEF; IOM</p> <p>CEDAW Committee</p>

³⁸ <https://sgbv-ihrda.uwazi.io/en/entity/7xur2iqdfr/metadata?file=1626276249466db2dlkg0plf.pdf&page=2>

⁴⁶ [Togo's Criminal Code, 13 August 1980, revised April 2000](#)

⁵⁰ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/commit/government-commitments#T>

⁵¹ [CEDAW Reporting Guidelines and Cycle](#)

	<p>Palermo Protocol (ratified by Togo)⁴⁷;</p> <p>CEDAW (ratified 1983)⁴⁸</p>	<p>practices such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation, treated as offences against personal integrity</p> <p>The Palermo Protocol does not explicitly mention “gender-based violence,” but it addresses it indirectly by criminalizing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for exploitation such as sexual exploitation and forced labour.</p> <p>CEDAW obligates the state to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women,</p> <p>Maputo Protocol specifically addresses women's rights to dignity, equality, and freedom from</p>	<p>Togo National Action Plan (2018-2022)⁵²</p>	<p>(UN)</p> <p>Maputo Protocol-State Reporting and oversight⁵³</p>
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⁴⁷ https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en

⁴⁸ CEDAW ratification — Togo (1983): https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW&Lang=en

⁵² [Access Togo National Action Plan \(2018–2022\)](#)

⁵³ [Maputo Protocol – State Reporting & Oversight](#)

	Maputo Protocol ⁴⁹	violence in the African context.		
Türkiye	Constitution (1982) Art. 10 ⁵⁴ ; Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family & Prevention of Violence Against Women (2012) ⁵⁵ ; Implementation Regulation on Law No. 6284 (2013);	Article 10 of the Constitutions provides that all individuals are equal before the law without discrimination, and special measures for vulnerable groups do not violate the principle of equality. The Law defines violence as physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, threats, and pressure. The law establishes a principle-based approach grounded in human rights and gender equality (Art. 1),	Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women constitutes Türkiye's principal legal framework for addressing domestic and gender-based violence. It applies to women, children, family members, and individuals at risk of violence or stalking, and provides for protective and preventive measures including protection orders, removal of the perpetrator from the shared residence, counselling, shelter referral, and temporary financial assistance where required.	Ministry of Family and Social Services: central authority responsible for coordination and implementation of Law No. 6284, including shelters, ŞÖNİM centres, and social protection services. ⁶¹ Criminal Courts: adjudicate offences under the Turkish Penal Code, including assault, sexual violence, threats, and harassment. ⁶²

⁴⁹ [Maputo Protocol — Togo ratification \(among original ratifiers 2005\): https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa](https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa);

⁵⁴ [Constitution OF THE Republic OF Turkey](#)

⁵⁵ [LAW ON Protecting Family AND Preventing Violence against WOMEN - Law No. 6284 Date Of Acceptance](#)

⁶¹ [Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Family and Social Services \(institutional mandate and service structure under Law No. 6284\): https://www.aile.gov.tr/](https://www.aile.gov.tr/)

⁶² [Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Justice \(judicial system structure, Family Courts and Criminal Courts\): https://www.adalet.gov.tr/](https://www.adalet.gov.tr/)

		<p>aiming to provide "a fair, effective and speedy method, based on basic human rights, sensitive to equality of men and women." Protective and Emergency Measures (Art. 4–5): Courts issue restraining orders, communication bans, and orders to vacate shared dwelling. Orders can prevent approach to residence, school, or workplace. Orders may extend to protect the victim's family members and associates. Orders are renewable if violence risk continues; duration depends on continued risk assessment with no fixed expiration date. Victim Support and Compensation (Art. 17): Temporary</p>	<p>Violence is defined broadly to include physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm.⁵⁷</p> <p>Implementation is carried out through Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (ŞÖNİM), which operate across provinces under the Ministry of Family and Social Services and coordinate referral mechanisms, protective measures, and access to support services including shelters and psychosocial assistance.⁵⁸</p> <p>The national response system is supported by the ALO 183 Social Support</p>	<p>Law enforcement authorities: responsible for enforcement of protection orders and emergency response under the national violence prevention framework.⁶³</p> <p>Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK): responsible for judicial appointments, disciplinary oversight, and administration of the judiciary.⁶⁴</p>
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⁵⁷ [Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women, full legislative text](https://dekaum.deu.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/law-6284.pdf)

⁵⁸ [Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Family and Social Services \(institutional framework for ŞÖNİM, shelters, and ALO 183 services\):](https://www.aile.gov.tr/)

⁶³ [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention – framework on protection orders and state enforcement obligations:](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention)

⁶⁴ [Republic of Türkiye, Council of Judges and Prosecutors \(HSK official mandate\):](https://www.hsk.gov.tr/)

	<p>Turkish Penal Code Articles 102 (sexual assault/rape), 103 (sexual abuse of minors), 105 (sexual harassment), 232 (ill-treatment of a member of household)⁵⁶;</p>	<p>financial assistance is provided at the rate of 1/30th of the annual minimum wage (daily basis), plus 20% additional per dependent (maximum 1.5x daily payment). If a victim receives shelter, assistance is reduced by 50%. All payments are exempt from income tax, inheritance tax, transfer tax, and stamp duties. The Ministry of Family & Social Policies administers this fund.</p> <p>Criminalises domestic and sexual violence through a range of offences, including sexual assault, harassment, threats, and intentional injury. Sexual assault carries penalties ranging from 5 to 10 years, with aggravated forms involving penetration attracting a minimum of 12 years' imprisonment.</p>	<p>Line under the Ministry of Family and Social Services, which provides 24/7 counselling and referral services in cases of violence and social assistance needs.² In addition, a mobile application (KADES) forms part of Türkiye's protection framework for gender-based violence, enabling individuals at risk to report incidents and request emergency assistance through security services.⁵⁹</p> <p>Shelter services are provided through a nationwide network of state and municipal facilities operating within the broader protection system established under Law No. 6284. The overall framework operates within Türkiye's broader policy alignment on preventing violence against women as reflected in the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention</p>	
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⁵⁶ [PENAL CODE OF Turkey](#)

⁵⁹ [UNHCR Türkiye Help Portal, "Seeking Help and Reporting – Information and Resources on Protection from Violence."](https://help.unhcr.org/turkiye/services-in-turkiye/information-and-resources-on-protection-from-violence/seeking-help-and-reporting/)

		<p>Killings committed in the name of honour are treated as aggravated homicide and are punishable with aggravated life imprisonment, with no formal recognition of honour as a mitigating defence.</p> <p>Appeal Process: Decisions may be appealed to family court within 2 weeks of notification; the authority for complaints must decide within 1 week. The decision of the authority for complaints is final and non-appealable.</p> <p>Emergency Powers: In cases of immediate danger, law enforcement chiefs may issue emergency protective measures pending judge approval on the next working day. Non-approval results in automatic</p>	<p>framework, although they withdrew from it in July 2021..⁶⁰</p>	
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⁶⁰ [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention – official framework page: https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention)

	Labour Law No. 4857 Art. 74 (maternity leave protections)	termination within 48 hours.		
	Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2026 (Sec. 2–8) ⁶⁵ ; Anti-Rape (Investigation and	Defines domestic abuse; provides protection & residence orders; monetary relief; victim safety plans; enforcement mechanisms;	National Gender Policy Framework, (2018) ⁷⁸ ; Federal Domestic Violence Policy ⁷⁹ ; Provincial Women Protection Policies ⁸⁰ ;	Federal Courts; Police Gender Crime Units; Women Protection Centers ^{84, 85} ; Provincial and special

⁶⁵ https://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/69799f69ae4c4_844.pdf

⁷⁸ <https://www.pc.gov.pk/uploads/report/NGPF.pdf>

⁷⁹ <https://nchr.gov.pk/domestic-violence-policy-brief/>

⁸⁰ <https://ncsw.gov.pk/Detail/OWYxM2U1MWYtZDZlNS00YTA3LWlWOTItNzBhMmZlMDIxNzlj>

⁸⁴ <https://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/complaints-cell/>

⁸⁵ <https://ncsw.gov.pk/Detail/NmM2Y2RmYTAtMWYwNv00MTc4LWFhMzetNjVIN2MwMGNiN2Q2>

<p>Pakistan</p>	<p>Trial)Act, 2021 (Sec. 10–15)⁶⁶; The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2011 (Criminal Law Second Amendment Act, 2011)⁶⁷ The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020⁶⁸ Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act (2016) (Sec. 3–8)⁶⁹; Pakistan Penal Code Sections 354, 354-A, 375–376⁷⁰ The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018⁷¹ Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act</p>	<p>Made amendments in Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to punish perpetrators of acid crimes by clearly including acid crimes in the definition of hurt. Establishes a federal missing persons alert system for children, triggered largely by high-profile cases of violence against girls. Assault with intent to outrage modesty (Sec. 354), sexual assault (Sec. 354-A), and rape/gang rape (Secs. 375–376 as amended)</p>	<p>Victim support programs, Legal aid schemes⁸¹; National Human Rights Action Plan, Awareness campaigns⁸²; FOSPAH policies, Workplace gender guidelines⁸³</p>	<p>courts (including GBV, rape, labour, and criminal courts); Police Women Protection Units^{86, 87}, Gender Crime Units, and cyber police units; Women Protection Authorities and Women Protection Centers; FOSPAH⁸⁸ and Ombudsperson offices⁸⁹; NCCIA investigation wing⁹⁰; forensic laboratories; departmental inquiry committees; victim support centers; and legal</p>
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⁶⁶ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/61aa1d38e9c5d_847.pdf

⁶⁷ https://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1329729326_678.pdf

⁶⁸ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2NpaJhm-sg-ijiiiiiiiiiiii>

⁶⁹ [THE Punjab Protection OF WOMEN against Violence ACT 2016 \(xvi Of 2016\)](https://www.pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Nob50%3D-sg-ijiiiiiiiiiiii)

⁷⁰ <https://www.pakistan.org/pakistan/legislation/1860/actXIVof1860.html>

⁷¹ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Nob50%3D-sg-ijiiiiiiiiiiii>

⁸¹ <https://www.mohr.gov.pk/NewsDetail/NWZkYTdiNTUfNGZiNS00Mjc2LTk3MGQrOGFjYTO0OTljYWFK>

⁸² <https://www.mohr.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/APHR%202020%20PDF.pdf>

⁸³ <https://www.fospah.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/FOSPAH%20Laws%20and%20Rules.PDF>

⁸⁶ https://wdd.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/Referral%20Directory%20SINDH_UNTF_1.pdf

⁸⁷ <https://wcpc.sindhpolice.gov.pk/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.fospah.gov.pk/>

⁸⁹ <https://mohtasibsindh.gov.pk/>, <https://ombudsperson.punjab.gov.pk/>, <https://www.ombudsmankp.gov.pk/>

⁹⁰ <https://complaint.nccia.gov.pk/>

	<p>(2013) (Sec. 3–7)⁷²; the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence against Women (Prevention and Protection Act) (Sec. 2–12)⁷³; Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2014, Balochistan (Sec. 2–10)⁷⁴;</p> <p>The Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honour) Act, (2016) Amended (Sec. 299)⁷⁵;</p> <p>Pakistan Penal Code PPC (1860) (Sec. 509)⁷⁶;</p>	<p>Established strict prison sentences and heavy fines to stop human trafficking, especially of women and children, for forced labor or sex. It also created strong safety nets, giving victims free medical care, legal help, and protection from criminal charges.</p> <p>Fast-track investigation; victim protection; in-camera trials; forensic protocols; child-friendly procedures</p> <p>Domestic Violence Laws (Punjab 2016; Sindh 2013; KP 2021; Balochistan 2014): All provincial laws provide a unified protection framework including protection orders, residence orders,</p>		aid bodies.
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⁷² <https://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh Act No.XX of 2013.pdf>

⁷³ [THE Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence against WOMEN \(prevention AND Protection\) Act, 2021 \(khyber Pakhtunkhwa ACT No. III OF](#)

⁷⁴ [THE BALOCHISTAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE \(PREVENTION AND PROTECTION\) ACT, 2014 Sections Preamble. 1. Short title, extent and commencement](#)

⁷⁵ https://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1475762285_283.pdf

⁷⁶ <https://www.fmu.gov.pk/docs/laws/Pakistan%20Penal%20Code.pdf>

	<p>Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010, amended 2022) (Sec. 2–8)⁷⁷</p>	<p>monetary relief, and victim support services. They collectively establish institutional mechanisms such as district protection committees, women protection authorities, shelters, counseling, and medical/legal assistance services to ensure effective prevention, response, and protection against domestic violence across provinces.</p> <p>Criminalizes honour crimes; non-bailable offences; enhanced punishment; removes compromise in honour killings;</p> <p>Deals with sexual harassment at the workplace or otherwise;</p>		
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⁷⁷ https://www.fospah.gov.pk//SiteImage/Misc/files/PAHAW_amend_2022.pdf

		Prohibits workplace & online harassment; inquiry committees; complaint mechanisms; protection from retaliation		
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THEME 2: Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Legislation	Key Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutional / Relevant Forums
Azerbaijan	<p>No distinct standalone law in Azerbaijan, specifically addressing harmful traditional practices. These issues are addressed through relevant provisions within the Family Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.</p> <p>The Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995) Articles 144.1, 176-1 (as amended)</p>	<p>Child marriage/forced marriage addressed indirectly</p> <p>Criminalizes forced marriage with aggravated penalties where the victim is under 18; treats bride abduction/kidnapping as a criminal offence punishable by 5–10 years imprisonment; prohibits sexual or cohabitation-related acts with persons under 16.</p>	<p>In addition, policy measures such as the Action Plan for Prevention of Sex Selection before Birth supplement the legal framework by targeting specific harmful practices.⁹¹</p> <p>National Action Plan on Gender Equality⁹²</p>	<p>Commissioner for Human Rights; State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs</p>
Bahrain	<p>Penal Code⁹³;</p>	<p>Forced marriage is addressed through general criminal provisions relating to coercion, threats,</p>	<p>National Strategy for Protection of Bahraini Women⁹⁵</p>	<p>Supreme Council for Women</p>

⁹¹<https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/51567-azerbaijan-adopts-action-plan-combat-gender-biased-sex-selection>

⁹²<https://monitoring.gov.az/en/page/data/232>

⁹³[Bahrain Penal Code, 1976 Index General Provisions Part – I Application of the law Part](#)

⁹⁵<https://nwm.unescwa.org/resources/164>

	Law No. 17 of 2015 on Protection from Domestic Violence ⁹⁴	unlawful restraint, and infringement of personal liberty; Provides protection mechanisms against domestic violence within the family, including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse; establishes protection orders, complaint mechanisms, shelters, counselling services, and access to legal aid for victims.		
Benin	Bénin Children Code (Loi n° 2015-08 du 8 décembre 2015 portant Code de l'Enfant en République du Bénin (adopted by the National Assembly on 23 January 2015 and promulgated on 8 December 2015) ⁹⁶ ;	On harmful traditional practices, Article 3 defines key terms including early marriage, forced marriage, and FGM; Article 4 declares every child sacred and inviolable; Article 18(c), the core provision, grants every child the right to protection against harmful traditional practices contrary to the Code; Articles 185–188 (Section IX) explicitly address FGM practiced on children, complementing the standalone Loi n° 2003-03 of 2003 which criminalizes practicing FGM on a	Benin's Child Protection Policy ¹⁰¹ ; Anti-FGM campaigns ¹⁰² Action Plan 2016–2021 on ending child marriage ¹⁰³ Anti-FGM Campaigns (National Programme coordinated by Ministry of Social Affairs and supported by UNICEF and	Juvenile courts; Child protection services; Police National Institute for Women (INF): legal assistance and complaint referral Ministry of Social Affairs: child protection services and community awareness

⁹⁴ [Law No. 17 of 2015 on Protection from Domestic Violence](#)

⁹⁶ [assemblee-nationale.bj – Code de l'enfant \(PDF\)](#)

¹⁰¹ <https://open.unicef.org/sites/transparency/files/2020-06/Benin-TP5-2018.pdf>

¹⁰²

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/protecting-girls-bodies-benin-woman-fighting-female-genital-mutilation-vaccination-preventable-disease>

¹⁰³ [African Union official press release on Benin's launch of the AU Campaign \(16 June 2017\), which explicitly references the Action Plan 2016–2021: au.int – Republic of Benin launches AU Campaign to End Child Marriage](#)

	<p>Penal Code (2018)⁹⁷</p> <p>Article 5 Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (ratified 2005)⁹⁸</p>	<p>minor, aiding a practitioner, and failing to report a planned FGM act.⁹⁹</p> <p>Article 578 of the Penal Code explicitly addresses the forced marriage of a minor as a punishable offence, while Article 524 criminalizes female genital mutilation.¹⁰⁰</p> <p>It calls on states to abolish harmful cultural and traditional practices such as female genital mutilation that violate the rights, health, and dignity of women.</p>	<p>NGOs)</p>	<p>UNICEF Benin: anti-FGM and child marriage programming</p>
<p>Burkina Faso</p>	<p>The Penal Code of Burkina Faso (Art. 376, 380–382)^{104, 105};</p>	<p>Art. 376: Criminalizes forced marriage and coercion into marriage; Arts. 380–382: Criminalizes female genital mutilation (FGM) and provides penalties for perpetrators,</p>	<p>National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (2016-2025)¹⁰⁸;</p> <p>The National Committee to Fight the Practice of</p>	<p>Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action; Police and Gendarmerie; Criminal courts; Community</p>

⁹⁷ [le-nouveau-code-penal-2018.pdf](#)

⁹⁸ [Maputo Protocol full text and Benin ratification: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/WG/ProtocolontheRightsofWomen.pdf; https://soawr.org/protocol_watch/benin/](#)

⁹⁹ [assemblee-nationale.bj – Code de l'enfant \(PDF\)](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Republique DU Benin, Fraternite – Justice - Travail, & Assemblée Nationale. \(2018\)le-nouveau-code-penal-2018.pdf](#)

¹⁰⁴ [https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/zjc3em/pdf](#)

¹⁰⁵

[https://www.fgmcri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Burkina%20Faso/burkina_faso_la_w_report_v3 \(september 2024\).pdf](#)

¹⁰⁸[https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/en/learning-resources/resource-centre/national-strategy-ending-child-marriage-burkina-faso-2016-2025/](#)

	Persons and Family Code (Art. 232, 234, 246, 684) ^{106,107} ;	Art. 232: Requires free and full consent for marriage; Art. 234: Prohibits forced marriage and unions imposed by family or customary practices; Art. 246: Establishes a 300-day waiting period before remarriage after divorce or widowhood; Art. 684: Provides maintenance (food and housing) for widows during the 300-day period.	FGM ¹⁰⁹ ; UNFPA–UNI CEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation ¹¹⁰ ;	Protection Mechanisms; NGOs
Senegal	Law No. 99-05 prohibiting FGM ¹¹¹ ; Senegal Family Code, article 111, 1989 ¹¹² Constitution of Senegalese Art.	Criminalized FGM resulting imprisonment for 6 months to 5 years ¹¹⁴ The Family Code sets the minimum age at 16 for girls and 18 for boys, but exceptions allow earlier marriage with parental and presidential consent ¹¹⁵ Forced marriage is a violation of individual liberty. It is forbidden	The National Strategy for the Elimination of FGM (2022-2030) ¹¹⁶ ; Cellule d'Appui à l'Enfance (CAPE) ¹¹⁷ [“Child Support Unit”] National Agenda for Girls (2021–2025),	Police; Courts; Child protection services, NGO’s. The Constitutional Council, Supreme Court

¹⁰⁶https://www.humandignitytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/DECRET_N%C2%B02025_1232_PF_CPF_1_.pdf

¹⁰⁷https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2015/12/07/bfa104914.fe_.pdf

¹⁰⁹

<https://copfgm.org/what-is-the-situation-in-burkina-faso/#:~:text=History%20of%20the%20anti%2DFGM,enforcement%20officials%20and%20the%20judiciary.>

¹¹⁰<https://www.unfpa.org/unfpa-unicef-joint-programme-elimination-female-genital-mutilation>

¹¹¹[99-01-29 Amendment of the Penal Code - Prohibition of female genital mutilation](https://www.unicef.org/media/177406/file/Senegal%20Country%20Brief.pdf)

¹¹²<https://www.unicef.org/media/177406/file/Senegal%20Country%20Brief.pdf>

¹¹⁴[Female Genital Mutilation Continues In Senegal - Foreign Policy Association](https://share.google/vIKyA2SKaovqqDsXc)

<https://share.google/vIKyA2SKaovqqDsXc>

¹¹⁵<https://www.unicef.org/media/177406/file/Senegal%20Country%20Brief.pdf>

¹¹⁶<https://www.unicef.org/media/146231/file/Senegal.pdf>

¹¹⁷

<https://www.vie-publique.sn/docs/84153e72-3640-4bad-8a25-962488d1b6ef/rapport-annuel-2025-cellule-appui-protecti-on-enfance-cape.pdf>

	18 ¹¹³	and punished within the conditions established by the law.	National Child Protection Strategy (2013). For child marriage, National Plan Against Child Marriage was developed in 2023 ^{118 119}	
Togo	Loi n° 98-016 du 17 novembre 1998 ¹²⁰ The Code de l'Enfant 2007 (Loi n° 2007-017) ¹²¹	Article 1-5 bans all forms of FGM, criminalises anyone who performs, procures or promotes it (2 months–5 years imprisonment and fines of 100,000–1,000,000 CFA francs), increases the penalty to 5–10 years if death results, and obliges all persons to report known or planned FGM to authorities. Reinforces these FGM penalties under Articles 362–364 and additionally prohibits child marriage (Art. 267,	National Action Plan to End Child Marriage ¹²³ ; National Agricultural Development Program (PNIASA) ¹²⁴ Anti-FGM campaigns ¹²⁵	Juvenile courts; Child protection services; Police, Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry for Women's Promotion; rural development NGOs National FGM Elimination Strategy (UNICEF-supported): converts traditional circumcisers to economic development agents through loans and training; reduced FGM prevalence from

¹¹³ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sen128391E.pdf>

¹¹⁸ [Girls Not Brides, 'Senegal', www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/senegal/](https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/senegal/)

¹¹⁹ www.ohchr.org/en/news/2024/01/experts-committee-rights-child-welcomesenegals-initiatives-promoting-birth.

¹²⁰ [orchidproject.org – full analysis](https://orchidproject.org)

¹²¹ [scorecard.prb.org – Code de l'Enfant 2007 \(PDF\)](https://scorecard.prb.org)

¹²³

<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/en/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/togo/#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20minimum%20legal>

¹²⁴ FAO — Togo National Agricultural Investment Program (PNIASA) —

<https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=TGO>

¹²⁵ [https://www.fgmcri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Togo/togo_short_report_v1_\(march_2020\).pdf](https://www.fgmcri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Togo/togo_short_report_v1_(march_2020).pdf)

		<p>minimum age 18) with 1–3 years imprisonment for anyone who coerces a child into marriage (Art. 273).</p> <p>Significantly raised FGM penalties to 5–10 years imprisonment and fines of 5–25 million CFA francs (Arts. 220–221), increasing to 20–30 years if death results, and extended extraterritorial jurisdiction to Togolese citizens committing FGM abroad.</p>		<p>12% (1996) to 0.2% (2012) one of Africa's most successful FGM reduction programme¹²⁶</p>
	<p>The nouveau Code Pénal 2015 (Loi n° 2015-010)¹²²</p> <p>Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Art. 5)</p>	<p>It calls on states to abolish harmful cultural and traditional practices such as female genital mutilation that violate the rights, health, and dignity of women.</p>		
Türkiye	<p>Turkish Penal Code (2004)¹²⁷; Family Law provisions; Law</p>	<p>Child Marriage: The minimum marriage age is 18</p>	<p>Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention</p>	<p>Family Courts (marriage/divorce proceedings; enforcement of minimum age requirements),¹⁴¹</p>

¹²² [Policing Law Info — full text PDF: policinglaw.info – Code Pénal du Togo 2015](#)

¹²⁶ FGM elimination programme (12% to 0.2%): Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 238: <https://www.afrobarometer.org/publication/ad238-togolese-express-tolerance-toward-most-minorities-and-support-for-gender-equality/>; FGM country report: [https://www.fgmeri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Togo/togo_short_report_v1_\(march_2020\).pdf](https://www.fgmeri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Togo/togo_short_report_v1_(march_2020).pdf)

¹²⁷ [Turkish Penal Code \(Law No. 5237\), Article 82 on honour-motivated killing as aggravated homicide. Available at https://scholarlycommons.law.emory.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1130&context=eilr](https://scholarlycommons.law.emory.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1130&context=eilr)

¹⁴¹ [Campaign for Justice - Musawah, "Turkey," documenting Law No. 6284 \(2012\) on protective and preventive measures enforced by Family Courts, available at https://campaignforjustice.musawah.org/repository/turkey/](https://campaignforjustice.musawah.org/repository/turkey/)

	No. 6284 (covers forced marriage as form of violence)	years. ¹²⁸ Exceptions are permitted under parental consent at age 17 and judicial discretion at age 16 in limited circumstances, though these are rare in practice. ¹²⁹ Violations are subject to family law penalties and potential criminal liability. ¹³⁰ Forced Marriage: Forced marriage is not specifically criminalized under Turkish law, but is prosecuted under Turkish Penal Code provisions on human trafficking (Article 80), threat (Article 106), and child	of Violence Against Women (2012) establishes Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (ŞÖNİM) throughout the country that provide shelters, protective orders, and victim support services. ¹³⁸ Fourth National Action Plan on	Criminal Courts (honour killings and forced marriage prosecution), ¹⁴² Police (investigation and victim support), ¹⁴³ Ministry of Family & Social Services. ¹⁴⁴
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¹²⁸ Turkish Civil Code (Law No. 4733). Human Rights Watch, "Combatting Domestic Violence in Turkey: The Deadly Impact of Failure to Protect," May 26, 2022, detailing police roles and investigation procedures under Law No. 6284 (2012), available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/26/combating-domestic-violence-turkey/deadly-impact-failure-protect> (4721), Book II, Section II, Article 124(1). Official Turkish statute, Access: WIPO Lex database at <https://wipo.lex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/20373>; or Turkish Official Gazette (Resmi Gazete) at <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/>

¹²⁹ Turkish Civil Code, Article 124(2)-(3); <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2531-6133/10967>; UNICEF Türkiye, "Child Marriage," <https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/child-marriage>; Girls Not Brides, "Turkey Country Profile," <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/turkey/>

¹³⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Türkiye, "Marriage and Divorce" guidance page; Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237), Articles 101-105 on child abuse provisions. ←

¹³⁸ Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women (2012). UN sources documenting protective mechanisms: UN Women Türkiye, "Law No. 6284 Implementation Guide," (2024), available at <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/07/implementation-guide-law-no-6284>; UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "Information Provided by Turkey related to Investigation and Prosecution," which details Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (ŞÖNİM), shelters, and protective measures established under Law No. 6284 Article 14, available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/IEGM_GRK_BKK/Turkey_updated_reply_for_publication.pdf; UN Women Türkiye, "Ending Violence Against Women and Girls," available at <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/turkey/ending-violence-against-women> ←

¹⁴² "Honor Killings in Turkey: A Glance," Academia.edu, documenting Turkish Penal Code prosecution of honour killings (Article 82) and related criminal procedures in Criminal Courts, available at https://www.academia.edu/35304472/Honor_Killings_in_Turkey_A_Glance ←

¹⁴³ Human Rights Watch, "Combatting Domestic Violence in Turkey: The Deadly Impact of Failure to Protect," May 26, 2022, detailing police roles and investigation procedures under Law No. 6284 (2012), available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/26/combating-domestic-violence-turkey/deadly-impact-failure-protect> ←

¹⁴⁴ Republic of Türkiye government official structure and Ministry mandate. Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Aile, Çalışma ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı) website: <https://www.aile.gov.tr/>; specifically the General Directorate on Status of Women (Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü); Öcal Apaydın & Maviş (2020), pp. 41-45. ←

		<p>molestation (Article 103).¹³¹It is defined as coercion into marriage through physical force, threat, economic pressure, or psychological manipulation.¹³² The prohibition applies equally regardless of gender.¹³³ <i>Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2002)5</i> and international standards (CEDAW GR 35) call for <i>explicit</i> criminalization of forced marriage as a standalone offence.</p> <p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): There is no specific criminalization of FGM in Turkish law.</p>	<p>Combating Violence Against Women (2021–2025).¹³⁹ awareness campaigns against harmful practices, particularly honour-based violence; child protection initiatives coordinated through the Ministry of Family & Social Services.¹⁴⁰</p>	
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¹³¹ Bahar Öcal Apaydın & Volkan Maviş, "The Unacceptable Spectre of Under-Aged Forced Marriage in Turkey," *University of Bologna Law Review*, Volume 5, Issue 1 (2020), pp. 50, 54-57 Available at DOI <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2531-6133/10967> ↵

¹³² Bahar Öcal Apaydın & Volkan Maviş, "The Unacceptable Spectre of Under-Aged Forced Marriage in Turkey," *University of Bologna Law Review*, Volume 5, Issue 1 (2020), pp. 32-37. Available at DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2531-6133/10967> ↵

¹³³Bahar Öcal Apaydın & Volkan Maviş, "The Unacceptable Spectre of Under-Aged Forced Marriage in Turkey," *University of Bologna Law Review*, Volume 5, Issue 1 (2020), p. 34, discussing Turkish Civil Code provisions on marriage definition and gender-neutral coercion provisions under Turkish Penal Code Article 80. Available at DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2531-6133/10967> ↵

¹³⁹ Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women (2012). UN sources documenting protective mechanisms: UN Women Türkiye, "Law No. 6284 Implementation Guide," (2024), available at <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/07/implementation-guide-law-no-6284>; UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "Information Provided by Turkey related to Investigation and Prosecution," which details Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (ŞÖNİM), shelters, and protective measures established under Law No. 6284 Article 14, available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/IEGM_GRK_BKK/Turkey_updated_reply_for_publication.pdf; UN Women Türkiye, "Ending Violence Against Women and Girls," available at <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/turkey/ending-violence-against-women> ↵

¹⁴⁰ UN Women Türkiye, programming documentation; Ministry of Family & Social Services, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Programming; General Directorate on Status of Women (Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü), "National Action Plan and Strategy Document on Combating Early and Forced Marriage (2018-2023)"; ECPAT International, "Combating Child Sexual Exploitation in Tourism in Turkey," report (2018); Bahar Öcal Apaydın & Volkan Maviş (2020), pp. 46-57. ↵

		<p>FGM is not documented as a practice in Türkiye; therefore, no dedicated legal prohibition exists.¹³⁴ General provisions on assault and bodily harm under the Penal Code could theoretically apply if the practice occurred.¹³⁵</p> <p>Honour Killings: Honour killings are explicitly criminalized and treated as aggravated homicide under the Penal Code.¹³⁶ "Honour" is not recognized as a mitigating factor or legal defence. Enhanced penalties apply to such offences.¹³⁷</p>		
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¹³⁴ UNICEF, "Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Prevalence Data," available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>; World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), "Elimination of FGM: A Guideline on Responding to Programmes with Evidence of Female Genital Mutilation," WHO Press (2016), available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241549646>; Wikipedia article "Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation" notes no documented prevalence in Türkiye. ↩

¹³⁵ Turkish Penal Code, Articles 86-87 on intentional injury and aggravated assault. Available at <https://www.lewik.org/term/14664/intentional-injury-article-86-penal-code-of-turkey/> ↩

¹³⁶ Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237), <https://scholarlycommons.law.emory.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1130&context=eilr> ↩

¹³⁷ Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237), https://www.unodc.org/uploads/icsant/documents/Legislation/Turkey/Turkey_Criminal_Code_Law_No._5237_2004.pdf ↩

<p>Pakistan</p>	<p>The Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011 (Sec. 1–5; inserts Sections 498-A, 498-B, 498-C, 498-D PPC)¹⁴⁵</p> <p>Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2025¹⁴⁶;</p> <p>The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act,</p>	<p>Criminalizes “swara” (forced marriage as compensation), “vani” (compensation involving a woman), “watta satta” (exchange of wives), and “atta” (betrothal of a young girl to the Quran); penalties include imprisonment for up to three years and a fine; these offenses are not eligible for bail; compensation is provided for victims;</p> <p>Minimum marriage age is fixed at 18 for both genders; no marriage below 18 permitted; Nikah registrar barred from registering underage marriages; parents/guardians and facilitators liable to 2–3 years imprisonment and fine; offences are</p>	<p>National Action Plan on Human Rights¹⁵⁴; Pakistan National Strategy to End Early Marriages¹⁵⁵; Policy Brief on Child Marriage Elimination Strategies¹⁵⁶; School-based awareness programs¹⁵⁷; Community engagement initiatives¹⁵⁸.</p>	<p>NCRC¹⁵⁹: investigation for complaints against child rights violations; District Courts; Criminal Courts; Police Investigation Units; Ombudsperson Offices; Legal Aid Organizations; Community Leaders.</p>
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¹⁴⁵ https://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1463738605_158.pdf

¹⁴⁶ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Npa5tIzG%3D%3D-sg-iiiiiiiiiiiiii>

¹⁵⁴ <https://globalnaps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NAP-Pakistan-2021-2026-English.pdf>

¹⁵⁵

https://www.asiapacificalliance.org/application/files/7515/5963/8755/YAD_Pakistan_National_Strategy_to_End_Child_Marriages_2017.pdf

¹⁵⁶

<https://ncrc.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Policy-Brief-The-Legal-Framework-for-Child-Marriage-in-Pakistan.pdf>

¹⁵⁷

<https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/press-releases/unicef-launches-child-marriage-campaign-national-ambassador-saba-qamar>

¹⁵⁸

<https://www.pathfinder.org/impact-stories/a-wedding-invitation-you-cant-accept-pathfinders-campaign-against-child-marriage-in-pakistan/>

¹⁵⁹ <https://ncrc.gov.pk/>

	<p>1992¹⁴⁷ The Punjab Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1992¹⁴⁸</p> <p>Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2026.¹⁴⁹</p> <p>Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013 (Sec. 2–8)¹⁵⁰;</p>	<p>cognizable and non-bailable; courts may issue injunctions to prevent child marriages.</p> <p>Bans all forced labour in Pakistan and wipes out the unfair debts used to trap workers.</p> <p>Raises minimum marriage age to 18 with no exceptions; enhanced penalties for parents/guardians up to 5 years imprisonment; mandatory registration requirements; District Protection Committees for enforcement;</p> <p>Minimum marriage age 18 for both genders; registration mandatory through Tehsildar; parental violations punishable by imprisonment and fine; protects girls’ educational rights; victim support measures;</p> <p>Criminalizes Ghag (forcible claiming of a woman for marriage without consent); punishment of imprisonment</p>		
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¹⁴⁷ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apmYag%3D%3D-sg-iiiiiiiiiiiiii>

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.punjablaws.gov.pk/lawspdf/1797a.pdf>

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.punjablaws.gov.pk/GazetteNotifications/223059.pdf>

¹⁵⁰

<https://wdd.sindh.gov.pk/files/wdd/THE%20SINDH%20CHILD%20MARRIAGES%20RESTRAINT%20ACT%2C%202013.pdf>

	<p>KPK Elimination of Custom of Ghag Act, 2013 (Sec. 1–8)¹⁵¹;</p> <p>The Dowry and Bridal Gift (Restriction) Act, 1976¹⁵², as amended in 2016 (Sec. 2–4)¹⁵³;</p>	<p>from 7–14 years; protects women’s right to choice; victim protection orders and relocation support available;</p> <p>Restricts dowry, bridal gifts, and wedding expenses to reduce financial burden; legal limits on gifts; violations subject to penalties though enforcement remains weak; protects women from economic exploitation in marriage.</p>		
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<https://www.pakp.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/The-Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa-Elimination-of-Custom-of-Ghag-Act-2013-Act-No-II-2013.pdf>

¹⁵² <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-bpuUY2Rp-sg-iiiiiiiiiiii>

¹⁵³ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1456287622_682.pdf

THEME 3: Reproductive and Maternal Health Rights

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Legislation	Key Provisions	Policies / Program	Institutional / Relevant Forums
Azerbaijan	<p>Law on Protection of Public Health (1997, as amended) Articles 17, 30–32¹⁶⁰;</p> <p>Labour Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan Articles 79, 117, 125–126, 242–245 (consolidated provisions)¹⁶¹;</p>	<p>Guarantees women’s access to healthcare services, including free maternal care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum period; regulates abortion (up to 12 weeks on request, up to 22 weeks for social reasons, and at any stage for medical reasons); provides framework for medical sterilization and regulated reproductive procedures; defines primary healthcare including maternal and child health services;</p> <p>Guarantees 126 days of paid maternity leave (70 days pre-natal, 56 days post-natal) with extension for complications or multiple births; provides</p>	State Program on Mother & Child Health ¹⁶²	<p>Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman);</p> <p>Ministry of Health;</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population;</p> <p>Labour Inspection Authorities;</p> <p>Public Hospitals;</p> <p>Primary healthcare Centers;</p>

¹⁶⁰ <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=5809>

¹⁶¹ <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/54131/AZE-54131.pdf>

¹⁶² <https://family.gov.az/en>

		additional paid leave for mothers based on number of children or disability status; ensures paid nursing breaks for mothers with children under 1.5 years; restricts employment of women in hazardous or physically demanding work; protects pregnant women and mothers of young children from night work, overtime, and weekend duties without consent; prohibits termination of employment for pregnant women and mothers of children under 3 except in limited lawful cases;		
Bahrain	Law No. 34 of 2018 ¹⁶³ ; Law No. 36 of 2012 Promulgating The Labour Law For The Private	Guarantees maternal healthcare and maternal health services for women and children; 60 days paid maternity leave; nursing breaks; protection from	National Health Plan ¹⁶⁷ ; Mother and Child Health and Reproductive ¹⁶⁸ National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2025–2026) ¹⁶⁹	National Health Regulatory Authority ¹⁷² ; Supreme Council for Women ¹⁷³ Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) ¹⁷⁴ —

¹⁶³ <https://ampeid.org/documents/bahrain/law-no-34-of-2018-promulgating-the-public-health-law/>

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.sch.org.bh/images/documents/publications/National%20Health%20Plan%202016-2025.pdf>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.moh.gov.bh/Services/MC?lang=en>

¹⁶⁹ [includes maternal and reproductive health pillar](#)

¹⁷² [National Health Regulatory Authority Bahrain](#)

¹⁷³ <https://www.scw.bh/>

¹⁷⁴ [Social Insurance Organization | Kingdom of Bahrain](#)

	<p>Sector¹⁶⁴;</p> <p>Law Decree No 48/2010 Promulgating Civil Service Law¹⁶⁵;</p> <p>Civil Service Instructions No. 4 of 2020¹⁶⁶</p>	<p>dismissal during maternity leave;</p> <p>Maternity leave and employment protections for women in public sector service;</p> <p>Implementation of work-from-home policy for employees of government entities, with priority for pregnant employees and employees eligible for childcare hours.</p>	<p>Prenatal Screening Programme (Ministry of Health)¹⁷⁰</p> <p>25+ primary health centres providing free maternal and child services to all citizens and residents¹⁷¹</p>	<p>administers maternity-related social insurance benefits¹⁷⁵;</p> <p>Ministry of Social Development — Family Guidance Department¹⁷⁶</p>
Benin	<p>Law N°2021-11¹⁷⁷</p>	<p>Article 17, 17-1, 17-2 and Article 19 provides for 14 weeks paid maternity leave (6 pre-natal, 8 post-natal); extendable 4 weeks for complications or multiple births; full salary during leave funded by employer and CNSS; prenatal and birth allowances</p>	<p>National Reproductive Health Program¹⁷⁹;</p> <p>Maternal & Child Health Programs¹⁸⁰</p> <p>National Reproductive Health Programme (PNSR, UNFPA-supported)¹⁸¹</p>	<p>Ministry of Health; Courts (medical negligence)</p> <p>Public hospitals and primary health centres</p>

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.lmra.gov.bh/files/cms/shared/file/labour%20law.pdf>

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.csb.gov.bh/En/CSB-Legislations/CSB-Law/Law48-2010>

¹⁶⁶ [regarding the implementation of the work-from-home policy for employees of government entities, prioritizing pregnant employees, employees eligible for childcare hours etc.](#)

¹⁷⁰ [provides reproductive health counselling, family planning guidance and blood disorder screening free of charge](#)

¹⁷¹ [Kingdom of Bahrain, Women's Portal — Maternal and Child Health](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Bahrain introduces social insurance pension reforms - Lockton Global Benefits | Lockton](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Ministry Social Development](#)

¹⁷⁷ <https://soawr.org/2021/10/22/benins-national-assembly-adopts-two-laws-on-the-rights-of-women/>

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.unfpa.org/data/transparency-portal/unfpa-benin>

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.moh.gov.bh/Services/MC?lang=en>

¹⁸¹ UNFPA Benin National Reproductive Health Programme:

<https://www.unfpa.org/data/transparency-portal/unfpa-benin>

		paid by CNSS to employed women and spouses of employed men; dismissal of pregnant employees prohibited, violation incurs 12 months' salary in damages; nursing breaks for breastfeeding mothers; paternity leave 3–5 days. ¹⁷⁸		
Burkina Faso	<p>Constitution of Burkina Faso (Art. 18)¹⁸²;</p> <p>Public Health Code of Burkina Faso¹⁸³;</p> <p>Labour Code of Burkina Faso (Sec. 70, 93, 145–147, 158)¹⁸⁴;</p>	<p>Recognizes health, protection of motherhood and childhood, and social security as fundamental rights;</p> <p>Provides the legal framework for maternal and reproductive healthcare services, including access to maternal care, family planning, and public health service delivery;</p> <p>Prohibits inquiry into pregnancy during recruitment; guarantees at least 14 weeks of</p>	<p>National Health Development Plan; Reproductive Health Strategy; National User Fee Exemption Policy (2016)¹⁸⁸; EngenderHealth programs¹⁸⁹; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa¹⁹⁰; Plan National De Développement Sanitaire (PNDS)¹⁹¹; Family Planning Programs¹⁹²</p>	<p>Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso; public hospitals; maternal health clinics; social security institutions.</p>

¹⁷⁸ maternity provisions: <https://globalpeoplestrategist.com/benin/>;
<https://remotepeople.com/countries/benin/employee-benefits/>

¹⁸² <https://www.gfmer.ch/srr/Burkina-Faso.htm>

¹⁸³ <https://ampeid.org/documents/burkina-faso/law-no-23-94-adp-on-the-public-health-code/>

¹⁸⁴ <https://clr.org.pk/labour-rights-index/2024/burkina-faso/>

¹⁸⁸ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8296726/>

¹⁸⁹ <https://www.engenderhealth.org/country/burkina-faso>

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.gfmer.ch/srr/Burkina-Faso.htm>

¹⁹¹ http://staging1_countdown2030.org/country-collaborations/burkina-faso-countdown-country-collaboration

¹⁹² <https://www.fp2030.org/commitment-maker/burkina-faso/>

	<p>Social Security Regime Law No. 004-2021 (Sec. 46–50)¹⁸⁵;</p> <p>Penal Code of Burkina Faso (Art. 383, 386–387)^{186,187}</p>	<p>maternity leave; protects against dismissal due to pregnancy;</p> <p>Provides maternity cash benefits of at least two-thirds of prior wages through a contributory system;</p> <p>Prohibits abortion with limited exceptions (rape/incest or therapeutic necessity) and criminalizes unlawful abortion and related act.</p>		
Senegal	<p>Senegal Penal Code (abortion provisions)¹⁹³</p> <p>1973 Law no. 73-37 of 31 July (on the Social Security Code)¹⁹⁴</p>	<p>Provides maternal healthcare; abortion highly restricted.</p> <p>Paid Maternity leaves for 14 weeks or (six weeks before and eight weeks after the expected date of childbirth). May be extended by three weeks if</p>	<p>National Health and Social Development Plan (2019-2028)¹⁹⁷; Family Planning Programs.¹⁹⁸</p> <p>Cash maternity benefits (social insurance) program.</p> <p>Keur Djiguene Yi Center, VOICES Health</p>	<p>Health facilities; Ministry of Health, NGO’s, Réseau Siggil Jigéen²⁰³, Deliver for good Senegal²⁰⁴</p> <p>Ministry of Public Function, Labour, Employment, and Professional Organizations²⁰⁵</p>

¹⁸⁵ <https://clr.org.pk/labour-rights-index/2024/burkina-faso/>

¹⁸⁶ <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/zjc3em/pdf>

¹⁸⁷ <https://www.gfiner.ch/srr/Burkina-Faso.htm>

¹⁹³ <https://learningpartnership.org/resource/penal-code-senegal-document-french>

¹⁹⁴ https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/r/natlex/fe/details?p3_isn=15670

¹⁹⁷ <https://p4h.world/en/documents/national-health-and-social-development-plan-2019-2028/>

¹⁹⁸ <https://www.fp2030.org/commitment-maker/senegal/>

²⁰³ <https://siggiljigeen.wordpress.com/anglais/>

²⁰⁴

<https://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/news/senegal-reproductive-health-services-for-those-who-can-least-afford-it-and-fighting-for-gender-equality-and-womens-rights/>

²⁰⁵ <https://fonctionpublique.gouv.sn/>

	<p>The Maputo Protocol¹⁹⁵</p>	<p>there are complications arising from pregnancy or childbirth¹⁹⁶</p> <p>Senegalese women’s reproductive health to be a “universal human right” that must be protected.</p>	<p>Program¹⁹⁹, Le Korsa²⁰⁰, Bajenu Gox Project²⁰¹, Neema Project²⁰²</p>	
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¹⁹⁵ <https://borgenproject.org/how-young-women-in-senegal-are-gaining-reproductive-maternal-healthcare/#:~:text=The%20Maputo%20Protocol,over%20the%20age%20of%2015>.

¹⁹⁶ <https://www.issa.int/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07/Senegal.pdf>

¹⁹⁹ https://www.e3n-generations.fr/sites/default/files/inline-files/2.4.1_Voices_Orange%20Healthcare_e-tools.pdf

²⁰⁰ <https://www.aflk.org/>

²⁰¹

<https://borgenproject.org/how-young-women-in-senegal-are-gaining-reproductive-maternal-healthcare/#:~:text=The%20Maputo%20Protocol,over%20the%20age%20of%2015>.

²⁰² <https://www.intrahealth.org/projects/neema>

Togo	<p>Law No. 2007-005 on Reproductive Health ²⁰⁶;</p> <p>Togo also provides 14 weeks of maternity leave.²⁰⁷ (the relevant law not found)</p>	<p>Law No. 2007-005 on Reproductive Health of Togo guarantees access to reproductive health services and information (Art. 5), ensures women's autonomy to make free and informed decisions on sexuality and reproduction (Art. 6), and protects against coercion including forced or early marriage and other practices affecting reproductive rights (Art. 11).</p>	<p>National Health Development Plan²⁰⁸; Maternal & Child Health Programs²⁰⁹</p>	<p>Health facilities ; Ministry of Health</p>
Türkiye	<p>Law No. 2827 of 1983 Population Planning Law²¹⁰; the Fundamental Law on Health Services (Law No. 3359)²¹¹; Labour Act of Turkey Law No.4857-Article 74 (maternity/paternity</p>	<p>Abortion is permitted up to 10 weeks of gestation without restriction as to reason ²¹⁴</p> <p>Later termination is allowed up to 20 weeks in cases of pregnancy</p>	<p>Maternal health programs²²²; Family planning services²²³</p>	<p>Ministry of Health (policy and service delivery); Social Security Institution (SGK) – maternity benefit</p>

²⁰⁶

<https://www.figo.org/news/reform-frameworks-sexual-and-reproductive-health-regional-dynamic-between-togo-cameroon-and#:~:text=A%20context%20marked%20by%20persistent,with%20the%20commitment%20of%20SGOT.>

²⁰⁷ <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/more-120-nations-provide-paid-maternity-leave>

²⁰⁸ <https://integratehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FY26-Q1-Integrate-Health-Quarterly-Report.pdf>

²⁰⁹ <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/824431468305087652>

²¹⁰ <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/1983/74410>

²¹¹ Fundamental Law on Health Services (Law No. 3359) and Public Health Law provisions on healthcare service delivery and public health functions. Referenced in multiple sources as primary legislation governing health service organization in Turkey. ↵

²¹⁴ Law No. 2827 (1983), Section 5. Confirmed by: ScienceDirect article (cited above); AbortionData.org; Khas University Gender Studies Center, "Abortion Services at Public Hospitals in Turkey - 2020," <https://gender.khas.edu.tr/sites/gender.khas.edu.tr/files/inline-files/Abortion-Report-2020-ENG-new.pdf> ↵

²²²

<https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-27-2021/volume-27-issue-2/mother-friendly-hospital-programme-of-turkey-national-intervention-to-improve-the-quality-of-maternity-services.html>

²²³ <https://ilkerkahramanoglu.com/en/specialties/family-planning-turkey/>

	<p>provisions)²¹²; Public Health Law; Social Security Law (SGK coverage)²¹³</p>	<p>resulting from criminal acts, and without gestational limit when the pregnant person's life is at risk or in cases of severe fetal anomaly.²¹⁵</p> <p>Medical provider discretion applies; no waiting periods are mandated. Access is available through state hospitals and registered private providers.²¹⁶</p> <p>Maternity Leave: Women are entitled to 16 weeks of paid maternity leave (8 weeks pre-natal, 8 weeks post-natal). This is extendable to 18 weeks for multiple or complicated pregnancies. Women may work until 3 weeks before the due date if health permits; remaining leave shifts to the post-birth period. Compensation is provided by the Social Security Institution (SGK) at 66.7% of the average daily wage throughout the leave period.</p>		<p>administration and healthcare coverage; State hospitals and health centres; Private registered hospitals; Labour inspectorates (enforcement of workplace protections) </p>
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²¹² Labour Law No. 4857 of 22 May 2003 (Türk İş Kanunu), Article 74 on maternity and paternity leave provisions. Available at: ILO NATLEX database,

<https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083%20English.pdf>; Confirmed by: Kılınç Hukuk & Danışmanlık, "4857 Numbered Labor Law In Terms Of Maternity Leave Of Workers," <https://kilinclaw.com.tr/en/4857-numbered-labor-law-in-terms-of-maternity-leave-of-workers/> ↔

²¹³ Social Security Law (Sosyal Sigortalar Kanunu) No. 5510 of 16 June 2006, establishing SGK (Social Security Institution) and General Health Insurance coverage. Available at:

<http://turkishlaborlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/social-security-law-5510.pdf> ↔

²¹⁵ Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237), Article 99(6) and Law No. 2827, Section 5. Confirmed by: Oxford Academic, "right to terminate pregnancy (abortion): reflections from Turkey" (2023), <https://academic.oup.com/jlb/article/10/2/lsad023/7259192>; Khas University, "Legal But Not Necessarily Available: Abortion Services at State Hospitals in Turkey," <https://gender.khas.edu.tr/en/legal-not-necessarily-available-abortion-services-state-hospitals-turkey> ↔

²¹⁶ Khas University Gender Studies Center; Khas University, "Legal But Not Necessarily Available: Abortion Services at State Hospitals in Turkey," <https://gender.khas.edu.tr/en/legal-not-necessarily-available-abortion-services-state-hospitals-turkey> ↔

		<p>Extended Parental Leave: Up to 6 months of unpaid leave is available after paid maternity leave ends under Article 74, Paragraph 2 of Labour Law No. 4857.²¹⁷</p> <p>The employee must request in writing; the employer must approve if notice is given 1 month in advance. Otherwise, the employee may unilaterally notify and take leave. Unpaid leave does not count toward annual leave entitlements.</p> <p>Breastfeeding Protections: Mothers of children under 1 year are entitled to 1.5 hours per day of paid nursing breaks upon return to work.²¹⁸ Timing and distribution of breaks are determined by the employee. These hours count against daily working hours (paid time).</p> <p>Paternity Leave: As of 2025, fathers are entitled to 10 days of fully paid paternity leave.²¹⁹ Leave begins at childbirth and is fully paid by the employer. Both private sector and</p>		
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²¹⁷ Labour Law No. 4857, Article 74, Paragraph 2. Available at: ILO NATLEX database, <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083%20English.pdf> ↵

²¹⁸ Labour Law No. 4857, Supplementary Article 5 on nursing breaks (Emzirme İzni). Available at: ILO NATLEX database, <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083%20English.pdf> ↵

²¹⁹ Paternity leave extended to 10 days as of 2025. Daily Sabah, "Turkish Parliament approves bill extending maternity leave," <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/legislation/turkish-parliament-approves-bill-extending-maternity-leave/amp>

		<p>civil service employees are eligible. The provision also applies to adoptive fathers.</p> <p>Parental Work Flexibility: Both parents are eligible to work part-time or reduced hours following maternity leave. Under Article 74, Paragraph 2 of Labour Law No. 4857, reduced hours are available: 60 days for the first birth, 120 days for the second birth, and 180 days for subsequent births.²²⁰</p> <p>This requires written notice to the employer at least 1 month in advance. This arrangement is common in practice. For children with disabilities, the period extends to 360 days.²²¹</p> <p>Family Planning Access: Contraceptive methods, reproductive health counselling, and family planning services are available through Ministry of Health facilities. Services are covered by social security for eligible persons.</p>		
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²²⁰ Labour Law No. 4857, Article 74, Paragraph 2. Library of Congress, "Turkey: Legislation Adopted on Part-Time Work Option for Working Mothers," Global Legal Monitor (February 19, 2016), <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2016-02-19/turkey-legislation-adopted-on-part-time-work-option-for-working-mothers> ↵

²²¹ Labour Law No. 4857, Article 74, Paragraph 2. Sadık Sözer Çizmeci, "Statutory Leaves Under Turkish Labor Law," <https://www.sozercizmeci.com.tr/statutory-leaves-under-turkish-labor-law/> ↵

		<p>Maternal Healthcare: Antenatal, delivery, and post-natal services are provided through state hospitals and health centres. Emergency obstetric care is available. SGK coverage extends to insured employees and dependents.</p> <p>Workplace Protections: Job security during pregnancy and maternity leave is guaranteed. Dismissal is prohibited. Reinstatement rights are secured upon return to work.</p>		
Pakistan	<p>The Maternity And Paternity Leave Act, 2023 (Sec. 3–6)²²⁴</p> <p>The Sindh Maternity Benefits Act, 2018²²⁵</p>	<p>Applicable to federal employees and ICT: provides 180, 120, and 90 days of paid maternity leave for the first, second, and third child, plus 30 days of paternity leave. Further, job protection against dismissal during maternity/paternity leave; continuation of benefits; optional breastfeeding breaks; applies to federal and provincial employees;</p> <p>The Act provides 16 weeks in Sindh (with 10 days paternity leave for male government</p>	<p>Federal Employment Policy & Gender Equality Guidelines²³⁵; Establishment of RMNCH Authority²³⁶; Sindh Health Department Policy; MNCH Programme Implementation²³⁷; KP Health Department Policy; RMNCH Programme; Community Health</p>	<p>Federal & Provincial HR Offices; Civil Service Commission; Labour Courts; Health Departments; Punjab RMNCH Authority; Provincial Labour Departments; Social Security Institution; District Health Officers; District Administration</p>

²²⁴ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Npa5pmZg==sg-ijiiiiiiiiii>

²²⁵ <https://clr.org.pk/Labour-Laws/Sindh/Sindh%20Maternity%20Benefits%20Act,%202018.pdf>

²³⁵ Federal Employment Policy; Workplace Gender Equality Guidelines; Private Sector Voluntary Adoption Guidelines

²³⁶

https://dghs.punjab.gov.pk/integrated_maternal_childhealth#:~:text=This%20program%20is%20inspired%20by%20the%20desire,and%20mortality%2C%20promote%20family%20planning%20services%20and

²³⁷ <https://journals.lnh.edu.pk/lnjpc/pdf/c737edc1-f803-4dec-9f46-284e45c99fde.pdf>

	<p>Punjab Maternity Benefit Ordinance, 1958²²⁶ (as amended in 2016),²²⁷</p> <p>The Balochistan Maternity Benefits Act, 2022 (Sec. 2–7)²²⁸;</p> <p>The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maternity Benefits Act, 2013²²⁹</p> <p>The Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act, 2019 (Sec. 2–8)²³⁰</p>	<p>employees);</p> <p>Provides 12 weeks of maternity leave; job security during maternity leave; medical care and financial benefits; workplace protections; continues in force with provincial adaptations;</p> <p>14 weeks maternity leave; job protection during maternity leave; access to medical care; nursing breaks; financial assistance for poor pregnant women; breastfeeding support;</p> <p>Provides 12 weeks of maternity leave and job protection during maternity leave;</p> <p>Recognizes reproductive healthcare as a fundamental right; access to family planning services; safe</p>	<p>Initiatives²³⁸;</p> <p>Punjab RMNCH Strategy; Maternal Health Quality Improvement Programmes; Skilled Birth Attendance Initiatives; Nutrition Programmes for Pregnant Women²³⁹;</p> <p>Balochistan Labour and HR Policy; Maternal Health Awareness Programmes; Community Engagement Initiatives²⁴⁰;</p> <p>Workplace Safety Policy; Factory Inspection Guidelines; Health and Safety Standards; Worker Protection Frameworks²⁴¹.</p>	<p>; Teaching & DHQ Hospitals; Primary Health Centers; BHUs; RHCs; Lady Health Centers; Community Health Workers; Factory Inspectorates; Employers; Medical Facilities; NGOs (UNFPA, FPA-Pakistan); Insurance Providers.</p>
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²²⁶ <https://www.punjablaws.gov.pk/lawspdf/98.pdf>,

[https://punjabcode.punjab.gov.pk/uploads/articles/The_Punjab_Maternity_Benefits_\(Amendment\)_Act_2016.doc.pdf](https://punjabcode.punjab.gov.pk/uploads/articles/The_Punjab_Maternity_Benefits_(Amendment)_Act_2016.doc.pdf)

²²⁷ [https://punjabcode.punjab.gov.pk/uploads/articles/The_Punjab_Maternity_Benefits_\(Amendment\)_Act_2016.doc.pdf](https://punjabcode.punjab.gov.pk/uploads/articles/The_Punjab_Maternity_Benefits_(Amendment)_Act_2016.doc.pdf)

²²⁸ <https://balochistancode.gob.pk/Document.aspx?wise=opendoc&docid=1087&docc=1037>

²²⁹

https://kpcode.kp.gov.pk/uploads/2013_18_THE_KHYBER_PAKHTUNKHWA_MATERNITY_BENEFITS_ACT_2013.pdf

²³⁰ <https://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XV%20of%202019.pdf>

²³⁸

[https://www.healthkp.gov.pk/public/uploads/news-RMNCH%20Referral%20Guidelines%20Health%20Notification%20%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.healthkp.gov.pk/public/uploads/news-RMNCH%20Referral%20Guidelines%20Health%20Notification%20%20(1).pdf),

[https://www.healthkp.gov.pk/public/uploads/news-2022%20Feb%20EPHS%20KP%20Final%20Print%20Version%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.healthkp.gov.pk/public/uploads/news-2022%20Feb%20EPHS%20KP%20Final%20Print%20Version%20(1).pdf)

²³⁹ https://dghs.punjab.gov.pk/integrated_maternal_childhealth

²⁴⁰ <https://pw.balochistan.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PPFP-Balochistan-Policy-Final-Draft-16th-Nov-2023.pdf>

²⁴¹ <https://www.pbc.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/Social-Protection-PEF-II.pdf>

		abortion in limited circumstances (health/life threat); maternal healthcare services; adolescent reproductive health education; privacy and confidentiality protection; prohibits forced contraception/sterilization;		
	Pakhtunkhwa Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act, 2020 (Sec. 2–9) ²³¹ ;	Recognizes reproductive healthcare as a right; access to family planning; safe abortion in limited cases; maternal healthcare; adolescent reproductive health; prevention of harmful practices in maternal care including forced contraception; victim compensation for violations;		
	Punjab Reproductive Maternal Neonatal and Child Health Authority Act, 2014 (Sec. 3–15) ²³² ;	Establishes RMNCH Authority to coordinate maternal, newborn and child health; ensures 24/7 maternal care; integrates LHW, MNCH and nutrition services; maternal emergency response systems; training of health workers;		
	Provincial Employees' Social Security Ordinance, 1965 (Sec. 13) ²³³ ;	Maternity benefits for insured workers in the formal sector; medical care reimbursement;		

²³¹https://kpcode.kp.gov.pk/uploads/THE_KHYBER_PAKHTUNKHWA_REPRODUCTIVE_HEALTHCARE_RIGHTS_ACT_20201.pdf

²³²<https://www.punjablaws.gov.pk/GazetteNotifications/222657.pdf>

²³³<https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/86161/PAK86161.pdf>

	Factories Act, 1934 (Sec. 48–49) ²³⁴	cash benefits; extends to spouses of insured workers; disability coverage for maternal complications; Prohibits employment of women during 6 weeks post-delivery; provides nursing breaks (3 times daily, 15 minutes each); separate facilities for nursing mothers; safe working conditions for pregnant workers; no night shifts for pregnant/nursing women.		
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THEME 4: Economic Empowerment of Women

State	Women-Friendly Laws Legislation	Key Provisions	Policies Programs	Institution al / Relevant Forums
Azerbaijan	Labour Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan ²⁴² ;	Ensures equal access to employment without sex-based discrimination; prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, and training; guarantees equal pay for equal work; provides fair working conditions and protection of	National Gender Equality Strategy; Women’s employment promotion initiatives under social policy frameworks ²⁴⁴ ; Entrepreneurship support programmes for women (SME development support	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population; State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs; Labour inspection authorities; Employers’ associations; Ombudsman (Commissioner for Human

²³⁴ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-b56X-sg-ijijijijijij9>

²⁴² <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/54131/AZE-54131.pdf>

²⁴⁴ <https://www.undp.org/azerbaijan/gender-equality>

	<p>Law on Gender Equality (2006)²⁴³;</p> <p>Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995) (Art. 25, equality principle, only as general framework reference)</p>	<p>dignity at workplace; supports women's participation in economic life;</p> <p>Establishes equal rights and opportunities for women and men; prohibits direct and indirect gender discrimination; ensures state promotion of gender equality in all sectors; supports equal participation in public and decision-making life; provides institutional mechanisms for implementation;</p> <p>Guarantees equality before law; prohibits discrimination on grounds including sex; ensures equal rights and freedoms for all citizens; forms the constitutional basis for gender equality.</p>	<p>mechanisms)²⁴⁵;</p> <p>Labour market inclusion initiatives targeting women's economic participation;</p> <p>Skills development and vocational training programmes for women.²⁴⁶</p>	<p>Rights);</p> <p>Vocational training and employment service bodies ner for Human Rights</p>
Bahrain	<p>Law No. 36 of 2012 Promulgating The Labour Law For The Private Sector²⁴⁷;</p>	<p>Equal pay for equal work; maternity leave; protection from dismissal during maternity leave; general labor</p>	<p>National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women²⁵³;</p> <p>SME &</p>	<p>Supreme Council for Women²⁵⁵</p> <p>Labour Market</p>

²⁴³ <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=14452>

²⁴⁵ <https://smb.gov.az/en>

²⁴⁶ <https://sosial.gov.az/en>

²⁴⁷ <https://www.lmra.gov.bh/files/cms/shared/file/labour%20law.pdf>

²⁵³ <https://sdgs.gov.bh/NewsDetails?nid=WIL19OCVZgWvZ4/6eo3u/g>

²⁵⁵ <https://www.scw.bh/en/>

	<p>Law Decree No.48/2010 Promulgating Civil Service Law²⁴⁸</p> <p>Central Bank of Bahrain Directive (26 August 2020)²⁴⁹</p> <p>Minister of Labour Decision No. 50 & 51 of 2020²⁵⁰</p> <p>Law No. 14 of 2022 amending Social Insurance Law whereby the Normal Retirement Age for women increases from age 55 to age 60.²⁵¹</p> <p>Decision No. 97 of 2017 regulating</p>	<p>protections for women employees;</p> <p>Maternity leave, pensions, and employment protections for women in public sector service;</p> <p>Financial services must be provided without gender discrimination; business incubator framework encourages women's participation in entrepreneurship;</p> <p>Women permitted to work night shifts and in all industries across all sectors without restrictions on employment fields;</p> <p>Retirement age for women increased and equalized at 60 years with men;</p> <p>Business incubator framework specifically</p>	<p>entrepreneurship support (Tamkeen)²⁵⁴</p>	<p>Regulatory Authority (LMRA)²⁵⁶</p> <p>Social Insurance Organisation (SIO)²⁵⁷</p> <p>Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)²⁵⁸</p>
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²⁴⁸ <https://www.fp2030.org/commitment-maker/burkina-faso/>

²⁴⁹ [Article 38 of CBB Law requiring all regulated financial services to be provided without gender discrimination](#)

²⁵⁰ [Decision 50 of 2020 \(women in night shifts\); Decision 51 of 2020 \(women in all industries\)](#)

²⁵¹ [News of Bahrain, "HM King Hamad Ratifies Law on Pension and Retirement Benefits" \(April 2022\)](#)

²⁵⁴ <https://www.tamkeen.bh/en/programs/sme-fund/>

²⁵⁶ <https://lmra.gov.bh/en/home>

²⁵⁷ <https://www.sio.gov.bh/>

²⁵⁸ <https://www.bahrainchamber.bh/en/>

	business incubators & accelerators to facilitate women's entrepreneurship ²⁵²	encourages women's entry into entrepreneurship		
Benin	Labour Code (Code du Travail) ²⁵⁹	Labour Code Art. 210: national minimum wage (XOF 52,000/month, 2025) applies to all workers regardless of gender; equal pay for equal work; prohibition of gender discrimination in hiring, promotion, and conditions of employment; protections for women in night work and hazardous conditions ²⁶⁰	Microfinance & Women's Empowerment Programs ²⁶¹ UN Women / UNFPA Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Programme ²⁶²	Labour courts; Civil courts; Ministry of Labour UNICEF Benin ²⁶³
Burkina Faso	Constitution of Burkina Faso (Art. 19) ²⁶⁴ ;	Guarantees the right to work and equal pay for equal work, and prohibits discrimination in employment and remuneration on grounds including sex, ethnicity, social origin, color,	National Gender Policy ²⁶⁹ ; SWEDD Programme (UNFPA / World Bank) for women's education, skills, and	Ministry of Women; Ministry of Labour; social security institutions; financial and vocational training bodies

²⁵² [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Overview of Women's Rights](#)

²⁵⁹ Labour Code of Benin: <https://www.hcwpolicylab.org/item/republic-of-benin-labor-code/>

²⁶⁰ Labour Code of Benin: <https://www.hcwpolicylab.org/item/republic-of-benin-labor-code/>

²⁶¹ <https://ideas.repec.org/p/pramprapa/72219.html#:~:text=Jacob%20Novignon-,Abstract,efficient%20implementation%20of%20the%20programme.>

²⁶² UN Women Benin Step It Up: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/step-it-up/commitments/benin>

²⁶³ National Policy for Girls' Education (UNICEF Benin):

https://www.unicef.org/benin/media/3121/file/5_Flagship%20Education%20des%20filles_ENG-web-corr.pdf.pdf

²⁶⁴ [https://www.rightofassembly.info/assets/downloads/1991_Constitution_of_Burkina_Faso_\(as_amended\).pdf](https://www.rightofassembly.info/assets/downloads/1991_Constitution_of_Burkina_Faso_(as_amended).pdf)

²⁶⁹ <https://policycommons.net/artifacts/3796590/burkina-faso/4602418/>

	<p>Labour Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 4, 71, 145–146)²⁶⁵;</p> <p>Social Security Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 46–47, 84, 100)^{266, 267};</p> <p>Persons and Family Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 295, 300, 331, 733, 744);</p> <p>Civil Code of Burkina Faso (Art. 1123)²⁶⁸</p>	<p>or political opinion;</p> <p>Prohibits discrimination in employment; guarantees at least 14 weeks of maternity leave; ensures maternity benefits; protects against dismissal during pregnancy;</p> <p>Provides maternity cash benefits and includes childcare-related periods in pension calculations;</p> <p>Ensures women’s legal capacity to work, open bank accounts, own and administer property, and access equal inheritance rights;</p> <p>Supports legal capacity and contractual freedom for women in economic transactions.</p>	<p>empowerment²⁷⁰; UN Women programmes for entrepreneurship and financial inclusion; UNFPA Burkina Faso Country Programme²⁷¹, SRHR-linked empowerment²⁷²; UNESCO Women’s Empowerment Programme for literacy and vocational training²⁷³; Women’s Economic Empowerment Programs²⁷⁴</p>	
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²⁶⁵ <https://clr.org.pk/labour-rights-index/2024/burkina-faso/>

²⁶⁶ <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/113777/BFA-113777.pdf>

²⁶⁷ <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2023/snapshots/Burkina-faso.pdf>

²⁶⁸ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf200993.pdf>

²⁷⁰ https://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/swedd?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁷¹ <https://www.unfpa.org/data/transparency-portal/unfpa-burkina-faso>

²⁷² <https://www.engenderhealth.org/country/burkina-faso>

²⁷³ <https://www.uil.unesco.org/en/litbase/empowerment-women-living-extreme-poverty-burkina-faso>

²⁷⁴ <https://www.cowater.com/supporting-women-entrepreneurs-and-rural-enterprises-in-burkina-faso/#:~:text=Stories-,Supporting%20Women%20Entrepreneurs%20and%20Rural%20Enterprises%20in%20Burkina%20Faso.expanding%20access%20to%20financing%20opportunities.>

<p>Senegal</p>	<p>Labour Code; Family Code;</p> <p>Senegalese Constitution Art. 15, 19 & 25²⁷⁵</p>	<p>Non-discrimination ; equal pay; property rights; right to work</p> <p>Art. 15: The man and the woman have the right to accede to the possession and to the ownership [propriété] of land within the conditions determined by the law.</p> <p>Art. 19: The woman has the right of having her own patrimony[,] as [does] her husband. She has the right to the personal management of her assets.</p> <p>Art.25: Any discrimination between men and women in employment, salary and taxation [impôt] is forbidden.²⁷⁶</p>	<p>National Gender Equality Strategy²⁷⁷</p> <p>Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Plan Sénégal Émergent (PSE) ²⁷⁸, IAAMANEH²⁷⁹, Women's Economic Empowerment(W WE)²⁸⁰</p>	<p>Labour courts; Civil courts; Ministry of Labour.</p> <p>Sanalese committee for Human Rights(CSDH), Supreme court, The Constitutional Council.</p>
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²⁷⁵ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sen128391E.pdf>

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²⁷⁷ <https://www.ace-taf.org/kb/senegal-gender-and-social-inclusion-gesi-strategy-to-implement-the-national-action-plan-to-integrate-gender-issues-in-energy-access-pange/>

²⁷⁸ <https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2023-02/Policy-Assessment-for-the-Economic-Empowerment-of-Women-in-Green-Industry-Executive-Summary-Senegal-en.pdf>

²⁷⁹ <https://www.iamaneh.ch/en/projects/senegal/oekonomische-staerkung-von-frauen-gegen-gewalt-und-fuer-mehr-selbstbestimmung.html>

²⁸⁰ <https://energia.org/womens-collectives-take-the-lead-in-shaping-senegals-energy-policy/>

Togo	Constitution of Togo ²⁸¹ ,	Article 11 guarantees equality before the law for all citizens, ensuring non-discrimination in access to economic opportunities. Article 12 recognizes the right to work and equal access to public employment, supporting women's participation in the labour force. Article 13 protects the right to property and economic initiative, enabling women to own property and engage in business activities.	SWEDD+ Project (Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project), which specifically aims to improve girls' and women's access to education, economic opportunities, and health services, with a strong focus on economic inclusion and reducing gender inequality. ²⁸²	Labour courts; Civil courts; Ministry of Labour, National land registration campaigns targeting women; awareness programs for traditional chiefs and local authorities on women's equal land rights; land titling support for women in rural areas
Türkiye	Labour Act (Law No. 4857 of 22 May 2003), Arts. 5, 74–75 ²⁸³	Labour Act Art. 5: prohibits discrimination based on sex in employment, pay, promotion, and working	KOSGEB Women Entrepreneur Support Package (Kadın Girişimci Destek Paketi) ²⁸⁷ positive-discrimi	Ministry of Family and Social Services (Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı): coordinates women's

²⁸¹ [Togo's Constitution of 1992 with Amendments through 2007](#)

²⁸² https://www.togofirst.com/en/social/1511-12906-togo-launches-swedd-project-to-empower-its-women-and-girls?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁸³ Labour Act of Turkey (Law No. 4857, 22 May 2003):

<https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083%20English.pdf>; maternity leave analysis: <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/employee-rights-labour-relations/1474126/4857-numbered-labor-law-in-terms-of-maternity-leave-of-workers>

²⁸⁷ KOSGEB Women Entrepreneur Support Package:

<https://kadingirisimci.gov.tr/en/support-and-incentives/small-and-medium-enterprises-development-organization-kosgeb/>; KOSGEB financial support data (2019): <https://eraiturkey.com/2020/01/kosgeb-supports-turkish-women-entrepreneurs/>

		<p>conditions; equal remuneration for equal work; employer who violates is liable for up to 4 months' wages in compensation plus other losses, Art. 74: 16 weeks paid maternity leave (8 weeks pre-natal, 8 weeks post-natal); extended by 2 weeks for multiple pregnancies; nursing breaks of 1.5 hours/day until child reaches one year; employer prohibited from terminating contract due to pregnancy or maternity – Art. 74 para. 2: right to half-time work after maternity leave — 60 days for first birth, 120 for second, 180 for subsequent births; 360 days if child is disabled; wages during half-time partially covered by unemployment</p>	<p>nation grants and loans for women-owned businesses; higher support ceilings than standard programmes; in 2019 alone, KOSGEB provided ~298 million TRY in entrepreneurship support to women entrepreneurs – Women Entrepreneur Support Portal (kadingirisimci.gov.tr)– National Women Exporter Network Platform (Ministry of Trade) : supports women-led businesses in expanding into export markets, TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Board ²⁸⁸ Government portal aggregating financial, training, and consultancy supports for women entrepreneurs across KOSGEB, Halkbank,</p>	<p>economic empowerment programmes – Ministry of Labour and Social Security: enforces Labour Act equal pay and anti-discrimination provisions – KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization) ²⁹¹ Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR): vocational training and placement for women</p>
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²⁸⁸ Women Entrepreneur Support Portal — full list of government and bank programmes:

<https://kadingirisimci.gov.tr/en/support-and-incentives/>

²⁹¹ KOSGEB Women Entrepreneur Support Package:

<https://kadingirisimci.gov.tr/en/support-and-incentives/small-and-medium-enterprises-development-organization-kosgeb/>; KOSGEB financial support data (2019):

<https://eraiture.com/2020/01/kosgeb-supports-turkish-women-entrepreneurs/>

	Turkish Civil Code (Law No. 4721 of 22 November 2001), Arts. 186–281 ²⁸⁴	fund ²⁸⁵ Civil Code (Law No. 4721) Arts. 186–281: default marital property regime is "participation in acquired property" (katılma alacağı), replacing prior "separation of goods" regime; upon dissolution of marriage, all assets acquired during the marriage are divided equally between spouses; assigns economic value to women's domestic and household labour; minimum age of marriage set at 18 for both sexes; concept of "head of family" (husband) abolished; joint decision-making and equal partnership within marriage established; equal inheritance rights for sons	Development Agencies, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Trade – National Employment Strategy and Action Plans on Women's Employment (2016–2018 and subsequent) ²⁸⁹ National Employment & Gender Equality Policies; SME & entrepreneurship support (KOSGEB) ²⁹⁰	
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²⁸⁴ Turkish Civil Code (Law No. 4721, 22 November 2001) — family and property law: <https://rm.coe.int/turkish-civil-code-family-law-book/1680a3bcd4>; academic analysis of women's property rights: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260778965_Women's_Property_Rights_in_Turkey; summary of 2001 reforms: https://kadinininsanhaklari.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/very_old_newlegalstatus.pdf

²⁸⁵ Labour Act of Turkey (Law No. 4857, 22 May 2003): <https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083%20English.pdf>; maternity leave analysis: <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/employee-rights-labour-relations/1474126/4857-numbered-labor-law-in-terms-of-maternity-leave-of-workers>

²⁸⁹ National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016–2018): <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/turkeys-first-action-plan-focusing-womens-employment-was-introduced-public>; Women's Empowerment Strategy: <https://s-cica.org/docs/553124245682181f5903e8.pdf>

²⁹⁰ <https://s-cica.org/docs/553124245682181f5903e8.pdf>

	1956 ²⁹⁵ ; NAVTTTC Ordinance, 1980 ²⁹⁶ ; Protection of Economic Reforms Act, 1992 ²⁹⁷	women-focus ed financing; enables gender-inclusiv e banking policies; Authority for vocational training; women-focus ed skill development programmes; Establishes Women Chambers; ensures women representation in trade bodies.		
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²⁹⁵<https://www.sbp.org.pk/about/act/sbp-act.pdf>

²⁹⁶<https://navttc.gov.pk/ActsAndRegulations/TVETActsRegulations/NTO-1980-Gazette-of-Pakistan.pdf>

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THEME 5: EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Articles (with Hyperlinks)	Key Women Friendly Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutions / Redressal Forms
Azerbaijan	<p>There is no standalone law exclusively governing women's education in Azerbaijan. Women's educational rights are ensured through general legal frameworks, including:</p> <p>Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Articles 25 & 42);</p> <p>Law on Education (2009) (Article 5)³⁰⁴;</p> <p>Law on Gender Equality (Article 12, 12.2);</p>	<p>Collectively guarantee equality, non-discriminatory access to education, and equal opportunities in education and training.</p>	<p>Support for Young Girls' Education Campaign (2021): Initiated by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) to support girls from low-income families, high-scoring students, and those from rural areas.</p> <p>National Action Plan on Gender Equality³⁰⁵</p>	<p>State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs oversees women's rights & referrals for education-related complaints; Child & Family Support Centers provide legal/ social aid.</p>

³⁰⁴<https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/83429/AZE-83429.pdf>

³⁰⁵ <https://monitoring.gov.az/en/page/data/232>

<p>Bahrain</p>	<p>Constitution Kingdom of Bahrain (2002) Art.7³⁰⁶;</p> <p>Education Law No.27/2005³⁰⁷.</p>	<p>The State sponsors sciences, humanities, and arts, encourages scientific research, guarantees educational and cultural services, and provides for free and compulsory education in the early stages as regulated by law.</p> <p>Establishes basic education (nine years of schooling) as compulsory and free for children aged 6 to 15 years; provides that education is a right guaranteed to all citizens;</p>	<p>Women in FinTech Programme (SCW/Central Bank of Bahrain), digital and financial literacy training for women³⁰⁸; Tamkeen³⁰⁹</p> <p>National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women³¹⁰</p> <p>Bahrain ranks 92nd globally (WEF GGG 2024) in educational attainment, leading the Gulf region in closing the gender gap in higher education^{311, 312}</p>	<p>Supreme Council for Women (advisory & advocacy)³¹³; Ministry of Education³¹⁴; courts for discrimination complaints; The Global Goals³¹⁵</p>
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<https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/5711fc2a-e02d-4e8e-8b38-11320876866c/Constitution+Kingdom+of+Bahrain.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=o8-mJ.G>

307 <https://moe.gov.bh/en/moe-law-no-27-of-2005-regarding-the-education-services>

308 [Women in Technology & Digital Literacy](#)

309 <https://www.tamkeen.bh/en/women/>

310

<https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/9cda4c16-463f-4735-80ad-eb11c8d78d67/National+Plan+for+the+Advancement+of+Bahraini+Women+2025%E2%80%932026.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=pxqFA9Q>

311 [World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2024 \(Bahrain ranking\):](#)

312 <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2024/>

313 <https://www.scw.bh/en/category/about-the-supreme-council-of-women>

314 <https://moe.gov.bh/en/>

315 <https://globalgoals.org/goals/4-quality-education/>

		and ensures free access to public education up to the secondary level under state responsibility		
Benin	Constitution (2019) Art.13;	Article 13 provides for Free basic education for girls and boys.	National Policy for Girls' Education ³¹⁶ ; National Development Plan (NDP) (2018-2025) ³¹⁷	Ministry of Secondary Education; Ministry of Social Affairs; Women's NGOs (e.g., FAWE chapter).
Burkina Faso	Constitution of Burkina Faso (Art. 18, 23, 27) ³¹⁸ ; Act No. 013-2007/AN on the Education Framework Law,	Recognizes education and training as fundamental rights and guarantees equal access without discrimination, forming the basis for women's educational rights; Ensures the right to education for all without	Technical Directorate for Girls' Education and Gender Promotion (2007) ^{321, 322} ; Strategic Development Programme for Basic And Secondary Education (PDSEBS) (2021–2025) ³²³ ; National Strategy for the Acceleration of Girls' Education (SNAEF) (2012–2022) ³²⁴ ;	Ministry of National Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages (basic/secondary education) (MENAPLN); Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (tertiary education) (MESRSI); General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics (DGESS); National Council for Education; National Institute for the Training of Education Staff;

³¹⁶ https://www.unicef.org/benin/media/3121/file/5_Flagship%20Education%20des%20filles_ENG-web-corr.pdf.pdf

³¹⁷ <https://p4h.world/en/documents/benin-national-development-plan-2018-2025/>

³¹⁸ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkfl128139E.pdf>

³²¹ <https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso/~inclusion>

³²² https://www.education.gov.bf/informations/actualites/articles?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=593&cHash=126eaf8eed4e03a421f92381730b84e5#:~:text=Site%20web%20officiel%20du%20Minist%C3%A8re%20de%20l'%C3%A9ducation,Promotion%20des%20Langues%20Nationales%20du%20Burkina%20Faso.

³²³ https://www.ungei.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Annex%20D_4%20Burkina%20Faso%20Country%20Report_Eng.pdf

³²⁴ <https://www.ungei.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/GCI-Country%20Baseline%20Report-Burkina%20Faso-2021-eng.pdf>

	2007 (Art. 3) ^{319, 320}	discrimination, including on the basis of sex, with equity and equal opportunity for all citizens.	Education Access and Quality Improvement Project (PAAQE) (2016) ³²⁵ ; Burkinabé Response to Improve Girls' Chances to Succeed (BRIGHT) Programme ³²⁶ ; National Gender Policy (2009) ³²⁷	African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES)
Senegal	Senegalese constitution Art. 21, 22 & 23 ³²⁸	The State has the duty and the responsibility [charge] of the education and of the instruction of youth by the public schools. All children, boys and girls, in all places of the national territory, have the right of access to school.	Programme for the Improvement of Quality, Equity and Transparency, Education Sector Plan (PAQUET-EF, 2018-2030) ³²⁹	Ministry of National Education (MEN) ^{330, 331} ; Ministry of Women, Family & Gender; local education boards; NGO's ³³²
Togo	Constitution (2024) Art.35	Article 35 provides for	Free School Policy	Ministry of Primary & Secondary Education;

³¹⁹ <https://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/docs/5ddf10a8470779f05b84df3b60519ee77da7765a.pdf>

³²⁰ <https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso/~inclusion>

³²⁵ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/434381598666425513/pdf/Burkina-Faso-Education-Access-and-Quality-Improvement-Project-Additional-Financing.pdf>

³²⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/all-angles-bright-schools-improve-girls-education>

³²⁷ <https://policycommons.net/artifacts/3796590/burkina-faso/4602418/>

³²⁸ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sen128391E.pdf>

³²⁹ https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ressources/paquetvf_senegal.pdf

³³⁰ <https://www.ukfiet.org/2023/what-kind-of-education-policy-for-senegal/>

³³¹ <https://www.education.sn/>

³³² https://web.archive.org/web/20041231044328/http://www.investinsenegal.com/US/living_education.html

	<p>;</p> <p>Loi No. 2022-020 of 29 November 2022 on Protection of Learners Against Sexual Violence³³³</p>	<p>compulsory schooling for girls & boys.</p> <p>Criminalises all forms of sexual violence in educational settings including harassment, assault, and rape by teachers and staff against students; mandates national observatory to coordinate response; context: over 5,000 school pregnancies in 2021–2022 academic year alone</p>	<p>(2021)³³⁴;</p> <p>National Gender Equity Policy.</p> <p>National Observatory on School-Based Violence (to be established under Loi No. 2022-020): will monitor and coordinate response to school GBV</p>	<p>Ministry for Women’s Promotion.</p> <p>National Observatory on School-Based Violence (to be established under Loi No. 2022-020)</p>
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³³³ legal analysis:

<https://luniversdroit.com/cadre-juridique-relatif-a-la-protection-des-apprenants-contre-les-violences-a-caractere-sexuel-au-togo/>

³³⁴

<https://medafricatimes.com/24199-togo-free-secondary-education-contrasting-reactions-after-government-announcement.html#:~:text=announcement%20%E2%80%93%20Medafrica%20Times-,Togo:%20Free%20secondary%20education%20C%20contrasting%20reactions%20after%20government%20announcement.resources%20to%20avoid%20overcrowded%20classes>

Türkiye	Constitution (1982), Arts. 10 and 42 (equality and right to education) ³³⁵	Constitution Art. 10 states that all individuals are equal before the law without discrimination, and special measures for vulnerable groups do not violate the principle of equality. While Art 42 provides that education is a fundamental right and the State must ensure free and compulsory primary education for all, without discrimination between males and females. ³³⁷	Women's Empowerment Strategy and National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016–2018): includes vocational training and skills development for women as a pillar – Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (Şartlı Eğitim Yardımı) ³³⁹ government cash transfers to low-income families conditional on girls' school attendance; specifically targets female school dropout in rural areas – "Haydi Kızlar Okula" (Come On Girls, Let's Go to School) Campaign ³⁴⁰ Women's	Ministry of National Education (Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı): primary ministry for education policy; leads compulsory schooling enforcement – Council of Higher Education (Yükseköğretim Kurulu, YÖK): regulates gender equality in university access – Ombudsman Institution (Kamu Denetçiliği Kurumu) ³⁴²
	Law No. 6287 of 2012 (4+4+4 Education Reform):	Law No. 6287 (2012): extended		

³³⁵ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): [Constitution OF THE Republic OF Turkey](#); Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021):

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/68105/women-in-turkey-23-02-2021.pdf>

³³⁷ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/docs/constitution_en.pdf; Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021):

³³⁹ National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016–2018):

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/turkeys-first-action-plan-focusing-womens-employment-was-introduced-public>;

Women's Empowerment Strategy: <https://s-cica.org/docs/553124245682181f5903e8.pdf>

³⁴⁰ Conditional Cash Transfer (Girls' Education) and "Haydi Kızlar Okula" campaign: UNICEF Turkey:

<https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/education>; World Bank Turkey Conditional Cash Transfer:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/brief/turkey-conditional-cash-transfer-program>

³⁴² Ombudsman Institution of Turkey (Kamu Denetçiliği Kurumu): <https://www.ombudsman.gov.tr/en>

	extended compulsory education to 12 years ³³⁶	compulsory education from 8 to 12 years (4 years primary + 4 years lower-secondary + 4 years upper-secondary); increased girls' time in formal schooling and reduced early school departure ³³⁸	Empowerment Strategy ³⁴¹ ;	
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³³⁶ Law No. 6287 of 2012 (4+4+4 Education Reform):
https://www.meb.gov.tr/haberler/2012/12_yillik_zorunlu_egitim.pdf; UNICEF analysis:
<https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en/education>

³³⁸ Law No. 6287 of 2012 (4+4+4 Education Reform):
https://www.meb.gov.tr/haberler/2012/12_yillik_zorunlu_egitim.pdf; UNICEF analysis:
<https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en/education>

³⁴¹ <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/turkeys-first-action-plan-focusing-womens-employment-was-introduced-public>

Pakistan	Constitution Art. 25A ³⁴³ ;	Right to free and compulsory primary and secondary education for all children aged 5–16; no gender discrimination in education access; applies across all provinces; justiciable right enforceable in courts	National Education Policy 2017; Single National Curriculum 2021; Compulsory Education provincial implementations	Federal & Provincial Education Departments; Higher Education Commission (HEC) ³⁵¹ ; District Education Officers; Right to Education Cells (provincial)
	The Punjab Free & Compulsory Education Act 2014 ³⁴⁴ ;	Right to free education up to Grade 8; equal gender access mandate; prohibition of gender-based discrimination; school facilities must be gender-appropriate (separate toilets, water); enrollment monitoring by district	The Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) ³⁵⁰ ; Girls' education campaigns; Teacher gender-sensitivity training programs	Punjab Education Department ³⁵² ; District Education Officers (all 36 districts); Schools & colleges; Ombudsperson ³⁵³ ; Educational monitoring committees
	The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2013 ³⁴⁵ ;	Right to free education up to Grade 10; equal access mandate; no gender	Benazir Education Vouchers (for poor girls); Girls' education in rural areas campaigns;	Sindh Education Department ³⁵⁴ ; District Education Officers (all 29 districts); Sindh Education

³⁴³ [THE Constitution OF THE Islamic Republic OF Pakistan;](#)

³⁴⁴ [THE Punjab FREE AND Compulsory Education ACT 2014 \(xxvi Of 2014\)](#)

³⁴⁵ [Provincial Assembly OF SINDH Notification Karachi, THE 11TH March, 2013. No.pas/legis-b-07/2013-the Sindh Right Of Children To F](#)

³⁵⁰ [PEEF Scholarships | The Punjab Educational Endowment Fund](#)

³⁵¹ <https://www.hec.gov.pk/>

³⁵² [Punjab Education Department](#)

³⁵³ [Ombudsman \(Mohtasib\) Punjab, Pakistan](#)

³⁵⁴ [School Education AND Literacy Department, SINDH](#)

		discrimination; school safety and basic facilities requirement; child labour prohibition; parental obligation to ensure enrollment	School infrastructure improvement programs	Foundation ³⁵⁵ ; Child rights monitoring cells
	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Free Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education Act, 2017 ³⁴⁶	Right to free education up to Grade 10; equal gender access; no discrimination mandate; school safety requirement; special provisions for girls in rural and tribal areas; child labour prohibition	KP Girls' Education campaigns; Teacher training on gender-sensitive pedagogy; Rural girls' scholarship schemes; Distance learning for girls in remote areas	KP Education Department ³⁵⁶ ; District Education Officers; KP Education Foundation ³⁵⁷ ; Community education committees
	Balochistan Compulsory Education Act, 2014 ³⁴⁷	Right to free education up to Grade 8; equal access; gender equality in enrollment mandate; school infrastructure requirements; parental duty to enroll children; no child labour clause	Girls' education initiatives especially in tribal areas; School infrastructure development programs; Female teacher recruitment priority	Balochistan Education Department ³⁵⁸ ; District Education Officers; Community engagement committees; Tribal administration support

³⁴⁶[THE Khyber Pakhtunkhwa FREE Compulsory Primary AND Secondary Education Act, 2017 \(Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ACT No. XII OF 2017\) Contn.](#)

³⁴⁷[Balochistan Code](#)

³⁵⁵[sef.org.pk](#)

³⁵⁶[Elementary & Secondary Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – KP E&SE](#)

³⁵⁷[KPEF - Home](#)

³⁵⁸[School Education Department – Government of Balochistan – Secondary Education Department](#)

	National Education Policy, 2017 ³⁴⁸	Gender mainstreaming in curriculum; equal opportunity mandate; girls' education in rural areas focus; STEM education for girls; elimination of gender stereotypes in textbooks; teacher training on gender-sensitive pedagogy	Implementation through provincial education departments; Curriculum revision initiatives; Teacher capacity building programs; Girls' STEM initiatives	Federal Education Ministry; Provincial Education Departments; HEC; Curriculum Wing; Teacher training institutes
	Single National Curriculum (SNC), 2021 ³⁴⁹	Standardized curriculum across all provinces; gender equality content; elimination of discriminatory textbook language; girls' education emphasis; Islamic teachings on women's rights integrated; inclusive education principles	Teacher training on SNC delivery; Textbook revision and gender audit; Monitoring by provincial education authorities	Federal & Provincial Education Departments; Curriculum Wing; Textbook boards; Teacher training institutes; Education inspectorates

³⁴⁸ [Draft National Education Policy 2017.pdf](#)

³⁴⁹ [Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training](#)

THEME 6: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Articles (with Hyperlinks)	Key Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutions / Redressal Forms
Azerbaijan	<p>Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women & Men (2006) (Art. 6)^{359 360.}</p> <p>Law on the Status of Municipalities³⁶¹</p>	<p>Mandates state guarantees for equal participation of women and men in public administration and governance through legal and institutional mechanisms;</p> <p>Establishes the legal framework for local self-government based on democratic and direct elections, ensuring equal participation rights for all citizens in local governance. While the law does not contain specific mandatory gender quotas for municipal representation, it guarantees equal rights for women to participate in local governance in line with constitutional principles of equality and</p>	<p>National Action Plan on Gender Equality;</p> <p>State programs promoting women’s participation in public administration and decision-making.</p>	<p>Central Election Commission; Milli Majlis (Parliament);</p> <p>State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs;</p> <p>Municipal councils; Political parties;</p> <p>Ombudsman (Human Rights Commissioner)</p>

³⁵⁹ <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=14452>

³⁶⁰ <https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/law-no-150-iiiq-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-on-state-guarantees-of-equal-rights-for-women-and-men-lex-faoc211323/>

³⁶¹ <https://localgov.unwomen.org/country/AZE>

		non-discrimination		
Bahrain	Constitution Kingdom of Bahrain Art. 1(e) & 5(b) ³⁶² ; Decree No. (14) of 2002 on the Exercise of Political Rights ³⁶³ .	Art. 1(e): Guarantees citizens (men and women) the right to participate in public affairs, including voting and candidacy, in accordance with law. Art. 5(b): Establishes equality between men and women in political, social, cultural, and economic spheres within constitutional limits. Regulates voting, voter registration, and candidacy procedures; ensures political participation rights for all eligible citizens, including both men and women, in accordance with law.	National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women ³⁶⁴	Supreme Council for Women ³⁶⁵ : promotes women candidates; Election Directorate; Courts; Shura Council & Council of Representatives; Ministry of Social development(MOSD) ³⁶⁶
Benin	Benin's Electoral Code (Law No. 2019-43) ³⁶⁷	Art 144 and 145 of the Code Provides guaranteed women's representation by reserving	Gender Policy supports leadership.	National Electoral Commission; Women's Caucus; The National Institute for Women (INF)

³⁶²<https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/5711fc2a-e02d-4e8e-8b38-11320876866c/Constitution+Kingdom+of+Bahrain.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=o8-mJ.G>

³⁶³ <https://www.lloc.gov.bh/en/Legislation/id/L1402>

³⁶⁴https://www.buheji.com/National_Plan_for_the_Advancement_of_Bahraini_Women.pdf

³⁶⁵ <https://www.scw.bh/en/>

³⁶⁶ <https://www.social.gov.bh/home?lang=en>

³⁶⁷ <https://www.idea.int/node/150171>

		National Assembly seats for women and mandating that every party field at least one female candidate (with a substitute) in each constituency (one per constituency)		
Burkina Faso	<p>Constitution of Burkina Faso (Arts. 11–12)³⁶⁸;</p> <p>Law No. 003-2020/AN (2020) on Gender Quotas in Elections (Arts. 3–7)^{369, 370}</p>	<p>Guarantees equality before the law and equal political participation without discrimination;</p> <p>Art. 3 requires at least 30% representation of either sex on candidate lists; Art. 4 mandates alternation of male and female candidates; Art. 5 applies this alternation to incumbent and substitute lists and ensures balanced</p>	<p>National Gender Strategy (2020-20³⁷¹); National Democratic Institute's Programme on Strengthening Women's Participation in Political and Decentralisation Processes in Burkina Faso³⁷²; NIMD's Promotion of Political Participation of Women³⁷³; National Action Plan</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Social Affairs; National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD); Constitutional Council; Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI); Parliament; National Democratic Institute (NDI); Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Gorée Institute.</p>

³⁶⁸ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkfl128139E.pdf>

³⁶⁹ <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/gender-quotas-database/country?country=36>

³⁷⁰ <https://tsep.africa.ufl.edu/gender-quotas-and-representation/burkina-faso/>

³⁷¹ <https://www.afrobarometer.org/publication/ad1107-burkinabe-women-still-face-barriers-to-equality-in-leadership-and-ownership-of-assets-and-land/>

³⁷² <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida46399en-national-democratic-institutes-programme-on-strengthening-women-s-participation-in-political-and-decentralisation-processes-in-burkina-faso.pdf>

³⁷³ <https://nimd.org/programme/burkina-faso/>

		<p>leadership positions; Art. 6 extends alternation to the top two-thirds of candidate lists; Art. 7 applies these requirements across both incumbent and substitute lists; and the law provides 20% additional public funding for compliant political parties.</p>	<p>(NAP) on Women Peace and Security (WPS) (2023-2025)³⁷⁴</p>	
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<p>Senegal</p>	<p>Law on Parity 2010-11^{375,376}</p> <p>Senegalese Constitution Art. 3 & 7³⁷⁷</p>	<p>Requires all political parties to introduce absolute gender parity in electoral lists for all elected representatives, national or local. According to the law, Party Lists that do not comply with the law will be void.</p> <p>Art.3: All Senegalese nationals of both sexes, who are 18 years old, enjoying their civil and political rights, are electors within the conditions determined by the law.</p> <p>Art.7: All human</p>	<p>Inter-party gender equity training; Baamtaré Rewbé³⁷⁸; Agence régionale de développement (ARD)³⁷⁹; de Saint Louis and LASPAD in partnership with the Spanish Cooperation (AECID)³⁸⁰; WYDE³⁸¹</p> <p>WYDE – Women and Youth in Democratic Engagement (Political Parties</p>	<p>Constitutional Council enforces parity³⁸⁴; Ministry of Women; Director General Elections(DGE)³⁸⁵;</p> <p>Association of Senegalese Jurists (AJS), The Senegalese Social Forum, The Dafadoy collective and the Institute of Inequalities³⁸⁶; Director General Elections(DGE)³⁸⁷; Constitutional Council Senegal³⁸⁸</p>
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³⁷⁵ <https://tsep.africa.ufl.edu/gender-quotas-and-representation/senegal/>

³⁷⁶ <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2010-06-07/senegal-adoption-of-gender-parity-law/>

³⁷⁷

https://www.equalrightstrust.org/sites/default/files/ertdocs//Microsoft%20Word%20-%20SenegalC%20_english%20summary_rev_.pdf

³⁷⁸ <https://laspad.org/en/research/research-areas/local-democracy/bamtare-rewbe/>

³⁷⁹ *ibid*

³⁸⁰ *ibid*

³⁸¹

https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/news/building-inclusive-democracies-regional-conference-womens-political-participation-senegal-and-cote-divoire_en

³⁸⁴ <https://conseilconstitutionnel.sn/?hl=en-US>

³⁸⁵ <https://dge.sn/?hl=en-US>

³⁸⁶

<https://stop-desigualtats.org/en/feminization-of-local-politics-dakar/#:~:text=The%20project%20%E2%80%9CFeminization%20of%20local.to%20measure%20the%20impact%20achieved.>

³⁸⁷ <https://dge.sn/?hl=en-US>

³⁸⁸ <https://conseilconstitutionnel.sn/?hl=en-US>

<p>Türkiye</p>	<p>Constitution (1982) Art. 10 (equality before the law), Art. 67 (right to vote and stand for election) ³⁹⁵ Political Parties Law (Law No. 2820) ³⁹⁶</p> <p>There is no legislated gender quota for parliamentary or local elections in Türkiye, confirmed by IDEA, OSCE/ODIHR, and Equal Future observatory ³⁹⁷;</p> <p>Political Parties Law No.2820³⁹⁸</p>	<p>Constitution Art. 67: all citizens have the right to vote and to be elected and to engage in political activities; Turkish women gained municipal suffrage in 1930 and full national suffrage in 1934, among the earliest in the world. ³⁹⁹</p> <p>Political Parties Law (No. 2820): guarantees equal rights to establish and join political parties; requires party constitutions to respect equality principles; does not mandate any gender quota for candidate lists or</p>	<p>Women's Empowerment Strategy: includes political participation as a pillar; sets targets for women's representation at all levels of government ⁴⁰²</p> <p>KA-DER (Association for the Support and Training of Women Candidates), leading NGO advocating for gender quotas and training women political candidates</p>	<p>Supreme Election Council (Yüksek Seçim Kurulu, YSK): administers elections and enforces the Elections Law ,monitors women's representation data and advocates for legal quota reform – OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring missions: document gender equality in elections and recommend quota legislation ⁴⁰⁴</p> <p>Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM): 600-seat unicameral parliament; women's caucus (cross-party informal group) – Ministry of Family and Social Services: coordinates women's political empowerment programmes –</p>
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³⁹⁵ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/docs/constitution_en.pdf; Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021): <https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/68105/women-in-turkey-23-02-2021.pdf>

³⁹⁶ Political Parties Law (Law No. 2820) — Venice Commission reference: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF\(2018\)032-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF(2018)032-e)

³⁹⁷ OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission — Turkey Parliamentary and Presidential Elections, 14 May 2023 (no gender quota confirmed):

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/election-observation/election-observation-statements/turkey/statements-24/4687-2023-presidential-and-parliamentary-eng/file>; Equal Future — Türkiye women's political representation:

<https://www.equalfuture-eurasia.org/womens-representation-in-politics-and-public-administration/turkiye>

³⁹⁸ [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF\(2018\)032-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF(2018)032-e)

³⁹⁹ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): [Constitution OF THE Republic OF Turkey](https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/docs/constitution_en.pdf) Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021): <https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/68105/women-in-turkey-23-02-2021.pdf>

⁴⁰² National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016–2018):

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/turkeys-first-action-plan-focusing-womens-employment-was-introduced-public>; Women's Empowerment Strategy: <https://s-cica.org/docs/553124245682181f5903e8.pdf>

⁴⁰⁴ OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission — Turkey Parliamentary and Presidential Elections, 14 May 2023 (no gender quota confirmed):

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/election-observation/election-observation-statements/turkey/statements-24/4687-2023-presidential-and-parliamentary-eng/file>; Equal Future — Türkiye women's political representation:

<https://www.equalfuture-eurasia.org/womens-representation-in-politics-and-public-administration/turkiye>

		<p>party organs.⁴⁰⁰ No legislated quota: Türkiye does not have a statutory gender quota for parliamentary or local elections; there is no reserved seats mechanism at national level; women's representation in the Grand National Assembly stands at approximately 20.1% following the May 2023 elections (121 of 600 seats), the highest in Turkish history but below the 30% Beijing Platform threshold⁴⁰¹</p>	<p>across parties – Ben Seçerim (I Choose) NGO⁴⁰³</p>	<p>KA-DER⁴⁰⁵.</p>
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⁴⁰⁰ Political Parties Law (Law No. 2820) — Venice Commission reference:

[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF\(2018\)032-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF(2018)032-e)

⁴⁰¹ OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission — Turkey Parliamentary and Presidential Elections, 14 May 2023 (no gender quota confirmed):

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/election-observation/election-observation-statements/turkey/statements-24/4687-2023-presidential-and-parliamentary-eng/file>; Equal Future — Türkiye women's political representation:

<https://www.equalfuture-eurasia.org/womens-representation-in-politics-and-public-administration/turkiye>

⁴⁰³ KA-DER and Ben Seçerim — women's political participation NGOs: Al Jazeera, Women Face Political Barriers Ahead of Turkey Elections (2023):

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/10/women-face-political-barriers-ahead-turkey-elections>

⁴⁰⁵ KA-DER and Ben Seçerim — women's political participation NGOs: Al Jazeera, Women Face Political Barriers Ahead of Turkey Elections (2023):

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/10/women-face-political-barriers-ahead-turkey-elections>

<p>Pakistan (Fed & Provinces)</p>	<p>Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 (Articles 34, 51(3), 106(2))⁴⁰⁶;</p> <p>The National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012⁴⁰⁷</p> <p>Elections Act, 2017 (Section 206)⁴⁰⁸;</p> <p>Punjab Local Government Act, (2025)⁴⁰⁹;</p> <p>Balochistan local government Act</p>	<p>Art. 34: State ensures full participation of women in national life and equality measures; Art. 51(3) & 106(2): reserved seats for women in National Assembly (60) and Senate (17), elected indirectly through provincial assemblies;</p> <p>Requires political parties to allocate at least 5% of general election tickets to women; non-compliance may lead to rejection of party list;</p> <p>Establishes devolved local government with ~33% reserved seats for women. Ensures women’s participation in local councils, planning, budgeting, and service delivery.</p> <p>Establishes elected local governments at district, tehsil, and union levels</p>	<p>Pakistan's National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF 2022)⁴¹³</p>	<p>National Commission on the Status of Women 2000⁴¹⁴; Election Commission of Pakistan; National & Provincial Assemblies; Senate; Political Parties</p>
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⁴⁰⁶ [THE Constitution OF THE Islamic Republic OF Pakistan;](#)

⁴⁰⁷ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Npa5pm-sg-iiiiiiiiiiii>

⁴⁰⁸ <https://ecp.gov.pk/storage/files/2/Elections Act 2017 updated/Updated Elections Act 2017-231011-105435.pdf>

⁴⁰⁹ https://lgcd.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/PLGA_2025.pdf

⁴¹³ <https://pc.gov.pk/web/gender>

⁴¹⁴

<https://ngdp-ncsw.org.pk/storage/62da37af66481.pdf#:~:text=Sustained%20and%20unflagging%20resistance%20and%20struggle%20by.and%20policies%20and%20to%20recommend%20amendments%20accordingly>.

	<p>2010⁴¹⁰</p> <p>Sindh Local Government Act, (2021)⁴¹¹</p> <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, (2013)⁴¹²</p>	<p>with reserved seats for women. Promotes inclusive, decentralized governance and community participation.</p> <p>Creates a devolved local government system with reserved seats for women at all tiers. Promotes women’s participation in governance, budgeting, and local decision-making;</p> <p>Introduces a three-tier local government system with 33% women’s reserved seats. Ensures women’s inclusion in local planning, committees, and accountability mechanisms.</p>		
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⁴¹⁰ <https://balochistancode.gob.pk/lawdir/69b034f7-9fe6-45d3-a6cb-1ff3c94f9b6.pdf>

⁴¹¹ <https://www.sindhlaws.gov.pk/setup/publications/PUB-21-000062.pdf>

⁴¹² https://www.lgkp.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/THE_KHYBER_PAKHTUNKHWA_LOCAL_GOVERNMENT_ACT_2013.pdf

THEME 7 : DIGITAL RIGHTS & TECHNOLOGY-RELATED VIOLENCE

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Articles (with Hyperlinks)	Key Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutions / Redressal Forms
Azerbaijan	<p>Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Art. 32);</p> <p>Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Art. 122.1, 147, 148, 155, 156);</p> <p>Law on Information, Informatization and Protection of Information⁴¹⁵;</p> <p>Law on Personal Data⁴¹⁶.</p>	<p>The Constitution guarantees the right to privacy and protection of personal and family life, while the Criminal Code criminalizes defamation, insult, and privacy violations, including in online contexts.</p> <p>The Law on Information, Informatization and Protection of Information and Law on Personal Data regulate information security, lawful data processing, and confidentiality.</p> <p>The Country has no standalone law on digital violence against women; these gender-neutral laws provide indirect protection against online harassment, defamation, and misuse of personal</p>	<p>Amendments to the Administrative Code (Nov 2025) prohibit the online sharing of immoral content.</p> <p>Azerbaijan is advancing digital transformation through its 2023–2027 national cybersecurity strategy focused on critical infrastructure, alongside e-government initiatives such as Asan İmza and the Cyber Hygiene Project. (general, not gender-specific)</p>	<p>State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs accepts online abuse complaints and refers to cybercrime enforcement agencies; Ministry of Digital Development.</p>

⁴¹⁵https://wipolex-res.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/az/az019en.pdf?last-modified=1305027757&Expires=1776941067&Signature=hFV15b8PbRxB9iMVcf0CD6KwXo9xtiLqYcIDdCmsZRSZs2abY6xQJdlrFgd6crCUyEbZTFxSmt39hBOQ7iOptEZeNEz4AM0FxNYByRGZH5M6T3XIV7~BM5lfrfNwr1RgqkR8-ahd3~0Kv00ZoROLSqAV9slvH~XBXkJxTx~PapH1nafM9Y0-8Bt~ILtfaOwBKNp9Uljg3WUlm46gZn-SiU~Qr3bH73uAAMczBBOP2ZyPN8Kcf~4zC6kGe08xZDxowgZ0os1Zuhfm49GC~oE79TiYpDvEzQFSL58iuJhxrTRt39T46yudAOhRyUZ2-EbuPeiCCyLwNHY2EUCrpiSA_&Key-Pair-Id=K1QGBX7Y6FHYJN

⁴¹⁶<https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/86656/AZE-86656.pdf>

		data.		
Bahrain	<p>Constitution Kingdom of Bahrain Art. 26⁴¹⁷</p> <p>Law No. 60 of 2014 on Information Technology Crimes⁴¹⁸;</p> <p>Law No. 30 of 2018 (e-Transactions & Personal Data Protection Law) ⁴¹⁹</p>	<p>Guarantees freedom and confidentiality of postal, telephonic, telegraphic, and electronic communications; protects against arbitrary interference with private communications within the limits of law;</p> <p>Criminalizes cyber harassment, online threats, defamation through digital platforms, unauthorized access to systems, data breaches, and misuse of electronic information systems;</p> <p>Provides legal framework for protection of personal data; regulates</p>	<p>National Cyber security Strategy⁴²⁰; Halcyon and AWS; The Technical Development Program; SafeSurf Initiative, Thiqa Program (Cyber Trust)</p>	<p>Cybercrime Directorate (Ministry of Interior); Ministry of Justice; online complaint mechanisms; Information & eGovernment Authority(IGA)⁴²¹; General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic & Electronic Security⁴²²; Personal Data Protection Authority⁴²³; Lower Criminal Courts</p>

⁴¹⁷ [Constitution+Kingdom+of+Bahrain.pdf](#)

⁴¹⁸

<https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/b285b812-9be1-4bae-bd92-bbe790dfe9d1/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86+%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85+%2816%29+%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9+2014+%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%94%D9%86+%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9+%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA+%D9%88%D9%88%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%8A%D9%94%D9%82+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=o8W54Eh>

⁴¹⁹

<https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/ab8b334e-8c6f-4ff9-90b6-94135da559ca/Law+No.+%2830%29+of+2018+DPL.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=oFapPNI>

⁴²⁰ <https://www.ncsc.gov.bh/en/national-strategy.html>

⁴²¹ [Information & eGovernment Authority, Kingdom of Bahrain](#)

⁴²²

https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en!/ut/p/z0/fYyxDoIwFAB_pOvzKxrA1RgiOjE4OBdSygs-gbaUh8rfS_wAx0vuDhSUoKx-UaeZnNXDxpVK6_iayPxwkjJP7zuZHi_ZvijOscwSulH6L2wHek6TOolyzjJ-GMrG-hptJHXjFhb8QNGT7Vo3RrKljlgPYkazBOJVWOS3C_0cyYCDZmwFO0_mx94F3kJh1gaDCTTiDL5X1RcFo4JH/

⁴²³ <https://www.pdp.gov.bh/en/regulations.html>

		collection, processing, storage, and transfer of personal data; requires lawful basis and safeguards against misuse, ensuring protection of privacy in digital transactions.		
Benin	<p>Digital Code (Code du Numérique) Law No. 2017-20 of April 20, 2018⁴²⁴</p> <p>Law No. 2009-09 of May 22, 2009⁴²⁵</p> <p>AU Malabo Convention on Cybersecurity and</p>	<p>The Digital Code of Benin (Law No. 2017-20) regulates digital activities, including electronic communications, cybersecurity, and protection of personal data in the digital space, ensuring secure and lawful use of information technologies</p> <p>The Law No. 2009-09 on Personal Data Protection specifically safeguards individuals' privacy by regulating the collection, processing, storage, and use of personal data, requiring consent, transparency, and security;</p>	National Digital Development Strategy. ⁴²⁶	<p>National Cybersecurity Agency; ICT Department of Ministry of Digital Economy.</p> <p>APDP (Personal Data Protection Authority): enforces data protection law; oversees compliance by public and private bodies⁴²⁷</p>

⁴²⁴ [Data protection laws in Benin](#)

⁴²⁶ Digitalisation of Public Services in Benin:

<https://includeplatform.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Digitalisation-of-public-services-in-Benin-challenges-and-opportunities.pdf>

⁴²⁷ Law No. 2009-09 on Personal Data Protection: <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=BJ>

	Personal Data Protection ⁴²⁵	Malabo Convention (2024): aligns Benin's framework with AU continental standards on privacy and cybercrime.		
Burkina Faso	Constitution of Burkina Faso (Arts. 2, 4, 6) ⁴²⁸ ; Law No. 061-2015/CNT on Prevention, Punishment and Reparation of Violence against Women and Girls ⁴²⁹ ;	Art. 2: protects life, safety, and physical integrity; Art. 4: guarantees equal protection before the law; and Art. 6: ensures the inviolability of home, private life, and secrecy of correspondence, forming the constitutional basis for protection against digital harassment, privacy violations, and technology-facilitated abuse; Covers psychological, moral, sexual, and economic violence against women and girls, including violence facilitated through digital means;		Commission de l'Informatique et des Libertés (CIL) ⁴³⁷ ; Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Posts (ARCEP) ⁴³⁸ ; National Agency on the Security of Information Systems (ANSSI); National Agency for the Promotion of ICTs (ANPTIC) ⁴³⁹ ; Ministry of Digital Economy; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Women and Social Affairs; National Human Rights

⁴²⁵ AU Malabo Convention — Benin ratification (January 2024):

<http://www.lawgratis.com/blog-detail/cyber-law-at-benin>

⁴²⁸ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf128139E.pdf>

⁴²⁹ <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2015/122690>

⁴³⁵ https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/-/burkina-faso?utm_source

⁴³⁶ <https://achpr.au.int/en/adopted-resolutions/522-resolution-protection-women-against-digital-violence-africa-achpr>

⁴³⁷ <https://www.presidenceufaso.bf/commission-de-linformatique-de-des-libertes-cil/>

⁴³⁸ <https://www.arcep.bf/>

⁴³⁹ <https://anptic.gov.bf/>

	<p>Penal Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 524-10, 533-37, 611-28, 611-29, 613-3, 614-1)^{430, 431};</p> <p>Code of Criminal Procedure of Burkina Faso (Arts. 515-26–515-42)^{432,433};</p> <p>Law No. 010/2004/AN on the Protection of Personal Data (Art. 1)⁴³⁴</p> <p>No specific standalone law on technology-related violence against women exists; protections are addressed through cybercrime, privacy, and data protection laws covering digital harassment and technology-facilitated abuse.</p>	<p>Art. 524-10 criminalizes invasion of privacy through technical devices; Art. 533-37 criminalizes child pornography; Arts. 611-28 and 611-29 prohibit obtaining computer data by extortion or threat; and Arts. 613-3 and 614-1 prohibit misappropriation or concealment of computer data;</p> <p>Arts. 515-26–515-42 provide investigative measures for computer data and digital evidence;</p> <p>Protects individuals' rights in the processing of personal data.</p>		<p>Commission (CNDH); Yam Pukri Association⁴⁴⁰.</p>
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⁴³⁰ <https://sgbv-ihnda.uwazi.io/entity/i41i84se8d?file=16064717415693waupqfzjlr.pdf&page=2>

⁴³¹ https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/-/burkina-faso?utm_source

⁴³² file:///C:/Users/PMLS/Downloads/CODE%20PROCEDURE%20PENALE.pdf

⁴³³ https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/-/burkina-faso?utm_source

⁴³⁴ <https://dataprotection.africa/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Burkina-Faso-Factsheet.pdf>

⁴⁴⁰ <https://yam-pukri.org/organization-operation.html>

<p>Senegal</p>	<p>Cybercrime Law No. 2008-11^{441,442};</p> <p>Law No. 2008-12 of January 25, 2008^{443,444}</p> <p>Act No.2016-29 dated 8 November 2016 amending the criminal code;</p> <p>Act. No. 10-2021 of 25th June 2021 amending the criminal code⁴⁴⁵</p>	<p>Punishes unauthorized access & online sexual harassment.</p> <p>Anyone who has made or caused to be processed personal data concerning a natural person despite the opposition of that person in accordance with the provisions of Article 68 of the Personal Data Act, where such processing is for the purposes of prospecting, including commercial, or where such opposition is based on legitimate grounds, shall be punished with imprisonment of one year to seven years and/or a fine of 500,000 francs (USD 885) to 10,000,000 (USD 17,700) francs</p>	<p>Plan Sénégal Numérique⁴⁴⁶;</p> <p>Emerging Senegal plan 2025⁴⁴⁷; Digital Senegal 2025⁴⁴⁸</p>	<p>Cybercrime Division (Judicial Police); Data Protection Authority (CNDP); 'Commission de Données Personnelles' (CDP)⁴⁴⁹; Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Affairs (MCTN)</p>
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⁴⁴¹ [Law No. 2008-11 on Cybercrime, Senegal, WIPO Lex](https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text/243067)

⁴⁴² <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text/243067>

⁴⁴³ https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/Senegal_data_protection_law_EN_1.pdf

⁴⁴⁴ <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/6229>

⁴⁴⁵ [Data protection laws in Senegal - Data Protection Laws of the World](https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/Senegal_data_protection_law_EN_1.pdf)

⁴⁴⁶ <https://www.finances.gouv.sn/publication/strategie-senegal-numerique-2016-2025/>

⁴⁴⁷ <https://share.google/3HEGqHdj05cHcw9x4>

⁴⁴⁸ <https://share.google/3HEGqHdj05cHcw9x4>

⁴⁴⁹ <https://cdp.sn/>

Togo	Togo's Law No. 2018-026 on Cybersecurity and the Fight Against Cybercrime (amended 2022) ⁴⁵⁰	The law criminalizes illegal access, data interference, and breaches of privacy, thereby protecting personal information and digital identity of all users, including women. It also penalizes unauthorized interception, data theft, and cyber harassment-related acts, which indirectly safeguard women from online abuse and exploitation.	Digital Economy Strategy.	National Agency for Digital Security; ICT regulatory bodies.
Türkiye	Internet Law No. 5651 ⁴⁵¹ ;	Internet Law No. 5651 (as amended): provides fast-track blocking and removal mechanism for content violating personal rights and privacy, used to block non-consensual intimate image sharing; Art. 9A requires hosting providers to respond to removal requests within 24 hours	National Cyber Security Strategy (Ulusal Siber Güvenlik Stratejisi) includes digital safety as part of national security infrastructure; cybercrime enforcement is a priority	Information Technologies and Communications Authority (Bilgi Teknolojileri ve İletişim Kurumu, BTK) : administers content removal under Internet Law No. 5651; fast-track blocking for privacy violations – Cyber Crimes

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https://ancy.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Loi_n2018-026_du_07_decembre_2018_cybersecurite_et_cybercrimnalite.pdf

⁴⁵¹ [Turkish Internet Law No. 5651 Full Translation](#)

	<p>Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) — cyber provisions: Arts. 132–137 (privacy), Art. 226 (obscene material), Art. 267 (cyberstalking), Arts. 243–244 (computer crimes)⁴⁵²</p> <p>KADES digital enforcement mechanism⁴⁵³</p>	<p>(48 hours for social networks)</p> <p>⁴⁵⁴Penal Code Arts. 132–137: criminalise recording, disclosure, and dissemination of private communications and personal data without consent; Art. 134: violation of privacy of intimate life, applicable to non-consensual sharing of intimate images (revenge porn); penalty of 1–3 years' imprisonment, aggravated if material spreads over the internet⁴⁵⁵</p> <p>KADES App (Kadına Destek: Support for Women): launched by Ministry of Interior in 2018; integrated with Law No. 6284 enforcement;</p>	<p>axis – ⁴⁵⁷ KADES Application (Kadına Destek): Ministry of Interior emergency app integrated with Law No. 6284 protection orders; allows immediate police summoning by GBV survivors – Online reporting mechanisms for cybercrime (Cyber Crimes Branch, General Directorate of Security): women can file cyber harassment complaints online⁴⁵⁸</p>	<p>Branch (Siber Suçlar Şubesi), General Directorate of Security, Ministry of Interior: investigates online harassment, non-consensual image sharing, and digital GBV⁴⁵⁹ IT Authority; Police Cybercrime Units; digital rights help desks.</p> <p>Courts (Criminal and Civil courts): handle criminal complaints and civil claims for privacy violations</p>
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⁴⁵² [PENAL CODE OF Turkey](#)

⁴⁵³ KADES Application (Kadına Destek — Support for Women), Ministry of Interior: <https://www.egm.gov.tr/kades>

⁴⁵⁴ Internet Law No. 5651 (4 May 2007, as amended): <https://turkishnetworklaws.wordpress.com/law-no-5651/>

⁴⁵⁵ Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) — privacy and cyber provisions: <https://www.legislation.gov.tr/turkishlaw/viewdocument/70>

⁴⁵⁷ National Cyber Security Strategy of Turkey: <https://www.btk.gov.tr/en/cyber-security>; BTK (Information Technologies and Communications Authority): <https://www.btk.gov.tr/en>

⁴⁵⁸ KADES Application (Kadına Destek — Support for Women), Ministry of Interior: <https://www.egm.gov.tr/kades>

⁴⁵⁹ Internet Law No. 5651 (4 May 2007, as amended): <https://turkishnetworklaws.wordpress.com/law-no-5651/>

		allows women to summon police instantly at the push of a button; GPS-enabled immediate police dispatch ⁴⁵⁶		
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⁴⁵⁶ KADES Application (Kadına Destek — Support for Women), Ministry of Interior: <https://www.egm.gov.tr/kades>

Pakistan (Fed)	Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016 (Sections 20, 21, 24, 25) ⁴⁶⁰ ; (2022 amendment)	Criminalizes online defamation, cyber harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and identity theft; punishments range from 3–5 years imprisonment with fines depending on offence;	Digital literacy for women ⁴⁶² , UNHCR ⁴⁶³ , Digital Pakistan Policy 2021 ⁴⁶⁴ , Cybercrime reporting guidelines ⁴⁶⁵	National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) ⁴⁶⁶ ; ; Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) cyber complaint portals ⁴⁶⁷ ; Criminal Courts,
	PPC, 1860 (Sec. 507)	Criminalizes online threats, intimidation, and attempts to cause harm via digital communication;		Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) ⁴⁶⁸ ; Workplace Inquiry Committees.
	Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 ⁴⁶¹ 2022 Amendment (expanded scope to include online harassment / cyberstalking within workplace context)	Prohibits workplace harassment including digital harassment; allows electronic evidence; provides complaint and inquiry		

⁴⁶⁰ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Jvbp8%253D-sg-iiiiiiiiiiii>

⁴⁶¹ [March, 2010 No. F.9 \(5\)/2009-Legis.— The following Acts of Majlis-e-Shoora \(Parliament\) received the assent of the President on 9](#)

⁴⁶² <https://thediplomaticinsight.com/digital-threats-real-consequences-tech-facilitated-gender-based-violence/>

⁴⁶³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1958277>

⁴⁶⁴ https://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY%2822-05-2018%29.pdf

⁴⁶⁵ https://ntcert.pta.gov.pk/sops/FIA_Cyber_Crimes_Guideline.pdf

⁴⁶⁶ <https://www.nccia.gov.pk/>

⁴⁶⁷ <https://www.pta.gov.pk/category/complaints-298140473-2023-05-30>

⁴⁶⁸ <https://www.fospah.gov.pk/>

		mechanisms.		
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THEME 8 : INTERSECTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

State	Women-Friendly Laws / Articles	Key Provisions	Policies / Programs	Institutions / Redressal Forms
Azerbaijan	Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Art. 25); Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for	Guarantees equality of rights and prohibits discrimination, including on the basis of sex; Ensures equal rights and	State Women Policy ⁴⁷⁰ ; National Action Plan on Gender Equality (2026–2028) ⁴⁷¹ ; Gender focal points in	State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (referral body for discrimination complaints); Gender focal point network.

⁴⁷⁰ <https://family.gov.az/en/policies/qadin-siyaseti>

⁴⁷¹ <https://www.azernews.az/nation/252331.html>

	Women & Men (2006) ⁴⁶⁹ .	opportunities for women and men and prohibits gender-based discrimination across different sectors.	ministries to mainstream gender perspectives and monitor implementation.	
Bahrain	The Constitution of Bahrain (2002) Art.18 ⁴⁷²	Guarantees equality in human dignity and before the law; prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion, or creed.	National Disability Strategy. National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women ^{475, 476}	Ministry of Social Development; Ombudsman (General Secretariat of Complaints) ⁴⁷⁷ ; Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Social Development; Labour Market Regulatory Authority ⁴⁷⁸ ; Tawasul (National Suggestion & Complaint System) ⁴⁷⁹
	The Labor Law (No. 36 of 2012) ⁴⁷³	Protects workers' rights; prohibits discrimination in employment conditions including wages; ensures equal treatment regardless of sex or nationality.		
	Law No.74/2006 on Welfare of Disabled Persons (amended 2017) ⁴⁷⁴ .	Ensures welfare, rehabilitation, and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities; promotes equal access to		

⁴⁶⁹ <https://shorturl.at/11hXd>

⁴⁷² [Constitution+Kingdom+of+Bahrain.pdf](https://www.bahrain.gov.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/GSX-UI-AllEntities/GSX-UI-EntityDetails?entityID=21)

⁴⁷³ <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/bahrain-law-no-36-of-2012-issuing-the-labour-law-for-the-private-sector/>

⁴⁷⁴ https://www.social.gov.bh/ministry/legislations_and_regulations?lang=en

⁴⁷⁵ [Economic Vision 2030](https://www.bahrain.gov.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/GSX-UI-AllEntities/GSX-UI-EntityDetails?entityID=21)

⁴⁷⁶ <https://sdgs.gov.bh/NewsDetails?nid=WIL19OCVZgWvZ4/6eo3u/g==>

⁴⁷⁷ <https://www.bahrain.gov.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/GSX-UI-AllEntities/GSX-UI-EntityDetails?entityID=21>

⁴⁷⁸ <https://lmra.gov.bh/en/home>

⁴⁷⁹ <https://www.bahrain.gov.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/ServicesCatalogue/GSX-UI-PServiceDetails?psID=3748>

		services and participation.		
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Benin	Law 2017-06 on Protection of Persons with Disabilities ⁴⁸⁰ .	The law provides for Protection & prioritized assistance for women & children with disabilities.	Social Protection Policy.	Ministry of Social Affairs; National Council for Disabled Persons.
Burkina Faso	Constitution of Burkina Faso (Constitution of Burkina Faso) (Arts. 1, 4, 19) ⁴⁸¹ ; Labour Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 1, 4, 71), ^{482 483} ;	Art. 1 ensures equality of all citizens; Art. 4 guarantees equal protection without discrimination; Art. 19 ensures equal right to work, equal remuneration, and non-discrimination in employment; Arts. 1 & 4 prohibit discrimination in hiring, occupation, and employment; Art. 71 guarantees protection against dismissal during pregnancy;	National Gender Policy (2020-2024) ⁴⁸⁷ ; Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ⁴⁸⁸	Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs Burkina Faso, Ministry of Human Rights; National Human Rights Commission (CNDH); Civil society organizations

⁴⁸⁰ [Loi N° 2017-06 du 29 septembre 2017](#)

⁴⁸¹ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkfl28139E.pdf>

⁴⁸² https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1296592/1930_1373012264_cmw-c-bfa-1-en.pdf

⁴⁸³ <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2022/snapshots/Burkina-faso.pdf>

⁴⁸⁷ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/a-77-243-submission-burkina-faso-en.pdf>

⁴⁸⁸ https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw33/conclude/burkina_faso/0545036E.pdf

	<p>Persons and Family Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 293, 300, 331, 733, 744)⁴⁸⁴;</p> <p>Penal Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 322-2, 322-3)⁴⁸⁵;</p> <p>Social Security Code of Burkina Faso (Arts. 84, 85, 100)⁴⁸⁶;</p>	<p>Art. 293 recognizes women as heads of household; Art. 300 ensures equal access to bank accounts; Art. 331 guarantees equal ownership and administration of property; Arts. 733 & 744 ensure equal inheritance rights;</p> <p>Arts. 322-2 & 322-3 prohibit discrimination in access to credit;</p> <p>Arts. 84, 85 & 100 ensure equal pension rights and recognition of childcare periods in benefit calculations;</p>		
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⁴⁸⁴ file:///C:/Users/PMLS/Downloads/CODE-DES-PERSONNES-ET-DE-LA-FAMILLE.pdf

⁴⁸⁵ file:///C:/Users/PMLS/Downloads/CODE%20PROCEDURE%20PENALE.pdf

⁴⁸⁶ <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2022/snapshots/Burkina-faso.pdf>

<p>Senegal</p>	<p>Social Orientation Law 2010-15 on disability rights⁴⁸⁹</p> <p>Senegalese Constitution Art.1, 5 & 7⁴⁹⁰</p>	<p>Inclusive education & services for women with disabilities.</p> <p>Art.1: The Republic of Senegal is a secular, democratic, and social state that guarantees equality before the law for all citizens, regardless of origin, race, sex, or religion, and respects all beliefs.</p> <p>Art.5: Discrimination and threats to national unity are punishable by law.</p> <p>Art.7: Men and women have equal rights, and the law ensures protection against workplace discrimination</p>	<p>National Social Protection Strategy.</p> <p>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁴⁹¹</p>	<p>Ministry of Women & Family; National Disabled Persons' Council.</p> <p>Constitutional Council Senegal; Supreme court of Senegal</p>
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⁴⁸⁹ [Access to Services for People with Disabilities \(SN0018\) | Commitment from Senegal | Open Government Partnership](#)

⁴⁹⁰ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sen128391E.pdf>

⁴⁹¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/un-committee-elimination-racial-discrimination-publishes-findings-croatia-italy-namibia-senegal-turkmenistan-and-uruguay>

Togo	Law 2004-005 on Disabled Persons ⁴⁹² . Penal Code (Arts. 311–313) ⁴⁹³	Guarantees equal rights, dignity, and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including access to education, employment, healthcare, and public services. Arts. 311–313: Specific provisions on discrimination against women covering employment, education, and social life; Art. 553: general anti-discrimination provision punishing any act of discrimination	Social Development Policy. National Disability Action Plan: employment quotas and accessible services for persons with disabilities including women.	Ministry of Social Action; Disabled Persons' Associations: advocate for disabled women's rights
Türkiye	Constitution (1982) Art. 10 (equality and non-discrimination) ⁴⁹⁴	Art. 10: guarantees equality before the law without discrimination, affirms that men and women	National Disability Action Plan (2020–2025) ⁴⁹⁷ Ministry of Family and Social Services centres	Ministry of Family and Social Services (Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı) leads disability and women's rights policy; operates social support centres for vulnerable women –

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https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/migrated/15/2019/11/Togo_Law-on-the-Social-Protection-of-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf

⁴⁹³ Togo Penal Code (Loi No. 2015-010 of 24 November 2015):

[https://www.policinglaw.info/assets/downloads/Code_p%C3%A9nale_du_Togo_\(2015\).pdf](https://www.policinglaw.info/assets/downloads/Code_p%C3%A9nale_du_Togo_(2015).pdf); anti-slavery law database: <https://antislaverylaw.ac.uk/country/togo/>

⁴⁹⁴ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): [Constitution OF THE Republic OF Turkey](#) Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021):

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/68105/women-in-turkey-23-02-2021.pdf>

⁴⁹⁷ National Disability Action Plan 2020–2025 (Türkiye):

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/en/subsidiaries/general-directorate-of-services-for-persons-with-disabilities-and-the-elderly/>

	<p>Law on Disabled People (Law No. 5378 of 1 July 2005, amended 2012 and 2014)⁴⁹⁵</p>	<p>have equal rights, also clarifies that special measures for women and vulnerable groups do not violate the principle of equality.⁴⁹⁶</p> <p>Law No. 5378, Arts. 5–16: mandates education, rehabilitation, care, and employment services for persons with disabilities; Art. 14: prohibits discrimination in employment including hiring, working conditions, and promotion; Art. 15: public</p>	<p>providing multi-dimensional support to vulnerable women including those with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, and women in poverty – Social Assistance and Solidarity General Directorate (SODES) programmes⁴⁹⁸ Social Assistance and Solidarity General Directorate (SODES) programmes: targeted social transfers for low-income and vulnerable women including those with disabilities in rural areas – Turkey ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 28</p>	<p>Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR): monitors and enforces the 3% disability employment quota; places women with disabilities in employment⁵⁰⁰ Ombudsman Institution (Kamu Denetçiliği Kurumu), independent body; receives discrimination complaints including intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities; publishes annual reports – Equality Institution of Turkey (Türkiye İnsan Hakları ve Eşitlik Kurumu, TİHEK)⁵⁰¹; Ministry of Family & Social Services; Turkish Employment Agency.</p>
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⁴⁹⁵ Law on Disabled People (Law No. 5378, 1 July 2005, amended 2012 and 2014):

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/11/Turkey_Turkish-Disability-Act-TDA-No.-5378-of-2005.pdf; employment quota analysis:

<https://metropolcpa.com/disability-employment-obligations-turkey/>

⁴⁹⁶ Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982, as amended): [Constitution OF THE Republic OF Turkey](#) Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services — Women in Turkey (2021):

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/68105/women-in-turkey-23-02-2021.pdf>

⁴⁹⁸ Ministry of Family and Social Services — social support centres and SODES programmes:

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/en/>

⁵⁰⁰ Ministry of Family and Social Services — social support centres and SODES programmes:

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/en/>

⁵⁰¹ Equality Institution of Turkey (TİHEK, Law No. 6701 of 2016): <https://www.tihe.gov.tr/en>

		institutions and private employers with 50+ employees must maintain a 3% disability employment quota.	September 2009 ⁴⁹⁹	
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⁴⁹⁹ Turkey ratification of UN CRPD (28 September 2009): <https://www.electionguide.org/countries/id/218/>

<p>Pakistan</p>	<p>Constitution of Pakistan Art.11, Art.14, , , 25, 26, 27 & Art.33.⁵⁰²</p> <p>The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018⁵⁰³</p>	<p>Art.11:Slavery is non-existent and forbidden and no law shall permit or facilitate its introduction into Pakistan in any form & all forms of forced labour and traffic in human beings are prohibited.</p> <p>Art.14: The dignity of man and, subject to law, the privacy of home, shall be inviolable.</p> <p>Art.25: Guarantees equality before the law.</p> <p>Art.26: In respect of access to places of public entertainment</p>	<p>National Policy of persons with Disability 2002 & 2006⁵⁰⁹;</p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵¹⁰;</p> <p>HEC 2021 Policy for Students with Disabilities in Higher Education⁵¹¹;</p> <p>Mapping of Disability-Inclusive Education Practices in South Asia⁵¹²</p>	<p>Ministry of Human Rights⁵¹³;</p> <p>National Centre for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP)⁵¹⁴;</p> <p>Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)⁵¹⁵;</p> <p>Sindh Social Welfare Department⁵¹⁶;</p> <p>Sindh Social Protection Authority⁵¹⁷;</p> <p>Punjab Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal Department⁵¹⁸;</p> <p>Parliamentary Committee on Disability⁵¹⁹;</p> <p>Aurat Foundation⁵²⁰;</p> <p>Punjab Women Protection Authority⁵²¹;</p> <p>Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)⁵²²;</p>
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⁵⁰² <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Fvbpw%3D-sg-jiiiiiiiiiiiiii>

⁵⁰³ <https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-apaUY2Nob54%3D-sg-jiiiiiiiiiiiiii>

⁵⁰⁹ <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/critical-review-national-policy-of-pwd-2002-and-npa2006-pakistan/117118347>

⁵¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

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<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/universities/Documents/HEC%20-%20POLICY%20FOR%20STUDENTS%20WITH%20DISABILITIES%20AT%20HEIs%20IN%20PAKISTAN.pdf>

⁵¹² <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/17011/file/Country%20Profile%20-%20Pakistan.pdf>

⁵¹³ <https://www.mohr.gov.pk/NewsDetail/NDA2NDc4OWUtYjY2NC00M2MzLTg0MTktZjY1YzZiNzc0NWQw>

⁵¹⁴ <https://ndfpakistan.org/>

⁵¹⁵ <https://crpd.punjab.gov.pk/provincial-council-for-the-rehabilitation>

⁵¹⁶ <https://swd.sindh.gov.pk/>

⁵¹⁷ <https://sspa.gos.pk/>

⁵¹⁸ https://swd.punjab.gov.pk/about_us

⁵¹⁹ <https://www.mohr.gov.pk/Detail/MzgzZDg2MTEtNjEyYi00MDk0LTliZGUtMTNiMzdmMDNkYzU4>

⁵²⁰ <https://nchr.gov.pk/af/>

⁵²¹ https://pwpa.punjab.gov.pk/contact_us

⁵²² <https://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/complaints-cell/>

		<p>or resort, not intended for religious purposes only, there shall be no discrimination against any citizen on the ground only of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth.</p> <p>Art.27: No citizen otherwise qualified for appointment in the service of Pakistan shall be discriminated against in respect of any such appointment on the ground only of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth.</p> <p>Art.33: The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.</p> <p>This law protects transgender</p>		<p>For ICT: National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons; For Punjab: Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities; For KPK: Rights, Rehabilitation, Accessibility & Empowerment of People with Disabilities Council⁵²³; For Balochistan: Provincial Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons; For Sindh: Special Courts for Persons with Disabilities⁵²⁴, Provincial Advisory Council for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities⁵²⁵</p>
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⁵²³ <https://nowpdp.org.pk/rehnumai/laws-and-regulation/khyber-pakhtunkhwa-rights-rehabilitation-act>

⁵²⁴ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2062259/special-courts-set-disabled-persons-sindh>

⁵²⁵

<https://ndfpakistan.org/sindh-persons-with-disabilities-protection-authority-karachi-visits-ndf-rehabilitation-center-nawa-bshah/>

		<p>people in Pakistan from discrimination and gives them equal legal rights.</p> <p>Act to promote & effectively ensure the rights of persons with disabilities & to advance efforts for recognition of their respect & dignity in society & 2% employment quota in ICT.</p> <p>The rights of women, children, transgender and elderly people with disabilities shall be afforded special protection to allow them to enjoy their rights equally with others & 3% quota across both public and private sector organizations.</p>		
	ICT_Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2020 ⁵⁰⁴			
	Punjab Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2022 ⁵⁰⁵	Act to provide for the employment, accessibility, rehabilitation & welfare of disabled persons & 2% quota.		

⁵⁰⁴ https://www.mohr.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/1601028302_229.pdf

⁵⁰⁵ [THE Punjab Empowerment OF Persons WITH Disabilities ACT 2022 \(xlii Of 2022\)](#)

	<p>KPK Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rights, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018⁵⁰⁶.</p> <p>The Baluchistan Persons with disabilities Act 2017⁵⁰⁷</p>	<p>An Act to promote and ensure full and effective inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the community in line with the Islamic teachings and international best practices to protect their rights & requires a 5% quota in employment and reserves 5% of seats in educational institutions in Balochistan.</p> <p>Persons with disabilities have the right to live with dignity and enjoy freedoms equal to all citizens. It supports their active involvement in social, economic, cultural, and political life within the province & 5% quota for all employers.</p>		
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⁵⁰⁶ <https://www.pakp.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/4909-P2.pdf>

⁵⁰⁷ <https://balochistancode.gob.pk/Document.aspx?wise=open doc&docid=1002&docc=952>

	The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 ⁵⁰⁸			
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⁵⁰⁸ <https://www.scribd.com/document/827589414/Sindh-Empowerment-of-PWD-Act-2018-May-24-2018>