Protecting women from violence

The protecting women from violence indicator examines legislation on domestic violence and sexual harassment in education and employment.

Key facts for this indicator:

- Twenty-one economies from across 5 regions receive a score of 0 in the protecting women from violence indicator.
- In the Middle East and North Africa, 35% of economies score 0 in this indicator, as do 19% of economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 65% of economies, there is no law protecting women and girls from sexual harassment in education.
- 45 economies do not have laws on domestic violence. However, 9 of the 45 economies that do not have laws on domestic violence have aggravated penalties for specific types of abuse committed between family members rather than domestic violence laws.
- Fifty-nine economies do not have laws prohibiting sexual harassment at work. This includes 70% of examined economies in the Middle East and North Africa; approximately half of examined economies in East Asia and the Pacific; and approximately one-third of examined economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In Europe and Central Asia, approximately a quarter of economies lack workplace harassment laws. Additionally, Japan is the only OECD high-income economy that does not legally protect women from sexual harassment at work.
- Thirteen economies had reforms in the protecting women from violence indicator.
- Cameroon adopted a new criminal code covering sexual harassment in employment and education.
- Kenya has enacted its first domestic violence law, which protects family members, spouses, former spouses and partners from physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse.
- Iraq criminalized sexual harassment in employment.
- Afghanistan enacted legislation establishing criminal penalties and civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment.

Women, Business and the Law measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women’s incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It analyzes gender-based legal differences in 189 economies, covering seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, going to court, building credit and protecting women from violence. The report is published every two years. The full report and accompanying datasets are available at wbl.worldbank.org.