Lebanon ratified CEDAW in 1997. Lebanon maintains reservations to Article 9(2) (equal rights with respect to nationality of children), Article 16(1)(c), (d), (f), and (g) (equality in marriage and family relations), and Article 29(1) (administration of the Convention and arbitration in the event of a dispute).

Constitution

Article 7 of the 1926 Constitution states that all Lebanese are equal before the law and equally enjoy civil and political rights. However, there is no specific reference to sex or gender equality. The Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or gender.

NATIONALITY LAW

NATIONALITY

Lebanese women cannot pass their citizenship to their children or to a foreign spouse in the same way as Lebanese men.
### CRIMINAL LAWS

**Domestic violence**  
Women and girls are protected by the Law on Protection of Women and other Family Members from Domestic Violence, Law No. 293 of 2014. The Law could be strengthened by clarifying whether it criminalizes marital rape. A Bill that proposes amendments to improve the Law has been drafted but is yet to be considered by parliament.

**Rape (other than of a spouse)**  
Rape outside of marriage is a criminal offence under the Penal Code with a minimum punishment of imprisonment for five years.

**Exoneration by marriage**  
A perpetrator of a sexual offence against a girl who marries his victim is exonerated if the circumstances fall under Articles 505 or 518 of the Penal Code.

**Abortion for rape survivors**  
Abortion is prohibited by Articles 539–546 of the Penal Code, including for women who have been raped.

**Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)**  
There are no reported cases. There is no legal prohibition.

**Marital rape**  
Marital rape is not criminalized. The definition of rape in Articles 503 and 504 of the Penal Code of 1943 excludes forced sex in marriage.

**Sexual harassment**  
The Labour Code does not prohibit workplace sexual harassment. The Penal Code includes the punishment of some indecent acts to which the description of sexual harassment may apply, including Articles 385, 507, 518, and 532.

**Sexual orientation**  
Article 534 of the Penal Code criminalizes “unnatural” sex with one year’s imprisonment. This article has been used to charge people for homosexual conduct. Some courts have ruled that Article 534 should not be used to prosecute consensual conduct between adults in private.

### PERSONAL STATUS LAWS

**Minimum age of marriage**  
There is no law prohibiting early marriage. The minimum age of marriage varies among religious denominations and disadvantages girls. Although most religious groups set the minimum age as 18 for boys, all religious groups allow girls under the age of 18 to marry.

**Guardianship of children**  
Men have guardianship over children. Women do not have guardianship rights, with the exception of Armenian Orthodox couples.

**Marriage and divorce**  
Women do not enjoy equal rights in marriage and divorce under the Personal Status Laws. Grounds for divorce or annulment under the various sectarian Personal Status Laws discriminate against women.

### LABOUR LAWS

**Right to equal pay for the same work as men**  
Article 26 of the Labour Code of 1946 (as amended) prohibits discrimination against women in the payment of wages.

**Dismissal for pregnancy**  
Employers are prohibited from dismissing women because of pregnancy by Articles 29 and 52 of the Labour Code.

**Paid maternity leave**  
Under the Labour Code, women are entitled to 10 weeks of maternity leave paid by the employer, but this is less than the ILO standard of 14 weeks.

**Legal restrictions on women’s work**  
The Labour Code prohibits women from working in certain occupations considered arduous or hazardous.