QATAR

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

Qatar ratified CEDAW in 2009. Reservations were made to Articles 2(a), 9(2), 15(1), 15(4), 16(1)(a), (c), and (f). Qatar also included several declarations, including that Article 5(a) must not be understood as encouraging women to abandon their role as mothers and their role in child-rearing.

Constitution

The 2004 Constitution states that all persons are equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, language, or religion.

NATIONALITY LAW

NATIONALITY

Women do not have the same rights as men to pass citizenship to their children or to a foreign spouse under the Nationality Law (Law No. 38 of 2005).
CRIMINAL LAWS

Domestic violence
There is no domestic violence legislation in Qatar.

Abortion for rape survivors
Under the Penal Code, abortion is generally illegal, except if necessary to save the life of the woman.

Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGM/C)
There are no laws prohibiting FGM/C. However, FGM/C is not practiced in Qatar.

Marital rape
Marital rape is not criminalized. Due to the obedience requirement in the Family Law, cases of marital rape do not come before the courts.

Sexual harassment
Offensive remarks, sounds, or gestures against women and girls are criminalized by Article 291 of the Penal Code.

Human trafficking
Qatar adopted a comprehensive law against trafficking in 2018. The Law on Combating Human Trafficking includes penalties up to 15 years in prison and protective services for victims of trafficking.

Rape
Rape is criminalized by Article 279 of the Penal Code. The death penalty applies in aggravated circumstances, e.g., rape of a minor by a relative.

Exoneration by marriage
There is no ‘marry-your-rapist’ law in Qatar.

Adultery
Adultery is an offence under Articles 281, 282, and 285 of the Penal Code.

Sexual orientation
Sexual conduct between consenting adults outside of marriage is criminalized by Articles 281, 282, 285, and 288 of the Penal Code. Article 289 criminalizes seducing for sodomy or to commit immoral acts.

PERSONAL STATUS LAWS

Minimum age of marriage
The Family Law of 2006 establishes the minimum age for marriage as 18 for boys and 16 for girls. Judges may grant approval for marriage below these ages in exceptional cases.

Male guardianship over women
Permission of a marriage guardian (wali) is required for a woman to marry. There are some legal protections for women under guardianship. The bride’s guardian must conclude her marriage contract with her permission.

Guardianship of children
Fathers are the sole guardians of children.

Custody of children
After divorce or separation, the mother retains custody of her sons until age 13 and of her daughters until age 15.

Inheritance
The Family Law defines the rules of inheritance, which follow Sharia principles. Women have a right to inheritance, but in many cases receive less than men. Daughters receive half the share that sons receive.

LABOUR LAWS

Right to equal pay for the same work as men
Article 93 of the Labour Law of 2004 states that women shall be given equal remuneration to men when they do the same work and shall have the same opportunities for training and advancement as men.

Dismissal for pregnancy
Employers are prohibited from dismissing women because of pregnancy by Article 98 of the Labour Law.

Paid maternity leave
Under the Labour Law, women are entitled to 50 days of maternity leave, which is paid by the employer. This is less than the ILO standard of 14 weeks.

Legal restrictions on women’s work
The Labour Law provides that women shall not be employed in dangerous work, arduous work, work that is detrimental to their health or morals, or other works to be specified by a Decision of the Minister. The Minister may also specify that women cannot be employed during certain times, such as at night.