WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THE LAW:

A REPORT CARD

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW BEGINS WITH THE CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTIONS

98 COUNTRIES, 12 constitutions do not apply this guarantee in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

83 In 25 countries, women are not entitled to paid maternity leave.

509 LEGAL INTERVENTIONS

78 Ongoing advocacy against Bills enabling gender equality.

71 UN WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAW REFORM: mandate quotas as one means to achieving gender equality in politics.

509 Out of 515 countries, 346 have a minimum age set for marriage for girls.

40 In 23 countries, child marriage is defined as marriage below 18 years.

25 In 25 countries, women are unable to pass on their nationality to their noncitizen spouse.

20 In 71 countries, women are not entitled to access to paid leave.

116 In 72 countries, fathers do not have equal access to parental leave.

98 In 98 countries, the law allows for early and child marriage, restricting their productive and earning capacities.

66 In 40 countries, women are denied inheritance in favor of sons.

41 In 41 countries, women cannot pass on their nationality to both her noncitizen spouse and child.

44 Equality before the law begins with the constitution.

32 Out of 166 countries, 32 have laws that protect women and girls at risk of violence.

20 Out of 165 countries, 20 have not enacted legislation granting women and girls access to safe abortion.

114 Out of 162 countries, 114 have laws or practices that restrict women's marriage rights.

17 Out of 161 countries, 17 have laws that have discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

14 In 279 countries, women are not entitled to access to paid leave.

12 In 509 countries, 12 are not entitled to access to paid leave.

11 In 78 countries, the law exempts perpetrators from rape charges if they marry the survivor.

9 In 23 countries, the law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence.

5 In 83 countries, the law exempts perpetrators from rape charges if they marry the survivor.

3 In 98 countries, the law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence.

1 In 20 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

0 In 78 countries, the law exempts perpetrators from rape charges if they marry the survivor.

WOMEN'S NATIONALITY RIGHTS PROMOTE FAMILY COHESION

509 Out of 515 countries, 346 have a minimum age set for marriage for girls.

44 In 44 constitutional reforms adopted, women cannot pass on their nationality to her noncitizen spouse.

41 In 41 countries, women cannot pass on their nationality to both her noncitizen spouse and child.

32 In 32 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

27 In 27 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

26 In 26 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

25 In 25 countries, the law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence.

22 In 22 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

20 In 20 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

19 In 19 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

18 In 18 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

17 In 17 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

16 In 16 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

15 In 15 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

14 In 14 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

13 In 13 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

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11 In 11 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

10 In 10 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

9 In 9 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

8 In 8 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

7 In 7 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

6 In 6 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

5 In 5 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

4 In 4 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

3 In 3 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

2 In 2 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

1 In 1 country, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

0 In 0 countries, discriminatory provisions in matters of marriage, divorce and property rights.

The law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence.

In 509 countries, 346 have a minimum age set for marriage for girls.

Women's rights and the law: a report card.* This is a report card on selected areas of the law, that draws on the forthcoming report by UN Women, “Shaping the Law for Women and Girls” (2021).

Sources (as of June 2021)

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Women's rights in national constitutions: UNHCR, Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness 2021; Constitutional Database of UN Women (2021); The World Bank, Women, Business and the Law database (2021).

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Female representation: Women’s parliamentarians/assembly members in 2015; Women’s representation in political bodies (2019 – 2020).

The law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence: The World Bank Group and OECD Development Centre on countries for gender violence. The indicators on laws or practices that restrict women's marriage rights are based on the World Bank Women, Business and the Law database. The law or its absence can put women and girls at risk of violence is based on data from the World Bank’s Gender Violence and Health Database.

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