

## WOMEN SAFETY LAWS ACROSS ISLAMIC NATIONS: AN ANALYTICAL COMPARISON WITH THE INDIAN FEMALE PROTECTION LAWS

---

**Rishaan Gupta\***

### INTRODUCTION

Women's safety is not just a women's issue; it is a human rights issue that affects us all. Evolving in a society like ours, we have seen Women's empowerment and upliftment happening at our doors but we still fail to understand that the roots of Male chauvinism are way deeper. The issue of women's safety is a crucial topic that demands attention and action from all societies. Unfortunately, many women in Islamic countries have faced challenges and obstacles regarding their safety, which have affected their quality of life and limited their potential. However, it is essential to acknowledge that some Islamic countries have implemented laws and regulations aimed at improving women's safety. These laws address various issues, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women, and provide legal protections for women who have been victimized. While there is still much work to be done to ensure that women are safe and treated equally in Islamic countries, it is crucial to acknowledge the progress that has been made and continue to push for further advancements. Central Asian countries and Gulf Countries are home to many diverse communities, and women's safety laws have been a significant concern in these societies for many years. These countries have struggled with gender-based violence, and abuse of women and this has resulted in a need for stricter laws and policies to protect women's rights and safety. The governments of these countries have implemented laws and policies to ensure women's safety and protect their rights. However, enforcement and implementation of these laws have varied across the region.

This Article not only covers the Basic Aspect of how women are treated all across Islamic Countries but also draws a comparison between the Indian Women's Safety Laws and those of different countries. With a viewpoint of covering the majorly populated Islamic countries, India has been compared with six other nations as a whole and a detailed analysis has been portrayed upon that.

## THE SPIEL OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**IRAQ:** Iraq has a long history of conflict and political instability, which has negatively impacted the safety and security of women in the country. One of the most significant laws aimed at protecting women in Iraq is the [2011 Law on Protection from Domestic Violence](#). This law criminalizes acts of domestic violence and provides victims with legal and social support. However, the law has faced criticism from women's rights activists who argue that it is not adequately enforced and that the legal system often fails to provide justice for victims. Additionally, [Iraq's Penal Code](#) criminalizes acts of rape, sexual harassment, and other forms of violence against women. Yet, the country has been criticized for the low number of prosecutions and convictions for these crimes. Iraq has also implemented policies aimed at increasing women's participation in public life, including quotas for women in parliament and local councils. These policies have led to some progress, but women still face significant barriers to full political and economic participation. In recent years, Iraq has taken steps to address the issue of human trafficking, including the adoption of a national [anti-trafficking law in 2012](#). This law criminalizes human trafficking and provides support for victims. However, Iraq remains a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking, and women and girls are particularly vulnerable to exploitation

**SAUDI ARABIA:** Saudi Arabia has a complex legal system that is heavily influenced by Islamic law and tradition. Women's rights and safety have been a significant concern in the country, and the government has implemented laws and policies aimed at protecting women. However, Saudi Arabia has been criticized for its strict gender segregation policies and for limiting women's rights and freedoms. One of the most significant recent developments in women's rights in Saudi Arabia is the repeal of the ban on women driving in 2018. In 2013, Saudi Arabia passed the [Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law](#), which criminalizes human trafficking and provides support for victims. However, the country remains a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking, and women are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Women in Saudi Arabia also face significant barriers to political and economic participation. While women were granted the right to vote and run for office in 2015, they still face significant obstacles to full political participation. Additionally, women face discrimination in the workplace, including lower wages and limited opportunities for advancement.

**QATAR:** Qatar is a country located in the Middle East that has implemented various measures to ensure the safety and security of women. These measures are rooted in the country's Islamic faith and culture, and they seek to protect women from harassment, abuse, and other forms of violence. The [Qatari Penal Code](#) has criminalized sexual harassment and assault, with perpetrators facing imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to QAR 100,000 (USD 27,400). The country has also established a National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) to oversee the implementation of human rights laws, including those related to women's rights. The country has ratified the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), which commits it to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Women in Qatar have the right to vote, run for office, and work in any sector they choose. Women are expected to wear clothing that covers their shoulders, arms, and legs, and they are also required to wear headscarves in certain public places. Violations of the dress code can result in fines or imprisonment. Overall, Qatar has made significant progress in promoting women's safety and rights. The country has established laws and regulations aimed at protecting women from violence and harassment, and it has taken steps to promote gender equality and empower women.

**UAE:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has made significant progress in promoting women's safety and rights. The UAE has a set of laws and regulations aimed at protecting women's safety. The Federal Penal Code criminalizes sexual harassment and assault, with perpetrators facing imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to AED 100,000 (USD 27,200). The UAE also has a federal law on domestic violence that criminalizes physical and psychological abuse, with penalties ranging from imprisonment to fines. In Addition to this, the government has established a hotline for victims of domestic violence, which is operated by the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children. The hotline provides support and counselling to victims and helps them access legal and medical services. The UAE has made significant progress in promoting women's rights and empowerment. The country has ratified the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), which commits it to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Women in the UAE have the right to vote, run for office, and work in any sector they choose.

**IRAN:** Iran is a country with a long and complex history, where laws and regulations are influenced by the Islamic faith and culture. Iran has laws and regulations aimed at protecting women's safety. [The Islamic Penal Code](#) criminalizes sexual harassment and assault, with

perpetrators facing imprisonment or even the death penalty in certain cases. Furthermore, some laws impose dress codes on women in public spaces, requiring them to cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothing that covers their arms and legs. Violators of these dress codes may face fines, detention, or other punishments. The country has ratified the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#). Women in Iran have the right to vote and run for political office, and there are women in positions of power in the count. Cultural norms and attitudes play a significant role in shaping the experiences of women in Iran. Women are expected to adhere to strict codes of conduct and dress, and they may face social ostracism or even violence if they fail to do so. There are also concerns about the prevalence of child marriage in Iran, which can expose young girls to risks of domestic violence, forced sexual relations, and other forms of harm. In conclusion, while Iran has made some progress in promoting women's rights and safety, there are significant challenges that remain.

#### **HOW DOES INDIA STAND OUT IN SAFEGUARDING ITS WOMEN?**

The laws and regulations related to women's safety in India are different from those in Islamic nations, as they are based on different cultural and legal systems. The cultural differences, the Mythological aspects and many other secondary aspects play a great role in the Islamic Nation's laws being different from those of India.

**Legal Systems:** India's legal system is based on common law, while Islamic nations have a legal system based on Islamic law or Sharia. The legal systems of these nations are generally more focused on religious and cultural values, while India's legal system has a broader focus on individual rights and freedoms.

**Dress Codes:** Islamic nations have dress codes for women in public spaces, which require them to cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothing that covers their arms and legs. In India, there is no national dress code.

**Domestic Violence:** India has specific laws that criminalize domestic violence and protect women from abuse by their spouses or partners. In contrast, Islamic nations have been criticized for inadequate protection against domestic violence, and in some cases, the law may even allow for abuse by husbands or male family members.

**Sexual Harassment:** India has laws that criminalize sexual harassment in the workplace and public spaces, with perpetrators facing imprisonment or fines. Islamic nations also have laws criminalizing sexual harassment, but there may be differences in the way these laws are enforced and the severity of the punishments

**Women's Empowerment:** India has made significant progress in promoting women's rights and empowerment, with women holding positions of power in government, business, and other sectors. In contrast, Islamic nations may have more limited opportunities for women to participate in public life and hold positions of power.

**Cultural Norms:** Cultural norms and attitudes play a significant role in shaping women's experiences in both India and Islamic nations. Women in India may face discrimination or violence due to cultural norms that limit their opportunities and freedoms, such as child marriage or dowry-related violence. Islamic nations may have similar cultural norms and attitudes that limit women's opportunities and freedoms.

In conclusion, while there are some similarities in the laws and regulations related to women's safety in India and Islamic nations, there are also significant differences.

## CONCLUSION WITH WAYS TO IMPROVE

Improving women's safety laws in Islamic countries is a complex and multi-faceted issue that requires a concerted effort from various stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the wider community. Decoding some of the important ways, the following should be the top priorities:

**Education and awareness-raising:** Education and awareness-raising campaigns can help change attitudes and promote gender equality. Governments can invest in campaigns that raise awareness about the importance of women's safety and rights and the negative impacts of violence against women.

**Stronger legal frameworks:** Governments need to enact stronger legal frameworks that criminalize violence against women and provide adequate protection and support for survivors. Islamic countries can benefit from creating and enforcing laws that promote gender equality and criminalize all forms of gender-based violence.

**Providing support for survivors:** Governments can provide support for survivors of gender-based violence, such as counselling, legal assistance, and healthcare. Governments can work with civil society organizations to provide shelter and other essential services.

**Addressing cultural and social norms:** Cultural and social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence need to be addressed through advocacy, education, and legal reform. This requires collaboration between religious leaders, civil society organizations, and the government to promote gender equality and challenge harmful practices.

Summarising we need to understand that, improving women's safety laws in Islamic countries requires a comprehensive approach that addresses legal, cultural, and social barriers. Governments, civil society organizations, and the wider community must work together to promote gender equality and eliminate violence against women. It is high time that as Homo sapiens we realise that Women are the fundamental Pillars of our existence and the government of these Nations should learn from India, and implement the ideas that have been brewing in the country. The way India has evolved in its approach towards women, we all wish that the same happens in the Islamic Nations and that they make themselves a better place to live for the WOMANKIND.

