

GBV Laws and Policies in Syria

The law provides for lenient penalties in murders with an "honor" motive, and leaves to the judge's discretion to determine whether the killing was motivated by "honor"





Provisions of the penal code related to **adultery** unfairly favor men, and a female victim of rape risks being prosecuted for adultery if she reports the rape

A woman does not have the same right to report adultery as her husband





A man may avoid prosecution for rape if he marries his victim



Rape is criminalized under Syrian law, but rape of one's wife is exempt, so a husband who rapes his wife will be free from prosecution



Syrian law prohibits female genital mutilation (FGM)

Human trafficking is criminalized under a detailed, separate law; however many judges in practice apply the general provisions of the penal code when human trafficking cases arise, which provide less protection to survivors





A woman's right of **personal status**, affecting rights in marriage, divorce, and inheritance, depends on her religious identity

A woman's consent is required for a valid marriage; however, a male guardian of the wife may request to annul the marriage in some circumstances





The minimum age for marriage for young men and women is now the same, but a male guardian, in certain circumstances, may block the marriage of an adult woman who has never been married before.