**Submission to CEDAW for the 79th Pre-Sessional Working Group**

**Adoption of the list of issues on Egypt –**

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This paper has been developed by the International Service for Human Rights based on information published by national and international human rights organisations.

We propose questions to the State Party on:

* Sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls by State and non-State actors committed with impunity;
* Sexual and reproductive health;
* Discriminatory laws including on murder, adultery and morality;
* The National Council for Women’s independence and effectiveness;
* Barriers to access justice;
* Criminalisation of human rights work and civil society;
* Discriminatory practices by State officials at the highest levels;
* Representation in the judiciary;
* Barriers to economic and social life;
* Violations of the right to health in detention centres.

Due to the word limit, see **annexes with references** on: [SGBV](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/annex_i-_sgbv_against_women_and_girls_0.pdf) (by State, non-State actors, online violence, Christian women, North Sinai and national strategy on violence against women); and [discriminatory practices by State](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/annex_ii-stereotypes_discriminatory_and_harmful_practices_0.pdf) (analysis of official statements) and non-State actors (media reporting).

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1. **Legislative framework**

Please provide information on:

* What measures is the State party taking to consider the **draft law on violence against women** prepared by civil society and endorsed by several MPs[[1]](#endnote-1)?
* What measures are in place to allow the Prosecution to investigate complaints and initiate prosecution[[2]](#endnote-2) *suo moto* and to remove statute of limitations **for sexual and gender-based violence**?[[3]](#endnote-3)
* The number of cases of **FGM** where the judges used Article 17 of the Penal Code to reduce the sentences issued against doctors; and provide information on guarantees to ensure that it is no longer used to reduce sentences against doctors performing FGM[[4]](#endnote-4).
* Administrative sanctions against doctors and medical workers performing **FGM**.
* Align the definition of **rape** in Egyptian legislation in conformity with international human rights standards, including CEDAW General Recommendation 35 on gender based violence against women.
* Ensure that in practice **rape charges** are not dismissed by the Prosecution nor not left to judges’ discretion as allowed for by Article 17 of the Penal Code.
* Ensure access to all women seeking **sexual and reproductive health services** including safe abortion.[[5]](#endnote-5)
* Amend laws which discriminate against women with regards to **murder**[[6]](#endnote-6) and other provisions in the Penal Code as recommended by the Committee in 2010 (para 16).
* Measures taken by the judiciary to prevent abuse of **adultery** laws by husbands to deny women their rights[[7]](#endnote-7) .
* Steps being taken to:
	+ Criminalise **family and sexual violence**, including marital rape[[8]](#endnote-8);
	+ Ensure that victims of family and sexual violence have access to legal, medical and psychological assistance, reparation and rehabilitation and assist them in reporting incidents;
	+ Ensure that cases of family violence are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and, when convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions; in particular to ensure that Article 17 of the Penal Code is not used to reduce sentences in cases of “honour crimes”.
* What definitions of **family values or public morality**[[9]](#endnote-9) the judiciary rely on and what steps are being taken to ensure that these charges are not used to enforce harmful stereotypes against women, in line with Egypt’s obligations under Article 5 of the Convention?
* What steps is the State taking to ensure a comprehensive legislation and policy to **protect witnesses and those who report SGBV crimes**, as well as measures to ensure the effective implementation of these protection measures, including penalties for its violation by State officials and awareness-raising of the existence of these protections[[10]](#endnote-10).
1. **National mechanisms and strategies**
* What are the types of support and steps taken when complaints are received through the **National Council for Women (NCW) hotline,** segregated by type of complaint?[[11]](#endnote-11)
* What are the challenges faced in achieving **successful prosecutions of SGBV cases supported by NCW lawyers** and how are these challenges addressed?[[12]](#endnote-12)
* What measures is the NCW currently taking to provide **protection and support to victims and witnesses especially in the “Fairmont gang-rape case**” [[13]](#endnote-13) since their decision to report and testify came after the NCW’s initiative affirming the provision of support, protection and safeguarding of privacy for complainants and witnesses.
* What measures is the NCW taking to **end the propagation of harmful and discriminatory stereotypes of women**, in line with Egypt’s obligations under Article 5 of the Convention?[[14]](#endnote-14)
* What approach does the NCW take in developing and prioritizing activities, given the limited resources available to it, and how does the **NCW** ensure its **strategies**[[15]](#endnote-15) tackle issues that affect women in a comprehensive way[[16]](#endnote-16) including addressing the root causes of discrimination?
* How can the **NCW** ensure its **independence** from the State apparatus as an independent non-governmental organisation supporting women and girls?
1. **Access to justice**

Women and girls face multiple barriers to **access judicial remedies**[[17]](#endnote-17) including but not limited to:

* fear of stigmatization including “victim-blaming”
* fear of being prosecuted[[18]](#endnote-18)
* pressure from their families and/or families of perpetrators to withdraw complaints,
* fear of blackmail from perpetrators
* lack of trust in State institutions and rule of law, due to no faith in the justice system and belief that the end result will be impunity
* Impunity for violations by police and military actors such as killings, torture, disappearances and sexual violence[[19]](#endnote-19)
* feeling unsafe inside police stations fearing that they may face further harassment and abuse there, as several women had faced harassment by police officers themselves in the streets
* police officers often discourage women from filling sexual harassment complaints
* lengthy process to file complaints including having to spend hours in police stations
* fear of double traumatization due to non-sensibility of State actors (police, medical and judicial actors)
* the burden to provide material evidence in cases of sexual violence including when the plaintiff cannot identify perpetrators in cases of mass sexual assault and when there are no witnesses in sexual harassment cases (including sexual violence perpetrated by family members)
* Widespread impunity of crimes of SGBV including cases of mass sexual assault in protests between 2011-2014
* inadequate legal definitions of crimes of SGBV
* lack of protection measures for victims/survivors of SGBV[[20]](#endnote-20)
* financial burdens of legal processes

**Please provide information on what steps are being taken to remove all barriers for women and girls to access judicial remedies**, in accordance with General Recommendation 33 on women’s access to justice.

1. **Sexual and gender based violence**[[21]](#endnote-21)

Please provide information on steps taken:

* To ensure that **virginity tests and forced genital examinations** are no longer administered by State and non-State actors
* To ensure that **transgender women** are not detained in male detention centres
* To protect women from **SGBV online** including raising awareness about how to report cyber-bullying and blackmail and training of police and judicial actors to avoid double-traumatization of plaintiffs
* To **investigate violations by security/military forces** including extra-judicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances and the use of sexual violence, such as threats of rape, rape, sexual harassment and assault, as a form of punishment to humiliate, intimidate and extract confessions from prisoners and detainees, and provide remedy to victims and their families;
* To investigate **SGBV committed by non-State actors** and provide remedy to victims including of religious discrimination and mass sexual assaults
* To recognize the **patterns of mass sexual assault** including allocation of sufficient resources to protect women, raise awareness and train medical, judicial and police actors to address it
* To integrate **comprehensive sexual education** at an early age to boys and girls in schools and other educational facilities, given that such education is an essential preventive measure
* To ensure that definitions adopted in the **national strategy on violence against women** comply with CEDAW provisions and applicable international standards
* To effectively **consult independent CSOs** and groups in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy to combat violence against women
* To create mechanisms to ensure **healthy family relationships** including legal and social accountability for family members for any bodily or non-bodily violations of girls’ rights
* To create implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the **national strategy to combat FGM**
* The number of **cases filed for sexual harassment under Article 306(b) of the Penal Code** and the evidence use to convict perpetrators, and other types of evidence when there are no witnesses
* The number of **reported cases of rape and sexual harassment**, and the number of successful prosecutions
1. **Stereotypes, discriminatory and harmful practices[[22]](#endnote-22)**

Please provide information on what measures is the State taking to:

* Prevent the **continuation of stereotypes and harmful practices** in line with Articles 5 and 2(e) of the Convention and the Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee and the CRC on harmful practices
* Ensure that **public authorities and institutions** act in conformity with obligations under Article 2(d), (f);
* Ensure that **hotels** do not discriminate in practice against women[[23]](#endnote-23)
* Provide **remedies** to the victims and witnesses whose identities were leaked and slandered in the media
1. **Civil society**

There is [dejure and defacto criminalisation of human rights work](https://www.ishr.ch/news/egypt-let-human-rights-defenders-work-better-future). There is no space for independent organisations to work on a wide-scale thus limiting the availability of services to support women and girls. There is no space to challenge or criticize government’s decisions without risk of arrest. Restrictions on funding for civil society, in particular foreign funding[[24]](#endnote-24), and the State’s narrative that human rights work tarnishes the image of the State, is impeding individuals from participating in civil society work out of fear of arrest and detention. Several women human rights defenders and women’s rights organisations have faced **reprisals due to their engagement with the UN**; this includes travel bans, assets freezes and charges of up to 25 years imprisonment.[[25]](#endnote-25)

At least [500 websites](https://www.accessnow.org/egypt-more-than-500-sites-blocked-ahead-of-the-presidential-election/), including blogs, are blocked which limits the dissemination of information. Women human rights defenders including journalists and lawyers have been arrested for their work; at least one of them having reported being tortured, another abducted from in front of the Prosecution as she was heading to file a complaint about physical assault against her in front of Tora prison; and another arrested for denouncing sexual harassment[[26]](#endnote-26). Women political prisoners are [denied](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/2262/2020/en/) contact with their families and access to food and medical supplies based on their political opinions[[27]](#endnote-27).

Broad definitions of terrorism and “harming national security” under the Penal Code, the Counter-Terrorism and Cyber-Crimes law have been used against WHRDs and political activists, which in [several](https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25217&LangID=E) instances UN Special Rapporteurs have [expressed](https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25031) their concern about.

* What steps are being taken to remove restrictions, amend laws and guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in particular the **immediate and unconditional release** of journalists, political activists, WHRDs and women arrested for their online content?
* What measures have been taken to **provide** **remedy** in line with international standards to women who have been arbitrarily arrested, physically assaulted or tortured for their human rights work, political opinions, or online content?
* Please provide information on what steps are being taken **to implement the recommendations** of the [**Committee against Torture**](https://undocs.org/en/A/72/44) including as part of the confidential inquiry from 2017.
1. **Public participation**
* What measures are being taken to remove obstacles and legal discrimination against women who apply to join the **Prosecution and Judiciary**[[28]](#endnote-28)?
1. **Economic and social life**

Women who face structural barriers to access employment have resorted to the Internet to earn a living by **producing online content**. Working class women have [faced](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/17/egypt-spate-morality-prosecutions-women) prosecution based on morality charges for posting content that other women from the upper-classes also post without any legal repercussions. The Prosecution’s charges against women social media influencers has the double effect of discriminating against them because they are women, and limiting their ability to make an income.

In addition, women are [not able to receive pensions](https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/28/egypt-serious-abuses-war-crimes-north-sinai) of their disappeared relatives since authorities do not acknowledge their detention.

* What measures are being taken to remove all **barriers for women to access economic and social life** in line with Article 13(a) and (c) of the Convention?
1. **Health**
* Will the State publish **gender segregated data on COVID-19** infections?[[29]](#endnote-29)
* What measures is the State taking to improve infrastructure of **reproductive health services** in all governorates?
* Is the State providing free **sanitary pads to prisoners** in Al-Qanater prison[[30]](#endnote-30) and other female prisons and detention centres?
* How is the State guaranteeing the **right to health to women in detention/prison**?[[31]](#endnote-31)
1. **References**
1. A [draft law](https://nazra.org/sites/nazra/files/attachments/-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%AD%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%94%D8%A9.pdf) on violence against women, which was prepared by civil society organisations and endorsed by some parliament members, has been submitted but not yet discussed in parliament [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. On August 26, 2020 the Public Prosecutor [stated](https://www.facebook.com/ppo.gov.eg/photos/a.2579366742171212/3264090220365524) that it could not arrest the alleged perpetrators of a gang-rape after their identities were revealed in an online campaign because the victim did not file a complaint then. This led to several of them fleeing the country before the Prosecution could ban them from travelling. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Given that some victims/survivors may decide to pursue judicial remedies years after the crime took place such as crimes of sexual assault/rape/FGM [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Article 17 of the Penal Code provides judges with discretionary powers to reduce sentences. This provision has been used by judges to [reduce](https://eipr.org/press/2020/08/%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%AD%D8%A8-%D8%A8%D8%A5%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A8-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%87-%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A9%D8%8C) sentences againstdoctors sentenced for performing FGM. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Articles 260-263 of the Penal Code criminalise abortion, including women for attempting abortion, doctors, pharmacists, and any person who helps a woman with abortion including midwives. The only exception is for married women who obtain official reports from official public hospitals that prove the pregnancy is endangering their life. Civil society organisations have [proposed](https://nazra.org/sites/nazra/files/attachments/-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%AD%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%94%D8%A9.pdf) legislation to decriminalise abortion including in cases of rape, incest and undocumented marriages. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Article 237 prescribes a lesser penalty for murder by a husband of his wife if he “surprises her while she commits the act of adultery” [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Husbands [report](https://www.facebook.com/Nehad.Aboul.Komsan/photos/a.1278773722235994/3270955716351108/?type=3&theater) women for adultery to evade paying alimony or deny women custody of their children; and courts have been lenient with the “evidence” to prove the crime. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. There is no specific law on family violence and martial rape is not criminalised. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Morality charges such as “violation of public morals” (article 178 of the Penal Code) or “violating Egyptian family values” (article 25 of the cyber-crimes law of 2018) are used against women disproportionately. Since April 2020, at least nine women have been arrested and charged with “violating Egyptian family values”, and in July 2020, at least three women [were](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/egypt-survivors-of-sexual-violence-and-online-abuse-among-prosecuted-women-tiktok-influencers/) sentenced to 2 to 3 years imprisonment and 300,000 EGP for their social media content (singing and dancing to pop songs on TikTok). Despite accusations of the women with “human trafficking”, they were [sentenced](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/17/egypt-spate-morality-prosecutions-women) on morality charges. NGOs have [challenged](https://masaar.net/%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%85-%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1/) the constitutionality of these provisions as the elements of these crimes are not defined. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. In September 2020, the government [amended](https://www.facebook.com/EgyptianCabinet/photos/a.825570437621323/1650921868419505/?type=3&theater\) articles in the Criminal Proceedings Code to protect identities of victims of sexual violence. However, the amendments do not protect individuals who report the crimes nor the witnesses. Since then, there were several cases where both victims and witnesses’ identities were revealed as part of slandering campaign on pro-government media; in one [case a witness](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/11/egypt-gang-rape-witnesses-arrested-smeared) was arrested and charged. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. The [NCW 2019 annual report](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CS58BE~1.HOS%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5C%25D8%25AA%25D9%2582%25D8%25B1%25D9%258A%25D8%25B1%20%25D9%2585%25D9%2583%25D8%25AA%25D8%25A8%20%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B4%25D9%2583%25D8%25A7%25D9%2588%25D9%258A%202019-42020282433899.pdf) provides some information including the status of complaints and types of complaints. It goes into detail in some types of complaints but disregards others such as education and “political” complaints. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. The NCW [2019 annual report](http://ncw.gov.eg/Pdf/402/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%8A-2019) reports 7.5% “successful outcomes” of SGBV complaints it supported. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. After reports on social media emerged about a [high-profile gang rape](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/11/egypt-gang-rape-witnesses-arrested-smeared), the NCW [issued](http://ncw.gov.eg/News/4947/%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B6-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%B6-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA) a public statement encouraging survivors/victims and witnesses to come forward and guaranteeing their protection. After witnesses came forward and the NCW presented the case to the Public Prosecution, the Prosecution [accused](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/11/egypt-gang-rape-witnesses-arrested-smeared) at least one witness with inciting debauchery and misusing social media. In addition, pro-government media is subjecting her to a smearing campaign and revealed her identity. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. After activists [campaigned](https://www.change.org/p/free-egypt-s-tik-tok-women) online demanding that the NCW provide legal and psychological support to [nine women arrested for “violating Egyptian family values”](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/egypt-survivors-of-sexual-violence-and-online-abuse-among-prosecuted-women-tiktok-influencers/); instead of providing such support, the NCW [published](https://twitter.com/ncwegypt/status/1295399392250396675?s=19) a post on its official social media accounts warning women about the charge of “violating Egyptian family values”. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Activists have raised concerns about the effectiveness of the NCW’s strategies which are acting as a [substitute](https://timep.org/commentary/analysis/egypts-national-council-for-women-a-substitute-for-civil-society/) for civil society organisations. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Due to the restrictions on civil society space, the NCW is defacto the only entity able to work without restrictions across the country. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. FIDH, Nazra, New women Foundation, Uprising of Women in the Arab World, [Egypt: Keeping Women Out](https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/egypt_sexual_violence_uk-webfinal.pdf) (2014) [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Examples: In May 2020, one victim was [charged](https://eipr.org/en/press/2020/09/after-menna-abdel-aziz%E2%80%99s-release-and-prosecutions-decision-there-are-no-grounds) with “violating Egyptian family values” after she reported on social media that she was raped; she was later released and the charges were dropped. One witness was arrested and charged with “debauchery” and “misusing social media”, and slandered in pro-government media after she [testified](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/11/egypt-gang-rape-witnesses-arrested-smeared) against the accused perpetrators. Media reported that one woman was [detained](https://www.albawabhnews.com/4125414) and charged with “prostitution” after she filed a complaint accusing three men of assaulting her and attempting to rape her. In several instances, women who reported rape on social media were threatened by their attackers of filling defamation charges against the women; in one case one male journalist, accused of several cases of rape and assault, threatened defamation charges against the organisers of a [blog](https://elmodawana.com/) that publishes testimonies of SGBV anonymously. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. See [annex](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/annex_i-_sgbv_against_women_and_girls_0.pdf) for compilation of documentation by several human rights organisations [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. Example: After spending only 2 weeks in prison for sexual harassment and physical assault, one convicted perpetrator [attacked](https://www.nazra.org/2017/10/%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%8A%D9%86) the victim leading to a severe scar in her face. Another example, the Prosecution [stated](https://www.facebook.com/ppo.gov.eg/photos/a.2579366742171212/3277101512397728/) that it released on bail a man accused of physically assaulting his wife “because the wife denied his intention to kill her”. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. See [annex](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/annex_i-_sgbv_against_women_and_girls_0.pdf) for compilation of documentation by several human rights organisations. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. See [annex](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/annex_ii-stereotypes_discriminatory_and_harmful_practices_0.pdf) for analysis of official statements and media reporting. [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. Several women have reported not being able to book mid-range hotel rooms outside of Cairo, being told that “all rooms are booked”. Investigative journalists [interviewed](https://mada24.appspot.com/madamasr.com/ar/2016/08/26/feature/%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B9/%D9%84%D8%A7-%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%82-%D9%87%D8%B0%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A9/) several affected women who were told by the hotels to “get permission from the Moral Directory Police” or that they have to “bring with them one of their male relatives”. Women who challenged this with the hotel management were told that “hotels have a reputation to protect”. [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. Despite Egypt’s passing of a new NGO law, which replaced prison sentences with hefty fines, defenders are still facing up to 25 years imprisonment in Case no. 173/2011. This is possible due to an amendment passed in 2014 of Article 78 of the Penal Code on foreign funding. See ISHR analysis of [the new NGO law](https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/documents/new-ngo-law-analysis.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. See UN Secretary General annual [reprisals](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/36/31) report [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. See Amnesty International statements from [December 2018](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/12/egypt-prison-term-for-human-rights-defender-who-spoke-out-about-sexual-harassment-an-outrageous-injustice/), [September 2019](https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1211402019ENGLISH.pdf), [October 2019](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/egypt-steps-up-brutality-with-abduction-and-torture-of-human-rights-defender/) , [December 2019](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/1602/2019/en/) [and September 2020](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/3013/2020/en/). [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. Women seen by the government to be affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood are banned from receiving visits, as well as some women [defenders](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/2262/2020/en/), see [Egyptian Front](https://egyptianfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Forgotten-in-Al-Qanater-EN.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. Women reported not being able to apply for work as prosecutors despite no law or policy prohibiting them from doing so. [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
29. While Egypt [adopted](https://t.co/AjxULmK32G?amp=1) some gender-sensitive measures to respond to COVID-19; [there is no gender segregated data](https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/)  on COVID-19 infections. UN Women and WHO had [highlighted](https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters) its importance. [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
30. In [Al-Qanater female prison](https://egyptianfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Forgotten-in-Al-Qanater-EN.pdf), authorities don’t provide any sanitation products or sanitation pads free of charge, and since sanitation pads are sold in prison at twice its market price, women who are unable to pay for them cannot obtain them. [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
31. Women [are kept in](https://egyptianfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Forgotten-in-Al-Qanater-EN.pdf) overcrowded cells, receive inedible food and water, and denied access to medical treatment. [↑](#endnote-ref-31)