

UAE contribution to the UN Secretary-General’s report on
“Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms”

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Measures to address violence against women and girls:

Violence is a punishable crime in the United Arab Emirates, for example, Article 9(1) of Federal Decree Law No. 10 of 2019 regarding Protection from Domestic Violence stipulates that whoever commits any of the acts of domestic violence stipulated in Article 5 shall be punished by imprisonment.

Family Protection Policy:

- In 2019, the UAE Government adopted the Family Protection Policy. The policy defines family or domestic violence as any abuse, violence or threat committed by a family member or individual in the role of guardianship or responsibility against any other family member or individual under said responsibility or people of determination (also known as persons with disabilities), resulting in a physical or a psychological harm.
- The policy also identified six forms of domestic violence: physical abuse, verbal abuse, psychological/mental abuse, sexual abuse, economic/financial abuse, and negligence.
- The Family Protection Policy caters to women, children, the elderly, and people of determination to protect them from any type of violence and abuse. It also regulates the procedures and mechanisms of work in the institutions specialising in the field of handling people who survived domestic violence.
- The policy is based on the following mechanisms: laws and regulations; protection and intervention; prevention and community awareness; training of staff and increasing competencies; and studies, research, and statistics.
- Several initiatives will be launched as part of the policy, namely:
 - a unified database linking national-level institutions concerned with family protection;
 - introducing university disciplines in the field of family protection;
 - establishing a standardised system for reporting and receiving complaints at the national level;
 - building and implementing standards for primary prevention; and
 - issuance of a law and a strategy for family protection.

Impacts of technological change on all forms of violence against women and girls in the online and offline sphere, including gaps and trends

- In the UAE, there are several online platforms provided by the government to report cybercrimes, such as the 'eCrimes platform' launched by the Ministry of Interior, the 'eCrime' website by Dubai Police, 'Aman Service' by Abu Dhabi police, and a safety application provided for by the UAE's federal public prosecution.
- This includes SMS services to report cybercrime incidents, including online violence against women and girls. Dubai Police have also set up an online service that provides access for survivors to file complaints, through the Dubai Police website, based on a comprehensive list of questions, including whether the abuse happened online or through ICT.

Strengthening laws, policies, regulatory frameworks, and accountability

- The UAE has issued Federal Law No. 10 of 2019 on Protection that enables domestic violence, the Child Rights Law No. 3 of 2016 and the protection provisions contained in the Federal Penal Code, codified by Federal Law No. 3 of 1987 Promulgating the Penal Code.
- The Ministry of Interior established various internal units related to combating domestic violence, including:
 - The Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior, which monitors and reports on the protection of women and children.
 - Child and Women Protection department in Dubai Police, which includes an online service that allows children and women who are victims of crime and violence, to obtain legal protection and social support.
 - The Ministry of Interior established the General Department for Community Protection, and its Social Support Centres, which aims to deal with and respond to any cases or requests for domestic violence, abuse and threats across the country. The Social Support Centres are located in Police headquarters and police stations in the police commands.
- In 2023, the UAE updated the law, Federal Decree Law No. 21 of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Federal Decree Law No. 9 of 2022 Concerning Domestic Workers, which regulates the protection of domestic workers, including dedicated centres to online platform for raising queries and complaints. It also includes dedicated hotlines to report crimes. These

complaints are submitted in complete confidentiality, which prohibits the following: discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, religion and nationality; sexual harassment, whether verbal or physical; forced labour or trafficking; and exposure to physical harm.

Expanding services to support survivors and improve access to justice

- The Code of Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure regulates before the courts stipulates that a translator for those who are not fluent in Arabic must be present before the judge. This ensures that survivors can fully understand the process and ruling of the Court. In this regard, and to cover as many languages as possible, the Ministry of Justice consists of several qualified translators of multiple nationalities in addition to the translation centre via remote visual communication.
- The UAE has established a number of centres and institutions for the care and shelter of victims to provide them with the necessary services. Following centres and non-profit organisations working on this have been established:
 - the Abu Dhabi Centre for Shelter and Humanitarian Care;
 - the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children;
 - the Aman Centre for Women and Children Care for shelter;
 - the Ewa'a Shelter for Women and Children;
 - the Women's Protection Centre of the Social Services Department of Government of Sharjah (SSSD).
- In February 2024, the National Women's Health Policy was adopted to ensure that women enjoy the highest level of preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services. Through the cooperation of all government and private sectors in supporting health research in order to develop the best environment for women's health in the country. The policy aims to improve the health and well-being of women to provide appropriate physical and psychological care through a national framework.