

A FEMINIST EYE - MONITORING FOR CHANGE

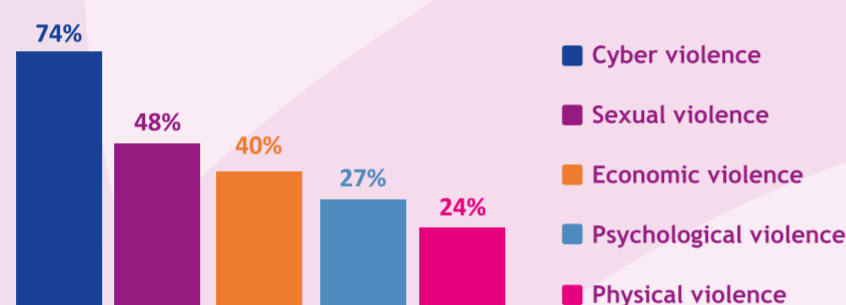
Feminist Eye - Monitoring for Change is a feminist initiative that helps monitor the VAWG phenomenon in Syria by highlighting the legislation that tolerate violence, providing statistical data on the phenomenon, and proposing legal mechanisms to combat it.

Feminist Eye - Monitoring for Change is a knowledge, mobilisation, and advocacy tool for all those working for a VAWG-free society.

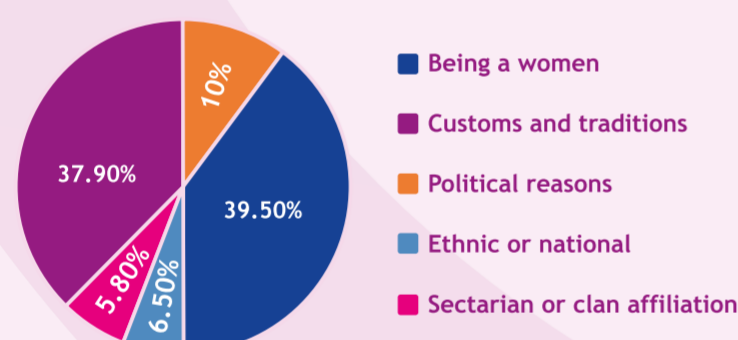
INDUCTIVE STATS

A study carried out by "FEMINIST EYE - Observation for Action" aimed to uncover different aspects of violence against Syrian women in politics and public affairs. In that context a questionnaire was distributed to a sample of (149) Syrian women who are or have been politically active in Syria and who now live in different geographical areas, either under the control of the Syrian government, areas of the Autonomous Administration in Northeastern Syria, or countries where Syrian women have found asylum.

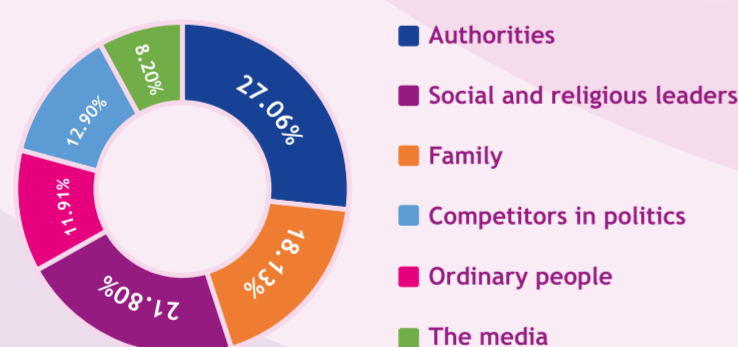
The most prevalent forms of violence is psychological violence, and then sexual violence



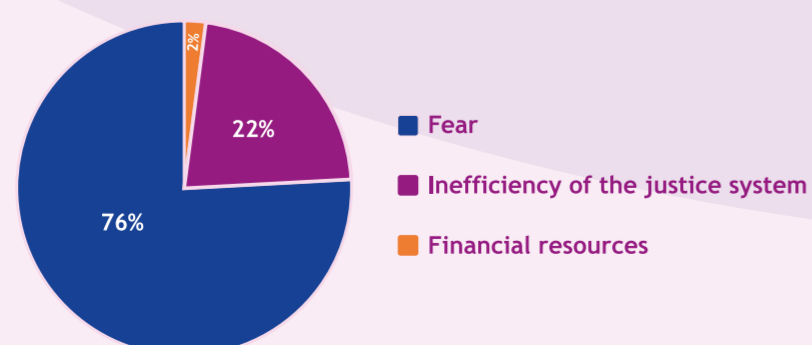
In the perception of politically active women, the main cause of violence that they have experienced, is rooted in their very status as women:



The authorities and their security services are the forces that are responsible for most of the violence committed against women in politics



Women's fear is the most important factor that prevents women from reporting violence that they have been subject to



FIRST

The Syrian Constitution promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 94 / year 2012

- The constitution enshrines the authority of religion, which entrenches the patriarchal thought in the philosophy on which Syrian laws are based. This philosophy can be summarized by the idea of guardianship of men over women in a family. Which contradicts the principle of equality and constitutes a legal as well as a social obstacle to their participation in political life. (Article 3).
- Women are excluded from the right to run for President of the Republic (Article 84, fourth paragraph).
- The constitution doesn't include the principle of separation of powers, a prerequisite for achieving democracy and equal participation of all male and female citizens in running public affairs.
- The constitution includes no mechanism to combat discrimination against women in politics, such as the adoption of a women's quota in all elected and appointed councils and bodies.

SECOND

The Syrian Parties Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 100 / year 2011

- The law includes no reference to the inclusion of women's rights and necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against them in the internal rules and regulations of political parties.
- The law does not instruct those who establish political parties to adopt measures in order to guarantee women's participation in leadership positions, such as women's quota.
- The law includes no articles to promote women's participation in the establishment of parties, such as stipulating a defined percentage of women among the founding members of political parties, or a percentage of women among its members.
- The law grants the power to accept or refuse licensing political parties to the executive authority rather than the judiciary (Article 7)
- The law does not require a women's quota in the committee responsible for granting licenses to parties.

THIRD

Syrian Electoral Law No. 5 / year 2014

- The law language of is not gender sensitive.
- The law lacks an explicit text that guarantees the participation of women, neither as voters nor as candidates in the electoral process.
- The adopted electoral system in accordance with the law is the majority system, in which the candidate who obtains most votes in each electoral district is going to sit in the People's Assembly and similarly in local municipal councils, which reduces women's chances of winning.
- The law does not require the adoption of a women's quota in electoral lists.
- The law does not stipulate having a quota for women in the Higher Committee for Elections and its sub-committees.



Prevention

Women candidates:

- Amending the Electoral Law and the Political Parties Law by adding articles that punish perpetrators of violence against women (VAW) in politics.

Women Members of Parliament (MPs):

- Setting specific mechanisms within the Parliament's Internal Regulations to be used by women MPs should they be subjected to any form of violence.
- Establishing a code of conduct to prohibit violence and bullying and to impose penalties on perpetrators.
- All members of Parliament shall sign a pledge to comply with the code of conduct the violation of which will be under penalty.

Public Office and Political Parties:

- Amending the Political Parties Law, the Labour Law, and any laws related to the exercise of power, in order to ensure a safe and just environment that punishes crimes of VAW.



Protection and Investigation

Women candidates:

- Amending the Electoral Law to include articles on establishing a special body affiliated with the General Commission for Electoral Observation whose objective is to investigate any acts of violence committed against women candidates during electoral campaigns and elections. This Commission shall also have the powers to receive complaints, investigate them, and refer perpetrators to the judiciary.

Women Members of Parliament (MPs):

- Establishing an independent office within the Parliament charged with investigating complaints submitted by women against perpetrators of violence and bullying, and creating mechanisms to investigate those complaints within a confidential and secure environment for women. These mechanisms shall be included in the parliament's Internal Regulations.

Public Office and Political Parties:

- Establishing an office in public political parties or institutions to investigate complaints submitted by women against perpetrators of violence and bullying, and creating mechanisms to investigate those complaints in a confidential and secure environment for women.
- Authorising the office to investigate and to refer perpetrators of violence to Public Prosecution office.



Reporting

Women Members of Parliament (MPs):

- Including mechanisms to report acts of violence against women MPs in the Parliament's Internal Regulation.

Public Office and Political Parties:

- Establishing an independent national commission charged with receiving complaints on acts of violence.



Punishment of Perpetrators

Women candidates:

- Incorporating deterrent punishment for perpetrators of acts of violence in the Electoral Law and Political Parties Law.

Women Members of Parliament (MPs):

- Specifying in the parliament's Internal Regulations the powers of the office charged with deciding on disciplinary and administrative punishments for perpetrators of such violence, including lifting immunity, among other measures

Public Office and Political Parties:

- Including in the Labour Law provisions on penalties against perpetrators of violence.



Compensation and Reparation Measures

Women candidates:

- Including in the amendments of the Electoral Law and Political Parties Law material and civil compensations ruled in favour of the victims, which the perpetrator is obligated to pay.

Women Members of Parliament (MPs):

- Granting the Office for Monitoring Violence against Women Members of Parliament the right to propose lifting the immunity of and prosecuting perpetrators of violence and referring them to the judiciary.

Public Office and Political Parties:

- Including in the Electoral Law and Political Parties Law articles that provide for the right of victims to obtain appropriate material compensation.

