



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



المركز الاتحادي
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS CENTRE

UAE's Regulatory & Preventive Model TO COMBAT DIGITAL VIOLENCE & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

The UAE's Achievements in Global Competitiveness Indicators Related to Women (2023 – 2024)

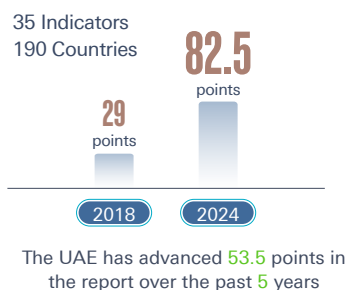
The concept of 'gender balance' is not just a passing idea in the UAE's development journey; it is the cornerstone of its comprehensive progress. This is achieved through a pioneering model supported by a robust legislative and legal framework, as well as bold leadership policies aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for both genders across economic, political, and social sectors. As a result, Emirati women have demonstrated outstanding distinction in education, healthcare, business, and innovation, reaching leadership positions in both government and the private sector.

Emirati women are a driving force in supporting the national economy and strengthening the UAE's global standing. This is clearly reflected in the country's leading positions in numerous global indicators related to women, which hold exceptional credibility as they are issued by independent international organizations that decision-makers, investors, and researchers rely on.

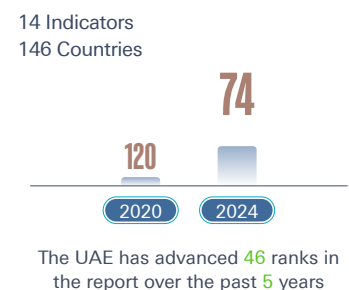
Gender Equality Index 2023/2024



Women, Business, and the Law 2024



Global Gender Gap Report 2024



The trust placed by the wise leadership has contributed to strengthening joint integration among relevant partners in the UAE to improve the country's ranking in competitiveness reports and position it on the global map as a leading model in women's empowerment. This includes updating legislative frameworks and regulatory decisions to ensure the sustainability of women's roles, contributions, and participation in key sectors.

The UAE ranks first globally in 30 competitiveness indicators related to women's empowerment

The UAE is among the top 10 globally in 34 competitiveness indicators related to women's empowerment.

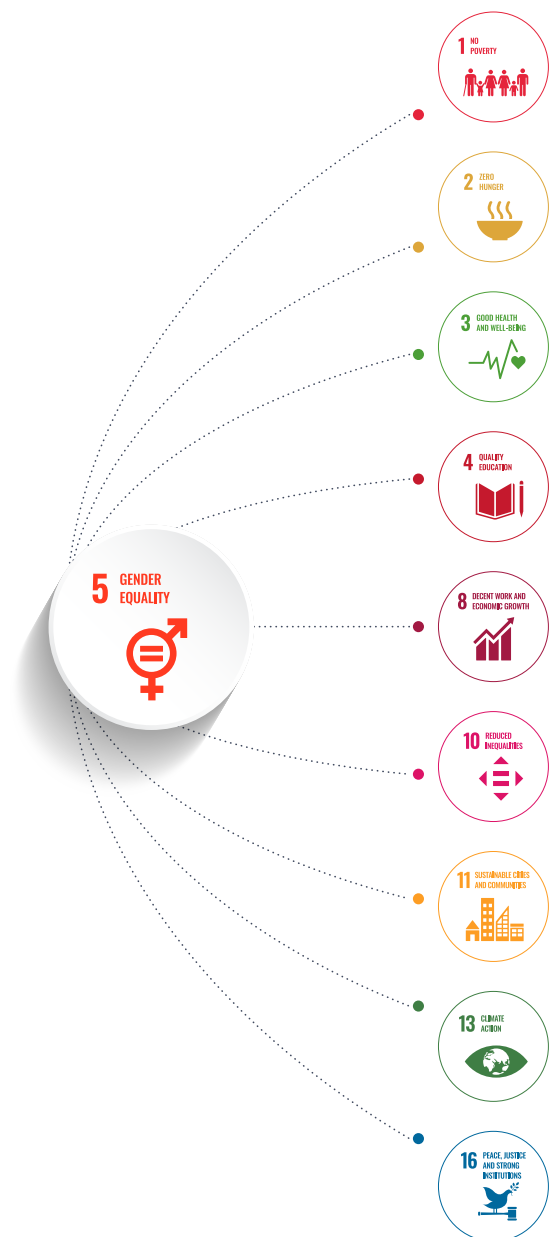
The UAE is among the top 20 globally in 37 competitiveness indicators related to women's empowerment

The UAE ranks 1st regionally in 38 competitiveness indicators related to women's empowerment

Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Balance

The UAE's commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality was reflected in its active participation in the negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the United Nations General Assembly's Open Working Group from 2013 to 2014. Representing the Asia-Pacific region alongside Cyprus and Singapore, the UAE highlighted key issues such as energy, education, global partnerships, health, and water, emphasizing women's empowerment as a top priority, particularly for the Middle East and North Africa region.

Achieving Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals—'Gender Equality'—is a priority for accelerating the global agenda. The UN framework for gender equality is not limited to this goal and its sub-indicators; rather, it is interconnected with several other goals, including Goal 1 'No Poverty,' Goal 2 'Zero Hunger,' Goal 3 'Good Health and Well-being,' Goal 4 'Quality Education,' Goal 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth,' Goal 10 'Reduced Inequalities,' Goal 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities,' Goal 13 'Climate Action,' and Goal 16 'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.'



Contents

UAE'S REGULATORY & PREVENTIVE MODEL TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Introduction	7
Laws	8
Policies	10
Programs and Initiatives	11
International Participations & Contributions	13
Key Relevant National Entities & Councils	15
Examples of Global Competitiveness Indicators Related to Violence Against Women in the UAE	17

UAE'S REGULATORY & PREVENTIVE MODEL TO COMBAT DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Introduction	19
Laws	20
Policies	21
Programs and Initiatives	22
International Participations & Contributions	25
Key Relevant National Entities & Councils	27
Key Concepts and Terminology	28





UAE'S MODEL TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Introduction

Since its foundation in 1971, the UAE has placed great emphasis on empowering Emirati women, strengthening their leadership and sense of responsibility, and enhancing their presence in both regional and international forums. This effort has expanded their positive contributions as active and pioneering members in all vital sectors. Gender equality is a national priority in the UAE, and the country has developed comprehensive strategies to prevent and combat violence against women and girls. The UAE has implemented numerous initiatives and frameworks to protect women, reflecting its broader commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of society. **The UAE's constitution guarantees equality in rights between men and women, providing women with the same legal status, property rights, and access to education. Additionally, it ensures protection from all forms of violence, including verbal, physical, psychological, sexual, and financial, in accordance with applicable laws.**

Laws

- **Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights “Wadeema's Law,”** to protect the children from all forms of neglect, exploitation, abuse, and any physical and psychological violence transcends the boundaries of established legally and religiously.
- **Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on Protecting Labor Rights and the Domestic Workers,** which stipulates the prohibition of any form of discrimination, violence, or harassment against female domestic workers.
- The Federal Penal Code was amended by Decree No. (4) of 2019. **The article criminalizes harassment and indecent exposure to a female, by word or deed,** in a public road or a frequented place, which protects women from harassment, bullying and verbal abuse by word or certain gestures.
- Federal Law No. (10) of 2019 on Protection Against Domestic Violence, to combat domestic violence of all kinds, physical, psychological, sexual, and economic.
- Under Federal Decree-Law No. (15) of 2020, **the UAE abolished Article No. (334) of the Penal Code,** which grants mitigating excuses in honor crimes, so that murder crimes are treated in accordance with the provisions in force in the Penal Code. **Texts referring to penalties such as flogging and stoning were also abolished.**

- Federal Law No. (31) of 2021 promulgating **the Penal Code (Law of Crimes and Penalties)**.
- Federal Law No. (33) of 2021 Regarding **the Regulation of Employment Relationship**.
- Federal Decree-Law No. 24 of 2023 on **Combating Human Trafficking**, and under the amendment to the law, victims were given the right to claim civil rights from traffickers if they are arrested. With regard to victims of violence, victims shall receive psychological and social support and legal assistance and shelter.
- Federal Decree Law No. 34 of 2023 concerning **Combating Discrimination, Hatred and Extremism**.
- Amendments have been made to the Personal Status Law in favor of women in the UAE, including granting them the right to leave the house for work without permission. Additionally, there are no legal restrictions in the UAE regarding women's travel and movement.

Policies

- Ministerial Resolution No. (645) of 2020 on **the Policy of Preventing Bullying in Private and Public Schools**, which guarantees the right to education in a safe environment and a respectful community.
- Resolution No. (659) of 2020 on **the Child Protection Policy in Educational Institutions**, which ensures the provision of a safe school environment to protect the child while maintaining his physical, psychological, intellectual and moral health.
- **The National Strategy for Women Empowerment 2015-2021**, which includes four priorities and fourteen strategic goals to enhance the capacity of government institutions (federal and local) and private institutions to adopt gender-sensitive policies, legislation and budgets.
- **The UAE Gender Balance Council Strategy 2026**, which aims to bridge the gap and promote gender balance in all sectors and consolidate the UAE's position and leadership in gender balance legislation.
- **The National Policy for Empowerment of Emirati Women - 2031**, which is the general framework and reference for decision-makers in federal and local government institutions, the private sector and civil society, ensuring the success of women's empowerment and leadership efforts in the UAE.
- **The National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood**: Which aims to promote the right of children and mothers to comprehensive care in a sustainable healthy environment.
- **The UAE Family Protection Policy**: It serves women, children and the elderly to protect them all from violence and abuse through a set of mechanisms that include the adoption of a unified system for reporting and receiving complaints at the state level.
- **The UAE National Family Policy**: Which focuses on the main needs of families such as stability, a decent standard of living, security and safety, human rights and others.
- **People of Determination Protection from Abuse Policy**: It aims to protect people of determination from abuse, early detection of it, and promote a culture of respect, tolerance and community awareness of the importance of integrating people of determination.
- **National Policy For Senior Citizens**: It ensures that senior citizens enjoy a high quality of life and continue their participation in a safe and cohesive society, early detection of abuse and violence and protection from exploitation and ill-treatment. The UAE law stipulates penalties for anyone who establishes or runs an institution for senior citizens that neglects their duties and commits violence or abuse against them.
- **Student Code of Conduct in Public Educational Institutions**, issued by the Emirates Schools Establishment to ensure a safe environment and avoid behaviors associated with violence, exploitation, assault, or bullying, whether during distance learning or face-to-face education.
- **The UAE National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**: It aims to empower and support women globally, and increase their participation in peacebuilding activities, the political field, humanitarian aid and others.
- **National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**: It is implemented by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes. It relies on five pillars, which are prevention, prosecution, punishment, victim protection, and strengthening international cooperation to reduce human trafficking.

Programs & Initiatives

- **Unified Family Counselling Portal:** It's developed by the General Women's Union to provide consultations in various social, family and marital fields, while ensuring complete privacy and confidentiality.
- **The "Soun" Smart App** is launched by the Ministry of Community Development, for early detection of potential abuse against any family member. It reflects an educational, preventive and therapeutic vision, with a set of awareness videos, policies and laws with a preventive vision to avoid negative impacts on the family and its members.
- The Ministry of Interior **allocated toll-free phone numbers**, text messaging service, and online systems and applications. At the local level, services such as the AMAN service - Abu Dhabi Police, the Al Ameen service - Dubai Police, the Najeeb service - Sharjah Police are provided.
- The **Hotline (116111)** is launched by the Ministry of Interior as part of an integrated system aimed at facilitating the reporting of child abuse cases. Reports can be submitted via phone, smart applications, and the website of the Ministry's Child Protection Center.
- **"Child Protection Specialist" Program:** It's launched by the Ministry of Interior to train specialized cadres in dealing with reports on children, raise the efficiency of workers in the field of child protection, and acquire the necessary skills in the areas of interviewing children, dealing with forensic evidence, and using AI in combating cybercrime.
- **"Dealing with Children of Determination" Program:** It is launched by the Ministry of Interior to develop the skills of specialized work teams in dealing with children of determination, using accessible means of communication, and providing a safe and appropriate environment for providing care and psychological support to them. It includes a series of workshops and specialized training courses.
- The **"Child Protection Unit" Initiative** is launched by the Ministry of Education, which aims to protect the child from all types of abuse, neglect and exploitation to which they are exposed in the surrounding environment, whether at school or at home. A hotline and a dedicated e-mail have been allocated for this initiative
- **Multiple shelters in the UAE**, affiliated with several institutions, are dedicated to **female survivors of domestic violence** and children who are subjected to abuse.

- **“Child Interview Rooms” Project:** It is a prominent initiative by the Ministry of Interior that aims to improve the handling of child-related cases, particularly in sensitive investigations that may involve crimes of abuse or neglect. These rooms are designed innovatively, considering the psychological needs of children, to ensure a safe and friendly environment for them during the investigation procedures.
- **Collaborative Memoranda of Understanding are signed with several relevant entities at the state level.** These MoUs aim to support child protection efforts and enhance the UAE's pioneering experience in community protection. These entities include the Ministry of Interior, the General Authority for Sports, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC), the Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination (ZHO), and the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA).
- The Ministry of Interior has **allocated 50%** of its family social support budget to **combat violence against women.**
- The **“National Bullying Prevention Week”** is organized in cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, in partnership with more than 25 local and federal entities.
- The **Ministry of Education** has been keen to include women's rights and the concept of gender equality and gender balance in school curricula, with an emphasis on **protecting women from all forms of violence and exploitation.**
- **Training courses** are provided for educational and administrative staff, and **workshops** for students and parents in schools are conducted on national child protection policies and laws, child protection procedures in educational institutions and bodies, the importance of social and psychological care, and the impact of abuse and neglect. These are conducted in partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.
- **The Ministry of Interior conducts specialized training courses, workshops, and lectures** on investigating cases of violence and sexual assault, methods and means of dealing with domestic violence and violence against women, and other related topics.
- The UAE implements a range of measures **to protect children in educational organizations**, such as establishing **child protection teams and units**, creating **reporting channels and hotlines**, conducting year-round supervisory visits to educational institutions, and granting some employees the **judicial and law enforcement status** to enable them to deal immediately with cases of abuse, neglect, or violence.
- The formation of the **“Council for Child Protection in Educational Organizations”**. headed by the Ministry of Education and with the membership of a number of entities concerned with child protection in the UAE, to unify policies and procedures and provide the necessary protection and safety.
- Multiple annual events are held in the UAE by various entities on the **“International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”** to promote the role of all segments of society in ending violence against women and not hesitating to report cases of violence and abuse through special reporting channels in various relevant social sector institutions.
- Multiple annual events are held to celebrate **“Emirati and International Children's Days”**. which aimed at enhancing the quality of children's lives and providing a safe environment for them to ensure healthy and calm upbringing and socialization, with the participation of several entities, such as the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Community Development.
- The UAE participates annually in the **“Orange the World Campaign”** launched by the United Nations each year for 16 days, starting from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This reflects the UAE's efforts in reducing violence against women, in coordination with the most prominent social institutions at the state level that provide care and protection for abused women.
- **Lectures and forums** are organized by the Ministry of Interior to highlight the importance of reducing all forms of violence against women and girls, such as the lecture **“Violence against Women from a Psychosocial Perspective”**, the **“Reducing Violence against Women”** forum, and others.

International Participations & Contributions

The UAE has ratified several international treaties that guarantee and protect women's rights, such as:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**).
- **International Labor Organization (ILO)** Convention relating to Night Work of Women Employed in Industry.
- The **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)** and the Protocol thereto to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- The UAE is committed to implementing the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" at the national level, which was adopted by the UAE at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing (China) in 1995. It aims to promote and protect women's rights and empower them in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects.
- The UAE, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, hosted the official launch of the "**Arab Declaration on Combatting all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**" to further reduce of the practice of all forms of violence against women.
- The UAE has joined the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on Child Rights** on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- The UAE has obtained a permanent seat on the "**International Advisory Council of the Global Alliance**" in recognition of its security and police work in the field of child protection.
- The UAE was elected to participate in the **UN-Women Executive Board** in the periods 2013-2015 and 2016-2018 to dedicate gender equality and empower women.
- The UAE has supported the **UN Women** organization since its establishment in 2010 and has provided about 26,000,000 US dollars to support efforts to promote gender equality and empower women.

- The UAE is an active member of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security **National Focal Points Network**.
- In 2018, the UAE launched the "**100% for Women**" policy, through which the UAE will commit to directing up to 100% of its foreign development assistance to target issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Between 2017 and 2023, the UAE provided foreign aid totaling about 2.42 billion US dollars to empower and protect women and girls (representing 7.4% of the UAE's total foreign aid).
- The UAE has participated in **regional meetings and events**, such as the regional meeting on "**Implementing the Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, Especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls**" - Jordan, the meeting of the GCC Standing Committee for Women's Affairs - Oman, the session of the Ministerial Council of The Women Development Organization (WDO) - Egypt, the First International Conference on Women under the slogan "Peace and Democracy" - Angola, and the Regional Consultative Workshop on Violence against Women and Girls in the Middle East and North Africa - Kuwait.
- The **Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations**, in partnership with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, **launched** a joint initiative on the sidelines of the High-Level Week on Women, Peace and Security.
- The UAE hosted the launch ceremony and symposium of the "**Arab Document on Women's Rights**", organized by the Federal National Council in cooperation with the Arab Parliament, in recognition of its leading role and its remarkable record in the process of empowering women and elevating their status.
- A **training program for (100) specialists from the Child and Women Protection Center** of the Philippine National Police is being conducted in partnership between the Ministry of Interior in the UAE and the Philippine National Police. It is a pioneering international program that showcases the UAE's experience and expertise in developing capabilities and qualifying cadres.
- A workshop on **Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)** was held in Nepal with the participation of the Ministry of Interior.
- The **specialized training course** for developing women leaders and qualifying them for positions in the UN Police and peacekeeping around the world was held in Brindisi, Italy, with the participation of the Ministry of Interior.
- The **program for Building and Developing Women's Capacities in Peace and Security** is being conducted under the patronage of Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (Mother of the Nation). It was established through the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Defense, the General Women's Union, and the UN Women entity.

Key Relevant National Entities & Councils

THE UAE Gender Balance Council

It's the leading national entity responsible for implementing and promoting gender equality policies in the UAE. The council develops and implements plans related to reducing the gender gap in the UAE, enhancing its global competitiveness, reviewing current legislation, policies, and programs, and proposing new or updated legislation and programs to achieve gender balance.

Ministry of Education

It's the federal ministry concerned with developing the necessary protection measures against any factors that may threaten the safety or physical, psychological, moral, or mental health of students and ensuring their full protection and conducting comprehensive social research that clarifies the circumstances surrounding the child.

UAE's National Committee on SDGs

Consists of national entities concerned with advancing the progress made in achieving the seventeen SDGs at the national level in the UAE. The achievement of the fifth goal; gender equality, comes as a priority to accelerate the achievement of the agenda and has been linked to various goals.

Ministry of Interior and local police entities

It is the federal entity responsible for providing security and stability to citizens and residents alike, through a comprehensive security strategy that takes into account the limits of the Constitution and applicable legislation in all its policies, procedures, and practices, in accordance with the principles and rules of human rights. It also includes the Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Center is also involved, working to develop and implement initiatives to provide safety, security, and protection for all children, as well as the Human Rights Department, which has a branch dedicated to protecting the affairs of women and children, and social support centers at the level of the general police leadership in the UAE.

The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood

It's the national entity concerned with regulating all matters related to motherhood and childhood issues, providing support in the health, social, psychological, and other fields, and achieving the security and safety of the child and mother.

The General Women's Union

It's the official representative of women in the UAE and the body concerned with setting out the strategies and programs concerned with the advancement of women and their empowerment and leadership in the UAE.

The National Human Rights Committee

It's headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and serves as a link between all state entities concerned with human rights affairs. It aims to develop and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive national plan, as well as formulate policies, programs, and strategies to raise awareness and build capacity in the field of human rights. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration with regional organizations and United Nations human rights bodies and committees.

The National Human Rights Institution

A legal body that enjoys financial and administrative independence in the exercise of its functions, activities and competencies in promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with Federal Law No. 12 of 2021.

UN Women UAE Liaison Office for the GCC in Abu Dhabi

Aims to strengthen partnerships with the United Nations on women's participation and empowerment.

Several institutions and entities at the local level

They aim to provide care, protection and legal assistance for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking of women and children. These include, such as the Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Center, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children Care, the Women's Protection Center of the Department of Social Services in Sharjah, the Protection Foundation for Women and Children in Ajman, and the Aman Center for the shelter of women and children in Ras Al Khaimah.

Ministry of Community Empowerment and Ministry of Family

The federal entities concerned with advancing social development and empowerment and enhancing the presence of women in the family and society.

NAMA Women Advancement Establishment

Focuses on activating the role of women and promoting and advancing them in the economic, professional and social sectors, as well as other sectors.

Examples of Global Competitiveness Indicators Related to Violence Against Women in the UAE

 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Is there a law for domestic violence?	 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Is there legislation on harassment at work?	 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Are there penalties in the penal code for harassment at work?
 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Can a woman leave her home, the same way as a man?	 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Can a woman travel outside the country, the same way as a man?	 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Can a woman choose a place to live?
 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Does it prevent firing a pregnant woman?	 1 The UAE's global ranking	WORLD BANK GROUP Women, Business and the Law Report Does the law stipulate non-discrimination on the basis of gender at work?	 5 The UAE's global ranking	Open Data Inventory report Availability of gender balance statistics
		 7 The UAE's global ranking	World Competitiveness Yearbook Gender equality		

UAE's Regulatory & Preventive Model TO COMBAT DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Introduction

The UAE has made significant strides in **protecting women, children, and society from digital violence and the risks associated with harmful interactions in the digital sphere**. Being one of the countries with high internet usage, the UAE continuously seeks to develop legislative and legal frameworks designed to address psychological, educational, social, and legal challenges. In addition, the UAE provides preventive measures and solutions designed to protect members of society from digital and online risks, as well as reducing the adverse effects and risks resulting from the increased presence of women and children in the virtual world of cyberspace.

Laws

- **Article 29 of Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights (Wadeema Law):** Telecommunications companies and internet providers must notify the competent authorities or relevant bodies of any child pornography exchanged through websites.
- **Federal Decree-Law No. (34) of 2021 On Countering Rumors and Cybercrimes:** Provides a comprehensive legal framework to protect society from cybercrimes committed via the internet, and to safeguard individuals, particularly women and girls, from harassment, cyberbullying, extortion, and other crimes.
- **Federal Law No. (44) of 2021 on the Establishment of the UAE Data Office:** Ensures full protection of personal data and the development of related policies, strategies, and legislation.
- **Federal Decree-Law No. (45) of 2021 Concerning the Protection of Personal Data:** Guarantees the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal data, ensuring it is protected from breaches.
- **Federal Decree-Law No. (55) of 2023 Concerning Media Regulation:** Defines the controls and conditions for all media activities for individuals, institutions, media outlets, and media-free zones, ensuring the prohibition of incitement to violence and hatred and the respect of individual privacy.
- **Article 31 of the UAE Constitution:** Stipulates freedom of correspondence and other means of communication, guaranteeing their confidentiality and privacy in accordance with the law.

Policies

- **The National Policy for Digital Wellbeing:** Aims to eliminate violence or hatred, without discrimination, that is perpetrated using technology against women and girls. It also supports the creation of a safe digital environment to protect users from harmful content or content that incites violence or hatred.
- **The National Policy for Internet of Things (IoT) Security:** Ensures that IoT service providers comply with security requirements and that a sufficient level of protection is provided to all IoT users, whether when purchasing or using services.
- **The National Cloud Security Policy:** Provides necessary guidelines and requirements and defines the parties responsible for overseeing and enforcing cloud security legislation.
- **The Internet Access Management (IAM) Regulatory Policy:** Ensures that access to websites and webpages containing prohibited content is blocked, including violations of privacy, libel, defamation, fraud, and scams.
- **The National Cybersecurity Strategy:** Aims to create a safe and robust cyber environment and support cybersecurity standards in the UAE through various mechanisms and components.
- **The Dubai Cyber Security Strategy:** Ensures the establishment of a secure electronic space by implementing controls to protect the confidentiality, integrity, availability, and privacy of data.

Programs & Initiatives

- **The Digital Wellbeing Platform:** A comprehensive and integrated resource that includes various tools and resources to help children, parents, educators, and society live a positive and safe digital life, aimed at increasing digital awareness and education.
- **"Sannif" Platform:** A trusted source for evaluating and researching video games, explaining the risks they may contain, and helping parents choose the most appropriate games for their children.
- **E-Crime Platform:** Provides smart e-reporting services for cybercrimes in the digital space and offers consultations to enhance community awareness. This includes the "Aman" platform of the Abu Dhabi Police and the "E-Crime" platform of the Dubai Police.
- **"HEMAYATI" Digital Platform** A smart initiative by the Ministry of Interior in response to the UAE National Agenda, enabling the immediate and confidential reporting of child abuse cases. It ensures prompt handling by competent police authorities and strengthens community partnerships.
- **"RZAM" app for cybersecurity:** Detects malicious websites, unsafe browsing addresses, and phishing websites. The app follows standard procedures to alert users and block suspicious websites.
- **"MY SAFE SOCIETY" App:** Developed by the UAE Public Prosecution Office, it allows users to report any crime or suspicion occurring on social media that may violate public security or threaten the safety of society or public morals.
- **Digital Wellbeing Support Line:** A call center staffed by experts and specialists, providing guidance and support to protect children and parents.



- **The “Child Digital Safety” Initiative:** Educates children and students (ages 5-18) about the challenges of the digital world and promotes positive and safe internet use.
- **“Himaya” (Protection) Initiative:** Includes the “La Aqbal” (I Do Not Accept) program, aimed at raising awareness among students about cyber risks and protecting them from online abuse.
- **The “UAE Ambassadors for Cyber Security” Initiative:** Provides training to a selected group of UAE students to promote and disseminate cyber security awareness.
- **“Digital Child” Initiative:** Launched by the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the General Women's Union, this initiative includes public awareness campaigns, summer programs, and lectures to educate students about online dangers and cybercrime.
- **“Aqdar E-Safe Schools” Initiative:** Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Khalifa Empowerment Program “Aqdar,” and EDGE, this initiative builds smart security infrastructure in schools, making the UAE the first country in the world to implement the concept of E-Safe Schools in line with EU standards for safer internet.
- **The Cyber Pulse Initiative for Women and Family:** Focuses on empowering Emirati women and preparing them for effective participation in cybersecurity. Awareness sessions, including topics like “How to Protect Yourself and Your Family from the Dangers of Cyberspace,” have reached 115,000 beneficiaries.

- **Future Leaders in Cyber Security Initiative:** Aims to empower women to assume leadership positions in cybersecurity and develop a new generation of experts in the field.
- **Cyber Sniper Initiative:** Aims to train and qualify national female cadres to use the latest technologies to protect vital systems in the UAE. Emirati women make up 60% of those who have obtained international certification in the field of cyber security through this initiative.
- **"Virus Attacks" Initiative for School Students:** Raises public awareness about the dangers of online threats, including those related to gender-based violence.
- **Educational Activities for Students on Safer Internet Use.** Aim to educate school students and address the challenges and risks that children face online. This is part of the National Campaign for Child Online Protection launched by the Ministry of Interior under the slogan "Together for a Safer Internet for Our Children," where it targeted several school students with the attendance of a group of supervisors and educators.
- **National-level events across the UAE in the "Safer Internet Day"** held in February of each year. These events aim to promote safe and positive use of digital technology. They include the launch of qualitative initiatives and a series of media awareness materials in several languages, using the unified hashtag #Safer_Internet_UAE.
- **Activities organized by the "UAE Safer Internet Society",** which is a non-profit organization licensed by a ministerial decree, managed by a group of prominent Emirati professionals, to create a positive online experience for children and community members and protect them from potential risks, abuse, and exploitation.
- **Local campaigns by local police authorities that are concerned with cyber extortion,** to raise awareness among community members, inform them of the risks they may face if they are subjected to cyber extortion, and urge them to be cautious when dealing with social media platforms.
- **Multiple dialogue sessions conducted by various parties to raise awareness among community members about the dangers of the internet** and how to address them. For example, the "Protecting Women in Cyberspace" session was organized by the Ministry of Interior in coordination with the General Women's Union.
- **The impactful role of technology and internet service providers in the UAE, such as Etisalat** in order to support the fight against technology-facilitated violence against women by employing techniques to detect and monitor negative behaviors that encourage violence against women, developing modern tools to report harmful content and online harassment, and providing technical and legal support to users who face harassment or violence online.
- **"Good Digital Citizen Guide":** It includes the basics of digital etiquette and safety when using the internet.
- **"AI Ethics: Principles and Guidelines" Document:** Contains a set of guidelines for the use of AI applications, to promote the achievement of the values of justice, transparency and accountability among individuals and institutions concerned with providing AI services.
- **Ethical and responsible online behavior topics** are included in the official education curricula in the UAE to raise awareness among students.

International Participation & Contributions

- **National Computer Emergency Response Team:** The UAE is an active member of the Child Online Protection Group in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and in the OIC Computer Emergency Response Teams.
- **The United Arab Emirates has been elected to chair the “International Child Online Protection Committee”** during the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) conference. Guidelines for online child protection have been developed, the result of a joint collaboration of more than 80 experts from various sectors, including governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector. They provide an agreed international framework for all parties concerned, in particular children and parents.
- **The UAE has been elected to lead the International Child Online Protection Committee** during the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) conference in Geneva. Notably, it was the **first Arab country** to join the Convention on the Protection of Children from Cybercrimes.
- The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Interior, entered the agreement of the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) project, by which the UAE joined the VGT. This membership underscores the nation's dedication to making the internet safer for children at risk of exploitation and bringing perpetrators to justice.

- **The UAE hosted the international conference “Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities: Child Dignity Online”** to develop a shared global vision to enhance the protection of societies, especially children, from international cyber extortion crimes and the dangers of the internet.
- **The UAE hosted the “International Summit to Tackle Online the Sexual Exploitation of Children,”** organized by the Ministry of Interior under the slogan "WeProtect," to reach effective solutions to the issues of child abuse using technology and the internet.
- **The Ministry of Interior organized media dialogue sessions** at the International Security National Resilience (ISNR) 2024 entitled **“Protecting Children and Women in Cyberspace”** with the participation of the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China.
- **The UAE hosted the WeProtect Global Summit,** which resulted in an agreement between governments and international organizations to create a coordinated national response to the sexual exploitation of children on the internet.
- **Panel discussion organized by the UAE Gender Balance Council and the SDG 5 Global Council:** Discusses the development of “Gender-Based Violence Policy Guidelines in Digital Applications and Social Media Platforms and Addressing them.”
- **A fruitful partnership in the “NMO Academy for Startups”** - Women in Artificial Intelligence in the Middle East and North Africa” project, in partnership with Google, seeking to empower AI startups led by women.
- **Effective cooperation with major global technology companies:** Addresses and combats technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), monitor and remove harmful content that encourages or facilitates violence. This includes the implementation of robust reporting mechanisms that allow users to report inappropriate or harmful content swiftly.
- **Global partnerships with non-governmental organizations and bodies** to implement awareness and educational programs to promote online responsibility and ethical behavior, such as **“Positive Online Behavior,” “Family Online Safety,” “Youth Against Harassment,”** and **“Safe Internet for Children.”** These partnerships reflect the government's commitment to addressing violence against women and promoting awareness and responsibility among all segments of society to ensure safe and ethical use of the internet.

Key Relevant National Entities & Councils

Ministry of Interior & Local Police Authorities

It is the federal entity responsible for providing security and stability to citizens and residents alike, through a comprehensive security strategy that takes into account the limits of the Constitution and applicable legislation in all its policies, procedures, and practices, in accordance with the principles and rules of human rights.

The UAE Cyber Security Council

It is a subordinate to the Cabinet and includes members from several federal and local entities. It aims to develop a national cybersecurity strategy, enhance it in all vital sectors, and develop the necessary legislation, policies, and standards to promote cybersecurity, in coordination with relevant authorities.

Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA)

It aims to develop an integrated digital system and infrastructure for the telecommunications and information sector in the UAE, ensuring the protection of user's interests.

UAE Council for Digital Wellbeing

It aims to develop and oversee the implementation of policies and programs, review existing legislation and laws, and assess the need for upgrades, all with the goal of enhancing the quality of digital well-being for the UAE community.

Other Prominent Entities Include

The Ministry of Education, the Office of the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, as well as the media regulatory authorities at both the federal and local levels in the UAE.

Key concepts and terminology

Domestic Violence

Every act, saying, abuse, harm, or threat committed by a member of the family against another member of it, exceeding his or her guardianship, custody, support, authority, or responsibility, and resulting in physical, psychological, sexual, or economic harm or damage.

Physical Abuse

Any assault by any means on the body of the assaulted person, even if it does not leave a trace.

Psychological Abuse

Any act or saying that leads to psychological harm to the assaulted person.

Sexual Abuse

Any act that constitutes assault or sexual harassment of the assaulted person, or by exploiting them in any way.

Economic Abuse

Any act that leads to depriving the assaulted person of their right or freedom to dispose of their money with the intent to harm them.

Child Abuse

Any act or omission that is likely to harm the child and prevent their upbringing and development in a sound, safe and healthy manner.

Violence Against Children

The deliberate use of force against any child by any individual or group leading to actual harm to the child's health, development or survival.

Child Pornography

Producing, displaying, publishing, possessing, or circulating a picture, film, or drawing through a means of communication, social media, or otherwise, in which the child appears in an indecent situation in a sexual act or sexual display, real, actual, imaginary, or simulated.

Bullying

Repeated aggression, whether physical, social, or verbal, against those in a position of weakness or powerlessness who cannot resist. It is divided into several types; physical, social, verbal, electronic, property damage, and sexual.

Cyberbullying

Intentional abusive behavior by a person targeting another online, using electronic devices such as computers, smartphones, or tablets, by sending true or false comments or sharing a picture of the victim for the purpose of insult, humiliation, blackmail, intimidation, or harassment.

Discrimination	Any distinction, restriction, exclusion, or preference between individuals or groups based on religion, creed, sect, denomination, ethnicity, color, ethnic origin, gender, or sex, taking into account the laws in force in the UAE.
Hate Speech	Any statement or action that incites sedition, strife, or discrimination between individuals or groups.
Extremism	Any act committed by a person or group motivated by ideas, ideologies, values, or principles that would disrupt public order, or would be contemptuous of religions, discriminatory, or incite hate speech.
Means	Information network, telecommunication networks, websites, industrial materials, information technology means, or any means of readable, audible, or visual media.
Forms of Expression	Speech, writing, drawing, gesture, photography, singing, acting, or indication.
Human Trafficking	<p>A person is considered a perpetrator of the crime if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Sell one or more persons, offer them for sale or purchase, promise them, recruit them, use them, enlist them, transport them, move them, harbor them, receive them, or hand them over, whether within the country or across its national borders, by using force, threats, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, exploitation of influence, or exploitation of a vulnerable situation, for the purpose of exploitation.B.<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Give or receive money or benefits to obtain the consent of a person in control of another person for the purpose of exploiting the latter.2. Human trafficking is considered to have occurred if the victim is a child or a person without capacity, even if it does not involve the use of any of the means indicated in paragraph (1) of this article.3. The forms of exploitation mentioned in this article include all forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation by means of the prostitution of others, forced labor, removal of human organs or tissues, forced service, slavery or practices similar to slavery or servitude.

Data

An organized or unorganized set of data, facts, concepts, instructions, observations, or measurements in the form of numbers, letters, words, symbols, images, videos, signals, sounds, maps, or any other form, that are interpreted, exchanged, or processed by individuals or computers, including information wherever mentioned in this decree-law.

Personal Data Security

A set of technical and organizational measures, procedures, and processes specified in accordance with the provisions of this decree-law, which are intended to maintain the protection of privacy, confidentiality, integrity, unity, and availability of personal data.

Data Breach and Violation

A breach of information security and violation of personal data by illegally or unauthorizedly accessing and accessing it, including copying, sending, distributing, exchanging, transferring, circulating, or processing it in a way that leads to the exposure or disclosure to others of this data, or its destruction or modification during the storage, transfer, and processing process.

