

# Justice for Women



## What is Violence?

Violence is defined as "the use or threat of physical force or power that results in or has the potential to result in harm, injury, death, or psychological damage to an individual."

## What is Domestic Violence?

According to Article 3/b of the Istanbul Convention, domestic violence refers to all acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence occurring within the family or household or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the victim shares the same residence with the perpetrator or not. As a phenomenon that reinforces social inequalities and perpetuates cycles of discrimination, domestic violence harms not only individuals but also society as a whole. This situation leads to the normalization of violence through power relations and social norms, making it more persistent.

## What is Gender Inequality?

Gender inequality is a form of discrimination arising from the roles assigned to men and women in social life. This discrimination restricts women's access to rights, opportunities, and resources. It creates serious barriers to women's political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These barriers limit women from fully enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

## What is Violence Against Women?

According to Article 2/ç of Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women, gender-based violence against women refers to any act or behavior rooted in gender-based discrimination that results in or is likely to result in a violation of women's human rights, solely because they are women. This includes all forms of attitudes and actions that fall under the definition of violence as specified in this law. This violence includes all forms of gender-based discrimination that negatively affects women's health, dignity, and social status and can occur in various settings, including within families, workplaces, or public spaces.

## What is Discrimination?

Discrimination refers to the unjust or unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability, age, or sexual orientation. It is recognized as a violation of human rights, impeding individuals' access to equal opportunities and their ability to fully participate in social life on an equitable basis.

Dating violence, which includes physical, sexual, psychological, social, and digital violence inflicted by the partner, is also one of the situations that women are exposed to.



# Why is a Forensic Report Important?

A forensic report is an official document prepared by a healthcare institution or expert, detailing the medical and legal aspects of an incident. It is usually prepared as a result of the evaluation of the physical and mental conditions of the victims and is used to determine the extent of violence or abuse.

This report is of vital importance in proving the damages experienced by the victim in legal processes and helps the victim defend her rights.

It plays a critical role in women's access to justice because this process ensures that the events experienced, especially in cases of violence, harassment, and abuse, are officially documented and reports that serve as legal evidence are created.

Forensic reports, which objectively document the physical or psychological violence suffered by women, provide a strong basis for victims to seek justice.



## 'Lawyers' in Women's Access to Justice

Lawyers play an important role in women's access to justice and should display a sensitive, supportive and informative approach in this process. First of all, lawyers should empathize with their clients to understand their rights and the problems they experience and create a reliable communication environment. This is critical for women to be able to express themselves comfortably. Lawyers help women to defend their rights by providing information about legal processes. In addition, they support their cases by developing effective legal strategies in cases of discrimination, violence or abuse that women face. They also provide guidance on issues such as preparing judicial reports, making protection requests and preparing the necessary documents, allowing their clients to manage the process more effectively. In addition, lawyers should provide comprehensive support by referring women to resources such as social services, shelters and psychological support while defending their legal rights. This approach helps women to be supported not only legally but also emotionally and psychologically.

**Lawyers contribute to achieving gender equality by facilitating women's access to justice.**

