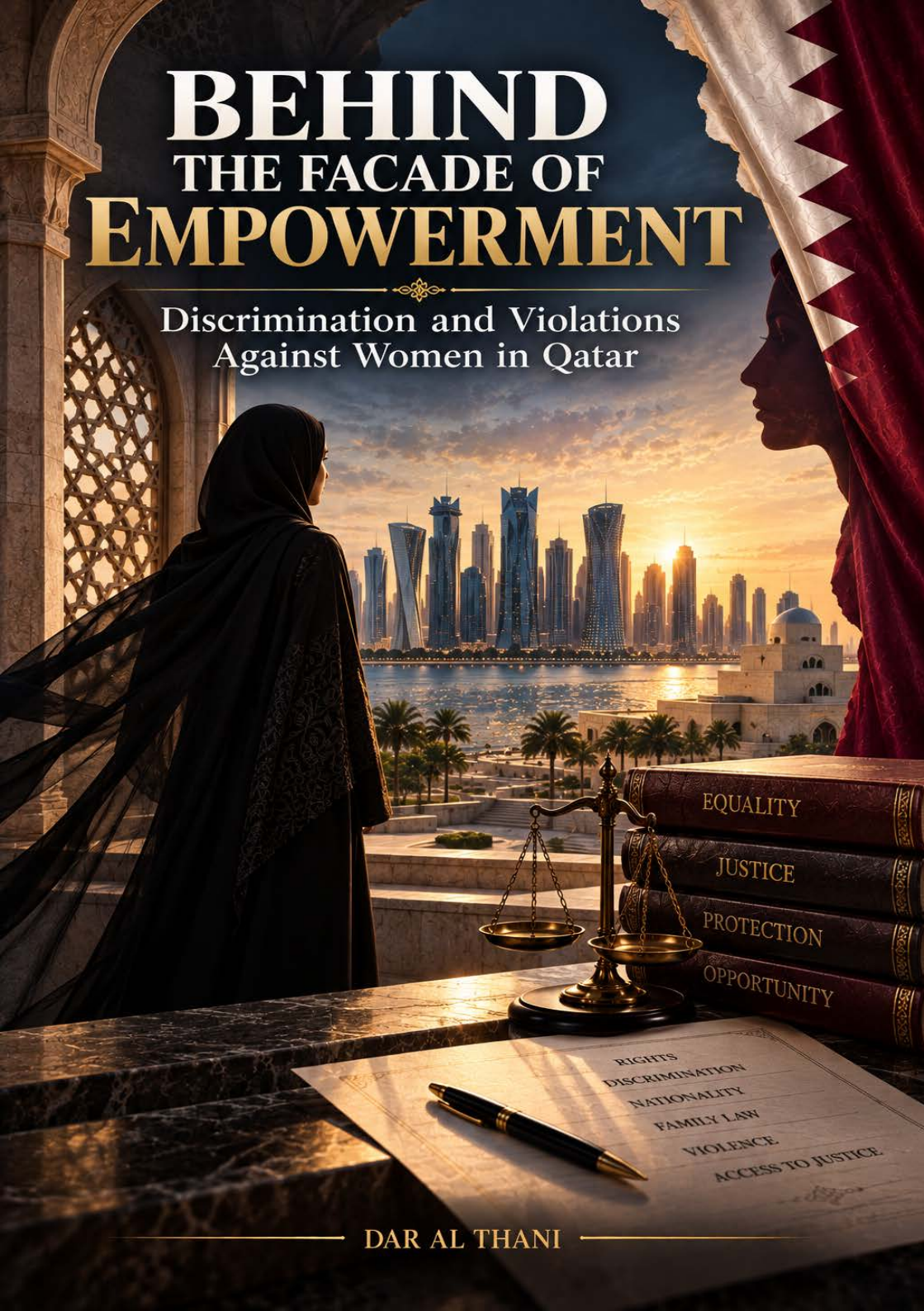


BEHIND THE FACADE OF EMPOWERMENT

Discrimination and Violations
Against Women in Qatar



DAR AL THANI

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Summary

This study examines the state of women's rights in Qatar by analysing the gap between official accounts that highlight women's education and their presence in certain public positions, and the discrimination that persists in laws, practices, and institutions. It argues that high levels of educational attainment and the visibility of a small number of prominent women do not, on their own, demonstrate equality while women continue to face restrictions on their legal rights and lack effective protection from violence and discrimination.

Chapter One examines the tension between official claims of women's empowerment and the discrimination women encounter in law and practice. It considers how far the image presented in official accounts reflects the experiences of Qatari women more broadly. It also analyses shortcomings in the legal framework, including the absence of a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women and weak mechanisms for challenging decisions and obtaining redress. The chapter addresses restrictions that may affect women's access to education and employment, as well as their limited participation in decision-making and political and legislative bodies.

Chapter Two focuses on Qatari women married to non-Qatari men. It examines unequal treatment under nationality law, particularly women's inability to pass nationality to their children or spouses on the same terms as men. The chapter assesses the legal and social consequences for their families, including unequal access to employment, education, scholarships, social benefits, property, and housing, and the uncertain legal status of

some children. It distinguishes permanent residency from full citizenship and considers how this unequal treatment affects children's interests and fairness within the family. It also discusses the difficulty of documenting individual cases: few affected women have been named publicly, and human rights reports often use pseudonyms to protect them and their children.

Chapter Three analyses violence against women and the barriers victims face in seeking justice. It focuses on gaps in legal protection against domestic violence, the absence of comprehensive, standalone legislation, the limited availability of urgent protection orders, and the lack of official data on complaints, investigations, and convictions. It also examines the social and economic pressures that may lead victims to remain silent or withdraw complaints, and the risks faced by women who report assault.

The study concludes that these concerns extend beyond individual cases or isolated social practices and are linked to the legal framework. It calls for reforms to nationality and family laws and to protections against violence; stronger, independent complaint mechanisms and judicial safeguards; guaranteed access to education for women; and effective protection for women who report abuses.

Introduction

Over recent decades, Qatar has undergone rapid economic and social change. Educational and employment opportunities for women have expanded, and their presence in universities has grown. These developments have helped shape an official image of Qatari women as essential partners in national development. Yet that image does not fully reflect the rights women enjoy in practice. A gap remains between public accounts of progress and equality under the law and in everyday life. Qatari women continue to face forms of discrimination that affect their legal status, family lives, and ability to exercise their rights, with consequences for their social and legal standing.

Violence against women is among the most serious concerns. Qatar lacks comprehensive, standalone legislation that defines the different forms of domestic violence and establishes clear procedures for prevention, protection, investigation, and punishment. Victims may face family and social pressure to remain silent or withdraw their complaints. The limited official data published on complaints, investigations, and convictions make it difficult to assess the scale of the problem. There is also insufficient information about the effectiveness of shelters, legal assistance, and psychological support services.

Women also face barriers to seeking justice and speaking publicly about their experiences, particularly when their complaints concern violence. Fear of retaliation, public exposure, or harm to their children may lead some to conceal their identities, while others have chosen to leave the country. Examining these cases is especially

important because it brings the discussion beyond general legal provisions to the experiences of those directly affected, and shows the psychological and social consequences that can follow when protection and effective remedies are lacking.

Failure to address the grievances of Qatari women leaves their concerns vulnerable to exploitation by external groups that speak in the name of rights while seeking to mislead women and undermine the principles and enduring values of Qatari society. The state and society share a responsibility to listen to these grievances and provide redress within a national framework grounded in the Islamic values of justice, human dignity, and the prevention of harm.

Chapter One: Official Empowerment and Discrimination in Law and Practice

1. The Portrayal of Women in Official Discourse

Qatari authorities portray women in official discourse as essential partners in the country's development and modernization over recent decades. This account draws particularly on women's high university enrollment, their numerical predominance in some fields of study, and their entry into professions once considered the preserve of men. The state also highlights the appointment of women to ministerial, diplomatic, and administrative positions, presenting these appointments as evidence that public institutions are open to qualified women.

Prominent women feature heavily in international conferences, media coverage, and official campaigns. Successful figures in education, healthcare, business, culture, and sport are presented as representative of Qatari women more broadly. This visibility has helped create an international impression that women now enjoy equal opportunities and that discrimination is no longer a significant problem in Qatari society.

Yet a small number of success stories cannot establish that all female citizens enjoy equality under the law or within public institutions. A woman's appointment to a ministerial or senior administrative post does not necessarily mean that other women can access the same opportunities, or that laws and public policies enable them to do so. Such limited representation also reveals

little about women who have less access to the media or influential institutions.

The problem is that official discourse places greater emphasis on individual achievements than on rights guaranteed to all women by law. It presents positive educational and professional outcomes without addressing discrimination in nationality and family laws, rights concerning children, or the obstacles women face when seeking protection and redress. Prominent women thus become the public face of progress, while the legal and social circumstances of most women remain outside public scrutiny.

2. Discrimination in the Legal Framework

Qatar's legal framework reveals a clear disparity between official claims of women's empowerment and legislation that does not ensure full equality. Although general provisions affirm justice and equal opportunity, the legal system still lacks a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women. Such a definition would cover both public and private life, prohibit direct and indirect discrimination, and require public and private institutions to take clear measures to prevent it and hold those responsible accountable.

This shortcoming is compounded by the absence of specialized judicial and administrative mechanisms through which women can challenge discriminatory decisions and practices and obtain prompt, effective remedies. A woman facing discrimination in employment, education, or public services may

encounter lengthy and complex procedures, limited legal assistance, and difficulty proving practices that are carried out discreetly. Nor is sufficient official data available on the number of complaints filed, the types of violations reported, or the decisions reached. This makes it difficult to assess how seriously the authorities address discrimination.

Family laws remain among the clearest areas of unequal rights and protections, particularly in procedures for ending a marriage, financial entitlements, child custody, and decisions affecting children's interests. A woman may have to pursue lengthy court proceedings to establish that she has suffered harm or to recover what she is owed. Delays in resolving cases and weak enforcement of some judgments can add to the economic and psychological pressure she faces. These conditions expose legislative and institutional shortcomings that make justice harder for women to obtain.

Legal and practical gaps also persist in the workplace. Protection against discrimination in hiring, pay, promotion, and employment benefits remains limited, while detailed rules to prevent unequal treatment and independent channels for complaints are lacking. Limited transparency about pay disparities and women's representation in leadership positions means that the individual achievements of some women cannot, by themselves, demonstrate equality across institutions for all women workers.

Qatari authorities bear direct responsibility for the persistence of these inequalities because they have not enacted comprehensive legislative reforms to eliminate discrimination and make the principle of equality

enforceable. The absence of independent oversight, limited publication of judgments and data, and restrictions on the work of civil society organizations have also allowed many violations to remain beyond public scrutiny and accountability.

3. Discrimination in Education, Employment, and Public Participation

Women's circumstances in Qatar reveal a clear contrast between their educational attainment and their limited influence over decision-making. Qatari women have a strong presence in higher education and account for a substantial share of graduates. Yet this progress has not translated into equal participation in the management of public institutions or the development of economic and social policy. Access to education alone cannot deliver equality unless the barriers that keep women from positions of influence and leadership are also removed.

In the labour market, women's participation remains below the level their qualifications might suggest. Some face difficulties in securing employment, advancing professionally, and obtaining equal benefits and opportunities. Women also remain underrepresented in strategic sectors and senior executive positions. At the same time, the lack of detailed, transparent employment data makes it difficult to measure disparities in pay, promotion, and representation in management.

Women's limited access to leadership and political office further illustrates the distance between official discourse and reality. Appointing a small number of women to

prominent posts does not establish equal participation across institutions, particularly when leadership appointments remain highly centralized and there are no open, transparent paths for women to advance to decision-making roles under clear criteria. The disparity is especially apparent in legislative institutions, where women's representation remains limited relative to their presence in education and society. This weakens their ability to shape laws and review policies affecting their lives and rights, while giving less attention in legislative and oversight debates to equality and protection from discrimination and violence.

In public life, the absence of independent women's rights organizations deprives women of essential means to document violations, record complaints, provide legal assistance, and scrutinize government policy. Civil society initiatives face restrictions that limit their independence and their ability to criticize the authorities or call for substantial reform. Official bodies, meanwhile, cannot provide genuinely independent oversight of policies set by the government itself.

Chapter Two: Discrimination in Marriage, Nationality, and Children's Rights

1. Discrimination in Nationality Law

Qatar's nationality law draws an explicit distinction between men and women in a right central to citizenship and legal belonging. A Qatari man passes his nationality to his children automatically, whether they are born inside or outside the country. A Qatari woman married to a non-Qatari man does not have the same right. The father's nationality thus determines the children's legal status, giving a woman's citizenship less effect than a man's within the same family.

The distinction also extends to a non-Qatari spouse. A Qatari woman cannot confer nationality on her husband through a route equivalent to the one available to the wife of a Qatari man. This difference rests on the sex of the Qatari spouse, rather than an objective measure such as length of residence, integration, or family stability. Human Rights Watch has noted that Qatar's nationality laws favour men in passing citizenship to their spouses and children while denying women an equivalent right.

Children of Qatari mothers do not acquire citizenship automatically through their mothers. Instead, they may apply through procedures subject to conditions and discretionary decisions, with no guaranteed or predictable outcome. Their status therefore remains dependent on the authorities' approval, and some applicants may wait years for a decision. Human Rights Watch documented the case of a person whose mother

was Qatari and who was born, raised, educated, and employed in Qatar, yet remained without Qatari nationality and had received no response to an application after six years.

The authorities have presented permanent residency as a way to address this inequality. A law enacted in 2018 allowed children of Qatari women and their non-Qatari spouses to apply for permanent residency, with access to certain government services and the ability to own property and invest. Permanent residency, however, is not citizenship. It does not provide a Qatari passport, confer full political membership, or place its holder on the same footing as a citizen. It is also subject to conditions. When the law was introduced, Human Rights Watch pointed to a limit of no more than 100 recipients a year, underscoring the measure's limited reach and its inadequacy as a substitute for equal nationality rights.

The effects of this discrimination go far beyond official documents. They affect family stability, children's futures, and access to travel, employment, education, and the lasting rights and benefits of citizenship. Family members may also remain vulnerable to changes in residency rules or conditions in the country whose nationality they hold, despite their family and social ties to Qatar.

This disparity is more than a procedural gap. It is a legal distinction that the state maintains despite its effects across generations. Qatari men can legally secure their families' citizenship in the country, while women cannot do the same: an enforceable right is replaced by the possibility of submitting an application for discretionary approval. This shows that official claims of women's

empowerment remain constrained by laws that give women's citizenship less effect than men's.

2. The Consequences for Children

The direct effects of discrimination in Qatar's nationality law extend to the children of Qatari women married to non-Qatari men. These children may be born in Qatar, grow up there, attend its schools, speak its dialect, and form deep ties to its society. Yet they do not automatically acquire Qatari nationality through their mothers. This creates a painful divide between their social and cultural belonging and the law's incomplete recognition of that belonging.

The disparity can affect children's sense of security and equality, particularly when they see that the children of Qatari men acquire nationality by law while their own status depends on their foreign father's nationality or a discretionary administrative decision. They may thus find themselves with fewer rights than their peers, even though their mothers are Qatari citizens who, in principle, enjoy the same rights of citizenship as men.

The inequality also shapes professional opportunities. Some government, public-sector, and security posts require Qatari nationality, excluding these children from career paths automatically open to the children of Qatari men, even if they were born in Qatar and educated in its institutions. Their father's nationality may therefore determine their career prospects, while their connection to a Qatari mother has no equivalent legal effect.

They may also face unequal access to scholarships, assistance, and social benefits reserved for citizens. Even when they receive certain educational or healthcare benefits, these do not give them the same legal standing as citizens and may remain subject to conditions or administrative procedures that can change. Similar differences may affect access to employment, property ownership, housing, and government support programmes.

Their position may become more precarious when they reach adulthood. The residence or sponsorship rules applicable to them may change, making their continued presence in the country where they were born and raised dependent on a legal status that must be renewed or regularized. The death of their foreign father, their parents' separation, the expiry of his residence permit, or a change in his employment circumstances may also unsettle the family's position unless the children have obtained independent or permanent residency.

The difference in rights between the children of Qatari women and those of Qatari men is an institutional form of discrimination that cannot be dismissed as a mere administrative rule governing nationality. The state gives the paternal relationship immediate legal effect while assigning less weight to a child's relationship with a Qatari mother and making that child's future subject to discretionary procedures. Qatari authorities bear responsibility for the resulting family uncertainty, sense of exclusion, and unequal opportunities.

3. Subjecting Family Formation to Administrative Approval

The restrictions faced by Qatari women married to non-Qatari men begin even before a family is formed, rather than only when their children's nationality is determined. Law No. 21 of 1989 regulating marriage to foreigners requires a Qatari woman wishing to marry a foreign national to obtain the Minister of Interior's approval, demonstrate social reasons for the marriage, and satisfy conditions relating to the prospective husband. The law also requires ministerial approval for a Qatari man to marry a foreign woman, subject to specified conditions and exceptions. Consequently, the consent of both parties and compliance with Islamic legal requirements are insufficient on their own to secure legal recognition; an additional administrative decision determines whether they may establish a family.

The requirement to demonstrate social reasons constitutes a far-reaching intrusion into a personal choice that shapes an individual's life and future. Both male and female citizens must justify their choice to the authorities, as though marrying someone of another nationality were an exception requiring special justification. This condition empowers the administration to assess personal relationships and family choices, turning the right to marry into an application awaiting approval. Invoking the protection of society cannot legitimize state control over the choice of a life partner. Obstructing a marriage that meets Islamic legal requirements solely because the parties hold different nationalities, without a valid necessity, constitutes paternalistic interference that is unjustified under Islamic law, logic, or reason. It transforms the

right to establish a family into a privilege that the authorities may grant or withhold at their discretion.

These restrictions become more severe where the law prohibits certain categories of citizens—including officials, diplomatic personnel, military personnel, and students studying abroad—from marrying nationals of countries outside the Gulf Cooperation Council, subject to specified exceptions. Article 7 further provides that a marriage contract concluded in violation of the law shall not be recognized for the purposes of its application and may not be officially registered. Certain violators also face employment or educational consequences, potentially including termination of service, cancellation of a state-sponsored study assignment, and demands to repay expenses. The authorities thus go beyond regulating documentation to impose direct penalties on the choice of a spouse, making professional and educational stability contingent on compliance with marriage restrictions.

Chapter Three: Violence Against Women, Discrimination Within the Family, and Access to Justice

1. Gaps in Protection from Violence

Qatar's system for protecting women from violence has gaps that limit its ability to safeguard victims. Reporting channels and support services alone cannot ensure women's safety after an assault. In 2019, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the lack of progress in explicitly criminalizing domestic violence and called for comprehensive legislation and effective protective measures. There is a particular need for urgent measures that women can readily seek when threats or assaults recur, alongside a clear process for investigation and accountability.

The lack of comprehensive official data further weakens the response to violence against women. There is no clear picture of how many complaints are filed, how many are investigated, or how many result in prosecutions, convictions, penalties, or compensation. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women identified this shortcoming, which makes it difficult to assess the scale of abuse, track what happens to complaints, or evaluate the authorities' response. Without this information, responsible agencies cannot be effectively held to account for failures, and it remains uncertain whether women facing violence can obtain protection and redress.

The problem extends beyond the absence of recent figures on complaints and court decisions. A study published by the Doha International Family Institute acknowledged that much of the available research on violence against women in Qatar relies on old data. It called for new research and a systematic means of collecting information. The study cited a 2006 survey in which 23% of a sample of 2,787 female students reported having experienced violence at some point in their lives. Although that figure is not a current national estimate, continued reliance on such old data, alongside the absence of comprehensive statistics on complaints and their outcomes, reveals how weak the evidence base remains for assessing women's protection and holding perpetrators accountable.

2. Barriers Facing Victims

Women facing domestic violence in Qatar encounter obstacles that can make reporting abuse the beginning of a difficult process rather than the end of the danger. In its 2019 observations, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that domestic and sexual violence went unreported because of social stigma and fear of retaliation. It also noted the lack of data needed to determine what happens to complaints and what action is taken.

Family pressure and financial dependence can make it harder to leave an abuser. In a report based on interviews with women in Qatar, Human Rights Watch documented pressure on some women to remain

married, difficulties paying legal fees, and cases in which women had to negotiate a divorce despite having suffered abuse. These difficulties add to a victim's concerns about her income, housing, children, and ability to pursue her case independently of her family.

The need for protection does not end when a woman files a complaint or leaves home. Human Rights Watch reported testimony gathered in 2021 and 2022 from women who said that they or female relatives had been forced to return to abusive families after trying to live independently. These accounts show why the risk of further abuse must be assessed before any return home. Women also need a safe place to stay, independent legal advice, and urgent measures to prevent retaliation or pressure to withdraw a complaint. Effective redress depends on a woman being able to report abuse safely and pursue her case without coercion through investigation and accountability for the abuser.

3. Women Who Report Sexual Assault

A woman who reports sexual assault may face a grave risk: if she cannot establish that the sexual act occurred without her consent, she may find herself treated as a suspect rather than a complainant. In a 2026 report, Human Rights Watch warned that women and girls who report rape could face prosecution for consensual sex outside marriage. Official British guidance for victims of sexual assault in Qatar also states that such a charge is possible, depending on the facts of the case and the prosecutor's discretion. Seeking justice can therefore itself expose a victim to danger.

The difficulty of proving sexual assault heightens this risk. An assault may occur without witnesses or leave no conclusive physical evidence, while some medical and forensic evidence must be collected quickly. Yet a victim may hesitate to seek hospital care if she fears triggering an investigation whose consequences she cannot control. British guidance states that medical staff in Qatar must report cases of rape and sexual assault that come to their attention to the police, and that examination results are passed to the authorities. A woman may thus face a painful choice between obtaining urgent treatment and preserving evidence, and fearing that information about the incident could be used to scrutinize her rather than protect her.

Fear of public exposure and family pressure add to these concerns. A complainant may have to recount the assault repeatedly to different authorities or answer intrusive questions about her private life. A closed hearing is also unusual and depends on the judge's discretion. These conditions may discourage women from reporting an assault or cause them to delay doing so, reducing the chance of preserving evidence and making it harder to identify and hold the perpetrator accountable.

Addressing this situation requires explicit safeguards against detaining or prosecuting a woman on the basis of facts she discloses when reporting sexual assault. Her complaint must be investigated seriously as an allegation of a crime. She should also have immediate access to confidential medical care and examination, independent legal advice, and protection of her privacy throughout the investigation and trial. When a woman must weigh the possibility of being punished before asking for help, the reporting system itself becomes an obstacle to exposing sexual assault and securing justice for victims.

Recommendations

1. **Review discriminatory legislation and guarantee equality before the law.** Conduct a comprehensive review of nationality and family laws, as well as other legislation affecting women's rights. Repeal provisions that distinguish between male and female citizens without a valid basis in Islamic law. Introduce a clear legal definition of direct and indirect discrimination and provide effective judicial remedies to stop it and compensate those harmed, in a manner consistent with Islamic principles.
2. **Ensure equal rights to pass nationality to children.** Amend nationality law so that Qatari women can pass their nationality to their children on the same terms as Qatari men. Children of Qatari mothers should not have to rely on exceptional or discretionary decisions to obtain citizenship. Pending applications should be resolved, and those whose applications are refused should have the right to challenge the decision in court. A child's secure nationality status is part of protecting the family.
3. **Enact a comprehensive law addressing violence against women.** Adopt standalone legislation that clearly defines and criminalizes physical, psychological, and economic violence. It should provide urgent protection orders, safe shelters, legal assistance, and medical and psychological care. Acts of violence must not be treated as mere family disputes, and victims must not be pressured into reconciliation before their safety is secured and perpetrators are held accountable.
4. **Establish an independent mechanism to receive and investigate complaints.** Create a body independent of executive agencies and family

institutions that can receive women's complaints confidentially, investigate allegations of violence and abuse, and refer cases to the courts. It must protect complainants and witnesses from retaliation, public exposure, and family pressure.

5. **Guarantee women's access to education, employment, and public life.** Prohibit arbitrary interference that prevents adult women from continuing their education or taking up employment. Require educational institutions and workplaces to establish clear complaint procedures. Publish regular data on women's employment, pay, promotion, and representation in leadership, and create transparent paths for qualified women to reach political, legislative, and administrative decision-making roles.
6. **Strengthen mothers' rights and uphold children's best interests.** Review rules and procedures concerning custody, maintenance, documents, education, and healthcare so that mothers with custody have sufficient authority to manage their children's affairs. Family disputes must not be used to harm mothers or children. Family cases should be resolved promptly, and orders concerning maintenance, custody, and protection must be enforced without delay.
7. **Publish data and enable independent oversight.** Require the relevant authorities to publish detailed annual statistics on complaints of violence and discrimination, protection orders, investigations, trials, convictions, shelters, and assistance provided to victims, while protecting their identities. Researchers, the media, and independent associations should be able to document women's circumstances and evaluate public policy without restriction or prosecution.

8. **Address grievances through justice and Islamic values.** Women's grievances must receive fair and effective remedies. Ignoring them compounds the harm and creates an opening for groups that may claim to defend rights while using victims' suffering to promote hostility toward Islam or falsely portray it as a source of injustice. The state, religious scholars, and community institutions have a responsibility to seek redress for those harmed and to affirm that protecting women from violence and discrimination, preserving their dignity, preventing harm, and ensuring justice within the family are all principles supported by Islam. This also requires distinguishing legitimate, serious advocacy for women's rights from the use of their concerns for ideological purposes, without casting suspicion on sincere advocates or diminishing women's right to complain and seek justice.

Conclusion

This study shows that the progress women in Qatar have made in education, employment, and access to certain public positions has not eliminated discrimination in law and practice. Nor has it ensured equal protection from violence or effective access to justice for all women. The image presented in official discourse often rests on individual achievements and a limited number of prominent women, while fundamental issues—including nationality, family rights, protection from violence, children's rights, and participation in decision-making—remain without comprehensive solutions.

Discrimination is particularly clear in nationality law. A Qatari man can pass his nationality to his children, while a Qatari woman married to a non-Qatari man cannot do the same. The consequences extend beyond the mother to her children, affecting their legal security and their opportunities in education, employment, housing, and access to benefits associated with citizenship. Permanent residency is not an equivalent substitute for nationality: it does not confer the full legal and political rights of citizenship and remains subject to conditions and discretionary decisions.

The study also finds that protection from domestic violence remains inadequate. Qatar lacks comprehensive, standalone legislation defining the different forms of violence and providing urgent protection orders and effective means of investigation and accountability. Victims face social and economic pressures that may lead them to remain silent or withdraw complaints. Meanwhile, the shortage of official data obscures the scale of the problem and makes it

harder to assess the performance of the institutions responsible for addressing it.

Qatari authorities bear direct responsibility for the persistence of these conditions. For years, they have had the legislative, institutional, and financial means to undertake meaningful reform, yet they have not taken comprehensive steps to ensure equality or effective protection for victims. Their failure to act is evident in the retention of discriminatory provisions, delays in enacting a comprehensive domestic violence law, weak complaint and appeal mechanisms, the limited publication of data, and inadequate independent oversight. This delay can no longer be justified by the difficulty of reform or appeals to social particularity. Protecting women and children from injustice and violence is a fundamental responsibility of the state.

That failure becomes more serious when official institutions promote achievements instead of acknowledging, investigating, and correcting shortcomings. Highlighting a few women in prominent positions does not relieve the authorities of their responsibility to a woman denied her rights, a mother unable to pass her nationality to her children, or a victim unable to find protection. Justice is measured by whether every woman can claim her rights, turn to an independent body for redress, and obtain effective protection when she is harmed—not by the number of success stories featured in official discourse.

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Discrimination and Violations Against Women in Qatar

This book examines the state of women's rights in Qatar by analysing the gap between official accounts that highlight women's education and their presence in certain public positions, and the discrimination that persists in laws, practices, and institutions. It shows that high levels of educational attainment and the visibility of a small number of prominent women do not, on their own, demonstrate equality while women continue to face restrictions on their legal rights and lack effective protection from violence and discrimination.

Drawing on legal analysis, institutional review and reported cases, the study explores key areas where Qatari women face barriers, including unequal nationality laws, limitations within family law, restricted access to justice for victims of violence, and under-representation in decision-making and political life. It highlights the human consequences of these legal and practical inequalities, particularly for women married to non-Qatari men and their children, and for those who experience domestic violence and seek protection.

The study concludes with practical recommendations to reform nationality and family laws, strengthen legal protection against violence, improve access to justice, and ensure genuine equality for all women in Qatar, in line with international human rights standards.

KEY THEMES EXPLORED



EMPOWERMENT AND REALITY

The gap between official narratives and the lived experiences of Qatari women.



DISCRIMINATION IN LAW AND PRACTICE

Restrictions affecting education, employment, and participation in public life.



MARRIAGE, NATIONALITY AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The impact of unequal nationality laws on women and their families.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Gaps in legal protection, barriers to justice, and the challenges faced by victims.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND REFORM

Legal and institutional changes needed to achieve genuine equality and protection.

