

Social Institutions and Gender Index

Viet Nam

SIGI Country Profile

19 of March 2024

SIGI Country Profiles are produced by the OECD Development Centre

The information and analysis contained in this profile are based on data from the fifth edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) published in March 2023. The cut-off date for legal data is 31 August 2022; the cut-off date for quantitative data is 1 January 2023.

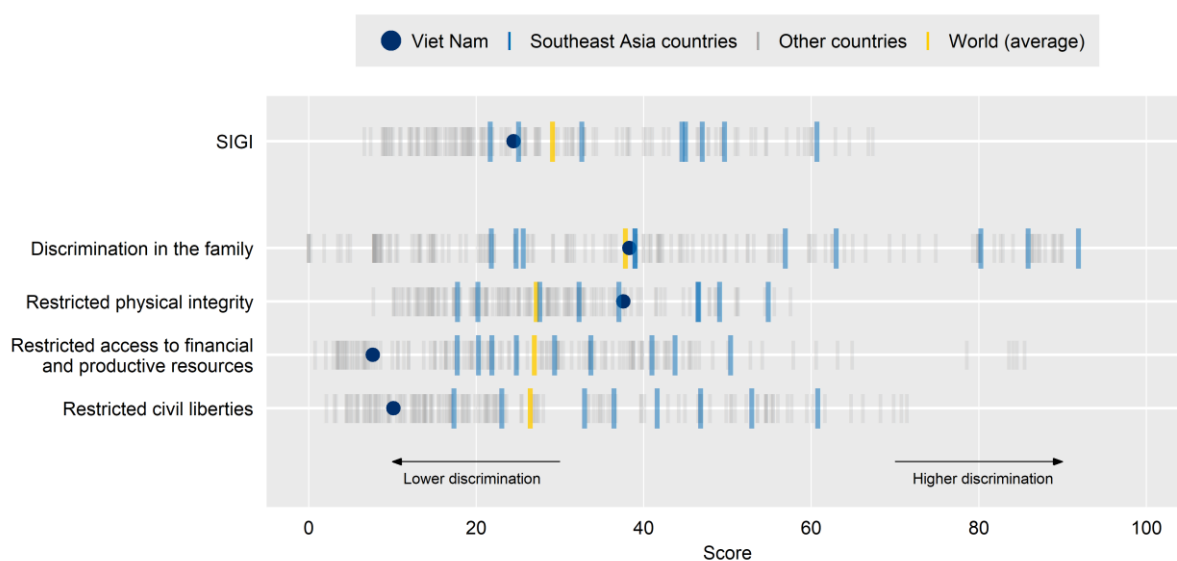
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Social institutions in Viet Nam

The state of gender equality in Viet Nam

The SIGI 2023 profile for Viet Nam provides a comprehensive overview of the state of gender equality in the country, as measured by the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The fifth edition of the SIGI, released in 2023, assesses 140 countries based on the level of gender-based discrimination in their social institutions. These discriminatory social institutions encompass both formal and informal laws, as well as social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' access to rights, justice, empowerment opportunities and resources, thereby undermining their agency and authority.

Figure 1. SIGI and dimension scores for Viet Nam, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), "Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)", *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

In 2023, Viet Nam obtained a SIGI score of 24 denoting low levels of discrimination, compared to an average score of 39 in Southeast Asia, denoting medium levels of discrimination, and a world average score of 29 (Figure 1).¹ The country obtained a score of 38 in the "Discrimination in the family" dimension,

¹ Levels of discrimination in the SIGI and its dimensions are assessed based on scores as follow: very low [0-20]; low [20-30]; medium [30-40]; high [40-50]; and very high [50-100].

followed by “Restricted physical integrity” (38), “Restricted civil liberties” (10) and “Restricted access to productive and financial resources” (8).

Legislative framework in Viet Nam

The legal system is based on civil law, although customary laws may apply under certain circumstances. Article 5(4) of the Constitution of Viet Nam² guarantees the rights of ethnic minorities to promote their physical and spiritual abilities and to develop together with the nation. Moreover, Article 5 of the Civil Code³ establishes that in specific cases where codified laws do not apply, customs and traditions are also recognised as an official source of law as long as they do not obstruct the State laws.

Viet Nam’s Constitution recognises and prohibits multiple and intersectional discrimination – which constitutes an essential element to enhance gender equality. Article 16 specifically states that all citizens are equal before the law and prohibits discrimination based on an individual’s political, civic, economic, cultural or social life. Moreover, Article 26 prohibits sex-based discrimination and Article 35 forbids discrimination in employment. Viet Nam ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)⁴ in 1982, but expressed reservations on Article 29(1) regarding inter-State dispute procedure.⁵

Gender-disaggregated, gender-relevant and intersectional data and indicators are essential to better identify policy areas that have strong linkages with gender. In Viet Nam, there are applicable legal provisions regulating the production and dissemination of gender statistics. Article 8(7) of the Law on Gender Equality⁶ promotes the production of statistics, information and reports on gender equality. Additionally, Article 12 of the Decree No. 70/2008/ND-CP⁷ details the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality by coordinating the entities, ministries and agencies, in charge of the production and dissemination of information and statistics regarding gender and gender equality.

Positive highlights and significant challenges since the fourth edition of the SIGI

Positive highlights

The legal framework in Viet Nam guarantees women and men equal rights in almost all aspects of their life (see below). Laws governing women and men’s rights in the family, economic and political spheres are non-discriminatory. Moreover, they protect women’s bodily integrity and reproductive autonomy. In practice, however, persisting social norms and informal laws undermine this *de jure* equality – particularly regarding women’s role and responsibilities at home and in the labour market.

Significant challenges

² Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2013), “Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam”, *Official Gazette (Công Báo) No. 1003 + 1004 of 29 December 2013*.

³ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2015), “Law No. 91/2015/QH13 promulgating the Civil Code”.

⁴ United Nations (1979), “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women”, *Treaties Series*, vol. 1249, United Nations, New York, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>.

⁵ United Nations (2023), “Status of Treaties: Chapter IV - 8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, *Treaty Collection*, United Nations, New York, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4.

⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2006), “Law No. 73/2006/QH11 on Gender Equality”.

⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2008), “Decree No. 70/2008/ND-CP”.

Discriminatory social institutions undermine women's empowerment and rights in practice and reinforce traditional gender roles. For instance, following a divorce, the custody of child aged less than three years is vested in priority in the mother. This legal priority given to the mother reflects traditional gender roles according to which a woman's identity and responsibilities are closely tied to her role as a mother. In this regard, 78% of the population think that children suffer when their mother works for pay and 52% think that men should have priority to jobs when those are scarce. Women's ability to occupy decision-making roles in companies or in politics also remains limited, despite legal quotas being in place to promote women's representation in parliament. Moreover, deeply rooted discriminatory attitudes can put women's bodily integrity at risk. Over half of Vietnamese women (57%) justify men's use of physical violence against their spouse under certain circumstances. Finally, the boy-to-girl ratio in the country is significantly higher than the natural average, hinting at the possible existence of sex-selection practices.

Summary of results for Viet Nam

Discrimination in the family	Unit	Value
Laws on child marriage	Score	25
Girl child marriage rate ¹	%	7.4
Boy child marriage rate ¹	%	2.2
Laws on household responsibilities	Score	25
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “if a woman earns more than her husband, it is a problem”	%	47.1
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “when a mother works for pay, the children will suffer”	%	78.3
Female-to-male ratio of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work	Ratio	-
Number of hours spent by men on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-
Number of hours spent by women on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-
Laws on divorce	Score	75
Laws on inheritance	Score	25
Restricted physical integrity	Unit	Value
Laws on violence against women	Score	25
Share of women who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances	%	56.9
Lifetime intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	25
12-month intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	7.3
Laws on female genital mutilation	%	25
Share of the female population who has heard about female genital mutilation and think the practice should continue	%	-
Prevalence of female genital mutilation (% of women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM)	%	-
Boy-to-girl ratio at birth (natural = 105) ³	Ratio	111.2
Laws on reproductive autonomy	Score	0
Unmet needs for family planning ⁴	%	5.4
Restricted access to productive and financial resources	Unit	Value
Laws on land assets	Score	0
Share of women among landowners	%	-
Laws on non-land assets	Score	0
Share of women among house owners	%	-
Laws on financial assets	Score	0
Share of women among bank account owners	%	50.6
Laws on workplace rights	Score	0
Share of the population declaring that “when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women”	%	52
Share of the population declaring that “men make better business executives than women do”	%	41.5
Share of women among managers	%	25.3
Share of firms with a woman as top manager	%	22.4
Restricted civil liberties	Unit	Value
Laws on citizenship rights	Score	0
Laws on political voice	Score	0
Share of the population declaring that “men make better political leaders than women do”	%	55.2
Share of women in Parliament (lower chamber)	%	30.3
Laws on freedom of movement	Score	0
Share of women among those who declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	%	65.7
Laws on access to justice	Score	0
Share of women among those who declare not having confidence in the judicial system and courts of their country	%	45.6

Note: Scores of legal variables range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination.

¹ % of girls/boys aged 15-19 years who have been or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union.

² % of ever-partnered women and girls who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime/over the previous 12 months. Population base for lifetime IPV: 15-49 years. Population base for 12-month IPV: 15 years and older.

³ A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

⁴ % of married or in-union women of reproductive age who want to either stop or delay childbearing but are not using any contraception method.

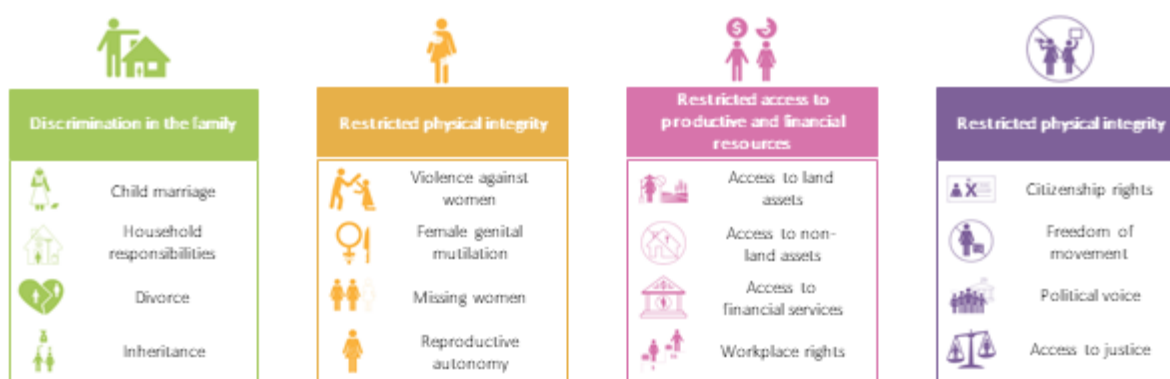
Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), “Gender, Institutions and Development Database”, <https://doi.org/10.1787/7b0af638-en>.

Results across the SIGI's four dimensions

The SIGI measures gender-based discrimination across four dimensions covering the major socio-economic areas that affect women and girls throughout their lifetime:



- The **“Discrimination in the family”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s decision-making power and weaken their status in the household and the family.
- The **“Restricted physical integrity”** dimension captures social institutions that increase women’s and girls’ vulnerability to multiple forms of violence and limit their control over their reproductive autonomy.
- The **“Restricted access to productive and financial resources”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s economic opportunities and rights.
- The **“Restricted civil liberties”** dimension captures social institutions restricting women’s access to, and participation and voice in, the public and political spheres.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework of the fifth edition of the SIGI



Each dimension builds on four indicators which, in turn, build on one to three variables depending on data availability (Figure 2). This section features the results by dimension, examining the pertinent social norms, practices and legal frameworks for each indicator.

The legal information collected through the *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey* covers both formal and codified laws, as well as informal laws. The information is assessed based on whether the law protects women’s rights or not, and is icon-coded as follows:

-  : The legal framework protects women’s rights.
-  : The legal framework does not fully protect women’s rights.

There is no universal agreement on what informal laws refer to, given contextual differences across time and place, as well as distinct disciplinary or theoretical approaches. In the context of the SIGI, informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) describe mechanisms that operate outside the formal legal system of state-based laws. Informal laws vary from one community to another and are generally uncodified and unwritten. In some cases, informal laws may reflect unequal power dynamics within a given community and discriminatory social norms, with adverse consequences on women and girls and other vulnerable groups. Informal laws are unsteady and have been adapted over time in response to external factors.

For example, customary laws are laws that are embodied in customs, rules or traditions and accepted by members of the community as binding but remain adaptable, dynamic and flexible.⁸ The CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33 also recognises indigenous laws.⁹ These are similar to customary laws but are often given a distinct identity in recognition of the specific international standards related to the rights and protections of indigenous peoples and their justice systems. Informal religious laws may refer to norms that are derived from interpretations of codified religious texts and/or longstanding traditions.

⁸ United Nations (2018), "Module 1: The Theory and Practice of Women's Access to Justice Programming", *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*, UN Women, UNDP, UNDOC and OHCHR, New York, Vienna and Geneva, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/PractitionerToolkit/WA2J_Module1.pdf.

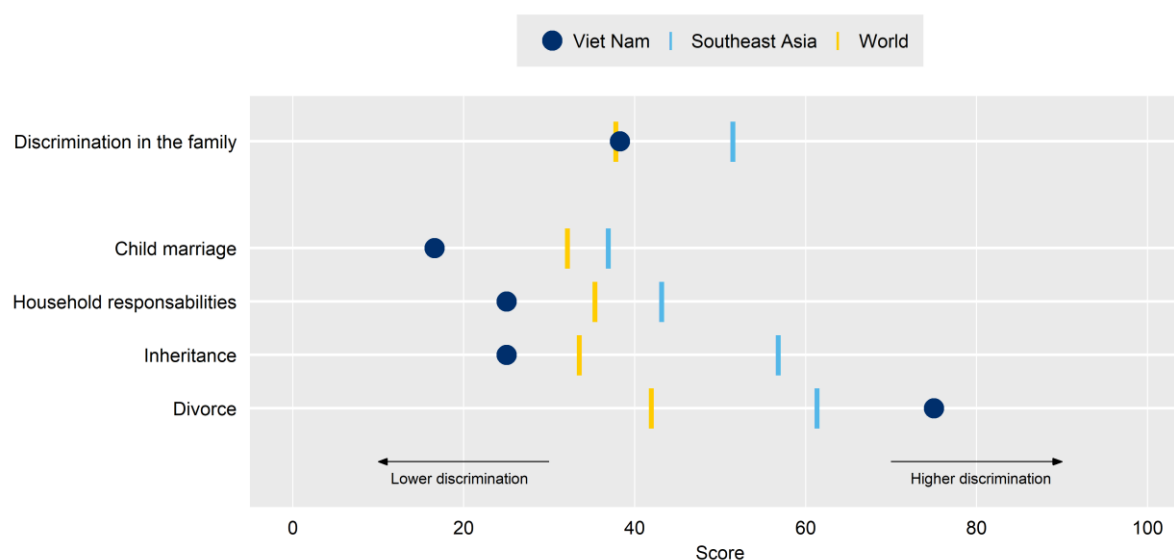
⁹ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2015), "General recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice", *CEDAW/C/GC/33*, United Nations, New York, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/807253>.

Discrimination in the family

Viet Nam exhibits medium levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 38, compared to a world average of 38 and an average score of 52 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Viet Nam experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Divorce” indicator with a score of 75, followed by “Household responsibilities” and “Inheritance” indicators with scores of 25 for both. The lowest levels of discrimination are found in the “Child marriage” indicator, with a score of 17.

Figure 3. Discrimination in the family scores for Viet Nam, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Child marriage

Practices related to child marriage

Child marriage remains present in Viet Nam, primarily affecting girls. In 2023, 7% of girls aged 15-19 were or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union, compared to 1% of boys. In addition, 15% of women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before the age of 18,¹⁰ compared to a world average of 26% and an average of 17% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning child marriage

¹⁰ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.3.1

Child marriage is illegal, but Article 8 of the Marriage and Family Law¹¹ sets distinct minimum legal ages for men (20 years) and women (18 years).

Question	Answer	Assessment
What is the legal age of marriage for men?	20	✓
What is the legal age of marriage for women?	18	✓
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of parent and/or legal guardian?	No	✓
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of judge or court?	No	✓
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of another person or institution?	No	✓
Does the legal age of marriage apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that allow or encourage the early marriage of girls?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Household responsibilities

Practices and social norms related to household responsibilities

There are no available data in Viet Nam that are comparable to other countries on practices related to the division of household responsibilities. In 2023, worldwide, women dedicate 2.6 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men,¹² while in Southeast Asia this ratio is 3.1 – based on countries for which data are available.

However, data on attitudes indicate the presence of prevailing discriminatory social norms that confine women to the household. In Viet Nam, 47% of the population thinks that if a woman earns more than her husband, it is almost certain to cause problems. Moreover, 78% of the population agrees that children will suffer if the mother has a paid job outside the home, compared to a world average of 56% and an average of 35% in Southeast Asia. Likewise, 63% of the population thinks that being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay.

Legal frameworks concerning household responsibilities

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be “head of household” or “head of family”?	n.a.	n.a.
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children during marriage?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be legal guardians of their children in informal unions?	Yes	✓
Regarding women’s legal rights to be recognised as head of household or head of family, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being recognised as the head of household?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the choice of where to live?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022. The law in Viet Nam does not refer to the “head of household” or “head of family”.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

¹¹ Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2014), “Law No. 52/2014/QH13 on Marriage and Family”.

¹² This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.4.1

Divorce

Legal frameworks concerning divorce

Article 81(3) of the Marriage and Family Law¹³ stipulates that, in case of divorce, the custody of a child aged less than three years is vested in priority in the mother, unless she is not eligible to directly look after, care for, raise and educate the child or the parents reach another agreement.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do women and men have the same rights to initiate/file for a divorce?	Yes	✓
Can women and men finalise a divorce or annulment with the same requirements?	Yes	✓
Do women and men have the same rights to child custody following a divorce?	No	!
Regarding divorce, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to initiating divorce?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children after divorce?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Inheritance

Legal frameworks concerning inheritance rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do daughters and sons have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Do female and male surviving spouses have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of daughters, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of female surviving spouses, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between sons and daughters when it comes to inheritance?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between male and female surviving spouses when it comes to inheritance?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

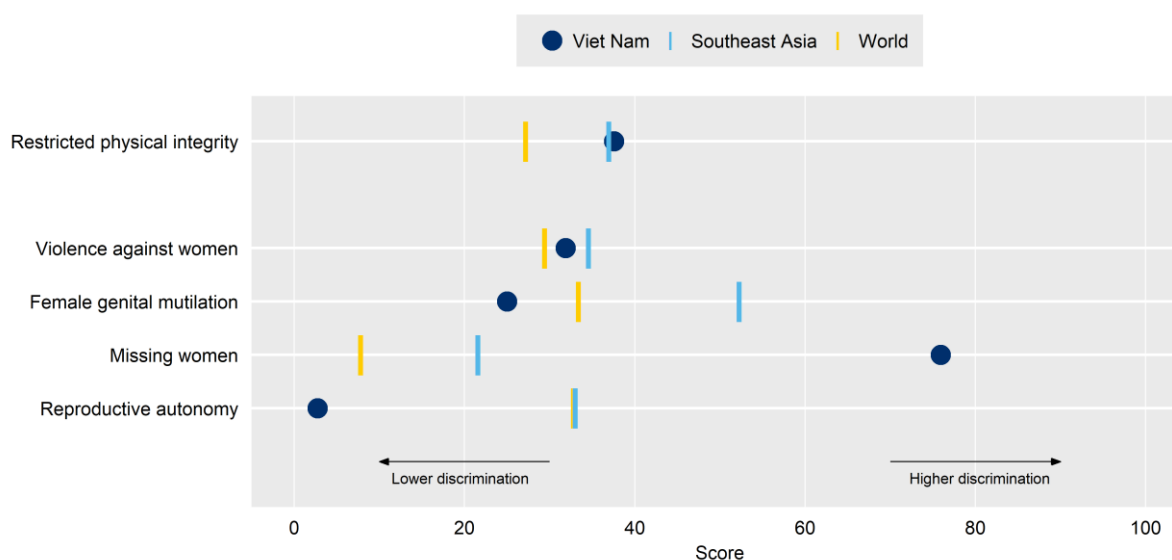
¹³ Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2014), "Law No. 52/2014/QH13 on Marriage and Family".

Restricted physical integrity

Viet Nam exhibits medium levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 38, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 37 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Viet Nam experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Missing women” indicator, with a score of 76, followed by “Violence against women” and “Female genital mutilation” with scores of 32 and 25, respectively. The lowest levels of discrimination are found in the “Reproductive autonomy” indicator, with a score of 3.

Figure 4. Restricted physical integrity scores for Viet Nam, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Violence against women

Practices and social norms related to violence against women

Violence against women remains a concern in Viet Nam. In 2023, 25% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner at least once during their lifetime, and 7% of women aged more than 15 have experienced such violence at least once over the last 12 months.¹⁴

These levels of intimate-partner violence are rooted in its widespread social acceptance. In 2023, 57% of women aged 15-49 think that it is justified for a husband to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances, such as burning the food, arguing with the spouse, going out without telling him, neglecting the children,

¹⁴ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.1

or refusing to have sex. In comparison, 30% of women holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 33% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning violence against women

Viet Nam does not have a dedicated law addressing all forms of violence against women. Different forms of violence against women (such as domestic violence or sexual violence) are covered in separate or general pieces of legislation. For instance, Article 42 of the 2007 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control¹⁵ criminalised domestic violence, covering physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse, whereas Article 141 and 155 of the Criminal Code¹⁶ respectively criminalise rape and sexual harassment. In 2022, the 2007 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control was replaced by the new Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control.¹⁷ Article 3 of the 2022 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control builds on the previous legislation and defines what are considered acts of domestic violence and what groups are considered as more vulnerable to it, such as people with disabilities, children and the elderly. Chapter II contains several articles on the prevention of domestic violence related to guaranteeing better education, communication and information. Finally, the legal framework on sexual harassment also does not extend its definition over acts committed in educational establishments.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is there a law specifically addressing violence against women?	No	!
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator?	n.a.	n.a.
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for protection and support services for victims/survivors?	n.a.	n.a.
Does the law include reduced penalties in case of so-called "honour crimes"?	No	✓
Domestic violence		
Is domestic violence a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover physical abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover sexual abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover psychological abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover economic abuse?	Yes	✓
Are there any exceptions included in informal laws (traditional, religious, and/or customary rules/laws) that reduce penalties for domestic violence?	No	✓
Rape		
Is rape a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Is the legal definition of rape based on lack of consent?	Yes	✓
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of physical force?	No	✓
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of penetration?	No	✓
Does the legal definition of rape include marital rape?	Yes	✓
Does the law permit the reduction or removal of legal punishment if the perpetrator marries the victim?	No	✓
Sexual harassment		
Does the law prohibit sexual harassment?	Yes	✓
Does the law on sexual harassment include criminal penalties?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in the workplace?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in educational establishments?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in public spaces?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply online / on the internet?	Yes	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

¹⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2008), "Law No. 02/2007/QH12 on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control".

¹⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2015), "Criminal Code of Viet Nam (Law No. 100/2015/QH13)".

¹⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2022), "Law No. 13/2022/QH15 on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control".

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Female genital mutilation

Practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) is traditionally concentrated in a limited number of countries that have been well-identified and documented by international organisations at the forefront of the fight against this harmful practice. Yet, evidence highlights that FGM/C takes place across all regions, among indigenous and/or diaspora communities originating from countries where FGM/C is known to be common. In some contexts, girls are taken across national borders to undergo FGM/C in a country where the legislation against the practice is either non-existent or less strict.¹⁸

There are no available data in Viet Nam that are comparable to other countries on practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting.

Legal frameworks concerning female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Article 106 of the Penal Code¹⁹ allow to prosecute FGM/C acts on broad grounds, namely under inflicting injury on or causing harms to the health of other persons. However, the law does not criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on broad or narrow grounds?	Yes	✓
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds only?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow or encourage FGM/C?	No	✓
Does the law take precedence over informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow, condone or prescribe FGM?	n.a.	n.a.

Note: The SIGI methodology assesses laws on FGM/C according to two scenarios: (1) criminalisation on narrow grounds includes laws that contain criminal penalties for acts of “female genital mutilation”, “permanent altering/removal of external genitalia”, “female circumcision”, “excision”, “infibulation” and “genital mutilation”; (2) criminalisation on broad grounds includes “mutilation”, “harming of a person’s organs”, “serious bodily injury” and “bodily injury/hurt/assault.” The presence of informal laws that allow or encourage FGM/C is proxied by the existence of nationally representative data on FGM/C or the existence of indirect estimates (usually used in countries where FGM/C is mainly practiced by diaspora communities), small-scale studies, or anecdotal evidence and media reports as reported by Equality Now, the End FGM European Network and the US End FGM/C Network in 2020.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>, and Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

Missing women

Practices related to missing women

The “Missing women” indicator captures whether there are any existing imbalances in the natural sex ratio between girls and boys aged 0-4 due to pre- and postnatal gender-biased sex selection. These imbalances can result from sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and/or inadequate healthcare and nutrition for girls. A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105

¹⁸ Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

¹⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2015), “Criminal Code of Viet Nam (Law No. 100/2015/QH13)”.

implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

In Viet Nam, the “missing women” phenomenon is a severe issue. The boy-to-girl sex ratio for children aged 0-4 is estimated at 111.2, which means that there are approximately 111.2 boys aged 0-4 for 100 girls of the same age. This ratio is substantially higher than the natural sex ratio at birth.

Reproductive autonomy

Practices related to women’s reproductive autonomy

Unmet needs for family planning are calculated as the proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married or in union, who wish to interrupt or delay childbearing but do not use any method of contraception.

In Viet Nam, the gap between women’s reproductive intentions and their contraceptive behaviour is limited, with 5% of women aged 15-49 who declare having an unmet need for family planning, compared to a world average of 12% and an average of 11% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women’s reproductive autonomy

Women’s reproductive autonomy can be restricted by laws that prohibit the access to safe and legal abortion under essential circumstances (in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life or health of the pregnant woman and severe foetal impairment).²⁰ Evidence shows that the share of unsafe abortions is higher in countries with restrictive abortion laws. Unsafe abortions are a leading but preventable cause of maternal mortality and millions of girls and women are hospitalised every year following complications of unsafe abortion procedures.²¹

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is abortion illegal under any circumstances?	No	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to save the woman’s life?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the physical health of the woman?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the mental health of the woman?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of rape or statutory rape?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of incest?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: social and economic reasons do not allow the mother to sustain a pregnancy?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: foetal impairment?	Yes	✓
Does a woman require the approval of a medical practitioner to seek a legal abortion?	No	✓
Does the law require the approval of the father of the foetus to seek a legal abortion?	No	✓
Is there any national plan or policy that provide universal access to family planning services?	Yes	✓
Is there any law or national policy that provide free or subsidised access to contraception?	No	!
Does the national school curricula include mandatory and comprehensive sexuality education?	No	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

²⁰ CEDAW (2022), *Access to safe and legal abortion: Urgent call for United States to adhere to women’s rights convention*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/07/access-safe-and-legal-abortion-urgent-call-united-states-adhere-womens-rights>.

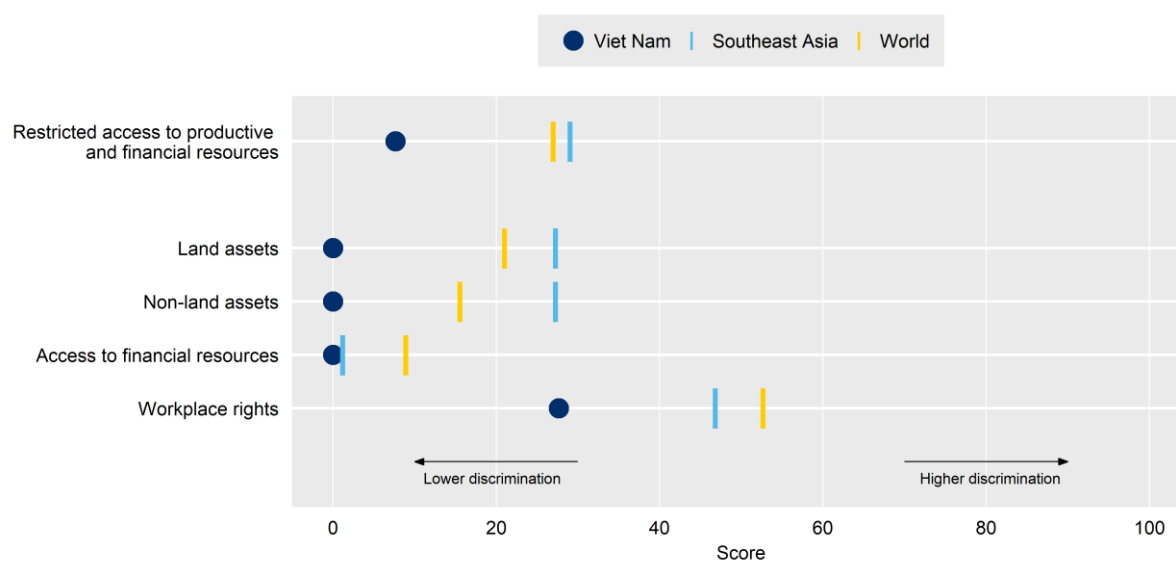
²¹ UNFPA (2022), *State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen - The Case for Action in the Neglected Crisis of Unintended Pregnancy*, UNFPA, Geneva, <https://doi.org/10.18356/9789210015004>.

Restricted access to productive and financial resources

Viet Nam exhibits very low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 8, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 29 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Viet Nam experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Workplace rights” indicator with a score of 28. No discrimination is found in the “Access to land assets”, “Access to non-land assets” and “Access to financial services” indicators, with scores of 0.

Figure 5. Restricted access to productive and financial resources scores for Viet Nam, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Access to land assets

Practices related to women’s access to secure land assets

In Viet Nam, there are no available data that are comparable to other countries on practices related to access to land assets.

Legal frameworks concerning women’s access to land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use land?	Yes	✓
Regarding land, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of land assets?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to non-land assets

Practices related to women's secure access to non-land assets

In Viet Nam, there are no available data that are comparable to other countries on practices related to access to non-land assets.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to non-land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Regarding property and other non-land assets, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of non-land assets?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to financial services

Practices related to women's access to formal financial services

Gender imbalances in terms of access to financial services are limited in Viet Nam, but the overall access of the population is relatively low. In 2023, 29% of women have a bank account at a financial institution, compared to 31% of men. This translates into women accounting for 51% of bank account holders. In comparison, at the global level, 67% of women have a bank account, compared to 72% of men. Across Southeast Asia, on average, 52% of women have a bank account, compared to 54% of men.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to financial services

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	Yes	✓
Does the law require married women to obtain the signature and authority of their husband to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	No	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to obtain credit?	Yes	✓
Regarding access to formal financial services, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity, caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to opening a bank account?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to obtaining credit?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Workplace rights

Practices and social norms related to women's workplace rights

Women remain largely excluded from decision-making power positions in the economic sphere. Women only account for 25% of employees in a managerial position,²² which is in line with the world average of 25%, but below the average of 36% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available. Only 22% of companies in the country are headed by women.

These gender gaps are upheld by discriminatory social norms that establish men as the main breadwinners and more fit to hold leadership positions. In Viet Nam, 42% of the population believes that men make better business executives than women, compared to a world average of 42% and an average of 53% in Southeast Asia. Likewise, 52% of the population agrees that when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women. In comparison, 45% of the population holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 64% of the people across Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's workplace rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sex?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	✓
Does the law prohibit women from entering certain professions?	No	✓
Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid maternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid paternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid parental leave?	No	!
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓
Regarding women's legal right to take a paid job or work and/or register a business, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to entering certain professions?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

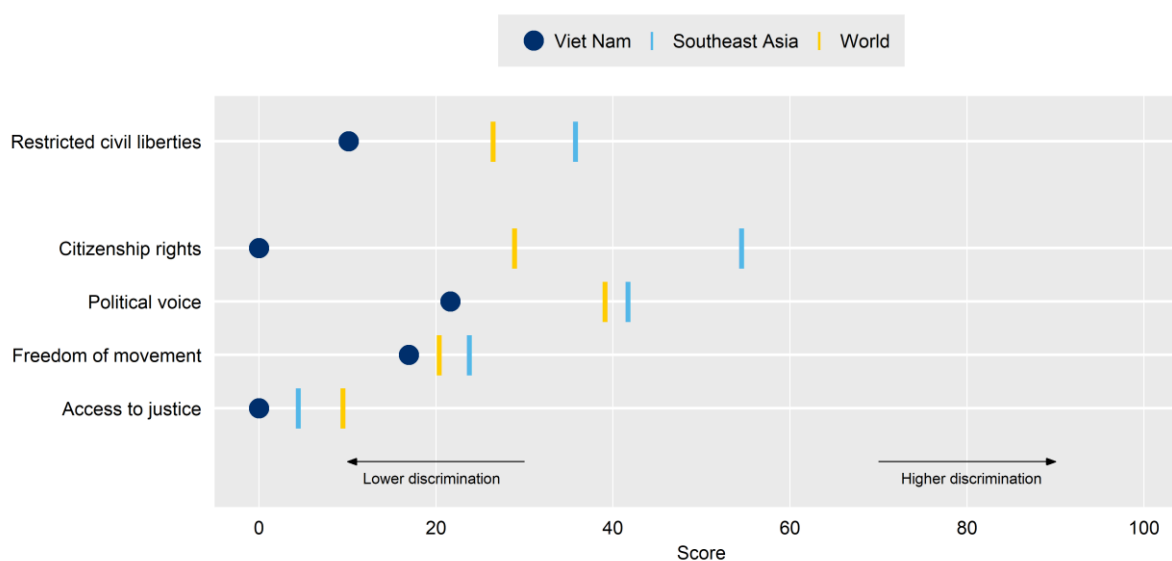
²² This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.2

Restricted civil liberties

Viet Nam exhibits very low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 10, compared to a world average of 26 and an average score of 36 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Viet Nam experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Political voice” indicator with a score of 22, followed by “Freedom of movement” with a score of 17. No discrimination is found in the “Citizenship right” and “Access to justice” indicators, with scores of 0 for both.

Figure 6. Restricted civil liberties scores for Viet Nam, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Citizenship rights

Legal frameworks concerning women’s citizenship rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their spouse?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their children?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to confer nationality to their children?	Yes	✓
Regarding women’s nationality rights, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to acquiring, changing, or retaining their nationality?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to conferring nationality to their spouse and/or children?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Freedom of movement

Practices related to women's freedom of movement

Freedom of movement is recognised as a human right and mobility is essential in everyday life, for instance to reach the workplace or healthcare facilities. In Viet Nam, women feel more unsafe than men, and a large part of the overall population, notably women, feels that way. Across the country, 39% of women declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or in the area where they live, compared to 19% of men. This translates into women accounting for 66% of those who do not feel safe walking alone at night.

Legal frameworks concerning women's freedom of movement

Beyond the challenge of ensuring that everyone feels safe enough to move around in public spaces, laws must guarantee women and men the same rights to obtain identification documents and to travel by themselves within and outside of their country.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the government provide national identity cards?	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as a married man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as an unmarried man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a passport in the same way as a married man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a passport in the same way as an unmarried man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Regarding identity cards and/or passports, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside the country?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside their homes?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to applying for identity cards or passports?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Political voice

Practices and social norms related to women's political voice

Women's political representation in the country remains limited, with women accounting for 30% of the members of parliament in 2023, compared to a world average of 27% and an average of 22% in Southeast Asia.

Discriminatory attitudes that exclude women from positions of power in the political sphere remain present with 55% of the country's population declaring that men make better political leaders than women.

Legal frameworks concerning women's political voice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to vote?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the legislative branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the executive branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public office in the judiciary branch?	Yes	✓
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the national level?	Yes	✓
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the local level?	No	!
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the national level?	No	!
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the local level?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to voting?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to holding public office?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to justice

Practices related to women's access to justice

In Viet Nam, 12% of women do not trust the judicial system and courts, compared to 15% of men. This translates into women accounting for 46% of those who do not trust the country's judicial system.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to justice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to sue?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the civil courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the criminal courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the family courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the tribunals?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes suing someone?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to providing testimony in court?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being judges, advocates or other court officers?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.