

Information on Violence against women and girls and disability

By National Human Rights Committee Of Qatar

Data/Statistics:

The period from 2004-2010 has witnessed a great interest in conducting researches and studies regarding women's issues, publications, and holding symposiums and seminars a propos these issues. The researches that have been fulfilled handled issues concerning violence against women, and the obstacles facing women when they assume leadership positions in the Qatari society, political participation, and other topics.

1. Four surveys on the problem of violence against women were conducted:
 - (Violence against women in the Qatari society) in 2006 and carried out by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.
 - (Violence against married women - the case of Qatar) in 2008, and carried out by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs - (domestic violence - a sample survey on some Qatari families) in 2008 and carried out by the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior.
 - (Domestic workers - reality and problems - effects and solutions) in 2010. Carried out by Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking.

It is worth mentioning what was displayed by the studies that women accept violence against them and they give a justification to it. Also, they are reluctant to resort to institutions that can provide protection to them in order to maintain the family reputation.

2. The Statistics Authority provides all its data classified in accordance with the social type, as well as most of the ministries and government institutions. The Statistics Authority (and before that the Planning Council), also issues in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs a report of women and men - statistical depiction every two years since 2004.
3. Now, a jointly coordination has started between the Supreme Council for Family and Total Quality Management in the Ministry of the Interior to provide data related to the safety and security of the different family classes according to the referential classification which facilitate meet the requirements of international reports, comparisons and various studies. The collaboration is still continuous between the two aforementioned parties,

Moreover, Qatar has provided integrated information of the database of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Violence against Women in 2008.

Legislation and policies

1. Qatar's accession to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Decree No. 28 of 2008)
2. The issuance of the Decree No. (10) of the year 2009 approving the accession to the United Nations Convention against combating transnational Organized Crimes of the year 2000, as well as the approbation of joining the Protocol of preventing, suppressing and punishing human trafficking, especially women and children, annexed to the Convention in 2009.
3. Continuation in developing legislation regarding the protection of women against violence mainly:
 - The Law No. (19) for the year 2008 has identified the equality of the deceased diyya (compensation) for false murder in terms of the value of the diyya. The former past practice of this law considered the value of women's diyya as half of the man.
 - Law No. (5) of the year 2007 on the passports requirement for the consent of the husband to issue a passport to his wife, but this was restricted to the agreement of the parents to issue passports to minor children as well as under legitimate persons and persons lacking legitimacy.
 - Law No. (22) of the year 2006 concerning the issuance of a family law which defines 16 years as the minimum age for marriage for girls (18 years for boys).
 - Law No. (11) of the year 2004 issuing the Penal Code penalties ranging from death and imprisonment of seven years for each crime being committed by sexual intercourse with a female. This penalty is doubled if the accused person is a descendent of the victim or if he is entrusted with educating her. Felony acts that include misdemeanor or enticement of a female to engage in prostitution or indecent acts. Criminal acts of assault on a pregnant woman and intentional abortion acts. Also the penal code regards as crimes any acts of offensive aggression on persons with disabilities, ranging between death and imprisonment.

Prevention and protection

1. Reinforcement of the health system response to the problem of violence against women through the adoption of Hamad Medical Corporation of the following policies:
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure on Sexual Harassment
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure on Sexual Assault
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure on Illegal Pregnancy
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure on Care of Vulnerable Patient Population.
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure for Dealing with Domestic Violence.
 - Hamad Medical Corporation Policy / Procedure for the Treatment of Pregnant Women.

2. Qatar has adopted practical policies in addressing the problem of violence against women through the establishment of independent institutions dedicated to combat this phenomenon such as the Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection, which was established in 2002, and Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking established in 2005.
3. Opening an office of the Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection at the Emergency and Accidents Department of Hamad General Hospital in 2007.
4. Availability of hotlines in the Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection, Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking and the National Commission for Human Rights to receive the cases which are subjected to violence. Additionally, the Family Guidance Center provides a hotline for family and marriage advices.

Prosecution and Punishment

1. We note from the foregoing that there is no specific legislation in Qatar to protect women from violence outside the conventional frameworks of the Penal Code, and although the State has averted this situation by opening centers and relevant institutions, which in turn monitor and receive cases of violence, then find a remedy to these cases or transfer them to public prosecution. There are weaknesses in monitoring and executing of follow-up of cases and these is an urgent need to strengthen coordination between all governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions associated with the protection from violence.
2. The National Commission for Human Rights and other civil society organizations and government institutions, host continuous training courses and workshops in order to give effect to the Convention of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the Convention concerning persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of its provisions and to train specialists (experts in the field of law enforcement (at the prosecution, court and police) as well as lawyers and journalists.

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration

1. Two houses providing shelter were established for women who are subjected to violence. The Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care in 2003 to house the victims of human trafficking and provide protection and care for them (affiliated to the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking), and Dar Al-Aman to house women and children who are exposed to violence in 2007 (affiliated to the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of children and women).
 2. Ministry of Interior opened in March 2009 a special office to deal with cases of domestic violence and violence against women surpassing the traditional security frameworks of dealing with those situations providing social, educational and psychological support to victims.
- ❖ NOTE: The National Committee will provide individuals in charge of this study at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with more recent data and statistics available on violence against women and people with disabilities in Qatar, the nearest opportunity.