Women, Business and the Law 2014 Fact Sheet: South Asia

In South Asia the five economies covered (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) have credit reporting institutions, although none collects information from retailers or utilities. Benefits designed to share child-raising responsibilities are still scarce: none of the economies covered offers any paternity leave. Over the past two years, the following reform occurred:

India passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act in April 2013 stipulating that women should not be subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace, in transportation to and from work and in dwelling places. India also promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act to criminalize sexual harassment.

About the Women, Business and the Law Report series:
Women, Business and the Law measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women’s incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 143 economies, covering six areas: gaining access to institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court. The project provides a clear picture of gender gaps based on legal differences in each economy, but it does not capture the full extent of the gender gap, nor does it indicate the relative importance of each aspect covered. This year’s report was published by Bloomsbury Publishing. For more information, please visit: wbl.worldbank.org. Join us on Facebook: wbl.worldbank.org/Facebook

About the World Bank Group
The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and development expertise for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in pursuing the World Bank Group’s mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit www.worldbank.org, www.miga.org, and www.ifc.org.

For more information on Women, Business and the Law 2014, please contact:
Nadine Ghannam +1 (202) 684-0832
E-mail: nsghannam@ifc.org

Contacts for region-specific queries on Women, Business and the Law 2014:
South Asia
Minakshi Seth +91 (11) 4111-1058
E-mail: mseth@ifc.org
Gabriela Aguilar Martinez +1 (202) 473-6768
E-mail: gaguilar2@worldbank.org