

## **Accessing Institutions**

*The indicator on Accessing institutions explores women's legal ability to interact with public authorities and the private sector in the same ways as men. This indicator provides disaggregated information on 11 categories of legal ability, highlighting differences between married and unmarried women. It also assesses constitutional protections from discrimination and the use of gender quotas in government and the private sector. Women, Business and the Law 2016 expands coverage to include candidate list quotas for political parties.*

### *Key Findings on this Indicator:*

- In 18 economies including Guinea, Cameroon and the Republic of Yemen, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working.
- Married women cannot travel outside the home in the same way as men in 17 of the measured economies, including Afghanistan, Oman and Sudan.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea, a married woman cannot sign a legally binding contract in the same way as a man.
- In 30 economies, married women cannot legally be designated as head of household in the same way as their husbands.
- In Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan and Suriname, business registration procedures differ for married women compared with married men.
- Of the economies measured by *Women, Business and the Law*, over one-fifth recognize customary law under the constitution; the majority of these explicitly mandate that customary law comply with constitutional provisions such as nondiscrimination and equality.
- 72 economies have a quota for women's political participation at the national level, and 65 have quotas for women's political participation at the local level.
- Chile enacted an electoral reform to ensure a 40% quota for women on candidate lists in national elections, while Saudi Arabia instituted a 20% quota for women at the national level.
- Of the economies measured by *Women, Business and the Law*, nine have quotas for corporate boards in publicly listed companies: Belgium, France, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain and most recently, Germany and India.
- 22 of the economies examined do not allow married mothers to pass citizenship to their children as fathers can, and 44 do not allow married women to pass citizenship to their spouses as married men can.
- Suriname and Senegal recently amended their laws to allow married women to pass on nationality to their children and non-national spouses in the same way as men, and Niger recently reformed its laws to allow women to pass on citizenship to non-national spouses.

*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 operate a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 173 economies, covering seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, going to court and protecting women from violence. The report is published every two years.

The full report and accompanying datasets are available at [wbl.worldbank.org](http://wbl.worldbank.org).

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