

# St. Vincent and the Grenadines

*Women, Business and the Law 2022* (WBL2022) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Kingstown). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **St. Vincent and the Grenadines scores 68.1 out of 100**. The overall score for St. Vincent and the Grenadines is lower than the regional average observed across Latin America and the Caribbean (80.4). Within the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the maximum score observed is 95 (Peru).

## St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2022



### Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, St. Vincent and the Grenadines gets a perfect score.

### Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after having children, and constraints on women starting and running a business, St. Vincent and the Grenadines could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for St. Vincent and the Grenadines is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children (the WBL2022 Parenthood indicator). To improve on the Parenthood indicator, St. Vincent and the Grenadines may wish to consider making paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers, making the government administer 100% of maternity leave benefits, making paid leave available to fathers, and making paid parental leave available.

### Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2020 – October 1st, 2021).



Further data details for St. Vincent and the Grenadines are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines/2022>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	No	Passport application form; Passport application procedures
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	No	<i>Criminal:</i> No applicable provisions could be located <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, Secs. 3, 6 and Schedule Part III
Marriage	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Domestic Violence Act, 2015
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Matrimonial Causes Act, Arts. 3, 9, and 11
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	National Insurance (Benefits) Regulations, Sec. 21
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	National Insurance (Benefits) Regulations, Sec. 22; Wages Regulations (Shop Assistants) Order, 2017
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Protection of Employment Act, Sec. 16
Entrepreneurship	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	Married Women's Property Act, Art. 3
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Married Women's Property Act, Arts. 3 and 4
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Administration of Estates Act, Art. 62(b),(c)
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Administration of Estates Act, Art. 62(a),(b)
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Married Women's Property Act, Arts. 3 and 4
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Matrimonial Causes Act, Art. 34(1)(f)
	Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes
Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?		Yes	Women: National Insurance (Benefits) (Amendment) Regulations, Secs. 11 and 13. Men: National Insurance (Benefits) (Amendment) Regulations, Secs. 11 and 13
Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?		Yes	Women: No applicable provisions could be located. Men: No applicable provisions could be located
Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?		Yes	National Insurance (Benefits) Regulations 1994, Sec. 57