



WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW

FAQ – WBL 2025

Methodology Workshops

MOBILITY

- 1. Would a general legal provision obliging a married woman to obey her husband affect a country's score under the Mobility indicator, even if it does not explicitly restrict freedom of movement?**

No, a general legal provision requiring a married woman to obey her husband does not affect a country's score under the Mobility topic. Although such a provision may indirectly impact a woman's ability to choose where to live, leave the marital home, or travel domestically or internationally, the Mobility topic captures explicit legal restrictions on women's freedom of movement. Legal provisions that impose a duty of obedience—requiring a woman to obey her husband or male guardian—are instead measured under the Marriage topic (Indicator I.5.1). This approach ensures conceptual clarity and prevents double counting the same legal barrier under both topics.

- 2. If the law formally grants equal mobility rights to men and women, but prevailing social norms compel women to seek their husband's permission to leave the marital home or travel abroad, how does the WBL framework account for this disconnect between law and practice?**

If the law formally grants equal mobility rights to men and women, but prevailing social norms or customary law require women to seek their husband's permission to leave the marital home or travel abroad, this does not affect the score under the Mobility topic's Legal Frameworks pillar. The *Women, Business and the Law* Legal Frameworks pillar only evaluates legal barriers that are both legally binding and codified. Customary law, social norms, or informal practices are not taken into account unless they are legally binding, meaning they either (1) have been codified in a legally binding instrument enacted by the competent legislative or executive authority or (2) are explicitly referenced in a codified law and further established and interpreted through binding judicial decisions. Therefore, unless the obligation to seek a husband's permission meets one of these two conditions, it does not impact the Mobility Legal Frameworks score.

- 3. In cases where passport or national ID card application forms require married women to disclose their husband's name for administrative reasons - while there is no corresponding requirement for married men, - such as verifying marital status, would this be considered a legal or procedural barrier under the Mobility indicator?**

Yes, requiring married women to disclose their husband's name on passport or national ID card application forms - while there is no corresponding requirement for married men, even for administrative reasons such as verifying marital status, would be considered a procedural barrier in the Supportive Frameworks pillar under the Mobility topic. Indicator II.2.2 is scored 1 only if three conditions are met: (1) the procedures and forms are the same for women and men; (2) there are no procedural barriers preventing women from applying in the same way as men; and (3) there are no additional document requirements for women that men are not subject to. If a married woman is required to provide details about her spouse while a married man is not required to do the same, this constitutes a gender-based procedural difference. Therefore, this would prevent the country from receiving a score of 1 under Indicator II.2.2.