

Women's Spirit Financial Independence for Women Survivors of Abuse

SUMMARY

The State of Israel Must Create a Law Against Economic Abuse

Economic Abuse - What is it?

A person's continuous behavior towards their partner, while intimidating, forcing, or controlling them, and is expressed in at least one of the following ways:

- Denying access to financial information
- Control over all financial resources
- Preventing reasonable and proper management of daily financial needs

Economic Abuse is the use of money and credit as a means of control, coercion, or intimidation within a relationship. It is ongoing, in which the abuser (typically a man) has complete control over the family's financial resources while excluding the other partner (typically a woman) from access to assets and financial information.

Other patterns of economic abuse are, disrupting the ability to work or develop professionally, allocating insufficient amounts of monies for purchasing essential needs for the family while carefully monitoring every expenditure, creating debts in the name of the partner through fraudulent or coercive means, and more.

Economic abuse often affects women long after the relationship ends.

Economic abuse is widespread and can stand alone or be part of other forms of abuse.

Understanding that Economic Abuse is abuse can be a turning point for many women and in fact, may save lives.

UPR Third Cycle Recommendations

Seven recommendations referring to gender-based violence and domestic abuse have been supported by the state of Israel in the third UPR cycle, following the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences on her mission to Israel in 2017.

Despite the Rapporteur's recommendation, in the year 2023, there is still no legislation against economic abuse in the State of Israel.

Why Legislation?

The fundamental importance of legislation against economic abuse is first and foremost is in its recognition and **giving a legal name** to the phenomenon - Economic Abuse. The law will allow the courts to stop behaviors that constitute economic abuse and can provide relief to those who are affected by the phenomenon, including the ability to sue the abusers for damages.

A law against economic abuse will make a difference!

Legislative Efforts 2016-2023

There has been activity in Israel to promote legislation against economic abuse, led by civil society organizations with the support of politicians across the political spectrum.

A first draft of the Prevention of Violence in the Family Law (Amendment No. 16 – Preventing Economic Violence) was submitted to the Israeli parliament in 2016.

In August 2020, the then Minister of Justice submitted a bill for the Prevention of Violence in the Family Law (Prevention of Economic Abuse). The bill passed the first reading. Two discussions were held in the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee in September and November 2020. Sadly, once again the Israeli Parliament dissolved and the discussion of the bill was neglected due to another round of governmental elections.

Lastly, a draft of the law was presented to The Ministerial Committee for Legislative Affairs in March 2023, the discussion was dismissed and postponed for another three months.

Recommendations

Israel should continue its efforts to eliminate domestic and gender-based violence against women in all its forms, including Economic Abuse, in conformity with Sustainable Development Goals 5.2 and A5.

We recommend that the State of Israel adopt the recommendations given by the Special Rapporteur and supported by fellow states, to promote a law that acknowledges and prevents economic abuse and assists its survivors/victims.

Read full report



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