



2.9. Women and girls

2.9.1. General overview of violations against women

The protracted conflict in Syria has exacerbated gender inequalities, exposing women and girls to increased violence, displacement and discriminatory legislation.⁷⁸³ Women continued to be excluded from decision-making in the new transitional government and to have a limited role in political processes.⁷⁸⁴ Although several women were appointed to transitional justice bodies, only one woman was appointed to a ministerial position,⁷⁸⁵ specifically as the minister for social affairs and labour.⁷⁸⁶ Following indirect parliamentary elections in October 2025, only six women were elected,⁷⁸⁷ representing approximately 4 % of seats in total⁷⁸⁸ and marking a decrease in women's representation.⁷⁸⁹

According to SNHR, at least 29 358 women and girls have been killed in Syria between March 2011 and November 2025, over 75 % of them attributed to the security forces of the Assad regime.⁷⁹⁰ Following the fall of the Assad regime, reports of women being killed by armed actors⁷⁹¹ or as a result of armed clashes⁷⁹² continued.⁷⁹³ However, the majority of the 312 women fatalities documented by SNHR in 2025⁷⁹⁴, and the 27 recorded during the first quarter of 2026⁷⁹⁵, were attributed unidentified perpetrators and landmines.⁷⁹⁶

According to several Syrian human rights and non-governmental organisations, the situation of women in Syria reportedly varies significantly depending on their sectarian, regional and socioeconomic background.⁷⁹⁷ Specifically, non-Sunni women 'appear more vulnerable, especially when their identity is visible through appearance or behaviour', and most cases of discrimination, harassment and abuse against women were reported from minority areas.⁷⁹⁸ Similarly, women in smaller towns and rural communities often live under stricter cultural norms and rely on family networks for protection.⁷⁹⁹

Throughout 2025, disappearances⁸⁰⁰ and abductions of Alawite women and girls, have been reported.⁸⁰¹ According to the Syrian Feminist Lobby (SFL), an advocacy group for women's rights, the disappearance of more than 80 women, mainly Alawite, has been recorded between February 2025 and December 2025.⁸⁰² In July 2025, at least 36 women and girls, aged 3 to 40, were reportedly abducted, with several incidents occurring in broad daylight, by unidentified individuals across multiple governorates including Latakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs,⁸⁰³ Damascus, and Aleppo.⁸⁰⁴ In several cases of abductions members of the security forces or individuals affiliated with the government were reportedly involved.⁸⁰⁵ Some women were released following the payment of ransom demands.⁸⁰⁶ Those held in abduction reportedly faced physical assault, sexual violence, and forced marriage.⁸⁰⁷ According to sources, police and security forces failed to conduct effective investigations on these cases,⁸⁰⁸ occasionally

refusing to register complaints or dismissing families' concerns.[809](#) In November 2025, the Mol's spokesperson stated that following an investigation, only one out of a total of 42 reported cases was confirmed as an abduction,[810](#) attributing the other cases to reasons, including fleeing from domestic abuse, elopement, or 'false claims on social media'.[811](#)

In the context of the July 2025 violence in Sweida governorate, violations against Druze women were reported, including killings, detentions,[812](#) sexual violence and abductions.[813](#) As noted by the UNCOI, between July and November 2025 eleven Druze women and four girls were abducted and subsequently released, with perpetrators allegedly including tribal fighters and Internal Security Forces (ISF) personnel.[814](#)

- [783](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 33; HRW, World Report 2026, Syria: Events of 2025, 4 February 2026, [url](#)

- [784](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 33; Conversation (The), Women played key roles in Syria's revolution. Now they've been pushed to the margins, 14 July 2025, [url](#)

- [785](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 33

- [786](#)

BBC News, Syria's only female minister pushes for change: 'I'm not here for window dressing', 2 February 2026, [url](#); Conversation (The), Women played key roles in Syria's revolution. Now they've been pushed to the margins, 14 July 2025, [url](#)

- [787](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 33; Reuters, First results for Syria's new parliament show low share for minorities, women, 6 October 2025, [url](#)

- [788](#)

BBC News, Syria's only female minister pushes for change: 'I'm not here for window dressing', 2 February 2026, [url](#); IPU, Syrian Arab Republic, [2025], [url](#)

- [789](#)

HRW, Syria: One Year Since Assad's Fall, 8 December 2025, [url](#)

- [790](#)

SNHR, On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: Strengthening Participation of Women in the Transitional Phase in Syria to Guarantee Their Rights and Justice, 25 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

- [791](#)

SNHR, Monthly report for victims of extrajudicial killing in Syria, 1 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 2-3; SOHR, Assassinations and retaliation-driven murder crimes: 22 children and 40 women among 1,301 people killed since fall of Al-Assad regime, 8 November 2025, [url](#)

- [792](#)

ANHA, 80 children, 51 women killed in Syria since beginning of 2026, 16 March 2026, [url](#); UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Flash Update No. 1 - Escalation of violence in Aleppo (as of 07 January 2026), 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1; SHRC, December Report on Human Rights Victims in Syria, 1 January 2026, [url](#); SOHR, Death toll update: Four children and women among 15 people killed in clashes and bombardment by Israeli forces in Beit Jinn, 28 November 2025, [url](#)

- [793](#)

SNHR, Monthly report for victims of extrajudicial killing in Syria, 1 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 2-3; SOHR, Assassinations and retaliation-driven murder crimes: 22 children and 40 women among 1,301 people killed since fall of Al-Assad regime, 8 November 2025, [url](#)

- [794](#)

SNHR, Monthly report for victims of extrajudicial killing in Syria, 1 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 2-3

- [795](#)

SNHR, Quarterly Report on Victims of Unlawful Killings in Syria, 1 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 3-4

- [796](#)

SNHR, Monthly report for victims of extrajudicial killing in Syria, 1 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 2-3; SNHR, Quarterly Report on Victims of Unlawful Killings in Syria, 1 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 3-4

- [797](#)

DK, DIS, Syria: Situation of Certain Groups, December 2025, [url](#), pp. 43-44

- [798](#)

DK, DIS, Syria: Situation of Certain Groups, December 2025, [url](#), p. 43

- [799](#)

DK, DIS, Syria: Situation of Certain Groups, December 2025, [url](#), p. 44

- [800](#)

BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18 February 2026, [url](#); OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [801](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 69; AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Syria 2025, 21 April 2026, [url](#); Reuters, 'She's not coming back': Alawite women snatched from streets of Syria, 27 June 2025, [url](#)

- [802](#)

BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

- [803](#)

AI, Syria: Authorities must investigate abductions of Alawite women and girls, 28 July 2025, [url](#); OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [804](#)

OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [805](#)

BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18 February 2026, [url](#); OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [806](#)

AI, Syria: Authorities must investigate abductions of Alawite women and girls, 28 July 2025, [url](#); Reuters, 'She's not coming back': Alawite women snatched from streets of Syria, 27 June 2025, [url](#)

- [807](#)

AI, Syria: Authorities must investigate abductions of Alawite women and girls, 28 July 2025, [url](#); OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [808](#)

AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Syria 2025, 21 April 2026, [url](#); BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18

February 2026, [url](#)

- [809](#)

OHCHR, Syria: UN experts alarmed by targeted abductions and disappearances of Alawite women and girls, 23 July 2025, [url](#)

- [810](#)

AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Syria 2025, 21 April 2026, [url](#); BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

- [811](#)

BBC News, I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

- [812](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), paras. 78, 79

- [813](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), paras. 78, 79; Denmark, DIS, Syria: Situation of Certain Groups, December 2025, [url](#), p. 43

- [814](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 79