



2.9.3. Honour-based violence

Since the fall of the Assad regime, ‘honour’-based violence against women has reportedly continued to occur.⁸²⁴ According to confidential sources interviewed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September 2025, ‘honour’-based violence ‘was a major taboo’ in Syria, and no definite figures were available on its scale or geographical distribution.⁸²⁵ In 2025, several incidents of ‘honour’ killings were reported across various regions including Aleppo and Sweida governorates,⁸²⁶ with some gaining visibility or being broadcasted on social media.⁸²⁷ ‘Honour’-related crimes remain underreported, with victims often refraining from reporting incidents due to fear of retaliation and social stigma.⁸²⁸

In practice, ‘honour’-based violence is often not prosecuted.⁸²⁹ In June 2025, the Syrian Higher Fatwa Council issued a formal religious ruling (*fatwa*) prohibiting extrajudicial retaliation and revenge killings, including ‘honour’-based violence.⁸³⁰ However, by then, the transitional government had not enacted legislative measures or issued official statements condemning ‘honour’ related crimes.⁸³¹

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Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, January 2026, [url](#), p. 114; STJ, Syria’s Transitional Phase: “Honor” Killings Persist Amid Failing Protection and Legal Response, 19 June 2025, [url](#); Worldcrunch, Regimes May Change In Syria — The Scourge Of Honor Killings Persists, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

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Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, January 2026, [url](#), p. 115

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STJ, Syria’s Transitional Phase: “Honor” Killings Persist Amid Failing Protection and Legal Response, 19 June 2025, [url](#)

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STJ, Syria’s Transitional Phase: “Honor” Killings Persist Amid Failing Protection and Legal Response, 19 June 2025, [url](#); Worldcrunch, Regimes May Change In Syria — The Scourge Of Honor Killings Persists, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I para. 79; UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), p. 31; STJ, Syria's Transitional Phase: "Honor" Killings Persist Amid Failing Protection and Legal Response, 19 June 2025, [url](#)

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Syrian Observer (The), Syria's highest fatwa council bans vigilante justice: A step toward rule of law, 9 June 2025, [url](#); New Arab (The), Syria religious authorities issue fatwa against extrajudicial killings, revenge attacks, 7 June 2025, [url](#); Enab Baladi, Syrian Fatwa Council prohibits revenge killings outside judicial framework, 6 June 2025, [url](#)

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STJ, Syria's Transitional Phase: "Honor" Killings Persist Amid Failing Protection and Legal Response, 19 June 2025, [url](#)