



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

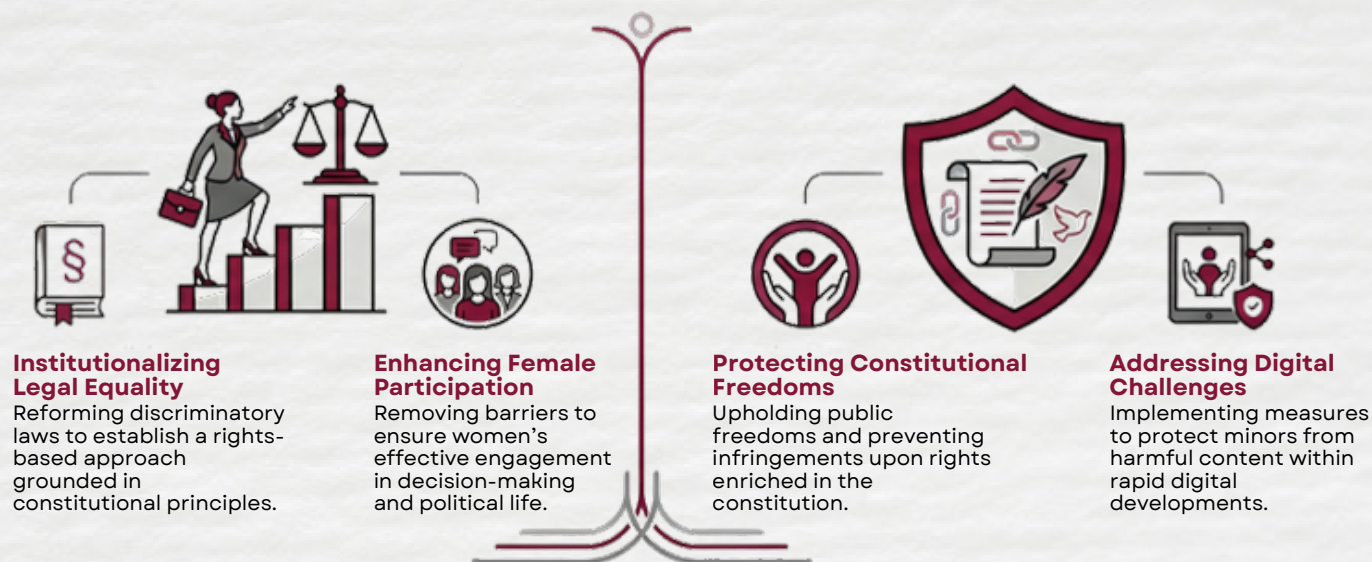


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I. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROMISES

The following commitments were made by the Lebanese government in its ministerial statement, forming the baseline against which actual progress is assessed across the Gender equality and Human rights.



II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Women's Political Representation

- In a historic step, **five women were appointed as ministers in Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's 2025 government**, representing one of the highest levels of female cabinet representation in Lebanon's history and signaling a meaningful shift in the government's approach to inclusive governance.
- Under the patronage of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, **UN Women Lebanon and UNSCOL unveiled a landmark research paper** on Lebanese women's political participation and party leadership, the first of its kind to examine women's presence inside Lebanon's eight major political parties, laying out actionable steps to advance equality ahead of the 2026 parliamentary elections.
- National efforts to **strengthen women's participation in public life advanced through the launch of the SALMA Agreement by UNDP, UN Women, and local partners**, aiming to increase women's representation in municipal councils and leadership positions ahead of the 2025 local elections.
- **UNDP and UN Women, in partnership with civil society, convened a roundtable in February 2025** advocating for the adoption of a gender quota law as a temporary special measure in municipal elections, with cross-party parliamentary momentum building around the proposal.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)

- The **National Commission for Lebanese Women** resumed institutional activities under its newly appointed leadership, reinforcing coordination of national initiatives related to women's rights and gender equality.
- A **national three-year action plan for women's rights was introduced**, focusing on combating violence against women, promoting economic empowerment, strengthening women's participation in decision-making, and integrating equality principles into legislation.
- The government's appointments to several regulatory authorities and public bodies reflected increased female representation in leadership and decision-making positions, marking progress toward more inclusive governance and gender-balanced institutional participation.
- **Preparatory work progressed on Lebanon's second National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325** on Women, Peace, and Security, reinforcing institutional coordination on gender-related policies.
- The **Government of Australia and UN Women launched the "LEAP" initiative** (Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection), a two-year program supporting over 4,600 crisis-affected women in Lebanon through income opportunities, skills training, protection services, and support for women-led businesses, with a focus on vulnerable groups including refugees and women with disabilities.



2. Institutional Engagement & Civil Society

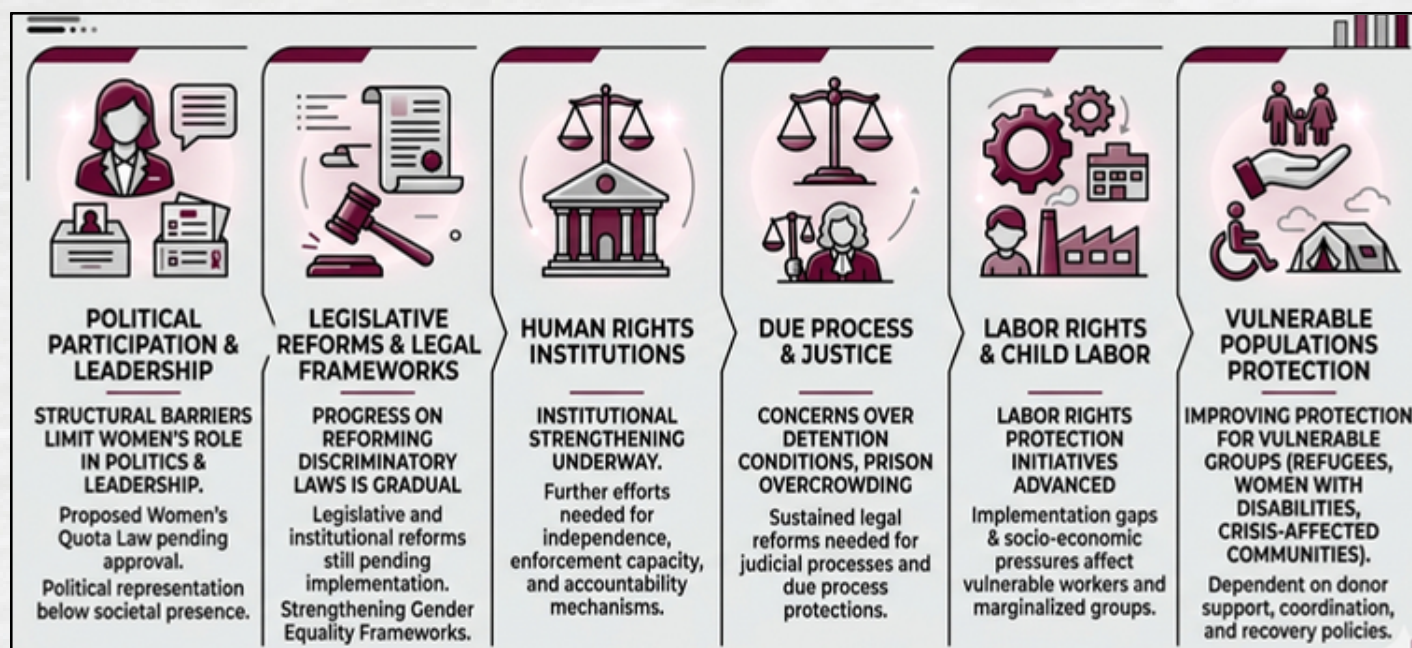
- The **new government demonstrated openness to structured civil society engagement on human rights issues, with the Citizen Charter** developed by the Ministry of Administrative Development explicitly including accessibility rights for persons with disabilities and non-discrimination principles as enforceable citizen entitlements within the public administration framework.
- **Lebanon launched the 2025 "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"** campaign under the theme "UNITE to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls," in partnership with the United Nations and the National Commission for Lebanese Women, strengthening national awareness and action against online violence targeting women and girls.
- The National Human Rights Commission and the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture (NHRC-CPT)** strengthened international cooperation on torture prevention through a strategic meeting with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) in Geneva, focusing on detention monitoring, accountability mechanisms, legal reform, and protection standards aligned with international human rights obligations.
- The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Information launched a practical **guide on labor rights, providing simplified legal guidance on employment rights, contracts, maternity leave, workplace safety, and access to social protections, while supporting broader awareness of workers' rights and legal protections.**

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)

- A **draft law criminalizing bullying and online harassment** was submitted to Parliament, aiming to address symbolic violence, discrimination, and harmful online behavior targeting individuals and vulnerable groups, including women.

III. AREAS WHERE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE - AGENDA IN PROGRESS

1 Gender Equality and Human Rights



IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Enhancing female participation in political, public, and private life		Five women appointed as ministers in 2025 government in a historic step; government appointments to regulatory bodies reflect increased female representation; however women hold only 6.25% of parliamentary seats and structural barriers to full political participation persist
Reforming discriminatory laws and adopting a rights-based equality approach		National three-year action plan for women's rights introduced; amendments to Law 293 on family violence and Anti-Sexual Harassment Law No. 205 in place; however key discriminatory legislation including personal status laws remains unreformed and several pending legislative reforms await parliamentary action
Protecting constitutional freedoms and fundamental rights		President Aoun and PM Salam issued strong public commitments to judicial independence, freedom of expression, and rule of law; National Human Rights Commission and Committee for Prevention of Torture strengthened international cooperation; prison overcrowding exceeding 300% capacity and delays in judicial processes remain serious concerns
Addressing digital challenges and protecting minors and vulnerable groups		New mechanism introduced but confessional quota system remains deeply entrenched; rotation across sectarian lines has fallen short of initial ambitions and historical distributions continue to be replicated at the Council of Ministers stage
Protecting and empowering vulnerable and crisis-affected groups		Australia-UN Women LEAP initiative launched supporting over 4,600 crisis-affected women; Citizen Charter includes non-discrimination and disability accessibility rights; protection efforts remain heavily dependent on donor funding and international support rather than sustained state-led institutional frameworks
Advancing women's political representation through legislative measures		Gender quota law proposal gaining cross-party momentum with UNDP and UN Women advocacy; roundtable convened in February 2025; landmark UN Women research on women in political parties published; quota law has not yet been approved by parliament and women's representation in municipal councils remains at 5.4%



Note: RED - early ; YELLOW – moderate; GREEN – advanced



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