The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) measures how discriminatory laws, social norms and practices affect the lives of women and girls around the world. SIGI’s unique ranking, dataset and country profiles allow users to compare women’s rights and opportunities in 180 countries.

**Elements of SIGI 2019**

**DISCRIMINATION IN THE FAMILY**
- Child marriage
- Household responsibilities
- Divorce
- Inheritance

**RESTRICTED PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**
- Violence against women
- Female genital mutilation
- Missing women
- Reproductive autonomy

**RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**
- Secure access to land assets
- Secure access to non-land assets
- Secure access to formal financial services
- Workplace rights

**RESTRICTED CIVIL LIBERTIES**
- Citizenship rights
- Political voice
- Freedom of movement
- Access to justice

**Discriminatory social institutions** are the formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that restrict women’s and girls’ rights, as well as their access to empowerment opportunities and resources.
How SIGI helps countries achieve SDG 5

The SIGI is a unique resource to:

1. **Inform policy makers** and development practitioners on key progress and challenges regarding gender-based discrimination in laws, social norms and practices to create an enabling environment for women and girls.

2. **Provide analysis and policy recommendations** that help governments maximise the multiple benefits of gender equality for their development strategies.

3. **Monitor progress** towards gender equality and the efficient implementation of legal reforms. The United Nations uses the SIGI as an official data source to monitor SDG indicator 5.1.1 on “Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”.

![SIGI Diagram]

- **Gender, Institutions and Development Database**
  - 33 indicators on the level of discrimination in laws, social norms and practices

- **180 country profiles**
  - Comprehensive information on legal frameworks and action plans to protect women’s rights

- **Index classifying 120 countries**
  - Countries classified according to the level of discrimination embedded in their social institutions

- **Policy Simulator**
  - Policy makers can test reform options and assess their likely effects on gender equality in social institutions
Every day, how women and men believe and behave are influenced by what is around them – their families, communities, societies. Nothing is more important than what their communities expect from them, both privately and publicly.

Sometimes, these influences are positive and enhance gender equality; but more often they are negative, and women end up being treated differently and often less than men.

The SIGI gives policy makers the facts and analysis they need to understand and act on these positive and negative influences so that women and men have the same opportunities.
DISCRIMINATION IN THE FAMILY

Progress to date*

**Child marriage**
15 additional countries delayed the legal age of marriage.

**Household responsibilities**
In 149 countries, women and men enjoy equal guardianship rights over their children during marriage.

**Divorce**
In 140 countries, women and men have the same rights to be legal guardians of their children after divorce.

**Inheritance**
2 additional countries have eliminated discriminatory legal provisions related to women’s inheritance rights.

Challenges ahead

In 2018, 16% of girls aged 15-19 were married before turning 18, compared to 19% in 2012: at this rate, the world would need 100 years to eradicate girl-child marriage.

40 countries recognise the husband solely as head of household, and 27 countries require women by law to obey their husbands, with 16 countries exposing women to legal consequences if they disobey their husbands.

38 countries discriminate against women’s rights to initiate divorce.

29 countries discriminate against women’s and girls’ inheritance rights.

*Positive change since the release of the last edition of the SIGI in 2014.
### Progress to date*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence against women</th>
<th>14 additional countries enacted legislation to criminalise intimate partner violence.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female genital mutilation</td>
<td>3 additional countries criminalised female genital mutilation (FGM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing women</td>
<td>Government interventions and shifting social norms have led to a slight decline in the missing women phenomenon in 4 of the 5 countries where the problem is most acute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive autonomy</td>
<td>2 additional countries removed restrictions on women’s reproductive autonomy.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Challenges ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence against women</th>
<th>31% of women have suffered intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 27% of women declare that it can be tolerated.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female genital mutilation</td>
<td>39% of women have suffered FGM in 29 countries, and 23% believe the practice should continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing women</td>
<td>In 8 countries, systematic under-valuation of women and girls has led to a deficit in the number of women alive today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductive autonomy</td>
<td>In 119 countries, women still face legal restrictions in the case of an unwanted pregnancy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Positive change since the release of the last edition of the SIGI in 2014.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secure access to land assets</th>
<th><strong>Progress to date</strong>*</th>
<th>Secure access to non-land assets</th>
<th><strong>Challenges ahead</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>89 countries provide for compulsory joint titling of land to couples, and 27 countries implement legal literacy programmes to enable women to understand their land and property rights.</td>
<td>4 countries have made legal reforms to remove restrictions on women’s right to own and control property.</td>
<td>34 countries entitle husbands solely to administer and dispose of marital property.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Secure access to formal financial services</th>
<th><strong>Progress to date</strong>*</th>
<th>Secure access to non-land assets</th>
<th><strong>Challenges ahead</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>107 countries promote gender-sensitive measures to expand women’s access to formal financial services.</td>
<td>3 countries require women to have the approval of a male head of household or guardian to open a bank account.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Workplace rights</th>
<th><strong>Progress to date</strong>*</th>
<th>Secure access to non-land assets</th>
<th><strong>Challenges ahead</strong></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Paid maternity leave is guaranteed in all but 2 countries, and 91 countries mandate paid paternity leave.</td>
<td>88 countries proscribe women from entering certain professions, and 24 countries require women to have the permission of their husbands or legal guardians to choose a profession or work.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

*Positive change since the release of the last edition of the SIGI in 2014.*
RESTRICTED CIVIL LIBERTIES

**Progress to date***

**Citizenship rights**
3 additional countries allowed women to transfer their nationality to a foreign spouse in the same way as men.

**Political voice**
10 additional countries introduced special measures to promote gender-balanced political representation.

**Freedom of movement**
2 countries removed discriminatory requirements regarding passport and ID applications.

**Access to justice**
In 132 countries, women have the same legal rights as men to sue, provide testimony and hold office in the judiciary.

**Challenges ahead**

Women’s rights to pass on their nationality are still restricted in 49 countries.

47% of the world’s population still believes that men make better political leaders than women.

In 125 countries, women are more likely than men to feel unsafe walking alone at night in the area where they live.

In 85 countries, women are more likely than men to express mistrust in the justice system.

*Positive change since the release of the last edition of the SIGI in 2014.
To learn more about the SIGI

Social Institutions and Gender Index
www.genderindex.org

Gender, Institutions and Development Database
oe.cd/ds/GIDDB2019

SIGI Policy Simulator
oe.cd/sigisim

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