



2.9.4. Sexual and gender-based violence

A SNHR report released in November 2025 recorded 11 583 cases of sexual violence against women since March 2011, with forces affiliated to the former Syrian regime accounting for 69 % of all recorded incidents.[832](#)

Gender-based Violence (GBV) remain widespread in Syria.[833](#) As noted in a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and GBV AoR report, women face multiple and increasing forms of gender-based violence (GBV) following the fall of the Assad regime.[834](#) According to a UNOCHA analysis conducted at the end of 2025, out of some 8.6 million people requiring GBV assistance in Syria, 85 % are women and girls. Intimate partner violence, psychological violence, economic violence, early and forced marriage, and sexual exploitation remained ‘persistent concerns’.[835](#) Sources interviewed by the Swedish Migration Agency in September 2025 assessed that physical violence against women within the household increased and became more normalised, particularly as growing numbers of returnee women were required to share accommodation with extended family members or relatives. Sources also noted a reinforcement of traditional male gender roles, which has been associated with increased levels of physical and sexual violence, including forms of intimate partner violence such as marital rape.[836](#) According to UNHCR, returnee women from abroad were reported to face heightened exposure to GBV, such as violence and harassment, in certain areas ‘linked to negative perceptions and social stigma, including views of them as more “liberal”’.[837](#)

Barriers to effective GBV reporting persisted in the form of constrained mobility, limited access to protective services,[838](#) social stigma, legal and procedural obstacles, fear of reprisals, and lack of trust in legal mechanisms.[839](#) According to GBV experts, ‘some signs of improved access’ to justice and protection were observed, however institutional support remained highly localised and inconsistent, depending on the individual context and personal networks.[840](#)

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) was ‘widespread’[841](#) and increasing across Syria.[842](#) Forms of TFGBV reported included online harassment, threats, disclosure of personal information and extortion, with women with a higher online visibility, including journalists, facing higher risk to be targeted.[843](#) A report by UNFPA and Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) noted that there is an absence of legal and enforcement frameworks, while access to tailored TFGBV services, including legal and psychosocial support and digital safety trainings, is limited.[844](#) Fear of stigma and societal blame further leads many women to self-censor, resulting in restriction or withdrawal from digital engagement and avoidance of visible career opportunities.[845](#)

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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. 8

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UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian needs and response plan, 2 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 11, 38; GPC, Protection Monitoring: Summary of Key Findings (September to November 2025), 14 January 2026, [url](#), p. 5

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UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), p. 14

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UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian needs and response plan, 2 April 2026, [url](#), p. 38

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SE, Swedish Migration Agency, Syrien Säkerhet och skydd i områden under de facto-myndigheternas kontroll [Syria Security and protection in areas under the control of the de facto authorities], 11 November 2025, [url](#), p. 19

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UNHCR, Syria: Protection and Reintegration Insights: Voices of returnees and host communities across Syria (January - March 2026), 28 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 18-19

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GPC, Protection Landscape in Syria – A Snapshot: March 2025, 3 April 2025, [url](#), p. 5

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UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), p. 41

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UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), p. 41

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DW Akademie, Syria: What gender-based violence online means for women, 2 April 2026, [url](#); ACAPS, Technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Northwest Syria, 3 June 2025, [url](#), p. 4

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UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), pp. 21, 28, 30

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DW Akademie, Syria: What gender-based violence online means for women, 2 April 2026, [url](#); UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), pp. 28 – 30, 35

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UNFPA and GBV AoR, Voices From Syria 2025, 14 October 2025, [url](#), p. 43

- [845](#)

DW Akademie, Syria: What gender-based violence online means for women, 2 April 2026, [url](#)