

Sudan

Country context: the UN estimates that over 6.9 million women and girls are at risk of GBV across Sudan. Moreover, it is indicated that between December 2023 and December 2024, there was a 288% increase in GBV survivors seeking support services.

Regional laws ratified

- **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** - 18 February 1986
- **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)** - 30 July 2005
- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)** - Ratification approved by Cabinet in April 2021 (pending formal ratification and deposit)

National legislation

Transitional Constitutional Declaration, 2019 (as amended in 2025)

- Guarantees equality before the law and prohibits gender-based discrimination.
- Mandates the State to implement international women's rights agreements.
- Obligates the State to eliminate harmful practices.
- Protects children's rights.
- Prohibits torture or degrading treatment.

Criminal Act, 1991 and 2020 Amendment Act

- Prohibits and provides penalties for rape.
- The Amendment Act (2020) amends the penalty for rape: punishable with life imprisonment.
- The Amendment Act (2020) criminalised female genital mutilation (FGM) in hospitals, healthcare, dispensaries or clinics.
- **Penalty for FGM:** up to 3 years' imprisonment and a fine.

Policy framework

- Signed a **UN Framework on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (2020, reaffirmed 2025)** to enhance prevention, accountability, and survivor support in conflict contexts.

Support mechanisms

- **UN Women, UNFPA, and local partners:** provide psychosocial care, safe spaces, and vocational training to survivors.

Legal gaps and implementation challenges

- The Maputo Protocol has not been ratified; CEDAW was ratified with reservations limiting its enforcement.
- The practice of FGM remains widespread both domestically and in refugee populations.
- The Muslims (Personal Status) Act, 1991 & Marriage of Non-Muslims Act allow for child marriage.
- Ongoing conflict has led to the collapse of justice institutions and protection services.
- Stigma, insecurity, and limited survivor protection mechanisms contribute to chronic underreporting.
- Sudan lacks a comprehensive national gender policy.

Scan to learn more about laws and protections on ending violence against women and girls in Sudan.

