

## The Government's Measures Against Women

2022

November

The coalition agreement between Likud and United Torah Judaism includes a clause to **legislate gender segregation in the public sphere**. The number of gender-segregated public events has increased in Israel.

The current coalition in Israel halted the country's ratification of the **Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women**, and announced that Israel would not ratify the Convention, which has been signed by over 40 countries globally.

The initiative to grant fathers separate paid parental leave was shelved.

December

In the current government, of the total of 29 ministers, **only six are women**.

According to a new bill, **service providers may refuse to provide services based on religious belief**, permitting public venues and service providers to discriminate on the basis of religion.

**Nine women general-directors of government ministries appointed by the previous government were replaced with men**, creating a serious gender imbalance. In the 29 ministries, only two general-directors are women. The IWN appealed to the Supreme Court against a violation of the Women's Equal Rights Law.

2023

January

a new proposes to establish **segregated bathing hours** in national parks and nature reserves, and to expand **segregated beach areas**. While gender-segregated beach areas are mandated by law, the law does not permit any other form of gender-based segregation.

February

New bills call for the **expansion of the rabbinical courts' jurisdiction to adjudicate in all civil matters**, subject to the consent of disputing parties, potentially affecting areas such as labor law. Social pressure in traditional communities may compel women to consent to adjudicate their matters in the rabbinical courts (comprised only of men), whose decisions are based on conservative and patriarchal principles and oppose gender equality.

A new bill calls for **one year's imprisonment or a fine on women who visit the Western Wall in immodest dress**.

March

The **Electronic Monitoring Bracelet bill**, originally drafted to expand the means to prevent violence against women, was replaced with a diluted version that offers limited protection to few women.

A bill was presented to **abolish the "early-age presumption"**, which almost automatically grants custody to children under six to mothers.

Environmental Protection Minister Idit Silman starts **gender-segregated bathing pilot in public parks and nature reserves**

June

A ministerial committee for the fight against the cost of living was established. Of its 14 members, **only one is a woman**.

The general-director of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women was dismissed without any justifiable cause, after serving for only 18 months.

A reform led by Minister Ben-Gvir seeks to **significantly increase the public carrying of firearms** by expanding the criteria for firearm possession.

May Golan, Minister for the Advancement of the Status of Women, canceled a recently established campaign to encourage women to run in local elections.

July

A bill aims to **dissolve the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women**, established 25 years ago as an independent government body to promote gender equality in Israel, coordinate the institutions responsible for advancing the status of women and gender equality, and prevent violence against women. The new bill establishes in its place a new politicized Authority, fully subordinate to the Minister of the Advancement of the Status of Women. The bill also limits the new Authority's areas of responsibility, and lowers the required professional qualifications of its members, allowing the minister to make rules on gender-related issues without the Knesset's approval.

The **abolishment of the Standard of Reasonableness** grants the government and ministers unlimited powers to make administrative decisions, including appointments and dismissals, free of judicial review based on the reasonableness of their actions.

A new bill is proposed aims to **give rabbinical courts discretion over child support**.

The **Civil Service Commissioner** announced that job postings would be drafted in the masculine form of verbs and pronouns, reversing the growing trend to use both masculine and feminine forms to create a more inclusive Hebrew.