Please be informed that according to the competent authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, the killing of females is a criminal act under the provisions of sharia law. Furthermore, the systems, directives and practices in force in the Kingdom guarantee all sectors of society, including women, with protection from abuse and violent treatment through the following measures:

1. The Protection from Abuse law, which was passed in 2013, outlawed all forms of abuse against all vulnerable social groups, particularly women and children, and established national mechanisms to provide protection to such groups.

2. The programme for the dissemination of a human rights culture is one of the key pillars set out by the Saudi Human Rights Commission. The second stage of this programme has been implemented in accordance with Royal Decree No. 8628/MB of 2009 in conjunction with a number of government entities through a comprehensive national plan centred on a number of principles, including:

   • Dealing with social issues linked to human rights violations and wrongful practices, taking into account all age groups (from childhood to adulthood) and the social groups in question, such as children and women.
   • Helping to implement the Kingdom’s obligations under the agreements that it has ratified.
   • Focusing on human rights principles and standards.

3. The Ministry of Social Affairs has:

   • Signed cooperation agreements with a number of civil society organizations and certain charitable organizations to provide shelter to those suffering from violence, including women.
   • Signed a cooperation agreement with the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology to implement the national strategy to combat domestic violence and carry out an awareness-raising programme.
   • Established a call centre to receive reports of violence against women and children.
   • Put into action the decision of the Council of Ministers issued in 2008, which sets out a number of measures to eliminate domestic violence, including accelerating progress towards opening social protection centres in various areas of the Kingdom.

It should also be noted that the Kingdom was one of the countries that contributed to drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has acceded to a number of international instruments on human rights, including:

   • The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified in 1998)
   • The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (ratified in 2000)
   • The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.