Protection orders are regarded as one of the most effective legal remedies available to survivors of violence and serve as part of a comprehensive approach to marital violence. They typically increase survivors’ safety while also enhancing their autonomy. Consequently, they have the ability to deter perpetrators from committing future acts of violence and can also serve as a means of empowering survivors to take other steps to ensure their safety. The availability of protection orders also creates a ‘public statement’ about a country’s commitment to addressing violence against women, an important step in transforming the socio-legal culture around gendered violence.

To date, only six Arab States have implemented stand-alone legislation on violence against women, while others are preparing draft legislation. Such legislation outlines social, legal and/or medical interventions by a State and other actors, such as civil society, to address violence against women. One intervention commonly mandated through this type of legislation is the protection order. Given that States are exerting considerable efforts to combat violence against women, the increasing presence of such legislation in the region means that protection orders will play a substantial role in combating violence within the family and supporting survivors. In States without such legislation, protection orders must be viewed as an obligatory mechanism within a larger coordinated response to violence against women. As adoption grows, it is necessary to document how States understand protection orders, explore their contents, and analyze whether they comply with international norms and best practices.

This study aims to shed light on legislation at the state level that provides for protection orders, while also examining opportunities to support states for greater implementation. It will present the main debates that have guided violence against women activism and legal reform and then link them to the international normative frameworks that call for protection orders and outline best practices in different regions globally. It will then review State legislation that allows for protection orders, utilizing data from the region. Lastly, the study will advocate for action to ensure that protection orders are part of a larger coordinated response to marital violence that not only meets international standards, but also is part of a larger socio-legal response that is survivor centred.
Format of the Gender Discussion Series

The Gender Discussion Series aims to achieve the following three goals:

- Facilitate an expert-level discussion on the study;
- Validate the first draft of the study;
- Set policy recommendations for member States and stakeholders

Confirmed experts in the Gender Discussion Series will receive an English draft of the publication around two weeks ahead of the meeting and are expected to provide written general or specific comments on the publication, as well as engage in discussing the publication at the Gender Discussion Series.

Date and Venue:

The Gender Discussion Series will be hosted by UN- ESCWA at the United Nations House, in Beirut, on 30 November 2018.

Language of the meeting:

The official language of the meeting is English. Simultaneous translation to Arabic will be available.

Visas and travel arrangements:

Travel:

ESCWA Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements for all participants’ travel in terms of flight reservation and ticket issuance.

Very important notice: Please do not purchase your own tickets; the organization cannot reimburse self-tickets.

Entry Visas:

Participants are kindly requested to send a coloured copy of their valid passport along with contact details (telephone, fax number and e-mail) to Ms. Iman Bakkar, Administrative Assistant, Bakkari@un.org, no later than October 2018.

Accommodation (for participants from outside Lebanon only):

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel bookings in Beirut. ESCWA Secretariat has taken the necessary arrangements to provide accommodations at discounted prices. In order to view a list of such hotels, kindly refer to the attached list of hotels. Please note that Al Markazia Suites is the nearest hotel to the UN House, however most hotels are also within commuting distance.

Participants should contact the hotel directly for reservations as desired and indicate that they are participating in an expert group meeting at ESCWA, to be entitled for a reduced corporate UN rate.
Participants are also responsible for settling their own accommodation bills and other expenses directly with the hotel before departure.

ECW will cover travel and accommodation expenses of participants residing outside Lebanon, in accordance with United Nations rules and procedures. According to UN rules and regulations, ESCWA pledged a daily allowance of $246 per participant during the period of the meeting to cover accommodation and incidental costs in addition to $188 to cover miscellaneous costs of transportation to and from the airport. Transportation arrangements to and from the airport are organized directly by the participants themselves. Daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses will be paid to the experts via bank transfer in United States Dollars. *(2 weeks after the meeting)*.

**Participants are kindly urged to fill the attached bank information form and sent it back to Ms. Iman Bakkar (bakkari@un.org).**

Participants are also kindly requested to present the following documents to the ESCWA representative at the registration desk on the day of the meeting: original passport, copy of airline ticket and original boarding pass. Review of these documents is necessary to allow for the issuance of DSA.

Please direct all correspondence and queries related to this meeting to the following staff members in ECW:

For inquiries regarding the programme on Protection Orders, please contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stephanie Chaban (Ms.)</th>
<th>Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA Centre for Women</th>
<th><a href="mailto:Stephanie.chaban@un.org">Stephanie.chaban@un.org</a></th>
<th>+961-1-978637</th>
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</table>

For inquiries regarding logistical arrangements, please contact:

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<tr>
<th>Iman Bakkar (Ms.)</th>
<th>Administrative Assistant, ESCWA Centre for Women</th>
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