

# Chapter 10

## Honor–Related Crimes in Egypt

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### **ABSTRACT**

*In Egypt, honor-related crimes constitute a complex and deeply rooted societal issue, reflecting a convergence of cultural norms, patriarchal structures, and legal ambiguities. These crimes predominantly target women perceived to have brought shame upon their families through alleged moral transgressions, such as premarital sex, extramarital affairs, or even suspicion thereof. The concept of family honor intertwines with societal expectations of female chastity and obedience, often enforced through rigid social codes and religious interpretations. Despite legislative reforms aimed at protecting women's rights, including amendments to penal codes, the implementation remains inconsistent, influenced by familial and community pressures, as well as perceptions of shame and dishonor.*

Honor-related crimes represent a complex and deeply rooted societal issue with significant implications for individuals, families, and communities. This chapter explores the landscape of honor-related crimes in Egypt, shedding light on the cultural, social, and legal dimensions that contribute to the perpetuation of such acts. Drawing on a combination of scholarly research, legal analysis, and case studies, this chapter aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the factors driving honor-related crimes in Egypt. The study delves into the historical context, examining the cultural and traditional norms that have shaped perceptions of honor in Egyptian society. It explores the role of gender dynamics, family structures, and patriarchal

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traditions in influencing attitudes towards honor, often resulting in the justification of violence against individuals, especially women, perceived to have violated societal expectations.

Honor-related crimes in Egypt have been a significant concern, though comprehensive statistics can be challenging to obtain. Reports indicate that such crimes, which often involve violence against women perceived to have dishonoured the family, are notably prevalent. For instance, the Egyptian National Council for Women has highlighted that honor-based violence includes assaults, forced marriages, and even murders, primarily targeting women and girls. Despite efforts to combat these issues, cultural and legal obstacles persist, complicating the accurate measurement and reporting of these crimes. The actual figures might be underreported due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and inadequate legal protections.

The legal framework surrounding honor-related crimes in Egypt is also scrutinized, assessing the adequacy and enforcement of existing laws and regulations. The chapter discusses challenges in the legal system, such as gaps in legislation, insufficient protection for victims, and societal attitudes that may hinder effective prosecution and prevention. Moreover, the chapter highlights the impact of technological advancements and globalization on changing societal norms, potentially challenging traditional views on honor. It explores the role of education and awareness campaigns in challenging ingrained beliefs and fostering a more inclusive and egalitarian society.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

A qualitative research approach to studying honor-related crimes in Egypt involves examining the cultural, social, and legal contexts that contribute to these practices. This research could include conducting in-depth interviews with survivors, community members, and activists to understand personal experiences and perspectives on honor-related violence. Focus groups with diverse stakeholders, such as religious leaders, social workers, and legal experts, can reveal varying beliefs and attitudes about honor and gender roles. Additionally, participant observation within affected communities can provide insights into the everyday social dynamics and cultural norms that perpetuate these crimes. Analysing court cases and media reports allows researchers to explore how honor-related crimes are framed and addressed within legal and public discourses. This multi-method qualitative approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the factors that sustain honor-related violence in Egypt, highlighting the need for targeted interventions and policy reforms.

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