

# Eritrea

*Women, Business and the Law 2024* (WBL2024) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Asmara). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Eritrea scores 69.4 out of 100.0**. The overall score for Eritrea is lower than the regional average observed across Sub-Saharan Africa (74.0). Within the Sub-Saharan Africa region, the maximum score observed is 97.5 (Togo).

## Eritrea - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2024



## Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, and gender differences in property and inheritance, Eritrea gets a perfect score.

## Areas for Improvement

When it comes to laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women's work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Eritrea could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Eritrea is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children (the WBL2024 Parenthood indicator). To improve on the Parenthood indicator, Eritrea may wish to consider making paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers, making the government administer 100% of maternity leave benefits, making paid leave available to fathers, and making paid parental leave available.

## Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2022 – October 1st, 2023).



Further data details for Eritrea are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/eritrea/2024>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 45 and 641(1)
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 8, 192 and 645
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Regulation No. 4/1992 of Travel Documents and Immigration, Art. 4; Passport Application Procedures
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 45; Ethiopian Civil Code of 1960, Art. 654
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labor Proclamation of Eritrea, Arts. 65 and 118
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Eritrean Transitional Penal Code, Art. 593
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal:</i> Eritrean Transitional Penal Code, Art. 593 <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage	Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 45(1)
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 45(1)
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Sec. 1 Art. 666
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 46
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labor Proclamation of Eritrea, Art. 66
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	Labor Proclamation of Eritrea, Art. 66
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labor Proclamation of Eritrea, Art. 23
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 45(1), 192 and 1675
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 192 and 1675
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 192 and 1675
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 656(1)
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Arts. 837 and 842
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 837
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 656(1)
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea 1991, Art. 652
Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	No	No applicable provisions could be located