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Legal articles ... Issue Article



THE "FAMILY VALUES" TRAP: IS THE LAW A STANDARD OR A MATTER OF OPINION?

Amid a growing wave of legal prosecutions against female content creators on charges of "violating family values," the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR) is raising concerns about the ambiguity of this term. The Center calls for an end to subjective interpretations that risk turning the law into a form of social guardianship.

The ECWR's position is grounded in three key concerns:

1. The Crisis of the "Missing Definition": ECWR urges lawmakers to establish a precise and comprehensive legal definition of "family values." Without such a definition, enforcement becomes selective and subject to personal whim or the pressure of viral trends—directly undermining the principle of criminal legality.
2. The Weaponization of Complaints
3. The ECWR highlights the growing misuse of legal complaints filed under the guise of "civic duty," often targeting women's appearance or personal behavior. It stresses the need for safeguards to distinguish between legitimate legal reporting and complaints driven by bias or personal motives.
4. Double Standards in Enforcement
5. ECWR also points to inconsistencies in accountability. While young women face arrest over dance videos or spontaneous expression, other forms of harmful content—such as public insults or platforms that systematically degrade women using derogatory language (e.g., "nawashez")—often go unpunished.

Nehad Abouelkomsan, ECWR's chair, emphasizes:

"Justice requires equality. Defining what constitutes a crime is essential to prevent the law from being used to target women. Priority should instead be given to addressing genuine incitement and violations of human dignity."

YOUR LAWYER'S LEGAL SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF FREE CONSULTATIONS:

YOUR LAWYER PLATFORM IS A PORTAL FOR LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND PROVIDING SOLUTIONS. THIS IS MANAGED BY A TEAM OF SPECIALIZED LAWYERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MS. NEHAD ABUELKOMSAN, SENIOR LAWYER.

Ask Your Lawyer



A question:
Is There a Clear Definition of "Egyptian Family Values"?



The Answer

At present, Egyptian law does not provide a specific or definitive definition that clearly establishes what constitutes "Egyptian family values" in a comprehensive and unambiguous manner.

This absence lies at the heart of the legal and human rights concerns raised by experts, including the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights.



LEGAL INFORMATION

The Anti-Cybercrime Law (No. 175 of 2018)—specifically Article (25); penalizes "violating any of the principles or family values of Egyptian society." However, the law:

- Does not provide a defined list of these values.
- Does not clearly specify which acts constitute a violation.
- Does not distinguish between "social norms" (which evolve) and "legal crimes" (which should remain clearly defined and stable).



“Protection of the Family” Resolutions

Since 2014, a group of countries—including several Arab states, as well as Russia and China—has led efforts within the United Nations Human Rights Council to introduce resolutions under the title “Protection of the Family and its Role in Society.”

These initiatives are framed as contributing to inclusive economic growth, which aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Goal 1: No Poverty
2. Goal 5: Gender Equality
3. Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

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The Anti-Cybercrime Law No. 175 of 2018- Article (25):

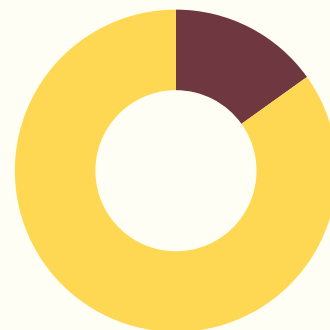
“Shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than six months and a fine not less than fifty thousand Egyptian pounds and not exceeding one hundred thousand Egyptian pounds, or by either of these two penalties, whoever violates any of the family principles or values in Egyptian society, invades the sanctity of private life, sends a large number of electronic messages to a specific person without their consent, provides personal data to a system or website for the purpose of promoting goods or services without the data subject's consent, or publishes through the information network or by any information technology means, information, news, images, or the like that violate the privacy of any person without their consent, whether the published information is true or false”.

OUR CLIENTS



This month, , a total **409** of consultations were received by “Mohamek” across its 2 different communications means, including Facebook pages, and telephone, , as follows:

● Facebook ● Phone consultations



- Phone
- Facebook



Phone: : 347 consultations were received on mobile and landlines, making up 84.8 % of the complaints

Facebook: 62 consultations were received on Facebook, making up 15.1%

Your Legal Advisor in Family Matters. ..

Digital Blackmail: A Weapon Used to Strip Women of Their Rights



Marital cyber-extortion is an increasingly documented phenomenon, with victims coming forward to share accounts of coercion and abuse. It raises a fundamental question: how do the principles of “affection, mercy, and tranquility”—described in the Holy Quran as the foundation of marriage—become tools of threats, bargaining, and blackmail? A 38-year-old woman (N.A.) recounts her experience:

“For ten years, I remained in a marriage marked by hardship, financial deprivation, and severe mistreatment, including verbal humiliation and physical violence. I endured the situation for the sake of my three young children.

When I eventually decided to separate and filed for divorce following a violent assault, I left the marital home. Shortly afterward, my husband began sending me private photos he had previously taken during the marriage under the pretext of ‘improving intimacy’ and ‘reviving the relationship.’ He also sent short video clips of intimate nature, which I do not recall consenting to or being aware were recorded.

He threatened to send these materials to my father and brother in order to harm my reputation. I repeatedly deleted the content and pleaded with him to stop, but he continued sending it on a daily basis, causing severe psychological distress.

A few days later, he carried out his threat and distributed the images and videos to my family members, including my uncle. He further threatened to accuse me of infidelity, claiming the materials were evidence of relationships with others.

During a traditional reconciliation session (jalsa urfiyya), it became clear that the materials were being used as leverage to force me to waive my legal rights upon divorce. He demanded that I relinquish all financial entitlements and sign an agreement waiving my right to the marital home, which is legally considered a custodial residence. He also threatened to file a complaint or publish the materials online if I refused.

Under pressure and in an attempt to contain the situation, my father agreed to the conditions despite my objection and my lack of any wrongdoing.”

Your Legal Advisor in Family Matters answers as follows:

The Egyptian legal system has established clear provisions to address acts of cyber-extortion and violations of privacy under the Anti-Cybercrime Law No. 175 of 2018.

1. Penalties for Cyber-Extortion

Under Law No. 175 of 2018, electronic blackmail is punishable by:

- Imprisonment: A term of no less than two years and up to five years.
- Fines: Ranging from EGP 100,000 to EGP 300,000, or either penalty.
- Aggravated penalties: The penalty may be increased to up to seven years of imprisonment if the threat is accompanied by a demand for money or any form of material or moral gain.

2. Violations of Privacy and Family Values

The law also criminalizes the unauthorized use or dissemination of private data, images, or communications:

- Anyone who infringes upon privacy, or violates “family values” by publishing images or conversations without consent, is subject to imprisonment of no less than six months and a fine of no less than EGP 50,000.
- Aggravated sentencing: Penalties are increased in cases involving sexual extortion or defamation when committed with the intent to coerce the victim into engaging in an unlawful act or relinquishing rights.

3. Public Criminal Right

Cyber-extortion crimes fall under offenses that affect public order and social security. Accordingly, the public criminal action does not lapse, even if the victim withdraws the complaint or reaches a private settlement with the perpetrator.

4. Reporting Mechanisms

Victims may file complaints through official channels, including:

- The Ministry of Interior's online reporting platform.
- The General Administration for Combating Information Technology Crimes (Cybercrime Police).

**For a free consultation
Please fill out an online
form, send us an email,
or call us via phone for
30 minutes**



working days

Sunday - Thursday from
10:00 am to 04:00 pm



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