











# Dominica

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score	WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score	WBL 2.0 expert opinions score
<b>55.0</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>48.8</b>

*Women, Business and the Law 2024* (WBL 2024) identifies barriers for women's economic empowerment in three areas: women's legal rights, policy instruments designed to support the implementation of these rights, and how these rights are realized in practice. For that purpose, three new *Women, Business and the Law 2.0* indexes are presented for ten indicators: (1) legal frameworks, (2) supportive frameworks, and (3) expert opinions. For the WBL 2.0 legal frameworks index, 40 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. For the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks index, 30 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. Overall economy level legal and supportive frameworks scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. The WBL 2.0 expert opinions index is created for a total of 164 economies. Expert opinion scores are not available for 26 economies due to an insufficient number of responses received from those economies during data collection. Individual responses at the economy level for 15 expert opinions questions across the ten indicators are scored by taking the median value of all responses per question. The economy level expert opinions index is equal to the simple unweighted average of the ten indicator scores.

For Dominica, data refer to the legal frameworks, supportive frameworks, and expert opinions that are applicable to the main business city (Roseau). The scores for Dominica are shown in the table below.

## Women, Business and the Law 2024 2.0 indicator scores

										
WBL 2.0 Legal frameworks score	25.0	100.0	25.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	100.0	75.0
WBL 2.0 Supportive frameworks score	25.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	25.0	33.3	33.3	50.0
WBL 2.0 Expert opinions score	37.5	100.0	50.0	25.0	75.0	31.3	12.5	31.3	62.5	62.5

In summary, the **WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score** for Dominica (55.0 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (64.2) and lower than the Latin America & Caribbean regional average (69.1). When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, constraints related to marriage and laws affecting women's property and inheritance, Dominica obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Dominica is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children. To improve on the Parenthood indicator, Dominica may wish to consider providing paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers, making the government administer 100% of maternity leave benefits, providing paid leave available to fathers and prohibiting the dismissal of pregnant workers.

The **WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score** for Dominica (26.7 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (39.5) and lower than the Latin America & Caribbean regional average (38.6). Dominica does not attain a perfect score on any of the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks indicators. There is room for improvement across all ten indicators. As an example, one of the lowest scores for Dominica is on the indicator measuring supportive frameworks affecting women's decisions to work.

To improve on the Workplace indicator, Dominica may wish to consider publishing guidelines on non-discrimination based on gender in recruitment, publishing guidelines on flexible work arrangements and establishing a specialized body that receives complaints about gender discrimination in employment.

The **WBL 2.0 expert opinions score** for Dominica (48.8 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (65.7) and lower than the Latin America & Caribbean regional average (61.8). When it comes to expert opinions on freedom of movement, Dominica obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Dominica is on the indicator measuring expert opinions on childcare.

## WBL 2.0 legal frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
<b>Safety</b>		
Does the law address child marriage?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address sexual harassment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address domestic violence?	Yes	Domestic Violence Act No 14 of 2023, Secs. 2(1), 3, 24, 28 and Part II; Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2016, Sec. 3(3) and (5)
Does the law address femicide?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
<b>Mobility</b>		
Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act of 1973, Sec. 1(1)
Can a woman travel internationally in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Do a woman and a man have equal rights to confer citizenship on their spouses and their children?	Yes	Constitution of Dominica, Sec. 99; Commonwealth of Dominica Citizenship Act, Sec. 6(1)(a)
<b>Workplace</b>		
Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Does the law explicitly prohibit discrimination in recruitment based on marital status, parental status, and age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law allow employees to request flexible work?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
<b>Pay</b>		
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?	No	Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, Secs. 2 and 10
<b>Marriage</b>		
Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
Can a woman be "head of household" or "head of family" in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Marriage Act, Secs. 29, 30 and 70-72
Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	Marriage Act, Secs. 29, 30 and 70-72
<b>Parenthood</b>		
Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labor Standards Act, Secs. 18 and 22
Are leave benefits for mothers paid solely by the government?	No	Labor Standards Act, Sec. 22; Social Security Act, Sec. 3
Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

<b>Childcare</b>		
Does the law establish the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Education Act 1997, Secs. 75, 89 and 95; Education (Amendment) Act 2002, Secs. 9 and 13; Education (Early Childhood Education) Regulation 2003, Sec. 3
Does the law establish any form of support for families for childcare services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish any form of support for nonstate childcare providers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish quality standards for the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Education (Early Childhood Education) Regulations 2003, Secs. 42(1)(a), 43, 50(1) and 51
<b>Entrepreneurship</b>		
Can a woman undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man?	Yes	Married Women's Property Act, Sec. 3(1); Companies Act 1994, Sec. 4; Registration of Business Names Act
Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prescribe a gender quota for corporate boards?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law include gender-sensitive procurement provisions for public procurement processes?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
<b>Assets</b>		
Do a woman and a man have equal administrative power and ownership rights to immovable property, including land?	Yes	Married Women's Property Act, Sec. 3, 4 and 7
Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Intestates' Estates Act, Sec. 5
Do male and female surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Intestates' Estates Act, Sec. 4
Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Dominica) Act of 1969, Sec. 11(1); Matrimonial Causes Act of 1973, Sec. 25(2)(f)
<b>Pension</b>		
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Social Security (Benefit) Regulations, Sec. 29 ; Social Security (Amendment) Act, Secs. 2 and 7
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	Social Security (Benefit) Regulations, Sec. 29
Is the mandatory retirement age for a woman and a man 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

## WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
<b>Safety</b>		
Has the government developed comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are special procedures in place for cases of sexual harassment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is a government entity responsible for monitoring and implementing national services, plans and programs addressing violence against women?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is an annual budgetary allocation devoted to violence against women risk mitigation, prevention, and response programs?	Yes	Budget Estimates 2023-2024
<b>Mobility</b>		
Are passport application processes the same for a woman and a man?	No	Passport application form; Passport application procedures
Are the application processes for official identity documents the same for a woman and a man?	Yes	ID application procedures

Does a current policy or plan explicitly consider the specific mobility needs of women in public transportation?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Workplace</b>		
Does a specialized body receive complaints about gender discrimination in employment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on nondiscrimination based on gender in recruitment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on flexible work arrangements?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Pay</b>		
Are pay transparency measures or enforcement mechanisms in place to address the pay gap?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on employment in different industries or sectors been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Marriage</b>		
Is there a fast-track process or procedure for family law disputes?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are there specialized family courts?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is legal aid available for family law disputes?	Yes	Legal Aid Clinic
<b>Parenthood</b>		
Is it possible to apply for maternity benefits through a single government application process?	Yes	Labour Standards Act, Chapter 89:05, Secs. 19 and 22
Are incentives in place to encourage fathers to take paternity leave on the birth of a child?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on unpaid care work been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Childcare</b>		
Is there a publicly available registry or database of childcare providers?	Yes	Official Website of the Government of Commonwealth of Dominica's Ministry of Education
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by parents?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by nonstate childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published any reports on the quality of childcare services?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Entrepreneurship</b>		
Have sex-disaggregated data on business activities, entrepreneurship, or women-owned businesses been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are government-led programs supporting female entrepreneurs providing access to finance and training, coaching, or business development?	Yes	Women's Economic Empowerment Project (WEE); Women Entrepreneurs Fund
Does a current national government plan or strategy focus on women's access to financial services?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Assets</b>		
Are mechanisms or incentives in place to encourage women to register immovable property (including joint titling)?	Yes	Maintenance Act 2023, Sec. 26(4); Married Women's Property Act, Art. 3
Are awareness measures in place to improve women's access to information about marital and inheritance rights?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have anonymized sex-disaggregated data on property ownership been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
<b>Pension</b>		
Are incentives in place to increase women's retirement benefits?	No	Insufficient evidence located



Is a procedure in place for pension beneficiaries to challenge the decisions of the competent authority regarding their benefits?

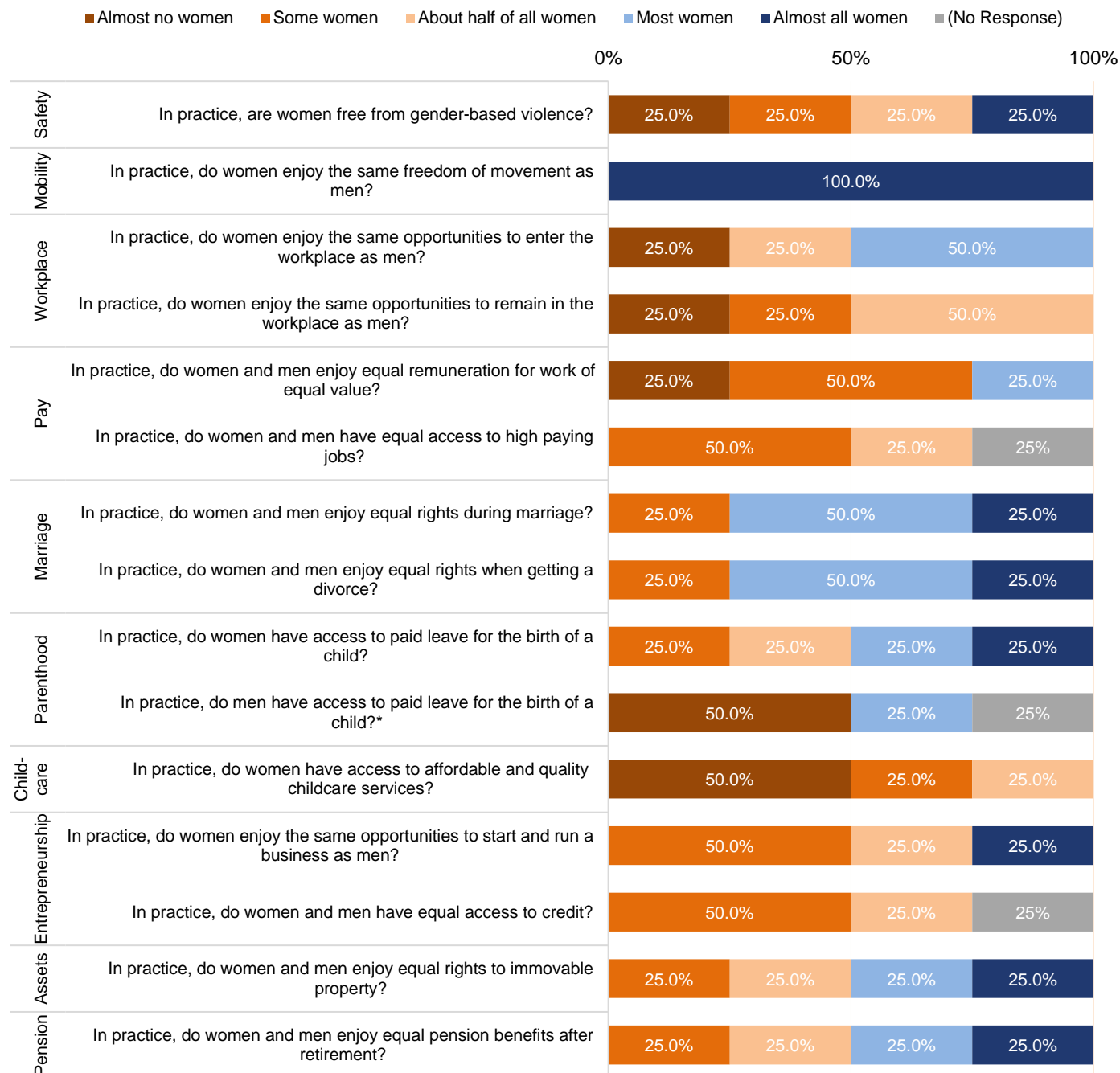
Yes

Social Security (Determination of Claims and Questions) Regulations made under section 41, Secs. 7 and 9

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## WBL 2.0 distribution of expert opinion responses



\*Note: The response options for the second Parenthood question above are formatted as almost no men, some men, about half of all men, most men, almost all men.