

**Gender Discrimination of Female Arab Teenagers in Israel and Their Involvement  
in Severe Violence: The Mediating Role of Closeness to Parents**

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** The field of antisocial behavior has been systematically ignoring women, particularly of ethnic minorities, probably because they occupy lower positions in society. Specifically, the conservative and patriarchal values prevalent in Arab societies have resulted in reduced attention to women's violence.

**Objective:** Based on intersectionality theory, the current study examined the perception of being discriminated as being females in a conservative society, which restricts familial support and its contribution on violence against others among female Arab teenagers.

**Methods:** The present study is based on a sample of 404 Arab female teenagers (aged 12-21) in Israel. Participants completed a structured, anonymous self-report questionnaire.

**Results:** The results showed that perceived gender discrimination among the participants was correlated significantly and positively with the perpetration of severe physical violence, as well as affiliation with delinquent peers, perceived ethnonational discrimination, and sexual victimization. Conversely, closeness to parents was significantly and negatively correlated with perpetration of severe violence, gender discrimination, affiliation with delinquents, perceived ethnonational discrimination, and sexual victimization. The findings also showed that the association between gender discrimination and severe physical violence was mediated by closeness to parents. The findings suggest that traditional patriarchal attitudes towards gender roles might be a risk factor for antisocial behavior and involvement in delinquency. They also highlight the critical role of parental factors in mediating violent behaviors among female adolescents experiencing gender discrimination in a patriarchal society.

Conclusions: In light of these findings, we recommend that practitioners working with these female adolescents include parents in intervention programs and be aware of their potential ameliorating role.