



# A WHITE DRESS DOESN'T COVER THE RAPE

#Undress522

**ARTICLE 522 OF THE LEBANESE PENAL CODE EXONERATES A RAPIST IF HE MARRIES HIS VICTIM.**

## What does the Lebanese Penal Code provide in its article 522?

"In the event a legal marriage is concluded between the person who committed any of the crimes mentioned in this chapter [including rape, kidnapping and statutory rape], and the victim, prosecution shall be stopped and in case a decision is rendered, the execution of such decision shall be suspended against the person who was subject to it. Prosecution or the execution of the penalty shall be resumed before the lapse of three years in cases of misdemeanors and five years in cases of felonies, in the event such marriage ends by the divorce of the woman without a legitimate reason or by a divorce which is decided by court in favor of the woman."

Article 522 includes the crimes already mentioned in the chapter "offenses against honor" that deals with rape, kidnapping, seduction, indecency, and the violation of women's private spaces.

## Why is ABAAD working on abolishing article 522? And how?

Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code is considered as a blatant discrimination against girls and women and their human rights and applies all over Lebanese territory. Our campaign Abolish 522 aims to:

- Push for the abolition of article 522.
- Stress on the right of women survivors of rape to refuse to marry their rapist, and put an end to their stigmatization and shaming.
- Encourage people to join our cause, through the clear differentiation between the act of rape as a crime, and what society considers as the women's honor.
- Emphasize that forcing women to marry their rapist is a repressive act that legitimizes rape against women on a daily basis. Parents should therefore be convinced that the marriage of the victim to her rapist is not the solution and does not protect women.
- Rape is a crime, and the rapist should be punished.



## Did you know that

Only **1%** of the Lebanese population is aware of the existence of article 522 in the Lebanese Penal Code.

**60%** of the Lebanese population is in favor of repealing article 522.

**85%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 compromises the dignity of raped women.

**84%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 protects the rapist from prosecution and punishment.

**84%** of the Lebanese population considers that marriage of a woman to her rapist creates marital and social troubles for spouses.

**80%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 ignores the women's right to compensation for physical, psychological and moral damages.

**81%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 denies the raped women's right to justice.

**73%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 increases pressure on women to marry their rapists.

**73%** of the Lebanese population considers that article 522 tackles the society's perception of the family's honor rather than the women's suffering.

**70%** of the Lebanese population rejects the argument that article 522 preserves women's honor.



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