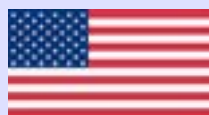




YOUR GUIDE TO

FACILITATING A SESSION

ON THE LEGAL BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Using the YALI Network online course [The Legal Barriers to Women's Rights and Opportunities](#), this guide will help you facilitate dialogue about the legal barriers that hinder women's economic opportunities, marital and property rights, and access to pay and benefits. Participants will also learn about the legislation that protects against domestic violence and the equal laws that lead to more women entrepreneurs.

Total Time: 96 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce yourself and thank your participants for coming. Explain that you are a YALI Network member interested in starting a meaningful conversation about women's rights and economic opportunities.
- Briefly share why you are interested in this topic, but remember to keep it short!

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- Start the conversation by asking an icebreaker question.
- Choose a person to answer your question.
- The person will then introduce themselves, answer the question posed by the host, and then select another person within the group to answer the icebreaker question.
- Continue to go around the group until everyone has responded to the icebreaker question or until 10 minutes have passed, whichever comes first.

Example Icebreaker Questions:

- What is the best lesson a woman taught you?
- What are your hopes for gender equality and diversity in your community?
- Have you read a book by a woman recently? If so, what was it about? What is the best book you've ever read?
- Who is your favorite female historical figure?
- What can men do to support women and other marginalized groups?

Watch Lesson 1: Barriers to Economic Opportunities (9 minutes)

Group Discussion (15 Minutes)

- We learned in this lesson that in many countries, on average, women have only 77.1 out of 100 legal rights compared to men worldwide. Can you think of any legal rights that men in your country have that women do not? What are the reasons for these laws? Do you agree or disagree that these laws should change? Why? Can you identify a specific law that should be abolished?

Watch Lesson 2: Barriers to Marital and Property Rights and Protection from Violence (10 minutes)

Group Discussion (15 Minutes)

- Access to property and holding assets is fundamental for women's economic empowerment. When women have the right to own and manage property, it has positive impacts on their ability to work, earn money, and access credit. Access to property can both increase women's financial security and provide women with the necessary collateral to start businesses. Can you identify how the lack of ownership of property and inability to access earnings and credit has affected women in your community and country? Can you identify ways this situation negatively impacts your community?
- According to studies, having specific laws protecting women from domestic violence has proven to provide a safer environment for women, and communities with them are associated with fewer domestic violence cases. How would you assess the laws protecting women from domestic violence in your country? Do you think they are adequate? What more could be done to reform or enhance legal protections against domestic violence? Do these laws cover everyone subject to harassment and violence? How can these laws be amended or enhanced to protect marginalized groups?

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Watch Lesson 3: Barriers to Pay, Access, and Benefits (12 minutes)

Final Thoughts (15 minutes)

- The research of the Women, Business and the Law project shows that equal laws lead to more working women, higher wages, more female entrepreneurship, and more women in management positions, boosting economic growth. One reason that women are limited in their economic opportunity is their role as the sole and/or primary caregiver in the household. How can men specifically contribute to alleviating this burden on women?

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

- Thank participants for attending and briefly restate the importance of good practice legislation and laws that promote women's economic empowerment and create a safer environment for women.
- Encourage participants to sign up for the YALI Network at yali.state.gov and visit yali.state.gov/4her.