

Systematically Marginalized: A quantitative study on Transgender access to socioeconomic and spatial rights in Egypt

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Dec. 2025

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Suggested Citation:

Seltur, Sylvia Azmy, Systematically Marginalized: a quantitative study on Transgender access to socioeconomic and spatial rights in Egypt, Cairo 52 Legal Research Institute, December 2025

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Executive Summary

This report presents an evidence-based analysis of the systemic social and economic exclusion experienced by transgender individuals in Egypt, a crisis exacerbated by the national context of severe economic hardship. Amidst escalating inflation, increasing poverty rates, and inadequately funded public services, the transgender community is disproportionately affected, lacking any legal protection against discrimination. Based on a survey of 93 respondents, the findings indicate that the absence of legal recognition and pervasive social stigma engender significant and frequently insurmountable barriers to fundamental rights, safety, and survival.

The data delineates a stark portrayal of a community relegated to the margins of society. The key findings are as follows:

- **Widespread Unemployment and Economic Precarity:** A notable 73.1% of transgender respondents are unemployed. Inconsistent official documentation is identified as a primary impediment to employment for 39.7% of unemployed respondents. Among the small percentage who are employed, most earn substantially below a living wage.
- **Prevalent Violence and Stigmatization:** A significant 82.8% of respondents have encountered violence or stigma from their families or communities. The continuous threat of discrimination influences every aspect of life, with respondents rating its impact on their decisions at an average of 3.5 out of 5.
- **Systemic Exclusion from Services:** Hostile educational environments received a mean experience rating of only 2 out of 5, the lowest across all measured domains. Housing represents a structural failure; 86.5% of those living independently encounter unsafe conditions, while 82% of individuals residing with family do so involuntarily due to economic constraints. In healthcare, nearly 60% report negative experiences with general providers, a figure nearly identical for transition-related care.

This widespread exclusion constitutes a direct violation of the guarantees of equality and social justice enshrined in Articles 8, 18, and 53 of Egypt's 2014 Constitution and disregards repeated recommendations from the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to safeguard individuals from discrimination based on gender identity. In response, this report articulates the clear and pragmatic priorities of the transgender community into an actionable framework for reform. Key recommendations include:

- **Urgent Legal and Policy Reform:** Prioritize the establishment of a clear, accessible, and administrative process for legal gender recognition, the most requested reform by 72.16% of respondents. This should be accompanied by the regulation of gender-affirming care (a priority for 69.8%) and the enactment of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.
- **Establishment of Accessible and Inclusive Services:** Ensure access to affirming healthcare, a necessity identified by 56.7% of respondents, and develop economic empowerment programs to address extreme unemployment, the top service requested by 57.73% of the community.

This report serves as an urgent call to action for the Egyptian government, civil society, and international partners to transcend rhetoric and implement the concrete measures necessary to guarantee that transgender individuals can live with dignity, safety, and equitable access to their rights.

Introduction

This research is underpinned by a rights-based understanding of health and inclusion, emphasizing that dignity, safety, and participation are integral components of a just society rather than secondary to survival. The 2014 Constitution of Egypt, in Article 8, affirms the state's obligation to achieve social justice and a dignified life for all citizens. Additionally, Article 18 guarantees the right to health, while Article 53 prohibits discrimination, including that based on sex, necessitating an interpretation that reflects contemporary understandings of gender identity. In alignment with the World Health Organization's definition of health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being," this study adopts a comprehensive definition of health that encompasses not merely the absence of illness but also the capacity to live with dignity, access opportunities, and participate fully in society.

On the international stage, Egypt has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and is subject to the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), both of which advocate for the protection of marginalized populations, including transgender individuals. The Yogyakarta Principles (2007), although non-binding, offer a widely accepted framework that affirms the rights of all individuals to recognition, health, education, work, and housing irrespective of gender identity. Egypt has received specific UPR recommendations urging the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the formulation of inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and legal recognition (OHCHR, 2023).

However, the lived experiences of transgender individuals in Egypt starkly contrast with these commitments. This research utilizes survey data from 93 transgender respondents across Egypt to document and analyze the social and economic exclusion they encounter. Through this lens, it investigates not only individual experiences of marginalization but also the institutional and structural forces that generate and perpetuate inequality.

Central to this analysis is an intersectional framework, informed by the work of Crenshaw (1989) and Collins (2019), which recognizes that gender identity operates in conjunction with other social identities. In Egypt, the experience of being transgender is simultaneously influenced by class, education, regional location, access to documentation, and the ability to "pass" in public spaces. These intersecting social identities give rise to unique vulnerabilities, as well as varied forms of resilience and resistance. Acknowledging this complexity is essential for policy interventions to effectively address the needs of transgender communities.

The findings presented herein illustrate that transgender individuals in Egypt are not merely underserved but are structurally excluded. Legal and bureaucratic barriers, such as the inability to amend official documents, interact with institutional norms in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, thereby restricting fundamental rights and everyday opportunities. Concurrently, pervasive stigma, violence, and public hostility exacerbate these exclusions, irrespective of an individual's qualifications, intentions, or actions. Nevertheless, transgender individuals are not passive recipients of marginalization. Across the survey data, respondents detailed their navigation of unsafe systems with resourcefulness, including concealing their identity, modifying their appearance, selectively accessing services, or forming informal support networks. These strategies reflect both vulnerability and agency.

This study, therefore, conceptualizes transgender lived experience as a product of ongoing negotiation between institutional exclusion and individual resilience. It aims not only to document injustice but also to support advocacy grounded in evidence, dignity, and the voices of transgender individuals themselves. In doing so, it contributes to growing national and international efforts, as reflected in the Yogyakarta Principles, the UPR process, and Egypt's legal obligations, to realize the full rights and freedoms of all individuals, regardless of gender identity.

Methodology

The primary objective of this research is to investigate and document the lived experiences of transgender individuals in Egypt, specifically through the lens of social and economic rights. While legal frameworks, bureaucratic barriers, and access to medical care—particularly gender-affirming services—constitute significant sources of exclusion and marginalization, this study concentrates on the quotidian social and economic dimensions of health in a more comprehensive context. The analysis explores how intersecting legal, social, and institutional structures influence transgender individuals' access to rights, including inclusion, healthcare, employment, leisure, personal safety, and engagement in public life.

This study employed quantitative data derived from a survey completed by 93 participants. The survey encompassed a wide array of issues critical to the well-being of transgender individuals in Egypt, including:

- **Access to and experiences in housing**
- **Educational opportunities and challenges**
- **Accessibility and safety in public spaces**
- **Participation in public and community life**
- **Employability and labor market participation**
- **Healthcare access and experiences, encompassing both general and transition-related services**

The quantitative data were subjected to descriptive analysis to elucidate key trends in the experiences of transgender individuals across various dimensions, including gender, education, housing, employment, and engagement in public spaces. Cross-tabulation and comparative analysis were employed to examine the relationships between these variables and the overall experiences of the respondents¹.

Participation in the survey was entirely voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents prior to the commencement of the questionnaire. The survey was administered anonymously, with no collection of names, IP addresses, or any other personally identifiable information. All responses were securely stored, encrypted during both transmission and storage, and accessed solely by the core research team. The questions were meticulously designed to minimize potential harm, particularly regarding topics related to experiences of violence, discrimination, or trauma. Respondents were made aware that they could skip any question or withdraw from the survey at any point. The research team adhered to the highest standards of ethical conduct, ensuring participant dignity, safety, and confidentiality in accordance with established international principles of research ethics and data protection.

¹ 98 participants responded to the survey, after removing the duplicated answer the responses were 93, 83 of them answered the question about gender identity and sex characteristics.

Context analysis

The economic and social environment of Egypt between 2022 and 2025 has experienced a notable increase in poverty, inflation, and inequality, with marginalized groups, particularly transgender individuals, disproportionately affected. In 2022, 21% of Egypt's population, exceeding 22 million individuals, were classified as multidimensionally poor, enduring intersecting deprivations in education, health, housing, food security, and employment (ESCWA, 2024). In certain governorates of Upper Egypt, poverty rates surpassed 50% (Zawia3, 2025).

Throughout this period, economic policies resulted in recurring currency devaluations and reductions in subsidies. The annual inflation rate consistently exceeded 30%, with food prices escalating at an even faster rate, rendering basic necessities unaffordable for millions (El-Refaie & Haggag, 2023; Arab Reform Initiative, 2024). More than 66% of the workforce, or over 18 million individuals, were engaged in informal employment, lacking access to social protection, secure contracts, or labor rights (The [GlobalEconomy.com](https://www.globaleconomy.com), 2020; Arab Reform Initiative, 2024). Women's participation in the formal labor market remained below 20% (World Bank, 2023). Transgender individuals, who encounter significant workplace discrimination and social exclusion, are particularly vulnerable to relegation to the informal economy or unemployment (EuroMed Rights, 2020).

In 2025, the national minimum wage was raised to EGP 7,000 per month (approximately \$145 USD). However, estimates suggest that a living wage in Egypt would necessitate an amount exceeding EGP 10,000 (approximately \$210) per month to adequately cover basic rent, utilities, and food (Bakr, 2025; Alternative Policy Solutions, 2025). Numerous low-wage, seasonal, and informal workers, including the majority of transgender workers, are excluded from wage protections, compounded by insufficient enforcement of labor standards (Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2025).

Public investment in essential services has remained below the standards set forth in the constitution. In the 2024/2025 budget, education expenditure fell to less than 2% of GDP—significantly below the constitutional minimum of 6% (Mada Masr, 2024; Reuters, 2024). Similarly, health sector funding has lagged, while a 2024 privatization law permitted the private management of public hospitals (Amnesty International, 2024). Approximately 66% of Egyptians possess health insurance, yet access to affordable and inclusive healthcare has deteriorated (The New Arab, 2024). The health needs of transgender individuals, including access to gender-affirming care, remain unacknowledged in public policy and national medical guidelines, resulting in routine denial of care and exposure to discrimination and abuse (EuroMed Rights, 2020; Amnesty International, 2024).

Housing insecurity and discrimination are pervasive. Urban renewal initiatives have displaced thousands of individuals without guarantees for resettlement (Le Monde Diplomatique, 2023), and 85% of newly developed gated communities lack public transportation links, further marginalizing low-income residents (Pommier, 2023). The absence of legal protections against housing discrimination leaves transgender individuals vulnerable to eviction or denial of accommodation (EuroMed Rights, 2020). Egypt's legal and policy framework does not offer protection against discrimination based on gender identity in any sphere of life. Despite recommendations from the United Nations during the 2024 Universal Periodic Review to prevent criminal prosecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity and to safeguard the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons, Egypt has failed to implement any reforms aimed at protecting transgender rights. Conversely, law enforcement routinely targets and arrests individuals perceived as transgender or LGBTQ+ under broad "public morality" laws (OHCHR, 2024; CIHRS, 2024; Human Rights Watch, 2024).

Consequently, transgender individuals in Egypt encounter systemic exclusion from education, employment, healthcare, and housing, exacerbated by rising poverty and a lack of legal protections. These intersecting barriers engender a cycle of marginalization, economic precarity, and vulnerability to violence that necessitates urgent intervention through comprehensive policy reform and anti-discrimination legislation.

Quantitative Evidence

The study relied on quantitative data collected via a survey distributed to 93 transgender respondents (Egyptian nationals or residents), representing diverse regions including Greater Cairo (64.5%), Alexandria (17.2%), the Delta (13.9%), and Upper Egypt (4.3%). The survey respondents ranged in age from 18 to over 40, with approximately 80% between 18 and 30, 17.2% in their 30s to 40s, and 2.2% above 40. In terms of sex characteristics, 54.2% identified as female, 39.7% as male, and 6.02% as intersex. Regarding gender identity, 51.8% identified as transgender women, 39.8% as transgender men, and 7.2% as gender nonbinary (gender fluid and nonbinary)².

A. Lived experience in educational institutes:

Transgender individuals in Egypt face deeply entrenched, multi-layered barriers within educational institutions, which profoundly shape their access to knowledge, credentials, and broader socio-economic rights. Both quantitative and qualitative data reveal that schools and universities are often sites of active exclusion, failing to provide safety, dignity, or equal opportunity for trans students.

Quantitative data illustrates the severity of this exclusion. On a 0–5 scale, the mean rating of overall educational experience among trans respondents is just 2, the lowest of any measured domain of public life. Trans men reported a slightly higher rate of 2.09, while trans women reported an average of 1.6. Transgender participants reported overwhelmingly negative educational experiences.

Survey data shows that over 64.5% of transgender participants rated their educational experience below 3 out of 5, citing harassment, misgendering, bullying, and administrative hostility as routine. One participant reported that teachers assumed he was gay and treated him with contempt, even contacting his parents. In contrast, others described being repeatedly addressed with the wrong pronouns despite having clarified their gender identity. Another participant shared that even in medical school, psychiatry professors themselves engaged in bullying.

Education experience rating

Below 3

64.6%

Above 3

12.9%

Exactly 3

22.6%

Figure [1]: Education experience rating

Only 12.9% of respondents rated their experience above 3, and among them, four individuals explicitly stated they concealed their gender identity during school or transitioned after graduation. One participant who rated their experience a 5 mentioned disclosing his identity to a faculty dean who welcomed him, an exception rather than the norm.

A further 22.6% gave a neutral score of 3, often describing mixed experiences: some professors were respectful, while peers displayed transphobic behavior or made derogatory remarks. Multiple partic-

² It should be noted that some respondents did not select a category for sex characteristics, due to the absence or phrasing of this question in some cases

Participants emphasized that students, more than faculty, were the primary source of discomfort due to daily proximity and social policing.

The consequences of this environment were significant: several participants reported turning to homeschooling, delaying their education, or dropping out entirely, due to unaddressed harassment or the mismatch between their gender identity and legal documentation, a structural gap unacknowledged in national education policy.

Impact of gender identity on education

Negative Impact

54.4%

Partial Impact

25.8%

No Impact

19.3%

Figure [2]: Impact of gender identity on education

When asked whether their gender identity had affected their education, 55% said yes, citing rejection, social isolation, and lost opportunities. 25% reported that their identity had a partial impact, often through emotional strain linked to misgendering or peer exclusion. 20% reported no impact, almost all of whom had delayed transition or concealed their identity during school years.

In the broader context of institutional fragility, where schools lack trained counsellors, anti-discrimination protocols, or gender-sensitive curricula, transgender students are pushed into the margins. Their exclusion is not incidental but embedded in a system that neither recognizes their existence nor protects their rights.

B. Work and access to jobs:

In a national economy already marked by high informality, wage stagnation, and weak worker protections, where only 13.5% of Egyptians work in formal private-sector jobs and over 40% in informal employment (Arab Reform Initiative, 2024), transgender individuals face even deeper, identity-specific exclusion. According to the survey, approximately 73.1% reported not working at the time of response³. This figure includes both those actively seeking employment and those pushed out of the labor force altogether. The unemployment rate was consistent across gender subgroups, with both trans women and trans men reporting rates around 73%, indicating that economic exclusion cuts across transition direction and gender identity.

³ One participant works in a part-time job and gig work

Employment type among survey participants

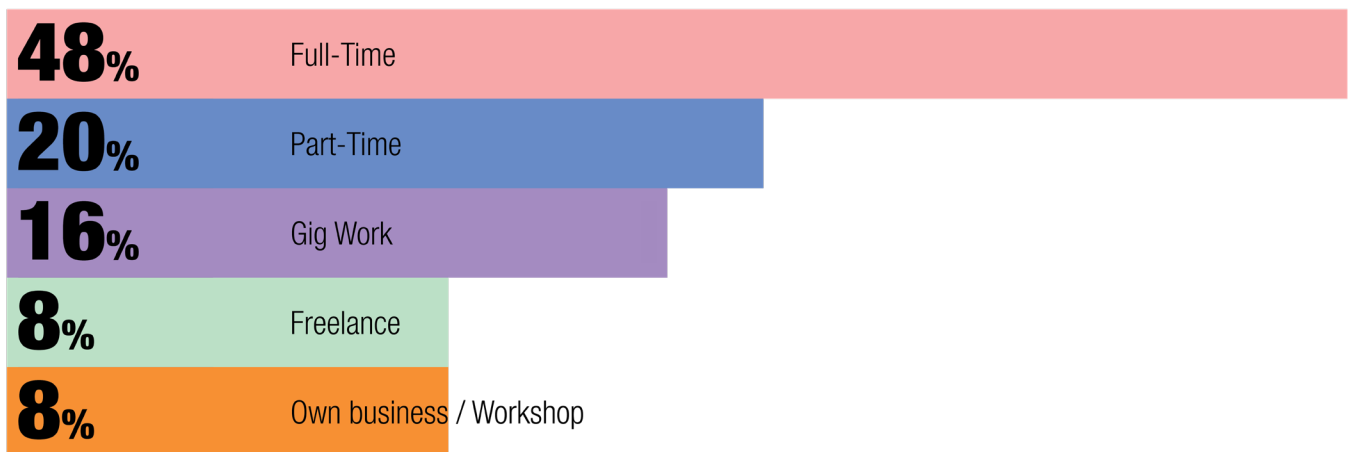


Figure [3]: Employment type among survey participants

Among the 27% who were employed, labor conditions were far from secure. 46.15% held full-time jobs, 23.08% worked part-time, 19.23% relied on casual or intermittent work, 7.69% freelanced, and 7.69% operated a small business or workshop. Multiple job holding was common, underscoring the instability of available opportunities⁴.

Even among the employed, nearly 70% reported facing some kind of barriers in accessing work: 48% said yes outright, and 24% said “to some extent.” and 28% answered no. The most frequently cited barrier was discrimination for being transgender (28%), followed by mismatched official documents (24%), educational qualifications (20%), lack of professional experience (8%), and discrimination based on place of residence (8%). These overlapping factors illustrate that even when trans people do enter the workforce, they often do so despite systemic disadvantages⁵.

Obstacles faced in employment market

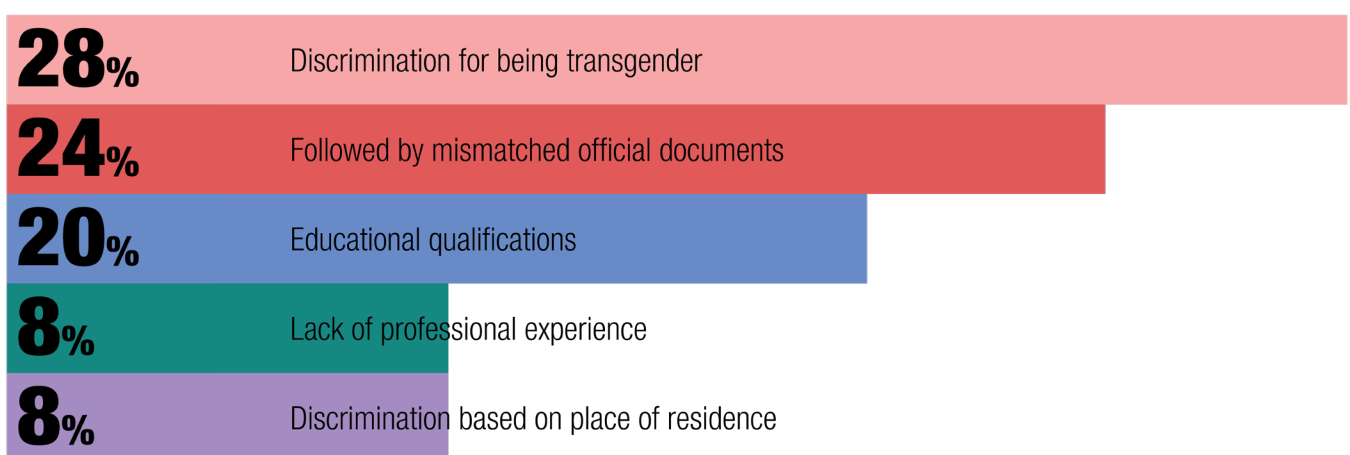


Figure [4]: Obstacles faced in employment market

Among unemployed respondents, the most frequently cited obstacle was again incongruent documentation (39.7%), followed closely by mental health struggles and psychological distress (35.29%). Many respondents also pointed to workplace unsuitability or unsafe environments for gender-diverse

⁴ One participant works in a part-time position while simultaneously working intermittently

⁵ Percentages surpass 100% due to the survey design allowing participants to identify all applicable challenges

people (25%), lack of professional experience (19.12%), and limited educational attainment (17.6%). These data suggest that trans individuals are excluded not just by the labor market, but by a web of intersecting barriers spanning bureaucracy, mental health, and unsafe or inaccessible workspaces.

Challenges faced by unemployed respondents

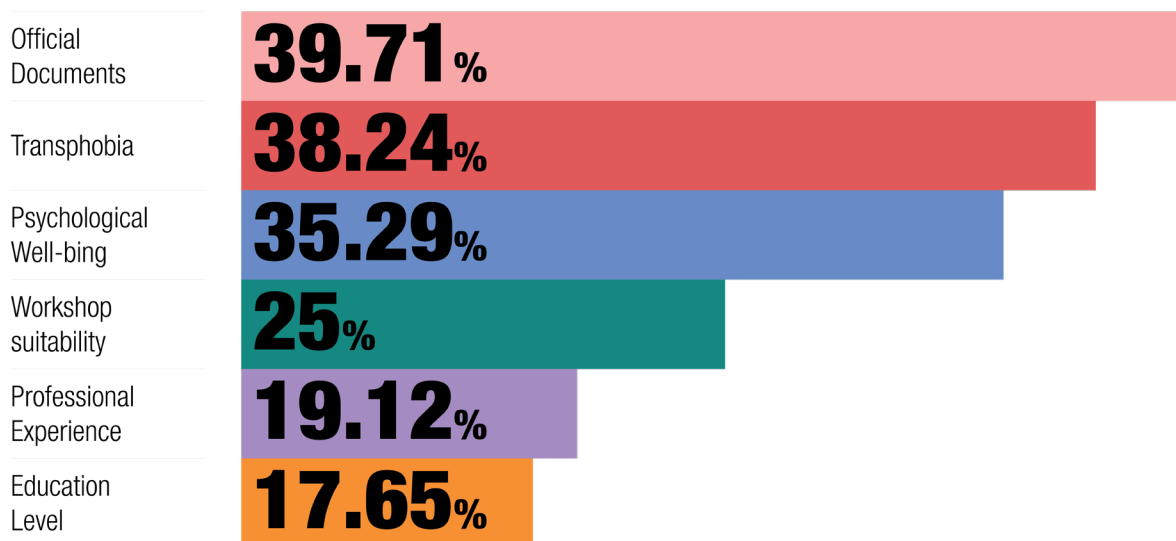


Figure [5]: Challenges faced by unemployed respondents

Income data confirms the severity of exclusion. Of all 93 respondents, only 23.6% reported having any monthly income, and of those, 63.6% received fixed income while 36.3% earned inconsistently. 76.3% reported no monthly income at all. Among those earning, 45.4% made between EGP 3,000–5,000, 18.18% earned less than EGP 3,000, and only 18.18% exceeded EGP 15,000⁶. These amounts hover around or below Egypt’s 2025 minimum hourly wage of EGP 6, equivalent to roughly EGP 3,000–4,000/month for full-time work (Bakr, 2025; AUC Public Sphere, 2025).

Monthly income brackets of earning Trans respondents



Figure [6]: Monthly income

The employment sectors reflect limited access to secure or rights-based jobs. Among those working, 84% were in the private sector, 8% in government roles, and 12% in civil society organizations. This distribution highlights the near-complete exclusion of transgender individuals from public institutions and formal nonprofit employment.

⁶ The cumulative percentage exceeds 100% as respondents were permitted to select multiple challenges.

Employment sector among employed Trans respondents



Figure [7]: Employment sectors

In sum, transgender individuals in Egypt face a structurally unequal labor system in which they are both overrepresented in unemployment and underrepresented in protected, formal work. Even when employed, they are often paid below the national minimum, lack income stability, and navigate discrimination rooted in gender identity, legal documentation, mental health, and broader socioeconomic hierarchies. Compared to national benchmarks, such as the 27.5% multidimensional poverty rate and 28.2% vulnerability rate (ESCWA, 2024), trans people in Egypt are not just at the margins: they are among the most economically excluded populations in the country.

C. Access to safe and dignified housing:

The survey reveals a deeply precarious and restrictive housing landscape. Around 39.7% of respondents reported living independently from their families. While a greater share of trans women (44.19%) live independently compared to trans men (36.36%), their lived experiences show no meaningful advantage. On a scale of 0 (worst) to 5 (best), trans women rated their housing experience at just 1.2 (SD: 0.91), and trans men at 1.17 (SD: 0.83). This similarity in dissatisfaction underscores that independent living is not equivalent to safe or stable living.

Average rating of housing satisfaction

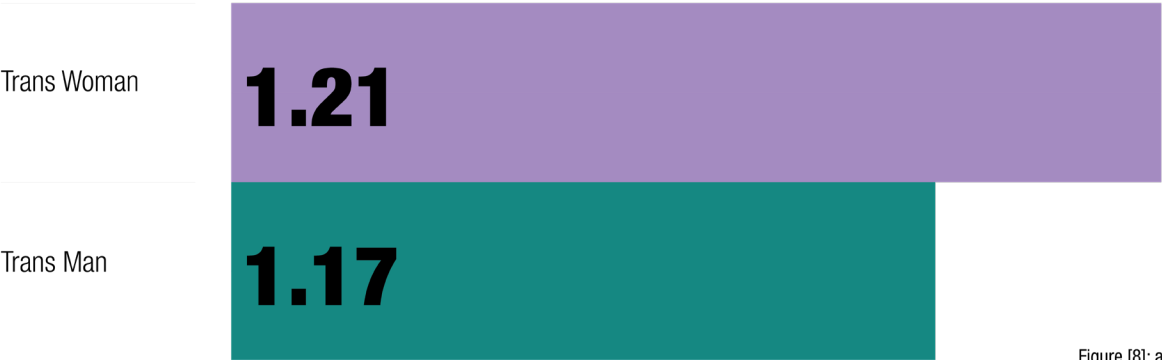


Figure [8]: average housing satisfaction rate

Overall living arrangements



Figure [9]: Living arrangements

Independent living by gender identity



Figure [10]: living arrangement by gender identity

Indeed, 86.5% of those who live independently reported negative or mixed experiences, including conflict with landlords or neighbors, eviction threats, or emotionally unsafe living environments. Housing affordability and gender identity-based discrimination were the most common challenges, each cited by 54% of respondents. Incongruent official documents, which can prevent lease signing or verification, were reported as barriers by 37.8%, while 27% noted lack of acceptance from housemates as a key challenge. One participant summed up the reality:

“Even outside the family, you’re always on edge. There’s always a problem with the landlord, the neighbours, or the people you live with.”

Challenges faced in independent housing

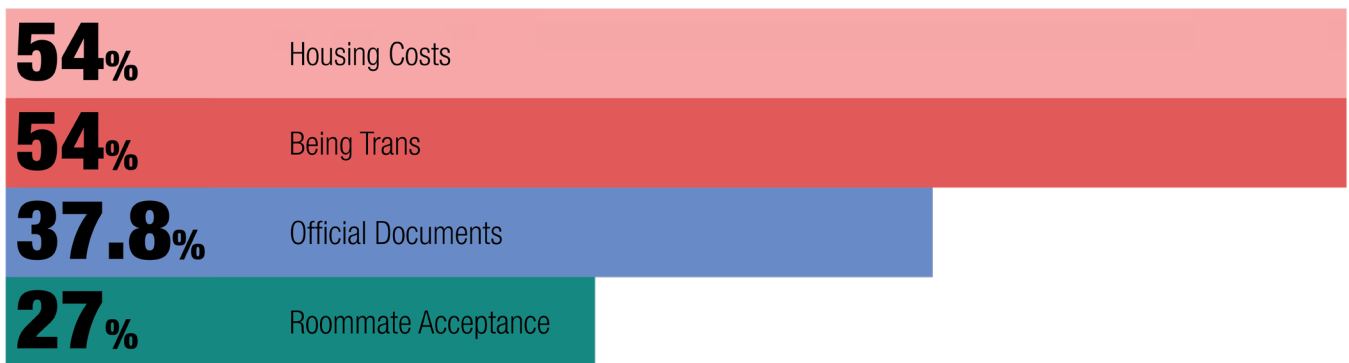


Figure [11]: Challenges faced in independent housing

For the 60% who live with family, the situation is no less constrained. 82% did not voluntarily choose to live at home: 55.7% said “no” and 26.2% “to some extent” when asked if the arrangement was by choice. The leading factor in this involuntary cohabitation was economic hardship, cited by 75.4% of respondents. Other contributing factors included family ties (32.7%) and health conditions (8.2%). While some respondents mentioned family dependency or emotional bonds, others described long-term exposure to psychologically harmful environments they could not afford to leave.

Voluntariness of living with families



Figure [12]: voluntariness of living with families

Together, the data paints a clear picture: whether living independently or with family, transgender people in Egypt experience housing as a domain of structural exclusion, material hardship, and social marginalisation. Even basic shelter is shaped not by freedom of choice, but by economic vulnerability, legal mismatch, and gendered discrimination.

D. Access to public spaces:

Survey data from 93 transgender respondents reveal that public spaces, including health care, are not equitably available or experienced. These are not passive environments, but highly surveilled and exclusionary ones, where safety is contingent on passing, proximity to conformity, and self-erasure.

Distribution of transgender experience with public and healthcare spaces

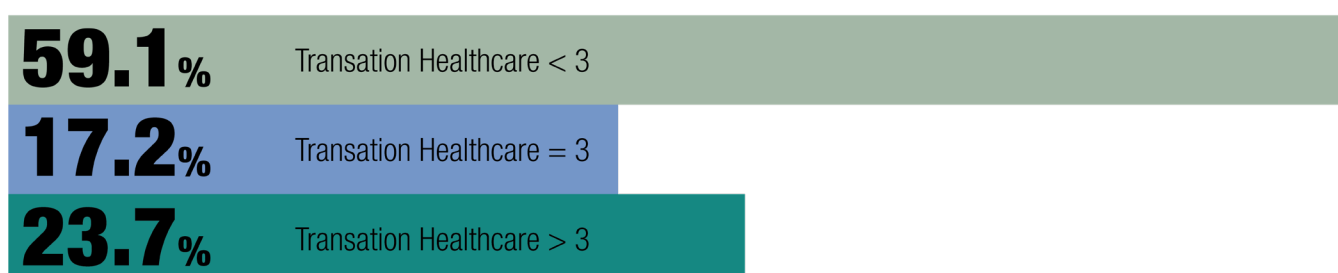
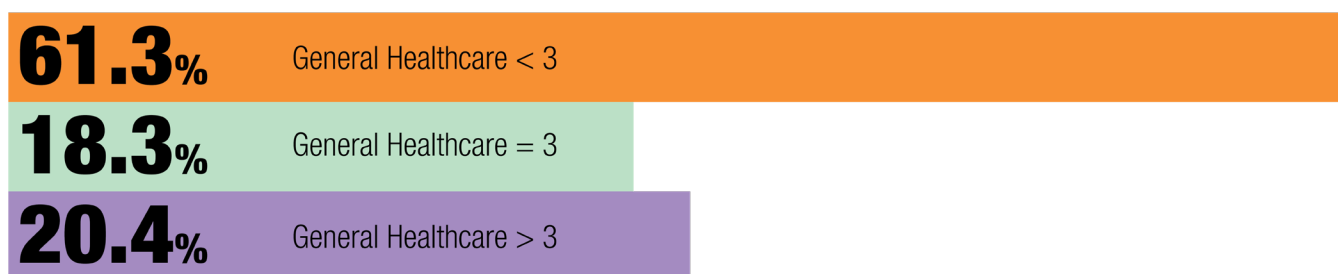


Figure [13]: rating of transgender experience with public spaces and healthcare facilities

Across the responses, the average self-reported experience of safety and comfort in public spaces, such as cafés, parks, malls, or streets, was 2.2 out of 5 for both trans women and trans men. 59.1% of all respondents rated their experience below 3. These included careful choices about location, clothing, voice, and companionship, tactics that make visibility conditional.

This public insecurity extends directly into the health system. In general medical settings (not related to transition), trans women reported an average experience rating of 2.19, and trans men 1.9. 61.3% of all respondents rated these encounters below 3, while just 20.4% rated them positively (>3). In transition-related care, the situation was nearly identical: 59.1% gave negative scores (<3), and only 23.7% rated their care above 3. These are not marginal complaints. They point to a widespread lack of respectful or informed treatment in public health institutions.

Access to public and institutional spaces must be understood within Egypt’s broader socio-legal context. As the national context analysis demonstrates, social protection systems are severely under-resourced, and key services, especially housing and healthcare, suffer from fragmented policies and regressive reforms. The informalization of labor, deterioration of the welfare state, and absence of anti-discrimination frameworks produce a layered crisis for trans communities. In this context, visibility is not just a right; it is a risk. The data show that for many transgender Egyptians, participating in public life or accessing healthcare is not a neutral act but one marked by structural precarity and constant negotiation.

E. What is it like to be a transgender person in Egypt?

The data reveal the pervasive impact of anticipated discrimination and entrenched structural barriers on every aspect of trans people’s lives in Egypt. When asked to what extent the risk of discrimination or violence based on transgender identity shapes their decisions about work, housing, social interaction, or public participation, participants reported an average of 3.5 out of 5 (SD: 1.66), with the most frequent answer being the maximum score of 5. This consensus across trans men and trans women, regardless of educational background, signals that the expectation of exclusion is not abstract but a concrete, daily factor in social participation.

Perceived impact of being Transgender on life decisions

Below 3

24.7%

Above 3

59.1%

Exactly 3

16.1%

Figure [14]: Impact of gender identity on life decisions

Economic crisis and inflation have only sharpened these pressures. Nearly 98.9% reported being directly affected by rising prices, with 72% facing challenges in affording necessities, 62.4% struggling to obtain medication, and more than half being unable to secure housing. Economic insecurity, always heightened for those lacking stable support networks, now overshadows even the most fundamental needs.

Specific impacts of inflation on Trans Respondents

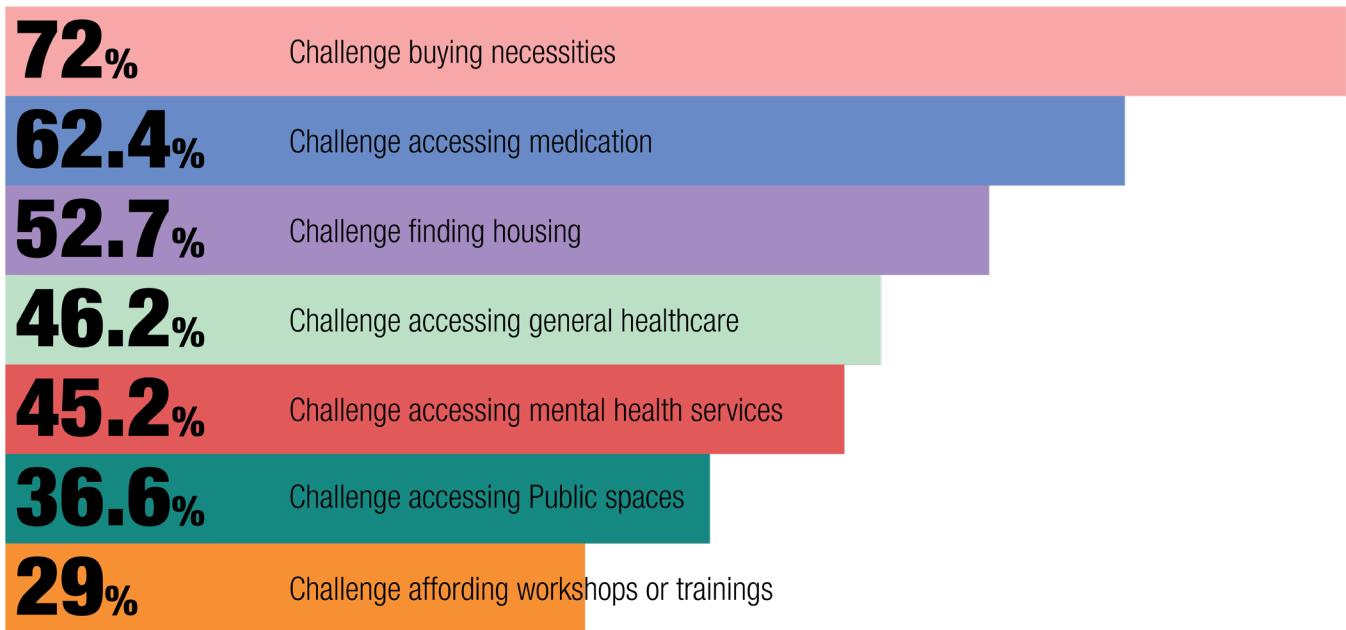


Figure [15]: Impact of inflation on respondents

Stigma and violence are routine. More than 82.8% identified ongoing family or community-based violence and stigma, and 73% reported direct discrimination in employment, housing, or healthcare., More than half named the economic situation as a significant challenge, and almost half described difficulty accessing psychological support. Hostile discourse is commonplace: 63.4% reported being targeted by hate speech in media or on social platforms, underscoring that transphobia is not confined to private spaces but is reinforced by the public sphere.

Stigma, Violence, Discrimination reported by Trans respondents



Figure [16]: Forms of violence faced respondents

These factors interact and reinforce each other, forming a landscape in which economic precarity, social exclusion, and the anticipation or experience of violence are mutually entangled. A fear of discrimination fundamentally limits one's willingness to seek work, independent housing, education, or public life. Inflation and crisis exacerbate this precariousness, making even survival contingent on navigating hostile systems. Most respondents report family or societal violence, and nearly all experience discrimination in accessing essential services.

Recommendation and needs

The final section of the survey asked respondents to identify both the services they most urgently require and the legal reforms they believe are necessary for their dignity, safety, and inclusion.

Services needed by transgender respondents

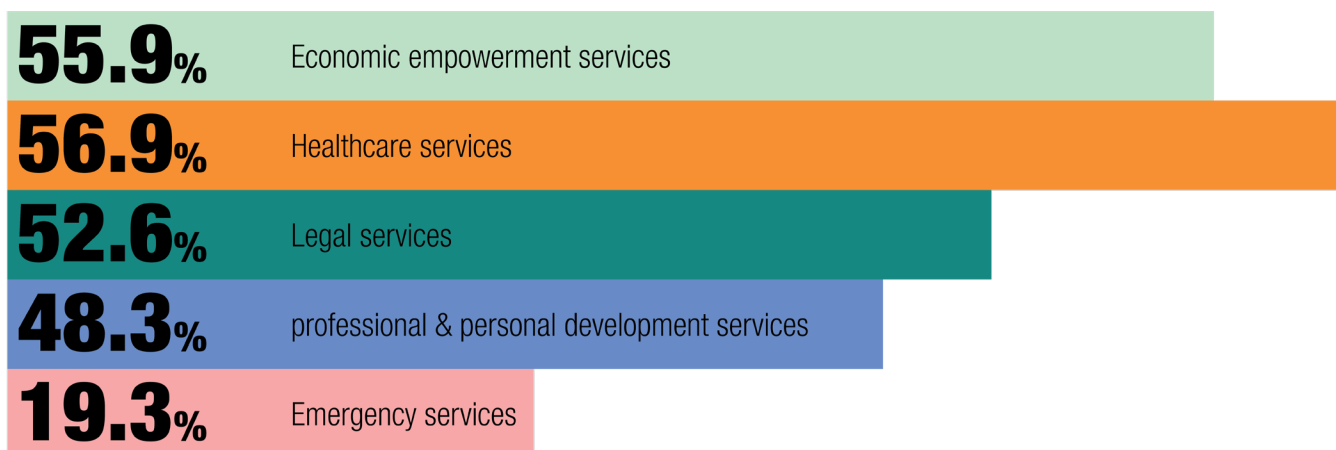


Figure [17]: services needed by transgender respondents

Respondents overwhelmingly emphasised the need for economic empowerment services, with 55.9% identifying this as a priority. This aligns closely with findings throughout the study, indicating extreme levels of economic marginalization, underemployment, and lack of stable income.

Healthcare also ranked high, with 56.9% stating they need access to competent and affirming health services, echoing widespread dissatisfaction with both general and gender-related medical care.

Legal services were cited by 52.6%, reflecting the difficulties many faces in dealing with official institutions, particularly where identity documents do not reflect their gender expression. Similarly, 48.3% emphasized the importance of services that support professional and personal development, highlighting the need for more inclusive training and employment pathways.

By contrast, only 19.3% indicated a need for emergency services, which may suggest that chronic, structural needs are currently more pressing than urgent crisis interventions.

Legal reforms demanded by transgender respondents

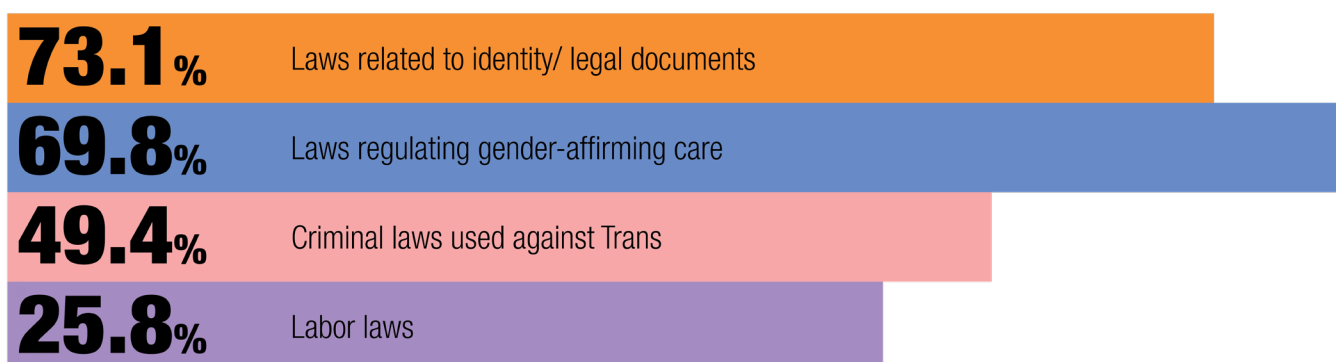


Figure [18]: Legal reforms demanded

On the legal front, the demand is most apparent in the areas of identity and medical regulation. A substantial 73.1% of respondents called for reforming laws governing official documents. In comparison, 69.8% demanded legal changes to the regulation of gender-affirming healthcare, two areas that intersect deeply with everyday safety, access, and autonomy.

Meanwhile, 49.4% stressed the need to repeal or reform criminal laws used to target transgender individuals, often under vague or unrelated legal pretexts. Surprisingly, only 25.8% called for reforms to labor laws, perhaps reflecting either a complicated reality where reporting discrimination against

transgender individuals could lead to incarceration of the transgender themselves, or a sense that legal reforms alone are insufficient without cultural and institutional change.

These results illustrate a community that is not only aware of the legal and institutional roots of their marginalization but is also equipped with a clear set of priorities for addressing them. They call not merely for recognition, but for profound systemic change.

Based on the needs and priorities articulated by transgender respondents in the survey, the following recommendations are directed at key stakeholders to address the systemic barriers documented in this report.

For the Egyptian Government and Parliament:

- **Prioritize Legal Gender Recognition:** Reform laws pertaining to official identity documents to establish a clear, accessible, and administrative process for transgender individuals to change their name and gender marker. This reform was identified as the most pressing legal necessity by 72.16% of respondents and is a crucial step toward mitigating barriers in employment, housing, and healthcare.
- **Regulate and Ensure Access to Gender-Affirming Healthcare:** Develop and implement national medical guidelines for gender-affirming care, as advocated by 69.8% of respondents. Ensure that these services are accessible, affordable, and devoid of discrimination within the public health system, in accordance with the state's constitutional obligation to guarantee the right to health.
- **Repeal Laws Used to Criminalize Transgender Individuals:** Amend or repeal ambiguous "public morality" provisions in the penal code that are routinely employed to target and prosecute individuals based on their gender identity and expression. Over 50% of respondents identified this as a necessary reform to ensure their fundamental safety and security.
- **Enact Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation:** Introduce and enforce laws that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender identity across all sectors, including employment, housing, education, and healthcare, thereby fulfilling the promise of Article 53 of the Constitution.

For Civil Society Organizations and Service Providers:

- **Develop Economic Empowerment Programs:** Design and implement vocational training, professional development services, and employment support programs tailored to the needs of the transgender community. With 57.73% of respondents prioritizing this need, such programs are essential to address the community's high unemployment rate of 73.1%.
- **Expand Access to Inclusive Healthcare:** Establish and support healthcare services that are competent and affirming of transgender individuals' needs. This encompasses mental health support, which 46.4% of respondents reported difficulties in accessing, as well as general medical care free from stigma.
- **Provide Targeted Legal Support:** Offer legal services to assist individuals in navigating bureaucratic challenges related to identity documents, appealing discrimination cases in housing and employment, and providing defense for those targeted by law enforcement. This need was identified by 52.58% of respondents.

For Funders and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs):

- **Prioritize Funding for Essential Services:** Allocate resources toward the most urgent needs

identified by the transgender community. Funding priorities should align with the top services requested by respondents, including economic empowerment (57.73%), healthcare (56.7%), legal services (52.58%), and professional development (50.52%).

- **Support Advocacy for Systemic Legal Reform:** Fund and amplify local advocacy campaigns focused on the legal reforms demanded by the community. Emphasize efforts to change laws related to identity documents (a priority for 72.16%) and the regulation of gender-affirming care (a priority for 70.10%). Additionally, support initiatives aimed at reforming criminal laws that disproportionately target transgender individuals, a concern for over 50% of the community.
- **Invest in Sustainable, Community-Led Initiatives:** Provide long-term, flexible core funding to local transgender-led groups and allied civil society organizations. This approach enhances local capacity and ensures that interventions are grounded in the lived realities and resilience of the community.
- **Establish and Fund Emergency Support Mechanisms:** Create rapid-response funds to address urgent crises, such as homelessness, violence, and immediate healthcare needs. Given that 86.5% of those living independently face adverse experiences such as eviction threats, and 82% of those residing with family do so involuntarily due to economic hardship, emergency housing support is critical.
- **Promote Evidence-Based Interventions:** Continue to fund community-led research and data collection to monitor the evolving needs of the transgender population, document human rights violations, and assess the effectiveness of programs and policy advocacy.

Conclusion

The evidence presented in this report is conclusive: transgender individuals in Egypt are systematically excluded from the social and economic fabric of the nation. This exclusion is not an incidental outcome but a direct violation of the promises of equality, social justice, and dignity enshrined in Egypt's 2014 Constitution and its international human rights obligations.

The data reveals a crisis of exclusion: 73.1% of respondents are shut out of the labor market, 82.8% endure violence or stigma from their families and communities, and nearly 60% face negative and discriminatory experiences when seeking general or transition-related healthcare. These are not isolated hardships but recurring patterns driven by the absence of legal recognition, hostile social norms, and unresponsive public institutions.

Nevertheless, amidst this marginalization, the transgender community itself offers a clear and pragmatic path forward. The calls for reform are specific and actionable: streamlined legal gender recognition, access to non-discriminatory healthcare, economic empowerment programs, and legal protections against discrimination. These priorities align directly with Egypt's own Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and international human rights standards.

Ignoring these calls is not a passive choice; it constitutes an active continuation of systemic harm. Addressing the barriers identified in this report requires more than policy papers; it demands the political will to transform Egypt's constitutional and international commitments into a lived reality for all citizens. The path to an inclusive and just society necessitates that transgender rights are treated not as a peripheral issue but as a fundamental measure of the nation's promise of dignity for all.

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