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## Combating Harassment and Violence Against Pregnant Women in the Criminal Policy of Iran and the United States of America

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### Abstract

Although violence against women can occur in all circumstances, pregnant women are particularly vulnerable and thus more exposed to such violence. In addressing this issue, criminal policy activists in Iran have adopted an incomplete preventive approach. The most significant gaps in the laws of Iran are the lack of appropriate protective laws, inadequate criminal support for the health and safety of pregnant women, the absence of coherent educational programs to combat domestic violence, the lack of mandatory reporting mechanisms for the abuse of pregnant women with appropriate enforcement guarantees, and the shortage of safe houses. On the other hand, preventive activists in the United States of America, by imposing supportive laws at both federal and state levels, have adopted a proper policy in the face of abuse of pregnant women. The question that arises here is: What are the dimensions of an effective preventive policy in the field of combating harassment and violence against pregnant women? In response, it can be argued that the development and implementation of protective regulations at the three levels of prevention, along with strengthening the deterrence of punishments, constitute the dimensions of an appropriate strategy against the abuse of pregnant women. Accordingly, the paper aims to evaluate and compare the preventive strategies of Iran and the United States of America to deal with the abuse of pregnant women.

**Keywords:** Violence against women; Pregnant women; Marital abuse; Domestic violence; Fetal health.

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