

Widowhood in early modern Iberia was a common experience, as war, seafaring, illness, and the Inquisition resulted in widows comprising approximately a quarter of the adult population. A woman's position in Jewish communal life was entirely dependent on her marital status and whether she had yet produced children, thus many widows approached rabbinic authorities for rulings related to their ability to migrate, remarry, manage finances, and inherit property, as demonstrated in the responsa. *Conversa* women had additional complexities in their cases when widowhood and the religious status of their children were impacted by their experience of both Christian and Jewish identities. This works-in-progress chapter considers sixteenth-century Sephardi women's lives as refugees and free agents through cases presented in eastern Mediterranean rabbinic courts.