

POLL

INFOGRAPHICS

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE ARAB WORLD

THE WORST AND BEST STATES FOR WOMEN



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WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE ARAB WORLD

THE WORST AND BEST ARAB STATES FOR WOMEN

The ranking - worst to best

- 22 — Egypt
- 21 — Iraq
- 20 — Saudi Arabia
- 19 — Syria
- 18 — Yemen
- 17 — Sudan
- 16 — Lebanon
- 15 — Palestinian Territories
- 14 — Somalia
- 13 — Djibouti
- 12 — Bahrain
- 11 — Mauritania
- 10 — UAE
- 9 — Libya
- 8 — Morocco
- 7 — Algeria
- 6 — Tunisia
- 5 — Qatar
- 4 — Jordan
- 3 — Kuwait
- 2 — Oman
- 1 — Comoros

THE POLL

This map shows how the 21 members of the Arab League plus Syria compare for women's rights, according to a poll of gender experts by Thomson Reuters Foundation. The ranking is based on analysis of six themes, below, drawn from key provisions of the UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which 19 Arab League states have signed or ratified.

WHAT THE POLL MEASURES



VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN



REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS



WOMEN
IN THE FAMILY



WOMEN
IN THE ECONOMY

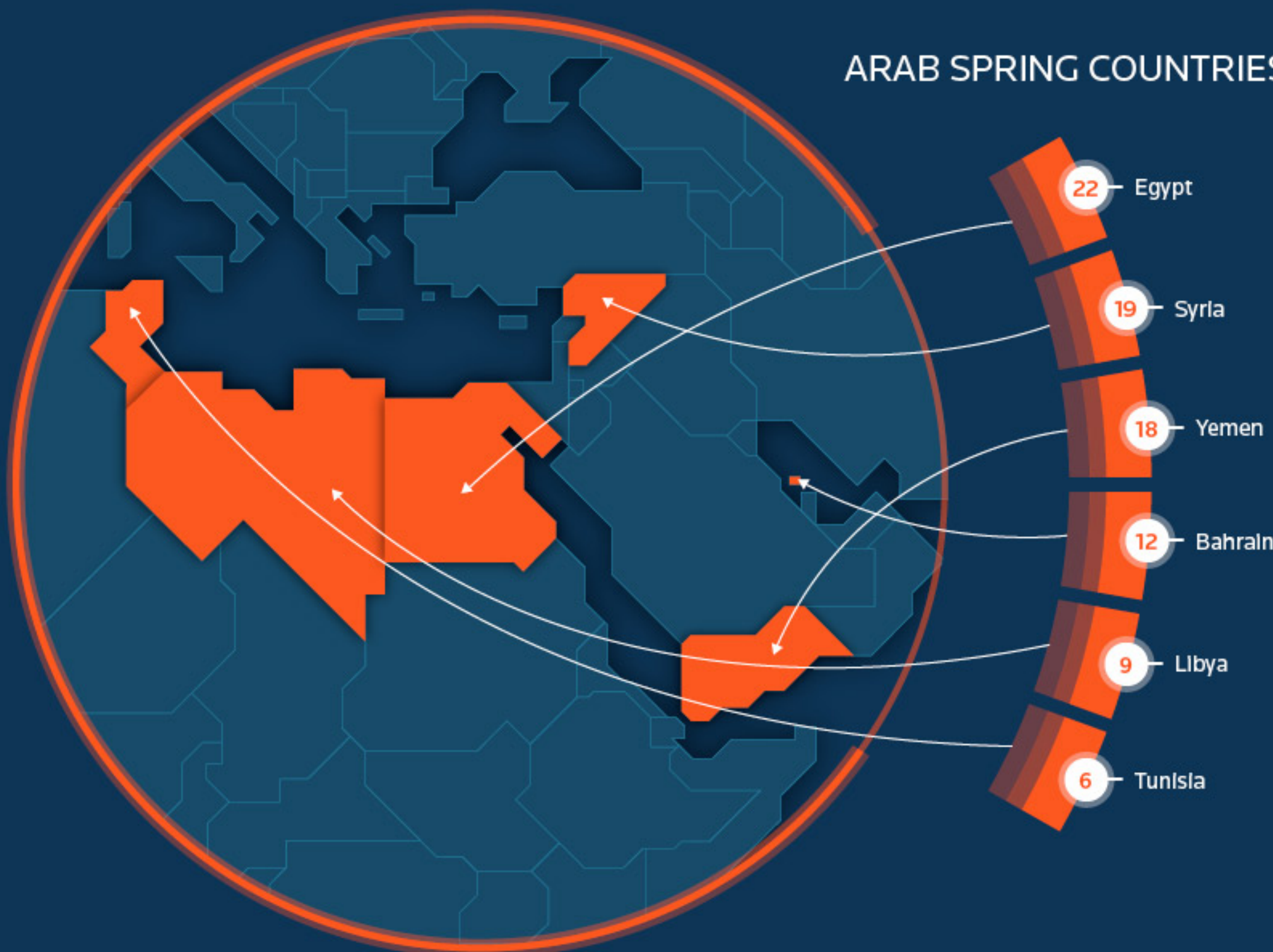


WOMEN
IN SOCIETY



WOMEN
IN POLITICS

ARAB SPRING COUNTRIES





1

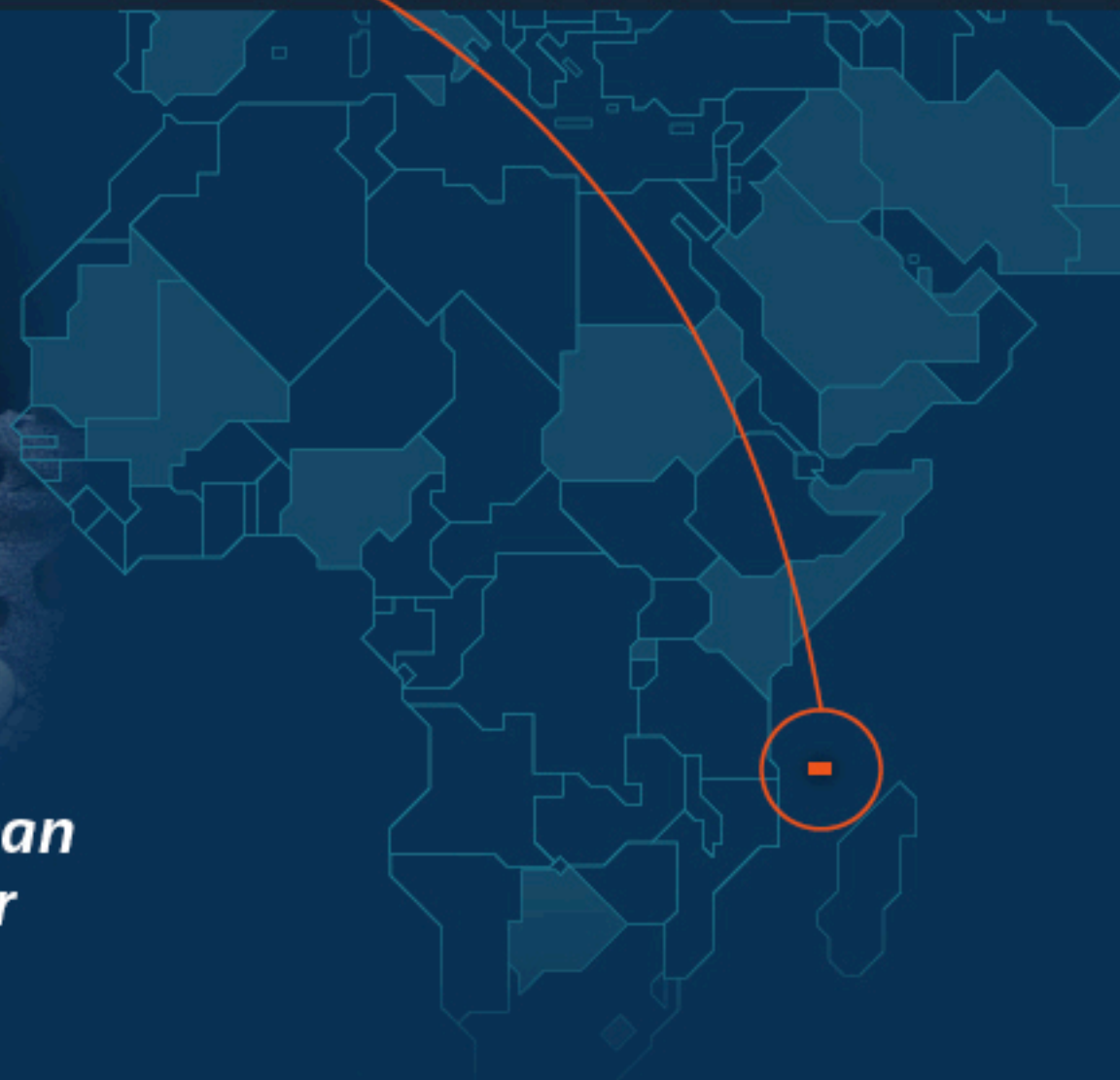
COMOROS

Ranks 1st out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Politicians still believe that a woman has no place in politics and that her role is to be a housewife."

- Comoran female civil servant



CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1994
Accepts all articles of CEDAW



WOMEN IN POLITICS

3%

3% of seats in national parliament are held by women and 20% of politicians in ministerial positions are female

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

18

The minimum legal age for a woman to marry is 18

Source: UN (2011)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

35%

35% of adult women are in the labour force

Source: UN (2011)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

Land and homes are usually awarded to women in cases of divorce or separation

Source: US State Dept (2012)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

280

There are 280 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births

Source: World Bank (2010)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

50%

50% of all inmates are being held for crimes of sexual aggression

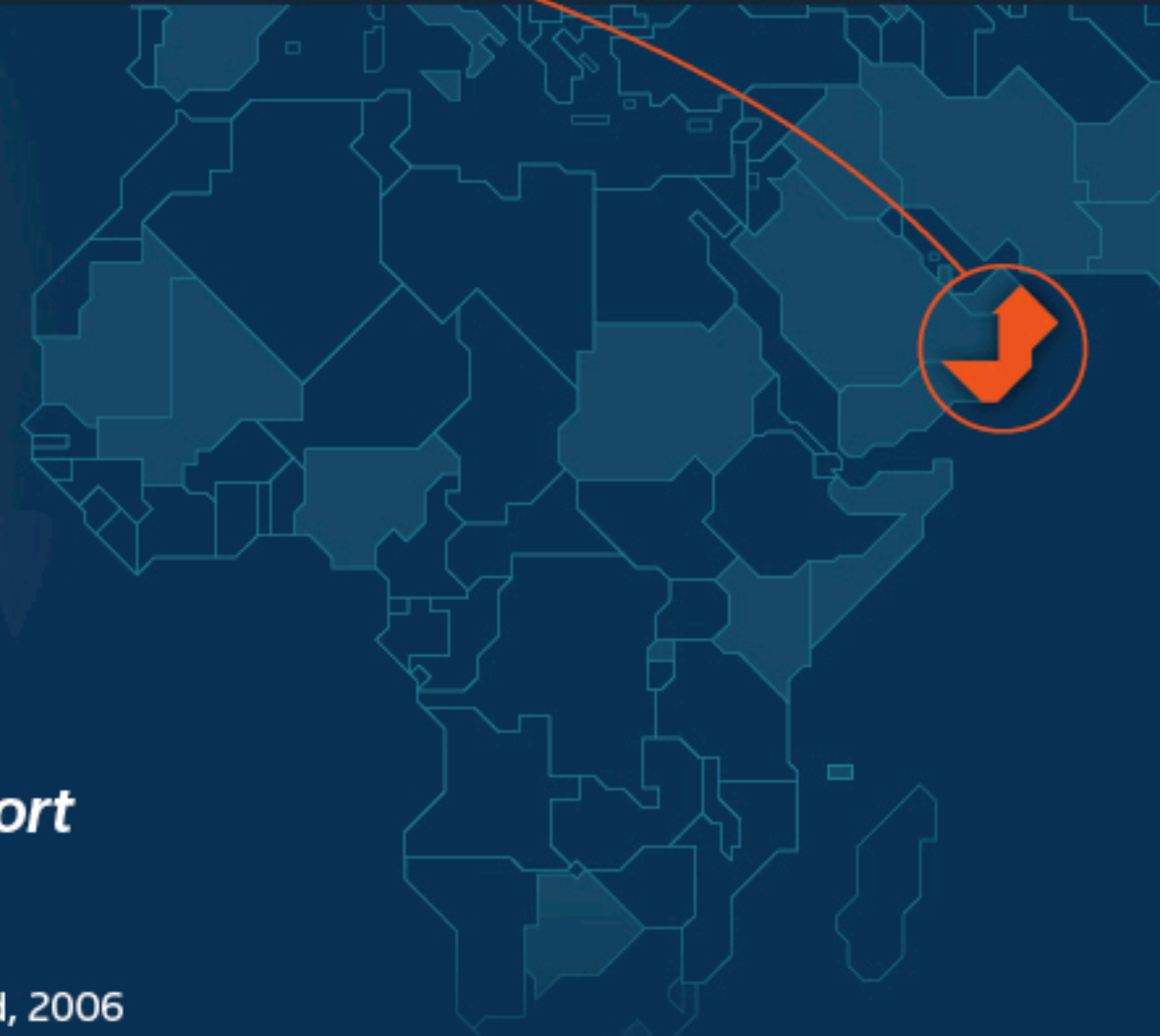
Source: US State Dept (2012)



2

OMAN

Ranks 2nd out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Abortions are illegal, so some women resort to secret abortions, which can be deadly."

- Journalist in Oman

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 2006

BUT Oman rejects all articles on citizenship, movement of persons and right to choose residence as well as equality in marriage and family life. Oman also rejects all aspects of CEDAW that are not in accordance with Islamic law



WOMEN IN POLITICS

1.2%

1.2% of seats in parliament are held by women

Source: UN Data (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

50%

Women inherit half of what a man can

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

29%

29% of adult women are employed

Source: World Bank (2012)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

8

A man can divorce his wife for any reason. A woman has 8 legal grounds on which she can get a divorce

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

2

There are 2 grounds for abortion in Oman: if the life of the woman is in danger and in cases of foetal impairment

Source: UNDP



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

0

There is no law prohibiting private facilities from performing female genital mutilation in Oman

Source: US State Dept (2011)



3

KUWAIT

Ranks 3rd out of 22 Arab states for women's rights

"A woman is judged solely on her reputation: one tarnish and her reputation is ruined. Her 'value' as a future wife would diminish and her family would be shamed."

- Female Kuwaiti student

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1995
BUT Kuwait rejects articles on citizenship, guardianship and adoption



WOMEN IN POLITICS

2005

In 2005, Kuwaiti women were granted the right to vote and stand for election

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

10 weeks

Kuwaiti women are legally entitled to 10 weeks maternity leave

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

130,800

Over half of the 240,000 employees in the government sector are Kuwaiti women

Source: Kuwaiti Central Statistics Bureau



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

15

The minimum legal age for girls to marry is 15, while it is 17 for boys

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

2.6

The average birth rate is 2.6 children per woman

Source: World Bank



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

0

There are no specific laws against domestic violence. Marital rape is also not recognised or punished

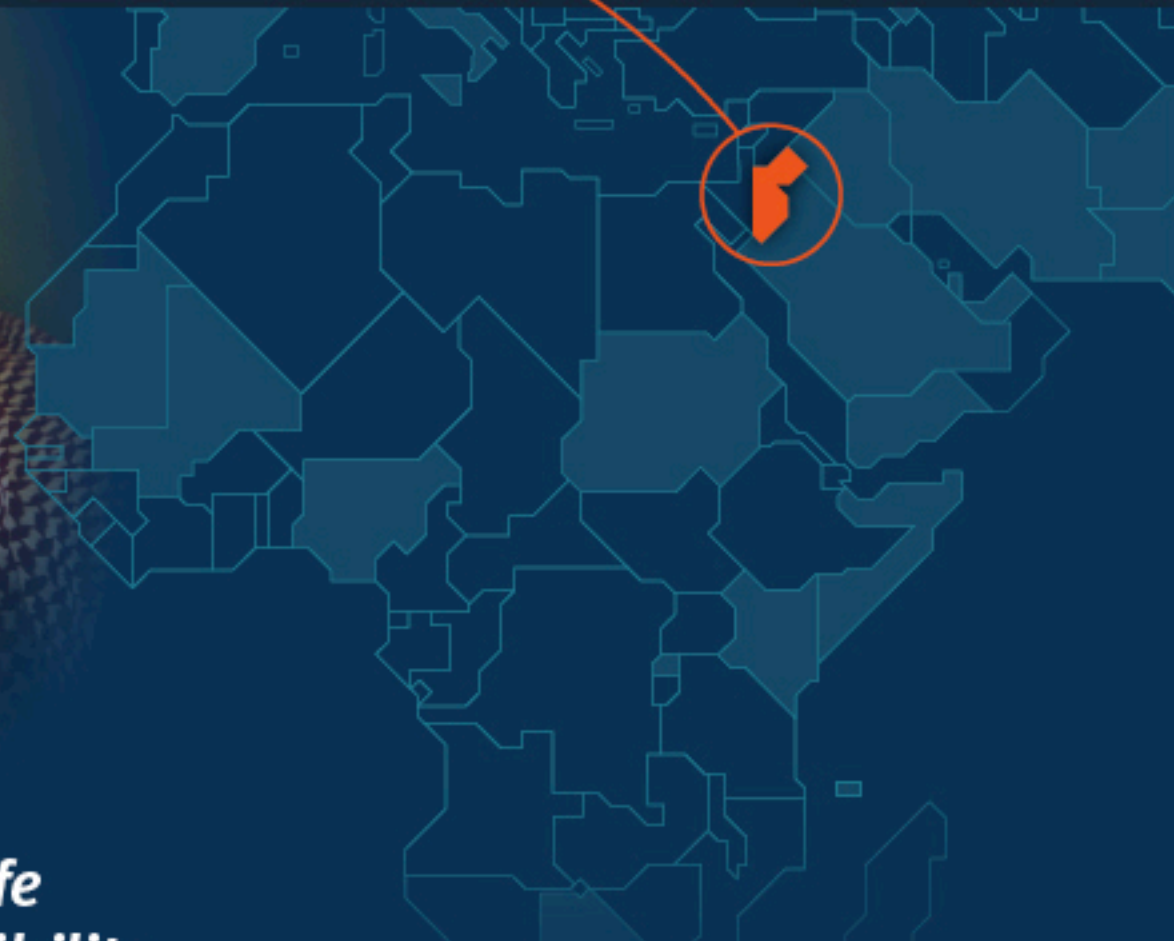
Source: UNICEF



4

JORDAN

Ranks 4th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Jordan is a patriarchal society and if a wife does not give birth to boys, there is a possibility that her husband will marry another woman."

- Hanan Al-Kiswany, journalist

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 1992

BUT Jordan rejects articles on equal rights in citizenship as well as equal rights during marriage and its dissolution



WOMEN IN POLITICS

18

18 women have seats in the House of Representatives, representing 12% of the total 150 seats

Source: The Quota Project (2013)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

2003

In 2003, the law was changed so that women could obtain a passport without their husbands' consent

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

17%

17% of property is owned by women

Source: US State Dept (2011)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

Jordanian women cannot transfer their citizenship to their non-Jordanian spouse or children

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

59.3%

59.3% of adult women use modern contraceptives in Jordan

Source: UNDP (2009)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

681

There were 681 cases of rape and sexual assault reported to the Family Protection Department in 2012

Source: US State Dept (2012)



5

QATAR

Ranks 5th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights

"Unmarried women who become pregnant cannot access healthcare as it is illegal to get pregnant outside of marriage."

- Female academic in Qatar

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 2009

BUT Qatar rejects articles on gender equality in domestic laws, citizenship, equality before the law, freedom of movement and residence and equality in marriage and family life



WOMEN IN POLITICS

1/29

1 out of 29 seats on the Central Municipal Council is filled by a woman. Qatar appointed its first female judge in 2010

Source: Human Rights Watch & World Bank



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Fact

Qatari women need their husbands' consent to obtain a driving licence

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

51.8%

Up to 51.8% of Qatari women are in the workforce

Source: UN Data (2012)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

25.4

Women are on average 25.4 years old when they marry for the first time

Source: World Bank (2010)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

100

Nearly 100 expat women a year are arrested and jailed for having babies out of wedlock

Source: Doha News



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

550

There were 550 cases of domestic abuse reported to the Qatar Foundation for Women and Children in 2012

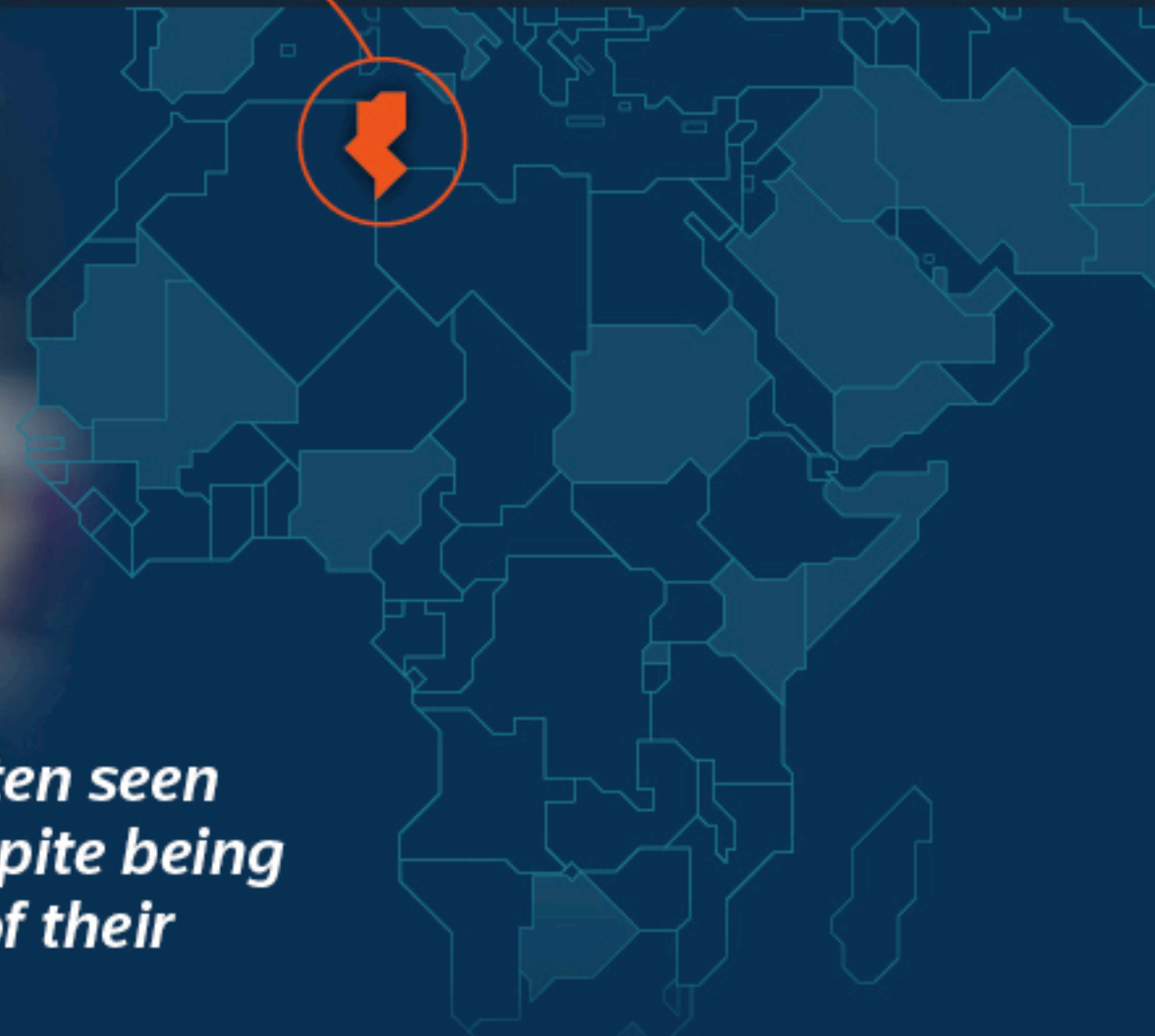
Source: US State Dept



6

TUNISIA

Ranks 6th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Domestic violence and rape is still often seen as a shameful thing for a woman. Despite being the victim, women still feel ashamed of their rape and tend to blame themselves."

- Christine German, The Munathara Initiative

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 1985
AND Tunisia accepts all articles since they withdrew all reservations in 2011



WOMEN IN POLITICS

26.7%

Women hold 26.7% of seats in parliament

Source: UN Data (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

2009

In 2009, non-Muslim women gained the right to inherit from their Muslim husbands

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

30

Tunisian women are entitled to 30 days of maternity leave, at 67% of their full wages

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

2002

In 2002, the law was amended to allow Tunisian women to transfer their citizenship to foreign-born husbands and children

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Article 214

Article 214 grants Tunisian women the right to abortion upon request within the first 3 months of pregnancy

Source: UN



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Dec 10 2012

The date that the first government-run domestic abuse shelter and emergency hotline were opened

Source: US State Dept



7

ALGERIA

Ranks 7th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Corruption in all its forms is a large issue and works generally against efforts to protect their rights."

- Chloée Ponchelet, Algerian human rights activist

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 2008
BUT Algeria rejects articles on citizenship, inheritance and child custody



WOMEN IN POLITICS

31.6%

Women hold 31.6% of seats in parliament

Source: World Bank (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Oct 14 2012

The date Algeria issued its first ever conviction for sexual harassment

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

16%

16% of adult women are in the workforce. Women get 14 weeks maternity leave

Source: World Bank (2012)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

29.5

The average age for women to enter their first marriage is 29.5 years old

Source: World Bank (2002)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

89.4%

89.4% of pregnant women receive antenatal care. The prevalence of contraceptive use is 61%

Source: World Bank (2012)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Fact

Spousal rape is not recognised under Algerian law



MOROCCO

Ranks 8th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1993
BUT Morocco rejects articles on citizenship, equality in marriage and family life, administration of the convention and articles on prohibiting discriminatory government laws and policies

"A woman has the freedom to use contraception on the condition that her husband agrees."

- Female Moroccan journalist



WOMEN IN POLITICS

67

67 seats in the Chamber of Representatives are held by women. This represents 17% of the total number of seats Source: US State Dept (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Article 496

Article 496 of the penal code criminalises harbouring a woman who leaves her husband Source: Human Rights Watch



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

44%

44% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 are literate Source: World Bank (2009)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

10%

10% of marriages involve girls under the age of 18 Source: Freedom House (2010)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

67%

Up to 67% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 use contraception; 72% of those women use contraceptive pills Source: UNFPA



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

17,000

There were 17,000 incidents of violence against women reported in the first 3 months of 2008. In 78.8% of the complaints, the alleged perpetrator was the victim's husband Source: Freedom House (2010)



9

LIBYA

Ranks 9th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Women feel unsafe due to the lack of social protection against abusive husbands. There are no safe houses."

- Female Libyan human rights activist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1989
BUT Libya rejects articles 2 and 16, which are considered to be the core provisions to the treaty as they contravene Islamic law



WOMEN IN POLITICS

33

In the 2012 election 33 women were elected to the General National Congress out of 200 representatives

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

20

The minimum legal age for a woman or man to marry is 20 unless they get special permission from a court and their guardians

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

28%

Libyan women represent 28% of the total workforce

Source: World Bank (2010)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Apr 2013

The month that the Ministry of Social Affairs reportedly suspended marriage licences for Libyan women marrying foreigners, according to local media

Source: Human Rights Watch



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

64

There are 64 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births in Libya

Source: UNICEF (2008)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

99%

Up to 99% of victims who filed domestic abuse charges eventually withdrew their cases, according to a senior Libyan judicial official

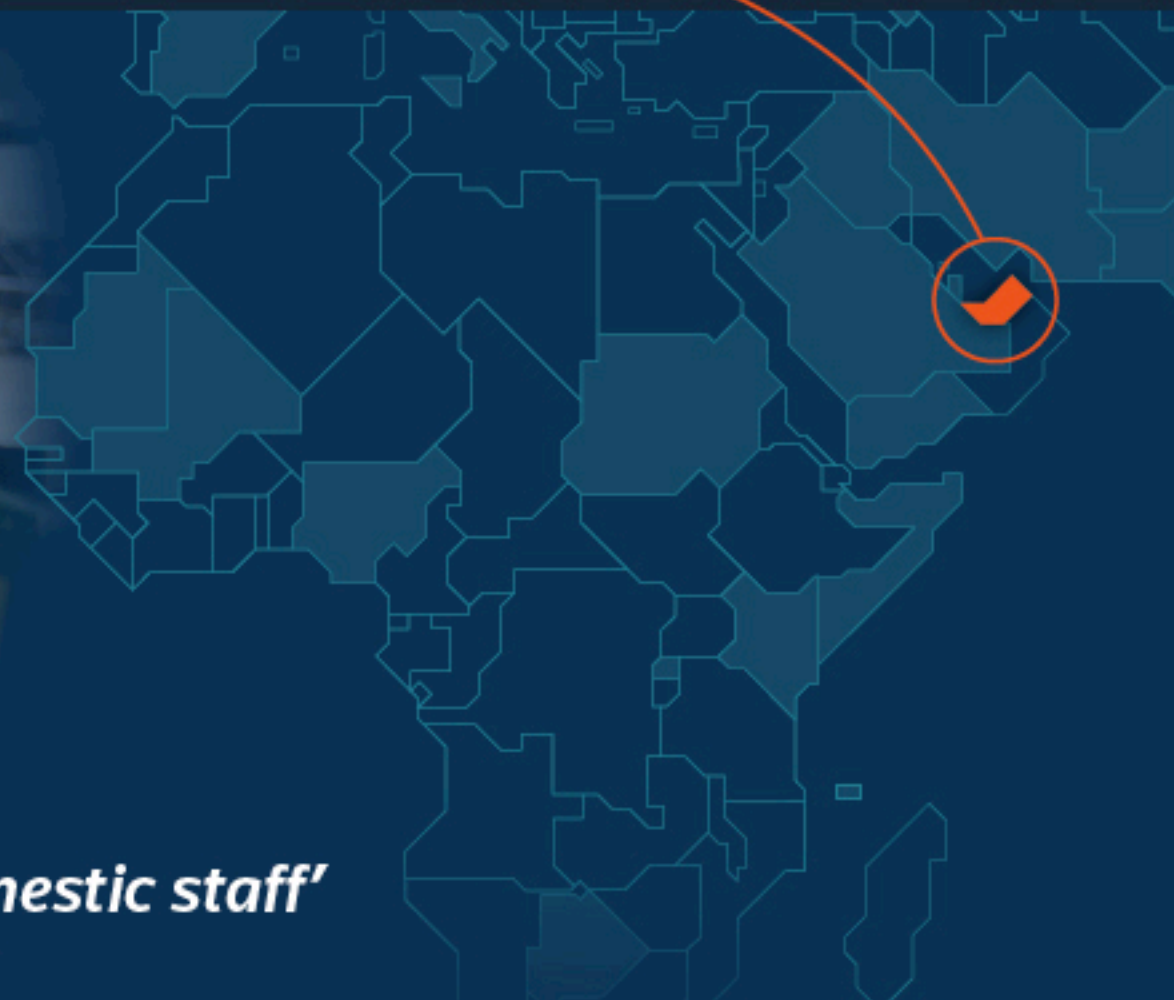
Source: Freedom House



10

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ranks 10th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Some women are brought in as 'domestic staff' but then trafficked and used for sex."

- Female Emirati journalist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 2004

BUT UAE rejects articles on inheritance, citizenship, legal capacity and equality in marriage and family life



WOMEN IN POLITICS

2008

In 2008, a law was implemented to allow women to become judges. Since then two female judges have been appointed Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Half

A woman's testimony is worth half that of a man's in court

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

14%

Women represent 14% of the total workforce

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

Emirati women are forbidden from marrying non-Muslims though Emirati men can

Source: Human Rights Watch



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Fact

A woman who has a child outside of wedlock may be arrested, imprisoned and deported

Source: US State Dept



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Fact

Rape victims have a high burden of proof placed on them and may be charged with adultery when reporting assault

Source: US State Dept



11

MAURITANIA

Ranks 11th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Early marriages, marriages to minors and forced fattening are all practices that are forced upon women."

- Mohamed Lemine, journalist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 2001
BUT Mauritania rejects any aspect of the convention that is contrary to Islamic law and the Mauritanian constitution



WOMEN IN POLITICS

20%

Mauritania has a quota of 20% of female representation on all candidate lists for elections. The 27 member cabinet includes three women

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Fact

Divorced women may lose custody of their children if they remarry

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

98

Women are entitled to 98 fully paid maternity days. They make up 29% of the workforce

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

20%

In Mauritania, 20% of girls are at risk or are victims of forced feeding

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

9%

9% of adult women use contraceptives

Source: UN



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1 month

On average girls are 1 month old when they undergo female genital mutilation. 69% of Mauritanian women are victims of FGM

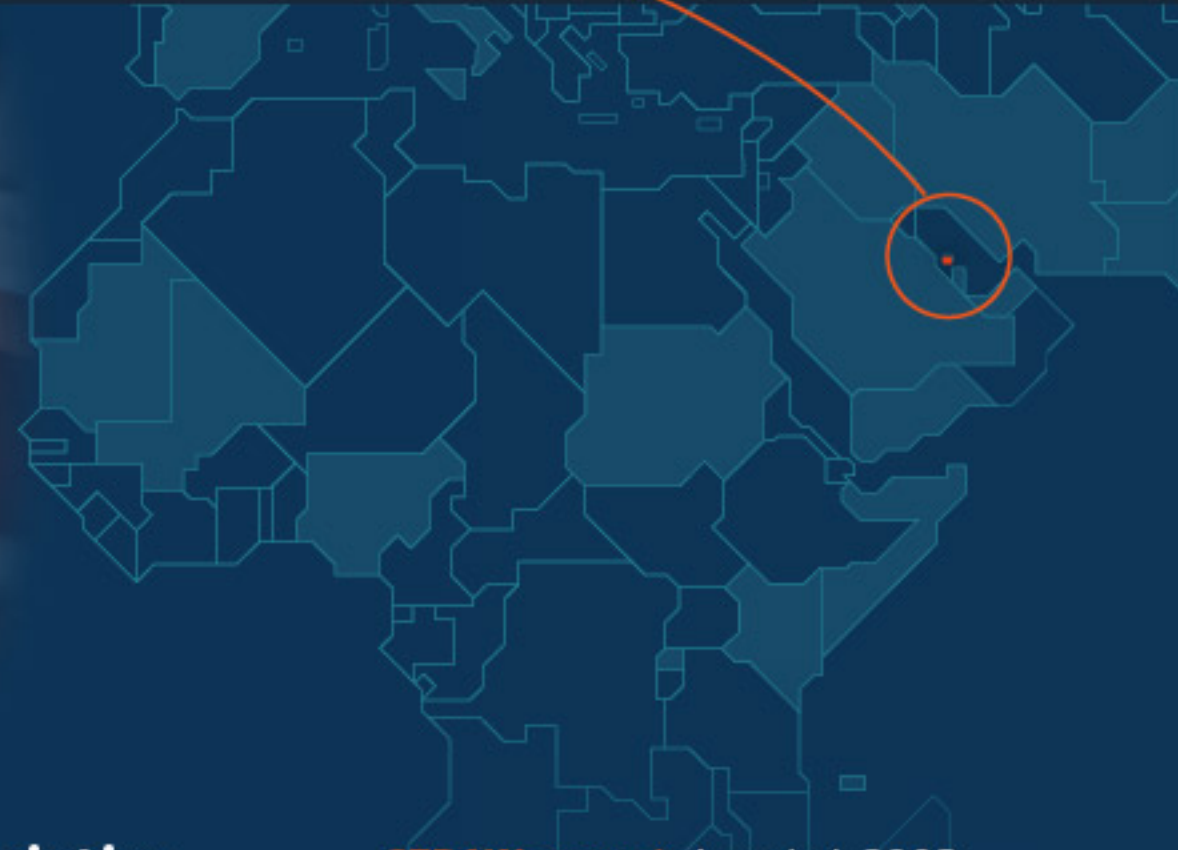
Source: UN Women



12

BAHRAIN

Ranks 12th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"In Bahrain a rapist can marry their victim in order to avoid punishment."

- Male Bahraini human rights activist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 2002
BUT Bahrain rejects articles on prohibiting discrimination within government policies, inheritance, citizenship, a woman's freedom of movement and equality in marriage and family life



WOMEN IN POLITICS

2002

In 2002, women were able to run for election and vote for the first time

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Half

What a woman's testimony is worth compared to that of a man's before an Islamic court

Source: Freedom House



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

40%

40% of adult women are in the workforce, representing 19% of the total workforce

Source: World Bank



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

15

The minimum legal age for a girl to marry is 15

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1/2200

The risk of maternal mortality is 1 in 2,200 for a Bahraini woman over the course of her lifetime

Source: UNICEF



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

30%

30% of Bahraini women face some form of domestic abuse

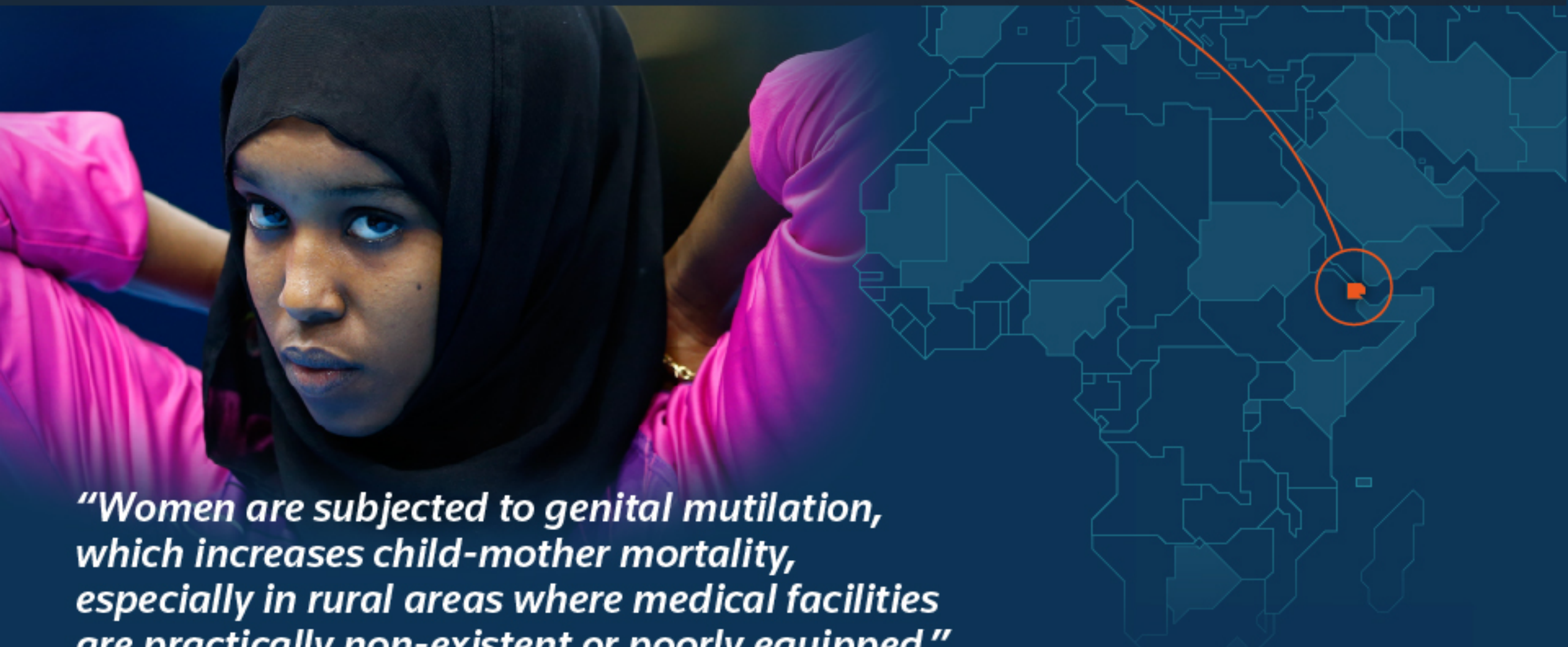
Source: Freedom House



13

DJIBOUTI

Ranks 13th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Women are subjected to genital mutilation, which increases child-mother mortality, especially in rural areas where medical facilities are practically non-existent or poorly equipped."

- Male Djiboutian development worker

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1998
Accepts all articles of CEDAW



WOMEN IN POLITICS

7

7 women sit in the National Assembly, representing 11% of total seats. 2003 marked the first year a woman was elected to parliament

Source: UNICEF & Quota Project



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

0

There are no laws prohibiting sexual harassment

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

38%

38% of the workforce are adult women, numbering just over 100,700

Source: World Bank (2011)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

18

The minimum legal age for girls and boys to marry is 18, although earlier marriage is permitted with the consent of a guardian or judge

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

3.53

The average number of births per woman is 3.53. Contraceptives are difficult to obtain outside of Djibouti City

Source: World Bank (2011) and
US State Dept (2012)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

93%

Up to 93% of women are victims of female genital mutilation

Source: UNICEF



14

SOMALIA

Ranks 14th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Women are thought to be trafficked within the country; many are kidnapped from internally displaced people camps."

- Anab Nur, activist

CEDAW status*: Not ratified



WOMEN IN POLITICS

14%

14% of seats in the Transnational Federal Parliament are held by women

Source: US State Dept (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Half

A murdered woman is considered to be worth half the monetary worth of a murdered man in cases of blood compensation

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

39%

39% of women are employed, making up 33% of the total workforce. Women are not permitted to have jobs in regions controlled by Islamist group al Shabaab

Source: World Bank (2011) and US State Dept



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

45%

Up to 45% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before they were 18

Source: World Bank (2006)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1,200

1,200 women die in childbirth for every 100,000 births. This is one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates

Source: UNICEF



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1,700

In 2012, 1,700 women were raped in camps for internally displaced people

Source: Amnesty International



15

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Ranks 15th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"There is a strong contradiction between the people's rejection of violence against women and violence that is committed to satisfy the community, especially honour killings."

- Palestinian women's rights activist

CEDAW status*: Symbolically ratified in 2009 by President Mahmoud Abbas



WOMEN IN POLITICS

1996

In 1996, women voted for the first time, in the first election of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Source: UNICEF (2011)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

15

The legal minimum age for girls to marry in the West Bank is 15. In Gaza, it is 17

Source: UNICEF (2011)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

17%

17% of women are employed, and women have a literacy rate of 92.6%

Source: UNICEF (2011) and Palestinian Bureau of Statistics



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

46%

In Gaza 46% of children from divorced families are in their mothers' care

Source: Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

4.4

Women have on average 4.4 children in the Gaza Strip. There are 64 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births

Source: UNFPA and CIA World Factbook



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

51%

Up to 51% of married women in Gaza City were victims of domestic abuse in 2011

Source: Palestinian Bureau of Statistics



16

LEBANON

Ranks 16th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Widespread corruption and cronyism deters women from going for political positions and in some cases from getting them."

- Female Lebanese human rights activist



CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1997
BUT Lebanon rejects articles on citizenship, equality in marriage and family life and articles on the administration of the convention



WOMEN IN POLITICS

2004

In 2004, a woman held a ministerial position for the first time. Since then, there have been 3 female ministers

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Fact

Lebanese law does not address the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace

Source: Freedom House (2010)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

54%

54% of female business owners act as managers compared with 90% of men

Source: Freedom House (2010)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

Women are not permitted to transfer their citizenship to foreign-born husbands or children

Source: UNICEF



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Fact

Women who perform illegal abortions on themselves can be sentenced to 7 years in prison. Abortion is only legal in cases to save the life of the mother

Source: Freedom House (2010)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Article 522

Article 522 of the Lebanese penal code permits a rapist to avoid prosecution if he marries his victim. There is no law against marital rape

Source: US State Dept



17

SUDAN

Ranks 17th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights

"There are some laws that target women, degrade them and affect their human dignity. Through these laws women are degradingly punished by whipping and imprisonment."

- Liemia Abubkr, journalist

CEDAW status*: Not ratified



WOMEN IN POLITICS

25%

The National Election Act of 2008 states that 25% of seats in the National Assembly are reserved for women

Source: Quota Project



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Article 152

Article 152 of the penal code is used to justify arresting and flogging women for the way they dress

Source: Amnesty International



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

62%

There is a 62% literacy rate for women, compared with 80% for men

Source: World Bank (2010)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

10

The legal minimum age for girls to marry is 10 years old. 32% of women aged between 20 and 24 were married by the age of 18

Source: UNICEF & World Bank (2010)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

730

There are 730 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. A woman's lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 in 31

Source: US State Dept



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

12.1 mln

12.1 million women have undergone FGM

Source: UNICEF (2013)



18

YEMEN

Ranks 18th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"The most important cases of trafficking in Yemen are marriage to minors and tourist marriages. There are many of these cases, some of which have led to death."

- Female Yemeni women's rights activist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1984
BUT Yemen rejects an article on the binding implementation of CEDAW



WOMEN IN POLITICS

5

There are 5 female members of the 31-person National Dialogue Preparatory Committee

Source: US State Dept (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

98.9%

Up to 98.9% of women have faced sexual harassment in the streets

Source: US State Dept (2012)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

53%

53% of girls complete primary school, compared with 73% for boys

Source: World Bank (2012)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

There is no legal minimum age for marriage, and a quarter of all girls are married before they are 15

Source: US State Dept (2012)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

210

There are 210 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. 36% of births are attended by skilled helpers

Source: UNICEF (2010)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Fact

Hospitals in Yemen receive many cases of girls with severe injuries from forced sex but rarely report these incidents to the authorities

Source: Human Rights Watch



19

SYRIA

Ranks 19th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Women in Syria are used as weapons of war. They are subjected to abductions and rape by the regime and other groups. The regime uses these actions to undermine peaceful protests."

- Sabiha Khalil, activist

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 2003
BUT Syria rejects articles on policy measures, citizenship, freedom of movement, equality in marriage and family life, child marriage and the implementation of the convention



WOMEN IN POLITICS

13%

Prior to the outbreak of the conflict 13% of judges were female. It is thought the number has fallen since

Source: US State Dept (2012)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

1.06 mln

There are 1.06 million female refugees registered with UNHCR

Source: UNHCR



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

16%

Before the conflict 16% of women had jobs. It is not known how many are still able to work

Source: US State Dept 2012



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

17

The legal minimum age for girls to marry is 17. However, child marriage is prevalent in refugee camps. There have been reports of girls as young as 12 being married

Source: UNICEF and US State Dept



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

68,000

There are 68,000 women thought to be pregnant in Syria. Access to reproductive health care is extremely limited

Source: UNFPA



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

4,000

More than 4,000 cases of rape and sexual mutilation against girls and women have been reported to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. About 700 were prisoners when they were abused

Source: US State Dept



20

SAUDI ARABIA

Ranks 20th out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"The guardianship rule treats women as minors and keeps them under the mercy of male chauvinists and abusers. This is a major violation of human rights in Saudi Arabia."

- Female Saudi journalist

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 2000

BUT Saudi Arabia rejects articles on citizenship and disputes arising from the implementation of the convention. Saudi Arabia rejects any aspect of CEDAW that is not compatible with Islamic law



WOMEN IN POLITICS

2015

In 2015, women will be able to vote in elections for the first time. In Jan 2013, 30 women were appointed to the Shura Council for the first time

Source: Reuters



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Fact

Women are not permitted to drive

Source: Human Rights Watch (2013)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

2012

In 2012, women were granted the right to work in special women focused jobs

Source: Human Rights Watch (2013)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

Women need their male guardian's permission to marry, travel, obtain health care in certain situations and to enrol in higher education

Source: Amnesty International



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Fact

Birth control pills and other contraceptives are available without prescription in pharmacies

Source: US State Dept



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

4

Four male witnesses are needed to give testimony on behalf of a rape victim in order to get a conviction. Women who report rape or sexual assaults face the risk of being charged with adultery

Source: Freedom House (2010)



21

IRAQ

Ranks 21st out of 22 Arab states for women's rights

"Physical and verbal violence towards women has become very widespread and I think part of the social culture. This must be changed by law and education."

- Shatha Al-Obosi, human rights activist and former MP

CEDAW status*: Acceded, 1986
BUT Iraq rejects articles on citizenship, equality in marriage and family life, on modifying laws that discriminate against women and on the administration of the convention



WOMEN IN POLITICS

0

There are no women governors in Iraq's 18 governorates

Source: Freedom House (2010)



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Fact

Women need the permission of a close male relative to obtain a passport

Source: UNICEF



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

14.5%

14.5% of adult Iraqi women have jobs, representing 17.4% of the total labour force

Source: World Bank (2011)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

72.4%

Up to 72.4% of women in rural areas and 64.1% of women in urban areas reported having to ask their husband's permission to attend a health clinic

Source: WHO (2006)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

68

There are 68 births per 1,000 girls between the ages of 15 and 19

Source: UNICEF (2005)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Article 409

Article 409 of Iraq's penal code allows greatly reduced jail sentences for honour killings, compared with other murders

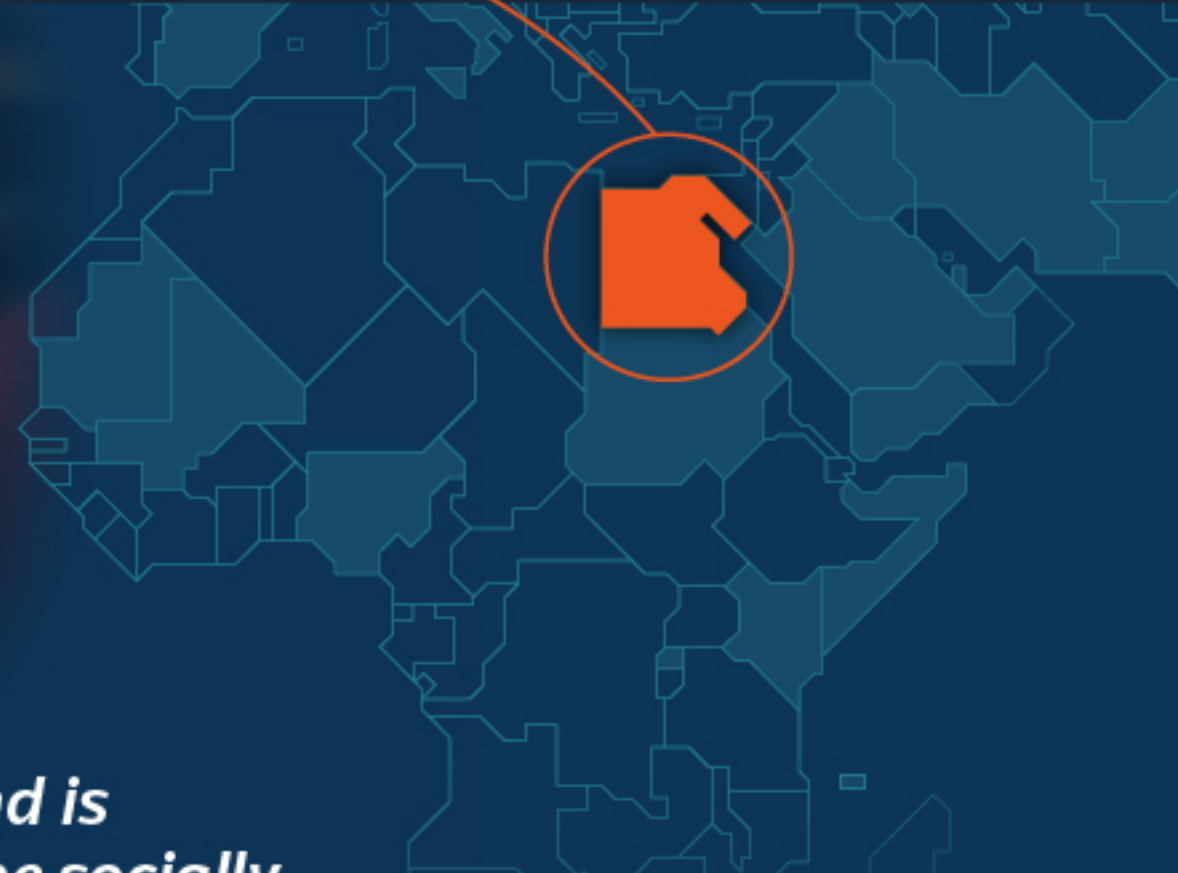
Source: Reuters



22

EGYPT

Ranks 22nd out of 22 Arab states for women's rights



"Sexual harassment is endemic here and is likely to stay that way as it appears to be socially acceptable and is not taken seriously by the authorities or society as a whole."

- Female journalist in Egypt

CEDAW status*: Ratified, 1981
BUT Egypt rejects articles on policy measures, equality in marriage and family life and the administration of the convention



WOMEN IN POLITICS

9

9 women were elected out of the 987 women who ran for election in 2012

Source: US State Dept



WOMEN IN SOCIETY

99.3%

Up to 99.3% of women and girls are subjected to sexual harassment

Source: UN Women (April 2013)



WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

63%

63% of adult women are literate

Source: World Bank (2010)



WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Fact

A Muslim woman cannot marry a non-Muslim without the risk of being criminally convicted of apostasy, or turning their back on their faith. Any children from such a relationship could be placed under the guardianship of a male Muslim

Source: US State Dept (2012)



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

79%

Skilled personnel attend 79% of all births

Source: World Bank (2011)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

91%

27.2 million women are victims of female genital mutilation, the largest number in a single country in the world

Source: UNICEF (2013)