

Algeria



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 28 November 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (May 1996).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:
i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
iii) Judges? Yes.⁷

iv) Number of women judges: 547 of 2,324 practising judges in all jurisdictions were women in 1998.⁸ Recently two women were appointed as presiding judges.⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

i) Codified, religious based.¹¹
ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1962).¹²
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes (1962).¹³
iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 3.4% (lower house), 5.6% (upper house).¹⁴
iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes, 11 (1982-2001).¹⁵

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁶
i) In which sectors? Civil service, armed forces.¹⁷
ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁸
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Standing Committee of the Ministry of National Solidarity and the Family.¹⁹

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? Yes.²⁰

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²¹

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²²

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 57/76.2%.²³

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 104/114%; secondary level 67/66% (2000)²⁴; tertiary level: ndf.

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 45% of school teachers are women.²⁵ In 1995 there were 20 women university teachers for every 100 men.²⁶

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 29.5%.²⁷

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁸
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁹

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names. Yes.³⁰

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.0/68.1 years (2000).³¹
ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 27.6 years.³²
iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 220 per 100,000 births (1985 -99).³³

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁴

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes, in southern Algeria.³⁶

d) Employment in the modern health sector: 51.2% of health professionals, 36% of university hospital physicians, 46% of medical specialists, 48.6% of general practitioners, 64.4% of dental surgeons and 65.4% of pharmacists were women in 1996.³⁷

11. **Culture:**

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁸

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁹

ENDNOTES

1. Art 29: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1078/econst1.htm>
2. Art. 6, Art. 32: Suad Joseph ed. (2000), *Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East* Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2, Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 15 paragraph 4, Art. 16 and Art. 29: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/algeria/gender.html>
10. Eg. travel: women under 19 years cannot travel abroad without father's or husband's permission (this law is not generally observed): http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm.
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/Algeria.htm>
12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Saliha Boudeffa "Le Contexte de Crise et les femmes en Algerie" paper presented to IWSAW colloquium, July 2001, p 8.
16. http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm
17. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/algeria/gender.html>
18. In 1996, 4.8% of women in government employment occupied ministerial and sub-ministerial positions: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/percent.htm>
19. Ibid.
20. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
21. Ibid.
22. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries>

23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
25. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
26. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education*. New York: United Nations.
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
29. http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm
30. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
31. Ibid.
32. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
33. United Nations Development Programme (2002) *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
34. 47% of women aged 15-49 use all methods of contraception: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
35. Only if it is to save the life of the mother or preserve her health. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
36. <http://www.fgmnetwork.org/intro/fgmintro.htm>
37. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
38. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
39. Ibid.

Bahrain



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: February 2001. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. International Resolutions:

a) CEDAW: Yes (18 June 2002).

i) With reservations? Yes.³

b). ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No 100), 1951: No.

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention No 111), 1958: No.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶

iii) Judges? ndf.

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁷

c) Family law

i) Religious, uncodified.⁸

ii) Recent changes? Yes.⁹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Limited.¹⁰

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹¹

iii) Percentage of women in parliament? No parliament.¹²

iv) Women in the cabinet: No.¹³

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.

i) In which sectors? ndf.

ii) Heads of government departments: None.

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.¹⁴

7. **Gender Monitoring and Action:**

a) National Council of Women? The Supreme Council for Women.¹⁵

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁶

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁷

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 82.6/90.9%.¹⁸

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: at primary level 104/104%; secondary level 98/89%; tertiary level: 32/20% (2000).¹⁹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 73% of primary school teachers were women in 2000.²⁰ 60.9% of employees in the Ministry of Education are women.²¹

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 33.5%.²²

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²³

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁴

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.0/71.6 years (2000).²⁵

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 50% of women married before the age of 20 in 1991.²⁶

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 46 per 100,000 births.²⁷

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁸

ii) Is abortion legal: Yes.²⁹

c) Female genital mutilation? Not sure.³⁰

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. **Culture:**

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³¹

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³²

ENDNOTES

1. Art 2: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/constitution.html>

2. Art. 27: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html

3. Article 2, Article 9 paragraph 2, Article 15 paragraph 4, Article 16 and Article 29 paragraph 1: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>

4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

5. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

6. <http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=1849>

7. Laws vary according to *Sunni* or *Shi'a* interpretations:

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

8. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

9. The Personal Status Committee, created to launch awareness among women, has succeeded in "suspending the rule of obedience enacted by the police, and in restricting arbitrary divorce. Now divorce is only legal before a judge." : Sabika Al-Najjar, see article in *Al-Raida*, this issue.

10. Though according to the constitution all citizens are equal before the law; women were not allowed to vote in the only legislative elections held in Bahrain so far (1973). They were allowed to vote, however, in the referendum of February 2001, which approved the National Action Charter: UNDP, *Human Development Report 2002*.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

14. Ibid.

15. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

16. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

17. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

19. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profile")

20. Ibid.

21. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

23. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

24. United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report on the Republic of Bahrain: Achievements and Challenges*. Bahrain: University of Bahrain Press.

25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

26. United Nations Development Programme. (1998). *Human Development Report: State of Bahrain*.

27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

28. 54% of women used contraceptive methods in 1989: United Nations Development Programme. (1998). *Human Development Report: State of Bahrain*.

29. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

30. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_Regions/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

31. *Al-Safir*.

32. Ibid.