

Egypt



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1980. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes (16 July 1980, 18 Sept. 1981).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? Yes.⁶
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
 - iv) Number of women judges: One.⁹
 - b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰
 - c) Family law:
 - i) Codified, religious based.¹¹
 - ii) Family law, recent changes? Yes, many. Latest in 2001.¹²

5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes (1956).¹³
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁴
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 2.4% (lower house).¹⁵
 - iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes, two (2002).¹⁶
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁷
 - i) In which sectors? Administration, municipalities, police.¹⁸
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁹
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The General Department of Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Social Affairs.²⁰
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? The National Committee on Women.²¹
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²²
 - c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²³
8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 43.8/66.6%.²⁴
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 96/104% (2000); secondary level 78/84%(2000); tertiary level: ndf.²⁵
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 99% of nursery school teachers, 52% of primary school teachers, 42% of intermediate school teachers, and 37% of secondary school teachers were women in 1996-1997. In 2002, 53% of faculty in universities were female.²⁶
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 35%.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 names? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.
 - c) Percentage of female-headed households: 22% in 1991.³⁰
10. **Health:**
 - a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 68.8/65.7 years (2000).³¹
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 21.4 years (1980-90).³²

- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 170 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³³
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁴
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in special cases.³⁵
- c) Female genital mutilation? Yes. Estimated prevalence 97%.³⁶
- d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1996, women

constituted 27% of the total number of those registered in the Syndicate of Physicians; 35% of those in the Syndicate of Pharmacy, and 33% of those in the Syndicate of Dentistry. Women also constituted 92% of the total number of staff in the nursing field.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. 8 & Art. 11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/egypt/index.html>
2. Art. 6: Ibid.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2, Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16, Art. 29 paragraph 2. <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>
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.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
7. Ibid.
8. The first woman judge was appointed to the High Constitutional Court in Jan 2003: Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Unmarried women under age 21 must have their father's permission to obtain passports and to travel; married women of any age require permission from their husbands: http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/egypt_women.htm
11. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/egypt_women.htm
12. Amendment 1 of 2001 challenges men's unilateral right to divorce for the first time: "Arab Human Development Report, 2002: Arab Women Moving Fast, But Still Far to go." <http://mobile.undp.org:8100/rbas/ahdr/PR4.pds>
13. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/576/eg22.htm>
17. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
18. Ibid.
19. In 2000, 6.1% of women employed in government occupied ministerial-level posts, i.e. as ministers, vice ministers and parliamentary secretaries: United Nations Development Programme (2002) *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
20. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
21. Ibid.
22. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
23. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
24. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
25. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
26. Ibid.
27. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
28. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid.

- World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
25. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
 26. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000) *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York. & Al-Ahram Weekly Online, "Women of the World," Mar. 7-13, 2002. <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/576/eg22.htm>
 27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
 28. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York.
 29. Around 17% of private businesses are owned by women: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
 30. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York.
 31. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
 32. www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/
 33. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
 34. 52% of married women used contraception in 1997. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York.
 35. To save the life of the mother, but with further restrictions: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
 36. Both Muslims and Coptic Christians practice FGM. In 1958, it was prohibited, and in 1996 all licensed health professionals were banned from performing it, but in 1997 a court overturned this ban. An appeal is still pending: http://ppfnet.ippf.org/pub/ippf_regions/ippf_countryprofile.asp
 37. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York.
 38. In 1996, 20% of those enrolled in the press syndicate were women: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). *Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait*. United Nations: New York.
 39. Ibid.

Iraq



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1990 (Interim). Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

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

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (13 Aug. 1986).²
i) With reservations? Yes.³

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

- a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁷
 - iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁸

c) Family law:

- i) Codified, religious-based.⁹
- ii) Recent changes? Yes, several in 1970s.¹⁰

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? ndf.
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? ndf.
- iii) Number of women in parliament? ndf.
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹¹
 - i) In which sectors? Police, army.¹²
 - ii) Heads of government departments: No.
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? The National Committee of Women.¹³

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁴

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁵

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 43/64% (1998).¹⁶

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 80/96%; secondary level 14/25%; tertiary level, 9/17% (2000).¹⁷

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 72% of primary school teachers and 57% of secondary school teachers were women (2000).¹⁸

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: ndf.

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.¹⁹
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁰
- 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): 62/60 years (2000).²¹
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 22.3 years (early 1990s).²²
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 310 per 100,000 births.²³

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁴
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? No reported instances.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. **Culture:**

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.²⁶

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.²⁷

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 19. http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/iz__indx.html

2. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>

3. Art. 2 paragraph [f] [g], Art. 16, and Art. 29 paragraph1. <http://www.iwrawap.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. Personal Interview: Nadim Gargoura, *Al-Safir*.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Women are not permitted to travel outside the country unless escorted by a male relative:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8257.htm>

9. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/iraq.htm>

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

11. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>

12. Ibid.

13. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>

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

15. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/iraqnap.htm>

16. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/iraq/gender.html>

17. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

18. Ibid.

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

20. United Nations Development Program. (1995). *Iraq: Human Development Report*. Baghdad: Iraqi Economist Association.

21. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>

22. United Nations Development Program. (1995). *Iraq: Human Development Report*. Baghdad: Iraqi Economist Association.

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

24. About 18% of married women use contraception: *ibid*.

25. Only if to save the mother's life or if the unborn child has defects. Restricted interpretation. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

26. Personal Interview. Nadim Gargoura, *Al-Safir*.

27. Ibid.