

Jordan



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1984. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes (Dec. 1989, July 1992).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: 12 (2001).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? Yes, in 2002.¹²
5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes (1974).¹³
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁴
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 1.3% (lower house); 7.5% (upper house).¹⁵
 - iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹⁶
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁷
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service, police, armed forces.¹⁸
 - ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁹
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? Yes, the Jordanian National Committee for Women.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: 83.9/95.1%.²³
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 69/68%; secondary level 67/65% (2000);²⁴ tertiary level: ndf.
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 100% of nursery school teachers, 60% of primary school teachers, and 47% of secondary school teachers were women in 1994-1995. 15 women taught in university for every 100 men (1995).²⁵
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 26.6%.²⁶
 - b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁷
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁸
 - 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? 6.1% in 1991.²⁹
10. **Health:**
 - a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.8/69.1 years (2000).³⁰

- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 23.7 years (1994).³¹
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 41 per 100,000 births (1985- 1999).³²
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³³
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁴
- c) Female genital mutilation? No.³⁵

- d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1997, women constituted 12.7% of those registered in the Syndicate of Physicians, 31.1 % of those in the Syndicate of Dentistry, 42.6% in the Syndicate of Pharmacy, and 72.7% in the Syndicate of Nurses.³⁶
11. **Culture:**
 - a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁷
 - b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁸

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 6. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/constitution.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/gender.html>
2. Art. 9, 10: Suad Joseph, ed. *Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East*, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000).
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 15 paragraph 4, Art. 16 paragraph 1c, d, g: <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. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. <http://escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html>
10. The law provides for the right of citizens to travel freely abroad and within the country except in designated military areas. However, the law requires that all women, including foreign women married to citizens, obtain written permission from a male guardian—usually their father or husband—to apply for a Jordanian passport: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8266.htm>
11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/gende.html>
12. Elinor Bray-Collins, "Muted Voices" (MA thesis, 2003. See Bibliography).
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. Women have headed the Ministry of Social Development in 1995-96, and again in 2000-02. Also the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication (2002): Women Heads of Government and Ministers: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/Jordan.htm>
17. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
18. Ibid.
19. In 1998, 1.6% of women employed by government occupied ministerial positions: Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab*

- Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
20. *Al-Raida*, "Women's Centers in the Arab World", Vol xvii-xviii, No. 90-91).
21. WEDO, Global Survey on National Action Plans to Implement the Beijing Platform, Sept. 1997, http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
22. *Al-Raida*, "Women's Centers in the Arab World", Vol xvii-xviii, No. 90-91.
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. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education*. New York: United Nations.
26. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
28. Ibid.
29. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm>
30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
32. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
33. 52.6% of married women use contraception: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
34. To save the life of the mother or preserve her health. Restricted interpretation: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
35. One southern tribe of Egyptian origin in the village of Rahmah near Aqaba reportedly practises FGM: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea:8266.htm>
36. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (1999) *Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
37. 5% of editors-in-chief and 12.6% of all journalists were women in 1998: *ibid*.
38. *Ibid*.

Kuwait



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 11 November, 1962. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

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

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (2 Sept. 1994).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.
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? No.⁷
iv) Number of women judges: None.⁸

i) In which sectors? The Civil Service.¹⁶
ii) Heads of government departments? No.¹⁷
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? Yes.¹⁸
b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁹
c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²⁰

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 79.7/84.0%.²¹
b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 67%/no data; secondary level 58%/no data; tertiary level: 27%/no data (in 1998).²²
c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 73% of

b). Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁹

c) Family law:
i) Codified, religious-based.¹⁰
ii) Have there been recent changes? Yes.¹¹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? No.¹²
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? No.¹³
iii) Percentage of women in parliament? None.¹⁴
iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁵

primary school teachers and 56% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²³

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 36.6%.²⁴
b) Economic rights:
i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁵
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁶
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): 78.6/74.5 years (2000).²⁷
ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 22.9 years

(1980-90).²⁸
iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 5 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²⁹

b) Reproductive rights:
i) Is contraception legal? ndf.
ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁰

c) Female genital mutilation? No.

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. 29: Kuwait: Constitution, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/constitution.html>
2. Art. 27: *ibid.*
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 7(a), Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16(f), Art. 29 paragraph 1: <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.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. Married women need their husband's signature to apply for a passport. A man may prevent his wife from leaving the country by contacting the immigration authorities and placing a 24-hour travel ban on her. After this 24-hour period, a court order is required if the husband still wishes to prevent his wife from leaving the country: *ibid.*
10. State of Kuwait. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/kuwait.htm>
11. A Civil Code was promulgated in 1980, and a Personal Status Code in 1984: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/cases.html>
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. Kuwaiti Women, <http://kuwait-info.org/women.html>
16. *Ibid.*
17. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human*

- Development Report: *Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
18. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>
19. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>
20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. *Ibid.*
22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>
25. *Ibid.*
26. *Ibid.*
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/
29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press
30. Legal if it is to save the life of the mother and to preserve her mental and physical health as well as if the unborn child has medical problems or birth defects. In all these cases, significant restrictions are applied: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
31. *Al-Safir* newspaper.
32. *Ibid.*