

Lebanon



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1990. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes. (21 Apr. 1997).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: 55 (1998).⁹
 - b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

- c) Family law:
 - i) Religious.¹¹
 - ii) Recent changes? No.
5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes (1952).¹²
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹³
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 2.3%.¹⁴
 - iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁵
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service, municipalities.¹⁶
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁷
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Social Affairs.¹⁸
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? Yes, the National Commission for Lebanese Women.¹⁹
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes, the Lebanese Women's National Strategy.²⁰
 - c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²¹
8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 80.3/92.1%.²²
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 77/97%; secondary level 79/109%; tertiary level: 39/102% (1998).²³
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 62.2% of the teaching profession were women (1997), with 44% working in medium level positions.²⁴
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 29.6%.²⁵
 - b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁶
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁷
 - 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.²⁸
 - c) Percentage of female-headed households: 2.5% (1997).²⁹
10. **Health:**
 - a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 74.6/71.5 years (2000).³⁰

- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 27.5 years (1996).³¹
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 100 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³²
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³³
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁴
- c) Female genital mutilation? No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1995, the number of women enrolled in the Syndicate of Physicians in Beirut and the North was 1, 178; 1,342 in the Syndicate of Pharmacists, and 589 in the Syndicate of Dentistry.³⁵

11. **Culture:**
- a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁶
 - b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁷

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 7: Lebanon: Constitution, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/constitution.html>
2. Art. 7: Ibid.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Article 9 paragraph 2; Article 16 paragraph 1c,d,f,g; Article 29 paragraph 2[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. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibn Khaldoun Center. "Civil Society: Democratization in the Arab World" <http://www.ibnkhaldun.org/newsletter/1998/aug/indic.html>
9. Ibid.
10. Married women must obtain their husband's signatures to apply for a passport. Although a man may obtain passports for his children without his wife's approval, a woman may not obtain passports for her children without the approval of her husband. Husbands may block foreign travel by their wives: U.S. Department of State. Lebanon: Country Report on Human Rights, <http://www.state.gov/gdrl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8270.htm>
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/FL/legal/lebanon.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. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html>
16. Ibid.
17. Two women occupy first rank positions in the government, one is a director general of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the other is an Ambassador. Women in second rank positions in the government mainly work as general secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
18. http://www.undp_pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html
19. Ibid.
20. WEDO. *Global Survey on National Action Plans to Implement the Beijing Platform*. Sept. 1997: http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
21. They include: The NGO Committee for the Follow-Up to Beijing, the League for Lebanese Women's Rights, and the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World. Lebanon: Women in Public Life, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html>
22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
23. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
24. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
26. U.S. Department of State. Lebanon: Country Report on Human Rights, <http://www.state.gov/gdrl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8270.htm>
27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
28. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
29. Ibid.
30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
32. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
33. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
34. Only to save the life of the mother: Summary of Abortion Laws Around the World, <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
35. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
36. In 1995, 32% of editors-in-chief of Lebanese journals were women. Women also constituted 35% of total employees in radio stations: *ibid*.
37. *Ibid*.

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- 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? ndf.

5. Political rights:

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1964).¹⁰
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹¹
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? ndf.
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. The state:

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³
- i) In which sectors? The civil service, armed forces.¹⁴
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Department of Women's Affairs (part of the General People's Congress).¹⁶

7. Gender monitoring and action:

- a) National Council of Women? ndf.

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

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

8. Education:

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 68.2/90.8%.¹⁸
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 154/152%; secondary level: 81/73%; tertiary level: 57/56% (2000).¹⁹
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: in 1999, women accounted for 80% of the primary teaching profession and 54% of secondary teaching.²⁰

9. The economy:

- a) Female economic activity rate: 25.5%.²¹
- b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.²²
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²³
- 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.²⁴

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

- a) Vital statistics:
- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.8/68.8 years (2000).²⁵
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 28.2 years (1995).²⁶

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 75 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²⁷

- b) Reproductive rights:
- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁸
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.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.5:<http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/index.html>, http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly_index.html
2. "Gender & Citizenship" Campaign: Women's Right to Nationality," http://www.amanjordan.org/english/daily_news/umview.php?ArtID=73
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2 paragraph 16[c] [d]: <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. "Women's Libya: Gaddafi and Gender Equality," <http://www.archive.independent.com.mt/2001/0308/n10.htm>
7. "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women," 13th Session, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/49/Plenary>
8. Women must have their husbands' permission to travel abroad: <http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/msindex.htm>
9. The Family Law Code was promulgated in 1984: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/libya.htm>
10. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
11. Ibid.
12. Between 1992 and 1994, there were two women ministers, one who was Minister of Education and one who was Minister of Youth and Sports. In March 2000, all ministries were dissolved and their functions were distributed to the local authorities: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/libya.htm>
13. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/gender.html>
14. Ibid.
15. 12.5% of women in the government occupied ministerial and sub-ministerial positions in 2000: United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

16. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/gender.html>
17. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries>
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 Profiles")
20. United Nations Development Programme. 1999. *Libya: Human Development Report*.
21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
22. [Cwr.utoronto.ca/cultural/english/libya/family.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/cultural/english/libya/family.html)
23. The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Statement by Dr. Salma Abdul Jabbar. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5stat/statments/libya9.htm>
24. Ibid.
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. (1999). *Libya: Human Development Report*.
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. 45.1% of married women used contraceptive methods in 1995: United Nations Development Programme (1999) *Libya: Human Development Report*.
29. If to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>
30. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8273.htm>
31. LIBYANA. www.libyana.org
32. Ibid.

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

3. International resolutions:

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

4. Legal system:

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