

Qatar



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 29 April, 2003. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: No.²
 - b) ILO Conventions:
 - i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.³
 - ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴
4. **Legal system:**
 - a. Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁵
 - iii) Judges? ndf.
 - iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

- b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁶
- c) Family law:
 - i) Uncodified, religious.⁷
 - ii) Recent changes? ndf.
5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes.⁸
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.⁹
 - iii) Number of women in parliament: []
 - iv) Women in the cabinet? The first woman cabinet minister, Sheikha bint Ahmed Al-Mahmud, was appointed as Minister for Education and Teaching in May 2003.¹⁰
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.
 - i) In which sectors? Police, health, and education (public school and university teachers).¹¹
 - ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹²
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs includes a Department for Women's Affairs.¹³
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? No.¹⁴
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? No.
 - c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? No.¹⁵
8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 83.1/80.4%.¹⁶
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 93/98%; secondary level: 90/68%; tertiary level: 39/14%.¹⁷
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 75% of primary school teachers and 57% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.¹⁸ There were around 50 women university lecturers for every 100 men (2000).¹⁹
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 41.0%.²⁰
 - b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? ndf.
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.
 - 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.²¹

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

- a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.3/68.7 years (2000).²²
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 10 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²³
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁴
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁶

d) Employment in the modern health sector: Of the 335 physicians employed in the government sector in 1999, 173 were female.²⁷

11. Culture:

- a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.²⁸
- b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. On April 29, 2003 a referendum took place in which Qataris approved a written constitution recognising a woman's right to vote and run for office: <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>
2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm#countries>
3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p. 194.
4. *ibid.*, p. 195.
5. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)
6. To obtain a driving license, a Qatari woman must prove that her daily life requires it, and that she has a male guardian's permission to drive. Although women are legally able to travel abroad alone, social pressure causes most to travel with male escorts: <http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>
7. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
8. <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>
9. Women have the right to vote and run as candidates for the Central Municipal Council. The first municipal elections in which women were allowed to vote and stand as candidates were in March 1999. None were elected: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/qatar/gender.html> & <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/010310/20001031044.html>
10. The appointment followed the April 2003 referendum (see footnote1). In November 2002, the Ruler gave his sister the rank of minister, as deputy chairman of the Higher Council for Family Affairs, but without joining the cabinet: <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>.
11. <http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>
12. In 1996, the Emir named a woman under-secretary of the Ministry of Education, the highest position ever held by a woman in the Qatari Government: <http://csmweb2.emcweb.com/durable/1999/03/12/text/p7s1.html>
13. The Department is divided into four sections, covering maternity and childhood, programmes, development and training for women: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)
14. <http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>
15. The government has not permitted the establishment of an independent women's rights organization. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA) is working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to set up a national strategy for women's advancement. The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a regional leader with regard to gender issues and has active women's sections with a wide range of activities, and with a particular focus on welfare. The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development has established a Family Development Centre, said to offer women counseling, protection, medical care, as well as skills development and training programmes: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/qatar/main.html>
16. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
17. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education*, ESCWA
20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. <http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>
22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
23. *Ibid.*
24. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)
25. If the mother's life is in danger or to preserve her health. Also in cases where the unborn child has medical problems (restricted): <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
26. http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/corporateinformation/publications/pdfs/haw_pdf/mutilation2.PDF
27. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).
28. In 1999 there were 10 Qatari women working in the press cf. 55 men: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).

Saudi Arabia



1. **Constitution?** Basic Law, March 1992. Affirms gender equality? No.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes, 7 September 2000.³
 - i) With reservations? Yes.⁴
 - b) ILO Conventions:
 - i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100), 1951: Yes.⁵
 - ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁶
4. **Legal system:**
 - a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? No.⁷
 - iii) Judges? No.⁸
 - iv) Number of women judges: None.

- c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? None.¹⁴
8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 66.9/83.1%.¹⁵
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 70/73%; secondary level: 62/70%; tertiary level: 22/17% (2000).¹⁶
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 54% of primary school teachers and 55% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.¹⁷
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 21.2%.¹⁸
 - 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.

- b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁹
- c) Family law:
 - i) Uncodified, religious.
 - ii) Recent change? ndf.
5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? No.¹⁰
 - [ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)?]
 - [iii) Percentage of women in parliament:]
 - [iv) Women in the cabinet:]
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹¹
 - i) In which sectors? Education, health care, and the civil service.¹²
 - ii) Heads of government departments? No.¹³
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues? ndf.
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? ndf.
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? 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): 73.0/ 70.5 years (2000).²¹
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 23 per 100,000 live births (1995).²²
 - b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? ndf.
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²³
- c) Female genital mutilation? Uncertain.²⁴
- d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.
11. **Culture:**
 - a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.
 - b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 26 addresses human rights and states, "The state protects human rights in accordance with the Islamic Shari'ah": <http://www.trybunal.gov.pl/constit/constitu/constit/sarabia/sarabi-e.ht> & <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sa00000.html>
2. <http://csf.colorado.edu/forums/femisa/2000/msg00133.html>
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>
4. Articles 9 (2) and 29: <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. p 195.
6. Ibid., p 195.
7. http://www.amanjordan.org/english/daily_news/wmview.php?ArtID=132
8. <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engMDE230132000>
9. Women may not drive motor vehicles and are restricted in their use of public facilities when men are present. Women must enter city buses by separate rear entrances and sit in specially designated sections. They risk arrest for riding in a vehicle driven by a male who is not an employee or a close male relative. They are not admitted to a hospital for medical treatment without the consent of a male relative. By law and custom, women may not undertake domestic or foreign travel alone. Recently the Government announced that women could obtain their own identity cards; however to receive a card required permission from their nearest male relatives. Identity cards are not mandatory for women, but in 1999 the Ministry of Interior announced plans to issue identity cards to women, a step toward giving women legal identities independent of men: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>
10. There is no parliament in Saudi Arabia. Two women are members of the Majlis Al-Shura, a 90 member national consultative council appointed by the King: Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of*

- Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.
11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
12. Ibid.
13. In the summer of 2000, a woman member of the ruling family was appointed assistant undersecretary for Education Affairs - the highest position ever held by a woman in the Saudi government. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
14. There are no women's rights groups in Saudi Arabia.
15. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
16. Women are excluded from studying engineering, journalism and architecture: <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).
17. Ibid.
18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
19. While *Shari'a* provides women with a basis to own and dispose of property, they are often constrained by legal and social barriers from asserting such rights: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>
20. Most women allow male relatives to control these businesses. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").
23. Only to save the life of the mother, or to preserve her health (restricted practice): <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
24. Some sources give evidence of FGM, eg. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>. No national reports or other documented evidence were found regarding the practice.