

Syria



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 13 March, 1973. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

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

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes, March 28, 2003.³
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? Yes.⁷
iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
iv) Number of women judges: 11% of all judges (1998).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? Personal Status Law of 1953 amended in 1975.¹²

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes, 1949 – 1953.¹³
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes, 1953.¹⁴
iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 10.4% (single 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 diplomatic corps, civil service, armed forces.¹⁸
ii) Heads of government departments? 11.1% of women in government occupied ministerial levels in 2000. There has been one woman ambassador.¹⁹
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Social and Work Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has a Gender and Development Unit.²⁰

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? The National Committee of Women's Affairs.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: 60.5/88.3%.²⁴

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 99/109%; secondary level 39/44%;²⁵ tertiary level: ndf.

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: In 1998, 57% of all teachers were women.²⁶ In 2000, 65% of primary school teachers and 47% of secondary school teachers were women.²⁷ In 1998, 19% of university professors were women.²⁸

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 28.6%.²⁹

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.³⁰
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.³¹
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: 9.3% in 1994.³²

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.4/70.0%.³³
ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 23.3 years (1994).³⁴
iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 110 per 100, 000 births (1985- 99).³⁵

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁶

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁷

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.

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

ENDNOTES

- Article 44, Article 45: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sy00000_.html
- A Syrian woman cannot grant her children Syrian nationality if she marries a foreigner even if they were born in Syria: <http://www.kamilat.org/DV/syria.htm>
- <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>
- No data found with regard to the articles containing reservations.
- 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.
- Ibid., p 195.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations. p 118.
- Ibid., p 118.
- Ibid., p 118.
- A husband may request that his wife's travel abroad be prohibited (see Section 2.d.). Women generally are barred from traveling abroad with their children unless they are able to prove that the father has granted permission for the children to travel: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/ris/hrrpt/2001/nea/8298.htm>
- <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
- <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
- 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.
- Ibid., p 194.
- United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- In the 1998 elections, 26 women were elected to the national parliament out of 250 total seats. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/syria/gender.html>
- Two women currently hold Cabinet positions, as Ministers of Culture and Social Affairs. (appointed in 2000): <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations. p 118.
- Ibid., p 118. Women comprise approximately one-fifth of all government workers, but most are employed in clerical and staff positions.

- United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).
- Ibid.
- <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/syrianap.htm>
- The General Union of Syrian Women, The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, The Syrian Family Planning Association, and The Syrian Women's League to Protect Childhood and Motherhood: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html>
- <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
- Ibid.
- <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/syria/gender.html>
- <http://genderstats.worldbank.org/genderRpt.asp?rpt=education&cty=SYR,Syrian%20Arab%20Republic&hm=home2>
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations. p 118.
- United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations.
- Ibid, p 106. Specific number not provided. "There is a marked discrepancy in the number of men who own businesses as opposed to women."
- Ibid., p 122.
- United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations. p 31.
- United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- In 1993, 49.2% of women residing in urban areas were using family planning methods and 27.4% in rural areas. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). *Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait*. New York: United Nations. p 89.
- Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

Tunisia



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: July 12, 1988. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? No.²
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes, September 20, 1985.³
 - i) 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? Yes.⁷
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

- iv) Number of women judges: 291 cf. 921 men (1998).⁹
 - b) Are there civil laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.
 - c) Family law:
 - i) Codified, religious-based with some exceptional features.¹⁰
 - ii) Recent changes? PSL amended in 1959, 1964, 1981, 1993.¹¹
5. **Political rights:**
- i) Right to vote? Yes, 1957-1959.¹²
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes, 1957-1959.¹³
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 11.5%.¹⁴
 - iv) Women in the cabinet: Yes. In 2000, 10% of women in government occupied ministerial levels.¹⁵

6. **The state:**
- a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service, public health, education and social services.¹⁶
 - ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁷
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues? Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the National Women and Development Commission, and the National Council of Women and the Family.¹⁸

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
- a) National Council of Women? The National Council of Women and the Family.¹⁹
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²⁰
 - c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²¹

8. **Education:**
- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 60.6/81.4%.²²
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 116/123%; secondary level: 73/72%, tertiary level: 17/18%.²³
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: ndf.

9. **The economy:**
- a) Female economic activity rate: 36.8%.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) Receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

- c) Percentage of female-headed households: 11% (1994).²⁷

10. **Health:**

- a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.4%/69.0 years.²⁸
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 25 years (1994).²⁹
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 70 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³⁰
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³¹

- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes.³²

- c) Female genital mutilation? No.

- d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1998, 35% of doctors, 45% of nurses, and 67-69% of pharmacists were women.³³

11. **Culture:**

- a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁴
- b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 6: egora. unimuenster.de/ifp/lehrende/smitten/bindata/tunesien_constitution.pdf
2. <http://www.tunisieinfo.com/documents/options/chapter3.html>
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/ratifica.htm>
4. Article 9, 15, 16, 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. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999) *Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait*.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid. Women constitute 60 percent of all judges in the capital and 24 percent of the nation's total jurists.
10. The Personal Status Law of 1956 prohibits polygyny and extra-judicial divorce, and gives decision about custody of children in divorce cases to judge: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
12. 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.
13. Ibid., p. 194.
14. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
15. Ibid.
16. Women constitute 37% of civil service employees, primarily at the middle or lower levels in the fields of health, education, and social affairs. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8303.htm>
17. Four women were made deputy governors in 2001 bringing the number to ten out of 24. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8303.htm>
18. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/tunisia/gender.html>
19. Ibid.
20. <http://www.un.org/esa/gopherdata/conf/fwcw/natrep/NatActPlans/tunisia.txt>
21. Eg The National Union of Tunisian Women (UNFT), L'Association Tunisienne des Femmes Democratres, the Center for Studies, Research, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF), Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR). <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/tunisia/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. Ibid.
25. 4,850 women owned private business companies. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). *Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait*.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
29. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). *Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait*.
30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. 65% in 1998. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). *Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait*.
32. Only during the first three months of pregnancy: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
33. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999) *Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait*.
34. The ratio of women to men journalists was 25:75% (in 1998), and 37% of all those working in radio and TV were women: ibid.