Synthesis of Quantitative Information About Gender Roles in Jordan

Compiled by the staff of the Gibran Chair, University of Maryland, 2018
Critical Issues in JORDAN

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Overview

Jordan is a middle-income country, but one of the smallest and poorest economies in the Middle East, with 14% of Jordanians living below the poverty line.¹

Adult literacy in Jordan is one of the highest in the region at 99%.²
The illiteracy rate among women (aged 15+) is 9.5% and for men, 3.4%.³

Jordan issued a family protection law against domestic violence law in August 2008.⁴

The civil service in Jordan is considered the main source of employment for most Jordanians.⁵

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² World Economic Forum (2016).
Timeline of progress of women’s issues in Jordan

- **1945**: Establishment of Jordanian Women's Union.
- **1946**: Women received right to vote and run as candidates in parliamentary elections.
- **1955**: Educated women granted suffrage.
- **1974**: Signed CEDAW.
- **1980**: First female candidate was elected to Lower House of Parliament. First woman appointed to the Upper House.
- **1992**: Jordan ratified the CEDAW.
- **1993**: Jordan amended the legal age of marriage to 18 years.
- **2003**: Jordan issues quota legislation through an amendment to the Electoral Law.
- **2007**: Jordan issues domestic violence law.
- **2008**: The Government of Jordan withdraws CEDAW reservation on article 15 (4) regarding freedom of movement.
- **2009**: The Ministry of Social Development created the Family Reconciliation Centre for victims of domestic violence.
- **2016**: Jordanian government votes to abolish Article 308 of the Penal Code. Parliament yet to approve repeal.
- **2017**: King Abdullah II ordered the establishment of a royal committee to reform the judiciary and review the entire Penal Code.

3 Jordan Times, "Will Jordan abolish a law that protects racists?", 2017.
Labor Force
Employment to population ratio, 15+, female (%) (modeled ILO estimate)

Source: The World Bank (2017)
Employment to population ratio, 15+, female (%) (national estimate)

Source: The World Bank (2017)
Unemployment Rate (population age 15+)

Women: 24.10%
Men: 13.30%

Youth Unemployment Rate (population age 15-24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of women in the workforce, by sector

- Ministry of Health: 58%
- National Library Department: 57%
- Ministry of Political Development: 53%
- Infrastructure and Communications: 23.8%
- Natural Resources: 18.9%
- Transportation Sector: 17.5%
- Religious and Islamic Affairs Sector: 7.6%

Source: Jordan Case Study (2012). UNDP.
In 2016, the percentage distribution of *Jordanian women* (aged 15 years and above) by occupation included:

- **1.5%** were *women legislators, senior officials and managers*.
- **62%** were *women professionals*.
- **11.9%** were *women technicians and associate professionals*.
- **8.4%** were *women in service and sales*.
- **0.5%** were *skilled agricultural and forestry and fishery workers*.
- **2.9%** were *women as craft and trade workers*.
- **0.1%** were *women plant and machine operator and assemblers*.

**Source:** Jordanian Woman Indicators Gender Perspective, (2016). Department of Statistics. State of Jordan.
Employed Population (Aged 15+) by Employment Status (%)

Women
- Employers 1.30%
- Self Employed 1.70%
- Unpaid Worker 0.20%
- Paid Employee 96.80%

Men
- Employers 4.90%
- Self Employed 9.20%
- Unpaid Worker 0.30%
- Paid Employee 85.60%
51.7%

Of women employees are in the civil service.

Estimated Earned Income, 2017
US Dollar

Political Participation

Women: 15.4%
Men: 84.6%

Health
Fertility Rates

Antenatal Care Coverage (At Least Four Visits)

Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Mortalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education
Literacy Rate

Year | Women | Men
--- | --- | ---
2006 | 85% | 95%
2010 | 89% | 95%
2016 | 97% | 99%

Literacy rate among the population aged 15 years and older

Source: UNESCO. (2017)
Literacy rate among the population aged 65 years and older

Source: UNESCO. (2017)
Net Enrollment in Primary Education

Net Enrollment in Secondary Education

Out of School Youth, 2016

- **Primary School Age**
  - Girls: 13%
  - Boys: 12%

- **Secondary School Age**
  - Girls: 16%
  - Boys: 26%

Early/Child Marriage
Amendments made to the Personal Status Law in 2001 raised the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, but the Chief Justice retains the discretion to permit the marriage of anyone who is at least 15 years old if it is deemed to be in his or her interest.¹

¹ Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (2010). Freedom House
Marriage Among Girls Aged 15-17

As Percentage of All Registered Marriages in 2012
Child marriage for girls aged 15 – 17, 2005-2013 (as a percentage of all registered marriages)

NB: The data for 2009 reflects an anomalous drop which is presumably due to administrative reasons.

Source: UNICEF (2014)
Source: UNICEF. (2014)

Early/Child Marriage

Age at marriage, women 2005-2012

Age at marriage, men 2005-2012
## Child marriages registered in Jordanian shari’a courts, by nationality, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Marriages at age 15-17</th>
<th>All registered marriages</th>
<th>Marriages age 15-17 as % of all marriages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordanian</td>
<td>8,402</td>
<td>66,184</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>2,173</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>2,936</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqi</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNICEF. (2014)
## Child marriages registered in Jordanian *shari’a* courts, 2005-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered marriages in Jordan (all ages)</th>
<th>Girls 15-17*</th>
<th>Girls 15-17 (as % of registered marriages)</th>
<th>Boys 15-17*</th>
<th>Boys 15-17 (as % of registered marriages)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>58,932</td>
<td>8,198</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>62,612</td>
<td>8,471</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>65,027</td>
<td>8,426</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>66,581</td>
<td>9,014</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>64,738</td>
<td>5,349</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>61,770</td>
<td>8,042</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>64,257</td>
<td>8,093</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>70,400</td>
<td>8,859</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>72,860</td>
<td>9,618</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Marriages cannot be registered with the *shari’a* courts in Jordan for persons below the age of 15.

NB – the number of all child marriages for each year is not the sum of girls’ marriages plus boys’, because this would result in double-counting the many cases in which a marriage involves two child spouses.

Source: UNICEF. (2014)
“Honor” Killings
In **2016**, over the course of **10 months** there were **26** “honor” killings.

In 7 cases the perpetrator was **not identified**. However, in cases where the perpetrator of the crime was identified:

- **8** were committed by their **husbands**
- **1** by her **father**
- **1** by her **son**
- **1** by her **uncle**
- **6** by their **brothers**
- **2** by other **relatives**

**Perpetrators of "Honor" Killings**

- **Husbands and Brothers** 74.0%
- **Other** 26.0%

Source: جماعة مهدي تضامن النساء الأردنى (Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI))
Article 308

What is Article 308?

Article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code allows rapists to be pardoned if they marry for at least three to five years. Often victims are encouraged to marry their rapists in order to save their honor and the honor of their family. However, this can put the victim at an even greater risk of abuse.

Progress:

On March 15th, 2017 Jordan’s Cabinet approved the recommendation to repeal the article. Many hailed the vote as a victory for the rights of women and children.

On August 1st, 2017 Parliament’s Lower House repealed Article 308.

Shelters

As of 2016, there were three organizations that house abused women and children in Jordan:

1. Jordanian Women’s Union Shelter
   - Opened in 1999
   - 20 women and children

2. Family Reconciliation Centre
   - Opened in 2007
   - 30-50 women
   - 36 children

3. FRC branch in Irbid
   - Opened in 2015
   - 80 women and children

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5 إجراءات مستعجلة لمنع و/أو الحد من جرائم قتل النساء والفتيات

إنشاء مرصد وطني لحالات قتل النساء والفتيات

تقديم الخدمات للناجيات من العنف وحمايتهم مع التركيز على النساء والفتيات اللاجئات

رفد المراكز الأمنية بالشرطة النسائية وبإعداد كافية وبناء قدراتهن في مجال العنف ضد النساء

تعديل التشريعات الجزائية

التركيز على مباركة الأشكال والأنماط الجديدة من العنف ضد النساء والفتيات

جمعية معهد تضامن النساء الأردني. (2016) / إنشاء مرصد وطني لحالات قتل النساء والفتيات ضرورة مثمرة لمنعها و/أو الحد منها: تضامن
التي تركوك أهلك: لأخوك وأختك
العمل مع الرجال والفتى لمنعها من العنف ضد المرأة

Source: جمعية معهد تضامن النساء الأردني (Sisterhood is Global Institute). (2016).
Thank you