# Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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# Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

## **Session One: Legislative Progress**

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#### Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity, and Decent Work

- Equal pay for equal work performed by men (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).
- Equal pay for work of equal value (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Iraq, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, Oman, Palestine).
- Sexual harassment in the workplace (The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Lebanon, and Egypt).
- No gender-specific restrictions on women's employment in terms of the jobs and night shifts (The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia).

- No general law or provision prohibiting indirect discrimination in any of the states (all Arab states).
- Special protection measures have been allocated for domestic work (The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, and Qatar).
- Domestic workers are granted some legal rights for protection against exploitation and abuse. However, they do not have the exact or similar work protection as formal workers (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, and Palestine).
- Domestic workers do not enjoy any legal rights for protection against exploitation and abuse (Lebanon, Egypt, Somalia, and Yemen).

- Sexual harassment is defined in legislations and prohibited by the Criminal Law or Labor Law (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Egypt).
- 7 Sexual harassment is not defined, but the Criminal Law or Labor Law has penalties that may provide some protection (Somalia, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar).

### Poverty Eradication, Social Protection, and Social Services

Healthcare Control of the Control of					Social Insurance	
National Strategies Adoption and Implementation		Unrestricted healthcare		8	Similar retirement age for women and men (Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).	
10	National strategies for sexual and reproductive health have been adopted, but these strategies only cover some aspects of sexual and reproductive health services. No (financial, human, and administrative) resources have been allocated in the budget for these strategies implementation (Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine,		A law(s) or regulation(s) is issued to ensure that all women and girls have access to maternal healthcare, regardless of family status and without permission from a third party (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Egypt).	2	Similar retirement age while preserving women's right to early retirement (Morocco and Kuwait).  Gender equality in the right to pension (Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt).	
	Qatar, and Egypt).		Abortion	7	Minimum retirement age for women (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, and Qatar).	
4	A national strategy or action plan is adopted including measures that ensure equal access to all sexual and reproductive health services. Adequate sums of the budget as well as human and administrative resources have been allocated for these strategies implementation (The United Arab Emirates and Iraq).  The strategy kicked off with the integration of comprehensive sexual health education in the national curriculum. However, said curriculum does not cover all the above-mentioned topics (Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, and Lebanon).		Abortion is criminalized with limited exceptions related to the mother or the child health (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).  Abortion is criminalized without any exceptions in Iraq.			

#### Poverty Eradication, Social Protection, and Social Services

- Ohildcare is provided, but it is not an inclusive and consistent service in the public and private sectors (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, and Egypt).
- 8 Childcare is not provided or supported by the State in the public and private sectors (Bahrain, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and Lebanon).
- Maternity leave under international standards (Iraq, Morocco, Somalia and Oman) (not provided since 2018).
- Paid maternity leave is granted for a shorter period than international standards (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Kuwait, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).
- No paid paternity leave is granted (Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).
- 6 Short paternity leave is provided (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, and Oman).

## Freedom from Violence, Stigma, and Stereotypes

Domestic Violence	Violence against Women			
Forms of Domestic Violence and Protection Mechanisms	Honor crimes	Rape Criminalization		
Over the past two years, two states; United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have adopted laws on domestic violence, bringing the total number of laws to eight (Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, Kuwait, and United Arab Emirates).	No provision allows for a reduced penalty in cases of women homicides, including the so-called "honor crimes" (United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Oman, Syria, and Lebanon).	Criminalization is based on disapproval and does not require proof of physical strength (United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Morocco, Qatar, and Palestine).  Criminalization is based on disapproval and requires proof of physical strength or penetration (Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, , Kuwait, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Oman, Lebanon, and Egypt).		
The definition includes all forms of physical, sexual, psychological/ emotional, and financial/ economic violence (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, and Lebanon).	Some provisions that allow for a reduced penalty in cases of women homicides have been abolished in Jordan and Palestine, but there are still some gaps.			
The Law clearly includes civil and criminal protection provisions, with legal consequences if violated (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, and Lebanon).	Cyber Violence	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)		
6 Marital rape perpetrators are sometimes prosecuted under the Law on rape or other laws (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco,	The Law addresses cyber violence against men and women (Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and Lebanon).	The Law criminalizes FGM (Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, Oman, and Egypt).		
Tunisia, and Lebanon).	3 Cyber violence against women and girls is criminalized (United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Egypt).	FGM is not covered in legislations (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, and Lebanon).		
		Age of Marriage		
		The age of marriage is set at 18 years with some exceptions (Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, and Lebanon).		
		The age of marriage is below 18 years (Lebanon, Sudan, Kuwait, Qatar, Yemen, and Bahrain).		

#### Participation, Accountability, and Gender-Responsive Institutions

- 10 states adopt some of these forms, but only 4 states achieve the minimum 30% or more (United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Somalia, and Sudan).
- 1 Protection from political violence (Tunisia).
- 6 indicators on obtaining identity card, applying for passport, concluding contracts, owning assets, registering companies, and taking legal actions in civil cases (all Arab states).
- Grants the right to extend citizenship to the children of women married to foreigners (Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, and Morocco).
- Only Iraq grants the right to extend citizenship to a foreign spouse.

- The Constitution guarantees gender equality (Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and Egypt).
- The Constitution guarantees gender equality in general (Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Yemen).
- There is no general law or provision prohibiting indirect discrimination in any state (all Arab states).

#### **Peaceful and Inclusive Communities**

	Internationa	National Level			
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		National Plans for Women, Peace, and Security (Resolution 1325)		Budgets for Gender-based Violence (GBV) Strategies	
13	Palestine, Tunisia, and Djibouti ratified the Convention without any reservations.  Ratified the Convention with some reservations (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, and Egypt).	10	Adopted national action plans on Resolution 1325 (Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Palestine, and Lebanon).	1	The United Arab Emirates is the only state that allocates a budget to implement gender-based violence (GBV) legislations.
17	Somalia and Sudan.  Not joining the optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (except for Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya).			5	Gender-responsive budgets are allocated, but they are not binding and do not impose any obligations on the government (Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco, and Bahrain).







