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The Short Unhappy Life Of The “Committee On Equality Of Opportunity For Women And Men” In Turkey

Policy aiming to address Turkey's real and persistent problem of gender inequality must be formulated in consultation with feminists. Unfortunately, there is ample reason to doubt that a government that refuses to name a problem can solve it, says Özlem Altıok.

On October 14, Anadolu Ajansi (AA), Turkey's official news agency, reported that “The Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men” (KEFEK) would be replaced with a “Committee on Family and Social Policies” as part of draft legislation to change parliamentary bylaws. A few weeks later - because their attention was focused at the time on another piece of draft legislation dubbed the “women's employment package” - feminists called on the government to halt any such change until they could comment.

Given Turkey's many pressing issues - including what Deniz Kandiyoti calls a tangled web of religion and politics that the ruling Justice and Development Party (JDP) helps to weave, and the unhappy marriage between democratizing reforms undertaken to facilitate Turkey's accession to the EU and the repression of political dissent - this issue may appear inconsequential. But what may seem like a simple change in name is important because it illustrates the fragility of the institutional mechanisms for protecting women's rights and ensuring gender equality in Turkey.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/The-short-unhappy-life-of-the-Committee-on-Equality-of-Opportunity-for-Women-and-Men-in-Turkey>

Syrian Women's Charter

In collaboration with a group of independent Syrian women representing all spectrums of Syrian society and Syrian Women Forum for Peace, on January 6, 2014, more than 60 Syrian women from a number of Syrian districts and governorates met in Damascus to discuss the role of women in peacemaking and develop priorities of Syrian women under the Geneva Conference 2.

The conferees confirmed that to succeed in reaching its goals, i.e. ending the armed conflict and reaching a political solution of the Syrian crisis, the Geneva Conference 2 needs to ensure the participation of real representatives for Syrian men and women inside Syria. They emphasized the representation of women in the negotiating process to be launched at the conference and that these representatives should have an active role through a real political course.

The conferees concluded that the Geneva Conference 2 is a peace agreement that requires serious action to take measures to prevent the supply of arms and militants and to stop exporting terrorism to Syria via neighboring countries. However, it may not prejudice Syrian political entity constituents, especially writing a new constitution or the formation of a body to do so, which is exclusively an absolute right of the Syrian people through persons they elect with their own free will.

They emphasized the need to develop special programs to return the displaced and internally displaced and to ensure the protection of their human rights, notably the right to active citizenship. Moreover, clear programs to lift the siege and to integrate women in the democratic process and reconstruction and a national program to collect illegal weapons of all parties and reintegrate insurgents into society should also be develop.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/syrian-womens-charter>

Iran: Student Held For Peaceful Activism

Banned student activist Maryam Shafi' Pour has been detained for over five months on charges apparently related to her peaceful political activism.

Student activist Maryam Shafi' Pour, who has been banned from pursuing higher education, has been detained since 27 July 2013. She spent over two months in solitary confinement in Section 209 of Tehran's Evin Prison, with no access to a lawyer, before she was transferred to the prison's general ward. She was a member of the women's committee of Mehdi Karroubi's presidential campaign for the 2009 elections.

Maryam Shafi' Pour's first court hearing on national security-related charges, including "spreading propaganda against the system" was held on 21 October 2013 in Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. It appears that the charges against her relate to her peaceful political activities. Her second court hearing, scheduled for 1 January 2014, was postponed due to the absence of the presiding judge. Maryam Shafi' Pour received a one-year suspended prison sentence from a Revolutionary Court in Qazvin, south-west of Tehran, in 2010 for "spreading propaganda against the system". If convicted on the new charges, she could have to serve her suspended sentence.

Maryam Shafi' Pour reportedly passed out in December after experiencing an irregular heartbeat, and was taken to the medical clinic in Evin Prison. Amnesty International understands that Maryam Shafi' Pour has been receiving medication for her irregular heartbeat in prison.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/Get-Involved/Urgent-Actions3/Iran-Student-held-for-peaceful-activism>

Morocco-Major reform to rape law thanks to women's movement strong advocacy



Following significant advocacy by WLP Morocco/ADFM and other Moroccan women's rights organizations, on January 8, 2014, the Moroccan Parliament finally adopted the draft law to amend article 475 of the Criminal /penal Code, which allowed rapists to escape prosecution if they married their victim. This article has mainly been used to justify the traditional practice of pressuring the victim to marry her rapist in the name of "preserving the honor of the girl's family." This new amendment removes the second paragraph of the article, lifting the immunity of the rapist and preventing him from marrying his victim. Momentum for the reform increased exponentially following then 2012 tragic death of 16-year-old Amina Filali –authorities believe she was either murdered by her rapists' family or committed suicide–after being forced to marry her rapist. The bill to amend Article 475 was proposed by the Socialist Group in the parliament.

The day before the Bill was to be debated in parliament, the Spring of Dignity Coalition, which includes ADFM, sent a letter to all members of parliament to stress the demands of the feminist movement concerning this amendment, urging for the movements' appeals to be considered during the Bill's deliberations. This long-overdue reform marks a significant step for the women of Morocco and a great achievement for the country's women's movement, including ADFM.

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_13/011314_morocco.htm

International coalition of women against the siege of Gaza



WOMEN'S CALL FROM GAZA

Help! Join us in Gaza on International Women's Day 2014!

We invite you to come on March 8th, International Women's Day, to see firsthand how the Israeli blockade is making life intolerable in the besieged Gaza Strip.

We, the Palestinian women of Gaza, are being forced into isolation by the Israeli policies of apartheid. We continue to live the terrible consequences of the 7-year-blockade and the ongoing occupation of the Gaza Strip. We call on you to stand in solidarity with us to end this unjust, inhumane, and illegal blockade.

As women, mothers, students and professionals, the siege continues to influence every aspect of our lives. The siege is a violation of:

Our right to life, as we continue to be potential targets of frequent Israeli attacks and aggressions, where we are unable to protect ourselves and our families from bombings by Israeli warplanes;

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_13/011314_gaza.htm

Syrian women refugees in Jordan, stage adaptation of the "Trojan Women"

Syria: The Trojan Women Theatre Project

What: The Trojan Women theatre project is purely humanitarian. We are putting on a series of drama workshops of Euripides' 415BC Play The Trojan Women with Syrian refugees, working towards staging a production of the play. We are casting amateur Syrian refugee actors and employing Syrian refugee crew where possible. Alongside this project and going into production this spring will be a film based on the play, a separate entity, which will cast participants from the workshops and the play alongside high profile professional Syrian, Palestinian and British actors and crew.

Euripides' The Trojan Women is set at the fall of Troy. It is about the fate of the defeated and exiled. Weapons may change but war is eternal and there are enormous parallels between the fate of refugees from Syria today and that of the women of Troy. The women of Syria have seen their homes destroyed and their families wounded and killed, raped and brutalized, and have been forced to flee into exile. Enormously powerful, The Trojan Women was written by Euripides in 415 BC as a reaction to the appalling behaviour of Athens when it took the island of Melos - the men were all killed and the women and children sold into slavery.

The documentary film maker Yasmin Fedaa is making a documentary on the workshops and performance process, including interviews with those involved. This will be shown everywhere from refugee camps to gala screenings and film festivals internationally.

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_13/011314_syrian.htm

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Iraq: Syrian women and girls struggle to survive in camps



A UNDP ORGANIZED THEATRE PERFORMANCE IN KAWRGOSK REFUGEE CAMP IN IRAQ RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. PHOTO: SARAH CHARDONNENS, UNDP IRAQ

When 20-year-old Zainab fled the ongoing fighting in Syria, she hoped to find safety in the Arbat refugee camp in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Though she may have escaped violence in her home country, she was unable to escape it at home. When her father forced her to marry an abusive husband, she fled once again in October 2013--this time to a women's shelter, where she attempted to commit suicide.

Zainab's story is not an uncommon one among the more than 210,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, where women and children make up a disproportionate number of the overall population--up to 80 percent in some camps according to UNHCR estimates.

Highlights

- Project: Enhancing the Protection of Vulnerable Women and Girls among Syrian Refugees from Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and Trafficking
- Budget: US\$ 900,000

Read more:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/successstories/alone-in-iraq--syrian-women-and-girls-struggle-to-survive-in-ref.html>

Saudia Arabia – Survey shows men blame women for rising cases of molestation

Survey Conducted by Riyadh-based King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue



A Saudi men believe women are to blame for the rising cases involving molestation of females on the grounds they are seduced by women's excessive make up.

The findings were included in a survey conducted by the Riyadh-based King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue and involved 992 males and females.

The survey, carried by Saudi newspapers, found that 86.5 per cent of the men polled believe that women's exaggeration in wearing make-up is the main cause of the rise in molestation cases in public places in the conservative Gulf Kingdom.

About 80 per cent of the total persons polled believe lack of deterrent penalties and the absence of specific anti-molestation laws are also to blame for the phenomenon.

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_06/010614_saudi.htm

Violence Against Female Journalists Increases

According to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), a major organization representing journalists from 134 countries, 108 reporters and journalists were killed in 2013 around the world. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) further pointed out Syria is the most dangerous area for journalists.

Violence against female journalists is also increasing. Six female journalists were killed, and many became victims of sexual violence and intimidation.

From a regional perspective, the Asia Pacific region is the most unsafe area for journalists, with 29 percent of the total deaths occurring in this region, and the Middle East and Arabia accounting for 27 percent. Syria was the most dangerous country with 15 journalists killed, followed by Iraq with 13 people killed. There were also several deaths in Pakistan, the Philippines, India, Egypt and Somalia.

Although the total number of journalists killed has dropped by 10 percent since 2012, the IFJ insists governments still needed to make far greater efforts "to prevent media workers from being killed".

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_06/010614_violence.htm

Special report: Lebanon launches new campaign to combat violence against refugee women

The number of refugees in Lebanon has now reached 25 per cent of the total population. 78 per cent of the ever-increasing number are Syrian refugees, who currently number around 824,000, are women and children. 79,000 refugees coming from Syria are still awaiting registration at the borders. According to a recent report from Human Rights Watch (HRW), the most vulnerable are "disproportionately affected by Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)". A growing attitude amongst female refugees to return to the war-torn country they only just fled has been detected, as rape and sexual harassment has made life in Lebanon unbearable. (Beirut, 4rd Dec, 2013)

In a comment to MEMO, UNHCR confirmed that they had recorded 500 cases of SGBV being reported, and

that this is only "the tip of the iceberg, due to the social stigma and personal security risks faced by women in a situation that is exacerbated by conflict, displacement, poor living conditions and other factors."

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/special-report-lebanon-launches-new-campaign-combat-violence-against-refugee-women>

GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

Egypt: detained female students subjected to pregnancy tests

The family of Amena Yaser, a 17 year old high school student, said Sunday that Amena and four other students detained with her since the December 17 protests in front of Al-Azhar University have been subjected to pregnancy tests at Naser City security directorate where they were being held in provisional custody. The girls were transferred to al-Qanater prison on Sunday.

Safeya Yaser, Amena's sister, said in a Facebook post that her sister underwent a pregnancy test in a bid to humiliate her and her fellow students. They were denied food and drink for an entire day, and the security officers threw away their clothes and other belongings on their way to prison.

Read more:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/africa/9188-egypt-detained-female-students-subjected-to-pregnancy-tests->

At Geneva II Talks In January, It Is Not Enough To 'Add Women And Stir'

The campaign to ensure women's equal participation at the peace talks on Syria in January has become more urgent, as certain parties recognize that women are vital in rebuilding and reconciling Syrian society. Yet only a few weeks before the talks are scheduled to start, no commitment has been made as to whether women will actually sit at the negotiating table between the Syrian government and the opposition.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations-Arab League special envoy on Syria, is responsible for preparing the so-called Geneva II peace talks and will be leading the discussions.

"The two sides will be asked to ensure that women are represented in their delegations," Khawla Mattar, the spokeswoman for Brahimi, wrote in an e-mail Dec. 23 regarding the peace talks.

Last week, Brahimi convened a series of sessions at the Palais des Nations, the UN's headquarters in Geneva, to further prepare for the conference, which begins Jan. 22 in Switzerland and is meant to end Syria's nearly three-year-old civil war. He met with Russian and American representatives and four neighbors of Syria — Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey — among others.

During the sessions, Brahimi spoke briefly at a forum on women's participation at the upcoming Geneva conference, but he left before the Syrian women's panelists spoke.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/At-Geneva-II-Talks-in-January-It-Is-Not-Enough-to-Add-Women-and-Stir>

Syria: Student Tal Al-Mallohi, Still Detained Despite Release Order

A court ordered the release of Syrian student blogger Tal al-Mallohi on 23 October, but instead she was transferred from prison into the custody of Syrian State Security in Damascus, where she is still believed to be held. She is being held incommunicado, putting her at risk of torture.

Three months after a court ordered the release of student blogger Tal al-Mallohi, she continues to be held by the Syrian security forces. Tal al-Mallohi was arrested on 27 December 2009, when she was 18 years old, by Syrian State Security agents, who had summoned her for questioning. After spending nine months detained incommunicado by State Security, she was sentenced to five years in prison on 14 February 2011 by the Supreme State Security Court (SSSC) after being convicted of disclosing secret information to a foreign country. Amnesty International believes that the SSSC, which was abolished in 2011, fell far short of international standards of fair trial and that Tal al-Mallohi's trial in particular was grossly unfair

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/Get-Involved/Urgent-Actions3/Syria-Student-Tal-al-Mallohi-still-detained-despite-release-order>

The Dire Situation of Ethiopian Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia



A recent crackdown on Ethiopian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia is the result of a pervasive legacy of discrimination against Ethiopian citizens in that country.

Early in 2013, Saudi authorities announced plans to purge alleged illegal migrants from the kingdom in order to reduce the 12 percent unemployment rate and create jobs for Saudi citizens. In July, King Abdullah set an extended deadline of November 4 for migrants to either obtain proper documentation for their employment status or leave the country.

However, before the expiry of this amnesty, which was linked to employment rules in a new law, Saudi police rounded up thousands of migrant workers, particularly Ethiopians, in Riyadh and Jeddah, where most reside. As documented by various media outlets, the Ethiopian workers faced beatings, torture, and other abuse, and related violence has left at least three people dead. There have also been reports of migrant women being gang raped by vigilantes and Saudi police, with Ethiopian women suffering most substantially.

Read more:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/blog/dire-situation-ethiopian-migrant-workers-saudi-arabia#.UtOqfqlDuO4>

Syria: Extremists Restricting Women's Rights

Certain extremist armed opposition groups are imposing strict and discriminatory rules on women and girls that have no basis in Syrian law, Human Rights Watch said today. The harsh rules that some groups are administering in areas under their control in northern and northeastern Syria violate women's and girls' human rights and limit their ability to carry out essential daily activities.

Human Rights Watch interviewed 43 refugees from Syria in Iraqi Kurdistan and conducted telephone interviews with two refugees from Syria in Turkey in November and December 2013. The refugees interviewed said that the extremist armed groups Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) have enforced their interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law, by requiring women and girls to wear headscarves (*hijabs*) and full-length robes (*abayas*), and threatening to punish those who do not comply. In some areas, the groups are imposing discriminatory measures prohibiting women and girls, particularly those who do not abide by the dress code, from moving freely in public, working, and attending school.

"Extremist groups like ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra are undermining the freedoms that Syria's women and girls enjoyed, which were a longtime strength of Syrian society," said Liesl Gertholtz, women's rights director at Human Rights Watch. "What kind of victory do these groups promise for women and girls who are watching their rights slip away."

The regulations imposed on women by Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS have a far-reaching impact on women's and girls' daily lives, affecting their ability to obtain education, provide for their families and even procure basic necessities crucial to survival.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Syria-Extremists-Restricting-Women-s-Rights>

RESOURCES & CALLS

BOOKS & REPORTS

New Paper Issued On Using Financial Data To Fight Human Trafficking

A new paper on how to recognise and fight human trafficking using financial data was issued on Friday by the Manhattan District Attorney, Thomson Reuters Foundation and some of the world's leading financial institutions, according to a statement by the group.

The document aims to provide guidance to financial institutions and law enforcement agencies in the United States and internationally on how to identify irregularities and suspicious financial transactions that might be indicators of human trafficking activity, the statement said.

“Prosecutors need every available tool in the fight against modern day slavery, and financial forensics are amongst the strongest in our arsenal,” Manhattan DA Cyrus R. Vance, Jr said. “Human trafficking, at its core, is a business. Like other businesses, it leaves a financial paper trail that can be tracked and used to identify trafficking networks.”

“With the help of banks and other financial institutions, my Office has been able to secure convictions against traffickers without having to rely solely on the testimony of victims who often suffer emotional, physical, or sexual abuse,” he added.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News2/New-paper-issued-on-using-financial-data-to-fight-human-trafficking>

A Short Guide to Understanding Female Genital Cutting

Female genital cutting (FGC) used to be an issue that only feminists and anthropologists discussed. Over the past decade, however, the issue has been rising in the global agenda. Just this past month, a new Kurdistan film on FGC made waves in the international media, a podcast about the issue was broadcast by *the Guardian*, and UNICEF held a global conference dedicated to ending the practice. Even

with increased publicity around the issue, many global audiences do not yet understand the complexities behind FGC, and effective approaches to change the practice. Below, Dalberg Dakar's Tania Beard presents an overview of FGC, with a focus on the situation in Senegal.

Female genital cutting, also known as female genital mutilation, is the partial or total removal of a girl's external genitalia, often with a rudimentary blade. FGC is believed to have originated in Eastern Nubia, today's Egypt and Sudan. According to some accounts, the practice began with Egyptian pharaohs, who cut the women in their harem to ensure fidelity. This practice became associated with high status, and filtered down through all levels of society as girls were cut in the hope of moving up the social strata.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/short-guide-understanding-female-genital-cutting-2>

The pride of working women

A new ILO study examines the constraints on working women in Algeria and the opportunities available to them.

ALGIERS (ILO News) – “I am proud of my work, but the men say that we have taken their jobs. Our society is unyielding.”

This statement by a 42 year old Algerian woman from Tissemsilt shows that the employment of women is still a matter for debate in Algeria – as in numerous other countries.

Despite the considerable advances seen in the Algerian political sphere, where women constitute over 31 per cent of the deputies to the National Assembly (*), their economic participation remains very low.

In 2011, with a proportion of 17.7 per cent of women in the workforce, Algeria – alongside Iraq and Syria – was among the countries with the lowest level of female economic participation in the world – according to an ILO study pending publication (**). Women are, nevertheless, gradually beginning to enter the workforce. According to the National

Statistical Office of Algeria, by 2013 the female labour force participation rate had risen to 19 per cent.

“Invisible” home-based activities

According to the ILO study, the female labour force participation rate is held back by a multitude of complex, notably sociocultural, factors.

Parts of the population do not consider that women who perform unpaid home-based activities in such areas as the agricultural, livestock, textile and clothing sectors are really part of the labour force.

Read more:

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_234011/lang-en/index.htm

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women is accepting applications for its 18th grant cycle (2013) from civil society organizations and networks — including non-governmental, women’s and community based organizations and coalitions, and operational research institutions — government authorities, and UN Country Teams (in partnership with governments and civil society organizations).

Applicants are invited to submit grant proposals for a minimum of US\$50,000 up to a maximum of US\$1 million for a period of two to three years. The application deadline is 22 January 2014.

The complete Call for Proposals detailing criteria, eligibility requirements and application guidelines is available via the UN Women website.

Read more:

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/>

For a direct link to the call for proposal:

https://grants.unwomen.org/stock/templates/2013/UNTFEVAW_2013_Call4Proposals_en.pdf

Getting serious about data on women

Unprecedented access to data and information has been a tremendous boon to those who care about the

situation of women worldwide. Valerie Hudson argues that it's now time to address the gaps in the "data" and to be smarter about collecting, compiling and using data concerning women.

We live in an age of unprecedented access to data and information. For those who care about the situation of women worldwide, this has been a tremendous boon. A wide variety of sources can be tapped to learn about the challenges women face, from the UN’s Wistat, the World Bank’s GenderStats, the World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Report, and many others, as well as a plethora of indices such as UNDP’s Gender Inequality Index, the OECD’s SIGI index, and the WomanStats PSOW scale, to list but just a few.

In addition to these more traditional data efforts, we also now have the capability to crowdsource data on what is happening with women in real time. For example, HarassMap in Egypt and the Women Under Siege project receive, report, and map incidents of assault and rape as they occur. The Polaris Project tracks calls and emails to the trafficking hotline in the US, and is capable of generating data in real time, as well. Google has stepped in to help anti-trafficking organizations share and visualize the data they collect.

In fact, there’s so much information that it is time to recognize that there are problems to address. It’s time to be smarter about collecting, compiling, and using data concerning women.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Getting-serious-about-data-on-women>

Religion and muslim women: trajectories of empowerment

The report is based on a two year research project in which the authors looked at women’s everyday engagement with religion. They aimed to gain insights into how women conceptualize religion, the norms and concepts through which they understand what it means to be religious and the manner in which these concepts and ideals are brought to bear on the construction of the feminine self. From the research findings they argue that

women have moved towards a textually based learning and interpretation of Islam, as opposed to engaging with Islam as a form of knowledge passed down from earlier generations. They also found that, in line with the need to “authenticate” beliefs, women express much respect for taleem ? spaces where women congregate to learn about the Quran and other exegetical material as well as ideal Islamic comportment.

Read more:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender&id=66772&type=Document#.UtOxcKlDuO4>

For a direct link to report:

http://www.pathways-of-empowerment.org/Religion_and_Muslim_Women_BDI2.pdf

Statistical abstract of the arab issue No.33

The statistical abstract of the arab region presents time series statistics and indicators on core areas of economic and social development in ESCWA member countries. This issue consists of twelve chapters, each focusing on one of the following topics: population, labour force, education and illiteracy, health, gender equality, air, pollution, energy, national accounts, industry, foreign trade, financial statistics and prices, and information and communications technology. Facts and figures of the statistical abstract were drawn primarily from national statistical sources in arab countries, responses to questionnaire prepared by ESCWA and data issued by international organizations, mainly by specialized United Nations entities.

Read more:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=1514>

For a direct link to report:

http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_SD_13_12.pdf

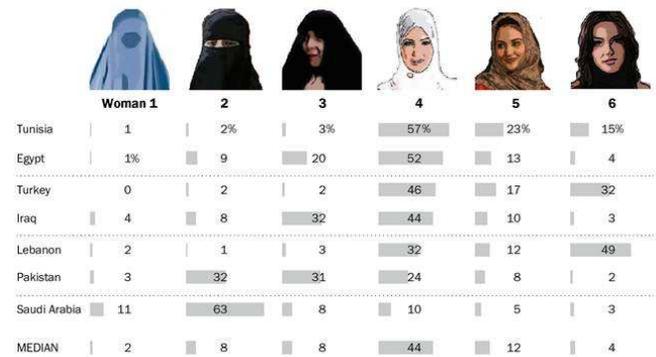
How people in muslim countries prefer women to dress in public

Pew Research Center: Even as publics in many of the surveyed countries express a clear preference for women to dress conservatively, many also say women should be able to decide for themselves what to wear. This attitude is most prevalent in Tunisia (56%), Turkey (52%) and Lebanon (49%)

An important issue in the Muslim world is how women should dress in public. A recent survey from the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research conducted in seven Muslim-majority countries (Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey), finds that most people prefer that a woman completely cover her hair, but not necessarily her face. Only in Turkey and Lebanon do more than one-in-four think it is appropriate for a woman to not cover her head at all in public.

What Style of Dress is Appropriate for Women in Public?

% who say woman is dressed most appropriately



Source: The Birthplace Of The Arab Spring: Values And Perceptions Of The Tunisian Public In A Comparative Perspective. From The Middle Eastern Values Study, University of Michigan Population Studies Center.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The survey treated the question of women’s dress as a visual preference. Each respondent was given a card depicting six styles of women’s headdress and asked to choose the woman most appropriately outfitted for a public place. Although no labels were included on the card, the styles ranged from a fully-hooded burqa (woman #1) and niqab (#2) to the less conservative hijab (women #4 and #5). There was also the option of a woman wearing no head covering of any type.

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/01_14/01_06/010614_how.htm

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