



**The Middle East & North Africa  
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The MENA Gender and Development eBrief receives material from various sources for its publication. Should you wish to refer to these sources/ sites directly, the list includes publications from: AVIVA, [www.aviva.org](http://www.aviva.org), AWID: [www.awid.org](http://www.awid.org), Democracy Digest: [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org), Development Gateway: [www.developmentgateway.org](http://www.developmentgateway.org), Dignity: [www.dignity.org](http://www.dignity.org), e-Civics: [www.civics.org](http://www.civics.org), Eldis: [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org), ESCWA: [www.escwa.org.lb](http://www.escwa.org.lb), GDB: [www.developmentex.com](http://www.developmentex.com), Global Knowledge Partnership: [www.globalknowledge.org](http://www.globalknowledge.org), IGTV: [www.IGTV.org](http://www.IGTV.org), ILO: [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org) One World: [www.oneworld.net](http://www.oneworld.net), Siyanda: [www.siyanda.org](http://www.siyanda.org), The Daily Star: [www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb), The Drum Beat: [www.comminit.com](http://www.comminit.com), The Soul Beat: [www.comminit.com](http://www.comminit.com), The World Bank: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), UNDP: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org), Wicejilist: [www.wicej.addr.com](http://www.wicej.addr.com), WLP: [www.learningpartnership.org](http://www.learningpartnership.org); WIDE: [www.wide-network.org](http://www.wide-network.org); IRIN News: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), Women's UN Report Network: [www.wunrn.com](http://www.wunrn.com), Women Living Under Muslim Laws: [www.wluml.org](http://www.wluml.org)

## NEWS & ARTICLES

### GENDER ACTIVISM

#### Iranian Women's Rights Activists Stop the Registration of Anti-Women Tradition As 'National Heritage'

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, more than three hundred human rights and women's rights activists published a statement in objection to the request of our provinces in Iran for registration of an intra-tribal tradition called "cease-blood"<sup>1</sup> to be placed on the National Iranian Heritage list. Those who objected regarded the request to be against the Human Rights Code and called the action anti-feminist.

In part of the statement they articulate:

"If only the councilors of The National Heritage Institute could have listened to the heartbreaking stories of these women who were the victims of conflicts among men. There exists a common proverb used in situations where a woman faces the unkindness and brutality of her husband's family "Am I an exchange for blood?" and for a woman whose blood has literally been exchanged for the lives of the other party, it is quite predictable what a miserable life she will experience. Cases of depression, running away, self-immolation and suicide is high among these women. Are the authorities aware of the consequences of such an endorsement in the community? Is it not true that in Islam treating women as commodities in marriage is prohibited by law and that a marriage against the will of the woman is to be annulled?"

The signatories close their statement by declaring a plea for the prevention of the addition of this inhumane tradition to The National Heritage List. They ask the authorities to collect the necessary data and to study the prevalence and consequences of these kinds of marriages. In addition they ask that the necessary conditions are established in order to prevent similar cases from occurring, and to further support the divorce requests and grievances from women who are involved in such situations." To read more of the article <http://www.wluml.org/news/iran-iranian-womens-rights-activists-stop-registration-anti-women-tradition-national-heritage>

#### Women on Waves Boat Makes First Trip to a Muslim Country , Morocco

A Dutch "abortion boat" has set sail for Morocco, its first trip to a Muslim country, to provide abortions to women who are exposed to grave health risks if treated domestically, its organiser said on Monday.



(Photo: Keith Binns/Stock)

“The ship is on its way. We can’t yet disclose the place and time of arrival... We expect it to stay for up to a week.” Rebecca Gomperts, the founder of the Dutch non-profit organisation Women on Waves, told AFP by phone.

The group says that, according to figures published by the Moroccan government, between 600 and 800 abortions take place every day in the north African kingdom, where the procedure is illegal and taboo.

“The problem is that only about 200 cases are done properly, by women who have money,” the Dutch abortion doctor said, with the rest resorting to dangerous methods because they are unable to afford the expensive treatment.

This leads to the deaths of 78 Moroccan women each year on average, Gomperts claimed, citing statistics provided by the World Health Organisation.

The Dutch organisation says it was “invited” to Morocco by local youth group the Alternative Movement for Individual Liberties (MALI), to raise support for the legalisation of abortion in the country.

The authorities’ response to the initiative remains unknown, with local daily Al-Tajdid, the mouthpiece of Morocco’s ruling Islamist party, questioning on Monday whether the government would allow the ship to enter Moroccan waters.

Gomperts admitted that Rabat’s reaction was “hard to predict,” but she argued that any attempt to block the visit would be an “illegal” intervention in the freedom of travel and the freedom of expression.

She denied it was an inappropriate time for the visit, despite religious sensitivities running high in Muslim countries after violent protests last month against a US-made anti-Islam film and the publication of blasphemous cartoons in France.

“I understand that (the visit) is seen as a provocation by some religious groups. But this is about women’s health. It has nothing to do with religion.”

Over the past 11 years, a Woman on Waves ship has visited Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain, sparking protests in each country from pro-life groups. To read more about the story follow the link [http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/dutch-abortion-ship-heads-for-morocco-1.1393887#.UIWSVW\\_A\\_p-](http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/dutch-abortion-ship-heads-for-morocco-1.1393887#.UIWSVW_A_p-)



## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### Syrian Refugee Women - High Risk of Violence in Lebanon

Syrian women and girls coming to Lebanon are at increased risk of multiple forms of violence due to generalized insecurity and limited access to support. IRC’s rapid GBV assessment highlighted the myriad and severe protection issues women and girls faced before leaving Syria, and since arriving in Lebanon.

General Protection Concerns:

- Many newly arrived women and girls are living in unplanned and overcrowded refugee settlements, with minimal privacy and compromised safety, particularly among those refugee populations inhabiting abandoned public buildings.
- Minimal coordination and lack of adherence to international standards of humanitarian assistance have hindered women’s



and girls' ability to access services. Discrimination and mistreatment are key barriers to accessing services.

Gender-based Violence:

▫ Rape and sexual violence were identified by focus groups and key informants alike as the most extensive form of violence faced by women and girls while in Syria. Women reported that acts of sexual violence were frequently perpetrated within homes, and coupled with other forms of physical assault, torture, kidnapping, and sometimes murder, and often in the presence of male family members.

▫ Intimate partner violence (IPV), early marriage and survival sex were identified by adult women and adolescent girls as other forms of violence currently experienced by women and girls since arriving in Lebanon. Adult female participants in several focus groups reported that IPV has increased since their arrival in Lebanon, while adolescent girls stated that early marriages have increased, most frequently framed as efforts by families to “protect” girls from being raped, or to ensure that they are “under the protection of a man.” To read the report, follow the link

<http://abaadmena.org/userfiles/file/Lebanon%20WPE%20Assessment.pdf>

### **... and Refugees suffer from critical lack of women's health care**

A woman muttered her helplessness as a pregnant refugee living in Baalbek after fleeing her home in Syria. “I am pregnant ... and was told the pregnancy is difficult and I should rest,” the woman told a focus group of fellow Syrian women living in the Bekaa Valley.

She then held up her arms to expose the fissures in her skin, proof that rest from her stress and poverty were easier said than done.

She was one of 452 Syrian women living in north Lebanon and the Bekaa who participated in an assessment of women's health among Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The survey was a joint project from the



Yale School of Public Health and the United Nations Population Fund, which has yet to officially released the report. Beirut-based Dr. Jinan Usta and Yale master's student Amelia Reese Masterson authored and led the survey.

The final draft of the report showed women refugees in the country who fled the Syrian crisis suffer from a striking lack of access to women's medical care, such as gynecologists, treatment during pregnancy and delivery, and psychological services.

Now in its 19th month, the war in Syria has sent hundreds of thousands of Syrians across the border into Lebanon. The number of registered refugees stands at more than 100,000, according to U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. But that number represents only a portion of the total, many of whom fear giving their names to official registries.

The report showed a lack of access to and knowledge about women's health care options in Lebanon has led to reproductive health and pregnancy complications in hundreds of Syrian women refugees.

Women who responded to the rapid assessment, carried out from June through August, also reported a high level of domestic violence.

Home births, anemia and genital infections resulting from poor living conditions and limited access to women's health care are reportedly high among Syrian women refugees in the

country. Almost a quarter, 24 percent, of respondents who had given birth in Lebanon did so at home. Of the women pregnant at the time of the survey, 40 percent of them experienced complications from the pregnancy, including anemia, severe abdominal pain and bleeding, the report said. Anemia, an iron deficiency that afflicts women with greater frequency than men, was a significant health concern among all Syrian women - pregnant or not. Twenty-seven percent of total respondents reported they had anemia, and 26 percent of pregnant respondents said they had anemia. "The conditions in which women live in Lebanon are often not amenable to maintaining healthy pregnancies," the report said of women Syrian refugees, specifically. "Food insecurity likely contributes to the anemia present in many pregnant women. Additionally, stress and lack of rest can contribute to pregnancy complications." To Read more: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2012/Oct-29/193026-refugees-suffer-from-critical-lack-of-womens-health-care-report.ashx#ixzz2Ahp66gVe>

### **Algeria TV boss convicted for sexual harassment**

An Algiers court on Sunday handed down a six-month suspended jail sentence and fined a 76-year-old head of a state television station accused of sexually harassing three women journalists. Said Lamarni, who has been dismissed as director general of the Berber TV4 channel, was ordered to pay a 200 000-dinar (2000 euro) fine, said an AFP reporter at the court.

The prosecution had urged the court to jail Lamarni for one year in a case that sparked outrage in Algeria, where critics say verdicts in cases of sexual harassment are not implemented.

Dozens of people, especially human rights activists, were present in court in support of the journalists who broke out in tears when the verdict was read.

Lamarni, who was not present for the verdict, has denied any wrongdoing.

Defence attorney Meslem Mounia hailed the verdict as the "first of its kind in Algeria."

"The verdict renders justice to women who are victims of harassment," Mounia said. "Now harassment is no longer a taboo and victims can go to court and seek justice." To read more [http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/algeria-tv-boss-convicted-for-sexual-harassment-1.1402479#.UIVzF2\\_A\\_p9](http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/algeria-tv-boss-convicted-for-sexual-harassment-1.1402479#.UIVzF2_A_p9)



### **Child Marriage on Rise Due to Hunger in Niger**

Each day before the reaping, the 11-year-old girl walked between the stunted stalks of millet with a sense of mounting dread. In a normal year, the green shoots vaulted out of the ground and rose as high as 13 feet (4 meters), a wall tall enough to conceal an adult man. This time, they only reached her waist. Even the tallest plant in her family's plot barely grazed her shoulder. Zali could feel the tug of the invisible thread tying her fate to that of the land. As the world closed in around her, she knew that this time the bad harvest would mean more than just hunger.

In Hawkantaki, it is the rhythm of the land that shapes the cycle of life, including the time of marriage. The size of the harvest determines not only if a father can feed his family, but also if he can afford to keep his daughter under his roof.

Even at the best of times, one out of every three girls in Niger marries before her 15th birthday, a rate of child marriage among the highest in the world, according to a UNICEF survey.

Now this custom is being layered on top of a crisis. At times of severe drought, parents pushed to the wall by poverty and hunger are marrying their daughters at even younger ages. A girl married off is



one less mouth to feed, and the dowry money she brings in goes to feed others. "Families are using child marriage, as an alternative, as a survival strategy to the food insecurity," says Djanabou Mahonde, UNICEF's chief child protection officer in Niger.

This drought-prone country of 16 million is so short on food that it is ranked dead last by international aid organization Save the Children in the percentage of children receiving a "minimum acceptable diet." The consequences are dire. A total of 51 percent of children in Niger are stunted, according to a report published in July by Save the Children. The average height of a 2½-year-old girl born here is around 3 inches (8 centimeters) shorter than what it should be for a child that age. In the tiny village of Hawkantaki, nearly every household has lost at least one child to hunger or the illnesses that come from it. Their miniature graves dot the hamlet. Nana Abdou's 1-year-old brother, who died of hunger last year, is buried in a corner of the animal pen. Soon after his death last year, her family accepted the dowry. Twelve-year-old Nana is engaged to be married before the end of the year.

"Our problems started a long time ago, but every year it's gotten worse," she says. "The fathers are marrying off their daughters to reduce their overhead... He's obliged to if he wants to reduce the number of children he has to feed." To read more <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/10440697>

### **Woman Allegedly Raped By Police, Accused of "Indecency" in Tunisia...**

Tunisian civil society is rallying in support of a young woman who was raped by police officers in what they say is part of a broader assault on women's rights by religious conservatives. There is widespread outrage after 27-year-old victim was summoned by the investigating judge on Wednesday to face charges of "indecent" from the two men accused of raping her, in what many argue is an attempt by the authorities to intimidate her. Leading human rights, feminist groups and other prominent



members of civil society have formed a committee evening to co-ordinate a campaign in support of the woman, including the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women and the

Tunisian League of Human Rights. Faïza Skandrani, the head of the Equality and Parity organisation, told Al Jazeera that the case was an important one for two reasons: it marked the first time a woman allegedly raped by the police had taken the case to court, and it was the first time the authorities were trying to publicly shame a woman into dropping such charges.

"The investigating judge is turning her from the victim to the accused, to help the police officers get away with it," she said. "I've heard about similar cases in Pakistan, but this is a first in Tunisia. Next they will be charging her with prostitution."

Activists are planning a protest outside the courthouse in Tunis, when the police are due to appear on rape charges. A Facebook page supporting the protest called on Tunisian couples to bring signs saying "We love each other: Rape us!" More than 1,200 people had confirmed that they would be attending at the time of writing.

There are also calls for a nationwide "Women's strike" in the public sector on Tuesday.

Many Tunisians expressed their solidarity with the woman online, writing "Rape her then judge her" on the ministry's Facebook page. The messages had been deleted at the time of writing. The outrage is not only directed at the ruling coalition. The interior ministry is seen by many Tunisians as a relic of Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali's oppressive rule and many bureaucrats from the old regime have managed to hold on to influential posts.

Since Ben Ali's ouster in January 2011, there has been little progress made in reforming the security forces, or to investigate many allegations of torture, rape and other human rights abuses. There have been many reports of police bullying ordinary citizens, including reports of them accusing women of prostitution in an attempt to solicit money.

Khaled Tarrouche, a spokesperson for the interior ministry, told the AFP news agency that the ministry "had nothing to do with" the proceedings against the young woman, emphasising that the decision to summon her was taken by the magistrate.

"In this case, we acted as was required of us. What had to be done was done, and the three police agents were arrested straight away," he said, insisting that cases of police assaulting women were "isolated". "We shouldn't read into this anything organised, or generalised," he added. "The police are also citizens first and foremost, and when they commit crimes, the law is applied unequivocally." To read more follow the link

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/09/201292745427434390.html>

### ... Public Support & President Apology for Alleged Police-Raped Victim

The woman allegedly raped by police in Tunisia has been questioned by a judge who will decide whether to prosecute her for "indecent" with her fiancé. Outside the courthouse in Tunis, hundreds of people voiced support for the 27-year-old woman, whose case has been headline news in Tunisia. Her supporters say the "indecent" claims are aimed at persuading her to drop her accusation against the police. Some fear the ruling Islamist Ennahda party wants to weaken women's rights. The accused woman, who covered her face as she left the courthouse, said three policemen had stopped her on 3 September while she was in a car with her fiancé, and two of them went on to rape her. The policemen deny that, saying she was engaged in immoral behaviour with her fiancé. The policemen, awaiting trial, face heavy jail terms or even a death sentence if found guilty. The woman's fiancé has been accused of indecent, like her, and he too



covered his face to conceal his identity. A verdict of immoral behaviour can mean up to six months in prison. Ahlem Belhadj, a lawyer representing the woman, told AFP news agency that "it is a case that shames Tunisia". "Within our culture, even in the legal system, there is a tendency to hold the victims responsible for their rape," said Ms Belhadj, who is also president of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women.

She said the woman was in a "very fragile" psychological state, but remained determined to fight. Correspondents say women's rights are now a matter of national debate as the Ennahda-led government revises the old constitution, which was tainted by decades of authoritarian rule. Despite the harsh rule of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, ousted in an uprising last year, Tunisia was widely seen as enlightened on women's rights, compared with many other Arab countries. To know more about the story, follow the link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19802600>

### **Maronite clergy unleashes unprecedented public attack on what they refer to as "the gender concept"**

We have followed with great interest the proceedings of the meeting convened by the Maronite clergy to discuss the imminent dangers caused by what they refer to as "the gender concept". The convenors warned against the perpetrators of such concept which is likely to "break families and stir people away from all that are natural".

Whilst this seems to be in total harmony with the wave of increased conservatism, anti-women mindsets and blatant intolerance vis-a-vis any form of diversity exhibited both in the Arab region as well as globally, we nevertheless raise the question as to why the clergy should feel threatened or even worried by universal principle of human rights such as the

indivisibility, undeniability and universality of rights. The meeting seems to warn against the fundamental and universal principle of equality amongst women and men. Amidst these increasing waves of conservatism and fundamentalism and given the threat that social change causes to conservative institutions, we call on human and women rights defenders to stand up to conservatism and rigid and intolerant beliefs, uphold the universality and indivisibility of rights and ascertain that, as proven the world over, there is no social justice without gender equality. More Information about this meeting is available through this link <http://www.elnashra.com/news/show/537174/-المطران-مطر-القيم-التي-تزوج-لها-نظرة-الجنس-تؤدي>



### **Ikea deleted women from Saudi version of catalogue**

Ikea is being criticized for deleting images of women from the Saudi version of its furniture catalogue, a move the company says it regrets. Comparing the Swedish and Saudi versions of the catalogue, free newspaper Metro on Monday showed that women had been airbrushed out of otherwise identical pictures showcasing the company's home furnishings. The report raised questions in Sweden about Ikea's commitment to gender equality, and the company released a statement expressing "regret" over the issue. "We should have reacted and realized that excluding women from the Saudi Arabian version of the catalogue is in conflict with the IKEA Group values," the company said. Women appear only infrequently in Saudi-run advertising, mostly on Saudi-owned TV channels that show women





in long dresses, scarves covering their hair and long sleeves. In imported magazines, censors black out many parts of a woman's body including arms, legs and chest. When Starbucks opened its coffee shops in the conservative, Muslim kingdom, it removed the alluring, long-haired woman from its logo, keeping only her crown. Ikea's Saudi catalogue, which is also available online, looks the same as other editions of the publication, except for the absence of women. One picture shows a family apparently getting ready for bed, with a young boy brushing his teeth in the bathroom. However, a pajama-clad woman standing next to the boy is missing from the Saudi version. Another picture of a five women dining has been removed altogether in the Saudi edition. Swedish equality minister Nyamko Sabuni noted that Ikea is a private company that makes its own decisions, but added that it also projects an image of Sweden around the world. "For Ikea to remove an important part of Sweden's image and an important part of its values in a country that more than any other needs to know about about Ikea's principles and values - that's completely wrong," Sabuni told The Associated Press. Ikea Group, one of the many branches in the company's complicated corporate structure, said it had produced the catalogue for a Saudi franchisee outside the group. "We are now reviewing our routines to safeguard a correct content presentation from a values point-of-view in the different versions of the IKEA Catalogue worldwide," it said.

Read more: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-01/189780-ikea-deleted-women-from-saudi-version-of-catalogue.ashx#ixzz2AiDWA8Yz>

### **Women lose out on affordable housing in Gulf countries**

Gulf Council Cooperation (GCC) governments are meeting the challenge of providing *affordable housing* for low- and average-income nationals through some bold initiatives and strategies. But women still face discrimination under most GCC regulations for getting land, housing or interest-free construction loans.

Although international conventions recognize the right of all human beings to equal access to land and housing, including women and those living in poverty, women in the GCC countries still face legal and social discrimination in their access to housing, as they are not granted the same rights as men to the affordable housing services provided by their governments. Gender discrepancies are emanating from the patriarchal system favoring men over women and giving priority to adult males in housing distribution.



Some GCC governments have acknowledged the problem and issued new legislative and administrative reforms to improve the access of poor, divorced and widowed women to affordable housing, but these measures don't go far enough.

The Bahrain Ministry of Housing does not grant women the same rights as men for getting housing units or receiving loans to purchase housing. Bahraini women are granted houses from the government only if they are widowed or divorced with custody of their children. New amendments in 2004 to the Housing Law granted housing services for working women with stable incomes supporting their family and with no real estate. However, this only partially benefits women as they still need their husbands' permission to request assistance to own a housing unit, which they may not be entitled to in the case of divorce.

The Kuwaiti Housing Law excludes Kuwaiti women, whether single or married, from taking advantage of the government's low-interest housing-loan policy, which is usually provided to Kuwaiti men who are heads of families.

Divorced or widowed women from low-income groups suffer the most as they lose their claim to homes purchased initially through this program even if they made previous payments on the loan. Exceptionally, divorced women with children can claim a rent allowance if they do not remarry and have no financial support. A Kuwaiti woman married to a non-citizen cannot by law qualify for a government housing loan program.

The Kuwaiti government has recently made some serious efforts to provide housing services for Kuwaiti women, especially divorcees, widows, those married to non-Kuwaitis and unmarried women who have lost both parents. An agreement was reached in August 2010 between the Cabinet and Parliament's Women's Affairs Committee to establish a fund of almost \$ 1.8 billion for women's housing. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare issued a new regulation in July 2011 giving eligible women access to a residential loan of \$ 250,000, increasing the demand for condominium apartments throughout the country. The Kuwaiti government has constructed special apartment buildings for divorced women and childless couples but this has led to their social isolation and marginalization.

Under the old Omani Housing Law, all workingmen over 25 were granted land to build private housing using a low-interest mortgage. Exceptionally, divorced women would get a free tract of land. To ensure gender equality between its citizens, Oman amended its land law in November 2008 by granting Omani men and women equal rights to own residential land. However, cultural norms and local traditions are still an obstacle for women to gain access to housing independently. Housing loans and land-ownership applications remain discriminatory, giving fewer women the opportunity to become landowners. In April 2009, the government started allocating land to Omani women. In June 2011, major changes were introduced to the Housing Law issued by Royal Decree No. 37/2010 by providing an Omani woman married to a non-Omani entitlement to housing assistance with her children, as well as Omani male and female offspring with no breadwinners in the family.

The Housing Law introduced in Qatar in 2007 secured housing services for men and women, expanding the opportunities for Qatari and non-Qatari women to take advantage of government housing programs. Qatari women married to foreign nationals residing in the country for the previous five years can also benefit from government housing, as well as widows and divorced women with children who have not inherited homes from their husbands, and unmarried women over 35 years old who support members of their family.

Those with special needs are also eligible for state housing assistance. All Qatari government employees, both male and female, are entitled to a minimum loan of \$ 220,000 to buy a plot of land to build a house. The amount may be raised to \$ 330,000. However, there is still discrimination when applying the law: A man is given priority as he is considered the head of the household and responsible for providing housing for his wife and children. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs is currently working with relevant ministries to secure the rights of women under the housing law.

In Saudi Arabia, not all women have the right to obtain houses or loans from the government. Under regulations issued by the Real Estate Development Fund, only men and women of Saudi citizenship are allowed to take a loan without the condition of owning the land. They should not own a house now nor have owned one in the past and they should not have previously taken a loan from the fund. But while the minimum age for receiving a loan for Saudi men is 21 if married and 24 if single, loans for Saudi women were available for those over 40 years who have never been married, women who have been divorced for at least two years, and widows who have not remarried.

Recently, lending conditions were reformed to benefit unmarried Saudi women who have not reached 40 years as well as married women who are the sole providers of their family. Exceptions are also made for male orphans under 21 years and female orphans over 18 years and under 21 years who have not been married.

In the UAE, female nationals were not entitled to government housing benefits whereas male nationals could access either a house or a piece of land and money to build a house. In April 2009, the Federal National Council, in addition to giving Emirati women benefits for equal rights, approved a housing law allowing Emirati women married to non-Emirati men to receive government housing benefits, especially if the husband cannot provide a decent house for them, and even if their children do not have UAE citizenship. Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum approved in June 2011 new by-laws for the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program, expanding housing opportunities for Emirati women. Entitlement to housing assistance now includes widows and divorcees both with children, women without parents, husbands or family to support them, unmarried women over 30 years whose parents have died.

In making affordable housing a national priority, GCC governments should take into consideration the aspirations of both young men and women who are looking for a brighter and safer future. The implementation of a national housing strategy in each of the GCC countries is vital. It should integrate economic, social and gender cultural issues along with physical planning and development. Housing security is central for women and essential for their human dignity. This security is particularly important for women undergoing divorce proceedings when they are likely to lose ownership of their houses and end up with short-term rental arrangements. This situation will be worse for divorced women over 50 years with children and without economic security. But all GCC women with low incomes need access to safe and affordable housing with strong ties in the community to provide their support. Planning should include smaller affordable houses built within the city and not outside in the suburbs in order to prevent their marginalization.

We need to explore the issue of women and housing in the region in depth. Gender-disaggregated data on housing supply is urgently required and gender-based analysis should be implemented in GCC housing policies to contribute to housing equality. We need to investigate further the needs of women from lower income groups to improve their status and work toward creating a safe and stable housing environment. Women themselves should participate in decision-making to improve their housing situation. Let us not forget that women constitute half of the population and are essential to the development of a forward-looking society. That society will progress only if discriminatory cultural constraints are removed and women are not just acknowledged to have equal rights with men but also actively given those rights – in social housing as much as in other basic areas. To read more <http://www.arabnews.com/women-lose-out-affordable-housing>

### **Egypt teacher cuts girls' hair for not wearing veil**

An Egyptian teacher who wears a niqab, or full face veil, has been sanctioned after cutting the hair of two girls in her class for not wearing a head veil, press reports said.

Residents of the southern city of Luxor "were angered after the teacher in a niqab cut the hair of two sixth-form students to oblige them to wear the veil," independent daily Al-Shuruk reported.

Another daily, Al-Masry al-Youm, quoted the woman as saying: "I did not imagine that cutting off two centimetres (of hair) was a great crime.

"I was joking with them when one of the students got out some scissors and asked me to carry out my threat. I did it to maintain my authority."



The father of one of the girls filed a formal complaint against the teacher, who said she has been wearing the niqab for five years and who was sanctioned with the loss of a month's salary.

Most Muslim women in Egypt cover their hair, but the full face veil is associated with the ultra-conservative Salafist school of thought.

Ironically, Egypt's Al-Azhar University, the most prestigious centre of religious learning in the Sunni Muslim world, banned the face veil from its female-only classrooms and residences in 2009.

Since the election this year of President Mohamed Morsi, who comes from the Muslim Brotherhood, there have been fears among more liberal Egyptians that the influence in the public sphere of Muslim fundamentalists will grow.

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2012/10\\_12/10\\_22/102212\\_egypt2.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2012/10_12/10_22/102212_egypt2.htm)

## **GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **Oman Has Lowest Divorce - Divorce Studies**

Oman has the lowest divorce rates as compared to other countries in the Gulf region, according to Dr Auhoud bint Said al Bulushi, Head of Research and Studies at Sultan Qaboos University's Omani Studies Centre. "Divorce is a complicated social issue as it entails impacts not only to the individuals involved, rather it affects society as a whole. To some, divorce is a solution, while to others; it's the beginning of a series of problems and complications. "It's clear that the Omani society has been through rapid transformations in the past decades, which have affected the Omani family and social roles played by its members. These changes could have a negative impact on the stability of the Omani family," Dr Auhoud said. The Gulf countries have witnessed a steady increase in divorce levels among their nationals. Kuwait shows the highest percentage (of total divorces rates as a percentage of marriages) at 37.13 per cent (2007) followed by Qatar at 34.76 per cent. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are 25.62 per cent and 24.05 per cent respectively while in Saudi Arabia it is 20 per cent. The divorce rate in Oman is 1.99 per cent as indicated by 2010 census which is slightly lower than the 2.2 per cent shown in the 2003 census. However, according to Dr Auhoud, there is a scarcity of statistical data and information with regard to divorce in Oman apart from small scale studies concentrating on specific issues in divorce. The current study is considered the first-of-its-kind in the Sultanate as it covers the whole country. This study is conducted by a team led by Dr Auhoud. The group includes professors from the Department of Sociology at the College of Arts and Social Sciences and from the Department of Psychology at the College of Education as well as professors from the Statistics Department at the College of Science. The study will investigate the causes of divorce in Omani society, the impact of divorce on the parties involved, and ways to overcome issues that could lead to divorce. In order to do this, the research team is collaborating with the Ministry of Social Development in collecting data from different wilayats in Oman.

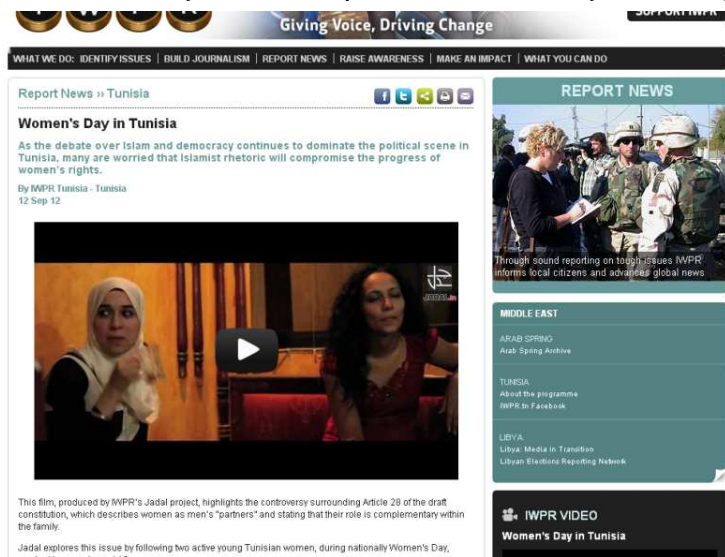
The study covers the 11 governorates in the Sultanate. One wilayat from each governorate has been selected randomly. A sample of divorcees – both males and females – (600 in all) will also be selected at random. The study utilises both the quantitative and qualitative research approaches to collect and analyse data. Training of data collection teams has



already taken place. The team has also collected information about divorcee population in each of the wilayats involved in the study in order to select the sample. Field study and data collection will hopefully start in October 2012. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013 and its results could prove helpful to decision makers as well as social researchers and the public. To read more about the issue follow the link <http://main.omanobserver.om/node/110738>

### Women's Day Video in Tunisia

As the debate over Islam and democracy continues to dominate the political scene in Tunisia, many are worried that Islamist rhetoric will compromise the progress of women's rights. This film, produced by IWPR's Jadal project, highlights the controversy surrounding Article 28 of the draft constitution, which describes women as men's "partners" and stating that their role is complementary within the family. Jadal explores this issue by following two active young Tunisian women, during nationally Women's Day, marked here on August 13. One of them is Asma Fatma al-Moatamri, a law student, journalist and active member of the prominent Tunisian Association of Democratic Women. The other is Iman Ben Mohammed, an elected member of the National Constituent Assembly and a member of Ennahda, the leading Islamist party. At the end of the day, Jadal brought both women together to talk and challenge one another's viewpoints on women's rights in Tunisia. While this inside view of their activities on Women's Day shows how different their views are, the contrast between liberalism and conservatism is qualified by their reflections on the current state of women's rights and its future direction. To watch the movie click on the link <http://iwpr.net/report-news/womens-day-tunisia>



### In Yemen Women Say Lives Worse Since Revolution

Following the revolution in their country, four out of five Yemeni women who spoke to the international group Oxfam said their lives, beset by hunger and violence, had worsened in the past year. "We wanted jobs, security, an end to corruption and an improvement in services," one woman told the group. "Instead we can't afford food, there's no electricity and there are guns everywhere." Oxfam said the food crisis is so grave that it poses a major threat to positive change in Yemen, where a deal brokered late last year led President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. The impoverished country was one of a string of nations in the region remade by the "Arab Spring" uprisings. But it is still grappling with grave problems after the revolution, many of which hit women especially hard, Oxfam found in focus groups that included 136 women across Yemen in July and August. The organization focused specifically on the problems affecting Yemeni women, who have fallen at the bottom of annual World Economic Forum rankings for the gender gap in access to health, education and economic opportunity. The World Food Program estimates 10 million Yemenis -- almost half of the country's population -- do not have enough food. One out of four Yemeni women between the ages of 15 and 49 is severely malnourished, one of the highest adult

malnutrition rates in the world, according to Oxfam. To survive, some women have pulled their children out of school to beg, Oxfam found in its interviews; in extreme cases, some have turned to prostitution. Men and boys in some areas, meanwhile, are turning to smuggling the narcotic khat leaf to try to provide for their families, women told Oxfam.

The United Nations estimated that it would require more than \$676 million to aid more than 6 million people in Yemen; only \$272 million has been raised. The Friends of Yemen conference of international donors pledged in May to provide \$4 billion to help, but most of that money has yet to materialize. On top of the strains of hunger, Yemeni women are also grappling with danger. Security incidents grew 10% over the last year, Oxfam says, as women and children were menaced by the spread of land mines and explosives, bombardment from above and gun battles in the streets of Sana, the capital.



The threats had pushed many women away from their homes in the southern province of Abyan, where they said they didn't feel safe returning. Militants linked to Al Qaeda have done battle with the Yemeni army in the area, where U.S. drones have targeted the extremist fighters. Some of the displaced women from Abyan, taking shelter in schools elsewhere, were terrified the government would evict them. While they faced these perils, women told Oxfam they have been shut out of government decisions, something they found especially frustrating after rallying along with men for political change. Activists want Yemen to ensure women make up at least 30% of transitional committees and government bodies. "We don't just want food," a female villager from Haradh district told Oxfam. "We want to know the government is with us and wants to hear our views on how we can be supported to address our problems." To read more about the issue follow the link [http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/09/yemen-women.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/09/yemen-women.html)

### **Women & Children Refugees Flee Attacks in Sudan**

The UN refugee agency said Tuesday that fresh air and ground attacks in Sudan's South Kordofan state are causing a renewed population influx to South Sudan. "About 100 refugees a day are arriving in the border town of Yida, in Unity state," a spokesperson said, adding that the "refugees are in poor health and without any belongings." Some refugees told UNHCR they had also fled because of acute food shortages in South Kordofan. Many said they planned to build a shelter in Yida refuge camp before returning across the border to fetch family members. "We anticipate an increased influx into Yida as the rains subside and if fighting further escalates in South Kordofan. As arrivals pick up, there could be up to 80,000 refugees by the end of the year," said UNHCR's Melissa Fleming. The remote and hard to reach Yida camp is crowded with more than 64,200



refugees, so additional sites for new arrivals will be required to avoid congestion and associated health risks. Fleming said that with tension increasing in border areas, UNHCR was "extremely concerned" about the safety of the refugees in Yida camp, which lies close to the border. "UNHCR continues to work with the refugee community to advocate for the relocation of the settlement to a safer location as soon as roads reopen [when the rainy season ends in November]," she added. UNHCR has also been supporting the South Sudanese authorities in their efforts to ensure there are no arms or combatants in Yida camp and to prevent forced recruitment. Recently, however, a search for weapons in the settlement has led to cases of arbitrary detention and abuse of refugees. "Together with our partners, we have been monitoring the situation and intervening to secure the release of those detained," Fleming stressed.

Meanwhile, UNHCR is concerned that heavy rains and flooding in South Sudan's Upper Nile state could cut road access to camps hosting some 105,000 refugees. This could affect assistance as well as the continuing success of intensive health, hygiene and nutrition campaigns launched in May to combat malnutrition and an outbreak of hepatitis E.

Many roads are already flooded and may soon become impassable. So far, the town of Bunj has been the most affected. "We are particularly concerned about refugees in Doro camp, adjacent to Bunj town, where some 75 families have been affected by the floods in the past few days," said UNHCR's Fleming. To read more about the story follow the link [http://www.wunrn.com/news/2012/10\\_12/10\\_08/100812\\_sudan.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2012/10_12/10_08/100812_sudan.htm)

### **Egypt's Brotherhood top officials face investigation over attacks on women protesters**

Two top Muslim Brotherhood officials are being investigated by Egypt's Attorney General Abdel-Meguid Mahmoud over their role in allegedly inciting President Mohamed Morsi supporters to attack female protesters around Tahrir Square.

Mohamed el-Beltagy and Essam el-Erian are under investigation, Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud himself had only the day before defied an order to step down from his position after President Morsi attempted to push him out after a court acquitted former top Hosni Mubarak officials of their role in the infamous "Camel Battle" during the 18 days of protests that ousted his rule.

The move to fire the Attorney General was largely met with criticism by the country's judiciary and was seen as an attempt by Morsi to take more control of the largely independent branch.

But Mahmoud remained defiant and stayed in his post.

The charges being brought against Beltagy and Erian were the result of at least one female activist who claimed Brotherhood supporters sought out and actively attacked women at the demonstration, which spun out of control into opposing factions attacking each other on Friday afternoon.

Unfortunately for Egypt, sexual violence toward women is nothing new. June this year saw some of the worst attacks against women, with both foreigners and Egyptians reporting that they had been sexually assaulted in the square take place following the disbanding of Parliament.

"I was walking in the square and was hoping to be part of the calls for the SCAF to leave power when a man behind me grabbed by butt and started saying disgusting things to me," one woman told Bikyamasr.com.



“He asked if I was a slut and then swore at me when I yelled at him,” she added. Others also reported being harassed on social media networks, highlighting the growing concern facing women in the country. Earlier in June, an anti-sexual harassment demonstration organized by over 20 Egyptian women’s groups in protest against the recent escalation of assaults in Cairo’s Tahrir Square was attacked about an hour and half after it began by unknown troublemakers. The participants reported being attacked by a mob of “thugs” who attempted to throw rocks and glass at them, but the clash was over quickly as volunteers securing the protest intervened to stop it. This was not the first time a women’s rights march was attacked in Tahrir Square. Last March, and on International Women’s Day, a march of tens of women was attacked by a cynical mob of men who did not like women protesting for more rights. Several female protesters were injured and one woman had to have 8 stitches in her head. Almost all of them were groped and sexually assaulted in the attack. A 2008 study by the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights (ECWR) found that well over two-thirds of Egyptian women are sexually harassed daily in the country. The participants held signs that read “It is my right to protest safely,” “Groping your sister is shameful for the square” and “Be a man and protect her instead of harassing her.” “We are fed up,” protester Mai Abdel Hafez, 24, told Bikyamasr.com. “We came to deliver a message that it is our right to protest and we will not avoid the square in fear of harassment,” she said right before the attack took place. And on Monday, once again, that message was forgotten by yet more criminal activity, but under the watchful eye of the police, women once more suffered. <http://www.bikyamasr.com/80069/egypts-brotherhood-top-officials-face-investigation-over-attacks-on-women-protesters/>

## RESOURCES & CALLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALLS

#### UN Joint Statement: “Adultery as a criminal offence violates women’s human rights”

In many countries of the world, adultery continues to be a crime punishable by severe penalties, including, in the most extreme instances, flogging, death by stoning, or hanging. Adultery laws have usually been drafted and almost always implemented in a manner prejudicial to women. Provisions in penal codes often do not treat women and men equally and establish harsher sanctions for women, and in some countries, rules of evidence value women’s testimony as half that of a man’s. The United Nations Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice is deeply concerned at the criminalization and penalization of adultery whose enforcement leads to discrimination and violence against women. The Working Group notes that in some cases, sentences have been commuted on the grounds of unfair trial, including because of gender bias in the administration of justice, or because application of the death penalty for the crime of adultery is contrary to international standards. Nonetheless, the Working Group considers that adultery must not be classified as a criminal offence at all. The Working Group recognizes that in accordance with some traditions, customs and different legal systems, adultery may constitute a valid ground for bringing a civil proceeding and have legal consequences in divorce cases, the custody of children or the denial of alimony, amongst others. However, it should not be a criminal offence and should not be punishable by fine, imprisonment, flogging, or death by stoning or hanging.

Almost two decades ago, international human rights jurisprudence established that criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults is a violation of their right to privacy and infringement of article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. States parties to the Covenant are obliged to ensure that domestic norms take account of developments in international law and incorporate interpretations of the decisions of international courts and international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and special procedures.

Given continued discrimination and inequalities faced by women, including inferior roles attributed to them by patriarchal and traditional attitudes, and power imbalances in their relations with men, the mere fact of maintaining adultery as a criminal offence, even when it applies to both women and men, means in practice that women mainly will continue to face extreme vulnerabilities, and violation of their human rights to dignity, privacy and equality.

The Working Group, which is specifically mandated to report on good practices by States, notes that some States have remedied this violation of women’s human rights. A good practice in this regard is to be found in a 1996 decision of the Guatemalan Constitutional Court which struck down the Penal Code’s punishment of marital infidelity or adultery based both on the Constitution’s equality guarantees and human rights treaties including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Similarly, in 2007, the Ugandan Constitutional Court overturned the adultery law that penalized women but not their male partners for adultery.

The Working Group therefore calls on Governments, which retain criminalization of adultery or which allow the imposition of fines, imprisonment, flogging, death by stoning or hanging for adultery, to repeal any such provisions.



#### Joint Statement by the United Nations Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice

##### “Adultery as a criminal offence violates women’s human rights”

GENEVA (19 October 2012) – In many countries of the world, adultery continues to be a crime punishable by severe penalties, including, in the most extreme instances, flogging, death by stoning, or hanging. Adultery laws have usually been drafted and almost always implemented in a manner prejudicial to women. Provisions in penal codes often do not treat women and men equally and establish harsher sanctions for women, and in some countries, rules of evidence value women’s testimony as half that of a man’s.

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<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12672&LangID=E>

## BOOKS & REPORTS

### UN: Marrying Too Young, End Child Marriage Report

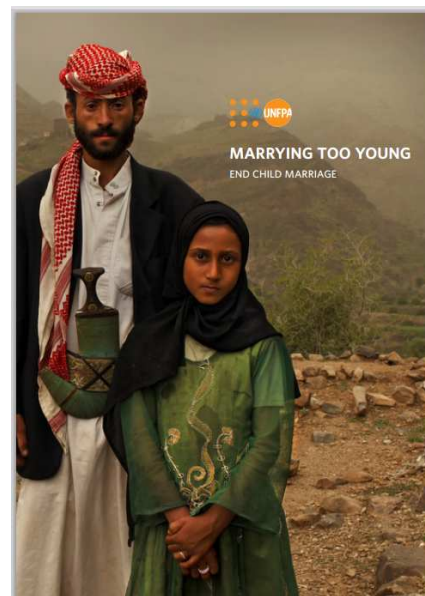
"Child marriage is a human rights abuse. It constitutes a grave threat to young girls' lives, health and future prospects. Marriage for girls can lead to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and in developing countries these are the main causes of death among 15-19 year-old girls. For a girl, marriage can mean the end of her education, can set aside her chances of a vocation or career, and can steal from her foundational life choices.

Investing in girls, developing their social and economic assets, ensuring they have access to education and health services, and ensuring that they can postpone marriage until they are ready; all this means greater dignity for women. It also means healthier families and higher levels of gender equality. This in turn makes for stronger societies and more vibrant economies.

Investment in later marriage for girls is investment in development for everyone."

To download the full report, please click on the attachment below.

[http://www.wluml.org/sites/wluml.org/files/UNFPA\\_MarryingTooYoung\\_2012.pdf](http://www.wluml.org/sites/wluml.org/files/UNFPA_MarryingTooYoung_2012.pdf)



## Arab Region: No Revolutions without Equality and Justice: The struggle for women's rights in rethinking development in the Arab region

Kinda Mohamadieh highlights the shortcomings of the last two decades of policy practice in the Arab Region. She looks at the positions of feminist and women's groups on economic and social rights and policies in the Arab region addressing how to enforce equality and gender justice in the policymaking in the region. She discusses the economic and social demands that lie at the heart of the revolutions witnessed in the Arab region, as well as the challenges to reclaiming citizenship and democracy within a system of global governance tilted to serve a mainstream orthodox economic model. She highlights the need for deepening the perspective and position of feminist and women's groups on economic and social rights and policies in the Arab region. To download the full report please click on the link

[http://www.wluml.org/sites/wluml.org/files/No%20Revolutions%20without%20Equality%20and%20Justice-The%20struggle%20for%20women%E2%80%99s%20rights%20in%20rethinking%20development%20in%20the%20Arab%20region%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.wluml.org/sites/wluml.org/files/No%20Revolutions%20without%20Equality%20and%20Justice-The%20struggle%20for%20women%E2%80%99s%20rights%20in%20rethinking%20development%20in%20the%20Arab%20region%20(1).pdf)

### A frank discussion from woman to man

“The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women,” Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network and former Baptist minister once said. “It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians.” Unfortunately, Robertson is not alone in his negative view of feminism. The word “feminist,” which used to be associated with the bravery of the suffrage movement, these days seems to appear more often used as a pejorative than a positive term. Though most people would probably not equate it with witchcraft or matricide, the word is often associated with a strident, man-hating caricature, whose main stand revolves around maintaining a healthy crop of armpit hair, rather than campaigning for equal pay. As such, many women these days are reluctant to associate themselves or their work with feminism, whether or not the term - devoid of its emotionally charged context - fits. Lebanese sculptor, writer and businesswoman Nadine Abou Zaki has worked with women for the past 10 years, both as the editor-in-chief of Al-Hasnaa, a monthly Arabic women's magazine established in 1909, and as the founder of the Arab Women's Forum.

She is also the author of three books, the latest of which, “De Femme à Homme,” (From Woman to Man) deals with gender issues and what it means to be a woman in the 21st

### No Revolutions without Equality and Justice: The struggle for women's rights in rethinking development in the Arab region

KINDA MOHAMADIEH

**ABSTRACT** Kinda Mohamadieh highlights the shortcomings of the last two decades of policy practice in the Arab Region. She looks at the positions of feminist and women's groups on economic and social rights and policies in the Arab region addressing how to enforce equality and gender justice in the policymaking in the region. She discusses the economic and social demands that lie at the heart of the revolutions witnessed in the Arab region, as well as the challenges to reclaiming citizenship and democracy within a system of global governance tilted to serve a mainstream orthodox economic model. She highlights the need for deepening the perspective and position of feminist and women's groups on economic and social rights and policies in the Arab region.

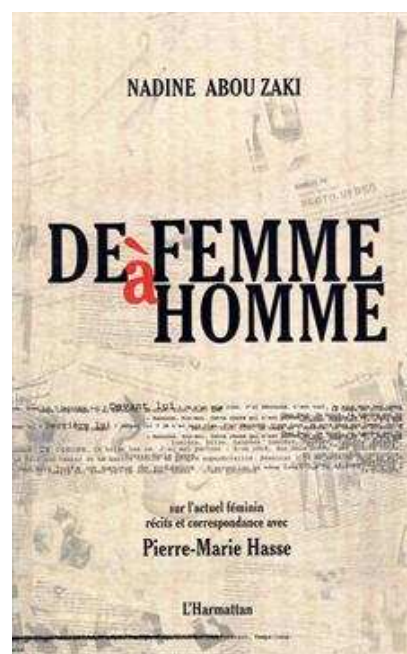
**KEYWORDS** productive policies; investment and trade policies; women's empowerment; democracy; international financial institutions

#### Introduction

Women have been at the centre of citizens' movements and various forms of activism that led to the peoples' revolutions and uprisings in the Arab region. Women in their multiple capacities and roles; as students, activists with industry and labour groups, as intellectuals, teachers, mothers, civil society leaders, all contributed to making the revolutions a reality.

Peoples' revolutions and uprisings in the Arab region have inspired change on various levels, including the re-emergence of citizens' engagement in the public sphere. Many people saw an opportunity to re-establish the societal contract between the citizen and the state. Moreover, peoples' revolutions and uprisings surfaced the need to understand better the interface between political governance, social and economic policies, and peoples' right to development. It was economic grievances, poverty, inequalities, unemployment, deterioration of wages – the violations of social and economic rights – that have underpinned revolutions and uprisings in the Arab region. During this moment of transition and the struggle for sustainability of democratic practice in the Arab region

Development (2012) 55(3), 369–381. doi:10.1057/dev.2012.28



century. Abou Zaki opens the work with a disclaimer. “To tell the truth, it’s mostly my distance from the feminine which pushed me to write these letters,” she explains. “I am not a feminist. Nor an activist ... Nor am I a subscriber to women’s forums.” Presumably she is referring here to Internet forums, rather than the New Arab Women’s Forum of her own creation, of which she remains the executive chair. Abou Zaki founded NAWF in 2001. “At this period the Arab world was witnessing the emergence of what I call the new Arab woman, and there was really a lot happening,” she says. “There was the emergence of a woman who has a new vision - a new culture - and it was very important to address this. It’s a continuation of my work in Al-Hasnaa ... We address the woman in all the aspects of her life.” Her dislike of the word feminist, she explains, comes from a reluctance to be pigeonholed as someone with preconceived ideas about women and men and the interaction between the two. Before writing “De Femme à Homme” she had no idea what would come out, she says. It evolved and developed as she went along. The result is a more personal take on this concept of the “new Arab woman” - a series of Abou Zaki’s own experiences, observations and questions. The first third of the book is made up of the insights gleaned on a series of her trips abroad in connection with various gender-related events, from conferences in Saudi Arabia to the Paris opening of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues.” The second part consists of the correspondence between Abou Zaki, who holds a doctorate in philosophy from the Sorbonne, and her ex-professor Pierre-Marie Hasse. “We’ve stayed in touch for more than 15 years now,” Abou Zaki says. “Whenever I travel to Paris - and I go often - we always meet and we spend hours talking about philosophy. “We were not intending to write a book together,” she adds. “We were sitting in the coffee shop and a professor of literature ... sat with us. “By coincidence we were talking about women - I was organizing the New Arab Women’s Forum and he had just finished writing his book - and before she left the cafe she [asked] us ‘Why don’t you write a book together about women?’” Abou Zaki began compiling material: “I started writing about all my observations regarding my trips and everything I saw related to women. “Then we were talking about these trips ... and we decided to start a correspondence ... I’m an Arab woman, he’s a French man, and we thought this correspondence could be interesting from this point of view.” The letters - which begin in 2008 and continue for two years - cover topics (for the most part raised by Abou Zaki) from gender equality, to the incapability of men to bear children, to postnatal depression, to what to call a vagina. “In French, there is an expression: ‘d’homme à homme’ which means ‘frankly.’ You talk frankly from man to man,” she says. “The title ‘De Femme à Homme’ refers to this idea. I want to say ... that [this] is a frank and intimate discussion. That this is also possible from woman to man.” “De Femme à Homme” by Nadine Abou Zaki is published by l’Harmattan and is available from Librairie Antoine. Read more: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Culture/Books/2012/Oct-10/190773-a-frank-discussion-from-woman-to-man.ashx#ixzz2AiDG4v1D>

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