Women’s Rights in Jordan and the Main Challenges
Jordan is a constitutional monarchy, in a parliamentary system of government.

- Population of 10 million.
  - (Female: 47%; Males: 53%) as of 2015.
- As of 2019, the number of refugees registered in Jordan stood at 744,795 persons of concern, among them approximately 655,000 Syrians, (UNHCR).
- Conservative social norms.
- A sizeable gap exists for women between constitutional rights and acceptable social norms, with traditional expectations and cultural restraints continuing to limit women’s advancement (USAID, 2021).
Women in Education

- There is no specific gender disparity in Jordanian primary schools. Over 94 percent of girls attend school compared to 95 percent of boys. Girls in rural areas are just as likely as girls in urban areas to attend school.

(UIS-UNISCO, 2019)
Education & Economic Participation

- Literacy rates for girls in Jordan is one of the in the Middle East, which is a staggering **97.3 percent**.
- According to UNESCO, overall enrolment of **women in Jordanian universities** stands at **52%** compared to **48%** for their male counterparts (2014).
- This educational advancement does not transfer over to the job force.
- Jordan has one of the **lowest rates of women’s economic participation** in the world. Stopping at **15%** despite advancement in and equal access to education (SADAQA, 2020).

Child Marriage

- The law in Jordan sets a minimum age of marriage of **18**, but there is concern regarding the extensive use of derogations from the minimum age of marriage.
- Around **13%** of girls marrying in Jordan are between 15-18 years of age.
- Early marriage can be attributed to poverty and harmful traditional practices.
- Child marriage is exacerbated by displacement and is prevalent among refugee population. In times of crisis, families see child marriage as a way to cope with greater economic hardship, to protect girls from increased violence and to enable them to move out of camps.
Economic Activity

- Barriers are rooted in social norms and cultural preferences that hinder women from realizing their full potential.
- Women in Jordan are perceived to be less productive than men and subsequently face restrictions to the labor market.
- The main barriers that affect women’s participation in the workplace include lack of daycares, transportation, and pay inequity.
- The closure of daycares during the pandemic is currently forcing more women to leave the workforce.

- Gender equality is still held back by discrimination in most workplaces, forcing women to increasingly seek employment in the education and health sectors.
- Employment trends in Jordan indicate that female workers are not only locked into low growth sectors but also in sectors with limited labor productivity, such as education, health and public administration (World Bank Report, 2014).
Political Participation

- Despite the inclusion of quotas for women in national and municipal bodies, political participation for women remains limited (USAID, 2021).
- Only around one sixth of seats in Jordan’s Parliament are held by women (USAID, 2021).

![Table showing political participation by gender](source.png)

* Gender Gap = (% Male - (% Female)
Thank you

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