

# In Israel, women's equality isn't just talk.... It's the law.

*"Whereas women in the Christian West and Israel have ameliorated their lot considerably...their sisters in the Islamic world...have been thwarted..." (A Declaration of Women's Rights in Islamic Societies, 1997)*

- **Women's Equal Rights Law adopted in 1951**  
*Provides that "there will be one law for men and women—every legal action and every judicial provision which discriminates against a woman, as a woman, is void."*
- **Laws calling for equal pay and family leave have existed since the 1960s.**
  - 12 weeks paid parental leave (for mothers or fathers)
  - Parental leave can be extended up to one year
- **Organizations of feminists actively push for further reforms.**
- **Educational Opportunity**
  - Women earn 57% of all academic degrees
  - Women comprise 46% of all doctoral students
- **Professional Opportunity**
  - Women make up 45% of the labor force
  - 34% of Israel's judges are women
  - All women serve in the military, and all military professions are now open to women
  - 37% of governmental corporate board members are women
- **National Health Insurance covers all medical needs of women and children.**
- **Israel enforces strict laws against sexual harassment in all its forms.**
- **Israel's legal code outlaws honor killings, spousal abuse and violence against women. It recognizes "Battered Women's Syndrome," acknowledging a woman's right to defend herself.**
- **Social services, including battered women's shelters, 24-hour emergency hot lines, and special hospices that prevent violent men from returning to their homes, assist female victims of violence.**
- **New laws and programs further improve the status of women under the "Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women."**

**standwithus.com**

**Sources:**

UN reports at [www.israel-un.org/econ\\_social/social/woman.htm](http://www.israel-un.org/econ_social/social/woman.htm); [www.us-israel.org/jsource/Society\\_&\\_Culture/women2001.html](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/women2001.html)