

# Women's Rights And Sexual Freedom In The Middle East

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

## SEXUAL FREEDOM

Country	% Illiterate (Age 15 and older)	Travel Restrictions (Require husband's or male relative's consent)	% of Women in Labor Force
Egypt	61.2% women	YES	21%
Iran	34.2% women	YES	12%
Iraq	55% women	YES	18%
Jordan	21.6% women	YES	21%
Libya	37% women	YES	21%
Palestinian Authority	23% women	N/A	11.4%
Saudi Arabia	49.8% women	YES	13%
Syria	44.2% women	YES	19%
Israel	7% women	NO	45% (same as US statistics)

Country	Homosexuality Legal	Legal Protection for Gays from discrimination and hate crimes	Honor Killing* Outlawed
Egypt	YES (But gays are prosecuted under lewd conduct laws.)	NO	NO
Iran	NO (Gays are put to death.)	NO	NO
Jordan	YES (But reports of gays seeking asylum elsewhere)	NO	NO
Lebanon	NO	NO	N/A
Libya	NO	NO	N/A
Palestinian Authority	YES (But no protection from hate crimes)	NO	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO (Gays are put to death.)	NO	NO
Syria	NO (3 years imprisonment)	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES	YES

Literacy Sources: A Gap Analysis report on the Status of Palestinian Women Prepared by Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, [www.wclac.org](http://www.wclac.org). CIA Factbook (2000) at [www.gov/cia/publications/pubs.html](http://www.gov/cia/publications/pubs.html)

Travel Restrictions: US Dep't of State, 1999 Human Rights Report, at [www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm)

Work force: UN Stats [unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/ww2000/tables.html](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/ww2000/tables.html)

\* "Honor killing" is when a male kills a female family member who has had sex – or is rumored to have had sex – outside of marriage, either by choice or because she was raped. Some countries have no or only light penalties for this kind of killing.

Sources: Amnesty International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Division at [www.ai-lgbt.org](http://www.ai-lgbt.org); on PA, The New Republic, 8/19/02, Yossi Klein Halevi, "Refugee Status," [www.tnr.com](http://www.tnr.com).

Honor Killings: The Star (Amman) 11/30/99; MEMRI Special Dispatch no. 63 at [www.memri.org](http://www.memri.org); U.S. Department of State, 1999 Human Rights Reports at [www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm).

## KNOW THE FACTS

## BEFORE YOU FORM AN OPINION ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST

For more facts about the Middle East: [www.StandWithUsCampus.com](http://www.StandWithUsCampus.com)