

Social Institutions and Gender Index

Jordan

SIGI Country Profile

17 of June 2024

SIGI Country Profiles are produced by the OECD Development Centre

The information and analysis contained in this profile are based on data from the fifth edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) published in March 2023. The cut-off date for legal data is 31 August 2022; the cut-off date for quantitative data is 1 January 2023.

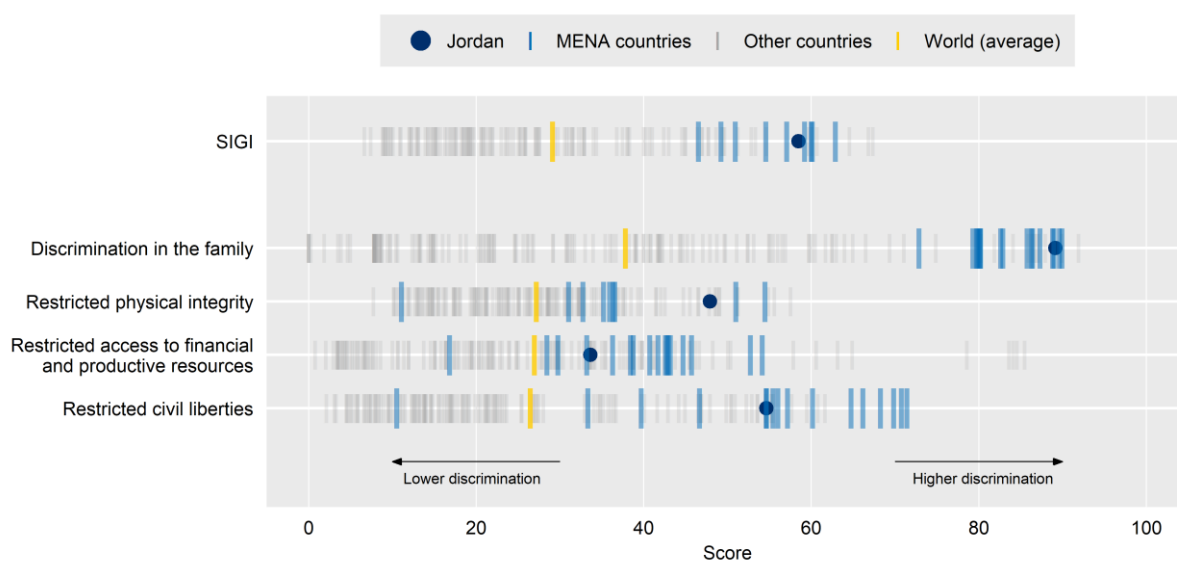
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Social institutions in Jordan

The state of gender equality in Jordan

The SIGI 2023 profile for Jordan provides a comprehensive overview of the state of gender equality in the country, as measured by the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The fifth edition of the SIGI, released in 2023, assesses 140 countries based on the level of gender-based discrimination in their social institutions. These discriminatory social institutions encompass both formal and informal laws, as well as social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' access to rights, justice, empowerment opportunities and resources, thereby undermining their agency and authority.

Figure 1. SIGI and dimension scores for Jordan, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The MENA region covers Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Yemen.

Source: OECD (2023), "Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)", *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

In 2023, Jordan obtained a SIGI score of 58 denoting very high levels of discrimination, compared to an average score of 56 in the MENA region, denoting very high levels of discrimination, and a world average score of 29 (Figure 1).¹ The country obtained a score of 89 in the "Discrimination in the family" dimension,

¹ Levels of discrimination in the SIGI and its dimensions are assessed based on scores as follow: very low [0-20]; low [20-30]; medium [30-40]; high [40-50]; and very high [50-100].

followed by “Restricted civil liberties” (55), “Restricted physical integrity” (48) and “Restricted access to productive and financial resources” (34).

Legislative framework in Jordan

The legal system is based on Civil law. Regarding personal status (e.g., marriage, divorce and child custody), distinct codified laws apply to different religious communities. Religious courts are divided between Sharia courts – which have jurisdiction over Muslim citizens in matters of personal status – and different religious courts for the main Christian sects – which adjudicate family law cases for their respective communities. The Jordanian government recognises eleven Christian communities that have the right to establish their own religious courts and to apply their own family laws. Religious courts adjudicate on all matters related to personal status. In the case of inheritance, although matters are handled by the different religious courts, Sharia principles apply to all of them.²

Article 6 of the Constitution of Jordan recognises and prohibits multiple and intersectional discrimination – and essential provisions to enhance gender equality from a legal perspective. Jordan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)³ in 1992 but holds reservations on Articles 9(2) and 16(1).⁴ Article 9(2), which refers to men’s and women’s equal rights with respect to the nationality of their children, conflicts with Article 2 of the Jordanian Nationality Law which stipulates that Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men do not have the right to pass their nationality to their children. Moreover, some provisions of the national legislation conflict with Article 16(1) of the Convention, which covers equality in marriage and family life – from men’s and women’s rights to enter into marriage to its dissolution, as well as the ability to choose a family name, profession, and occupation. For instance, according to Articles 80 and 97 of the Personal Status Law, men have a unilateral right to dissolve the marriage without justification or the presence of their wife.

Gender-disaggregated, gender-relevant and intersectional data and indicators are essential to better identify policy areas that have strong linkages with gender. In Jordan, there are no applicable legal provisions regulating the production and dissemination of gender statistics.

Positive highlights and significant challenges since the fourth edition of the SIGI

Positive highlights

The law in Jordan grants women the same rights as men to own and use land and non-land assets as well as financial services. In practice, however, informal laws often undermine women’s access to land and non-land assets. The law also promotes women’s political participation. Legislated quotas have been put in place to increase women’s political participation at the national (2016) and local (2021) levels. Yet, informal laws and persisting discriminatory attitudes can undermine the de jure equality.

² UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and ESCWA (2018), “Jordan Country Assessment”, *Gender Justice & The Law*, United Nations Development Programme, New York, https://jordan.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Jordan%20Country%20Assessment%20-%20English_0_0.pdf.

³ United Nations (1979), *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, United Nations, New York, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>.

⁴ United Nations (2023), “Status of Treaties: Chapter IV- 8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, *Treaty Collection*, United Nations, New York, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4.

! Significant challenges

Discriminatory social institutions undermine women's and girls' rights and opportunities in many spheres of their lives. The Personal Status Law contains discriminatory provisions that restrict women's rights to be legal guardians of their children, to file for divorce, to inherit on equal grounds as men, and that require a married woman to obey her spouse. In addition, child marriage is not prohibited. The minimum legal age of marriage is 14 for boys and 12 for girls. Many other discriminatory provisions are embedded across the legal framework, for instance limiting girls' and women's physical integrity and reproductive rights or undermining their citizenship rights and access to justice. Discriminatory attitudes and practices reinforce such inequalities. For instance, 85% of the population believes that when a mother works for pay the children suffer, and 63% of women aged 15-49 years think that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances.

Summary of results for Jordan

Discrimination in the family	Unit	Value
Laws on child marriage	Score	75
Girl child marriage rate ¹	%	7.6
Boy child marriage rate ¹	%	0.4
Laws on household responsibilities	Score	100
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “if a woman earns more than her husband, it is a problem”	%	56.3
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “when a mother works for pay, the children will suffer”	%	84.6
Female-to-male ratio of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work	Ratio	-
Number of hours spent by men on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-
Number of hours spent by women on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-
Laws on divorce	Score	100
Laws on inheritance	Score	100
Restricted physical integrity	Unit	Value
Laws on violence against women	Score	75
Share of women who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances	%	63
Lifetime intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	24
12-month intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	12.1
Laws on female genital mutilation	%	75
Share of the female population who has heard about female genital mutilation and think the practice should continue	%	-
Prevalence of female genital mutilation (% of women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM)	%	-
Boy-to-girl ratio at birth (natural = 105) ³	Ratio	104.6
Laws on reproductive autonomy	Score	75
Unmet needs for family planning ⁴	%	13.9
Restricted access to productive and financial resources	Unit	Value
Laws on land assets	Score	25
Share of women among landowners	%	32.1
Laws on non-land assets	Score	25
Share of women among house owners	%	24.5
Laws on financial assets	Score	0
Share of women among bank account owners	%	35.3
Laws on workplace rights	Score	100
Share of the population declaring that “when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women”	%	81.5
Share of the population declaring that “men make better business executives than women do”	%	56.2
Share of women among managers	%	60.3
Share of firms with a woman as top manager	%	3.1
Restricted civil liberties	Unit	Value
Laws on citizenship rights	Score	75
Laws on political voice	Score	0
Share of the population declaring that “men make better political leaders than women do”	%	71.9
Share of women in Parliament (lower chamber)	%	12.3
Laws on freedom of movement	Score	75
Share of women among those who declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	%	60
Laws on access to justice	Score	75
Share of women among those who declare not having confidence in the judicial system and courts of their country	%	38.4

Note: Scores of legal variables range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination.

¹ % of girls/boys aged 15-19 years who have been or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union.

² % of ever-partnered women and girls who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime/over the previous 12 months. Population base for lifetime IPV: 15-49 years. Population base for 12-month IPV: 15 years and older.

³ A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

⁴ % of married or in-union women of reproductive age who want to either stop or delay childbearing but are not using any contraception method.

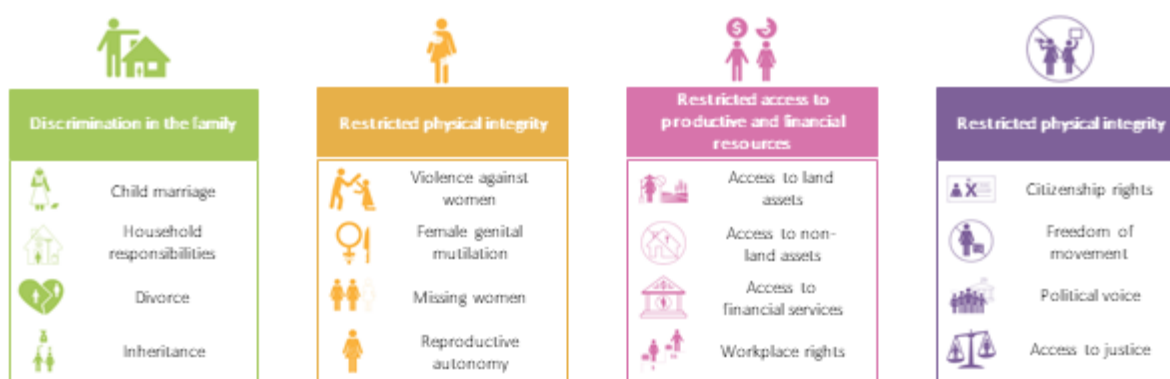
Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), “Gender, Institutions and Development Database”, <https://doi.org/10.1787/7b0af638-en>.

Results across the SIGI's four dimensions

The SIGI measures gender-based discrimination across four dimensions covering the major socio-economic areas that affect women and girls throughout their lifetime:



- The **“Discrimination in the family”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s decision-making power and weaken their status in the household and the family.
- The **“Restricted physical integrity”** dimension captures social institutions that increase women’s and girls’ vulnerability to multiple forms of violence and limit their control over their reproductive autonomy.
- The **“Restricted access to productive and financial resources”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s economic opportunities and rights.
- The **“Restricted civil liberties”** dimension captures social institutions restricting women’s access to, and participation and voice in, the public and political spheres.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework of the fifth edition of the SIGI



Each dimension builds on four indicators which, in turn, build on one to three variables depending on data availability (Figure 2). This section features the results by dimension, examining the pertinent social norms, practices and legal frameworks for each indicator.

The legal information collected through the *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey* covers both formal and codified laws, as well as informal laws. The information is assessed based on whether the law protects women’s rights or not, and is icon-coded as follows:

-  : The legal framework protects women’s rights.
-  : The legal framework does not fully protect women’s rights.

There is no universal agreement on what informal laws refer to, given contextual differences across time and place, as well as distinct disciplinary or theoretical approaches. In the context of the SIGI, informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) describe mechanisms that operate outside the formal legal system of state-based laws. Informal laws vary from one community to another and are generally uncodified and unwritten. In some cases, informal laws may reflect unequal power dynamics within a given community and discriminatory social norms, with adverse consequences on women and girls and other vulnerable groups. Informal laws are unsteady and have been adapted over time in response to external factors.

For example, customary laws are laws that are embodied in customs, rules or traditions and accepted by members of the community as binding but remain adaptable, dynamic and flexible.⁵ The CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33 also recognises indigenous laws.⁶ These are similar to customary laws but are often given a distinct identity in recognition of the specific international standards related to the rights and protections of indigenous peoples and their justice systems. Informal religious laws may refer to norms that are derived from interpretations of codified religious texts and/or longstanding traditions.

⁵ United Nations (2018), "Module 1: The Theory and Practice of Women's Access to Justice Programming", *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*, UN Women, UNDP, UNDOC and OHCHR, New York, Vienna and Geneva, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/PractitionerToolkit/WA2J_Module1.pdf.

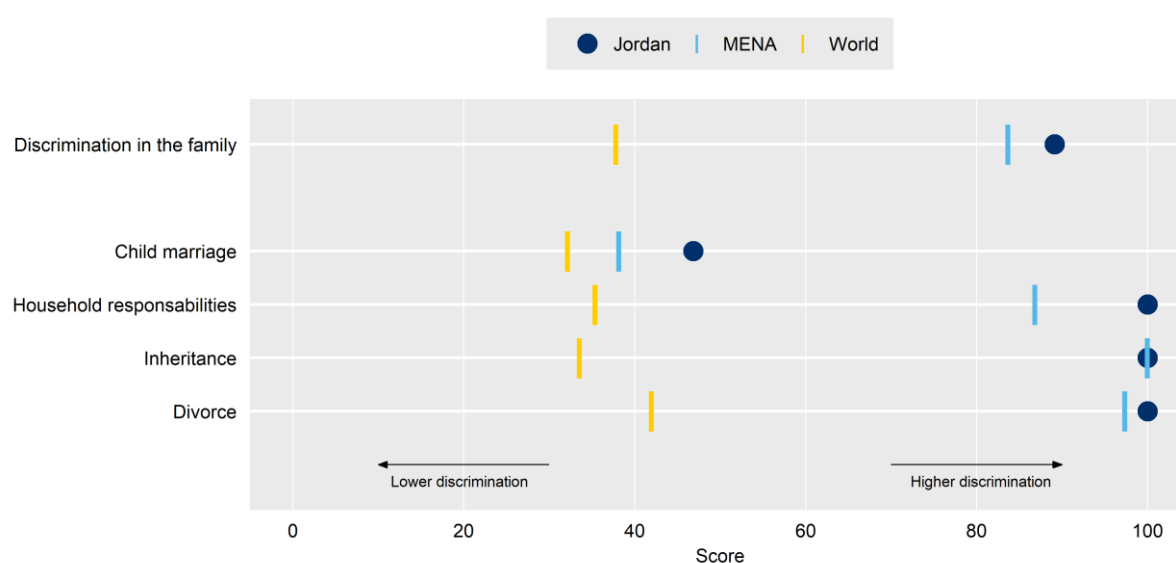
⁶ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2015), "General recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice", *CEDAW/C/GC/33*, United Nations, New York, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/807253>.

Discrimination in the family

Jordan exhibits very high levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 89, compared to a world average of 38 and an average score of 84 in the MENA region – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Jordan experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Household responsibilities”, “Inheritance” and “Divorce” indicators with scores of 100. The lowest levels of discrimination are found in the “Child marriage” indicator with a score of 47, still denoting high levels of discrimination.

Figure 3. Discrimination in the family scores for Jordan, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The MENA region covers Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Yemen.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Child marriage

Practices related to child marriage

Child marriage remains a concern in Jordan, primarily affecting girls. In 2023, 8% of girls aged 15-19 were or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union, compared to 0.4% of boys. In addition, 10% of women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before the age of 18,⁷ compared to a world average of 26% and an average of 17% in the MENA region – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning child marriage

⁷ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.3.1

In Jordan, Articles 102, 103 and 104 of the Constitution⁸ establish that all matters of family and personal status in Jordan are governed by tribunals of religious communities. In this context, the Personal Status Law regulates personal matters for Muslims. Article 10 of the Personal Status Law⁹ establishes the minimum legal age of marriage for men and women at 18 years. However, the same article also introduces legal exceptions to this minimum legal age of marriage and authorises minors aged more than 16 years to get married before the age of 18 with the authorisation of a judge. Pursuant to the Constitution, other non-Muslim communities follow their own personal status systems, with very distinct situations across the different recognised Christian denominations (Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox). For instance, for the Catholic sect, the church legislator has set the age of marriage for men at the age of 16 and for women at the age of 14. For the Orthodox sect, the Byzantine Law Family Law establishes the minimum legal age of married at 14 years for boys and at 12 years for girls. These personal status systems also have their own exceptions to the minimum legal age of marriage, requiring the consent of different parties (parents, guardians and/or judges).¹⁰

Question	Answer	Assessment
What is the legal age of marriage for men?	14	!
What is the legal age of marriage for women?	12	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of parent and/or legal guardian?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of judge or court?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of another person or institution?	Yes	!
Does the legal age of marriage apply to all groups of women?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that allow or encourage the early marriage of girls?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Household responsibilities

Practices and social norms related to household responsibilities

There are no available data in Jordan that are comparable to other countries on practices related to the division of household responsibilities. In 2023, worldwide, women dedicate 2.6 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men,¹¹ while in the MENA region this ratio is 5.9 – based on countries for which data are available.

However, data on attitudes indicate the presence of prevailing discriminatory social norms that confine women to the household. In Jordan, 56% of the population thinks that if a woman earns more than her husband, it is almost certain to cause problems. Moreover, 85% of the population agrees that children will suffer if the mother has a paid job outside the home, compared to a world average of 56% and an average of 70% in the MENA region. Likewise, 72% of the population thinks that being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay.

⁸ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1952) "Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan", *Official Gazette No. 1093*.

⁹ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), "Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019", *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

¹⁰ UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and ESCWA (2018), "Jordan Country Assessment", *Gender Justice & The Law*, United Nations Development Programme, New York, https://jordan.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Jordan%20Country%20Assessment%20-%20English_0_0.pdf.

¹¹ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.4.1

Legal frameworks concerning household responsibilities

Article 58 of the Civil Status Law¹² establishes the married man or father as the head of the family. His spouse becomes head of family only in the event of his death or his long-term absence. Pursuant to Article 223 of the Personal Status Law,¹³ the guardian of the child is the father, followed by the paternal grandfather. In line with principles of the Islamic Sharia, Article 170 establishes that the custody of a child belongs to the mother, followed by the maternal grandmother, the paternal grandmother and, finally, the father. As matters of family and personal status in Jordan are governed by religious tribunals, non-Muslim minorities are subjected to their own personal status legal systems, including for matters related to custody of children or right to be recognised as head of family.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be “head of household” or “head of family”?	No	!
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children during marriage?	No	!
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be legal guardians of their children in informal unions?	No	!
Regarding women’s legal rights to be recognised as head of household or head of family, does the law apply to all groups of women?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being recognised as the head of household?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the choice of where to live?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Divorce

Legal frameworks concerning divorce

Jordan’s Personal Status Law introduces many restrictions regarding women’s rights to initiate a divorce or to finalise it. In line with the principles of Islamic Sharia, Article 80 of the Personal Status Law,¹⁴ grants a married man the right to divorce his spouse at will, without any restrictions (*talaq*). Conversely, a married woman’s rights to obtain a divorce are very limited and precisely specified. Article 85 stipulates that a married woman can seek divorce if authorised by her spouse, whereas Chapter 4 of Part 4 of the Personal Status Law on judicial separation (Articles 114 to 144) lists the specific grounds under which a woman is allowed to ask for a divorce. Article 102 also grants married woman the right to seek divorce by *khul’* – the process whereby the woman obtains divorce in exchange of paying her spouse an agreed financial compensation. Article 170 establishes that the custody of a child belongs to the mother, followed by the maternal grandmother, the paternal grandmother and, finally, the father. Finally, matters of family and personal status in Jordan being governed by religious tribunals, non-Muslim minorities are subjected to their own personal status legal systems, including for matters related to divorce.¹⁵

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do women and men have the same rights to initiate/file for a divorce?	No	!
Can women and men finalise a divorce or annulment with the same requirements?	No	!

¹² Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2001), “Civil Status Law No. 9 of 2001”, *Official Gazette No. 4470*.

¹³ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), “Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019”, *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

¹⁴ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), “Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019”, *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

¹⁵ Engelcke, D. (2022), “Between Church and State: The Challenges of Reforming the Church Courts and Family Law in the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 54/2, pp. 282-301, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0020743822000125>.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do women and men have the same rights to child custody following a divorce?	No	!
Regarding divorce, does the law apply to all groups of women?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to initiating divorce?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children after divorce?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Inheritance

Legal frameworks concerning inheritance rights

Pursuant to Articles 103 to 109 of the Constitution,¹⁶ all religious courts and tribunals apply the rules of Islamic law as defined in the Personal Status Law with regard to inheritance. Provisions of the Personal Status Law governing inheritance matters follow the principles of Islamic Sharia, whereby female heirs are entitled to half of the inheritance share of male heirs. For instance, Article 292 of the Personal Status Law,¹⁷ establishes that sons are entitled to twice the share received by daughters. Article 288 and 289 stipulate that a surviving widower receives one half of the estate (or one quarter if there is an inheriting branch), whereas a surviving widow receives one quarter of the estate (or one eighth if there is an inheriting branch). Article 281 of the Personal Status Law also prohibits inheritance between a Muslim and a non-Muslim.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do daughters and sons have the same rights to inherit?	No	!
Do female and male surviving spouses have the same rights to inherit?	No	!
Regarding inheritance rights of daughters, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of female surviving spouses, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between sons and daughters when it comes to inheritance?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between male and female surviving spouses when it comes to inheritance?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

¹⁶ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1952) "Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan", *Official Gazette No. 1093*.

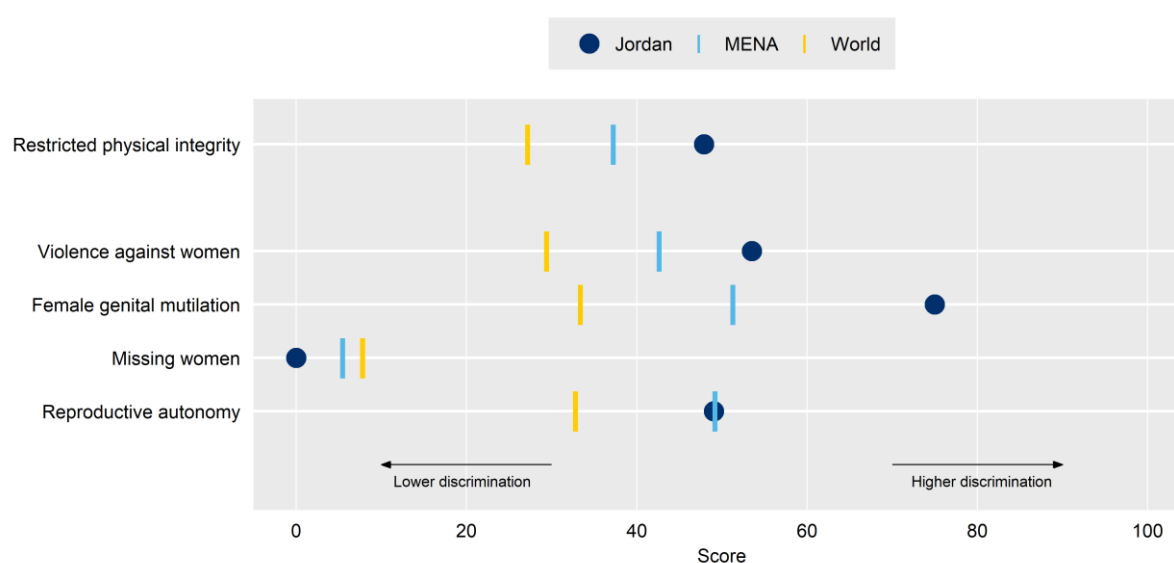
¹⁷ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), "Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019", *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

Restricted physical integrity

Jordan exhibits high levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 48, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 37 in the MENA region – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Jordan experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Female genital mutilation” indicator with a score of 75, followed by “Violence against women” and “Reproductive autonomy” with scores of 54 and 49, respectively. No discrimination is found in the “Missing women” indicator with a score of 0.

Figure 4. Restricted physical integrity scores for Jordan, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The MENA region covers Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Yemen.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Violence against women

Practices and social norms related to violence against women

Violence against women remains a major concern in Jordan. In 2023, 24% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner at least once over the last 12 months.¹⁸

These levels of intimate-partner violence are rooted in its widespread social acceptance. In 2023, 63% of women aged 15-49 think that it is justified for a husband to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances, such as burning the food, arguing with the spouse, going out without telling him, neglecting the children, or refusing to have sex. In comparison, 30% of women holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, as well as across the MENA region – based on countries for which data are available.

¹⁸ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.1

Legal frameworks concerning violence against women

Jordan does not have a dedicated law addressing all forms of violence against women. Different forms of violence against women (such as domestic violence or sexual violence) are covered in separate or general pieces of legislation. The Penal Code includes reduced penalties in cases of so-called “honour crimes.” Article 340 of the Penal Code,¹⁹ as amended in 2011,²⁰ establishes that a man or a woman who surprises his/her spouse or a relative in the act of adultery, and kills her/him and the adulterer, benefits from a mitigating excuse, compared to a sentence of 20 years of hard labour for intentional killing (Article 326, as amended in 2011). The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence²¹ prohibits and criminalises domestic violence, but without clearly defining to what type of abuses it applies. The 2016 National Framework for Family Protection from Violence²² provided a definition of family violence that covers physical, sexual and psychological violence, but not economic violence. Articles 292 to 295 of the Penal Code criminalise rape whereas Article 292 of the Penal Code, as amended in 1988,²³ grounds its definition on the notion of consent. However, the definition of rape does not cover marital rape, Articles 292 to 295 of the Penal Code stipulating explicitly that the provisions apply to any woman other than the spouse of the perpetrator. Finally, the Penal Code criminalizes acts assimilated to sexual harassment. Article 29 of the Labour Law²⁴ and Article 15 of the Cybercrime Law²⁵ further extends the protection against sexual harassment to the workplace and online settings.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is there a law specifically addressing violence against women?	No	!
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator?	n.a.	n.a.
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for protection and support services for victims/survivors?	n.a.	n.a.
Does the law include reduced penalties in case of so-called “honour crimes”?	Yes	!
Domestic violence		
Is domestic violence a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover physical abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover sexual abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover psychological abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover economic abuse?	No	!
Are there any exceptions included in informal laws (traditional, religious, and/or customary rules/laws) that reduce penalties for domestic violence?	No	✓
Rape		
Is rape a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Is the legal definition of rape based on lack of consent?	Yes	✓
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of physical force?	Yes	!
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of penetration?	Yes	!
Does the legal definition of rape include marital rape?	No	!
Does the law permit the reduction or removal of legal punishment if the perpetrator marries the victim?	No	✓
Sexual harassment		
Does the law prohibit sexual harassment?	Yes	✓
Does the law on sexual harassment include criminal penalties?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in the workplace?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in educational establishments?	Yes	✓

¹⁹ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1960), “Penal Code No. 16 of 1960”, *Official Gazette No. 1392*.

²⁰ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1960), “Law No. 8 of 2011 amending the Penal Code No. 16 of 1960”.

²¹ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2017), “Protection from Domestic Violence Law No. 15 of 2017”, *Official Gazette No. 5460*.

²² National Council for Family Affairs (2016), *National Framework for Family Protection against Violence*.

²³ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1988), “Law No. 9 of 1988 amending the Penal Code No. 16 of 1960”.

²⁴ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1996), “Labour Law No. 8 of 1996”, *Official Gazette No. 4113*.

²⁵ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2015), “Cybercrime Law No. 27 of 2015”, *Official Gazette No. 5343*.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in public spaces?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply online / on the internet?	Yes	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Female genital mutilation

Practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) is traditionally concentrated in a limited number of countries that have been well-identified and documented by international organisations at the forefront of the fight against this harmful practice. Yet, evidence highlights that FGM/C takes place across all regions, among indigenous and/or diaspora communities originating from countries where FGM/C is known to be common. In some contexts, girls are taken across national borders to undergo FGM/C in a country where the legislation against the practice is either non-existent or less strict.²⁶

There are no available data in Jordan that are comparable to other countries on practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting.

Legal frameworks concerning female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Articles 335 of the Penal Code²⁷ allows to prosecute FGM/C acts on broad grounds, namely under acts of severance or amputation, including when it leads to the loss of one of the senses on a permanent basis. However, the law does not criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on broad or narrow grounds?	Yes	✓
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds only?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow or encourage FGM/C?	Yes	!
Does the law take precedence over informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow, condone or prescribe FGM?	No	!

Note: The SIGI methodology assesses laws on FGM/C according to two scenarios: (1) criminalisation on narrow grounds includes laws that contain criminal penalties for acts of “female genital mutilation”, “permanent altering/removal of external genitalia”, “female circumcision”, “excision”, “infibulation” and “genital mutilation”; (2) criminalisation on broad grounds includes “mutilation”, “harming of a person’s organs”, “serious bodily injury” and “bodily injury/hurt/assault.” The presence of informal laws that allow or encourage FGM/C is proxied by the existence of nationally representative data on FGM/C or the existence of indirect estimates (usually used in countries where FGM/C is mainly practiced by diaspora communities), small-scale studies, or anecdotal evidence and media reports as reported by Equality Now, the End FGM European Network and the US End FGM/C Network in 2020.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>, and Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

Missing women

Practices related to missing women

²⁶ Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

²⁷ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1960), “Penal Code No. 16 of 1960”, *Official Gazette No. 1392*.

The “Missing women” indicator captures whether there are any existing imbalances in the natural sex ratio between girls and boys aged 0-4 due to pre- and postnatal gender-biased sex selection. These imbalances can result from sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and/or inadequate healthcare and nutrition for girls. A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

In Jordan, the “missing women” phenomenon is not an issue. The boy-to-girl sex ratio for children aged 0-4 is estimated at 104.6, which means that there are approximately 104.6 boys aged 0-4 for 100 girls of the same age, which is in line with a natural sex ratio at birth.

Reproductive autonomy

Practices related to women’s reproductive autonomy

Unmet needs for family planning are calculated as the proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married or in union, who wish to interrupt or delay childbearing but do not use any method of contraception.

In Jordan, the gap between women’s reproductive intentions and their contraceptive behaviour exists, with 14% of women aged 15-49 who declare having an unmet need for family planning, compared to a world average of 12% and an average of 13% in the MENA region – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women’s reproductive autonomy

Women’s reproductive autonomy can be restricted by laws that prohibit the access to safe and legal abortion under essential circumstances (in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life or health of the pregnant woman and severe foetal impairment).²⁸ Evidence shows that the share of unsafe abortions is higher in countries with restrictive abortion laws. Unsafe abortions are a leading but preventable cause of maternal mortality and millions of girls and women are hospitalised every year following complications of unsafe abortion procedures.²⁹

Articles 321 to 325 of the Penal Code³⁰ prohibits and criminalises abortion, stipulating that abortion performed to preserve the honour of a woman constitutes a mitigating excuse (Article 324). However, Article 12 of the Public Health Law³¹ establishes exceptions to the Penal Code and authorises doctors to perform an abortion to save the mother’s life or if the pregnancy threatens the woman’s health.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is abortion illegal under any circumstances?	No	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to save the woman’s life?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the physical health of the woman?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the mental health of the woman?	No	!
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of rape or statutory rape?	No	!
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of incest?	No	!

²⁸ CEDAW (2022), *Access to safe and legal abortion: Urgent call for United States to adhere to women’s rights convention*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/07/access-safe-and-legal-abortion-urgent-call-united-states-adhere-womens-rights>.

²⁹ UNFPA (2022), *State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen - The Case for Action in the Neglected Crisis of Unintended Pregnancy*, UNFPA, Geneva, <https://doi.org/10.18356/9789210015004>.

³⁰ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1960), “Penal Code No. 16 of 1960”, *Official Gazette No. 1392*.

³¹ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2008), “Public Health Law No. 47 of 2008”, *Official Gazette No. 4924*.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: social and economic reasons do not allow the mother to sustain a pregnancy?	No	!
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: foetal impairment?	No	!
Does a woman require the approval of a medical practitioner to seek a legal abortion?	Yes	!
Does the law require the approval of the father of the foetus to seek a legal abortion?	No	✓
Is there any national plan or policy that provide universal access to family planning services?	Yes	✓
Is there any law or national policy that provide free or subsidised access to contraception?	Yes	✓
Does the national school curricula include mandatory and comprehensive sexuality education?	No	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Restricted access to productive and financial resources

Jordan exhibits medium levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 34, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 39 in the MENA region – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Jordan experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Workplace rights” indicator with a score of 62, followed by the “Access to land assets” and “Access to non-land assets” indicators, with a score of 25 for both. The lowest levels of discrimination in this dimension are found in the “Access to financial services” indicator with a score of 16.

Figure 5. Restricted access to productive and financial resources scores for Jordan, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The MENA region covers Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Yemen.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Access to land assets

Practices related to women’s access to secure land assets

In Jordan, women’s land ownership remains a serious concern. In 2023, only 7% of women are landowners, compared to 14% of men. This translates in women accounting for 32% of landowners in the country.

Legal frameworks concerning women’s access to land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use land?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Regarding land, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to non-land assets

Practices related to women's secure access to non-land assets

In Jordan, women's access to non-land assets remains limited. In 2023, only 11% of women own a house, compared to 31% of men. This translates in women accounting for only 25% of house owners in the country.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to non-land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Regarding property and other non-land assets, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of non-land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to financial services

Practices related to women's access to formal financial services

Gender imbalances in terms of access to financial services remain an issue in Jordan, and the overall access of the population is low. In 2023, 32% of women have a bank account at a financial institution, compared to 53% of men. This translates into women accounting for 35% of bank account holders. In comparison, at the global level, 67% of women have a bank account, compared to 72% of men. Across the MENA region, on average, 40% of women have a bank account, compared to 54% of men, translating into women accounting for only 39% of bank account holders.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to financial services

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	Yes	✓
Does the law require married women to obtain the signature and authority of their husband to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	No	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to obtain credit?	Yes	✓
Regarding access to formal financial services, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity, caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to opening a bank account?	No	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to obtaining credit?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Workplace rights

Practices and social norms related to women's workplace rights

Women remain largely excluded from positions with decision-making power in the economic sphere. Only 3% of companies in the country are headed by women. Moreover, data show that women account for 60% of employees in a managerial position,³² compared to a world average of 25% and an average of 14% in the MENA region – based on countries for which data are available. However, these data must be taken with extreme caution. The International Labour Organization recalled in 2021 that this figure is derived from estimations based on a survey in which a majority of female respondents were from the education sector, and only a minority were from other sectors.³³ Because education is a highly feminised sector, with the majority of principals in schools and kindergartens being women, it increases the likelihood of all women from the sample being categorised as managers. Data reveal that once female school and kindergarten principals are removed from the sample, the share of women among managers in non-education sectors drops to less than 5%.

These gender gaps are upheld by discriminatory social norms that establish men as the main breadwinners and more fit to hold leadership positions. In Jordan, 56% of the population believes that men make better business executives than women, compared to a world average of 42% and an average of 60% in the MENA region. Likewise, 82% of the population agrees that when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women. In comparison, 45% of the population holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 73% of the people across the MENA region – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's workplace rights

Jordan's legal framework, and notably the Labour Law, does not specifically prohibit gender-based discrimination in employment. In 2018, the Ministry of Labour suspended³⁴ the application of Article 69 of the Labour Law³⁵ which restricted the employment of women in certain occupations and at night. However, Article 61 of the Personal Status Law,³⁶ stipulates that a married woman can work outside the home provided that her spouse has explicitly or implicitly agreed to it. Matters of family and personal status in Jordan being governed by religious tribunals, non-Muslim minorities are subjected to their own personal status legal systems, and therefore are not covered by the limitations established by Article 61 of the Personal Status Law.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sex?	No	!
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	✓
Does the law prohibit women from entering certain professions?	No	✓

³² This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.2

³³ ILO (2021), *Women managers in Jordan: ILO cautions against taking data out of context*, International Labour Organization, https://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_774849/lang-en/index.htm.

³⁴ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2018), "Resolution No. 2/2018", *Ministry of Labour*.

³⁵ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1996), "Labour Law No. 8 of 1996", *Official Gazette No. 4113*.

³⁶ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), "Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019", *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid maternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid paternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid parental leave?	No	!
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	Yes	!
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓
Regarding women's legal right to take a paid job or work and/or register a business, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to entering certain professions?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

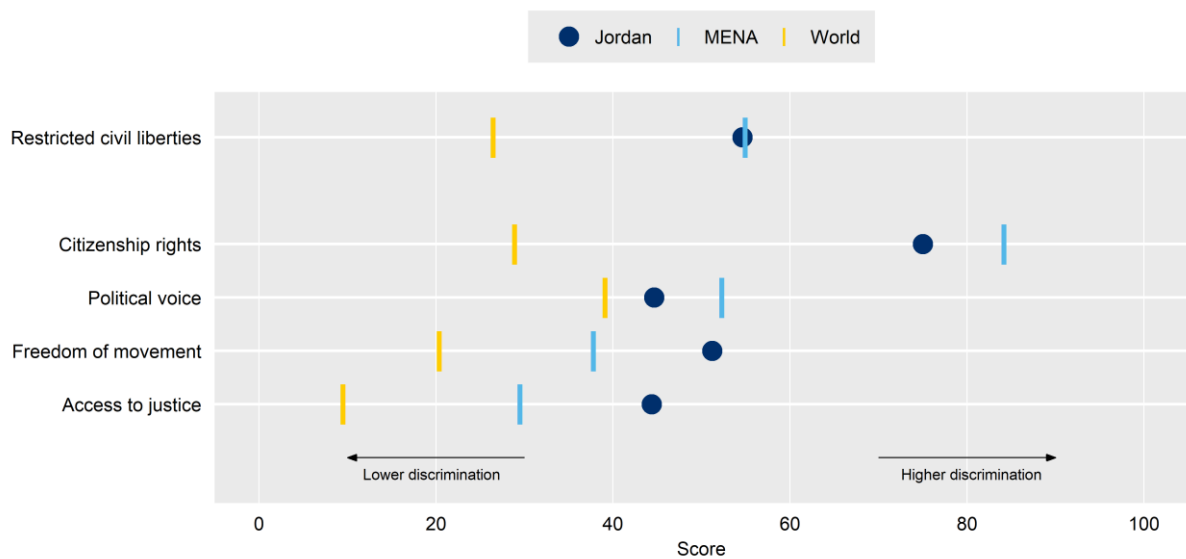
Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Restricted civil liberties

Jordan exhibits very high levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 55, compared to a world average of 26 and an average score of 55 in the MENA region – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Jordan experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Citizenship rights” indicator with a score of 75, followed by “Freedom of movement” with a score of 51. The lowest levels of discrimination are found in the “Political voice” and “Access to justice” indicators with scores of 45 and 44, respectively, still denoting high levels of discrimination.

Figure 6. Restricted civil liberties scores for Jordan, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The MENA region covers Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Yemen.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Citizenship rights

Legal frameworks concerning women’s citizenship rights

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Nationality Law,³⁷ a child born to a Jordanian father is also Jordanian. Conversely, a Jordanian mother can confer her nationality to her child only if the father is unknown. Article 8 of the Nationality Law provides that a foreign woman married to a Jordanian can acquire the Jordanian nationality after a certain number of years. There are no provisions for a foreign man who marries a Jordanian woman to acquire the Jordanian nationality. In this regard, marriage of a Jordanian woman to a foreign national does not confer the Jordanian nationality to the foreign man.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓

³⁷ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1954), “Jordanian Nationality Law No. 6 of 1954”, *Official Gazette No. 1171*.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their spouse?	No	!
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their children?	No	!
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to confer nationality to their children?	No	!
Regarding women's nationality rights, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to acquiring, changing, or retaining their nationality?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to conferring nationality to their spouse and/or children?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Freedom of movement

Practices related to women's freedom of movement

Freedom of movement is recognised as a human right and mobility is essential in everyday life, for instance to reach the workplace or healthcare facilities. In Jordan, women feel more unsafe than men, but only a small part of the overall population feels that way. Across the country, 17% of women declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or in the area where they live, compared to 9% of men. This translates into women accounting for 60% of those who do not feel safe walking alone at night.

Legal frameworks concerning women's freedom of movement

Beyond the challenge of ensuring that everyone feels safe enough to move around in public spaces, laws must guarantee women and men the same rights to obtain identification documents and to travel by themselves within and outside of their country.

Article 72 and 78 of the Personal Status Law³⁸ stipulates that a woman must obey her spouse and provides that a woman can lose her right to spousal maintenance if she is deemed disobedient – for instance if she leaves the marital home without a legitimate reason. Article 78 specifies that the married man cannot prevent his spouse from visiting her ancestors, descendants and siblings in a reasonable manner. Article 176 also restricts the right of a child's custodian (the mother) to travel abroad with the child as the consent of the guardian (the father) is required.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the government provide national identity cards?	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as a married man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as an unmarried man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a passport in the same way as a married man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a passport in the same way as an unmarried man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Regarding identity cards and/or passports, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside the country?	No	!

³⁸ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2019), "Personal Status Law No. 15 of 2019", *Official Gazette No. 5578*.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside their homes?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to applying for identity cards or passports?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Political voice

Practices and social norms related to women's political voice

Women's political representation in the country is very low, with women accounting for only 12% of the members of parliament in 2023, compared to a world average of 27% and an average of 17% in the MENA region.

Discriminatory attitudes that exclude women from positions of power in the political sphere are widespread, with 72% of the country's population declaring that men make better political leaders than women.

Legal frameworks concerning women's political voice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to vote?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the legislative branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the executive branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public office in the judiciary branch?	Yes	✓
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the national level?	Yes	✓
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the local level?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the national level?	No	!
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the local level?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to voting?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to holding public office?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to justice

Practices related to women's access to justice

In Jordan, 17% of women do not trust the judicial system and courts, compared to 22% of men. This translates into women accounting for 38% of those who do not trust the country's judicial system.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to justice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to sue?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the civil courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the criminal courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the family courts?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the tribunals?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes suing someone?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to providing testimony in court?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being judges, advocates or other court officers?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.