



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Arab Women in Journalism: The Arab Region

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ One of the first contributions to the field of Arab women in journalism was *al-Fatah*, a monthly journal in Alexandria, Egypt, that was established in 1892. The journal focused on discussing women's role in history and their achievements.¹
- ❖ According to *Modern Arab Journalism: Problems and Prospects*, journalism is currently one of the most popular fields of study for Arab female students at Arab universities. For example, in Lebanon, 85% of students majoring in journalism and communications are women.^{2,3}
- ❖ In December 1999, the Arab Women Media Center (AWMC) was established in Jordan in order to advance networking among Arab female journalists, train recent college graduates in journalism, and produce documentaries on violence against women and female activism.⁴
- ❖ In 2002, more than 1,000 female journalists met for the first Arab Women Media Forum in Abu Dhabi in order to implement strategies to improve the media's portrayal of Arab women as well as women's roles in the field of journalism.⁵
- ❖ During the 2006 war in Lebanon, there were more women than men reporting for *Al-Arabiya*, *al-Jazeera* and a number of Lebanese satellite television channels in the most dangerous zones of the four-week conflict. It was also reported that none of the women were previously trained in war reporting.^{6,7}
- ❖ In 2011, Tawakkol Karman, a human rights activist and journalist, became the first Yemeni, the first Arab woman, and the second Muslim woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize.⁸
- ❖ In 2013, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), a UK-based charity that works to reduce the impact of global armed violence, named eight Arab women among the top 100 most influential journalists covering armed violence.⁹
- ❖ To honor the annual Arab Women Media Day as well as International Women's Day, Princess Basma of Jordan and the chairperson of the AWMC, honored 11 Jordanian female journalists on March 9, 2016.^{10,11}

¹<https://books.google.com/books?id=J6YXo4VV6yMC&pg=PA46&lpg=PA46&dq=arab+women+in+journalism&source=bl&ots=RHvEmrCarV&sig=suG3pZ4gGFSIEPyVwNvQCX6ZnZY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjF69GznrTLAhUY6WMKHba4A844ChDoAQhIMAc#v=onepage&q=arab%20women%20in%20journalism&f=false>

²https://books.google.com/books?id=1C6lBgAAQBAJ&pg=PA59&lpg=PA59&dq=emergence+of+young+arab+women+in+journalism&source=bl&ots=Nm5_pt8jgV&sig=y5SiDR2dRV6iWrwTPA1ABDnWD4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwIU_5ml7LHLAhVL7WMKHQuXCeAQ6AEITzAI#v=onepage&q=emergence%20of%20young%20arab%20women%20in%20journalism&f=false

³ http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/28397/12435929903gender_booklet_en.pdf/gender_booklet_en.pdf

⁴ <http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/members/arab-women-media-center-awmc-mrkz-llmyt-lrbyt-alf-jordanian-steering-committee-member>

⁵ <http://www.wrmea.org/2002-april/arab-women-journalists-seek-ways-to-improve-their-image-at-home-and-in-the-west.html>

⁶ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/1526197/Arab-women-journalists-take-their-place-in-front-line-of-war-reporting.html>

⁷ <http://www.newssafety.com/stories/insi/arabwomenjournalists.htm>

⁸ <http://nobelwomensinitiative.org/meet-the-laureates/tawakkol-karman/>

⁹ <http://english.aaw.sat.com/2013/10/article55319404/8-arab-women-among-most-influential-journalists-covering-conflicts>

¹⁰ <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/princess-basma-honours-women-journalists>

¹¹ <http://www.ayamm.org/english/>