



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Women in National Legislatures post-2011: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya

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- ❖ According to a 2015 report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Arab World in general, women held an average of 9.5% of legislative seats in 2010, which rose by a significant margin to 16.1% at the end of 2015.¹
- ❖ Women in the Tunisian legislature comprised 28% of the total seats in 2011, and increased to 31% in 2014.²
- ❖ In Tunisia's 2014 Constitution, the "state seeks to guarantee women's representation in elected bodies." However, no quota system was established.³
- ❖ In 2012, according to the World Bank, Libyan women held 17% of seats in their national legislature, compared to 16% in 2015.⁴
- ❖ A 2014 draft Libyan constitution states that the legislature shall be representative "of all sections and social, cultural and linguistic components of the Libyan people," but makes no mention of specifically women's representation in legislative bodies.⁵
- ❖ In 2014, despite calls by various women's organizations to implement a quota for women's representation in the Egyptian Parliament, the 50-member Constitutional drafting committee refused to adopt such a quota. Thus, in Article 11 of the 2014 Egyptian Constitution, no quota system was implemented.⁶
- ❖ Egypt's 2014 Constitution guarantees that the state shall ensure the necessary representation of women in legislative bodies. However, no quota system was established.⁷
- ❖ Following the 2015 parliamentary elections in Egypt, women comprise 15% of the total legislative seats, which is unprecedented in modern Egypt.⁸ This stands in stark contrast to 2011 levels of representation, when women comprised a mere 2% of legislative seats.⁹

¹ <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/WIP20Y-en.pdf>

² <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/11/arab-women-make-slow-progress.html#>

³ https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Tunisia_2014.pdf

⁴ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS>

⁵ <http://www.constitutionnet.org/files/c2-form-and-system-of-governance-draft-work-eng.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.agora-parl.org/news/womens-gains-egyptian-constitution-2014>

⁷ <http://womenalliance.org/egyptian-women-and-the-new-constitution>

⁸ <https://mfaegypt.org/2016/01/14/egypts-parliamentary-elections-setting-the-record-straight/>

⁹ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS>