



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Women in Palestine & Lebanon Legislation

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EWIC Staff: This datasheet chronologically examines women's participation in legislation in Palestine and Lebanon

- ❖ Palestinian women were included in the delegation that met the British high commissioner in July of 1920. In 1921 Palestinian women established the Palestine Women's Union. This organization participated in the 1964 founding meeting of the Palestinian National Congress.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ The General Union of Palestinian Women, established in 1965, is a wing of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ After the Intifada of 2000, -- an uprising by Palestinians against the Israeli government-- women's activity in the movement became less visible.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ In 2006, 17 women were elected to the Palestinian National Council (PNC) out of the total 132 available seats (12.87%). In 1996 (the first meeting of the PLC) 5 women were elected from a total of 88 (5.68%).<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ The first organization, the Lebanon Women's Union, dedicated to women's rights in Lebanon was established prior to independence, in 1920<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ In 1996 the Lebanese parliament ratified the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. This Convention sets out internationally accepted principles on the definition of women's rights and legislates what equality between genders is.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ The Lebanese Women's Council (LWC), established 6 November 1952, by 2014 was a conglomerate of 170 women's NGOs<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ Lebanon's Unicameral National Assembly (LNA) does not have a legislated gender quota, but it does have religious quota. Of the 128 seats in the LNA, 4 are held by women<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (January 9, 2015) <http://www.pij.org/details.php?id=1371>

<sup>2</sup> (January 9, 2015) <http://gupw.net/>

<sup>3</sup> (January 9, 2015) <http://www.lnf.org.lb/windex/introduction.html>

<sup>4</sup> Palestinian Women: Gender Politics and Nationalism by Sherna Berger Gluck

<sup>5</sup> (January 9, 2015) <http://lcw-cfl.org/>

<sup>6</sup> (January 9, 2015) <http://www.quotaproject.org/uid/countryview.cfm?country=128>

