

Fight for Rights

She is not allowed to vote, work, or shop without her husband's permission. She must bring honor to her family. If she shames her husband, she will be beaten or worse...

For women, life in the Middle East is difficult. Human rights activists around the world continually urge Middle Eastern countries to improve the rights of women.

In many Middle Eastern countries, the idea of a woman having the same rights as a man is considered preposterous. Women are seen as the property of their fathers and husbands. The fathers of young girls often choose a husband for their daughters. The daughter is not allowed to make many family decisions. She has no personal money and is unable to provide for herself.



Once a woman is married, she is bound to her husband. Even if her husband mistreats her, it is very hard for Middle Eastern women to get a divorce. If they are able to divorce their husbands, they are often not allowed custody of their children. Men on the other hand, can divorce their wives very easily, sometimes only by announcing it in public!

Women in the Middle East are recognized by their unique dress. Most Middle Eastern women cover their heads with a "hijab" or a light scarf. Others must wear "burqas," which are long robes and veils that cover the entire body. When a woman wears a burqa, the only visible part of her body is her eyes.

The rights of women in the Middle East vary from country to country and many reports say that equality is spreading for Arab women.



Higher-Order Thinking: How would you feel if you had limited rights like women in the Middle East? How would your daily life be different?

