

---

September 5: Bahrain minister's anti-abaya decision annulled

Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammad Al Khalifa Bahrain culture minister started firestorm by banning the abaya in her ministry (Gulf News)

Egypt

August 25: NGOs condemn minister's intention to exclude women from governor reshuffle

"A coalition of groups advocating for women's rights said Monday it is necessary to include women in the upcoming governor reshuffle after a minister said women would only be appointed as deputies and assistants." Daily News Egypt

"Banning Iranian women from working as waitresses to preserve their modesty only deepen female unemployment, an Iranian president said of the latest effort to make women less visible in the workplace." ([Bloomberg](#))

September 3: All-female pop band to perform in Tehran

"Setareye Qotbi (Polaris), an all-female Iranian pop band, will appear again to perform concerts at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on September 4 and [Babayan](#)

September 5: Iran's supreme leader slams Western views on feminism

"Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei slammed Thursday Western values which he said, unlike those in the Islamic Republic, undermine feminism."

“A tougher framework is needed to protect Iraqi girls who are working illegally in factories, as many are being exploited, harassed and sexually abused.” (Al-Monitor)

#### September 4: Meet the Female Recruiters of ISIS

“Umm Ubaydah doesn’t have a blue checkmark verifying her as a muhajirah on Twitter. And yet, she’s become, along with a group of other young Western Muslim women, an active online surrogate for the terrorist group ISIS.” (New York Magazine)

#### September 5: The Kurdish female fighters bringing the fight to IS

“Around a third of the Syrian Kurdish force is made up of women. On the frontlines they fight alongside the men, taking the same risks and facing the same dangers.” (BBC)

#### September 6: How ISIS Is Recruiting Women From Around the World

“How the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria recruits female converts, and” (TIME)

Israel

#### September 1: Israeli army opens more combat roles to women

“Six female recruits

Saudi Arabia

September 1: No plans to drop maternity benefits in Saudi Arabia

“Spokesperson sacked over wrong statement attributed to education minister”

“Abu Dhabi police launch initiative to help female drivers cope with psychological trauma related to accidents” ([Gulf News](#))