
Egypt

September 2: Egypt to tackle sexual harassment alongside Eid al-Adha celebrations

"A new anti-sexual harassment initiative entitled 'Aman,' which aims to end sexual harassment, is set to launch alongside Eid al-Adha celebrations, its organizers said. Reports of sexual harassment and assault in crowded areas increase during the holidays. 'Aman,' an Arabic word which translates into security, is a project that aims to encourage Egyptian women to report crimes of sexual violence to authorities, and to use media to their advantage." (Albawaba)

September 7: Egyptian MP: Women must undergo FGM to control men's desires

"Women must undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) to help curb men's 'sexual weakness,' an Egyptian MP, Elhamy Agina, said. He added that the procedure would reduce women's 'sexual appetites.' Illegal in Egypt since 2008, Agina said banning FGM would only work if Egypt had 'strong men' who were able to control their desires." (Middle East Monitor)

Iran

September 1: Canadian Iranian Professor Hospitalized After Months in Iranian Jail

"A Canadian professor jailed in Iran, Homa Hoodfar, was recently hospitalized after spending months in the country's notorious Evin prison, according to her family and legal representative. Hoodfar, a renowned expert on gender studies and professor emerita at Montreal's Concordia University, was in Iran conducting academic work when Revolutionary Guard officers confiscated her passport in March. She was later arrested on June 6, and her family says she is being held in solitary confinement." (Huffington Post)

September 5: Iran shuts 800 shops for selling 'unconventional' women's coats

"Iranian police said they had closed more than 800 clothes shops to stop them from selling unconventional women's coats, state media reported. Further 3,000 shops have been sent warnings, the IRNA news agency reported. A new fashion for women's coats, known as manteaux in Iran - with English phrases printed on the back had attracted the attention of the authorities, who passed new regulations in July." (Middle East Eye)

September 8: Beneath Iranian Supreme Leader's New Plan for Women, Social Structures of the Past (Op-Ed by Haleh Esfandiari)

"Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has again turned his attention to the role of women in society. In a 16-point declaration issued to all three branches of government, the supreme leader

discussed making Iran a 'family centered society' Basically, Ayatollah Khamenei wants women to marry, raise children and be homemakers. His policy statement calls for a national, all-encompassing campaign to facilitate and increase marriage and to discourage remaining single. (Street Journal)

September 9: Iran Sentences Iranian-British Charity Worker to Five Years in Prison

"Iran has sentenced an Iranian-British charity worker, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, to five years in prison, after detaining her while on a family trip to the country in April, her husband said. She is one of several dual nationals Iran has arrested in recent months, some of whom have been accused of spying." (Street Journal)

Iraq

September 4: Iraqi official: Over 600 Shia Turkmen women, children under ISIS captivity

"More than 600 Shia Turkmen women and children remain under the control of ISIS," Masrouour Aswad, a member of the High Commission of Human Rights in Iraq, said. He also said that international organizations are not paying enough attention to free these hostages. The women in captivity are often used as sex slaves and the children trained for suicide attacks. (Al-Bayt News Agency)

Jordan

Saudi Arabia

September 2: Saudi Arabia Hashtag Calls For An End To Male Guardianship

"A hashtag calling for an end to male guardianship over women in Saudi Arabia is gathering momentum. #TogetherToEndMaleGuardianship is especially poignant given the kingdom's poor record of women's rights, which includes restrictions on driving, travel, marriage and work. Thus far, almost 200,000 tweets with the hashtag have been made in English and Arabic, signifying support for the movement to emancipate women from oppressive male guardianship. [\(The Huffington Post UK\)](#)

Syria

August 31: Milk and Mentors: Helping Syrian Women Support Their Families

"When Nadia Alawa moved from Japan to New Hampshire with her family in 1996, she intended to focus on raising her eight children. But years later, a single incident from the Syrian civil war compelled Alawa to turn her focus halfway across the world to help families suffering through the conflict. NuDay Syria is known for setting up mentorship programs for women and girls, thus encouraging involvement and the potential for learning. [NewsDeeply](#)

September 1: Women of Syria, a strong constituency for peace

"We, the Syrian women, can and may well be the backbone of Syrian peace and reconciliation, says Insaf Hamad, member of the first Women's Advisory Board, composed of 12 independent civil society representatives from diverse backgrounds, who consult regularly with the UN Special Envoy for Syria, raising matters that are missing from the agenda and providing recommendations to assist the peace talks. Their unanimous ask: resume the peace process, end the conflict in Syria." [\(UNWomen\)](#)

Turkey

August 30: Turkish women in desperate hunt for embryos after IVF clinic shuts down in wake of coup

"As a group of rogue officers moved to overthrow Turkey's government, Zeynep Ustahüseyin was preparing for pregnancy. She had already quit her job in anticipation. Two weeks later, she dashed to her clinic in a state of despair. Amid a sweeping post-coup purge, the government had shut the hospital and seized everything in it. Dozens of distraught women who say they had frozen eggs or embryos at the closed IVF clinic tell similar stories. [\(Telegraph\)](#)

September 4: Istanbul hosts International Women's Museum Conference in October

"Organized by the Istanbul Women's Museum and Bilgi University's Faculty of Communications, the 'Women's Museums: Center of Social Memory and Place of Inclusion' conference will be held at Istanbul Salt Galata October 20-22, bringing together directors, curators and artists from women's museums around the world and academics, social activists and governmental organization spokespersons to discuss the social and cultural role that women's museums play in 21st century society. [\(Daily Sabah\)](#)

United Arab Emirates

September 2: Hospital honors women's day with free checkups

"As the UAE honored women with Emirati Women's Day, Medeor 24x7 Hospital Abu Dhabi has dedicated a whopping number of services for all women. These exclusive services for women start with a free pap smear, one of the earliest ways to

September 4: Emirati woman earns first marine certification

"An Emirati woman, Sahar Rasti, who works for Abu Dhabi Ports has navigated her way into the UAE maritime history books. Rasti, navigation services coordinator for marine firm Safeen has earned one of the highest international certifications in navigational standards, Abu Dhabi Ports announced. Marine authorities said Rasti is the first Emirati woman to complete training certification related to operating and managing aids to navigation." (Gulf News)

Yemen

September 7: Houthi militias recruiting women to fight

"Footage and images of women with children and infants participating in a military parade in Yemen's capital Sanaa surfaced, as they pledged to fight alongside Houthi militias. A source close to Houthi militia leaders told the Arabic website of Al Arabiya's news channel that the military parade was attended by hundreds of women and is the first public appearance revealing the formation of a women's militia unit." (Al-Arabiya)

September 8: 'Women like us:' On Women and war in Yemen (Op-Ed: National Yemen Staff)

"The idea of documenting women's lives during a conflict is not new. However, these stories remain underreported in Yemen, a country torn by war and conflict. The photo series 'Women Like Us,' visual storyteller Tana Faruq captures the stories of women from different social status and class in Yemen and their experience of the war – their struggles, their aspirations, and their ambitions. While each woman has suffered the war differently, yet they all share a sense of hope and resilience." (National Yemen)

General

September 4: Voices above the chaos: female war poets from the Middle East

"So the Middle East continues to implode – but the voices of women are being heard." (The New York Times)