

MENA Women's News Brief

May 6-20, 2014

Algeria

May 8: UN praises Algeria for appointing seven female ministers

“Seven new women in Algeria's cabinet is a milestone for the Arab world, the United Nations says.”
([Al-Ahram](#))

Egypt

May 6: Egyptian women scared to speak out against sexual harassment

“The phenomenon of sexual harassment in Egypt has led to the emergence of grassroots movements defending a woman's right to safely walk in public places. These movements include the ‘I saw harassment’ movement and the Facebook page ‘I will not remain quiet about harassment,’ among many other movements, most of which are established by victims of harassment.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

May 10: Draft law combating sexual harassment is a positive yet insufficient step: Women's rights advocates

“The new amendments to the Penal Code regarding sexual harassment are an ‘important yet insufficient step in fighting harassment’, said Fatma Khafagy, Director Ombudswoman for Gender Equality at the National Council for Women (NCW).” ([Daily News Egypt](#))

May 14: Almost a fifth of Egyptian households are headed by women: CAP– 10.7 million households – in

May 18: Egyptian women’s council launches anti-sexual harassment campaign

“Egypt’s National Council for Women (NCW), a Cairo-based non-governmental organization, launched Saturday a week-long campaign to combat sexual harassment against Egyptian women. During the week, workshops taking place in Cairo and Alexandria targeting civil society and media personnel will be held to spread awareness on fighting sexual harassment.” ([Al-Arabiya](#))

Iran

May 9: Women Rights and Gender Equality (under Rouhani)

“Many women voted for Rouhani due to his promises for social freedom, gender equality, and because he was presented as a moderate candidate. Nevertheless, as Sima, an Iranian teacher and women's rights activist who lives west of Tehran in the city of Karaj stated, ‘President Rouhani has been successful in making a nuclear deal and resolving some of the tension regarding nuclear issues, but the reality is that women's conditions have not changed. The conditions are still the same as they were under former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's era.’” ([Huffington Post](#))

May 14: Iranian women theological students pay first visit to the US

“A delegation of Iranian women students from Jamiat al-Zahra, the world’s largest theological seminary for women, is in the United States for the first time to attend lectures at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The group of nine women — mostly postgraduate students in their 20s — from the Iranian theological cen



Lebanon

May 13: Joint citizenship committees' meetings on citizenship law fails

“The current Lebanese law does not allow women to pass on citizenship to their spouse or children. Women's rights organization KAFA (Enough Violence and Exploitation) issued a statement Monday saying they were against the law and that the priority should be given to a bill allowing Lebanese women to pass their nationality to their children.” (



