

# The legal advancements in favor of Saudi women.

2013-2016



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# Educational Rights

The opening of Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University for Women as the first university dedicated to women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

# The Right To Work

The implementation of the decision allowing women to practice law, with the first licenses issued to four women

The adoption of increasing women's participation in the labor market from 22% to 30% as part of the National Transformation Program's goals

The adoption of expanding women's participation in government work to 42% as part of the National Transformation Program's goals.

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# Political Rights

The appointment of 30 women to the Shura Council, representing 20% of its members.

Women's participation in running for and voting in municipal council elections.

# Social Rights

The issuance of the Protection from Abuse Law, which criminalizes all forms of domestic violence against women and children and establishes deterrent penalties for perpetrators.

Allowing divorced and widowed women to obtain a family record for themselves and their children.

Granting the custodial mother the right of guardianship over the child, allowing her to deal with civil status departments, passport offices, embassies, education authorities, and schools, as well as complete all procedures related to the child with various government and private entities using the custody decree.

# Social Rights

The issuance of the Minister of Justice's decision to provide two copies of the marriage contract, one for the husband and one for the wife, aiming to protect women's rights and facilitate procedures for them.

The issuance of directives from the Minister of Justice to treat those who fail to provide alimony for women and children as offenders, akin to those involved in abuse and violence crimes.

The approval to establish centers for implementing custody and visitation rulings, replacing the previous practice of handling them at police stations, as part of the Ministry of Justice's initiatives under the National Transformation Program.

# Social Rights

The approval to establish a "Maintenance Fund" as part of the Ministry of Justice's initiatives under the National Transformation Program, aimed at expediting the enforcement of alimony rulings for women and children.

The approval to eliminate the requirement for two witnesses in cases of divorce and reconciliation, allowing the national ID to suffice.

Working on implementing electronic marriage contracts to protect women from denial by the husband and to establish their inheritance rights.

## The cancellation of the requirement for the wife

The cancellation of the requirement for a wife to return to her marital home (Article 75 of the Enforcement Law).

The adoption of the ruling to marry off a woman whose guardians are obstructing her marriage (Article 33 of the Procedural Law), issued in 1435 AH / 2013.

Allowing women to file personal status lawsuits in the jurisdiction of either the plaintiff's or defendant's residence to facilitate the process (Article 39 of the Procedural Law).

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## The cancellation of the requirement for the wife

The issuance of a judgment imposing a prison sentence of up to 3 months for those who refuse to comply with custody, visitation, or guardianship rulings, or for those who delay them (Article 92 of the Enforcement Regulations), issued in 1433 AH (before 2012).

The inclusion of certain personal status lawsuits under expedited judicial procedures to ensure their swift consideration and resolution (Article 106 of the Executive Regulations of the Procedural Law)

# The Right To Litigate.

Requiring courts and judicial facilities to verify a woman's identity through biometric fingerprinting instead of requiring her to present a guarantor.

The establishment of specialized courts to handle personal status cases.

The opening of Mawaddah Support Offices for legal assistance in personal status courts in major cities (Riyadh, Mecca, Medina, Jeddah, Dammam). These offices will be staffed with qualified legal and Sharia researchers to provide free legal consultations to women visiting the courts.

# The Right To Litigate.

The creation of a new agency within the Ministry of Justice dedicated to family affairs.

The initiative to open women's offices in Notary Public departments to provide guidance and awareness services to women visiting these offices.

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