

Report on Egyptian woman conditions in 2012

2012.. Women get out to the streets

Introduction:

When President Mohammed Morsi was in the United Nations this year he was asked about women conditions and faced with worries regarding the challenges confronting women in Egypt. He answered those questions and worries declaring that "Egyptian woman has the same equal rights as men; there are even some men who ask to be guaranteed the same rights as women".

Though Mr. President was joking, but the data about real deterioration in Egyptian women's situation, that made Egypt the first state in the world in the field of women's situation deterioration, made the listeners to Morsi's joke unable to understand it. They wanted an answer on what is he going to do for women and the procedures he is considering to apply to stop this deterioration as the first elected president after a revolution demanded justice and equality.

While the center provides this year's status report of Egyptian women, it faced a number of challenges the most important of it is the scarcity of information and statistics about the situation of women; Most writings expressed admiration to the Egyptian women presence or the astonishment of the size of their participation in public work, from which she was far for decades.

As for the approved research institutions, it seem that they are, similar to Egypt, facing many problems that made the intellectual production and monitoring so modest compared with the previous years, so there is not available statistics or sufficient analytical writings to help us. The center, like many human rights and women organizations in Egypt, was also

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under intense pressure from the Ministry of Social Affairs such as the disagreement on many of the center's programs or delays in the issuance of approvals for more than a year to limit the NGOs activities or paralyze them. This situation made the report depend on a limited number of researchers who exerted tremendous efforts in research and document, hoping that the center can introduce a useful report on Egyptian Women in 2012, so would you please excuse us for any disadvantages.

There are 2 main sections in this report:

Part I: the political and civil right

Part II: the economic and social rights

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Part I: the political and civil right

Egypt witnessed sever deterioration on the level of political rights of women retreating to level 125 out of 133 countries all over the world, as clarified in a report by the world economic forum 2012. Egypt also reached level 128 out of 131 countries regarding women presence in the parliaments as the percentage of female parliamentarians in Egypt decreased to 2% in 2011 parliament, after reaching 12.5% in 2010. In what is called "revolution parliament" female members were 5 out of 180 in the Shura council, 2.7%.

The people's assembly:

The women participation in 2011-2012 parliamentary elections came in the shade of some factors:

- The rise of fundamental voices calling for constraining women into certain types and roles and limiting her right to participate on all levels, especially politically. Some of those voices see that the woman's getting into the parliament is "evil". The Salafi parties were obliged to add women on their electoral lists.
- Repealing the parliamentary elections law with the women quota, and stating that "at least" each list should contain a woman and did not oblige the parties to put women at the beginning of their lists to guarantee her presentation, based on the constitutional declaration.
- The increase of female candidates: for the first time in the Egyptian history of women political participation, the female candidates number reached 984 candidates 633 of them nominated on the lists and 351 participated as individuals. In 2010 the female candidates were 404, compared to 133 in 2005.
- The increase of the female voters: the number of women who has the right to vote reached 23 million and 500 thousands voters
- The increase of female candidates in the governorates in the conservative Upper Egypt and near the borders. The highest percentage for female candidates were in Aswan and North Sinai with 28.8% and 28% followed by Alwadi -Aljadid with 27% rate, and then Luxor 25% along with the Red sea, Suez and Ismailia with the same percentage. As for the governorates of Cairo, Giza and qualuoubia the percentage was 13%, 13% and 17.7 in row. The highest governorate

in nominating women as individual candidates was Port Said and the Red Sea (11%), then South Sinai (10%) followed by Alwadi- Aljadid (7%) then Giza (5.6%). The least governorate regarding nominating women as individuals was kafr Alshikh (1.5%).

- The weak presence for female candidates on the political parties lists: Athawra Mostamerrah (16%)- alkotla almasryia: 15.7%- Alwafd Party: 13.7%- Freedom and Justice Party: 13.6%- Alnour party 13.2%. As for smaller parties the percentage was higher Human Rights and citizenship party 30%- Itihad Party 27.5%- Justice and Development party: 25%- Ahrar party: 25%.

The female winner candidates that reached the parliament in 2012:

No.	governorate	party	name
1	Cairo- 2 nd circle	wafd	Margret Azer
2	Damietta	wafd	Hanan Saad Abulghiet Hasan
3	Assiut- second circle	Egyptian block alliance	Sanaa Ahmed Gamal Eddin
4	Qualioubia-1	Freedom and justice	Huda Mohammad Anwar Ghaneya
5	Sharqia-1	Freedom and justice	Reda Abdullah Mohammed
6	Giza- 2	Freedom and justice	Azza Mohammed Algarf
7	Ismailia	wafd	Magda Hassan Alnwishy
8	South Sinai	Reform and development	Fadeya Salem
9	Daqahlia-1	Freedom and justice	Seeham Abdullatif mohammed Alyamani
10		appointed	Suzi Adly Nashed
11		appointed	Marian Malak Kamal

The parliament and women's rights:

- Women had 3 seats in the parliament, 2 of them were members in regularities committee and the third participated in the general committee. There was no leading role for the women in the people's assembly.
- The women draft laws agenda inside the parliament was heading towards: reducing marriage age, allowing FGC, besides what has been said about the final "Farewell copulation". The rumors were confirmed by the Muslim Brotherhood leader Sobhi Saleh the deputy of the legislative parliamentary committee (Freedom and Justice). He said timidly that there were some members who raised the subject of "farewell copulation" but it was not approved.

Draft laws on women issues

- 1) Mohammed AlOmda, the deputy of the legislative committee in the parliament, proposed a law draft to cancel the article 20 of law 1 for the year 2000. This article allows the woman to divorce herself without the approval of the husband. AlOmda praised the sheikhs' refusal of the law and a fatwa issued in March, 2012 considered any divorce based on this law "not halal".
- 2) Hamada Mohammed Soliman, alnour party parliamentary proposed a draft law demanding to amend some articles in the personal affairs law regarding the responsibility of women about themselves. He considered that the amendment in 2005 that allowed women to be guardians of their kids till the age of 15. The parliamentary considered that this amendment was a reason to harm families and fathers, asking to return back to allow mothers to take care of the boys till 7 years old and 9 years for girls, to force women reconsidering getting back to her husband the father of the kids.
- 3) The female FJP parliamentary Azza Algarf proposed a draft law to amend article 242 in Penal Code law no. 126 for the year 2008 which criminalize female genital mutilation, in general. The amendment, which was postponed, stated that it is not allowed to have female genital mutilation outside hospitals without consulting a doctor. (May 2012)
- 4) The parliamentary Magda Alnoichy proposed a draft law on health insurance for female breadwinners, states that health insurance should cover women that take care of the family and have no source of income or whose

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income does not exceed one and a half times the value of social security pension.

Ex- female parliamentarians statements:

Azza AlGarf: in an interview with Al-Ahram gate on April 4, 2012, the parliamentarian talked about the Brotherhood vision for family law and women's right to divorce themselves. She said: "indeed we have a plan to reconsider family laws, as we think they are unfair especially those laws on divorce and children guardianship as many social studies proves that it resulted in higher divorce rates and dissolving Egyptian families. This is why those laws need to be reconsidered by the help of specialized researchers as this is the right of the whole society not only of women who should know the interests of the family more than men. We demand social dialogue among social sciences specialists, psychiatrics and Azhar sheikhs besides the legislators. She also suggested repealing the law of sexual harassment, and justified that saying: "harassment happens because of nudity of women, and therefore harassers are not wrong"

Reda Abdullah: she refused to be appointed for the national women council, stressing that it should be approved by the Muslim Brotherhood first; she always calls for legislative amendments for family laws according to Shariaa, especially divorce law.

Huda Ghania: the FJP parliamentarian said "I refuse to be representative for women, I represent the people. As for the laws and women legislations is a not a general interest so this is not the proper time, while the country passes a very dangerous era and there are more important priorities, such as elections and the constitutional declaration, so it is too early to talk about women's laws and rights."

Seham Aljamal: FJP parliamentarian, she said: "we as representatives of the people in general and not only women, till now there is no draft law for women, in case there is a proposal to amend or approve a legislation, we will work on making it in favour of the family and in accordance with Shariaa even if it comes out against international agreements ratified by Egypt during the past regime."

Margret Azer: Alwafd party parliamentarian, she denounced that the female parliamentarians' role after the revolution is to concentrating only on women issues and stated that: "As a female parliamentarian I am not concerned now with women issues and will not stand for it now, as there are so many important issues that need to be considered now in order to retain balance for the whole society. The first issue

I am going to propose on the parliament will be the minimum and maximum salary limits, so that the poorer can live in dignity".

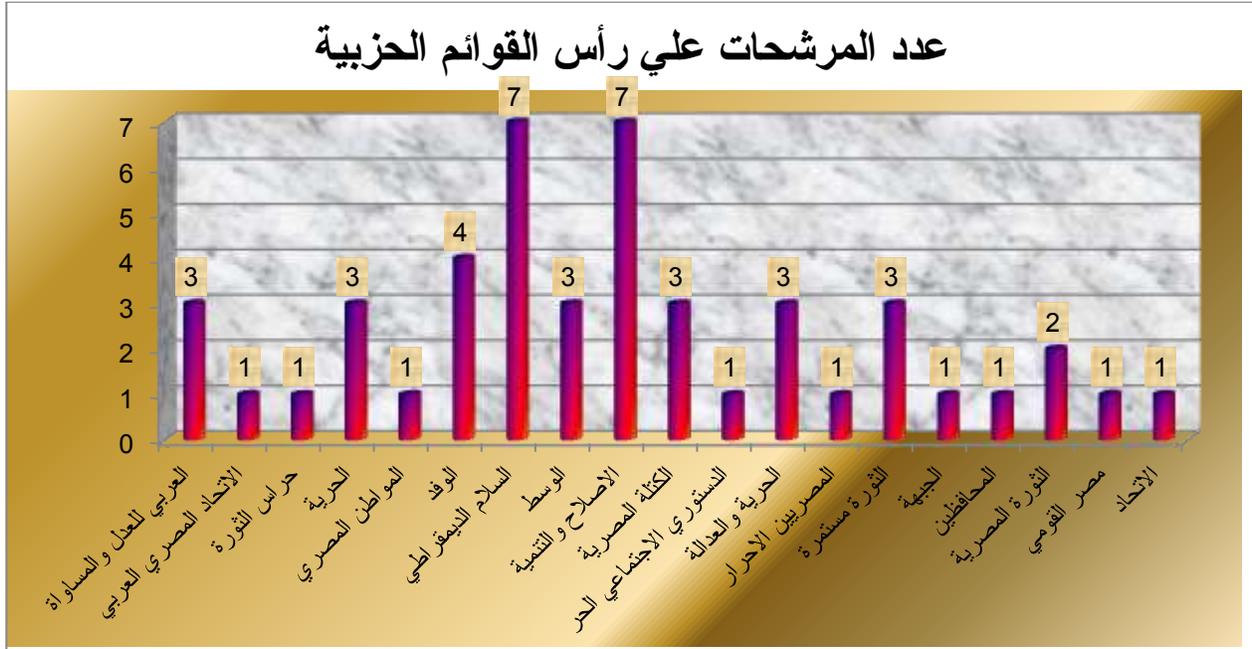
Sanaa Elsaid: she questioned inside the parliament about the legal position for the Muslim Brotherhood and from where do they get their money. She also confronted the severe attack from Freedom and Justice Party female parliamentarians against women rights and laws affecting women.

Magda Hassan Alnwishy: she Submitted a draft law on health insurance for women breadwinners, and also made a number of requests to reconsider the list of candidates for National Council for Women and dismiss the names belonging to the National Democratic Party leading names, she also topped the discussions on the issue of foreign funding and claimed to know who was in charge of allowing the defendants to travel, and who moved the case in a way, which is a considered to be a mere coverage on the other problems. She thought the case was not exceeding some administrative mistakes.

The Shura Council:

- 396 female candidates ran Shura elections, which mean 40 times the number candidates in 2010 which was only 9 women. Only 5 women won in Shura elections, 2.7% out of 180 seats.
- The five women who reached the Shura council because of their advanced position on the lists of their party between no. 1 or 2.

Here is an illustration for parties that inserted female candidate in advanced positions on their lists



names of female winners in the Shura elections 2012

governorate	Party	name
Suez	Freedom and Justice Party	Suzan Saad Zaghoul
Fayoum	Freedom and Justice Party	Nagwa Mahmoud
Asiut	Freedom and Justice Party	Wafaa Mostafa Mashour
Menofeia	Alwafd	Mirvt Mohammed Hassan
Port Said	Alwafd	RedaNour-Eddin Hussein

Presidential elections and candidates programs

Some of female activists declared their candidacy for presidency; Bothaina Kamel, the anchor, Anas Alugoud Eliwa, the writer and the human rights activist Dalia Ziada. They faced many troubles as no one of them managed to get 30000 legal approval from citizens from different 15 governorates or 30 approvals by elected

parliamentarians. The list of candidates for presidency contained only men at the end.

Dr. Mohammed Morsi Programe:

It was the least program dealing with women issues; it depended on charity considering women weak community need protection not citizens has complete rights. The program of Dr. Morsi concentrated on what he called the "social empowerment" which he considered the "fast rescue for the family", without any clarification on rescue the family from what or who?

Mr. Morsi mentioned also confronting illiteracy which is contrasting to a draft law adopted by his party asks to reduce marriage age for women into 16 years instead of 18.

Remarkably, he put women's issues as part of the special files, which focused on changing the personal status law to comply with the Shariaa. The program did not elaborate on will the change be based on interpretations that are open to this time requirements like the Tunisian and Moroccan Codes of family or would be more conservative than the current law heading more towards a failed states like Afghanistan. Both perspectives say to be derived from Shariaa law.

When Mr. Morsi touched upon the economic projects focused on women breadwinners in the frame of individual development, which many studies warns of its economic gravity as it ends up with the poor are poorer.

Amr Mossa Program:

The program had a clear human rights perspective, stresses that no way to develop and move towards democracy while the community is marginalizing women. The program stated that achieving this is a responsibility of the state that should take some procedures to face marginalizing women. It was the only program that talked about constitutional and legislative guarantees to achieve equality and confront discrimination. It also confirmed the importance of national mechanisms such as The National Council for Women and the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood. It also concentrated on social and economic issues along with political rights emphasizing participation. He promised to appoint a female deputy which is considered a shift in the discourse and implementation despite of the weak mechanisms.

Hamdeen Sabahi program:

The human rights orientation was clear in his program, concentrating on economic and social rights, especially the poor and marginalized classes. Despite his refusal not to give a special space for women, he put them in the frame of fighting discrimination and he raised some doubts regarding absolute equality. The program considered that women face the same problems of the community in general and also have their own troubles such as the illiteracy percentage which is double the rates of illiteracy among men. In this regard absolute equality will not be correct as females would need double classes compared to men. The program also noted that unemployment among women is 4 times its percentage among men, so equality here means 4 job vacancies for women compared to every one job vacancy for men. The program was not clear regarding the mechanisms to be followed in order to turn talks about ending discrimination into reality. Hamdeen also promised to appoint a woman as his deputy.

Abdul-Monem Abulfotouh Program:

His program was characterized with a development orientation, lengthy talks on youth empowerment. He stressed that 50% of the high positions should be for youth males and females which is the only notion for women in the program without mentioning a percentage for them. Regarding womens' rights he only mentioned "making available the right conditions for women's rights".

Khaled Ali Program:

It was clearer regarding women especially when it stressed on the necessity of making women's participation in the institutional committee 30% at least, demanding to expand this to the rest of decision making positions. It confirmed also on the equality in all fields.

Ahmad Shafiq Program:

It was very general and short, so women rights were not clear in the program, but as a man of Mubarak's regime it was affected by the wrong image that the Islamic powers drew about women laws. After the scare of Islamists against women and the middle class fearing for their rights, they thought they would be safer in the presence of Safiq

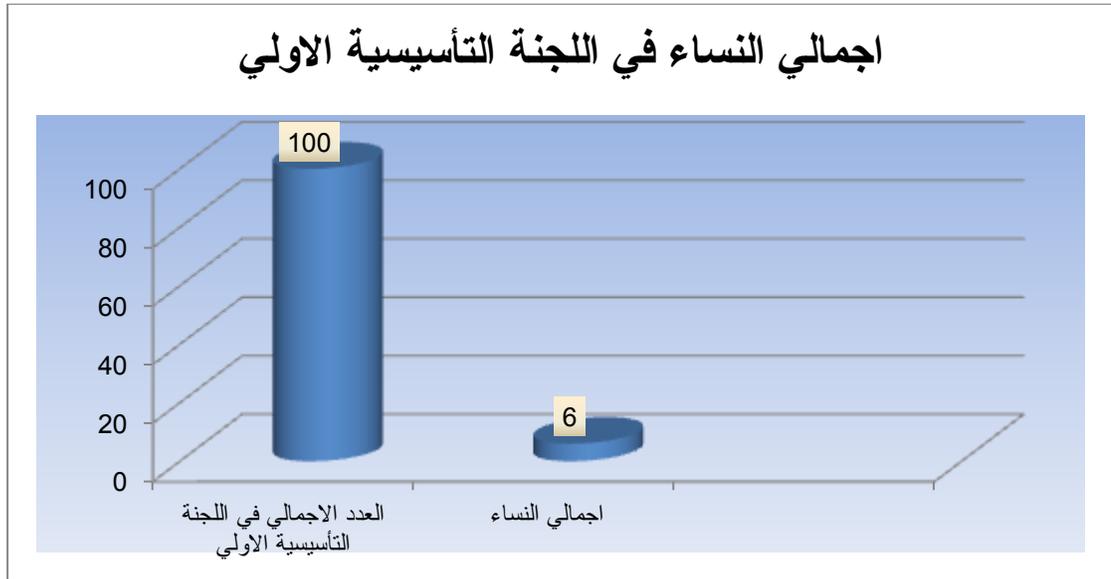
Women and the institutional committee for drafting the constitution:

The Supreme Council for Armed Forces (SCAF) issued a constitutional declaration on 13th Feb. 2011 stating on suspending the constitution of 1971 and the formation of a committee to draft constitutional amendments in preparation for parliamentary and presidential elections and the writing of a new constitution. The amendments provided that the People's Assembly and Shura Council are to choose members of a constituent assembly of 100 members to write a new constitution within six months. Human rights organizations drew attention to the need for representation of women in the founding committee of the constitution by not less than 30%.

Dr. Kamal Ganzouri, then Prime Minister, confirmed the need for the presence of women in the instituting committee in a reasonable rate so they can speak for themselves and that the Constitution should contain new articles to ensure women rights. He pointed out that the issue of women is not seen as a woman - class of society - but as a human and Egyptian citizen who has rights and duties which is of concern within the family and for the Egyptian citizen assuring that a woman seeks to exert all efforts for the development of the Egyptian family with its values and behaviors and goals, needs and ambitions.

All these were mere ink on paper, the committee was elected with only 6 female members out of 100; only 6%.

Women in the first institutional committee



This committee had many aspects of legal and constitutional mistakes, which prompted many lawyers and jurists and political activists, intellectuals and public figures, to bring lawsuits demanding the abolition of the parliament's decision regarding the criteria for selecting the committee members who would draft a new constitution.

Decision was issued by the Administrative Court in April, confirming the invalidity of the formation of the instituting committee to write the constitution, then a second one was formed also by a majority of Freedom and Justice party and there was no representation of women as it was the case in the First Committee; women were only represented by 7 members out of 100; 7%.

Women in the second institutional committee:

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Women and the draft constitution

Human rights and women organizations worked on assuring the presence of clear articles to protect women rights in the constitution and guarantee it.

- The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights sent a study to the institutional committee. The study entitled "equality between men and women in the constitution.. wording and content", covered 40 states went through transitions in the Arab states, Middle East, Islamic states, East Europe, Asia and Latin America. The study tackled how to draft women rights in the constitution and its preamble.
- The alliance of women's organizations announced the document "women and the Constitution", which was prepared by a number of activists, and contained some general constitutional principles, which provides equality and non-discrimination between women and men along with guaranteeing the commitment to international treaties on the rights of women. It also contained several other articles of equality and equal opportunity and political participation and the right to work, childhood and education, personal freedom, health care.
- The National Council for Women wrote a statement directed to the institutional committee regarding the necessary articles that should be included in the new constitution and how to overcome the under-representation for women in the leading positions. The Council demanded also to keep articles 40, 11, 10, 8, and 2 of 1971 constitution, which deal with woman, family and personal freedoms.
- Baheya movement delivered a document with the articles to be added to the constitution and organized various protests in front of the Shura Council and the Presidential palace to push those demands forward.

The committee did not respond to the requests by the women's movement nor even used the efforts made, and Constitution came out to finish off on women's rights. Women and human rights activists and organizations expressed their rejection to the draft constitution and its waste of rights and freedoms in general and the rights of women in particular. Amnesty International expressed "anxiety" particularly about the lack of an article in the Constitution that prohibits explicitly the discrimination based on gender.

Article 10 confirms that the state should work on the balance between family and work duties of women at home and in the community. The organization also expressed more concern Article 219 that defines the principles of the Sharia as "rules of jurisprudence assets" which would impact women's rights, and may be used as a justification for retaining the current legislation which discriminates against women in relation to marriage, divorce, and family life. Article 2 makes the principles of Islamic law the main source of legislation. "

Many articles in the constitution came out to express the right them finish off it, which is almost the same philosophy of 1971 constitution. The rights are mentioned generally then the application is being referred to either the law or to general vague words that opens the door wide for violence against woman and all kinds of violations.

Besides; the articles which were supposed to guarantee the Egyptian women's rights had been removed. The constitution also used vague words in all the articles that guarantee all the citizenship rights and the non- discrimination in front of the law. The constitution stated that all citizens are equal in duties and rights, without mentioning and thing about certain clear protection for women.

The constitution did not mention woman except in one article (No. 10) that stated "family is the basic of the society, based on religion, ethics and patriotism. The state and the society commit to the original nature of Egyptian family, its coherence and stability, and deepen its ethical values and protect them as regulated by the law. The state guarantees motherhood and childhood services for free, and fulfill the balance between woman's duties towards her family and towards her public work. The state gives special care and protection to divorced and widowed and breadwinners women".

This article does not see about woman but her being a wife as if her existence in the society is for giving birth to children and house work, then comes work outside doors. Moreover the expression "the original nature for the Egyptian family" opens a wide door for religious police, and its connection to women opens the door wide for violence against women in the public work and in the streets in particular.

Targeting female activists:

The year 2012 witnessed targeting female activists in different fields, for example:

- Investigating the cartoonist Doaa Aladl regarding a cartoon she drew claimed to be insulting prophets in generals and especially Adam, the investigation is a clear violation of freedom of expression.
- The systematic attack that reached the degree of moral assassination of Dr. Amna Nossir professor of religion at the University of Al-Azhar, on the background of her confronting the attacks on women's rights in the name of religion.
- The systematic attack against the anchor Lamees Al-Hadidi, which reached assassination threats because of her positions as a part of the terror campaign against media.
- The accusation against the anchor Geehan Mansour of being an agent for foreign entities, which was also a part of the campaign against media and the siege of Media Production City.
- Attacks against a large number of female photo journalists and reporters during their work in covering the protests and marches.
- Investigation with Manal Omar the psychiatric and accusing her with insulting the president because of her analyzing his personality in a TV show.
- Suspending 5 females of the teaching committee in nursing faculty for 3 months and turning them to investigation after their protest against a decision made by the head of the university to hire a dean for the faculty who is not from its staff which is a violation of the law.
- Violence against female activists during the incidents of Itihadya (presidential Palace) on the hands of Dr. Mohammed Morsi Supporters. Extreme violence has been used to break up the sit in.

Part II: the economic and social rights

Women trafficking

- A report issued by the U.S. State Department in 2012 that Egypt is on the list of countries that do not fully adhere with the minimum standards stated in the law of Trafficking Victims Protection, and Egypt is a state of destination for women and girls who are forced into prostitution, including refugees and immigrants, from Asia, Africa and to a lesser extent, from the Middle East. In previous reporting periods, there was some evidence that Egypt is a transit country for women (to be trafficked) from Eastern European countries to Israel for sexual exploitation, but little evidence to suggest that this is still the preferred route for the trafficking of women.
- The National Center for Social and Criminological Research issued a report confirmed that 40% of women in prison on charges of prostitution have been forced into prostitution through methods such as deception or threat or rape.

Women and laws (renewed battles)

- This year witnessed the issuance of one only Act on women, which is health insurance law for women and breadwinners. It was issued in May and provided that "a health insurance scheme for women breadwinners should be established. The intended women here are those who take care of themselves or their families and do not included under the umbrella of health insurance or any other law. The law has not been enforced till the issuance of this report.
- The year 2012 witnessed political battles that used personal status laws as the "magic solution" to cover up the failure of economic and social policies or as a cloud of smoke that covers decisions affecting the lives of the people politically and economically. Those laws have been used as a smoke bomb, which can be thrown whenever politicians need to distract the community. The political Islamic powers used Family laws and child laws to restrict women's rights and empowerment to control the community and children's issues are the spearhead that moved the feelings of ordinary people and non-specialists for politicians to pass issues that have nothing to do with children

or family. The artificial conflict intensified in the beginning of the year and reached the street in front of the People's Assembly and Al-Azhar to take its opinion on the compatibility of these laws with Islam. Despite president Morsi ruled the country and seized the legislative authority for more than six months, there was no one who raised his voice mentioning the personal status laws, which topped the scene before the President election as if it was the first priority in Egypt.

- The beginning of the battle was a request made by the parliamentarian Mohammad Alomda to repeal Article 20 of Law No. 1 of 2000 that organizes the conditions and litigation procedures in personal status. The article itself gives women the right to divorce themselves and give back every penny she got from the husband. He sent his request to the proposals and complaints committee in People's Assembly and the committee transferred the request to Al-Azhar to demonstrate the compatibility of divorce law with Islamic law.
- While Al- Azhar was looking into the request, several protests for the groups belonging to Islamists were organized to demand the abolition of women's right to get their divorce even if the man refused, on the ground that the law against the Islamic religion. In contrast there were protests organized by women demanding the survival of the personal status law because it is the last resort for women, when it is impossible to continue marital life with her husband and he insists on refusing to divorce here, and based on its being proved in the Sharia law.
- Al-Azhar decision came out to end this debate in favour of women and wives. The decision stated that: " Al-Azhar and the Fatwa entity represented of Dr. Abdullah Al-Najjar member Islamic Research Academy, and Dr. Mohamed Adel Alzenqly adviser of the Mufti, stressed that the abolition of divorce goes against what was in the Qur'aan and Sunnah, and based their approval to the divorce law on a "Hadeeth" –saying by prophet Mohammed-stated that the wife of Thabit ibn Qays ibn Shammas went to the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him, asking to get divorce, and prophet Mohammed asked her to give back a garden to her husband the ordered the husband to divorce her.the Azhar sheikhs considered the first divorce based on the wife's desire in Islam history.

- Based on Al-Azhar opinion, the parliament refused the proposed amendment to the personal status law and discarding the woman divorce article, proposed by Mohammed Alomda.
- The battle moved later on to the children guardian law, it began at the parliamentarian Hamada Soliman, of Anour salafi party, when he proposed law amendment asking to end the woman guardian to her son at the age of 7 and for the daughter at the age of 9 years, then the judge asks them whether they prefer to stay with the mother or the father, and if they choose the mother the father pays nothing to them. Al-Azhar refused and said the boy can choose between the father and mother at the age of 15 and the girl stays with the mother till she gets married. Many protests have been organized by the islamists on one hand and the mothers on the other hand. Al-Azhar decision came out to end this dispute favouring ,others and children. At the end of a meeting chaired by Dr. Ahmad Altayeb the Grand Sheikh and the Mufti along with a number of the prominent sheikhs of the Azhar, they decided that all the law articles comply with the Shariaa and the disputes between the divorced couples is suffered by the children, and the current ages decided by the law for the children under mother's care is for the sake of educational psychological interest of the kids.

Jobs opportunities and unemployment rates

- In a report by "The Economist" magazine, 2012 on economic opportunities for women in 2012, Egypt was ranked no. 80 out of 128 countries. It was also ranked as the first in the list of countries that recorded a decline in access to economic opportunities for women compared to the reports of the previous years. As for Egypt rank among the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, Egypt is the seventh among the 15 countries in the economic opportunities available to women. Egypt ranked 124 of 132 in terms of opportunities and economic participation of women according to a report on the gender gap index 2012 issued by the World Economic Forum 2012. As for the ratio of women compared to men among work force, Egypt ranked 130 among 134 countries and reached the rank 99 of 113 countries in terms of women's access to legislative and senior government positions and managers' positions.

- The study "economic and social costs of discrimination against women in education and the labor market [7]" confirmed the discrimination against women costs Egypt more than 70 billion Egyptian pounds, or \$ 11.6 billion dollars annually, as a result of lower rates and the level of women education and lower contribution in the labor force. The study stressed that discrimination against women in Egypt and the Arab world, practically means fewer opportunities in education, pointing to the fact that women are more vulnerable to exploitation in family unpaid business in the farm or family enterprises. Based on this assumption, the community loses the equivalent of 12.2 billion pounds as fees for about 4.1 million women because of unpaid work. It is worth noting that in Egypt the percent of women in the labor force to 23.9% compared to 40% in the global average.
- The study refers to the paradox in the Egyptian case; the percentage of women in the labor force has fallen from third place to ninth, while the countries of the Arab region witness continuous rise for the role and share of women in the labor market, which is a catalyst for women's education in the lower and middle classes. The study attributes low contribution of Egyptian women in the labor force to the focus of governmental investment spending on infrastructure projects that provides jobs which tend to discriminate decisively against women, because it requires the physical masculine ability, and thus the environment becomes not encouraging for the education of women. The study suggests restructuring new investments and public spending in a manner that is convenient with the needs of the economy and society.

Violence against women

The year 2012 witnessed continuity of all kinds of violence against women, domestic violence and circumcision, early marriage and sexual harassment, a study [8] was issued confirming that 60% of women exposed to domestic violence, 88% have been subjected to FGC, and 38% were forced into early marriages. The study also found that 51.6% have been subjected to verbal harassment; Port Said

governorate recorded the highest percentage in it where it reached 81.6%, while Cairo was the least with 29.5%. As for physical sexual harassment by touching the body, the study found that 31.8% of women nationwide were subjected to it. The highest rate was the Gharbya, which recorded 53.4%, and the least was sharqya by 9% rate. As for the exposure to robbery an average of 39.3% nationwide was found by the study, the highest percentage in the Bahira, which recorded 68.6% and Damietta was the least with a percentage of 9.2%.

As for women's views regarding the main violence reason 24.4% of them said that the way of women clothing is the reason for the violence, while 17.3% of them felt that it is the way women walk, and 62.8% said it is the absence of ethics is the reason for violence, as for the absence of security as it was the reason from the point of view of 41.7% of respondents that participated in the survey, 31.8% of them confirmed that the weakness of the law surveillance is the reason for violence they experience in the street and transportation.

After the revolution of January and control of political Islam powers that to govern the state, some kinds of violence against women emerged, kinds that were not well known before, like trying to separate the student males from females in the Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, claiming that it would cause relief among the two parties. A dispute and controversy on FGC erupted after a statement by an advisor to President that circumcision is part of the faith, and then she denied the statement. The dispute continued during the discussion in the human rights committee of Shura Council of FGC, it was rejected by sheiks and physicians, after a parliamentarian demanded to apply FGC to achieve equality between women and men.

The sexual harassment continues, Egypt was in the second rank in the world regarding sexual harassment after Afghanistan. Harassment cases in Eid al-Fitr in Cairo reached 462 reported cases, which led the community to interact with women's issues (especially sexual harassment). an increasing number of youth initiatives emerged to works on combating sexual harassment, including "I will not keep silent regarding harassment- harassment Map- I wish- imprint- I witnessed harassment- anti harassment- be a man- popular Campaign against harassment- still human - not guilty- Bahia O Egypt- Fouada watch", those movements organize events in the streets and public places to raise the awareness about sexual harassment and how dangerous it is, or report or receive communications on harassment and determine places where it occurs. Some of these movements go out

to the streets during holidays to address any attempts to harass and others formed groups to confront sexual harassment inside Tahrir Square.

In addition human chains, such as "I wish" campaign, have spread especially during the Eid days to address sexual harassment and harassers. The initiative gathered independent youth from different social movements and others from the Constitution Party, they took it upon themselves to be in the streets to face harassment against girls, and in addition there was a documentary film titled "cut your hands" to condemn sexual harassment.

Violence against Egyptian women abroad

As for Egyptian women abroad, the year 2011 witnessed many situations that points out the absence of any protection for women abroad. For example the Egyptian citizen Najla Wafa, who has traveled to Saudi Arabia seven years ago to work and established successful business, she was arrested after a dispute broke out between her and a princess of the Saudi royal family. She was tried and sentenced to prison for five years and 500 lashes 50 lashes per week starting from May 2012. After she was lashed 300 times she suffered problems in the spine as well as psychological injuries which represent a deliberate threat to her life. In December, she completed the 500 lashes and none of the Egyptian efforts succeeded to lift the injustice.

There is also the case of Egyptian journalist Shaimaa Adel, while was arrested while doing her duty covering a demonstration to protest the prices in Sudan. Despite the good Egyptian-Sudanese relations after President Mohamed Morsi reins of power in Egypt, she was held in Sudanese prisons around the 14 days, not a single Egyptian official moved until the 11th day, when a Sudanese official told her that her mother began a hunger strikers and there are demonstrations in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo for her release. Shaima indicated that without public pressure she would have continued in Sudanese prisons

more than that. The problem ended by her coming back to Cairo on the sidelines of a visit by the Egyptian president to Sudan.

Women, protests and sit ins

2012 witnessed more than 50 feminist events varied from women's rights to general human rights. For example:

- During the first anniversary of the revolution women participated in a march stressing the revolution demands and slogans "bread, freedom, social justice". The march stressed that the slogans and demands are still the same and nothing has been fulfilled.
- On Sunday 5th February after Port Said incidents a woman march was organized in black clothes moving from Kasr Elini Street till the people's assembly. The participants chanted "oh my country...police killed my sons" they submitted 3 demands to the parliament which is: the prompt stopping of using tear gas, pulling back the soldiers to inside the ministry headquarter and opening the submission to presidential elections not later than 11th February and forming a new government from the people's assembly members.
- In February dozens of female political activists protested in front of the People's Assembly and chanted slogans against the SCAF, demanding their departure. They also demanded to stop killing the youth and insulting the Egyptian women and the completion of the goals of the revolution
- On the International Women's Day -8 March – several women's organizations organized protests in front of the Press Syndicate and marches through the streets of downtown Cairo, demanding 50% of seats of the institutional committee for the drafting the constitution, as well as turning civilian youth who have been tried in front of a military court to a normal civil court. Hundreds of women participated in marches after invitations from women organizations and women's rights advocates, they repeated chants for women's rights.

- In July and after the election of President Mohammed Morsi several women's rights groups and some activists organized a march from the roxy square to "Itihadya" presidential Palace to submit written demands urging him to give a speech carries some guarantees towards a number of women's issues. human rights organizations submitted 9 key demands to the President; to emphasis on the rights of women in personal status laws, most notably the custody of their children, equality with men in the termination of the marriage guaranteed in the current divorce law, equality between women and men in jobs opportunities, and the equal right to education compared to men, freedom of movement, whether to travel outside the country or inside, and protection of women movement in the public sphere, to take political action to protect them from harassment and the continued criminalization of FGC, not to repeal the law granting the Egyptian mother to give citizenship and nationality to her children from a non-Egyptian husband.
- The first week of December women in black clothes with their coffins marched to the presidential palace protesting violence against peaceful demonstrators near Itihadya.

In December women participated in the large march taking off to Tahrir Square announced by the National Salvation Front, and a number of political forces, to denounce the fraud that has been witnessed during the referendum on the constitution in its first phase. The marches demanded to halt the second phase until achieving consensus on constitution

Women protests this year were marked by many new forms of expression, including what appeared recently such as cutting the hair to express rejection of the Constitution, when a group of girls in Tahrir cut their hair in objection to the adoption of the draft constitution. Another example is that of some ladies who participated in the protest with cooking utensils protesting the rigging of the referendum on the draft constitution Muslim Brotherhood and to demand a civil state. The ladies meant to make a fuss to draw attention to them and to reaffirm the right of women in political participation and that their role is not limited to cooking food.

Earlier there was a protest with "pots and dishes" in protest against the phenomenon of rising prices, which came suddenly during the recent period. There were many women marches throughout the year, whether in Tahrir Square or in

front of the Itihadya Palace, to demand the completion of the demands of the revolution, and to demand just representation of women in the institutional committee to draft the constitution or to reject the draft constitution.

Women's health care situation

- Based on the report of the gender gap in Egypt 2012, Egypt came no. 64 regarding the expected health life of women compared to men. As for the report on "motherhood status in the world 2012" issued by save the children, Egypt came into position 65 on the ranking of motherhood health and 72 on the women's health index.
- Although there was a health insurance law for women breadwinners, which is almost the only achievement of the dissolved parliament, but it have not been enforced and no procedures had been taken to survey the women who need health services.

Women and education

According to a report the gender gap index 2012, Egypt ranked 116 among 135 countries in terms of the percentage of literacy among women and men. As for the enrollment in primary education, Egypt ranked 117 among 133 countries and ranked 103 in terms of women enrolment in secondary education in the 134 countries. As for the women's enrollment rates in university education compared to men, Egypt ranked 98 among 134 countries.

- The Curricula still rife with discrimination against women and confirming the stereotype image of women and focus on her reproductive role without the concepts of citizenship and in framework of partnership, as if there are some trials from the authorities to change the society. There have been statements published in the newspapers by the advisor of philosophy and National Education Dr. Mohammad Sharif on amendments of national education books for the next school year deleting image Doria Shafik, one of the pioneers women's liberation movement in Egypt in the first half of the twentieth

century. She fought for Egyptian women's right to vote and nominate herself as candidates in Egypt 1956 constitution. She is also the founder of many literary journals, researcher and campaigner against the British presence in Egypt. The reason behind the deletion of her photo from second secondary grade textbook is her not wearing a veil and for the objection of some religious satellite channels.

- In a clear violation of the right of students to express their opinions, the Ministry of Education investigated the female student Rana Syed - in the secondary grade, 17 years old, because of her participation in a demonstration against the Constitution is along with some of her colleagues. Rana stated that she and her colleagues decided to march demanding not to pass the constitution and after the completion of the event she has been summoned for investigation by the ministry. And went on: "the investigation was about the cause of the march and regarding her opinion on the President and her personal views regarding many things". She added that "The ministry wanted to deliver a message to reject the emergence of an opposing generation."
- This year a phenomena appeared of turning schools into an arena to refuse imposing radical ideas by force or imposing the veil on female students, and also to refuse violence in schools that reached cutting the hair of students in Luxor and beatings in a number of other schools.

Women and disability.. lost rights in Egypt and big successes in London Paralympics 2012

Disabled women in Egypt suffer from so many problems as they are forbidden to go out and work and care, families hide their disabled members away from the eyes of people as if they are a shame or a crime that must be concealed. The disabled girls expose for many violations to their human rights with blatant discrimination in rehabilitation and care and rights, education, employment, protection and support legal and judicial, so that the Egyptian government does not

differentiate between disability and another they even expressed reservations on Article 12 of the International Convention for the disabled and consolidated that recognize persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others before the law and the enjoyment of their legal capacity.

Despite this double discrimination suffered by women with disabilities they have made significant achievement in the Paralympics (the London Paralympics 2012) where Fatima Omar won the gold medal in weightlifting, also Heba Ahmed won the silver medal in running, and the player Randa Tajuddin got a silver medal, Amal Mahmoud got a bronze medal in weightlifting

Polls on Egyptian women

The Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Basira) conducted exploratory study entitled "women's aspirations after January 25 revolution" on a sample of ladies whose ages are between 18 and 64 years, the sample was 3002 women. And the results were that 69% of women in Egypt believe that women fit to be a minister, while 79% believe that she fits to be a member of the parliament. 57% of women thought that education is more important than marriage, which reflects the high sense of women personal and behavioral capabilities matched by a deficit in educational aspirations and knowledge for economic and cultural reasons limiting the formation of these capabilities to real opportunities for empowerment.

Moreover, 47% of women believe that women face problems in the work which men do not face such as hazing and harassment, though the aspirations of Egyptian women to work continue to show predominantly clear preference for marriage to work, with the pressures of family and community surrounding working women, and limiting their ability to achieve herself through work. The results also showed that the Egyptian woman has a sense of high ambition combined with low aspirations to play a role in public life, she is also restricted with inheritance of the traditional values of Egyptian women in her outlook for the world, quoting from her family, which did not undergo a sufficient renovation despite upgrading the capabilities of Egyptian women compared to her parents' generation.

- [1] Gender gap index issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2012
- [2] Report magazine "The Economist" in 2012 for economic opportunities for women in 2012
- [3] Gender gap index issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2012
- [4] Gender gap index issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2012
- [5] The first and second phase of parliamentary elections were at the end of 2011
- [6] Average result of surveying a sample of women's committees in the elections and the referendum
- [7] Issued by Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies - Dr. Ahmed El Sayed El-Naggar

The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR) Report on Egyptian woman conditions in
2012

2012.. Women get out to the streets

[8] A study issued by the National Council for Women on a sample of 13,500 women and girls