

# Building Partnership for Gender Equality

**Ending Domestic Violence  
and Honor Crimes**

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- **Population of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is approximately 5.10 million**
- **38.8% of them live in Amman the capital.**
- **The female comprises 48%**
- **The total area of Jordan is about 90(Km)<sup>2</sup>, About 79% of the population are categorized as an urban population.**
- **12.6% of households headed by women**
- **4.2% of women in higher level occupations**
- **4.1% are ambassadors**
- **15.6% of women are diplomatic attachés**
- **7.1% are parliament members**
- **21.6% are members of professional associations**
- **7.1% are political party members**
- **15.2% Women illiteracy rate**
- **26% unemployment rate ( male 13%)**

# Violence against women

- Different cultures cause different reasons for violence against women
- Islamic norms and values urge for the preservation of dignity and respect for women
- Jordanian women are suffering like other women in the world from various forms of violence
- Jordanian constitution issued in 1952 ensures equal rights for men and women without any discrimination concerning Jordanian rights and duties
- Jordanians are equal despite the differences in their religion, language or race
- United Nations definition, gender- related violence: “ Any act of gender- based violence that result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.
- violence is happening among all segments of society
- violence practiced most of the time among family members, so they tend to hide it
- 86% of students at a Jordanian university suffered during their past life from domestic violence

# Main types of violence

- Physical violence
- Psychological or emotional violence
- Sexual violence



# **Who is the violator**

- **95% of violators are known to the victim, usually being male, the husband, father or the brothers, and only 5% are strangers**

# Causes of domestic violence

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## 1. Economic reasons:

- Financial difficulty, unemployment problem (26% among females).
- Income differences, leaving children at home for long time by working women.

## 2. Social reasons:

- Divorce, large number of family size, discrimination between males and females, where males get most of the advantages and privileges.
- Large family size creates a financial burden on the husband

### Faulty concepts:


- Misconception in some families toward domestic social role of men and women lead to giving men the right to beat women in the family.

# ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Attitudes towards appropriateness of a husband hitting or beating his wife under specific circumstances

Percentage reporting "yes"

Circumstances	Woman	Husbands	Never Married	
			Female Youth	Male Youth
Goes out without telling him	17.9	16.7	19.7	12.0
Neglects the children	22.5	19.0	27.5	24.2
Burns the food	5.7	2.8	3.6	4.6
Insults him	45.8	44.3	53.7	39.6
Disobeys him	38.8	33.5	46.3	38.3
Argues with him	12.5	6.8	8.7	10.7
Betrays him	77.0	52.8	76.2	68.8
N	1814	1201	463	473

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- **Main results showed that about 87% of women accept at least one of these reasons to be abused for by their husband. But there were some misleading in the way questions were asked by surveyors.**
  - **Most of them (83%) agreed that adultery is a good reason.**
  - **More educated and urban area women were less accepting of abuse**
  - **Violence should be tackled on a national level and by the media to empower women and combat violence against women.**

# There are several angels to consider when contemplating the issue

## 1. The social point of view:

- Social relation between woman and men (as lovers) is still not accepted before marriage.
- Despite all the technological development and the achievements of women in all spheres, still in some communities, they don't treat her well.

## **2. Legal point of view:**

- The Jordanian constitution calls for equality between women and men, Still in some laws there are some articles need to be amended or added especially article 340 in the Criminal Law that gives men milder punishment than woman in case of honor killing.**
- There is a need for the enforcement of laws and regulations.**

### **3- Media point of view:**


- The Media are not appropriate role especially toward women's violence.**
- Media carries more forms of violence to families that were unknown in our society, instead of trying to raise women awareness as they suppose to do.**

## **4- The health point of view:**

- Health hazards caused by violence.**
- The WHO's report in 2002 defined three types of violence: women abuse, child abuse and sexual abuse.**
- The report revealed that between 10 – 60% of women globally are abused, and that abuse can cause psychological problems such as fear and depression, in addition to causing physical diseases.**

# Honor killing

- Honor crimes are the most severe and dangerous crimes practiced against women in Jordan and neighbouring countries.
- The average annual cases are about 20 in Jordan.
- Cases are declining slightly but still need to be demolished.
- Many executed crimes were based on false and suspicious reasons or rumours that a woman committed adultery or behaved immorally.
- Honor killing goes back to the dark era's before Islam while some media in the west accuse Islam for such actions which is absolutely not true.
- Islam respect women, but unfortunately still some of the culture and customs inherited prior to Islam are still practiced as honor killing.

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- In the Holy Book the “Qur’an” several verses urge to respect women’s feelings and human rights.
  - There are about 95 rights given by Islam to women that not given to men.
  - Women during Prophet Muhammad’s time – Peace and Prayers be upon him- if she complained from being exhausted from house work, and her husband can afford it, he must hire a maid to help her,
  - If she founds that breast feeding would affect her body figure, men would hire a woman to breast feed the child.
  - Since then, Islam urged husbands to help their wives in house work and to be patient with them during her pregnancy.

- **Before Islam new- born baby girls were berried alive until it was prohibited by Islam. In Quranic verses number 8 & 9 Sura 81, Al Takwir, God asks:”When the female (infant) buried alive is questioned for what crime she was killed” Glory to Allah Most High.**
- **It is forbidden to accuse others based on doubts, especially accusing women of adultery in Islam. In the Sura 4 ( al Nisa’) verse number 15 God says: “ If any of your women are guilty of lewdness, take the evidence of four ( reliable) witnesses from amongst you against them; and if they testify, confine them to houses until death do claim them, or Allah ordain for them some other way” Glory to Allah Most High.**

- **God asked for four trustworthy individuals to witness the adultery at the same time before a woman could be accused, which is almost impossible, in order to stop accusing and killing women. Accusers need to be punished severely.**
- **Islam forbids all forms of killing except for self-defense and during war against enemies.**
- **Islam asked to deal with crimes by the laws and the Ruler or the Governor, they decide who is guilty not the individuals, especially against women.**
- **Prophet Muhammad - Peace and Prayers be upon him- never abused his wives,**
- **He used to help them at home and urged Muslims to treat them well. Prophet Muhammad said: "A person who treats women with respect is the best believer and who doesn't is mean".**

- **In case of adultery, Islam put two main conditions before accusation:**
  1. **A confession by the woman herself**
  2. **Four trust worthy witnesses together**
- **Punishment supposed to be executed on both the woman and the man equally, but differs between married and single as follows:**
  1. **For single woman and man, they whip them 80 times**
  2. **For married individuals they used to be killed, since they are married, and there is no excuse for committing adultery.**

# **Protection org. and actions being taken to combat violence against women**

- **Several institutions, organizations, civil and NGOs are trying to do their best to establish protection network that includes homes, laws training and awareness services for families and especially women and children.**
- **For the elimination of all forms of violence against women, several ministries and public institutions are working in this domain.**
- **The Family Protection Department was founded two years ago. Moreover the Jordanian Women's Union, the Jordan River Foundation, the National Council for family Affairs, the National Institute for Women's Solidarity and the Family guidance Center.**
- **UN agencies, international and foreign organizations are supporting many services and awareness programmes.**