

## The Protection of Women's Political Rights in Jordan: Between Legal Obligations and Political Participation

Niran Yaser Alammar

Lawyer and Legal Researcher, Jordan

Hamzah Suleiman Aldoghmi (corresponding author)

Assistant Professor of Public International Law

Faculty of Law, Al al-Bayt University, Jordan

### Abstract

*This paper highlights women's political rights in international and national legislation. It examines protecting women's political rights through national, regional, and international mechanisms for the protection of women's political rights. Through the examination of the Jordanian legal obligations in protecting women's political rights, the paper discusses parliamentary and judicial oversight of the government in fulfilling its women's political rights obligations, the political participation of women, and obstacles facing women in exercising their political rights. Using descriptive approach with analytical method, the paper focuses on the case study of Jordan. It reaches several results and recommendations presented at the end of its discussions. The paper argues that women's political rights are inalienable supported by international and national legal mechanisms. It concludes by recommending that national action must be taken by public and private sectors to promote women's political rights, and there is a need for educating Jordanian women about their political rights.*

**Keywords:** women's rights; political rights; international protection; Jordan

### 1. Introduction

Despite the advanced role of Jordanian women in political life, which differs greatly from what it was in the past, there are some restrictions that impede this role, such as how women exercise this right, the prohibition of women assuming some important positions, and the restrictions imposed on women. The right of women to run for parliaments, such as giving them fewer seats than those given to men, in addition, women often fall under pressures that prevent them from exercising their political rights entrusted to them under national legislation make there a large gap among the rights enshrined in the law and those that are practiced. There is no doubt that the greater control of men over political life in Jordanian society is what established these obstacles in front of women, as the legislative committees that draft laws are often devoid of women, but their presence is almost ineffective due to the dominance of men in terms of numbers, which reduces the role of women in imposing more legal protection on their rights. The rights conferred on women without any obstacles, which opens a greater scope for discussion, putting forward more ideas, and issuing more legislation that regulates their exercise of these rights. It needs more research and exploration on the most important legislation that guarantees women's political rights.

Perhaps it is recognized that there is a clear development of the political role of women in Jordanian society, but the obstacles may lie in the lack of an appropriate mechanisms to fully activate the political rights stipulated in national and international instruments. This is due to the lack of participation of women in the development of legal means to protect their political rights. This makes the effectiveness of these means weak to the extent the role that women can play in political life and prevents them from exercising some other rights. This paper eliminates the gap between women's political rights stipulated in national and international instruments and their implementation.

The importance of discussing women's political rights lies in what the world has reached in the last decades in terms of the development in the role of women in political life. States allow women to assume the functions of government, and there are many other examples in which the role of women in political life is increasing, which prompts researchers to discuss the rights conferred on women in such states. In particular, the paper focuses on the Jordanian national and international obligations. It pays attention to eliminating all kinds of discrimination against women, as well as its legislation that granted women the right to practice political life on an equal footing with men.

#### 1.1 Literature Review

Previous studies dealt with many aspects related to women's political rights in the Jordanian context. Among these studies is "The Role of Women in Political Participation," (Rababa, 2018). In this study, the author concluded that the most important obstacles that limit the role of women in political life are the status of women, societal cultures, and the ideas that have taken root about women's political participation, as there are many women who prefer men to hold political positions and do not favor women's participation in those positions.

Another study is “The Obstacles that Limit the Role of Jordanian Women in Political Life in Light of Some Social Variables,” (Alrawashdeh and Alarab,2016).

This study has dealt with the most important obstacles that limit women’s participation in politics and concluded that it is not possible to stand on a single reason that leads to limiting women’s political role, but there are several reasons and obstacles that interact to become a greater obstacle that prevents women from their political rights, and perhaps the most prominent of these reasons are political reasons Social, cultural and economic.

## 1.2 Research Questions

2. What are the mechanisms for implementing women’s political rights nationally and internationally?
3. What is the role of the national judiciary and parliament in monitoring the protection of women’s political rights?
4. What are the obstacles of political participation and political empowerment of women?

## 1.3 Method

The descriptive approach will be followed with the aim of describing and explaining the subject of the study and its presentation in a critical manner. The analytical method will also be used to analyse the relevant national legislation. In addition to an analytical presentation of international legislation and its impact on domestic law in theory and practice, with a focus on the Jordanian case. Then arguments, results and recommendations related to the subject of the study will be drawn.

## 2. The Inclusion of Women’s Rights in Human Rights Instruments

There is no doubt that the Charter of the United Nations represents the cornerstone of the legal system for guaranteeing human rights and ensuring their observance in the contemporary international community. In order to achieve economic and social purposes, including spreading respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the necessity of enjoying them without any discrimination, the Charter obligate member states to cooperate with the international organizations in order to achieve economic and social objectives, including spreading respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination on grounds of sex, language or religion, and actually observing those rights (Hamzah Nash, 2012).

The General Assembly of the United Nations issued what was known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights pursuant to its Resolution No. 217 on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1948. It included an introduction and thirty articles that came in implementation of the objectives of the UN Charter in guaranteeing human rights and freedoms. (Alassal, 2009) And based on what was included in the UDHR; In 1948, what was known as the Convention on the Political Rights of Women was issued, which was adopted in March 1952, focused on the main international standards for women’s political rights. (Alesh, 2020)

Article (4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights contains a number of principles, including taking all necessary measures to ensure that women enjoy, on an equal footing with men and without discrimination, the following rights: the right to vote in all elections and to be nominated for all bodies emanating from the general elections, their right to vote in all public referenda, their right to hold public offices and to exercise all public functions. These rights should be guaranteed by national legislation.

Convention on the Political Rights of Women was signed and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 20, 1952, and entered into force on July 7, 1954. It stipulates that everyone has the right to participate directly or indirectly in the conduct of the public affairs of his country, in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, the right to the representation of representatives freely elected and equal opportunity to hold public office, including in order to achieve equality between men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, and the UDHR decided to conclude an agreement for this purpose. It stipulates the following rights:

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the conduct of the public affairs of his country, either directly or through freely elected representatives.
2. Everyone has the equal right to hold public office in his country.
3. The will of the people is the basis of the authority of government, and this will shall be exercised through fair and periodic elections through universal and equal suffrage, secret ballot, or an equivalent measure to guarantee freedom of voting.

This agreement constituted an important watershed moment in women’s political and social life, based on the development of laws that prevent the practice of manifestations of racism against women and the issuance of an agreement for the protection of the nationality of married women. Groups opposed to women’s rights struggled for a long time to reach this agreement, as it was not before that women had the right to decide preserving and renouncing her nationality if she marries a man of a different nationality, unlike the man who fully enjoys his right to nationality. These groups, or what is known as the International Alliance for Women, have begun to put pressure on the League of Nations since 1931 to address the legislative shortcomings regarding the right to nationality. For

women, and in 1957, the Convention on the Nationality of Women was ratified and entered into force in 1958. (Alesh, 2020)

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was published in the General Assembly, and it was found that the preamble to the General Assembly, and it was found that the declaration was published by the declaration, as it reached a university base in publishing and printing. Despite the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Women's Covenant, this declaration came to confirm the opposition that appears in the sentence and international federations. (Alzuabi, 192)

However, many states accompanied the ratification of CEDAW with several reservations that dealt with basic articles of this agreement that prevail over their internal customs, environment, and patterns. The actions of its people crystallized according to positive laws enacted in accordance with it on human rights that are universally approved under this international treaty, that the reservations made by these states deal with essential articles of the Convention and thus negatively affect the achievement of equality between women and men that the Convention aims to protect. This means perpetuating the continuation of discrimination against women. In addition, their national laws do not conform to these provisions and the absence of the state's will to achieve equality between the sexes. (Allassal, 2009)

In 1995, government delegations from 189 countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a political statement for participating governments to advance the goals of equality, development, and peace for all women everywhere, and to ensure the full implementation of human rights for women and girls. The Beijing Platform supported the political rights of women, and one of the most important international resolutions against women politically has the following: achieving equality and developing peace between men and women in the political decision-making process.

### **3. Women's Political Rights in the Jordanian National Legislation**

Political rights have important place in the Jordanian constitution of 1952 and its amendments. In the second chapter of the Jordanian constitution, the rights and duties of Jordanians were included, which was titled "The Rights and Duties of Jordanians." This chapter included articles (5-23) of the constitution, in addition to other separate articles within the Jordanian constitution. Article (5) of the Constitution, or Jordanian nationality determined by law, and regarding legal equality, it was stated in Article (6) in its first paragraph, that Jordanians are equal before the law, there is no difference in rights and duties, even if they differ in race, language, or religion.

In the field of personal freedom, Article (7) of the Constitution stipulates that personal freedom is safeguarded, and any assault on the rights and public freedoms or privacy of Jordanians is a crime punishable by law. Regarding freedom of opinion, Article (15) in its first paragraph of the Constitution states, Freedom of opinion is guaranteed by the state, and every Jordanian has the freedom to express his opinion verbally, in writing, visually, and through all other means of expression, provided that he does not transgress the law.

The constitution also guarantees the right of Jordanians to assume public positions, as it is stated in Article (22) of the constitution that every Jordanian has the right to assume public positions under the conditions stipulated in the law or regulations, and to be appointed to permanent and temporary public positions in the state and its departments and municipalities on the basis of competence and qualifications, And it was stated in Article (42) of the constitution that only a Jordanian can hold the position of the ministry and the like, and with regard to the right of the Jordanian citizen to membership in the Jordanian National Assembly, that he is not a member of the Senate and the House of Representatives, if he is not Jordanian.

The right to vote is considered one of the natural rights that the Jordanian citizen exercises freely, to choose who can represent him, and he also has the right to refrain from exercising this right. Election is also considered one of the democratic means that aims to bring rulers to high and influential positions in the state. (Aljasoor, 2004)

Proceeding from the achievement of equality between men and women, women have become able to participate in political life, and develop their belonging to their homeland and society to establish the ability to bear its burdens and make political decisions. Which guarantees the exercise of this right, provided that these conditions move away from the basis of gender, religion, creed, and other matters, given that all citizens are equal before the law. (Alesh, 2020) The right to run for candidacy is defined as: "a person's right to present to the electorate to be chosen as their representative in assuming public authorities, and a person may not be deprived of it if he has the required qualifications specified by law." (Alqudah, 2016)

The right to hold public office. The fact that establishing certain basic conditions for the admission of individuals to public office is not considered a violation of the principle of equality between individuals in the state, whereby all citizens are treated equally in occupying these positions and are equal in the specific conditions and qualifications required to obtain them as well as in the scope of the rights and obligations assigned to them And what is required of them after obtaining this job. (Hourani, 2005)

A public office is defined as a legal entity existing in the administration of the state, and it consists of a group of similar and homogeneous works, which imposes on the person in charge of it certain obligations in exchange for his enjoyment of specific rights. (Qudah, 2016) The constitution affirmed the principle of equality in the field of public jobs between men and women in the third paragraph of Article (6) of the constitution, and as stated, the state guarantees work and education within the limits of its capabilities and guarantees peace and equal opportunities for all Jordanians.

The constitution guarantees the right of the Jordanian to hold public office, as it was stated in Article (22) of the constitution that every Jordanian has the right to hold public office in accordance with the conditions determined by law or regulation based on competencies and qualifications, and it was stated in Article (42) of the constitution that he shall not: The position of the ministry and what is in its ruling is only Jordanian. With regard to the right of the Jordanian citizen to membership in the Jordanian National Assembly, he shall not be a member of the Senate and the House of Representatives, if he is not Jordanian.

Accordingly, the Jordanian constitution guarantees equality for every citizen, male and female, in the right to engage in public work, provided that these conditions are general and abstract, so that equal and equal opportunities are provided for every citizen who fulfills the conditions of work to occupy public positions, and general and specific guarantees for each job. (Hourani, 2005) With regard to freedom of opinion, it was stated in Article (15) in its first paragraph of the constitution that the state guarantees freedom of opinion, and every Jordanian has the freedom to express his opinion in speech, writing, visualization, and all means of expression, provided that it does not transgress the law. (Alesh, 2020)

#### **4. Legal Mechanisms for the Protection of Women's Political Rights**

Signs of international interest in the status of women within the framework of the international legal system for the protection of human rights have clearly emerged through several mechanisms. International and regional conventions of a general nature have repeatedly stressed the equality between men and women. In addition, there are several national mechanisms that ensure the protection of women's political rights. This means equality between men and women in dignity and value as human beings, as well as equality in rights, opportunities, and responsibilities.

##### **4.1 International Mechanisms**

The UN has undertaken to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations between peoples based on equal rights, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and freedoms without discrimination on grounds of gender, religion or language, and without distinction between men and women. It is an organization with international activity in relation to human rights issues in international declarations and covenants that countries sign and adhere to, in addition to monitoring states in the application and respect for these covenants and declarations and condemning those responsible for violations if it is proven that they have been violated. (Alnimri, 2014)

The association plays an important role in the fields of human rights in general, conducting studies and issuing recommendations that help achieve human rights and basic freedoms and provide them to all people without discrimination or segregation, and this is what Article (13) of the UN Charter states. Considering that women's political rights are part of human rights issues, it is among the issues that the General Assembly has studied. Recommendations are issued in this regard, and the General Assembly often discusses the issue of protecting women's rights, which are mentioned in the reports of the Economic and Social Council. (Alqudah, 2016)

As for the practical aspect of the role of the General Assembly in protecting women's political rights, the Assembly approved the Vienna Declaration and Program at its forty-eighth session, which affirmed the commitment of the parties that women's rights are inalienable from universal human rights and an integral and inseparable part of these rights, in which it was stipulated Article (18). (Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, 1993)

The UN Charter did not give the Security Council the task of protecting human rights, but it was the broad interpretation of its provisions that led it to exercise a new competence that was not mentioned in the Charter, and the link between maintaining international peace and security and protecting human rights began, and this issue was confirmed by the statement of the Security Council summit issued On January 31, 1992, regarding the item entitled "The responsibility of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security", the operations of observing elections, verifying respect for human rights and repatriating refugees. (Alzarouni, 2019)

As for the practical reality of the Security Council's role as a guarantor of women's political rights, this Council emphasized in one of its resolutions the role of women in peacemaking and their participation in decision-making places related to that, in addition to urging member states to increase women's representation in the scope of national and regional institutions and mechanisms related to preventing Conflicts, their management and resolution,

and the importance of such a decision appears in guaranteeing a distinct political right for women. (UNSC Resolution 1325)

The UN Charter assigned the Economic and Social Council with an important role in the field of human rights protection, as Article (62) of the Charter stipulates that one of the functions of the Economic and Social Council is to “make recommendations with regard to spreading respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”. This was confirmed by the Committee on the Status of Human Rights to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, and stresses the need for measures to ensure that everyone has the right to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social and political development.

In addition, there are number of international bodies formed according to human rights instruments that can protect women’s political rights and ensure that states have implemented their obligations related to these rights. These bodies include the following:

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, this committee was found as one of the mechanisms for monitoring the extent of compliance and application of the International Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Racial Discrimination.
2. The Human Rights Committee, which was established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is in accordance with the provisions of Article (28-32), in order to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Global Charter by the state parties.
3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Nations Economic and Social Council), following the commitment to the International Charter.
4. The Special Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, following up on women's conditions, practices and violations issued against them, and making recommendations and proposals to activate the role of women and raise their status.
5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, which aims to monitor children’s access to their rights in all aspects of life, and that they are not subjected to any infringing practices, such as work or sexual abuse and others.

In addition, the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has an important role in protecting women’s political rights. UNESCO is one of the specialized agencies in the United Nations system, and according to its constitution it must contribute to peace and security by promoting cooperation between nations, through education, science and culture to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed to all peoples of the world without Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, language or religion. Among the axes of this organization are women’s issues and their weight in society and their developmental role. (Lea Leven, 2009)

It worked to ensure full participation in all levels and stages of the decision-making and decision-making process related to preventing and resolving conflicts and conflicts, peacekeeping, recovery of countries and their situation in the post-conflict stage, and the involvement of refugee and displaced women in the design and management of humanitarian activities and events so that they achieve equal benefits with men, and strive towards Ensuring the full and complete participation of women in the promotion of peace, especially through the full application of the culture of UNESCO on the peace program, and exploring new ways to generate potentials and resources for peace and development by limiting the exorbitant military expenditures as well as from trade and investment in the production and possession of weapons.

#### **4.2 Regional Mechanisms**

The provisions of the Arab Charter for Human Rights were comprehensive to the subject of the study, where we find Article (24) of it, which stipulates that political rights in terms of candidacy, election, and the right to hold public office are the right of every citizen, male and female, so there is no room for derogation from the obligations imposed by this agreement, especially since It affirms general principles that are supposed to be stipulated in all the internal laws of the Arab countries, which believe in the democratic choice and uphold women's rights. However, the objection to this agreement is that it did not receive appropriate support from the Arab countries, as the number of Arab countries that signed this agreement did not exceed ten, with a number of other countries having reservations about some of the terms of the agreement. (Hosam Aouad, 2017)

The idea of establishing the Arab Women’s Organization was one of the fruits of the first conference of the Arab Women’s Summit, which was held in Cairo in the period 18-20/2000 and was titled (Challenges of the Present and Future Prospects). Its effective participation in comprehensive development. The Cairo Declaration issued by this summit stipulated that all Arab countries should be consulted on the establishment of an institution for the Arab Women Summit. On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2001, the Arab League approved the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League by Resolution (1426), in which it welcomed the establishment of the organization and called on the Arab countries to participate. It is specialised with a specific legal personality and financial and administrative independence within the framework of the League of Arab States. (Alsahhi, 2020)

The Independent Permanent Commission for Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the main organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the field of human rights and carries out its duties in supporting Member States in promoting and protecting human rights for all independently, in accordance with the provisions of the Organization's Charter, the Statute and Council Resolution No. 2/38-S, The commission promotes human rights and fundamental freedoms in member states as well as the basic rights of Muslim groups and societies in non-member states, in accordance with universally recognized human rights standards and foundations, and in light of the value added by Islamic principles of justice and equality.

### 4.3 National Mechanisms

The first national mechanism is parliamentary oversight. Elected councils exercise the political function embodied in the oversight of the executive authority and what this right entails in determining its responsibility. This right was not easily endorsed by the legislative councils, but rather the people snatched it from the rulers, and as a result it has become customary to stipulate this right in the core of constitutional documents. (Shatnawi, 2011) In view of the seriousness of this right and the results of its use, the constitutions included a text on the content of this oversight function and the conditions and procedures for exercising its various means. (Salam, 1983) And if the jurists differed in stating the definition of parliamentary oversight, based on the purpose that each jurist aims at, it can be defined as follows: "It is a job assigned to the competent authority in order to verify that the work is proceeding in accordance with the objectives set sufficiently and, in the time, specified for it". (Almadhoun, 2010) Thus, it is an authority to investigate facts about the actions of the executive authority to uncover the lack of proper implementation of general rules in the state and to hold those responsible for that accountable, whether it is the entire government or one of the ministers.

From the perspective of the Jordanian legislator, oversight ensures, first, the strict application of principles and detects violations committed against them, as well as manipulation and misappropriation of state funds, and infringement of rights and freedoms. (Almadhoun, 2010) It was stated in the Jordanian constitution that: "Any member of the House of Representatives and senators may direct questions and hearing sessions to ministers in all public affairs, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the parliament to which that member belongs. Interrogation is not discussed before the lapse of eight days after his arrival to the minister unless the case is urgent, and the minister agreed to shorten the period".

The second national mechanism is the judicial oversight, which means the existence of a judicial body that oversees the constitutionality of laws, and since the subject of constitutional oversight and the issues it considers constitute a legal issue, which is verifying the extent to which the law is in conformity or inconsistency with the provisions of the Constitution, it is logical that this oversight is entrusted to a judicial body, which is in composition The legal framework for its members, and the guarantees it provides of impartiality, objectivity, and independence, is a sure guarantee of respect for the constitution and an effective weapon to protect it from attempting to attack its provisions. (Mansour, 2012)

This includes the judicial body whose competence the constitution has made to monitor the constitutionality of laws when the oversight is central, i.e., a specialized constitutional judiciary, and it also includes courts of different types and degrees when examining the constitutionality of laws, when oversight is decentralized, i.e., when there is no specialized constitutional judiciary. (Abu Almajd, 1960)

## 5. Obstacles of Women's Political Participation

Political participation is related to women's participation in other areas of life. Legal aspects, social organization, customs, traditions, and values may motivate women to, or hinder them from, political participation. This means that the obstacles facing women and preventing them from political participation come from states and communities. This section presents the obstacles that facing women in protecting their political rights based on the above discussions. It classified these obstacles to four main areas as follows.

### 5.1 Legal Signs and Political Obstacles:

1. The women's quota system: It is a system that allocates seats for women in parliamentary councils, to eliminate the gap represented by gender inequality in the areas of political life, especially in parliamentary elections. The quota system, however, does not achieve justice, as the law doubles the chances of success for women in small circles in which women do not run in large numbers, in the sense that it helped in the victory of simple traditional forces and prevented the arrival of qualified women with experience and knowledge. (Alkhuza'I, 2005)
2. Lack of awareness of rights: It should be noted that there is a close connection between political rights and the issue of lack of awareness of these legal rights. This is because the recognition of the right in the articles of the law is linked to its practice. In addition to the issue of ignorance of legal rights among women, and the extent to which they contribute to building society economically, socially, culturally and politically, as women do not

give their voice to female candidates. Therefore, women's legal awareness must be deepened in a more positive way in order to consolidate their legal and political rights. (Owaisat, 2019)

3. Lack of political will: Among the factors behind the decline in women's political participation is the lack of political will, translated into practical reality, and the decline of political forces that believe in democracy and women's rights at the party level, as well as the lack of an active women's movement or effective institutions that enable women to take the lead society and defending her right to political participation.
4. The non-implementation of international obligations: International commitments to protect women's political rights are not fully implemented. This needs to be discussed by researchers and monitored by international organisations.

### **5.2 Social and Cultural Obstacles:**

These obstacles are represented in several social and cultural trends and orientations, namely:

1. The prevalence of a culture of discrimination against women. It is part of the culture of discrimination which works very strongly against multiple groups. This culture moves away from the culture of competence and merit, to replace it with a culture of loyalty and dependence, which are negative trends towards political action and trends that contradict the concepts of human rights and full citizenship. (Bouderham, 2018)
2. Customs and traditions that nurture patriarchy. The prevailing culture in Arab societies is a culture of subordination to patriarchal authority, the authority of males over females, and the submission of women to the orders and prohibitions of men, regardless of their connection to them. (Bouderham, 2018)
3. The specificity of Arab women. Women in Arab World see political action as a hindrance to their social and educational roles, as well as the negative effects on women's mental and psychological health and on their relationship with their families. (Bouderham, 2018)
4. The time spent in politics. Women carry out multiple duties during the day, as they are responsible for home duties, and helping children in their duties. It is noticeable that women's work takes a long time to carry out, and as a result, women do not find enough time to do other tasks outside the home, such as participating in elections and voting, or other political participation. (Abdelwahhab, 1995)
5. The cultural heritage. This has attached many of the impurities related to the image and role of women, has led to the lack of conviction in leadership or the legislative authority, if the view of the role of women is still negative, and the social heritage still has an impact on the formation of public opinion that is exploited by the conservative social current, and by it is known that this traditional social structure prefers to support men rather than support women, regardless of the importance and competence of either of them. (Alaa Alrawashdeh, 2016)

### **5.3 Media Obstacles:**

Among the obstacles that stood in the way of expanding women's political participation and encouraging them to practice it, the media barriers that did not work to defend women's political rights, but rather established their subordination to men, by intensifying media programs about the negativity of Arab women and their submission to the orders and prohibitions of patriarchal Arab societies. The Arab media and some of its social and personal aspects are far from political affairs or their discussion and questions, in addition to the inability of women themselves to play the political roles that men play to communicate with electoral bases. (Bouderham, 2018)

The content of the media aimed at women revolves mostly around the traditional roles and concerns of women, and there is a relative focus on women's issues of a social nature. In addition, the treatment of these issues is mostly superficial and does not concern the societal causes of these issues. The weakness of the media in highlighting creative and productive women and participating in public and political life has led to the societal mental consolidation of negative stereotypes about women in various fields, especially in the political field, which requires many requirements. (Alkhuzaie, 2005)

### **5.4 Economic Obstacles:**

Given the economic dependence of women on men because of their weak participation in the Jordanian labour market, which does not exceed approximately 15%, Jordanian women cannot bear the financial burdens of the nomination process. The nomination fees are high, and the electoral campaigns are costly and require funding, even if the candidate is a worker with a reasonable income. Women cannot risk their job for the candidacy for parliament because it is not guaranteed. (Alabadi, 2002)

The spread of poverty and unemployment in Arab societies despite their oil wealth, and thus the interest of women, like other individuals, in their livelihood, and there is no room for thinking about politics. Arab women in general suffer from economic problems that affect their public life, as they are deprived of work in some Arab countries, and this is due to the prevailing social heritage According to official studies in the State of Jordan, the wages of working women are lower than the wages of men in the same profession. Thus, economic transformations in the Arab world negatively affected women more than men, as most women in societies do not enjoy economic

independence, so poverty and being occupied with the demands of daily life represent the most important economic obstacles that prevent women from participating in political work and the public sphere effectively.

Acute economic and social disparity: The middle class is almost non-existent in many Arab countries, where few groups of the population control large proportions of wealth and income, which makes most of the population busy, as we said, with providing a living, in addition to the fact that most of their livelihoods are in the hands of the ruling class. or those with economic and political influence. (Habitoush, 2014)

## **6. Conclusion**

The paper showed the extent of harmony between Jordanian legislation and international instruments in granting Jordanian women their political rights as endorsed by international agreements and the Jordanian constitution and transferring the discussions from the theoretical legal reality to actual practice. Hence it should be noted that the Jordanian constitution came in line with the provisions and content of international instruments that achieve equality between men and women in terms of rights, duties, and assignments. Accordingly, both Jordanian legislations and international instruments grant women political rights. However, there are many obstacles that have been discussed in the paper. These obstacles should be addressed through national discourse, political will, and legal reform.

The paper reaches several conclusions and recommendations, as follows:

### **6.1 Results:**

1. Women's political rights have an important place at the national and international levels.
2. Women's rights are inalienable rights that are born with them, and apply in all places and times, supported by international law and the national law of each state.
3. The Jordanian legislator granted women their political rights, and laws and regulations contributed to activating the women's quota system and strengthening the role of women and their significant participation in political work and their representation in society.
4. The stipulation of the political rights of Jordanian women in the various Jordanian legislations contributed positively to increasing the participation of Jordanian women in political life.
5. International law guarantees women's political rights and the exercise of all these rights in absolute equality with men, without discrimination between them.

### **6.2 Recommendations:**

1. Emphasizing that the political rights of Jordanian women are fundamental rights and an integral part of the human rights of the Jordanian citizen.
2. The need for a constitutional provision for full equality in rights and duties among all Jordanians without any discrimination based on gender, whether male or female.
3. Working on media promotion and broadcasting programs of awareness, education, and political education for the Jordanian citizen about the culture of human rights, political rights, and democratic culture.
4. The need for the national legislator to study international agreements and extract the rights established for women, their system of guarantees and the extent of their activities and clarify the legal impact of women in international agreements.
5. Working to include the culture of human rights in general and the culture of women's political rights in school and university education curricula.
6. Working to encourage Jordanian women to exercise all political rights by stimulating political participation and facilitating all related procedures.
7. The executive authorities should encourage a change in the negative image of women, and fight customs and traditions that degrade the value and status of women in society through all media and field means through programs and strategies subject to change, if they are not effective, the lack of consistency in the strategy of enacting laws, and the scarcity of follow-up.

## **References**

- Abdel-Wahhab, Badria, Women's Political Participation, Center for Future Studies, Assiut University, 1995.
- Abul-Magd, Ahmed, Monitoring the Constitutionality of Laws in the United States of America and the Egyptian Region, Ph.D. Thesis, Arab Renaissance Library, Cairo, 1960.
- Al-Abadi, Muhammad, an article entitled Women and Parliamentary Elections, Al-Rai Daily Newspaper, Amman, 2002.
- Al-Ash, Doaa, Women's Political Rights in Jordanian Legislation and Islamic Sharia, Master Thesis, Middle East University, Jordan, 2020.
- Al-Hourani, Sa'ed, Women's and Children's Rights in Jordanian Legislation, Master's Thesis, Mu'tah University, Jordan, 2005.

- Al-Jasour, Nazim, *Encyclopedia of Political Science*, first edition, Majdalawi for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, Jordan, 2004.
- Al-Khuzai, Nadira, *Women's Right to Participate in Elected Council Membership*, Master Thesis, Al-Bayt University, Jordan, 2005.
- Al-Madhoun, Abdel-Rahim, *The Right to Ask as a Regulatory Tool*, Master Thesis, Al-Azhar University-Gaza, 2010.
- Al-Nimri, Nariman, *International and legal mechanisms for protecting women's rights in light of globalization*, master's thesis, Middle East University, Jordan, 2014.
- Al-Qudah, Ola, *Political Women's Rights, A Comparative Study Between the Provisions of International Law and Jordanian Legislation*, Master Thesis, Jerash University, Jordan, 2016.
- Al-Rawashdeh, Alaa; Asmaa Al-Arab, *Obstacles that Limit the Participation of Jordanian Women in Political Life*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, Volume 43, Appendix 3, 2016.
- Al-Rawashdeh, Alaa; Asmaa Ribhi Al-Arab, *Obstacles that Limit the Participation of Jordanian Women in Political Life*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, Volume 43, Appendix 3, 2016.
- Al-Salihi, Sinan, *The Role of the League of Arab States in Supporting Women's Political Rights*, *Journal of Arts, Literature, Humanities and Sociology*, Emirates College for Educational Sciences, Issue 56, 2020.
- Al-Zarouni, Lamia, *International Mechanisms for Monitoring the Protection of Human Rights in Application to the United Arab Emirates*, *University of Sharjah Journal*, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2019.
- Al-Zoubi, Farouk, *Women's Rights in International Law and Jordanian National Legislation, a Comparative Study*, Yarmouk Research, *Human and Social Sciences Series*, Yarmouk University, 2003.
- Assal, Mona, *Women's Political Rights, A Comparative Study*, Master's Thesis, Al-Nahrain University, Iraq, 2009.
- Awwad, Hussam, *Women's Political Rights in International Conventions and Palestinian Law*, Master Thesis, An-Najah National University, Palestine, 2017.
- Bouderham, Fatima, *Political Participation and Political Empowerment of Women, Obstacles, Challenges and Treatment Mechanisms*, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Boudiaf University, 2018.
- Habitoush, Sabah, *The Political Empowerment of Arab Women and its Role in Achieving Political Development*, Master Thesis, Mohamed Boudiaf University, M'sila, 2014.
- Levine, Leah, *Human Rights Questions and Answers*, UNESCO Publications, 5th edition, 2009.
- Mansour, Al-Sadiq, *Judicial Control over the Constitutionality of Laws*, Master Thesis, Al-Neelain University, Sudan, 2012.
- Nash, Hamza, *Women's Political Rights in Algerian National Legislation, a comparative political study in the light of international human rights conventions 1989-2009*, master's thesis, University of Algiers, 2012.
- Owaisat, Fathia; Mohamed Amouri, *Obstacles to Women's Political Practice in the Arab World*, Zayan Ashour University, Djelfa, 2019.
- Rababa, Ghazi, *The Role of Women in Political Participation*, Publisher: Al-Fikr Magazine, Fifth Issue, 2018.
- Salam, Ihab, *Political Oversight of the Executive Authority's Actions*, World of Books, Cairo, 1983.
- Shatnawi, Faisal, *Means of Parliamentary Oversight Over the Work of the Executive Authority in the Jordanian Constitutional System*, Faculty of Legal Studies, Jadara University, Jordan, *An-Najah University Research Journal*, Volume 25 (9), 2011.
- Vienna Declaration and Program of Action held on 14-25/6/1993.